

977.301
M53b
v.1
1222009

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 00839 8361

PAST AND PRESENT
OF
MERCER COUNTY
ILLINOIS

ISAAC NEWTON BASSETT

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

799.57
1588
V. 1

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1914

PREFACE

In the latter part of 1912 the editor of the Aledo Democrat requested me to write a historical sketch or reminiscences of what I knew in regard to the history of Mercer County. For some seven or eight months I contributed articles to the paper and on account of illness had to suspend writing further for the time being. In the latter part of 1913 The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company of Chicago sent one of their agents and writers here to procure some one to edit a history of the county, and I was engaged to undertake the authorship of such a work. The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company agreed to furnish some competent author to write the history of the county under my direction and furnished me with Professor W. A. Goodspeed, who is a thoroughly educated and experienced man, having written the history of a number of counties and states heretofore, and I am indebted to him for his labor, intelligence and experience in compiling and writing this history of the county. I have collected a great many facts in addition to what have come under my own observation, and submitted the same to Professor Goodspeed. I have had also the benefit of advice from Messrs. F. S. Burgett of Keithsburg, Richard H. Roberts of New Boston, William B. Frew and Justice George A. Cooke of Aledo, Maj. Dan W. Sedwick of Suez Township, and Charles Kinsey of Richland Grove Township, and have received from various persons throughout the county valuable information and assistance in preparing this work. It is useless to say that this or any other history is absolutely complete and correct. I have endeavored, however, to be correct in regard to all matters stated in the work and have tried to incorporate all essential facts that ought to be preserved in a history, but it is a very difficult matter to determine what is of importance enough to be preserved as history, and what should be omitted. I hope, however, that with the assistance of Professor Goodspeed and others, who have given me aid in publishing this history, that all has been preserved that is essential to a good history of the county. The work is in two volumes, the first being a volume of the general history, of which I am the author, and the second a volume composed of biographies, which have been written under the direction of the respective individuals whose biographies appear. Of this part of the work neither Professor Goodspeed nor I are responsible.

PREFACE

I am also under especial obligations to Mrs. Martha Mathews and Mrs. Flora Winger of Aledo, and to the editor of the Keithsburg News at Keithsburg, to the county officers and to the clergy throughout the county for special information and assistance in preparing articles upon some of the subjects treated. The assistance of these persons had to be called for and relied upon in many instances because of my blindness and extreme age, which prevented me from personally looking after the information which they gave me.

It was impossible to submit a copy of the work to the members of the Advisory Board and they are not responsible for anything contained in the history, but they have been very helpful in assisting me and giving material for the history.

Hoping that the work will be helpful and satisfactory to the community and people of Mercer County, the same is submitted by,
THE AUTHOR.

Aledo, Illinois, October, 1914.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY.....	5
--------------------------------	---

CHAPTER II

INDIAN AFFAIRS	11
----------------------	----

CHAPTER III

MERCER COUNTY AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES.....	21
---	----

CHAPTER IV

GEOLOGY, MINES, TEMPERATURE, ETC.....	45
---------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER V

MERCER COUNTY SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ETC.....	55
---	----

CHAPTER VI

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD.....	61
--------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER VII

RAILROADS, ELECTRIC ROADS, ETC.....	81
-------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER VIII

MILITARY AFFAIRS	95
------------------------	----

CHAPTER IX

POLITICAL PARTIES IN MERCER COUNTY.....	149
---	-----

CHAPTER X

AGRICULTURE	197
-------------------	-----

CHAPTER XI

EDUCATION	235
-----------------	-----

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XII

THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER RIGHTS OF WOMEN 279

CHAPTER XIII

TEMPERANCE 287

CHAPTER XIV

THE BENCH AND BAR 305

CHAPTER XV

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS 329

CHAPTER XVI

OLD SETTLERS ORGANIZATIONS 363

CHAPTER XVII

MERCER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY 365

CHAPTER XVIII

MERCER TOWNSHIP 371

CHAPTER XIX

KEITHSBURG TOWNSHIP 407

CHAPTER XX

NEW BOSTON TOWNSHIP 427

CHAPTER XXI

MILLERSBURG TOWNSHIP 441

CHAPTER XXII

GREENE TOWNSHIP 451

CHAPTER XXIII

RIVOLI TOWNSHIP 461

CHAPTER XXIV

RICHLAND GROVE TOWNSHIP 469

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XXV

SUEZ TOWNSHIP	479
---------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVI

OHIO GROVE TOWNSHIP.....	485
--------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVII

NORTH HENDERSON TOWNSHIP.....	489
-------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVIII

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP	495
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIX

ELIZA TOWNSHIP	499
----------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXX

PREEMPTION TOWNSHIP	505
---------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXXI

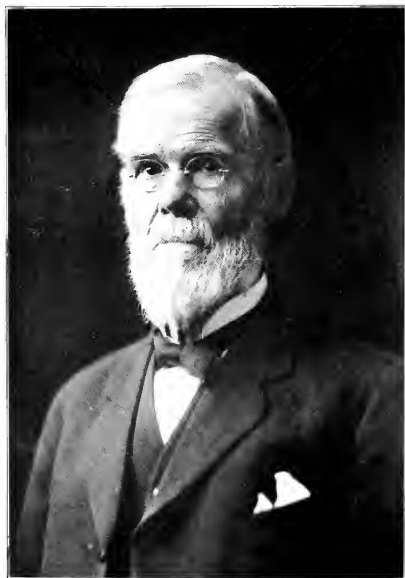
PERRYTON TOWNSHIP	511
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXXII

DUNCAN TOWNSHIP	517
-----------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXXIII

MISCELLANEOUS	521
---------------------	-----



ISAAC N. BASSETT

HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY

CHAPTER I

EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

INTRODUCTION

Before the era of railroads civilization sought the sea or its navigable affluents, because communication on a large scale was by vessel and not usually overland by wagon, caravans or other land conveyance. It thus occurred that whenever new lands were to be explored the projected routes were along water courses where canoes or other boats could be propelled up or down the tedious, tortuous and hazardous channels. In the older settled countries the cities were invariably located on the sea or on large streams which emptied into the sea, where commerce could be carried on with other similar centers of civilization. Here and there caravans crossed overland from city to city, but they were limited both in number and in usefulness.

For several centuries before the discovery of America the merchants and navigators of Europe had sought in vain to find a way to reach India and China by sailing westward instead of eastward. It was known that the world was round and it was believed by many that vessels which sailed westward would thus reach China and India, because civilized man then did not know of the existence of the Western Hemisphere which would prevent commerce from reaching those countries. It was in pursuit of a waterway to reach India that Columbus sailed on his memorable voyage of discovery westward in 1492. This expedition and many others which succeeded did not find a route to China and India, but did find that the two Americas interpose an insurmountable obstacle to the attainment of that object unless a water route through North America could be discovered. So important was such a route to the commerce of Europe with the Orient that as rapidly as possible various expeditions began to penetrate the wilds of the North American interior. Could such a route be found by commerce it would obviate the necessity of its being forced to send vessels around Cape Horn in order to reach

the oriental nations, with which trade was enormous for that time and vital to the prosperity of European merchants. Thus after the discovery of the Western Hemisphere commerce continued its endeavors to find a water route to the South Sea, as the Pacific Ocean was then called, across the American continent, believing that if such a result could be accomplished vessels would speedily reach the markets of the Orient.

It was with this object in view that the governor of New France, as Canada was then called, sent Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette in the summer of 1673 to find and explore the large river lying westward of the Great Lakes, which all had heard about from the Indians, but which it was believed no white man had yet seen, though in reality De Soto had discovered it near Memphis in the previous century, but it was not known that the two streams were one and the same. The object of the governor of New France is shown in his letter of instruction to Louis Joliet. It states specifically that a water route to the South Sea was the paramount object of the expedition and that the great river of which the Indians talked so much should be explored with the hopes, if not the expectation, that it would be found to empty into the South Sea, in which case the long sought for water route to the Orient would become a reality instead of a mercantile and maritime dream. Joliet was the commander of the expedition, and Father Marquette was sent along as a means to assist in propitiating the Indian tribes along the way. Joliet was well fitted for the duty, because he was familiar with nearly all the Indian dialects and nearly always commanded the respect of the tribes. The power of Father Marquette over the Indians was fully recognized by the authorities of New France and his selection to accompany the expedition was unanimous. They were accompanied by five other Frenchmen whose names are unknown—seven in all to brave the dangers, hazards and uncertainties of the western wilds. With boats and supplies they left the Strait of Mackinac on May 17, 1673, coasted along the shore of Lake Michigan to Green Bay, passed up Fox River in Wisconsin, carried their boats and supplies across the portage to the Wisconsin River, and rowed down that stream until on June 17th they emerged from its mouth into the water of the Mississippi. Their feelings of delight over the discovery are described in the papers of Father Marquette.

Then began their real task of exploration. With the hope of reaching the South Sea they turned their boats down the river, rowing steadily during the days, but encamping on the shores usually

during the nights. They passed by what is now Mercer County and may have encamped or landed on its shores. Finally when near the mouth of the Des Moines River, evidences of the presence of Indians became so numerous and patent that they landed, determined to communicate with the natives in order to learn more of their surroundings and what was ahead of them. They followed a footpath from the Mississippi westward a few miles to the shore of the Des Moines and finally saw spread out before them in the valley of the latter stream a village of wigwams and other abodes. Instantly their presence caused great commotion in the village and soon three chiefs stark naked and with signs of peace and with peace pipes in their hands approached them, stopping often to gesticulate in friendly native style. When they met the Indians showed every indication of submission and friendship. They proved to be members of a branch of the Illinois tribe and welcomed the explorers to their village, or rather a series of villages, along the Des Moines River. The entire tribe turned out and accompanied the strangers, scrutinizing them closely, but keeping at a respectful distance as they passed from village to village. Both Joliet and Father Marquette were given signal evidence of the high estimation in which they were held. In fact the tribe did not want to part with Father Marquette at all and saw him depart with many indications of regret. One of the chiefs gave his son, a lad ten or twelve years old, to Joliet for a slave; he accompanied the expedition down the river and back to Canada. They were given a great feast where the leading chief declared that the sun never shone brighter, the forests never laughed with greater merriment and the streams were never so free from rapids and rocks as on the day that brought the white man to this spot. The guests were given the great honor of being fed by the hands of the Indian chiefs, the latter taking the choicest portion of the food and placing it in their mouths. The Indians were unable to give the travelers the information sought concerning the course and mouth of the Mississippi, which was the reason for the continuance of the voyage down that stream.

After passing down as far as Arkansas and learning that the Mississippi probably emptied into the Gulf of Mexico and learning further that they would no doubt encounter hostile tribes, they returned up stream to the mouth of the Illinois River, thence up that stream and the Des Plaines and Chicago rivers to Lake Michigan and thence back to Canada. When almost within sight of home they met with an accident in the St. Lawrence River, by which Joliet lost all his

papers containing a full account of the expedition and lost the little Indian slave by drowning. This expedition opened up the Mississippi River to French and English explorations and settlements and showed that the South Sea could not be reached by the Father of Waters. The French used this discovery as a basis of their claims to all the country from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi and thence down that stream on both sides to the French settlements of Louisiana. Mercer County was first a part of New France and then a part of Louisiana.

The French did not sleep on their rights, but sent out various expeditions to cement their claims to this vast tract of country. The expedition of Robert La Salle in 1680 still further secured the Lake Michigan and the Illinois regions to the crown of France. They built forts at St. Joseph, Michigan, and Peoria, Illinois—really built a chain of forts from Canada to Louisiana, and established permanent settlements. Henry Tonti, La Salle's first assistant, remained at the Peoria fort, Creve Cœur, though later was compelled to leave. Father Hennepin and companions later passed down the Illinois and up the Mississippi no doubt seeing what is now Mercer County. Several expeditions from Louisiana passed up to what is now Minnesota, landing perhaps on Mercer County soil at the famous Upper Yellow Banks, now New Boston.

As the years passed the English from the Atlantic colonies pushed their claims westward through Pennsylvania and down the Ohio River and threatened the French possessions on the Mississippi and even on the Great Lakes. The first conflict between the two nations on American soil in the West was at Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburg) in 1753. The English from Virginia established Fort Pitt at that point, but were driven away by the French who named the garrison Fort Duquesne and endeavored to check the movement of the English down the Ohio River and for a time succeeded. The Seven Years' war resulted, lasting from 1755 to 1762, at the conclusion of which all the territory of France east of the Mississippi River except along the Gulf of Mexico passed to the possession of Great Britain. This splendid success of the English was due to the energy and statecraft of William Pitt, who at the crisis of the struggle in the English Parliament fought for a strenuous continuance of the war and though sick was borne to the chamber on a stretcher and there declared that now was the time to despoil France, the ancient enemy of the English, of all her possessions in the New World. His counsel prevailed with the result that France was pushed westward of the Mississippi except in the far South.

Thus it will be seen that what is now Mercer County was the possession of France by right of discovery and settlement and by Great Britain after 1763 by right of conquest. It remained the property of the latter until 1783 when it passed to the United States as a result of the Revolutionary war. Thus it has remained to the present time.

CHAPTER II

INDIAN AFFAIRS

At the time of the first white settlement in Mercer County the Sacs and Foxes, or Reynards, claimed ownership of this part of the state and were in actual possession. That tribe resided originally on Fox River near Green Bay in Wisconsin and was powerful and warlike. It was a branch of the Sioux nation and was almost continually at war with its neighbors, the Winnebagos, Menominees and Kickapoos, who also lived in the Green Bay region when the first French voyagers began to penetrate that section of the West. Almost from the start the Reynards began to oppose the exploration of the French Canadians through Wisconsin and farther westward, killing the explorers and taking possession of their equipments, weapons, etc. Finally an army of whites and friendly Indians was sent against them with the result that they were completely crushed and driven westward to the Mississippi and down that stream where they established permanent villages on the site of the present Dubuque, Rock Island, Keokuk and elsewhere. Here they were found when the first white settlers arrived in Mercer County. Other Green Bay tribes were driven westward and in turn drove to the south or west the Iowas and other nations residing along the river. But the Winnebagos, Pottawatomies, Menominees, Illinois, Kickapoos and others roamed at will over all this portion of the country, taking their chances of extermination by the tribe having the greater right to the soil.

The location of Julian Dubuque at Dubuque in 1788 did much to establish peace between the Sacs and Foxes and the whites. At least once annually and many years oftener he passed down the river to St. Louis to dispose of his lead ore, furs and other native products and returned with his supplies for the Indian trade. In 1804-5 Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike went up the river from St. Louis to Minnesota on an exploring expedition for the Government. At this time the trade of St. Louis with the settlements on the upper Mississippi was large and continuous. Scarcely a week passed during the warm months that did not witness the passage of boats of the fur traders and explorers up or down the river. The expedition of Lewis and

Clarke up the Mississippi River occurred in 1804-5. Every important western branch of the river was peopled with Indians and each Indian village had present one or more white traders in the employ of the various fur companies. The almost daily passage of keel boats on the Mississippi and a little later of steamboats was the occasion for the establishment of the first settlement in Mercer County by the Denisons at New Boston in 1827 and by the Vannattas at Keithsburg a few days later.

How long the Indians had occupied what is now Mercer County is unknown, but must have been many centuries, because in all parts have been found since the earliest settlement many stone and flint implements, knives, scrapers, arrow and spear heads, pottery, discoidal stones, totems, stone and shell beads and bracelets, gorgets, pestles, rollers, smoothers, perforators, stone hammers, battle axes, anvils, leather dressers, fish sinkers, pipes, etc. Various materials were used by the natives in the construction of these implements and ornaments—granite, flint, greenstone, hornblende, cyanite, trap, quartzite, bone, shell, steatite, hematite, olivine, sandstone, catlinite, etc. It is clear that for many centuries the savages roamed and hunted over the county leaving behind their stone possessions which could not be destroyed.

On Pope Creek, on Edwards River and on many of the smaller streams have been found numerous arrow and spear heads and tomahawks or hatchets. Flint spear points have been found numerous along the Mississippi and the interior streams and particularly along the lakes and sloughs near Bay Island. The spear points found are usually notched or serrated and rendered capable of producing a terrible wound in either fish or land animal. The pottery is usually found on Pope Creek and Edwards River and is mainly fragmentary. Near New Boston large quantities have been found, the material used being a clay mixed with fine sand or powdered shells. Often rude scroll-work is found on the pottery. The discoidal stones found are next to the pipes in value. They seem to have been intended for some sort of ceremonial observance and are often found buried in Indian graves. Occasionally hieroglyphics are found on the ceremonial stones, but the meaning has never been deciphered. Indian quoits and chuny-ke-stones are found here and there through the county. About thirty specimens of Indian pipes of various shapes and sizes have been discovered in the county. Several were found in Eliza and Abington townships. One is a tomahawk and pipe combined and is an amalgam of copper and steel, evidently made for the Indians by the French or English. It is probable that the

most of these implements and ornaments were not made in this county, but were made at the large Indian villages elsewhere. This county did not contain within the knowledge of the whites any large permanent Indian town or village, but was the site of many temporary encampments not only along the Mississippi, but on Pope Creek, Edwards River, Camp Creek and their large branches. Over the prairies and through the groves wandered the deer and the buffalo, the wolf and the panther, the wildcat and the lynx. Many skeletons of the buffalo were found scattered over the county by the first settlers. The abundance of wild game and fish were the magnets that brought here the numerous temporary Indian encampments.

The first settlers located at New Boston and Keithsburg to supply the steamboats on the river with wood. That was primarily the object which brought them to this county. Steamboats began to navigate the Mississippi in 1823. Indians were here in great numbers, but were friendly until the Black Hawk war. The Lower Yellow Banks were at Oquawka and the Upper Yellow Banks were at New Boston in Mercer County.

As early as July, 1827, trouble with the Indians began. Two keel boats on their way up the Mississippi with supplies for Fort Snelling were attacked by Winnebagos and several of the crew were killed and others wounded. This occasioned great alarm by proving the hostile purposes of the Indians of various tribes. The perpetrators of this outrage were pursued and punished. Although the Densions, Vannattas and others had come to this county a few weeks before, they were not molested and the excitement soon subsided. However, trouble with the Sacs and Foxes soon occurred, though nothing serious happened until 1831 when Black Hawk crossed to the old home of his band on the east side of the Mississippi near Rock Island. They were driven back by a large body of militia which marched northward from Beardstown in June, crossing Mercer County from south to north between Aledo and Joy along an old Indian trail. This ended the trouble for that year, but in 1832 the Sacs and Foxes, Winnebagos and members of other tribes again crossed the Mississippi and ascended Rock River to the home of the Winnebagos near its source. Again as before a large body of militia assembled at Beardstown and on April 27th started northward, marching first to Oquawka where they received supplies and then passing directly to Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, across Mercer County. They reached Fort Armstrong on May 7th. With this body of about two thousand troops was a company from Sangamon County commanded by Capt. Abraham Lincoln and attached to the Fourth

Regiment. They met Col. Zachary Taylor at Fort Armstrong. The army was strengthened, pursued the Indians and in the end completely defeated them at the battle of Bad Axe. After the war Black Hawk lived in Lee County, Iowa, but often came to New Boston near which he had a daughter buried. The following account is not intended as a history of the Black Hawk war, but only of the part borne in it by Mercer County.

This war involved Mercer County in part. It was the result of the attempt to remove the Indians west of the Mississippi River in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of November 3, 1804, between the chiefs and head men of the Sacs and Foxes and other tribes and William Henry Harrison, by which the Indians agreed to leave both sides of the Mississippi free to the settlement by whites, but afterward endeavored to repudiate their obligations and the treaty. By this treaty the Indians agreed to cede to the Government 15,000,000 acres lying between the Wisconsin River on the north, Fox River of Illinois on the east and southeast and the Mississippi River on the west for the insignificant annuity of \$1,000 in perpetuity and \$2,500 in goods. The immediate cause of the outbreak was the agreement in the treaty that the Indians should enjoy the privilege of living and hunting upon these lands until they were transferred to private owners, or as long as they remained in possession of the United States.

The Indians claimed that the attempt to remove them westward was a violation of this provision of the treaty. As a matter of fact the land had neither been surveyed nor placed upon the market, but here and there had been squatted upon by pioneers, who began to appear in considerable number by 1823 and take possession of the cultivated fields and the homes of the Indians, notably at the ancient village of the Sacs and Foxes, Saukenuk, on the bank of Rock River near its mouth. The squatters went so far in a few instances as to burn the Indian lodges, whip the women and children and drive them away in the absence of the braves. The few settlers in Mercer County were squatters who thus infringed upon the rights of the Indians—had no right to locate here until the land was duly surveyed, placed on the market, sold and occupied by white settlers. They were thus at the mercy of the savages when the climax came. At New Boston were William Denison and his married son John W. and their families, David S. Witter and wife, a Frenchman named Pentacosa who kept a store and a hired man named Twist. Other sons of William Denison were Erastus, James, Joseph, Ezra, Newton and Elmer, two or three of whom were young men at this

time. At Keithsburg (not known by that name yet) were John and Benjamin Vannatta and their families. The above named persons were the only residents of the county at the time of the Black Hawk war, 1832.

About a year before the conflict actually broke out, mutterings of discontent, anger and war came from the Indians, but were not regarded seriously by the whites. Finally friendly Indians of Keokuk's band warned the settlers at New Boston and Keithsburg to leave, or suffer barbarous tortures and deaths at the hands of the war parties if they remained. Black Hawk was the war chief of the Sacs and Foxes, but Keokuk was the peace chief and did what he could not only to prevent war but to protect the white settlers. He offered the Denisons a temporary home at his village on Iowa River until all danger was over; but as the whites believed the war would be avoided, or believed that they could find safety at the nearest white settlement, they concluded to remain. Finally the captain of a steamboat from Rock Island brought the news to New Boston and Keithsburg that an outbreak was certain to occur, whereupon all boarded the vessel and went down to the settlement at Nauvoo, and there remained about two months and then returned, the danger seemingly being over. This event occurred in the summer of 1831. Witter and Twist did not return, but took claims elsewhere. While the Denisons were absent nearly all of their movable possessions were carried off by the Indians—chairs, dishes, books, soap, chickens, etc. They complained to Chief Keokuk who saw that a portion of the damage done was repaired. It is probable that the Vannattas also left their home in 1831 until the danger was over.

The name Upper Yellow Banks was an Indian term applied to the yellow bluffs at New Boston. It was a conspicuous landmark along the river and as such had been used by the Indians as a rallying and landing point for many years. Upon the return of the Denisons (and probably the Vannattas) they found their corn crop had been destroyed, so they resumed their occupation of getting out cord-wood for the steamboats; the price received was about three dollars per cord. The Indians were numerous, often stopped at the settlement, were friendly, but their manner showed that the trouble was not over. They were Sacs and Foxes, though occasionally a Winnebago and Pottawatomic was seen here. The Denisons spoke the Indian tongue fluently, but the Indians generally could not speak nor understand English. The winter of 1831-2 passed with hundreds of natives present in the vicinity, but without any further danger or outbreak.

Early in 1832 Black Hawk, the War Chief, and his followers came down the Mississippi from Rock Island to hold a pow wow with Keokuk, the Peace Chief, who came with his followers down the Iowa River, New Boston or Upper Yellow Banks being the chosen point of conference. In all about three thousand Indians attended this meeting. Chief Keokuk counseled peace and depicted what the result of a war with the whites would mean to the Indians. While he was addressing the assemblage Black Hawk closed his ears with his fingers, refusing to listen to the plea for peace. When it came his turn to speak, he openly and boldly advocated war and gave a vivid description of the wrongs that had been inflicted upon his band on Rock River. It at once became manifest that a large majority of the Indians present sided with Black Hawk and favored speedy hostilities. While it is true that Keokuk was a peace advocate he might have taken a different view if he and his band had lived on Rock River and had suffered the indignities that had been visited upon the band of Black Hawk, instead of living up Iowa River far from the aggressive and grasping squatters and pioneers. Circumstances alter cases. If Black Hawk and his band had lived on Iowa River and Keokuk and his band had lived on Rock River, the history of the Black Hawk war might have been altogether different, but it is doubtful. The records show that invariably the whites were welcomed and treated royally by the natives and were attacked and slaughtered only after they were guilty of swindling and other forms of wrong and injustice. The band of Keokuk placed under the same wrongs and outrages as the band of Black Hawk would no doubt have resented the injustice and taken up the tomahawk.

The Denisons, Pentacosa and probably the Vannattas were present at this conference and at once realized from the temper of the natives that war was a certainty and that they should adopt immediate measures for their own safety. The friendly Indians warned them to depart at once. Chief Keokuk, large and fine in person, noble in bearing and dressed in broadcloth like a white man, promised them protection if they would come and live with him. Black Hawk, short, heavy, muscular, threatening in appearance and robed in a blanket, was given command of the war movement. An Indian known as Captain Pepo urged the whites to depart, declaring that the young warriors would barbarously slaughter them if they remained, and stated further, when the settlers announced that they would not leave, that he and his friends would come and kill them *decently* rather than see them abused, tortured and butchered by the uncontrollable young braves. Apparently this statement settled the



THE INDIAN CHIEF KEOKUK "THE
WATCHFUL FOX"

This half-tone portrait is from a daguerrotype taken in 1847, when the great chief was 67 years of age. This has been generally accepted by historical writers as a faithful likeness of that celebrated Iowa chief.

matter, because the Denisons prepared at once to leave for Pence's Fort which consisted of several blockhouses and a stockade and was situated about three miles northeast of Oquawka. The stockade enclosed about seven hundred square yards of land and was made of split logs about twelve feet long planted upright and close together in the ground. This fort and the one at Monmouth were the refuge sought by the white settlers of this whole region in this emergency. Though urged to depart at once the Denisons delayed going for several days, not wishing to experience again the losses of the previous year—ruined crops, stolen household goods and no positive necessity for leaving. Their numerous friends among the Indians became so urgent that they finally concluded to depart when told that to remain longer meant their early and certain deaths. Evidences of enmity among the war advocates here added to the conclusion of the Denisons to go without further delay. They lived at the old woodyard about half a mile down the river from the conference grounds. They left one morning taking as much of their goods with them as possible and going direct to Pence's Fort. At this time they had on hand about one hundred and fifty cords of wood ready for the steamboats. They had worked hard to prepare this wood for the spring vessels and were willing to sacrifice considerable rather than lose it, as the cutting was worth about four hundred and fifty dollars, a large sum for that day. It was finally concluded that two of the sons of the father William—Erastus and James—should remain to cord up what was not piled and sell as much as they could to the steamboat captains before the storm of war should break forth. After the departure of the Denisons the two young men went up to remain with Pentacosa, but during the first night the trading house was attacked by a band of hostiles, though the inmates succeeded in making their escape out of the back way. They moved cautiously down to the river and followed its banks southward, but were followed by the whooping savages. They ran rapidly to the Edwards River which they forded near its mouth and then struck for a footbridge over Pope Creek about five miles away. Here they were overtaken by an Indian dog which was shot by Erastus Denison. The Indians who could be heard about a quarter of a mile back now abandoned the pursuit and were heard of no more. The whites continued their rapid flight, but owing to Pentacosa's giving out, the young men were obliged to secrete him in the tall grass and continue their journey alone. They reached Pence's Fort about 2 o'clock in the morning, having covered sixteen miles since nightfall. At daybreak a band of men at the fort went back and brought in the

Frenchman and then all went up the river in boats and returned with all the goods of the trading post. At the building were found two squaws who had been stationed there by the friendly Indians to prevent the store from being sacked. After a few days the Denisons went to Monmouth and there John Denison bought a house and remained through the summer. In the fall they all returned to New Boston in time to put up wild hay, the war having ended. Before the end a party of seven hostile Indians killed a young man named Martin near Little York. A company of rangers raised at Monmouth scoured the country from that point to New Boston and pursued the hostile band so closely that they fled across the Mississippi and gave no more trouble.

It is probable, as before stated, that the Vannattas went with the Denisons down to Nauvoo during the Indian scare in 1831 and returned when all danger was over. In 1832 they refused to leave when the Denisons did, but instead went out secretly and hid in a low place on the prairie and the following day cautiously advanced to Pence's Fort where they found a number of refugees from over a wide section of country. After the danger was over the Vannattas returned to what is now Keithsburg where Benjamin Vannatta had a preemption claim to the southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 13 north, Range 5 west, or where that town in part now stands.

The Indian trail over which the army marched extended across Ohio Grove, Abington, Millersburg and Perrytown townships, touching also the northwest corner of Mercer Township. In Perryville Township it extended across Section 31; thence ran along the divide to Camp Creek and crossed that stream at a ford on Section 19; thence along the ridge through Sections 20 and 17 and diagonally through the north half of Section 9 and diagonally through Sections 4 and 3. In early times the trail was plain in the other townships, particularly in Sections 5, 6 and 7 in Ohio Grove Township. It seems to have followed quite closely the line dividing Ranges 3 and 4, touching all six of the townships in this county separated by that line. Other Indian trails ran along the ridges dividing the principal streams and occasionally wound along the creek and river bank. The remains of their old camps were to be seen in early times on every considerable stream. For ten or fifteen years after the Black Hawk war bands of Indians wandered over the county, begging of the settlers, hunting and fishing, and camping on the old familiar spots near the stream banks.

Several collections of prehistoric mounds have been found in this county. A group was located on Section 4, Millersburg Town-

ship, many years ago. Another large one was in Eliza Township. They were from three to six feet high and on several of them grew large trees. When opened these mounds were found to contain human skeletons, arrow heads, stone tomahawks, etc. It is not believed that they were built by the real Mound Builders who were related to the Aztecs, Toltecs, Cliff Dwellers and Peruvians, but were built by Indian tribes that imitated the burial customs of the ancient inhabitants.

CHAPTER III

MERCER COUNTY AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES

After the Revolutionary war what is now Mercer County passed to the possession of the United States partly as a result of that conflict generally and partly through conquest by the expedition of Col. George Rogers Clark under the orders of the Virginia colony. This independent military movement by Virginia had for its object the acquirement of a large tract of land in the West and Northwest in case the colonies should succeed in the struggle. Although the colonies were bound together during the Revolution by the Articles of Confederation, which document was primarily and distinctly a war measure, it was presumed that when they should attain their independence by such concert of action each would become an independent sovereignty. It is a fact that even before the war ended the colonies were envious of each other and were on the watch for advantages in the territory that would pass to the united colonies as a result of the war. Virginia even tried to wrest Pennsylvania west of the Alleghanics from the latter colony by sending an expedition to Fort Pitt, now Pittsburg, at an early stage of the war, but did not succeed. The expedition of Col. George Rogers Clark to Kaskaskia and Vincennes in 1777-8 was really a movement of the Colony of Virginia to secure possession of a large tract of land in the Northwest, so that upon the conclusion of peace it would hold the advantage when it came to a division of the territorial spoils of war. This success gave Virginia the presumptive right to claim ownership by conquest of what became the Northwest Territory; but this claim was disputed by several of the other colonies, particularly by Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, which maintained that Virginia could not fairly demand as exclusively hers property which had been secured by the united efforts and sacrifices of all. It required several years before the rights of the several colonies to tracts of land in the Northwest Territory were clearly defined, set forth and accepted. These claims of the young states were threshed out from 1784 to 1788, and no little unfairness and ill-will are shown in the records of the controversy. All in the end ceded their claims to the general government, but were granted large tracts for their soldiers and sailors.

As it originally stood, the Northwest Territory embraced the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and all of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River projected to the British line, which was undefined. The first plan for the disposal and management of this great area was proposed by Thomas Jefferson in 1784, but failed to meet the approval of Congress. Three years later the justly celebrated Ordinance of 1787, creating the Northwest Territory, became a law. It prohibited the extension of slavery to any of the region north of the Ohio River and was strict in its requirements and broad and high in its purposes and principles. A territorial government was established, but was limited in power, because the movement was tentative, the outcome was uncertain and Congress was in doubt as to the best course to pursue.

While the Revolution was still raging and immediately after the conquest of this region by George Rogers Clark, the Virginia colony, in pursuance of its plans to secure all of the Northwest Territory as a part of its domain, set up the first civil government in that region under the name "Illinois County, Virginia Colony," and appointed Col. John Todd of Kentucky County lieutenant or commandant in chief. Patrick Henry, governor of the Virginia Colony, became ex-officio governor of the new county. Colonel Todd entered upon the discharge of his duties in May, 1779, by organizing the militia, appointing deputy commandants for Kaskaskia and Cahokia and ordering a general election of civil officers, the first ever held in what is now the State of Illinois. He continued to serve until 1782, when he was killed in the battle of Blue Licks, Kentucky. Others succeeded him, but after 1783 and until the Northwest Territory was duly organized under the Ordinance of 1787 this vast territory had merely a semblance of government and was practically without law and order.

Early in 1788 the Northwest Territory was duly organized under the Ordinance of 1787 by the appointment of Gen. Arthur St. Clair as governor; Winthrop Sargent, secretary, and Samuel H. Parsons, James M. Varnum and John C. Symmes, judges. The following year, immediately after Gen. George Washington was sworn in as first President of the United States, all of the above officers were reappointed. The territorial government was organized at Marietta, Ohio, July 15, 1788, though Governor St. Clair did not arrive at Kaskaskia until March 5, 1790. At this time the county of St. Clair was organized and embraced all the territory between the Wabash and Mississippi rivers, including what is now Mercer County. The first court in St. Clair County was held at Cahokia by Judge

Turner in 1795. Both Cahokia and Kaskaskia had been assigned as the county seat of St. Clair County by Governor St. Clair, which fact occasioned a contest between the two towns with the result in part that Randolph County was soon formed with Kaskaskia as the county seat. What is now Mercer County remained a part of St. Clair County. In 1796 Judge Symmes held court at both county seats and Governor St. Clair was present.

On November 4, 1791, Governor St. Clair was badly defeated in the western part of the present State of Ohio by a large force of Indians under Little Turtle. He thereupon resigned his command of the army and was succeeded by Gen. Anthony Wayne, who overwhelmed the natives near Fort Wayne, Indiana, and effected the treaty of Greenville on August 3, 1795, by which large tracts of land were secured and the submission of the natives was accomplished.

In 1798 a Legislative Council and a House of Representatives were elected under the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787. They met at Cincinnati February 4, 1799, and elected Gen. William Henry Harrison, the new secretary of the territory, as delegate to Congress. In this assembly Shadrach Bond represented St. Clair County and John Edgar represented Randolph County.

On May 7, 1800, Congress divided the Northwest Territory into Ohio and Indiana territories, what is now Mercer County falling under the latter. William Henry Harrison became first governor of Indiana Territory and St. Vincent (Vincennes) became the capital. While he was governor many treaties with the Indians were concluded by General Harrison, the one of November 3, 1804, embracing Mercer County, which thus was freed from the Indian title. In 1803 all of Louisiana was purchased from France and the following year for a short time was attached to Indiana Territory.

The election of a territorial Legislature for Indiana Territory occurred in 1804, on which occasion a total of 81 votes were polled by St. Clair County and 61 by Randolph County. St. Clair gave a majority of 37 against the measure and Randolph a majority of 19 in its favor. The other counties, of which there were four, gave a sufficient majority to carry the measure.

In the Legislature Shadrach Bond, Jr., and William Biggs represented St. Clair County in the House and Shadrach Bond, Sr., and John Hay in the Council. George Fisher represented Randolph County in the House and Pierre Menard in the Council.

By act of Congress February 3, 1809, Illinois Territory was created and Ninian Edwards became first governor; Nathaniel Pope,

secretary and Alexander Stuart, Obediah Jones and Jesse B. Thomas, judges. Stanley Griswold soon succeeded Alexander Stuart. The population of Illinois Territory at the outset was about nine thousand, and the two counties, St. Clair and Randolph, embraced all the settled portions. A code of laws was at once prepared and the officers previously appointed by Secretary Pope were confirmed. Governor Edwards did not reach Kaskaskia until June, 1809. Benjamin H. Doyle became the first attorney general, but was soon succeeded by Thomas T. Crittenden.

In 1811 the New Madrid earthquake gave southern Illinois a severe shaking. This year also occurred the battle of Tippecanoe in which four Illinois regiments participated. The following year the war with Great Britain began and the massacre at Fort Dearborn, Chicago, occurred. In 1813 and 1814 various engagements with Indians under the orders of British officers took place in this state—two at Rock Island, where in one Gen. Zachary Taylor with regulars cooperated with the Illinois militia. In 1813 Fort Clark was erected at Peoria and the following year Fort Edwards was built at Warsaw opposite the mouth of the Des Moines River. At a conference on the Mississippi River a short distance below Alton in July, 1815, peace with the Indian tribes was concluded. During the continuance of the war boats loaded with soldiers or with hostile Indians passed up or down the river quite often and no doubt landed frequently at the Upper Yellow Banks, New Boston, which was a conspicuous land mark.

On May 21, 1812, Illinois Territory was authorized by Congress to elect a territorial Legislature and three new counties were established—Madison, Gallatin and Johnson—and at the election in October the following five councilmen (to represent the five counties) and seven representatives were chosen: Council—Randolph County, Pierre Menard; St. Clair, William Biggs; Madison, Samuel Judy; Johnson, Thomas Ferguson; Gallatin, Benjamin Talbot. House—Randolph County, George Fisher; St. Clair, Joshua Oglesby and Jacob Short; Madison, William Jones; Gallatin, Philip Trammel and Alexander Wilson; Johnson, John Grammar. This Legislature met at Kaskaskia on November 25th and the Council elected Pierre Menard president and John Thomas secretary, and the House elected George Fisher speaker and William C. Greenup clerk. This Legislature sent Shadrach Bond as first delegate to Congress. At the second session of the Legislature Pierre Menard was reelected president of the Council—in fact was continued in that position until the

state government was formed in 1818. George Fisher was continued as speaker of the House for the same period, except for one session. In 1814 Edwards County was organized; in 1815, White; 1816, Jackson, Crawford, Monroe and Pope; 1817, Bond; 1818, Franklin, Union and Washington.

The enabling act passed by Congress April 13, 1818, authorized the people of Illinois Territory to take the preliminary steps necessary for the formation of a state government. An election of delegates to a convention to frame a state constitution was held July 6th to 8th, inclusive, and thirty-three from the fifteen counties were chosen. This convention assembled at Kaskaskia on August 3d, elected Jesse B. Thomas, president, and William C. Greenup, secretary, and continued in session until August 26th. The constitution prepared was not submitted to a vote of the electors and its adoption encountered considerable opposition in Congress on two grounds: (1) That the population was insufficient; (2) that the article concerning the prohibition of slavery as required under the Ordinance of 1787 was not sufficiently pronounced and explicit. However, the instrument finally passed Congress by the vote of 117 for and 34 against.

The debate on the provisions of the enabling act by Congress is extremely interesting. The Ordinance of 1787 provided that the southern tier of territories or states to be carved out of the Northwest Territory should be bounded on the north by an east and west line extending through the southern point of Lake Michigan, thus leaving Indiana and Illinois without any frontage on that body of water. Indiana had succeeded in having this line extended northward to its present boundary, and now in 1818 Illinois endeavored to secure a similar northward extension. At this time Wisconsin was a part of Michigan Territory and was represented in Congress by the Michigan delegates. Hon. Nathaniel Pope, the delegate to Congress from Illinois, made an able, adroit, continuous and strenuous fight to secure this extension and succeeded finally in having the northern boundary located fifty-one miles farther north at the 42° 30' parallel of north latitude. His proposition was ably, persistently and almost savagely opposed by the Michigan delegate, who represented what is now Wisconsin, but without avail. The debate reveals that the congressmen generally accepted the view that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787 that the boundary should be on the parallel of the southern point of Lake Michigan, the states of Indiana and Illinois were entitled to a water outlet on Lake

Michigan, owing to the fact that at that date the absence of railroads made navigable waterways all important in the interest of commerce and that both Michigan and the probable Wisconsin territories could well afford to spare Indiana and Illinois a portion of the Lake Michigan coast. But although Congress granted the extension, both Michigan and Wisconsin, particularly the latter, employed their greatest endeavors in after years to have the boundaries changed and located eastward and westward from the southern point of Lake Michigan as provided in the Ordinance of 1787, but without avail. It was many years before Wisconsin accepted the inevitable and gave up its attempts to secure the change. Now, it is hardly necessary to point out the importance of the establishment of the boundary at the 42° 30' parallel to Illinois. The citizens of this state have congratulated themselves to this day on this achievement and never fail to thank Nathaniel Pope from the bottom of their hearts for the result. It is safe to conclude that all future generations in Illinois will entertain the same feelings of thankfulness and gratitude.

Mr. Pope also secured in the enabling act the provision that two-fifths of the proceeds from the sale of public lands within the state should be devoted to the construction of roads leading to the state, that the residue should be devoted by the Legislature to the encouragement and cause of education and that one-sixth should be used exclusively for the establishment and maintenance of a college or university. Thus, in this great emergency, when so much depended upon intelligent action and a high purpose, Mr. Pope proved even more than equal to the confidence and trust reposed in him.

The enabling act required that a census of the proposed state should be taken and should show a population of at least forty thousand. This showing was accomplished, but it was afterward revealed that the actual population was but 34,020. However, the discrepancy was soon made up, the official census of 1820 fixing the population of the state at 55,162.

ACT OF VIRGINIA, DECEMBER 20, 1783

To authorize the delegates of this State in Congress to convey to the United States, in Congress assembled, all the rights of this Commonwealth to the territory north-westward of the river Ohio.

1. Whereas, the Congress of the United States did, by their act of the 6th of September, in the year 1780, recommend to the

several states in the Union, having claims to waste and unappropriated lands in the western country, a liberal cession to the United States of a portion of their respective claims, for the common benefit of the Union:

2. And whereas this commonwealth did, on the 2d day of January, in the year 1781, yield to the Congress of the United States, for the benefit of the said states, all right, title and claim which the said commonwealth had to the territory northwest of the River Ohio, subject to the conditions annexed to the said act of cession:

3. And whereas the United States, in Congress assembled, have, by their act of the 13th of September last, stipulated the terms on which they agree to accept the cession of this state, should the Legislature approve thereof—which terms, although they do not come fully up to the propositions of this commonwealth, are conceived, on the whole, to approach so nearly to them, as to induce this state to accept thereof, in full confidence that Congress will, in justice to this state for the liberal cession she hath made, earnestly press upon the other states claiming large tracts of waste and uncultivated territory, the propriety of making cessions equally liberal, for the common benefit and support of the Union:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That it shall and may be lawful for the (* 19) delegates of this state to the Congress of the United States, or such of them as shall be assembled in Congress, and the said delegates, or such for them as assembled, are hereby fully authorized and empowered, for and in behalf of this state, by proper deed or instrument in writing, under their hands and seals, to convey, transfer, assign and make over to the United States, in Congress assembled, for the benefit of the said states, all right, title, claim, as well of soil as jurisdiction, which this commonwealth hath to the territory or tract of country within the limits of the Virginia charter, situate, lying, and being to the west of the River Ohio, subject to the terms and conditions contained in the before recited act of Congress of the 13th day of September last, that is to say: Upon the condition that the territory so ceded shall be laid out and formed into states, containing suitable extent of territory, not less than 100 nor more than 150 miles square, or as near thereto as circumstances will admit; and that the states so formed shall be distinct republican states, and admitted members of the Federal Union, having the same rights of sovereignty, freedom and independence as the other states; that the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by this state in subduing any British posts, or in maintaining forts or garrisons within and for the defense, or in acquiring any part of the territory

so ceded or relinquished, shall be fully reimbursed by the United States; and that one commissioner shall be appointed by Congress, one by this commonwealth, and another by those two commissioners, who, or a majority of them, shall be authorized and empowered to adjust and liquidate the account of the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by this state, which they shall judge to be comprised within the intent and meaning of the act of Congress of the 10th of October, 1780, respecting such expenses. That the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents, and the neighboring villages, who have professed themselves citizens of Virginia, shall have their possessions confirmed to them, and be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties. That a quantity not exceeding 150,000 acres of land, promised by this state, shall be allowed and granted by them to the then Colonel, now General George Rogers Clarke, and to the officers and soldiers of his regiment, who marched with him when the forts of Kaskaskies and St. Vincents were reduced, and to the officers and soldiers that have been since incorporated into the same regiment, to be laid off in one tract, the length of which is not to exceed double the breadth, in such place on the northwest side of the Ohio as a majority of the officers shall choose, and to be afterwards divided among the said officers and soldiers, in due proportion, according to the laws of Virginia. That in case the quantity of good lands on the southeast side of the Ohio, upon the waters of Cumberland River, and between the Green River and Tennessee River, which have been reserved by law for the Virginia troops upon continental establishment, should, from the North Carolina line bearing in further upon the Cumberland lands than was expected, prove insufficient for their legal bounties, the deficiency should be made up to the troops in good lands, to be laid off between the River Scioto and Little Miami, on the northwest side of the River Ohio, in such proportions as have been engaged to them by the laws of Virginia. That all the lands within the territory so ceded to the United States, and not reserved for or appropriated to any of the before-mentioned purposes, or disposed of in bounties to the officers and soldiers of the American Army, shall be considered as a common fund for the use and benefit of such of the United States as have become or shall become members of the confederation or federal alliance of the said states, Virginia inclusive, according to the usual respective proportions in the general charge and expenditure, and shall be faithfully and *bona fide* disposed of for that purpose, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever: *Provided*, that the trust hereby reposed in the

delegates of this state shall not be executed, unless three of them, at least, are present in Congress.

ORDINANCE OF 1787

Passed by Congress, sitting under the Articles of Confederation, "for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the River Ohio," July 13, 1787.

1. *Be it ordained by the United States, in Congress assembled,* That the said territory, for the purpose of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.

2. *Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid,* That the estate, both of resident and non-resident proprietors in the said territory dying intestate, shall descend to and be distributed among their children and the descendants of a deceased child in equal parts—the descendants of a deceased child or grandchild to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them; and where there shall be no children or descendants, then in equal parts to the next of kin, in equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parent's share. And there shall, on no case, be denied to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life, and one-third part of the personal estate; and this law, relative to descent and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the Legislature of the district. And until the governor and judges shall adopt laws, as hereinafter mentioned, estates in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her in whom the estate may be (" 21) (being of full age), and attested by three witnesses. And real estate may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed and delivered by the person, being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts and registers shall be appointed for that purpose. And personal property may be transferred by delivery, saving, however, to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents and the neighboring villages, who have hereto-

fore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and conveyance of property.

3. *Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid,* That there be appointed, from time to time, by Congress, a governor, whose commission shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by Congress: he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in 1,000 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.

4. There shall be appointed, from time to time, by Congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force for four years, unless sooner revoked: he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in 500 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office; it shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the Legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor in his executive department, and transmit authentic copies of such acts and proceedings, every six months, to the secretary of Congress. There shall also be appointed a court, to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the district, and have each therein freehold estate, in 500 acres of land, while in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.

5. The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district, such laws of the original state, criminal and civil, as may be necessary and best suited to the circumstances of the districts, and report them to Congress from time to time; which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the general assembly therein, unless disapproved of by Congress; but afterwards the Legislature shall have authority to alter them as they think fit.

6. The governor for the time shall be commander-in-chief of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same, below the rank of general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned by Congress.

7. Previous to the organization of the general assembly, the governor shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers, in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and good order in the same. After the general assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly;

but all magistrates and other civil officers, not herein otherwise directed, shall, during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor.

8. For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made, shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time, as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the Legislature.

9. So soon as there shall be 5,000 free male inhabitants, of full age, in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with the time and place, to elect representatives from their counties or townships, to represent them in the general assembly: *Provided*, that for every 500 free male inhabitants there shall be one representative, and so on, progressively, with the number of free male inhabitants, shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty-five; after which the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the Legislature: *Provided*, that no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative, unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and in either case, shall likewise hold in his own right, in fee simple, 200 acres of land within the same: *Provided, also*, that a freehold in 50 acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the states, and being a resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years' residence in the district, shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

10. The representatives thus elected shall serve for the term of two years; and in case of death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township, for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

11. The general assembly, or Legislature, shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The legislative council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress; any three of whom to be a quorum; and the members of the council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to-wit: As soon as repre-

sentatives shall be elected, the governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together, and when met, they shall nominate ten persons, resident in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in 500 acres of land, and return their names to Congress, five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission as aforesaid; and whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to Congress, one of whom Congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term; and every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of the council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress, five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years, unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council and house of representatives shall have authority to make laws, in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. All bills, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill or legislative act whatever shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue and dissolve the general assembly, when in his opinion it shall be expedient.

12. The governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as Congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity, and of office; the governor before the president of Congress, and all other officers before the governor. As soon as the Legislature shall be formed in the district, the council and house, assembled in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to Congress, who shall have a seat in Congress, with a right of debating, but not of voting, during this temporary government.

13. And for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws, and constitution, are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory; to provide, also, for the establishment of states, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to a share in the Federal councils on

an equal footing with the original states, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest.

14. It is hereby ordained and declared, by the authority aforesaid, that the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original states and the people and states in the said territory, and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to-wit:

Art. I. No person demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments in the said territory.

Art. II. The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writs of *habeas corpus*, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the Legislature, and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall beailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate, and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land; and should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements *bona fide* and without fraud previously formed.

Art. III. Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, rights and liberty they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity shall, from time to time, be made, for preventing wrongs done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

Art. IV. The said territory and the states which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all

the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the Federal debts, contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by Congress, according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other states; and the taxes for paying their proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the Legislatures of the district or districts, or new states, as in the original states, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The Legislatures of those districts, or new states, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the *bona fide* purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and in no case shall non-resident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways, and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory, as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other states that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost or duty therefor.

Art. V. There shall be formed in the said territory not less than three, nor more than five, states; and the boundaries of the states, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession, and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, to-wit: The western state in the said territory shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle state shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami to the said territorial line, and by said territorial line. The eastern state shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: *Provided, however*, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three states shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn

through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. And whenever any of the said states shall have 60,000 free inhabitants therein, such state shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original states, in all respects whatever; and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and state government: *Provided*, the constitution and government, so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the state than 60,000.

Art. VI. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: *Provided always*, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original states, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed, and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23d of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be and the same are hereby repealed, and declared null and void.

Done by the United States in Congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of their sovereignty and independence the 12th.

1222003

ACT OF CONGRESS, MAY 7, 1800
2 Stat. at Large, 58

To divide the Territory of the United States, northwest of the Ohio, into two separate governments.

1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That from and after the fourth day of July next, all that part of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio River, which lies westward of the line beginning at the Ohio, opposite the mouth of Kentucky River, and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north, until it shall intersect the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory, and be called the Indiana Territory.

ACT OF CONGRESS, FEB. 3, 1809

2 Stat. at Large, 514

Dividing the Indiana Territory into two separate governments, and establishing the Territory of Illinois.—Michigan was formed January 11, 1805: 2 Stat. at Large, 309. Wisconsin was formed April 20, 1836: 5 Id. 10.

1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That from and after the first day of March next, all that part of the Indiana Territory which lies west of the Wabash River, and a direct line drawn from the said Wabash River and Post Vincennes due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory, and be called Illinois.

ACT OF CONGRESS, APRIL 18, 1818

3 Stat. at Large, 428

Enabling the people of Illinois to form a State Constitution.

1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the inhabitants of the Territory of Illinois be and they are hereby authorized to form for themselves a constitution and state government, and to assume such name as they shall deem proper; and the said state, when formed, shall be admitted into the Union upon the same footing with the original states, in all respects whatever.

2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said state shall consist of all the territory included within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at the mouth of the Wabash River; thence up the same, and with the line of Indiana, to the northwest corner of said state; thence east with the line of the same state to the middle of Lake Michigan; thence north along the middle of said lake, to north latitude 42° 30'; thence west to the middle of the Mississippi River; and thence down along the middle of that river to its confluence with the Ohio River; and thence up the latter river along its northwestern shore, to the beginning: *Provided,* that the convention hereinafter provided for, when formed, shall ratify the boundaries aforesaid; otherwise they shall be and remain as now prescribed by the ordinance for the government of the territory northwest of the River Ohio: *Provided, also,* that the said state shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the State of Indiana on the Wabash River, so far as said river shall form a common boundary to both, and also concurrent jurisdiction on the Mississippi River, with any state or states to be

formed west thereof, so far as said river shall form a common boundary to both.

What is now Mercer County may be considered to have been a part of the "County of Illinois," which was established by the Colony of Virginia in 1778. The boundaries of that county were not specified, but the county was to include all of the territory northwest of the Ohio River belonging to the Virginia Colony or likely to belong to it as a result of the Revolution or the expedition of George Rogers Clark in 1778. In 1784 when Virginia surrendered her claims to the Northwest Territory in favor of the general government, the "County of Illinois" came to an end. Nothing further was done until 1787, when Congress sitting under the Articles of Confederation passed an act for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio River.

In 1790 the territory was divided into two counties—St. Clair in April, and Knox in June, but neither was made to include what is now Mercer County, which was thus left without government because it had no white inhabitants.

On October 5, 1795, Randolph County was created from the southern part of St. Clair County. The three counties—Knox, St. Clair and Randolph—were east of the Illinois River. Mercer County was a part of neither. In February, 1801, William Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory, which had just been created, enlarged St. Clair County so as to include all of Illinois except a small portion in the southern and southeastern parts of the state and all of Wisconsin and a part of Michigan and Minnesota. It included Mercer County.

By proclamation of Governor Ninian Edwards, September 12, 1812, Madison County was created to include all of the present Illinois north of an east and west line along the present Madison County boundary. It thus included Mercer County. No further change was made with Mercer County soil until January 31, 1821, when Pike County was created to embrace all the state north and west of the Illinois River and thus was made to include Mercer. In 1823 Pike County was cut down to all of Illinois west of the Illinois River and south of a line extending from Beardstown west to the Mississippi River and to it was attached the territory to the north as far as Rock Island and west of the eastern boundary of the present Mercer County. Thus Mercer continued to be connected with Pike County.

In 1825 by a single act ten new counties were created—all northwest of the Illinois River—Calhoun (January 10) and Adams, Han-

cock, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Putnam, Schuyler and Warren (January 13) and Peoria by a separate act of the same date. Mercer County was named in honor of Gen. Hugh Mercer, a soldier of the Revolution, who was killed at the Battle of Princeton. The act gave to Mercer County its present boundaries and also all of Rock Island County north of Mercer County and west of the eastern boundary of Mercer County extended northward. Mercer County was attached to Schuyler County by this act. In 1826 Mercer and Warren counties were attached to Peoria County. In 1827 Mercer County was reduced to its present limits, but as it had not been organized it remained with Warren attached to Peoria County. In February, 1831, Mercer County was attached to Warren and so remained until fully organized. The organization was ordered by the Legislature, January 31, 1835, by the following act:

AN ACT TO ORGANIZE MERCER COUNTY

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly,* That on the first Monday of April next, between the hours of 8 o'clock in the morning and 7 o'clock in the evening, an election shall be held in the Town of New Boston, at the house of Eli Reynolds, and the house of George Miller, in the County of Mercer, for three county commissioners, one sheriff, and one coroner, for said county, who shall continue in office until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.

Section 2. That James Irvin, George Piper and Benjamin Vannatta, or any two of them, shall be judges of the election to be held at the Town of New Boston, and George Miller, David Shonce (Shaunce) and Ebenezer Cresswell, or any two of them, shall be judges of the election to be held at the house of George Miller. Said judges shall be authorized to appoint two clerks at each precinct, and said judges and clerks shall be qualified in the same manner as judges and clerks of elections are now required by law, and said elections shall in every respect be conducted in conformity with the election laws of this state.

Section 3. Until the county seat of said County of Mercer shall be located, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners court of said county to procure a suitable house at New Boston, and the several courts shall be held at New Boston until suitable buildings are furnished at the county seat thereafter to be located, and the said Town of New Boston is hereby declared the temporary seat of said County of Mercer until the same shall be permanently located by law.

Section 4. Said County of Mercer is hereby declared to be organized, with such corporate powers as belong to other counties in this state.

This act to be in force from and after its passage.

Approved January 31, 1835.

When the war between the United States and Great Britain was impending in 1811, Congress passed an act "for completing the existing military force," and another act "to raise an additional military force," in which it was solemnly promised to give to each non-commissioned officer and soldier who would volunteer in that service a bounty of 160 acres of land. To carry out this promise in good faith the following act was passed:

(1) That the President of the United States be and is hereby authorized to cause to be surveyed a quantity of the public lands of the United States fit for cultivation not otherwise appropriated and to which the Indian title is extinguished not exceeding in the whole 6,000,000 acres, 2,000,000 to be surveyed in the Territory of Michigan, 2,000,000 in the Illinois Territory northwest of the Illinois River, and 2,000,000 in the Territory of Louisiana between the River St. Francis and the River Arkansas. The said lands to be divided into townships and subdivided into sections and quarter sections (each quarter section to contain as near as possible 160 acres), in the manner prescribed by law for surveying and sub-dividing the other public lands of the United States; the same price to be allowed for surveying as is fixed for surveying the other public lands in the same territory. And the lands thus surveyed, with the exception of salt springs and lead mines therein and of quantities of land adjacent thereto as may be reserved for use of the same by the President of the United States, and the section number sixteen in every township to be granted the inhabitants of said township for the use of public schools shall be set apart and reserved for the purpose of satisfying the bounties of 160 acres promised the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the United States, their heirs and legal representatives by an act entitled "an act for completing the existing military establishment," approved the 24th day of December, 1811, and by an act entitled "an act to raise an additional military force," approved this 11th day of January, 1812.

(2) That the secretary of the department of war for the time being shall from time to time issue warrants for the military land bounties to the persons entitled thereto by the two last-mentioned acts, or either of them; provided always that such warrants shall be

issued only in the names of persons thus entitled and be by them or their representatives applied for within five years after the said persons shall have become entitled thereto; and the said warrants shall not be assignable or transferable in any manner whatever.

(3) That every person in whose favor such warrants shall have been issued, shall, on delivery of the same at the office of the secretary of the treasury, or of such other officer as may at the time have by law the superintendence of the general land office of the United States at the seat of government, be entitled to draw by lot in such manner as the officer at the head of the land under the direction of the President of the United States may prescribe, one of the quarter sections surveyed by virtue of the first section of this act in either of the said territories, which the person in whose favor such warrant has issued may designate. And the patent shall thereupon be granted to such person for such quarter section without requiring any fee therefor.

(4) That no claim for the military land bounties aforesaid shall be assignable or transferable in any manner whatever until after patent shall have been granted in the manner aforesaid. All sales, mortgages, contracts or agreements of any nature whatever made prior thereto for the purpose or with intent of alienating, pledging or mortgaging of such claim are hereby declared and shall be held null and void; nor shall any tract of the land granted as aforesaid be liable to be taken in execution or sale of any kind, such sale, mortgage, contract or agreement, or sale of any of the debt contracted prior to the date of the patent, either by the person originally entitled to the land, or by his heirs or legal representatives, or by virtue of and process, or suit at law, or judgment of the court against the person entitled to receive his patent as aforesaid. Approved May 6, 1812.

After the war was over it was found that the lands in Michigan were not of the quality "fit for cultivation," and for this or some other cause, the following act was passed:

(1) That so much of the "act to provide for designating, surveying and granting the military bounty lands," approved the 6th day of May, 1812, as authorizes the President of the United States to cause to be surveyed, 2,000,000 acres of the lands of the United States in the Territory of Michigan, for the purpose of satisfying the bounties of land promised to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the United States be, and the same is hereby repealed; and, in lieu of the said 2,000,000 acres of land, the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized to cause to be surveyed

the lands of the United States fit for cultivation not otherwise appropriated, and to which the Indian title is extinguished, 1,500,000 acres in Illinois Territory, and 500,000 acres in Missouri Territory, north of the Missouri River; the said lands shall be divided into townships and be sub-divided into sections and quarter sections (each quarter section to contain as near as possible 160 acres), in the manner prescribed by law for surveying and sub-dividing the other lands of the United States; and the lands thus surveyed, with the exception of the salt springs and lead mines therein, and of quantities of lands adjacent thereto as may be reserved for the use of the same by the President of the United States, and the section number sixteen in every township to be granted to the inhabitants of such township for the use of public schools, or according to the provisions of the above recited act, be set apart for the purpose of satisfying the bounties of lands promised to non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the late army of the United States, and their heirs and legal representatives by the act entitled "an act for completing the existing military establishment," approved the 24th day of December, 1811, and by an act entitled "an act to raise an additional military force," approved the 11th day of January, 1812.

(2) That every person in whose favor any warrant for military land bounty is issued, shall be and is hereby authorized to draw by lot one of the quarter sections surveyed, by virtue of this act, and shall obtain a patent therefor in the same manner in every respect as is or shall be provided by law for patents issued for other military land bounties, or as is provided by the act first above recited for patents issued for such lands. Approved April 29, 1816.

This was why and when and how this section of Illinois came to be called the "Military Tract." By this last act it would seem that 3,500,000 acres of land were set apart in Illinois for the soldiers of the War of 1812 so far as needed by them. This tract included all land between the Illinois and the Mississippi, from the mouth of the Illinois northward to an east and west line passing through what is now the northern boundary of Mercer County extended. Not all of the land comprised within those boundaries was military land; only 3,500,000 acres, and only what was "fit for cultivation." Surveyors were instructed to make the deeds or "patents" to the soldiers for the best quarter sections in the tract.

When settlers came to this section and went to the land office they found that the best lands were already deeded to these soldiers and that nearly all of the tract was vacant or unoccupied. What made it worse, these lands being held under actual deeds, became taxable

under Federal and state laws in five years after the deeds or patents on parchment were issued. These lands were assessed, and the owners being non-resident and unknown, the tracts were sold for taxes and thus "color of title" was secured by the purchaser at the tax sales. For twenty-five years this section was cursed with speculators, not only in these tax titles, but in the original patents. Many of the soldiers holding these "patents," caring little and knowing less of their value, would trade them off for five dollars or any other sum, and sometimes for even a drink of brandy. These speculators ransacked the country to find soldiers or holders of these "patents," or sent out agents to secure them. There were forged and fraudulent patents. The "paramount title," or patent in those early days overrode the tax titles and holders of them would pounce on the settler or "squatter" and make him pay whatever the cupidity of the holder of the patent would demand. On account of the numerous forged patents, many settlers were made to pay two and three times in order to perfect their title. Many men are known to have paid three times to pretended holders of these patents. Matters came to such a pass on account of these troubles about "titles" that often there came near being mobs and lynchings. Several acts of the Legislature were passed from 1823 to 1835 to give validity to these tax titles. But none seemed effective till the act of 1839 was passed "to quiet possessions and confirm titles to land," two sections of which are as follows:

Hereafter, whenever a person having color of title made in good faith to vacant and unoccupied land shall after the passage of this act pay all taxes legally assessed therein for seven successive years, he or she shall be deemed and adjudged to be the legal owner of said vacant and unoccupied land to the extent and according to the purport of his or her paper title. All persons holding under such taxpayer by purchase, devise or descent, before said seven years shall have expired, and who shall continue to pay the taxes as aforesaid, so as to complete the payment of taxes for the term aforesaid, shall be entitled to the benefit of this section: Provided, however, if any person having better paper title to said vacant and unoccupied land shall during the said term of seven years pay the taxes assessed on said land for any one or more years of such term of seven years, then and in that case such taxpayer, his heirs and assigns shall not be entitled to the benefit of this section.

But even this did not deter the "landsharks." They fought the constitutionality or validity of the act in the courts, but the Supreme Court persistently decided the law valid, till finally a case was

carried to the United States Supreme Court, about 1849 or 1850, which confirmed the validity of the act. Since 1850 or 1851 there have been no troubles concerning these "military land titles," but the early troubles retarded the settlement of this "tract" for many years.

When the bounty lands were given to the soldiers of the Mexican war, a different plan was adopted. Simple "warrants" for a certain number of acres were issued to the soldier, and he or his assigns could "locate" his warrant anywhere on public land. But on this Illinois military tract every soldier had deeded to him a specific quarter section of land.

CHAPTER IV

GEOLOGY, MINES, TEMPERATURE, ETC.

Mercer County is hilly, with many valleys not only on the larger streams, but on the small creeks. This insures excellent drainage for the whole county, with the single exception of the flat lands along the Mississippi River. The county is well watered. Edwards River enters the county at Township 15 north and takes a course a little to the south of west until it reaches Mannon, where it turns almost directly south and enters the Mississippi a short distance below New Boston. Pope Creek is the next largest stream. It enters the county not far from the line dividing Townships 13 and 14 north and thence flows nearly west but a little south and finally joins the Mississippi at Keithsburg. It has numerous small branches, a few of which have been named. The southern tier of townships is partly drained by North Henderson Creek and its branches. The northern tier, except Eliza Township, is drained by Camp Creek, which has numerous small affluents. Eliza Creek drains the northern portion of Duncan Township and a considerable portion of Eliza. The western part of New Boston and Eliza townships have a number of small streams and lakes which drain that section of the county. The stream known as Edwards River was called by the Indians Chi-kosh-se-poo. In ascertaining the meaning of this term the question was referred to Dr. William Jones, a Sauk Indian, connected with the American Museum of Natural History. He answered as follows: "That part of the word Chi-kosh-se-poo, in the last two syllables, se-poo, means river. It is not certain what Chi-kosh is. It might mean the refuse and dregs, or it might mean onion. The first meaning, then, might be an unclean stream or river of dregs or filth. The second meaning might be onion river, that is, wild onion river. This would be my guess." As Edwards River in no sense can be considered an unclean river, it must be inferred that the meaning of the term as applied to this stream was wild onion. It is not known whether Pope Creek was designated by any special Indian name or not.

Mercer County has about five hundred and fifty square miles and the fourth principal meridian runs along the eastern border. It embraces Townships 13, 14 and 15 north and Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4 and parts of 5 and 6 west. The highest point in the county is in Preemption Township and is 849 feet above the level of the sea. Aledo is 737.8 above the level of the sea.

A large portion of the county was originally prairie. The so-called barrens are along the streams where the water has cut deeply into the drift deposits. The soil generally is a black or chocolate loam with a yellowish or dark brown clay subsoil. That is the soil of the prairie generally. The soil of the barrens is the same, but has a lighter color and is not as deep. On the bluffs the humus and other valuable soil constituents have been largely drained out by the rains and streams and hence the soil there is not as fertile as that of the level prairie. The black soil in some places is covered by the yellowish subsoil which comes near the surface in places on slopes and bluffs. In several places the black soil has been wholly washed away, leaving the subsoil exposed, and this is usually yellowish in color. The soil along the Mississippi and at frequent places along Edwards River, Pope Creek and even the smaller streams, is alluvial and very rich in plant food. The Mississippi Valley in this county is from two to five miles wide. There are numerous swamps, lakes and bays cut with ridges of sand and loess.

The first settlers sowed much wheat, which at first returned a large and profitable crop. After a few years it was found that the yield per acre had become greatly reduced; so much so that the wheat crop was largely abandoned and corn was planted in its stead. At first the farmers did not understand why this should be so, but now it is clear that they exhausted certain vital constituents in the soil needed by wheat, and did not replace the same with compost or any other substance. It is now known that phosphorus and potassium are vital articles in the growth and development of the wheat crop. Hence, if the farmers now will supply the food constituents needed by wheat, they can raise as large crops of wheat as they formerly did. All of the streams in early times were heavily timbered, but now much of it has been removed. There were the following varieties: White burr, black, red and laurel oak; red and white elm; blue and white ash; hickory, maple, cherry and occasionally black walnut. In the bottoms were also found locust, sycamore, cottonwood, box elder, plum, crabapple and occasionally pecan and buckeye. Wild grape vines grew abundantly. In early times the

excellent water-power on Edwards River and Pope Creek was utilized by numerous sawmills and grist mills erected for the convenience of the early settlers.

The surface soil of the county embraces the quaternary alluvium loess and drift. The alluvium deposits of greatest extent are in the Mississippi River bottom. This land in New Boston and Eliza townships is much cut up by swamps, lakes and bayous. It is low, but usually rich, and makes excellent meadow and pasture. Through this low land extends a number of sand ridges which have been washed up from time to time by the river. The loess deposit is found on the top of the Mississippi bluffs and varies in thickness from five to forty feet. It is brown or buff in color and is a marl. Frequently it contains a considerable quantity of bleached shells from fresh water. The drift deposits cover the entire surface of the county above the bluffs of the Mississippi. Scattered over the valleys of water courses are the igneous rocks, composed of granite, hornblende, cyanite, feldspar, quartz, green stone, porphyry, trap and limestone. The drift deposits vary from nothing in a few places to over two hundred feet in others. Thus nearly all the soil used by the farmers of Mercer County was brought here by glaciers from distant points to the northward and was dropped or deposited where it now remains when the glacier melted upon reaching the warm climate to the southward. The permanent formations here, then, that were not brought here but were formed here are, first, the Paleozoic formations and constitute the coal measures which extend over the entire county above the Mississippi bluffs and embrace various strata of limestone, sandstone, clay, shale and coal, all aggregating the thickness ranging from a few feet to approximately two hundred feet; second, limestone to be found at the mouth of Edwards River which has been placed with the Kinderhook group of the Lower Carboniferous period. Tyler McWhorter thought it was Devonian limestone. It is an important fact that when the deep well, over three thousand feet, was sunk at Aledo it was found that all the older formations, such as Silurian, Devonian and Lower Carboniferous, are beneath the coal measures and perhaps extend over the whole county. The principal groups of the Carboniferous rocks are the St. Louis, Keokuk limestone, Burlington limestone and the Kinderhook, all of the Lower Carboniferous age. With one exception all the sandstone strata found in the county belong to the coal measures. Many quarries of this stone have been opened and worked in different parts of the county and immense quantities have been used for

building roads and for other purposes. It is soft when first mined, but becomes hard and firm upon exposure to the atmosphere, and is then a valuable building material. Fire clay and potter's clay are found in profitable beds in several portions of the county. A short distance south of Aledo is a bed of potter's clay. This has been mined, marketed and used in the manufacture of earthenware of various kinds.

The greatest source of wealth from the mines of Mercer County are the coal beds. The supply is enormous and will not be exhausted for hundreds of years to come. There seem to be, according to the authorities, three seams of coal in the county. The seam known as No. 1 Lower supplies the largest part of the coal now used by the county. This bed is from three to five feet in thickness and covers a large part of the county. In fact, its extent is not fully known yet. It has been extensively worked in Greene, Mercer, Preemption, Richland Grove and Duncan townships. No. 2 seam likewise covers a large portion of the county and has been mined in North Henderson, Suez, Ohio Grove, Rivoli, Greene, Mercer, Millersburg, Richland Grove, Preemption, Perryton and Duncan. This seam varies in thickness from one and a half to three feet; No. 3 seam has been opened in Greene, Rivoli and North Henderson townships. This bed ranges from three to five feet in thickness. Since the earliest settlement the presence of coal has been known and a few mines were opened at a very early day and others were added as time passed and timber became scarce. The coal beds of the county are immensely valuable, which fact is appreciated by the inhabitants. The time will come when much of the coal can be and will be exchanged for cash. William A. Marsh has taken special pains to collect the fossil flora of the Carboniferous seams in this county. He has found over five hundred distinct specimens of fossil fauna and flora. Tyler McWhorter likewise made a similar collection of coal measure fossils which he presented to the university at Champaign. In recent years the shell industry has been developed and button factories were put in operation at Keithsburg, New Boston and elsewhere, and a large number of persons were employed. While some gathered the shells from the river, others were employed in cutting them into buttons, etc. A few pearls of great value have been found.

The weather from season to season is an important matter, and in recent years a record has been kept to show the rainfall, minimum and maximum of heat and cold, etc. Destructive floods of the Mississippi have occurred in the years 1828, 1844, 1851, 1858 and 1881.

Probably the flood of 1851 was higher than any of the others. A description of that flood may be found herein in the chapter on Keithsburg. The flood of 1881 was extremely sudden and rapid, rising in a few hours and catching and destroying large numbers of live stock. It remained for nearly two months before the river went down. Fields with half-grown corn were covered with it and ducks appeared by the millions. It was estimated that forty thousand ducks were killed and shipped from this county to the cities during the season. The flood of 1858 was one which affected the whole county, and not merely the Mississippi River. In May and June it rained six weeks almost incessantly, and all streams were far above their banks, and a large amount of damage was done. Almost every bridge in the county was washed away.

In March, 1860, a large wolf hunt took place in Millersburg and Mercer townships. The hunt was planned on the 2d and took place on the 17th. Nearly all of the two townships were surrounded and then the march to the center began. Thomas Clifford was chief marshal and the prairie south of Alexander Brown's residence was the central point where the circle converged. So far as known not a wolf was secured. In early times prairie fires were often very destructive. The grass grew high, and when dead and the wind blew, a fire once started would travel almost as fast as a horse. In the early '60s mad dogs appeared in every township of the county east of Aledo. Several persons were bitten and much excitement resulted. Late in the autumn of 1860 and early in January, 1861, there were five weeks of fine, uninterrupted sleighing.

Another big wolf hunt occurred February 20, 1864. The meeting for this organization was held February 13th, at Marsh school-house. Richard Kiddoo was made president of the meeting and William A. Marsh, secretary. A chief marshal and two assistants were appointed to organize the line. The men were divided into four bodies to be stationed on four sides of the track to be covered. This track will be understood by the following description: North line—center, Millersburg bridge; east end, Walnut Grove; west end, Kirk's Mill. West line—center, Universalist church; north end, Church's Farm; south end, Glancey's Mill. South line—center, John Ditto's home; east end, Judge Hays' farm; west end, A. Dodson's farm. East line—center, McKee's farm; south end, Kimmell's mill; north end, Bartlett's farm. It was ordered that each man should be at his post at 9 o'clock A. M. and must start promptly at 10 o'clock. All lines were directed to make their central point on

the prairie east of John Love's farm. The marshals of the north line were Henry Dool, Thomas Clifford and John Beatty; west line, Jacob Braucht, John T. McGinnis and John Jackson; south line, James Brown, Josiah Willits and Samuel Cabeen; east line, Wesley Volentine, David Braucht and Henry Huffman. The hunt came off duly and was a grand affair, but not a wolf was captured or killed.

By act of February 15, 1865, George Brittenbanner, John H. Wilson, W. S. Streeter and Samuel C. Plummer were incorporated as the Banner Coal and Oil Company, with power to enter into the coal and oil business in Mercer, Henry and Rock Island counties. The capital stock was fixed at \$500,000.

About the year 1874 a mastodon tooth was found in a slough on the farm of S. C. Anderson, two and a half miles west of Aledo. It was one of the molars and weighed one and a quarter pounds. A year or two later the tooth of a mastodon was found about a mile northwest of Viola, in Greene Township, and passed to the possession of Dr. J. V. Frazier. It was $6\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches on the face and weighed two pounds and thirteen ounces.

In June, 1875, the Edwards Valley gopher hunt occurred at Sugar Grove. Several hundred men were engaged in this destructive hunt, with the following result: Striped gophers, 1,178; gray gophers, 346; barn rats, 475; rattlesnakes, 17; total, 2,016.

From December 1, 1877, to April 24, 1878, 121 wolf scalps were presented to the county clerk for the bounties due thereon—\$10 on each of 8 old animals and \$3 on each of 113 young ones. They came from the townships as follows: Richland Grove, 26; Eliza, 15; Rivoli and Perryton, 14 each; Greene, 11; North Henderson, 9; Millersburg and Duncan, 8 each; Mercer, 7; New Boston, 6; Pre-emption, 3. John Watson had killed the largest number—14. Within a week twenty more scalps were presented.

It would be a difficult thing to specify and describe all the coal mines opened and operated in the county in early years. The best that can be done is to note the number at different times with the quantity of coal taken out, the number of men employed, etc. The following is the report of William McLaughlin, inspector of mines for Mercer County in 1878:

Number mines in operation.....	29
Number operated by shaft.....	18
Number operated by slope.....	6
Number operated by drift.....	5

Number miners employed	255
Average depth of coal vein.....	3 ft. 6 inches
Greatest depth of vein.....	4 ft. 6 inches
Smallest depth of vein.....	2 ft. 6 inches
Average depth of shaft.....	20 ft. 6 inches
Number tons coal mined year ending	
September 1, 1878.....	38,687
Amount of capital employed.....	\$36,360
No lives lost during the year.	

For the year ending September 1, 1879, the number of mines operated was 29. Amount of coal mined, 64,232 tons; number miners employed, 176.

During the year ending September 1, 1880, there were mined in the county 82,953 tons of coal. There were 7 mines in Richland Grove Township; 11 in Greene; 4 in Preemption; 3 in Mercer; 3 in Duncan, and 1 in Perryton; total, 29. The number of mines was 231; thickest vein, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet; thinnest vein, 2 feet.

MERCER COUNTY COAL MINES, 1907

Shipping Mines	Postoffice	Tons Output	Employees
Coal Valley Mining Co., No. 2.....	Sheriard	210,712	276
Empire Coal Co., No. 3	Gilechrist	175,086	257
Coal Valley Mining Co., No. 1.....	Cable	30,754	77
Alden Coal Co., No. 4.....	Gilechrist	16,612	91
Totals		433,144	701

LOCAL MINES

Docherty Brothers.....	Preemption	4,350	12
Liefendorfer & Kasenburg.....	Preemption	3,953	7
J. B. Martin.....	Aledo	3,030	5
Arthur Jones	Viola	2,577	8
G. W. Martin.....	Viola	2,200	5
W. H. Riddell.....	Aledo	2,000	6
B. B. Peterson.....	Cable	2,000	4
W. P. Williams.....	Aledo	1,440	4
W. J. Young	New Windsor	1,200	5
D. W. Essley	Aledo	1,000	2
Robert Salkeld	Cable	600	2
B. F. Miller.....	Viola	600	4
M. A. Beers.....	Cable	516	2
Edward Grady	Viola	80	2
Total		25,328	

TABLES OF MEAN TEMPERATURES FROM 1896 TO 1910 AND PRECIPITATION FROM 1901 TO 1910 AS RECORDED AT THE WEATHER BUREAU STATION AT ALEDO, ILLINOIS.

Mean Temperatures from 1896 to 1910.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1896	23.5	26.9	33.5	37.6	70.9	71.5	74.5	72.6	61.6	49.0	36.0	32.9	50.8
1897	20.0	28.3	35.7	48.4	59.5	69.1	77.6	71.7	72.0	57.1	36.7	21.9	49.8
1898	26.4	25.8	33.5	47.0	61.0	74.0	74.6	72.9	67.8	49.1	34.0	22.2	49.5
1899	21.0	15.0	24.0	48.0	62.0	72.0	75.0	76.0	64.0	59.0	46.0	25.0	49.5
1900	27.0	23.6	30.0	52.0	64.0	71.0	76.0	80.0	67.0	61.0	37.0	28.4	51.4
1901	27.4	17.2	36.9	50.2	60.8	73.6	82.8	74.0	65.8	55.7	37.4	23.0	50.4
1902	24.0	17.4	40.4	49.6	65.0	65.8	73.8	69.9	61.0	57.0	46.4	24.4	49.5
1903	24.5	23.8	14.4	52.5	63.2	66.0	74.0	71.0	63.0	53.8	36.1	21.0	49.4
1904	17.2	18.7	36.4	46.8	61.0	67.8	71.6	68.5	65.0	53.5	41.9	26.2	47.8
1905	16.5	15.1	41.5	49.9	68.8	70.8	70.9	74.8	68.6	52.1	39.8	29.1	49.9
1906	28.0	26.6	28.9	54.4	62.3	69.2	72.3	74.5	69.4	52.2	37.0	29.6	50.3
1907	25.4	27.6	14.9	44.6	55.3	67.2	74.2	71.2	63.8	51.1	38.2	32.0	49.6
1908	26.6	26.4	11.5	51.6	60.8	68.1	73.6	70.9	62.2	52.8	42.1	30.0	50.5
1909	24.8	31.1	36.2	47.8	58.6	69.8	71.8	75.8	62.9	49.4	47.6	18.4	49.5
1910	24.2	22.1	50.9	52.5	56.2	69.7	74.8	71.6	64.4	56.4	33.0	25.4	49.8
Mean	23.6	23.0	38.0	50.0	62.9	69.0	74.5	73.0	65.2	53.9	39.3	26.9	49.8

Mean temperature for the rate for 70 years from 1840 to 1910 was 51.05.

Precipitation from 1901 to 1910.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1901	1.44	1.88	2.72	1.28	1.93	2.28	2.36	.44	2.38	.87	1.06	.91	19.33
1902	.58	.82	2.57	3.39	5.56	7.81	8.79	6.89	5.11	3.51	2.10	1.96	48.89
1903	.73	1.53	1.86	3.60	6.26	3.84	1.89	6.33	6.33	7.09	.98	.66	49.32
1904	1.84	.37	2.78	1.95	3.33	2.03	4.49	7.58	3.62	.62	.15	1.75	30.51
1905	.58	1.54	2.03	3.72	3.24	4.52	2.46	2.44	1.70	2.33	2.05	1.29	27.61
1906	2.57	2.28	2.42	2.40	4.37	4.91	1.18	3.29	5.03	1.57	3.12	1.67	35.32
1907	4.10	.26	2.87	2.37	5.13	2.66	6.74	5.60	2.02	.62	1.40	.54	34.21
1908	.47	2.58	1.85	2.20	6.88	4.93	3.98	5.75	1.92	1.40	2.63	.72	35.29
1909	1.32	2.34	1.61	4.00	4.19	3.36	4.10	.44	3.04	2.25	4.79	3.66	35.08
1910	1.79	.98	.70	3.62	4.37	2.82	2.15	2.79	2.95	.87	.42	.86	24.26
Mean	1.54	1.46	2.14	2.84	4.51	3.92	3.79	4.13	3.47	1.91	1.87	1.46	32.98

The mean precipitation for the state for 10 years from 1901 to 1910 was 36.74 inches.

TEMPERATURE.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1911	26.3	30.2	40.5	47.9	66.7	75.6	75.5	71.1	67.2	56.8	31.9	29.40	.....
1912	9.7	20.5	27.8	71.8	64.5	68.3	74.0	71.2	66.0	55.2	42.3	33.1	.....
1913	26.7	24.2	25.1	52.6	51.2	72.3	78.9	78.1	66.4	50.8	47.2	35.7	.....

The shipping coal mines operated in 1911 were 3, the number men employed, 436; and the coal mined, 239,740 tons. Total mined, 318,070 tons, much being sold for local consumption. In 1912 there were 3 mines, 471 men, and 318,070 tons. The Alden Coal Company operated at Mathersville and shipped 100,653 tons. The Coal Valley Mining Company was located at Sherrard and shipped 111,800 tons. In 1912 there were 2 mines at Aledo, employing 16 men and turning out 7,848 tons. At Cable there were 2 mines, 7 men and 1,400 tons output. At Mathersville were 2 mines, 296 men and 206,270 tons output. At New Windsor was 1 mine, 7 men and 1,644 tons output; at Preemption was 1 mine, 8 men and 3,500 tons output; at Sherrard was 1 mine, 175 men and 111,800 tons output; at Viola were 3 mines, 12 men and 2,200 tons output; Thomas Hudson was mine inspector in 1911. In 1912 there were 12 mines operated in the county, with 521 men and a total output of 334,662 tons. The

twelve companies were as follows: At Sherrard, Coal Valley Mining Company; at Mathersville, Coal Valley Mining Company and Alden Coal Company; at Aledo, W. H. Riddell and W. P. Williams; at Preemption, Docherty Brothers; at New Windsor, R. W. Peterson; at Viola, C. W. Essley, T. C. Dodds & Son and James Blain; at Cable, B. B. Peterson and A. H. Wahlberg. Total, 18 mines; 458,472 tons output; and 769 men employed.

CHAPTER V

MERCER COUNTY SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ETC.

Tyler McWhorter and James H. Connell furnished the data for the following in 1882: This society was organized in Aledo, February 19, 1878, under the name of Mercer County Scientific Association. At this meeting were present Tyler McWhorter, W. J. Pepper, J. H. Connell, I. N. Bassett, J. V. Frazier and W. A. Marsh. Mr. McWhorter presided, and Mr. Connell served as secretary. A constitution and by-laws were adopted; a number of invitations issued to others to attend the next meeting, and adjourned to March 5, 1878, to which time election of officers was postponed.

The objects and purposes of this organization may be briefly stated as follows: Different individuals of our county were more or less interested in scientific investigation, but were isolated from each other, and had few opportunities for interviews, or to profit by each other's study, or line of thought. The native flora and fauna of our county; the carboniferous fossils in connection with our seams of coal; the implements and relics found in connection with the numerous ancient mounds in various parts of the county; these and other kindred subjects had elicited the attention of many of our citizens. Already many private collections of scientific interest had been made by different individuals of the county, and it was thought that persons whose minds are directed to scientific investigation should associate themselves together, so as to have an interchange of ideas, and enjoy the advantages of each other's research. It was believed that with such an organization, a more general interest might be elicited to investigate and attain to a higher comprehension of nature.

While we have social organizations, with large expenditures, in support of our various churches, it would seem that we should also have some organizations to encourage thought and stimulate investigation in those important questions of science that are so directly related to the progress of the present age. It was for these reasons that many of our citizens felt that many advantages might be enjoyed by banding themselves together in such a society. Another purpose

of the society was to make up a cabinet, or scientific collection, of such specimens relating to the natural sciences as might be contributed by its members, or others.

The meetings of the society were held quarterly, on the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December of each year. On March 5, 1878, the adjourned meeting was held, and ten names were added to the roll of members. Organization was completed by the election of the following officers: President, Dr. J. V. Frazier, of Viola; vice president, I. N. Bassett, of Aledo; secretary, J. H. Connell, of Aledo; treasurer, W. J. Pepper, of Keithsburg; trustees, six years, Tyler McWhorter, Aledo; four years, W. J. Pepper, Keithsburg; two years, J. C. Pepper, Aledo.

The presidents of the society to date, each holding one year, are as follows: Dr. J. V. Frazier, Viola; I. N. Bassett, Aledo; E. L. Larkin, New Windsor; Tyler McWhorter, Aledo, and John Geiger, now serving in that capacity. James H. Connell was elected secretary at the first meeting and was reelected annually until March, 1882, when Alexander McArthur was elected.

The cabinet of the society was very interesting and included several specimens—geological, fossil, mineral, etc. The largest donations were made by the following persons: Geological, etc., by Tyler McWhorter; shells, by W. A. Marsh; mineral, etc., by J. H. Connell; miscellaneous, by J. C. Pepper and W. J. Pepper; birds, by W. P. Crapnell.

The following papers have been read before the association: "Climatic Changes and Their Resultant Periods," Dr. J. V. Frazier; "Metric System of Weights and Measures," J. R. Wylie; "The Domain of Scientific Investigation and Thought," I. N. Bassett; "The Mississippi River: Its Geological History," Tyler McWhorter; "Future Punishment from Ethnical Scripture," E. L. Larkin; "Probable Origin of Life on the Globe," John Geiger; "Shall We Impoverish the Fertility of the Earth," T. McWhorter; "Utility of the Stars," W. J. Pepper; "Antiquity of Man," T. McWhorter; "Crystallography," J. R. Wylie; "Electricity," R. H. Spicer, Sr.; "Conchology," W. A. Marsh; "Inclination of the Earth's Axis," T. McWhorter; "Force," E. L. Larkin; "Flesh Eating," John Geiger; "Flesh Eating," Joseph McCoy; "Population and Its Distribution," C. V. Shove; "Motion," E. L. Larkin; "The Birds and Animals We Are Losing and Gaining," W. B. Crapnell; "Hygiene of Soil Waters," Dr. J. V. Frazier; "Embryology," J. R. Wylie; "Axial Rotation," John Geiger; "People of North America," E. L. Larkin; "Biology," T. McWhorter; "The Surface or Economic Strata of Our

Prairies," Graham Lee; "Imperfections of Human Knowledge," Tyler McWhorter; "The Planet Venus," J. C. Pepper; "The Coming Man," Tyler McWhorter; "Conscience Man's True Guide," J. Geiger; "Progress in Science," I. N. Bassett; "Some Observations on the Rocky Mountains," J. H. Connell; "Silver Coinage," John Geiger; "Protoplasm and Life," I. N. Bassett; "Scientific Instruments," E. L. Larkin; "Improved Socialism," John Geiger; "Changes of Organic Life with the Advance of Civilization," Tyler McWhorter.

In December, 1879, the name was changed to the Mercer County Scientific and Historical Society, the object being to gather up notes on the history of Mercer County. John Geiger, I. N. Bassett, Graham Lee and C. S. Richey were appointed a committee to receive all that had been prepared. May 1, 1880, the committee reported that they had received a considerable amount of historic matter from different sources, which was given into the custody of the society. In 1882 the society turned all papers in their hands over to Prof. H. H. Hill, to be embodied in a history of this county.

The membership roll contained the following names: Tyler McWhorter, Aledo; J. V. Frazier, Viola; W. A. Marsh, Millersburg Township; I. N. Bassett, Aledo; W. J. Pepper, Millersburg Township; J. H. Connell, now of Pueblo, Colorado; J. C. Pepper, J. R. Wylie, Aledo; E. L. Larkin, New Windsor; W. B. Crapnell, New Boston Township (died 1881); C. A. Ballard, New Boston; W. C. Galloway, Joseph McCoy and John Geiger, Aledo; John B. Holland, Keithsburg; Thomas Shaver, Tennessee Rolling Mills, Kentucky; George P. Graham, Paola, Kansas; F. D. Rathbun, New Windsor; R. H. Spicer, Sr., Viola; C. F. Durston, J. M. Wilson, W. A. Lorimer, B. F. Brock, Alexander Stephens, D. T. Hindman, Horace Bigelow, L. B. Morey, Alexander McArthur, Aledo; C. S. Orth, William Griffin (died 1882), E. L. Marshall, Keithsburg; C. V. Shove, E. L. McKinnie, G. L. F. Robinson, Viola; L. C. Gilmore, E. B. David, Miss A. E. Frazier, B. C. Taliaferro, D. R. Johnston, Aledo; P. F. Warner, Havana, Illinois; Graham Lee, Hamlet; C. H. Gran, Alpha, Henry County; J. F. McCutcheon, Norwood; A. P. Willits, T. B. Cabeen, Keithsburg. Honorary member: Lieut. F. S. Bassett, United States Navy.

The association continued for a few years later, but the records are not to be found, and then the society turned over its library to the Mercer County Library Association, and subsequently that association gave the library to the directors of the public schools in Aledo. One other member of the Scientific and Historical Society

who should have been mentioned was John Brady. He became a member some time after 1882, and had made quite a collection of scientific specimens of insects, but we are unable to ascertain what became of them, and Mr. Brady is dead now.

During the winter of 1871-2 Tyler McWhorter wrote twenty-three articles on geology for the Aledo Weekly Record. Those articles were elaborate and masterly and showed a profound knowledge of the subject. He reviewed Darwin's work on "The Origin of Species" and, with other scientists, accepted the evolution theory as the best explanation thus far advanced to account for the universe and the earth's crust and the forms of life thereon. He showed an intimate knowledge of the writings of Huxley and Heckel. This whole subject was duly considered and debated by the scientific society. Mr. McWhorter, in the course of his articles on geology, called in question the position taken by many orthodox ministers and church members, that the world was created by a special act of God and not by evolution under fixed and unchangeable law. He was answered by Rev. J. H. Moore, and their articles appeared for several months in the Aledo Record in 1872. Both sides were ably conducted, but as usual in such discussions, there was no revolution in thought on the subject in this county.

In 1879, when Isaac N. Bassett succeeded Dr. J. V. Frazier as president, the latter in his retiring address spoke particularly of the great work done by Darwin, Huxley and others. At this time the membership was about thirty-five and the society had possession of the Marsh collection of specimens on archaeology, conchology, paleontology, mineralogy, fossil fauna, fossil flora, etc. E. L. Larkin, of New Windsor, was a member of the society. He took great interest in astronomy and secured a telescope at a cost of about one thousand dollars, which he placed in a revolving tower constructed by himself in that town in 1879. In June, 1881, he announced that he had just discovered a new comet, but I. N. Edwards, of Philadelphia, preceded him by a few hours and secured the prize of \$200 that had been offered. Upon his invitation at this time the County Teachers' Institute visited his observatory and were permitted to look at the moon and stars through the telescope.

The scientific investigations of William A. Marsh were largely confined to a knowledge of the earth's crust and the remains of organic formations connected therewith. His research was life-long. He began at the age of ten years, first taking interest in the shells along the creek banks near his Ohio home. At the age of twelve years, or in 1845, he commenced to keep a private journal, in which

was recorded each shell he had collected. The studies eventually expanded to the branches of science given below and in time the collection became one of the largest and most valuable in the United States. Its value is now estimated at \$30,000.

This collection is in scientifically arranged groups, properly labeled with its true name. For many years Mr. Marsh was an active member of the American Association of Conchology at Philadelphia, and donated largely to the vast collection in that city, which is headquarters of the United States and Canada of that branch of study. He collected from all quarters of the world by purchase and exchange and made donations to many educational concerns, including the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

Minerals and geological specimens.....	1,000
Fossils	1,500
Marine shells	985
Land and fresh shells.....	2,141
Botanical specimens	900
Archaeological	3,000
Numismatic	500
Miscellaneous	1,000
	<hr/>
Total.....	11,026

CHAPTER VI

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD

The act of organizing the county passed the Legislature January 31, 1835, and by it an election was ordered for the first Monday in April, 1835, in the Town of New Boston, at the house of Eli Reynolds, and at the house of George Miller. New Boston was designated as the temporary county seat. The act of organization was completed April 6th by the election of the officers prescribed by law. At the election in New Boston precinct there were 35 votes cast for Edward Willits for coroner; 25 and 12 votes, respectively, for Silas Drury and John Long for sheriff; 24, 33, 16 and 30 votes, respectively, for Isaac Drury, Abraham Miller, Joseph Noble and Erastus Denison for county commissioners. At the Miller precinct Edward Willits received 13 votes for coroner; Isaac Drury, Joseph Noble, Erastus Denison and Abraham Miller received 5, 9, 13 and 12 votes respectively for commissioners. John Long received 6 and Silas Drury 7 for sheriff. The men who voted at this election were as follows: Jesse Willits, Samuel Piper, Benjamin Vannatta, Hamilton Christie, Newton Willits, John Long, Silas Drury, Lewis Noble, William Drury, George Fisher, Joseph Leonard, William Jackson, William Willits, John Hall, Elias Fisher, William Wilson, John Kester, James H. Barnes, William J. Nevius, Joseph Denison, William Poll, Adam W. Richie, John Richardson, W. Denison, John Reynolds, Edward Willits, William Denison, Joseph Noble, Joseph Glancey, Isaac Drury, M. Leeper, Jesse Kester, Robert Reynolds, E. S. Denison, Ephraim Gilmore, William Townsend. Second precinct—John W. Denison, David Shaunce, Eli Reynolds, Isaac Dawson, John Farlow, John Shaunce, George Miller, Ebenezer Creswell, Abraham Miller, Sr., John Miller, A. Miller, Jr., Harrison W. Riggs, George Miller, Jr.

One week after this election the Commissioner's Court, as it was then called, but now known as the board of supervisors, met at New Boston for the transaction of public business. They appointed William C. Townsend, clerk; Ephraim Gilmore, treasurer; John Long, school commissioner; Harrison W. Riggs, judge of election in the

first precinct, and Isaac Miller, judge of election in the second precinct. They granted William Denison a license to run a ferry across the Mississippi at New Boston. He was taxed \$4 for this privilege. He was permitted to charge \$1.50 for each four-horse wagon; \$1 for each two-horse wagon; 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents for each horse; 50 cents for man and horse; 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents for each head of cattle; 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents for each head of sheep and hogs; 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents for each footman.

They laid the county off into four road districts and appointed Abraham Miller, Lewis Noble, Jesse Kester and James H. Bane commissioners of the districts. They ordered a tax of \$1.20 to be levied on each quarter section of taxable land in the county. This concluded the business of the first day.

On the following day they selected the grand jurors for the first term of the Circuit Court. They were as follows: George Miller, Isaac Miller, John Farlow, Jesse Willits, John Hill, Mark Willits, David Shaunce, Lewis Noble, Daniel Pinkley, John W. Denison, William Willits, Joseph Glancey, John Reynolds, George Blake, Benjamin Vannatta, John Long, James Irvin, Wesley Wicks, Ephraim Gilmore, John Kester, Thomas Morgan and John Bates. For petit jurors: John Miller, Isaac Miller, George Miller, Abraham Miller, Isaac Dawson, William W. Wilson, John Shaunce, Isaac Drury, William H. Denison, Joseph Noble, Joseph A. Denison, William Drury, Harrison W. Riggs, William Jackson, Robert Reynolds, Newton Willits, Joseph Leonard, Joshua Willits, James H. Bane, Eli Reynolds, John P. Reynolds, Drury Reynolds, Christopher Shuck, John Rankins.

At the first regular term of court in June it was found that the clerk had failed to give bond and, being apparently unable to do so, William Drury was appointed in his place. The amount of the bond was \$1,000. The first minute book of the board was manufactured by Mr. Drury. It consists of about one hundred pages of foolscap paper, ruled by the clerk himself, and bound with what appears to have been a fishing line. The sides of the book are thin pieces of oak boards, dressed down with a draw shave. After being thus prepared they were covered with paper. The backs and corners are of buckskin, doubtless from some deer that had been shot down by the clerk himself. In many other ways this book is a memento which should be preserved. Recorded therein are the earmarks of animals and the names of those who recorded their particular ear crops.

One of the first acts of the regular board was to grant a license to Eli Reynolds to sell groceries in New Boston, for which he was

required to pay 87½ cents. The first road was ordered at this term and was projected from New Boston toward Rock Island, and was designated by stakes driven in the prairie and trees blazed in the woods. The viewers were Ephraim Gilmore, Harrison W. Riggs and Lewis Noble. For their services they were paid \$8. The county was laid off into justice districts. The New Boston precinct constituted all west of the middle Township 4 and the remainder of the county constituted what was called the Sugar Grove District. The state road from Knoxville to New Boston was approved, and in fact much of this session was taken up with the consideration of various roads extending from the river back throughout the county and to leading cities in Western Illinois.

The first financial report of the commissioners made March 9, 1837, showed that the revenue from the state was \$400; tax on personal property, \$58.61; road tax, \$922.38; tax for license, \$35; and interest on notes, \$12.25. The amount paid out on county orders for county purposes was \$439.51½, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$993.20; but this balance included notes to the amount of \$950, leaving cash on hand, \$43.20.

The rapid settlement of the county required the formation of other election districts in 1836. In September that portion of the county lying east of a line extending due north and south one mile east of the line dividing Ranges 2 and 3 west, was set apart as a new precinct. It embraced what is now Richland Grove, Rivoli and North Henderson townships and nearly all of Preemption, Greene and Suez townships. The name of Richland was given to this new precinct. One of the county commissioners, Hiram Hardy, resided in this district. At that time there were only about a dozen voters in that portion of the county. In September, 1837, Richland Precinct was subdivided and a new location and justice district was formed of that portion lying south of the line, separating Townships 14 and 15, thus providing for the new settlements on Pope Creek and the new district was given that name. A year later another district was formed from all that part of Sugar Grove lying south of an east and west line equally dividing Township 14. It was called Ohio Precinct. In 1839 Edwards Precinct was formed from what is now Preemption, the north half of Greene, northeast quarter of Mercer and the southeast half of Perryton. At the same meeting Eliza Precinct was formed and embraced what is now Eliza Township. In June, 1840, Keithsburg Precinct was set off and at that time embraced Abington Township also. Thus as time passed and

settlement continued, new precincts and townships were set apart until the present condition of things existed.

During the '40s the county commissioners spent much of their time in the consideration of road problems. It was during those years that all the leading roads of the present day were established and partially worked. Taxation at all times was an important subject and was duly considered by the county board. Late in the '40s various railway projects served to stir up the people. Western Illinois was traversed by the projected lines and very often each county was threatened therewith by a half dozen at one time. It was not until the early '50s, however, that railway projects began to take definite form in this county.

In the spring of 1853 the county board was obliged to order the purchase of a poor farm, but before this the care of paupers was under the direct orders of the board and poor persons were usually farmed out to farmers who were willing to take them. This was found both expensive and unsatisfactory. Accordingly the board at the above date bought the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 33 in Perryton Township. The total cost was about seventeen hundred dollars. Immediately other small tracts were added until the total purchase amounted to about one hundred and twenty-four acres. The larger part of the tract was prairie land, but a belt of timber occupied a portion. At once a building was erected, two stories high, with sixteen rooms, ten bedrooms and a hall in each story. Farm and house together all told, cost in round numbers \$5,000. By 1857 about eighty-two acres of the farm were under cultivation.

The census of 1855 gave the population of Mercer County as 9,960. It was estimated in April, 1858, that the population was 15,000; acres of land, 357,000; under cultivation, 85,000 acres; yet susceptible of cultivation, 115,000. The value of the land in 1857 was placed at \$2,766,361.16; assessed value of personal property, \$1,196,397.25; number of horses, 5,218, assessed at \$341,261; cattle, 15,844, assessed at \$222,592; mules, etc., 336, assessed at \$22,185; sheep, 4,140, assessed at \$4,944; hogs, 23,202, assessed at \$54,539; area of coal fields in the county, 70,000 acres. In 1855 coal worth \$8,117 was mined; in 1858 the amount mined was worth about \$22,000. Estimated corn in 1857, 2,000,000 bushels; wheat, 450,000 bushels; oats, 200,000 bushels.

The census of the county in 1855 showed 9,960 persons, of whom 5,186 were males. Live stock was valued at \$816,656. Number of

pounds of wool sold was 24,393. In December, 1855, a man named Dorse and his wife, who had charge of a child of Mr. Dorse by a former wife, so abused it that it died. Reports concerning this affair coming to the authorities, the body was exhumed by the coroner and was found to be covered with terrible bruises and evidences that death had resulted, in all probability, from blows and exposures. They were arrested, taken to the jail at Monmouth and in due time were punished for the crime.

In 1856 the board of equalization, which had done some business before, was thoroughly organized and met all complaints from taxpayers thereafter. The existence of this board was a necessity, owing to the great divergence in assessment of schedules. At this time the county board rented for \$100 per year rooms for the county offices in a building owned by Levi Willits on Block 94, Aledo.

In April, 1855, the county voted on the question for and against township organization, and the vote generally favored the plan, which was duly adopted. At that time the county had no jail and was obliged to send prisoners to other counties, for which service they were required to pay. Likewise it was necessary to pay for jury rooms while the court was still at Keithsburg and after it was removed to Aledo. At Keithsburg rooms were secured of B. P. McConaha and the schoolhouse there was occupied by the Circuit Court for the use of which \$50 was paid in December, 1856. The grand jury likewise met in a room in the schoolhouse.

The act for calling an election to decide the question of removal of the county seat was approved by the governor in February, 1857, and an election was ordered for the first Monday in August. It was an important question and the whole county was on the anxious seat until the question was settled. Of course, Keithsburg strenuously opposed the removal, but sufficient influence was brought to secure an election on the question. The citizens of Aledo, at the demands of the county board, subscribed \$8,000 to cover expenses of erecting buildings should the county seat be removed and the town proprietors of Aledo bound themselves to give certain lots and blocks in the city for the occupation of the county buildings. Enough money was pledged by Aledo for the construction of all necessary buildings at that time. An additional sum, it was realized, could be secured by the sale of the old county property at Keithsburg. The people were told that they would not be taxed a cent for the buildings or grounds. As it transpired, Millersburg opposed the removal, because the county seat being located at Aledo, would undoubtedly injure that village.

On the other hand, New Boston favored the removal, perhaps, as a stroke against Keithsburg, its rival town on the Mississippi. The following is the result of the vote for the change of the county seat from Keithsburg to Aledo, held August 3, 1857:

TOWNSHIPS	FOR REMOVAL	AGAINST REMOVAL	WHOLE VOTE
13, 1, North Henderson	89	25	114
14, 1, North Pope	74	1	75
15, 1, Richland Grove	104	0	104
13, 2, Suez	60	18	78
14, 2, Greene	62	40	102
15, 2, Maclura	133	1	134
13, 3, Ohio Grove	121	9	130
14, 3, Mercer	231	0	231
15, 3, Perryton	126	3	129
13, 4, Abington	34	67	101
14, 4, Millersburg	84	82	166
15, 4, Duncan	36	23	59
13, 5, Keithsburg	26	228	254
14, 5, New Boston	233	45	278
15, 5, Eliza	66	7	73
Totals	1,479	549	2,028
Majority for removal, 930.			

When the county seat was removed to Aledo in the fall of 1857, there were no buildings that belonged to the county for the officers nor for holding court. For the purpose of holding court, however, the county procured the use of a building that was constructed for a schoolhouse, and the upper story was used at the time for school purposes. Court was held in this building, which subsequently was purchased by the county and was used until the erection of a new courthouse, which is stated more in detail hereafter. The first jail building, as hereinafter shown, has been given by the county to William and Vashti College, and the part of it which contained the cells has been demolished and rebuilt, and it is now used as the girls' dormitory in connection with William and Vashti College. The building erected by the county for county officers is also now transferred to William and Vashti College, and is situated on the block known as North Park or Monument Park in Aledo.

Upon the removal of the county seat and the vacation of the old county buildings at Keithsburg, they were immediately occupied by men there who apparently had claims upon them. These men at first refused to surrender possession, but the buildings were ordered to be sold by the county board. The offer of L. W. Thompson to furnish temporary rooms in his two-story brick were accepted by the county board. In September, 1857, the board ordered all records of the county removed from Keithsburg to Aledo. H. S. Scott was the authorized agent of the county to effect this removal. The board accepted the block donated by Thompson and Willits as the site of the courthouse. I. N. Bassett was authorized to negotiate the sale of the old courthouse at Keithsburg. At that time a motion to take immediate steps to build a new courthouse was lost in the county board, but a vote to build a jail was carried and a committee accordingly was appointed to prepare plans for a jail alone and for a combined jail and courthouse. At that time the county paid out for paupers for the year ending September, 1857, \$939.12 and paid for assessing the county, \$495.75. They paid \$5 for the rent of grand jury rooms and a temporary "calaboose." At this session the county board directed a special committee to secure a competent man to take charge of the poor house. Tyler McWhorter was recommended and was appointed superintendent. He was authorized to borrow \$500 with which to commence operations. The name of the Township of Maclura was changed to Preemption at this session. The old courthouse at Keithsburg had been left in possession of Nevius and Calhoun, who were to have free the use of the two lower offices upon consideration of taking care of the whole building. These men and others later refused to give up for a time possession of the buildings upon the order of the county board. The lots owned by the county at Keithsburg were ordered sold, one-fourth cash and the balance in six, twelve and eighteen months.

At that time a public road was projected from Aledo to McBride's Mill on Pope Creek and was viewed and in the end built. In the great storms during the spring of 1858 almost all the bridges in the county were washed away. They had entailed much expense during the '40s, probably not less than ten thousand dollars and all had to be replaced now at a time when the county needed money for other purposes. The poor house was built by R. Grow, who likewise did the mason work on the Methodist College in Aledo. The total assessment of the county in 1857 was \$3,963,554.67. No sooner had

the county board begun the work of constructing new bridges in place of those that had been washed away than other storms equally severe came and washed away the new ones and prevented for some time the construction of others. Many buildings were blown down during the heavy storms, which in some instances approached almost the magnitude of tornadoes. The Record of May, 1858, spoke of one of these storms as the severest it had ever witnessed. Still another storm came in June, and in Henderson and Warren counties was a tornado, destroying large amounts of property and killing many persons. The fall of 1858 saw a change and the work of rebuilding the bridges and repairing the roads went rapidly on. A large bridge across Edwards River, just north of Aledo, was projected and built at this time.

For the year ending July 10, 1858, the receipts of the county were \$21,002.37, less \$9,616.02 in cash and \$42.50 in notes on hand at the beginning of the year. Among the receipts was \$130 from Willits and Thompson to pay the expenses of the county seat election. The total disbursements amounted to \$14,619.29. Among the disbursements were \$4,480 interest on county bonds, \$1,401.71 for pauper expenses and \$100 damages allowed the contractor of the poor house for failure to pay as per agreement.

In February, 1859, the commissioners were authorized by law to collect the swamp land fund for the purpose of distributing it to the townships. This was the first distribution of such a fund. It became a part of the school fund of the county. The year 1859 is characterized by the large number of tracts of land sold throughout the county at sheriff's sale. The panic of 1857, the poor crops for several years and the hard times generally made it extremely difficult for farmers to live, pay their taxes and keep up their farms. As high as thirty-two such sales were made in 1859. The county treasurer's report for the fiscal year 1859-60 showed total receipts, \$12,903.51; and total expenses, \$12,607.39. In 1860 the personal property in the county was valued at \$813,748; town lots, \$317,864; realty, \$2,012,645. The total county tax, all kinds, amounted to \$57,577.84. The Keithsburg town lots were valued at \$126,526; Aledo town lots, \$83,182; New Boston town lots, \$77,030.

At the June term, 1860, the county board passed resolutions asking the next Legislature to authorize the levy of a special tax not exceeding twenty thousand dollars for the express purpose of erecting county buildings, the question to be submitted to the legal voters of the county. At the September term the clerk was directed by the board to send a copy of this resolution to the members of the Forty-

eighth Representative District and secure the passage of the act if possible.

The report of the county treasurer, Warren Shedd, in February, 1861, showed that the current expenses of the county for the year 1860, including interest on the county bonds, were \$14,721.65 and that the total income from all sources amounted to \$13,239.25, leaving a deficit of \$1,482.39, which the county had no means of paying. The same conditions had existed for several years until now the total deficit aggregated \$7,079.62. This had gone on notwithstanding the county revenue tax for five years had been at the rate of four mills on the dollar, the highest rate allowed by law. A resolution before the county board asking the Legislature to authorize the county to levy a special tax of two mills on the dollar to meet this deficit was lost by the vote of six yeas to seven nays. Mr. Whitsitt estimated that the county deficit by November 30, 1861, would amount to \$8,150. After some skirmishing the same question was again submitted to vote. An amendment to strike out the clause to submit the question to the voters was lost, six yeas, seven nays. On the original question the vote stood ten yeas, three nays. Thus the Legislature was asked to pass a two mill special law to meet the county deficit and H. S. Senter, clerk, was appointed to go to Springfield at once to urge its passage. It was provided that the question should be submitted to the voters the following June.

In 1860 Humphrey Riddell was appointed superintendent of the county poor farm at a salary of \$400 annually, to be paid quarterly. In February, 1861, he was reemployed and at that time there were twenty inmates at the farm. During 1860 there had been received, 15; discharged, 8; died, 4. The total expenses of the farm from February 14, 1860, to February 9, 1861, was \$1,666.97. The receipts from produce sold amounted to \$1,195.16.

At the February term of 1861, the county board attached to the Township of New Boston all that part of the Township of Keithsburg lying north of Edwards River. In April Warren Shedd, county treasurer, announced that he would no longer receive currency in payment for county taxes. At that time the county board were called in special session to carry into effect the act of the Legislature, authorizing them to levy a tax to raise a sum not to exceed twenty thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting county buildings or for the purpose of liquidating the county indebtedness. They called the election to be held the first Monday in June to determine the question.

In June, 1861, the two mill tax to pay the current indebtedness

of the county was defeated by the vote of 622 for and 944 against. The proposition to vote \$20,000 for new county buildings was defeated by 39 for and 1,593 against. The latter defeat was not to be wondered at, but the defeat of the two mill tax was merely evading temporarily what the county would have to do at a subsequent date with additional sums added. It was the next step to repudiation. The townships of Rivoli, Greene, Mercer, Perryton, New Boston and Eliza voted for the two mill tax; all the others voted against it. Keithsburg voted heavily against it and Abington did not cast a vote in its favor. Every township gave a majority against the \$20,000 tax.

On April 1, 1862, the following persons were elected county supervisors: Allen S. Brown, A. J. Streeter, E. S. Roberts, B. W. McLaughlin, J. C. Graham, H. E. Wright, W. M. Hays, W. D. Henderson, J. G. Gilmore, Frederic Frick, A. P. Taylor, Martin Boyd, John E. Willits, D. J. Noble and J. Y. Merritt.

In November, 1862, there were licensed in this county under the excise tax law, 17 lawyers, 24 physicians, 37 retail dealers, 11 hotels, 12 retail liquor dealers, 5 wholesale dealers, 42 carriages and 12 coal mines. The excise tax amounted to \$1,600, exclusive of coal mines, butchers and ferries.

In the spring of 1863 Mathew Sheriff, county treasurer, died, whereupon S. C. Amberson was appointed to the position by the county board. The treasurer was permitted to sell all the specie in the treasury for the highest premium in legal tender he could get. At this time they authorized W. M. Hays to demand payment of the subscribers at Aledo to the county building fund and if they refused to pay to commence suit against them. Mr. Amberson found in the county treasury \$1,000 in gold in 1863. A little later he was required to account for \$410 premium which the gold was worth in the market. A little later the board authorized Mr. Hays to demand from the administrator of Mr. Sheriff, late county treasurer, the sum of \$369, which was the premium on gold left in the treasury by the late treasurer.

Preliminary steps to build a county jail were taken by the county board in 1864. Plans were called for and a premium was offered for the best designs. Still the movement seems to have died out, owing probably to the war conditions. In 1864 the assessment of the county showed a valuation of \$3,311,834, with a total tax of \$71,928.65.

Early in 1865 the board offered a bounty of \$6 for the scalp of each black or gray wolf; \$5 for the scalp of a common or prairie wolf, and \$2.50 for the scalp of a whelp of either. At the

January session the county board paid nearly four thousand dollars from the military fund for the support of soldiers' families. Humphrey Riddell was continued as superintendent of the poor farm for many years. His salary in 1864 was \$450. At the April term, 1865, the board authorized the purchase of eighty additional acres adjoining the poor farm. At this time they rented to outsiders a portion of the courthouse and appropriated \$2,662 from the military fund for the support of soldiers' families. In March, 1866, the county farm had about ninety-five acres under cultivation, about twenty-five acres timber and waste land and the entire property was valued at \$8,000. On the place was about twenty-two hundred dollars' worth of personal property. There were twenty-two paupers and the cost of keeping them per year was about eighty-one dollars and ninety cents each, or about one dollar and fifty-eight cents each per week. The County Infirmary, under the superintendence of Mr. Riddell was as well conducted as any in the state. During 1866 the average number of inmates was sixteen. The superintendent drew from the county treasury \$900. Over five hundred dollars' worth of products were sold from the farm.

For the year 1866-7 William Clegg became superintendent of the poor farm, at a salary of \$500. Mr. Riddell's final statement showed that there had been sold from the place produce to the value of \$891.54 and that the personal property remaining on the place was worth \$906; total, \$1,797.54. The total expense for the year was \$1,860.94. Thus the expense above the income was only \$63.42. The institution was almost self-sustaining. However, this did not include the superintendent's salary, but was considered an excellent showing. It was hoped that the new superintendent would do as well. However, it transpired that Mr. Clegg could not serve, whereupon Mr. Riddell was prevailed upon to continue another year. His salary was fixed at \$650. In 1868 he was succeeded by S. H. Darbyshire, who was allowed a salary of \$500. Bids were called for at that time and eight applicants applied for the position, all wanting the same salary—\$500. Mr. Darbyshire was given the contract. The following are the amounts drawn from the county treasury for the support of the poor house for a series of years: 1859, \$1,564.76; 1860, \$1,564.81; 1861, \$1,600.00; 1862, \$1,735.00; 1863, \$1,163.77; 1864, \$1,950.00; 1865, \$1,652.18; 1866, \$1,500.00; 1867, \$1,846.42; 1868, \$1,450.00; 1869, \$1,101.61.

Under the new superintendent the expenses of the poor farm ran much higher than ever before, while the income from the place depreciated. There was much complaint. It was shown that during

the year 1870 about twenty-seven hundred dollars was paid out. It was also claimed by a faction that the office of county school superintendent was a useless burden upon the taxpayers and should be abolished. At the March session, 1871, the board ordered that each township should be liable for the payment of all temporary relief to paupers or poor persons within its borders, but added that permanently disabled persons might be removed to the county farm. The next day this order was rescinded on the ground that the county board had no authority to enforce it. They appropriated \$30 to pay the expenses of William Evans, a disabled soldier, to Chicago, to attend the Eye and Ear Infirmary located there. It must be stated to the credit of the county board and to the county as a whole that the old soldiers were not permitted to suffer if their wants were made known to the public. In several instances at first they were treated like paupers, but this order of affairs was soon changed and the old soldiers were given the just treatment to which they were entitled.

At this time the board resolved that, whereas the physicians of this community had formed a society or combination to establish certain rates and charges in practice, and had determined that the county board should pay them at certain rates for doctoring poor persons, all claims and charges thereafter presented for payment for provisions, clothing or any other thing, including medicine, medical attendance supplied to paupers or poor persons should not be allowed in whole nor in part unless authorized by the proper supervisor and unless accompanied by proper evidence and unless itemized and sworn to.

At the April term, 1865, of the Circuit Court, the grand jury found twenty-five new indictments, and for the first time in the history of the county, several persons were indicted and punished for stealing timber. Four indictments were found for this offense and three convictions were had. Two indictments for larceny were found. John Volentine was indicted for the murder of Mrs. Collison. There were fifteen indictments for liquor selling. There was one case of assault with a deadly weapon.

At the September term, 1865, the county board appointed commissioners to survey, locate and establish the line between Mercer and Henderson counties, the same not being definitely known nor marked. At the same time they made provision for the better care of soldiers' families, requiring each supervisor to report any cases of want from that source within his district.

In 1865 the amount of tax collected for the military fund was \$5,100; the real and personal tax for general county purposes was

\$11,901. The total receipts were \$16,619.38; the total expenses were \$15,343.24. Among the expense items were \$3,621.80 paid out of the military fund; \$1,102.10 paid for the support of the poor farm and house; \$2,700 paid to John Delleit for an addition to the poor farm.

In the summer of 1866 the county board appropriated \$1,500 each for two bridges over Edwards River in New Boston Township. Counsel at this time were employed to look after the claims of the county to the old courthouse at Keithsburg. At the December session (1866) of the county board the provisions of the act approved February 16, 1865, to provide for a board of health for each township in all counties which had adopted township organizations, were accepted and steps to effect such organizations were taken. The board appropriated \$200 to defray the expense of certain suits in the Supreme Court of the United States. A bounty of \$10 for wolf scalps was ordered paid. The county board in March, 1867, directed their attorney, John C. Pepper, to settle with the persons who had subscribed money for the erection of county buildings by taking notes payable to the county board on or before January 1, 1868. If they should refuse to thus settle they were to be sued for the amounts. The judgment which had been secured against Willits and Thompson on such subscription was excepted from the provisions of the resolution. The chairman of the board was authorized to employ an attorney at once to institute proceedings to recover possession of the old courthouse at Keithsburg. In June, 1867, a special committee on county buildings reported it advisable to proceed to the erection of a county jail as soon as practicable without oppression to the citizens of the county and recommended that plans be procured. W. M. Hays, Joseph McCoy and John T. McGinnis were appointed a committee to carry into effect these recommendations.

The jail committee reported in January in favor of a stone building and their report met the approval of the board. Accordingly the committee called for proposals to build the structure and offered a reward for the best plans. The committee were given full authority to carry on the work. The contract was finally awarded to B. F. Morey and Van Harriott at the stated price of \$22,000. By September 1, 1868, the foundation of the building was completed. It was planned it would be finished before winter set in, but storms came on earlier than expected and work was suspended until the following spring. Work was resumed in April, 1869, and the jail committee in June were authorized by the county board to borrow on behalf of the county funds sufficient to comply with the contract

entered into by the committee with the contractors. The terms were \$5,000 to be paid in advance; \$5,000 on July 1; \$5,000 on October 1; and \$7,000 when the jail was completed to the satisfaction of the building committee. The building was fully completed by January 1, 1870.

Early in 1869 the old courthouse at Keithsburg was offered for sale by the county board at public auction. This led to some complications, whereupon the board consented to accept the proposition of the attorney of the Keithsburg holders to sell the property and divide equally the proceeds between the claimants there and Mercer County after paying all costs. C. M. Kay was attorney for the county board in this transaction and J. C. Pepper was attorney for the Town of Keithsburg. Block 7, Keithsburg, upon which the courthouse stood, was finally sold, the president and trustees of the Town of Keithsburg being the purchasers and the price being \$1,000, of which \$500 was turned over to them, \$167 being cash. They obligated themselves to pay the county \$333 at 10 per cent interest in one year. Thus the matter which had been in dispute for so many years was finally settled.

Beginning about 1868 and continuing for many years, numerous ditches were dug in all parts of the county for the better drainage of the lower tracts of land. W. H. White was one of the men who made this his special business for many years. Usually the ditches were dug about four and a half feet deep and thousands of acres of choice land were thus reclaimed. Better roads were constructed in the '70s than had been used before in the county. New ones were laid out, old bridges were torn down and iron or steel structures erected and improvements were made generally to the roads and highways.

The final report on the county jail was made in September, 1870. It was a combined jail and jailer's house, and the total cost of all buildings and appurtenances was \$23,573.46. The first payment of \$5,000 had been borrowed from William Drury and at a later date was paid.

The vote on the new state constitution in Mercer County, July, 1870, was as follows: For the constitution, 938; against it, 230; for the railroad section, 1,119; against it, 46; for the article entitled "Counties," 1,135; against it, 30; for the article entitled "Warehouse," 990; against it, 91; for a three-fifths vote to remove county seats, 1,019; against it, 147; for the section relating to "Illinois Central Railroad," 1,155; against it, 13; for minority representation, 358;

against it, 810; for the section relating to municipal subscriptions to railroad and private corporations, 1,061; against it, 104; for the section relating to the canal, 1,149; against it, 24.

In 1870 the question of continuing the township organization was again submitted to the people, with the following result:

TOWNSHIP	FOR TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION	AGAINST TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION
North Henderson	154	0
Rivoli	143	0
Richland Grove.....	188	0
Suez	117	5
Greene	157	6
Preemption	117	2
Ohio Grove	91	6
Mercer	278	18
Perryton (did not vote)	0	0
Abington	100	5
Millersburg	88	15
Duncan (no returns)	0	0
Keithsburg	280	14
New Boston.....	20	219
Eliza	126	5
Total	1,809	295

At the December term (1870) of the county board it was ordered that the supervisors in the several townships should give all disabled soldiers under their charge whatever necessities of life their wants might require without sending them to the county house. Five supervisors voted against this measure. The salary of the sheriff was fixed at \$1,000 and \$300 for clerk hire; and the salary of coroner was fixed at \$100 per annum. At this session Judge Arthur A. Smith and B. C. Taliaferro, Amos F. Waterman, B. F. Brock, McCoy & Clokey, Pepper and Wilson and James Henderson, attorneys, petitioned the county board to supply the Circuit Court with the following comforts and accommodations: A new chair for the judge; new tables for members of the bar; procure the missing volumes of the Illinois Reports and provide a place in the court room for the safe keeping of the books during terms of court. These improvements were desired before the opening of the next term of court.

The petition was referred to the committee on county property. Preliminary steps to safeguard the county records from fire were taken at this meeting.

In 1871 a special committee of the county board recommended the construction at an early date of a good fireproof building for the safe keeping of the county records. There was paid out for the support of paupers in 1869, \$3,055.60; in 1870, \$2,252.42; in 1871, \$1,235.41. This decrease was caused by the fight made against the large amount that had been previously paid for the support of paupers. The county board cut down the expenses enormously from 1868 to 1871.

In June, 1872, the board offered \$50 reward for horse thieves if the property stolen was in Mercer County and if a conviction was secured. Each supervisor was authorized to employ a doctor competent to take care of paupers in his district. In July, 1872, the board determined to erect fireproof buildings for the preservation of the county records. George P. Graham, J. A. Streeter and R. H. Day were appointed a committee to erect such buildings. They authorized the chairman of the county board and the county clerk to issue \$15,000 in county bonds with which to raise funds sufficient for the purpose. The committee were authorized to select the grounds also. This building was duly erected and proved satisfactory. In 1874 the total county assessment was \$8,491,938.

The '70s were noted for the large amount done by the county board on public highways, also for the reform made in the methods of assessment and taxation. The board of equalization did a great work in making uniform the assessments and rates of taxation. In 1878 the board contracted with the Aledo Banner, Aledo Record, Keithsburg News and Nationalist to publish their proceedings and allow each the sum of \$6. At this time the county board leased to private persons the right to fish in Swan and Eliza lakes in the western part of the county. A committee of the county board in December, 1879, reported that the lakes in New Boston were owned by the Government.

In 1877-8 John W. Dihel was superintendent of the poor farm. At that time there were twenty-five inmates. Mr. Dihel, while in charge of the poor house, punished one of the inmates by whipping. The county board asked him to resign, the vote standing nine to four in favor of his dismissal. The result was the resignation of Mr. Dihel. His successor was J. M. Willis, who was paid a salary of \$500 and took charge in 1880.



COURTHOUSE, ALEDO

In July, 1880, the county board passed a resolution requesting B. F. Marsh, congressman, to introduce a bill in Congress praying the General Government to grant to the corporate authorities of Mercer County for public use certain waters known as Eliza Lake and adjacent bayous, unsurveyed, situated in Mercer County. The county board in September, 1880, resolved that, inasmuch as the old county farm was not suitable for the purposes for which it was used, a committee should be appointed to learn what the old farm could be sold for and to consider and report on the subject of buying a new farm. Township bonded debts, 1880: Abington, \$10,000; Greene, \$1,900; Keithsburg, \$35,000; Mercer, \$7,700; City of New Boston, \$30,000; Perryton, \$2,600. The following amounts had been paid by 1880: Eliza, \$5,000; Greene, \$7,500; Millersburg, \$92,000; Mercer, \$4,300; New Boston, \$10,000; Perryton, \$3,200.

During the '80s the usual routine of the county board continued. Roads were looked after, paupers were taken care of, the assessment was reviewed and bonds of county officers were placed at higher figures. Early in the '80s a new courthouse was demanded, but the people were not ready and the movement died out. The county board even went so far in 1882 as to send a committee to other counties to inspect courthouses, with a view of erecting one at a cost of about sixty thousand dollars. There was much trouble at first in the different townships over the question of how much each township should pay on the large steel bridges that were being built over the water courses. The county board took the position that the township should pay all the expense. Suits were accordingly instituted by New Boston and Keithsburg townships for a mandamus to compel the county board to pay half the cost of erecting such bridges. The attorneys for the county board took the position that inasmuch as the townships had commenced the bridges and incurred the obligation before asking the county board for assistance that they alone should be required to pay all expenses. The cases were taken to the upper courts and resulted in the success of the townships, whereupon the board paid its share of the expense.

The Bay Island Drainage District project was set on foot late in the '80s. In 1890 Judge J. H. Connell was empowered to select a jury of twelve to ascertain the cost of the work. Each owner of land adjoining was required to pay in proportion to the benefits he received. The project for a new courthouse was again taken up in 1890. The grand jury had investigated the subject and had reported that the conditions were so bad that the construction of a new build-

ing was imperative. The assessed value of the county property at that time was \$5,639,056. It was shown that the county indebtedness was so small that the board could well afford to construct a new courthouse. However, the board, before doing so, asked a subscription of \$10,000 from the citizens of Aledo to be applied toward the purchase of grounds or the construction of the buildings. The amount actually subscribed by the people of Aledo was \$12,292. Keithsburg offered to raise \$25,000 and furnish a site for the buildings if the courthouse and county seat were removed to that town. The offer was not considered by the county board. Plans were prepared by M. E. Bell, of Chicago, and the contract for building the courthouse was awarded to L. Leach & Son. Considerable controversy arose as to the site of the new courthouse. The following tracts were proposed: By E. L. Wolff, called the Aledo House Block; a block on the north side, proposed by I. N. Bassett. In the end the Aledo House Block was chosen and the structure was erected thereon. The contract price was \$49,996, but in the end the building and grounds cost a little over sixty thousand. In addition L. Leach & Son secured the contract for the construction of the boiler house for the courthouse at \$2,189; also the contract for plumbing and electric fixtures, \$5,400, and the contract for wiring at \$387. Detwiler Brothers secured the contract for the heating apparatus, the amount being \$4,393.

C. F. Sturdevant was the first superintendent of construction, but upon his resignation H. R. Ellett, of Keithsburg, was appointed in his place. The cornerstone of the new courthouse was laid April 19, 1894, but without ceremony. There were present about seventy-five to one hundred people, including several ladies. At the May term, 1894, the county board formally appropriated \$60,000 for the new courthouse and for the block upon which it was to stand. They made arrangements to pay this amount in four annual installments of \$15,000 each.

Late in the '90s many iron bridges were built throughout the county, several in Eliza, New Boston, Ohio Grove and other townships. Grading became a fad at this time and everywhere could be seen the split log drag in operation. Almost every neighborhood secured graders in order to better improve their highways. In 1896 the personal property of the county was valued at \$7,784,780; the realty at \$17,574,010; city lots at \$2,662,695. In 1895 Mr. Zentmire was county farm superintendent, at a salary of \$700 a year.



MERCER COUNTY FARM AND HOME

In recent years the good roads project has taken possession of the people with the result that now nearly all roads are more or less graded and some of them are in excellent condition. The bridges will compare favorably with those of any other county in the state. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on highways and on splendid bridges which span the large streams. A Good Roads Convention was held in Aledo in 1899 and steps to still further improve the conditions of the highways were taken. The county taxation in 1900 amounted to \$160,572.30. In 1901 the county board paid out in about four months \$195 for wolf scalps—six old animals and forty-five whelps. In 1901 the new poor house was projected and in the end built. The estimated cost at first was \$25,000. The plans of J. Grant Beadle, architect, of Galesburg, were accepted. Harney Brothers were the contractors at \$24,906. The total cost in the end was about thirty thousand dollars. The building is a credit to the county and a cut of the same appears in this work. It is made to accommodate sixty patients, heated with hot water, has two wings and a central structure, is fireproof, has dumb waiters and is built of pressed brick, with stone trimmings. In recent years electricity has been added as a lighting medium.

In 1906 the Bay Island Drainage and Levee District was set off and constructed at a large cost, much of the expense being borne by those whose lands were benefited. The total cost was estimated at two hundred and forty-five thousand dollars and the entire ditch was connected with one from Rock Island County, the two forming a long line, reclaiming 20,000 acres, valued at \$2,000,000. At that time Congress passed an act declaring Sturgeon Bay not navigable. This bill was introduced by Hon. James McKinney. The Bay Island drainage excavation was divided into seven sections and was an immense undertaking. R. H. Roberts, D. S. Prentiss and M. F. Prouty were the commissioners to superintend the work.

In 1908-9, during nine months, over one thousand dollars was paid as bounty for groundhog and crow scalps. Several hundred dollars were paid at that time for wolf scalps. The latter animal seemed to be increasing rapidly in the county. A little later the bounty was increased. In the spring of 1908 the county voted to build a new jail, the vote standing nine to five in favor of the project. Three sites were considered: First, the Taliaferro property west of the courthouse; second, B. F. Tudor's place east of the courthouse; third, A. A. Rice's residence property. The county board decided upon the Taliaferro property, which was purchased at a cost of \$2,500. Harney Brothers secured the contract at \$28,874. Det-

wiler Brothers supplied the heating plant and Bolton Brothers the electric wiring. The total cost in the end was about thirty thousand dollars.

The Keithsburg Drainage District, an important improvement, was projected a few years ago. Also the project to reclaim 12,000 acres on Edwards River, extending from Preemption Township down as far as Keithsburg.

From February, 1911, to February, 1912, seventy-one wolves were killed in this county, of which fifty-one were whelps. The bounty was increased to \$12 for old ones and to \$5 for young ones.

CHAPTER VII

RAILROADS, ELECTRIC ROADS, ETC.

The old line of travel prior to the railroad transportation through the state of Illinois was by stage and wagons, and a great deal of travelling was done by persons riding horseback. The stage roads across the state of Illinois missed Mercer County; there being a stage route to Rock Island on the north and one to Oquawka on the south, and when the railroads were constructed the first lines followed the main stage routes; so that Rock Island had the first railroad from Chicago to the Mississippi River, north of Alton. The Peoria and Oquawka Railroad was constructed from Peoria through Galesburg to Burlington on the south of Mercer County. The first railroad projected to pass through Mercer County was the Western Air Line Railroad which was to extend from Fort Wayne through Indiana, Illinois and Iowa to Council Bluffs, and connect at Fort Wayne with the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad Company, and that would give a connection over the Pennsylvania Railroad to Philadelphia. The Western Air Line Railroad which was organized and work done on it as hereinafter shown, was sold out by the trustee on one bond of \$1,000 to John S. Thompson and others. Then the name was changed to the American Central Railroad, and the subscriptions by townships and individuals for 1859 were to the American Central Railroad. In the re-organization of the railroad to the American Central, the capital stock of the road from Galva to New Boston was \$2,000,000, about two hundred thousand dollars of that was taken in Henry and Mercer counties by individual and township subscriptions, and the subscribers received stock to the amount of their subscriptions, both as to the municipal and individual subscriptions, paying dollar for dollar for the stock that they received. The purchasers, John S. Thompson and others, issued stock to themselves then for about one million eight hundred thousand dollars which would cost them about one thousand dollars in bonds and the cost of sale, etc., added. Thus all of the work that had been done on the Western Air Line Railway went over to the American Central Railroad. After the road was built from Galva to New Boston it was leased to the Chicago Bur-

lington & Quincy Railroad Company, which had indorsed the bonds of the railroad about eight hundred thousand dollars, that were issued for the construction of the road. And subsequently after operating the road for a number of years under its lease, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy bought up the majority of the outside stock, and finally merged the road into the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy System.

The next road projected through Mercer County was the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad Company, which however was never constructed through Mercer County. It was to pass through Keithsburg and cross the American Central about one mile or more east of Joy, and through Millersburg to Rock Island, and from there to the rapids at Port Byron, and on to Rockford. The only part of that railroad that was constructed was the portion between Moline Junction and Port Byron, which now is a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul System.

The next railroad projected through Mercer County was the Rock Island, Alton & St. Louis Railroad Company, and it was finally constructed from Alton to Rock Island, and from Rock Island to Sterling, and passed through the southeast corner of Suez Township and entirely through North Henderson Township from west to east, into Rio Township in Knox County, and from north to Barstow Junction, twelve miles east of Rock Island, and then through Moline on to Rock Island. Another branch of said St. Louis, Alton & Chicago Railroad Company was constructed from Gladstone on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, up through Oquawka to Keithsburg, a distance of eighteen miles, and operated for several years. This line was intended to connect to the south with the main line of the road and to be extended north to the point opposite Muscatine, Iowa. The railroad however passed into the receivers hands and was sold to the bond holders, and subsequently the main and branch lines were all purchased by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and now are a part of that system. There was then a short link between Keithsburg and Arpee Junction, a point some three miles east of New Boston, chartered and organized by the Dixon & Quincy Railroad Company which was immediately leased by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and subsequently purchased by that road, and is now a part of the Burlington System. There was then a railroad projected east through Mercer County from Keithsburg, known as the Keithsburg & Eastern Railroad Company, and considerable work was done upon the line from private and municipal

subscriptions made in Keithsburg and Abington, but the line was never completed. Then the Iowa Central Railroad was projected from Peoria to Keithsburg and across the river to Oskaloosa, Iowa, thence north to Mason City. This road was finished and extended through the southwest part of Abington Township and through Keithsburg Township, and the Village of Seaton is located on the same. Subsequently the Mississippi was crossed by a railroad bridge and the line in Iowa completed to Mason City with different branches, and now the railroad is a part of the Minneapolis & St. Louis System.

Philander Cable of Rock Island, with a few friends, organized a railroad called the Rock Island & Mercer County Railroad Company, and constructed a road from Milan and Rock Island, coming into Mercer County northwest of Preemption, and passing through Preemption, and terminated on section 16 in Richland Grove Township where the Village of Cable was laid out. This road was completed and subsequently a branch was built to Sherrard, and is still operated, and became a part of the Rock Island & Peoria Railroad Company, it having used the line of that road from Milan to Rock Island.

Then the Rock Island Southern Railroad was constructed, starting at Galesburg and running to Monmouth, and thence north to Reynolds, and over the Rock Island & Peoria line to Rock Island. There is a branch from Gilchrist to Aledo and one from Alexis to join the main line near the county line between Warren and Mercer counties. A more detailed account is hereinafter shown in regard to these roads.

The railroad which now passes east and west through Mercer County was originally called the Air Line Railroad and a little later the American Central Railroad, the company of the latter name finally completing its construction. Almost immediately thereafter it passed to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Company and the short branches between Gladstone and Keithsburg and New Boston and Keithsburg were constructed. The line enters the county on the east at Windsor and passes almost directly westward through the townships of Rivoli, Greene, Mercer and Millersburg and then deflecting to the south, reaches New Boston by a branch, the main line continuing on to Keithsburg.

On May 3, 1853, the County Court and board of supervisors took action in reference to the Western Air Line Railroad. There were present in the courthouse at Keithsburg at this meeting Ephraim Gilmore, county judge; John Glancey, associate county justice of the

peace; John S. Thompson, clerk; and James Garner, sheriff. It was ordered by the court that an election should be held on the 11th day of June next to determine whether the county should subscribe \$100,000 to the capital stock of the Western Air Line Company which had been duly chartered by the last Legislature. The bonds were to run for twenty years and bear 6 per cent interest and were not to be issued until a sufficient amount should be subscribed to build the road. At the election the voters authorized the issuance of the bonds. Accordingly the County Court on December 5, 1853, subscribed for the stock in due form. On March 20, 1854, the court ordered the clerk to issue and deliver to the railroad company the bonds and orders of the county for the sum of \$100,000 at such times as the same might be needed and called for by the company. At the same time the faith of the county was pledged for the redemption of the bonds. Before June, 1853, the citizens thus authorized by vote the county authorities to subscribe \$100,000 to the capital stock of the Western Air Line Railroad Company, upon condition that none should be paid until the full amount needed had been subscribed. The people a little later asked that only one condition be required, namely, that the funds should be expended in the county only. Accordingly an election was held in August, 1855, to determine this point. The friends of the new movement agreed to give bond to the county signed by Levi Willits, James S. Thompson, E. Gilmore, Jr., and others, in the sum of \$200,000, condition that the money arising from the railroad subscriptions should be faithfully applied to the interests of the county according to the order of the board. This change was carried at the polls. Accordingly the bonds were ordered issued with the restrictions therein as had been voted. At first it was proposed to issue ten separate bonds of \$10,000 each and James S. Thompson, in 1856, was authorized by the county board to cast the whole vote of the county at the company meetings. The bonds in the sum of \$10,000 each proved unsatisfactory to the company, whereupon they asked that they be permitted to surrender such bonds and that new ones to the amount of \$1,000 each might be issued therein. This request was granted.

In June, 1856, the railroad company surrendered the county bonds for \$100,000 issued for the county by the president of the board of supervisors and the clerk of the county board, and the same were accepted and canceled. In lieu thereof there were issued to the company new bonds to the same amount in denominations of \$1,000 each. At the March term, 1857, provision was made by the county

board to set apart a specific fund with which to pay the annual interest on the bonds. The county treasurer, I. N. Bassett, was made agent of the county to pay this interest as it should become due. In February, 1860, the Supreme Court of Illinois, having rendered a decision which was thought to invalidate these bonds, the county board passed a resolution to pay the bonds in any event and thus maintain the honor and credit of the county. Thus the steps in the bond transaction prior to 1866 were as follows: May 3, 1853—Court ordered an election to vote for or against taking the stock; June 11, 1853—People decided to take the stock with restrictions; December 7, 1853—Court by virtue of such election subscribed \$100,000 to the stock; March 20, 1854—Court ordered the county clerk to issue the bonds of the county for such subscription in accordance with the election results; June 8, 1855—County board ordered an election to vote for or against removing the restrictions in the bonds; August 4, 1855—People by the vote decided to remove the restrictions and for the bonds to be issued; September 12, 1855—Board authorized the clerk to issue the bonds whenever they should be called for; October 8, 1855—Clerk issued the bonds during vacation; March 1, 1856—Board at a called meeting approved the action of the clerk in vacation and appointed James S. Thompson agent of the county in the matter; March 14, 1856—Board declared all the acts at the called meeting legal and right; June 18, 1856—Railroad company surrendered the bonds in denominations of \$10,000 each and received in lieu thereof bonds in denominations of \$1,000 and the old bonds were canceled; March 5, 1857—and March 2, 1858—Board set apart money to pay interest on the bonds; September, 1859—Board approved payment of interest on the bonds; February 8, 1860—Board resolved not to repudiate redemption of the bonds; May, 1865—Board ordered prepared an abstract of all orders made and bonds issued relative to the Air Line Railroad.

In May, 1855, a large meeting was held at Keithsburg in the interests of the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad. There were present many prominent railway officials and several leading citizens of the county. The meeting was held in the open air, under the trees, and a repast was furnished by J. A. Noble and others. After dinner the meeting adjourned to the courthouse and elected W. D. Henderson, of Oquawka, president; M. L. Marsh and James Noble, vice presidents; and L. W. Myers, secretary. Mr. Thornton addressed the meeting and explained the object that had brought them together. He was followed by Mr. O'Sullivan, president of the road, who explained that the line had been surveyed in three divisions: First,

the Warsaw & Oquawka branch; second, Oquawka & Rock Island branch; third, Rock Island & Port Byron branch. He stated that the railroad company desired Keithsburg stockholders to pay over 20 per cent of the stock which they had conditionally agreed to subscribe and that the supervisors of Mercer County be asked to place the bonds of the county that had been voted at the disposal of the company. A. B. Sheriff, of Keithsburg, opposed the wishes of the railway authorities. He explained that the subscribers at Keithsburg had declined to pay the 20 per cent assessment, because it was the agreement that not more than 5 per cent should be demanded until work had actually been commenced and that the road should come within a half mile of Keithsburg. He further declared that Keithsburg would guard its own interests and desired nothing but what was fair and lawful. J. A. Noble stated that he was in favor of paying the 20 per cent and that his firm, B. P. Frick & Company, would take \$500 more stock. A resolution was finally passed by the meeting, pledging support to the road under suitable restrictions. The first division of the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad was 120 miles long. Of this line twenty-five miles were within the limits of Mercer County, entering two and a half miles south of Keithsburg and leaving six miles west of Preemption. The purpose of the road was to connect the Upper with the Lower Mississippi, thus avoiding the obstruction called the Rock Island & Des Moines Rapids. The road was designed to connect with the Western Air Line road at McGwin's farm. Portions of this line were to be under contract in 1855 and in the fall of that year Keithsburg subscribed \$40,000 preparatory to the letting of the branch from Warsaw opposite Fort Madison and from Oquawka to Keithsburg, thus guaranteeing the construction from Warsaw below the Des Moines Rapids to Keithsburg—a distance of seventy miles.

In the fall of 1855 it was proposed to rescind the restrictions on bonds which had been voted November, 1854, in order to secure private subscriptions with which to build the line twelve or fifteen miles northeast of Keithsburg, leaving a link of about ten miles which friends of the road on the entire line could construct. In this way county bonds already voted would connect the road with the Western Air Line and secure to the county direct communication below the Des Moines Rapids, giving the county railroad facilities south over eighty miles and east to the Military Tract road. W. H. Thornton published a statement, showing the value this road would have to the citizens of the county.

In accordance with a recommendation, J. C. Cabeen, David Lloyd, B. D. Ellett, Robert Keith, A. B. Sheriff, A. Rife, B. F. Gruwell, S. S. Phelps, T. B. Cabeen, B. P. Finch, William Gayle and H. W. Thornton, on September 12, 1855, entered into bond with the board of supervisors of the county in the penal sum of \$200,000 to the following effect, that whereas the County of Mercer had subscribed with the sanction of the people the sum of \$100,000 to the capital stock of the Warsaw & Rock Island Railroad Company to be paid in county bonds, which were to run for twenty years at 6 per cent interest, payable annually, provided that the bonds should not be issued until the whole amount of the capital stock necessary to build the road should be subscribed; and, whereas, upon the application of many citizens of the county and the agent of the road the county board at the September term, 1855, had ordered an election for or against rescinding the condition upon which the subscription of stock was authorized so that the bonds could be issued whenever asked for by the railroad company and placed in the hands of a trustee appointed by the board with the consent of the company without regard to any conditions whatever and on the requirement simply that the company should expend the proceeds arising from the sale of the bonds thus to be issued within the limits of Mercer County commencing at the depot or station near Keithsburg; and that, therefore, should the conditions be rescinded and the subscription made and the bonds issued according to the requirements of the order and should the company duly expend the proceeds of the bonds as above specified, then the bond for \$200,000 should be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue. This proposition to remove all the restrictions from the stock subscription was defeated when submitted to the voters, by about one hundred and forty-five majority. About twelve hundred votes were polled.

In 1855 work on the Air Line Railroad was commenced at several places and was continued for some time, not with energy, but with spasmodic efforts which in the end completed the grading, after which no further work was done. In May, 1858, at a big railroad meeting held in Aledo, it was resolved to aid the road with private subscriptions to the extent of the abilities and means of the people. The completion of the road was earnestly desired and resolutions were passed that every effort should be made to this end. Elisha Miles, J. H. Reed, J. W. Miles, I. N. Bassett, Rev. H. J. Humphrey and N. Edwards were present at this meeting. A committee, of which Elisha Miles was chairman, was appointed to raise at once by subscription the sum of \$10,000, with which to begin

operations. Soon after this event about ninety thousand dollars more was called for in order to complete the work of grading the road from Galva to the Mississippi. It was stated that \$140,000 had already been spent by this county. Miles and his committee succeeded in raising subscriptions to the amount of \$60,000 of the \$90,000 needed and had the sum pledged by July, 1858. The conditions of subscriptions were no subscribers, no road; no road, no pay. The argument used at this time, and it was an excellent one, was the great cost of marketing the products of Mercer County in the absence of a railroad. It was shown that fully 25 per cent could be saved if the county had its own railroad where shipments of all products could be made. In order to raise the \$90,000 it was, at first proposed to sell county bonds and use the proceeds for the railroad. Already interest on the \$140,000 bonds issued was being paid. Instead, however, it was thought best to secure private subscriptions in the largest amount possible before asking the county board to issue bonds. This was the step taken and was in a large measure successful, because the people generally were willing to take a chance to secure a railroad.

By the summer of 1859 the grading of the road was well advanced. By May, \$162,152.89 had already been spent and it was stated that \$130,000 more was needed to complete the line. The cost from New Windsor to Viola was estimated at \$15,206; from Viola to Aledo, \$8,996; and from Aledo to New Boston, \$5,194; total additional for this county, \$29,397. The question was finally submitted whether the county board should issue bonds and the following was the result: New Boston, for subscription, 175; against it, 18; Millersburg, for subscription, 17; against it, 76; Mercer, for subscription, 132; against it, 51; Greene, for subscription, 49; against it, 38; Rivoli, for subscription, 81; against it, 69.

In November, 1859, stockholders of the American Central Railway (Western Air Line) were called upon to pay the balance due and unpaid on their stock at the treasurer's office in Galva. Work had been resumed on the division between Galva and New Boston and its speedy completion was promised. James S. Thompson, Elisha Miles and W. B. Sweet were the superintending committee of this division.

By January, 1860, the road was graded to Viola and sections west of that point had been commenced. The Supreme Court, early in 1860, having rendered a decision which seemed totally to invalidate bonds which had been issued by counties for the construction of railroads, many counties had taken steps looking to the repudiation

of such tokens of indebtedness. In this connection the county board of Mercer County resolved that whatever course sister counties might pursue, whether they should repudiate their just obligations and plighted faith or not, this county would maintain her honor and integrity. They prepared to pay the interest as soon as it should become due.

In February, 1860, the county board appointed John W. Miles as agent or proxy for Mercer County to attend the meeting of stockholders of the American Central Railway and authorized him to cast the vote of the county for directors and learn what were the prospects for the early completion of the road. Upon his return Mr. Miles reported that an agent of the road had been sent to England to buy the iron necessary for the completion of the line from Galva to New Boston and that the officers believed that \$17,000 private subscriptions, \$69,400 township bonds and \$70,400 special subscriptions would be sufficient to put the line in working condition. If the agent should succeed in getting the necessary iron, the road could be completed in short order. If these efforts failed the owners could demand of the company the sale of the Western Division to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, an accomplishment greatly to be desired, as such a step would put the county into direct communication with Chicago, already the leading market of all the West. Mr. Miles strongly recommended this course in case the other company should fail in its plans. He urged upon the part of the county board earnest and persistent action to effect the completion of the line by some good company.

In January, 1864, B. C. Perkins was appointed agent of the county by the county board to attend the next annual meeting of the Great Western Air Line Railroad Company to cast the vote of the county for such directors as would favor the early completion of the line from Galva to New Boston, either by selling or leasing or giving the right of way.

It was reported in May, 1865, that Thompson, Willits & Company had bought the line from the owners in New York City. At a railroad meeting in Galva, in July this year, the following directors were chosen: James S. Thompson, Wells Willits, of New Boston; Lewis W. Thompson, John S. Thompson, of Aledo; and others in New York City. John S. Thompson was elected president of the road. A little later the latter went to Europe for the ostensible purpose of securing means with which to complete the road. It was thought that his real object was to sell out entirely for a large sum. Calls for new subscriptions to complete the road, however, were

made in this county. It was agreed that one-third should be payable when the iron was down from New Boston to Galva, one-third six months later, and one-third after the cars would be running. The old subscriptions were to be retired and new stock issued in their place. It was promised that work would start in March, 1866. There was considerable litigation from time to time over the various features of this project. There was a strong feeling that the road would never be built and that the people would be justified in repudiating the obligation. However, the county determined to fulfill its obligation even though it failed to secure the road. In the meantime every effort within reason for its completion was made by the citizens.

In the case of John Cowles vs. the Board of Supervisors of Mercer County, Judge Drummond of the United States Circuit Court held, in November, 1866, that the county was not restricted to one election under the general railroad law of November 6, 1840, and that the county authorities could legally receive the surrender of the original bonds and issue therefor like bonds of less denomination, as had been done. The court further held that as by law counties had the right in a certain contingency to take stock in railroads and issue their bonds therefor, and as these bonds and coupons purported upon their face to be issued in accordance with law and had passed into the hands of bona fide holders for value before maturity without notice of fraud or illegality in their issue and interest had been paid for several years on the bonds, the county was estopped from denying their validity and were bound to pay the amount of coupons sued upon to the plaintiff. The court directed the clerk to compute the interest due on the coupons, allowing interest on such coupons from the date of their maturity to the rendition of judgment and that judgment be entered for plaintiff for the amount so found.

Under the law of 1865 the county changed forty-six of its old bonds of \$1,000 each and gave forty-six new ones for the same amount, running twenty years, 5 per cent of the principal to be paid annually. These bonds were registered October 19, 1868. On July 1, 1878, this indebtedness had been reduced to \$24,850. The last were due October 19, 1888.

By January, 1869, the county board had issued twenty-five new bonds of \$1,000 each and had taken up twenty-two of the old bonds previously issued. From 1866 to 1869 the road underwent many changes and modifications. The news came in January, 1867, that 17,000 tons of iron had been purchased in England and had been shipped to this country for use on this line. At this time President

Thompson received a cable dispatch from Europe, saying "We are shipping iron." It was immediately planned that as soon as the iron arrived it should be laid at once from Galva to New Boston.

At the May term, 1868, of the county board it was resolved to pay the interest coupons of the old railroad bonds as they should mature and to levy a tax in September sufficient to meet as large a portion of the interest coupons as would not be too burdensome to the people.

The county board found it out of the question to meet its bond indebtedness in 1868 or in the near future. Answer to this effect was sent in response to inquiries from the holders of the bonds. The best the county could do was to execute in new bonds of the county an amount not exceeding the present bonded debt and accrued interest thereon in lieu of the old bonded debt in conformity with the act of the Legislature of Illinois, approved February 13, 1865, the new bonds to run for a term of twenty years and bearing 6 per cent interest. After the expiration of ten years 10 per cent of the principal was to be paid annually. This course was offered by the county board. A financial agent was ordered employed to ascertain the exact bonded debt of the county.

At a well attended railroad meeting held at Aledo late in May, 1868, President Thompson explained the situation. He announced that he had contracted with an able and experienced company to build the division of the road from Galva to New Boston and had agreed to raise \$225,000 in township and individual subscriptions and stated that the contractors would commence work in ten days after the amount was raised. One-half of the individual subscription was payable when the iron was laid and the balance in six months thereafter. The subscription was to be void if the road was not completed by July 1, 1869. The meeting determined to raise the amount asked, and elections in the various townships through which the road was to pass, were ordered held. The road was now known as the American Central Railroad. Each township was required to subscribe \$13,400 to the capital stock of the road. A sinking fund for the retirement of the bonds was provided. Everybody was now in earnest, because all realized and admitted that this perhaps was the last chance the county would have soon to get a railroad. The amount required of Mercer County under this proposition was \$175,000. The Record showed that the extra cost of marketing Mercer County products without a railroad aggregated more in one year than it would cost to build this road.

Real work on the road under the new order was commenced in August, 1868. By October 14th the railroad shanties of the workmen were within two and a half miles of Aledo. In the latter part of that month work was commenced on the line west of Aledo. On Friday, February 5, 1869, the first locomotive entered Mercer County. It arrived at Windsor at 11 o'clock A. M. Thus after twelve years of waiting, Mercer County at last welcomed the long hoped for and expected train.

During 1868 two new lines were projected across the county. In May Keithsburg and Abingdon voted considerable aid to the Quincy & Dixon Line. The Rock Island, Alton & St. Louis Line was planned to cross Mercer County.

In 1868 New Boston Township by vote of 184 to 3, took \$18,000 subscription in the Western Air Line road. At the same time the City of New Boston held an election and by almost a unanimous vote took \$50,000 stock in the line. Mercer Township by vote of 142 to 15, agreed to raise \$13,400. Millersburg Township by a vote of 114 to 27 agreed to take \$13,400 subscription. Eliza and Perryton voted to help the line, but Greene Township cast a majority of four votes against it. It began to be reported at this time that the line had been sold to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Company, though this was not verified until later. The vote of \$18,000 by New Boston Township and \$50,000 by New Boston Village was the occasion of much opposition later by many citizens of that community. The bonds were to be issued when the road was completed to New Boston. Upon this condition the vote was nearly unanimous in favor of the bonds. When it became certain that the line would be built across the county, many citizens of New Boston endeavored to repudiate the obligation and after considerable negotiation the railroad company agreed to remit \$20,000 of the \$50,000 which had been subscribed by New Boston Village. On April 14th the line was built to New Boston. Soon afterwards when the bonds were to be issued, John S. Thompson of the road went over to receive the bonds. No action had been taken to issue them either by the township or the village. Several of the best citizens took an opposite course and there was at once a clash between the taxpayers. Meetings were held and the opinion of the factions either in favor of repudiation or against it was expressed in emphatic and sometimes abusive terms. Each faction endeavored to make headway and a real campaign, or railway war, was conducted for several weeks. The feeling became so intense that personal threats were made and several fistic encounters between the citizens livened the occasion.

President Thompson in the end telegraphed to have all trains stopped at Aledo. He went to the county seat, bringing back with him the telegraph car and all movable fixtures of the road and ordering the switches to be taken up. He then told New Boston that no trains would be run west of Aledo until a settlement was made in accordance with the previous action in regard to the bonds. This placed the matter squarely before the people there. It was railroad or no railroad at last. After two or three days' consideration the flames of repudiation burned out and a dispatch was sent to Mr. Thompson saying that New Boston was ready to issue the bonds. Shortly afterwards a committee from that village visited Mr. Thompson with the same offer. He went to New Boston, received \$18,000 bonds of the township and \$30,000 bonds of the village and the work on the road was completed.

In 1869 Abington Township voted \$10,000 in aid of the Warsaw road. Viola had considerable trouble over the erection of the station in that village. It was finally erected on its present site.

At a large meeting in Aledo about this time efforts to secure help for the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Line were made but without much success. Perryton, Ohio Grove and Mercer townships were to be crossed by this line. The cost to the three townships would be \$162,000. This was such a large amount that the people in the end declined to furnish the assistance asked. Finally the line instead of crossing Mercer Township was projected to cross Millersburg Township, which likewise refused to vote the bonds. About this time Richland Grove, Rivoli and North Henderson townships voted in favor of aiding the Rock Island & St. Louis road. Various other railway projects were considered during the next few years.

An eastern narrow gauge railroad was talked of in 1875 and in 1876 the Rock Island & Mercer County Line was projected and in the end was built to Reynolds and later branches were run to the coal fields in the northern part of Mercer County.

Various interurban electric lines were considered previous to 1908, but nothing definite occurred until July that year, when the Rock Island Southern Electric Line was projected and commenced. However, it was planned to cross the tier of townships east of Aledo, whereupon the latter began negotiations to secure a branch and in the end succeeded. At first Mercer Township and Aledo were asked to subscribe \$100,000, but after due consideration it was found this amount could not be raised. But the township and city finally offered to give \$50,000 in bonds and a \$10,000 bonus to secure the

line. This offer was accepted and accordingly the line was extended to Aledo. The line was completed to this city in September, 1910. Regular service was in force by December of the same year.

CHAPTER VIII

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Mercer County furnished a few soldiers for the war with Mexico in 1848—exactly how many is not now known, but it is believed that eight or ten men left the county and joined the companies or squads that were organized at Galesburg and Monmouth. The facts cannot now be learned. Many of the first settlers of the county saw service in the War of 1812 and a few in the Black Hawk war; and very probably a few of the earliest settlers participated in the Revolution.

The people of Mercer County were keenly alive to all the great issues involved in the political controversies during the few years immediately preceding the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency and the fall of Fort Sumter. Very few here believed at first that the election of Mr. Lincoln and hence the curtailment of the slave extension program of the South really meant war; but as the Southern States one after another passed ordinances of secession, seized the property of the government and otherwise showed their disunion designs, it came to be realized early in 1861 that force would have to be used if the Union was to be preserved.

On January 15, 1861, the Aledo Record printed the following notice:

ATTENTION!

In pursuance of the recommendation contained in the message of the late governor of this state, that its citizens should speedily enroll themselves into volunteer military companies, and be in readiness to respond to any demand made upon them by their state or country, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting at the store of A. Corken, Aledo, on Friday evening, January 18th, at 6.30 o'clock, for the purpose above indicated. Citizens of the county without respect to party are invited to attend.

In the same issue was the following article:

Be calm!—We are probably passing a crisis in our national affairs that will severely try our patience, courage, equanimity and patriotism. The old Ship of State is in a storm, pitching and laboring, but she will outride it, and whoever sticks to her will come safe to

the shore. We have no fear for the ultimate result, and we desire to exhort all to be firm and calm, doing nothing and saying nothing that will leave room for future regret. In times of excitement like the present we have need to take special care that we are guilty of no excesses in word or act. Stand fast by the Union, the constitution and the enforcement of the laws and all will be well.

In pursuance of this call a number of citizens assembled at A. Corken's drug store. Col. W. D. Henderson was made president of the meeting, and John J. Glenn, secretary. S. W. McCoy, J. H. Reed and J. F. Henderson were appointed a committee on resolutions. While they were thus engaged the meeting was addressed by Doctor Craig, who pointed out the importance of having military organization and portrayed the distracted condition of the country. Other speeches were made by Colonel Henderson and Messrs. Reed and McCoy. Doctor Craig, H. Scott and Doctor Coe were appointed a committee to report a plan for the organization of one or more military companies in this county and be ready to report at the next meeting to be held on the following Wednesday evening. The resolutions prepared, read and adopted by this meeting ran as follows:

Whereas, Believing, as we do, that this Government is one of the people and not a mere league between sovereign states, and

Whereas, It is well understood that there are large portions of the citizens of several of the states of this Union in arms against our Government, repudiating its authority, trampling upon its laws, insulting its flag and committing the crime of treason under the name of secession, and

Whereas, It having been recommended by the late governor of this state, in his recent message, that our citizens organize volunteer military companies and place themselves in a position to respond to any demand that may be made upon them to put down rebellion, enforce the laws, uphold the Constitution and thus preserve the integrity of the Government, therefore

Resolved, That it is expedient for the citizens of this county to cheerfully and promptly respond to that call by organizing one or more military companies within its limits for the purpose above indicated should their aid in that direction become necessary.

The meeting closed with three rousing cheers for the Union.

On February 19, 1861, the Republican County Convention passed a long series of resolutions insisting that no compromises with the South should be made, expressing the greatest confidence in Lincoln's ability to handle the existing crisis, and expressing emphatic disap-

proval of the conduct of Congressman William Kellogg "in his late compromise resolutions and his speech thereon" and demanding that he resign his seat that the voters of this district might elect a man who would carry out their will and wishes. At this convention there were men who favored compromises with the South, but they were greatly in the minority and accomplished nothing.

Early in February, 1861, the citizens of Greene Township held a preliminary meeting at Viola to consider the propriety of forming a military company. At this meeting B. C. Perkins presided. A committee of three was appointed to solicit members for such a company and the meeting then adjourned to assemble again on February 16th. Over the adjourned meeting G. L. F. Robinson presided. The committee reported the enrollment of fifty-nine names for the proposed company. Dr. J. V. Frazier was elected captain. The secretary of the meeting, C. S. Richey, was instructed to let the readers of the Record know that the people of Greene Township were Union men and were ready and willing to do their duty in upholding the Constitution. This was no doubt the first company formed in the county for the war.

The plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln on his way from Springfield to Washington roused the greatest indignation in this county. The act was denounced in severe language by the Record. That paper said:

The present administration has an herculean task before it. All its resources of wisdom, firmness and patience will be called into requisition. Its first duty will be an adjustment of our national difficulties in a manner that shall secure the integrity of the Government and at the same time preserve its dignity. We have not seen Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural, but we venture the prediction that while it contains no word of compromise, it does not breathe coercion in the sense of sending an army at once into those states where madness and treason rule the hour. He will probably strengthen the old ship at every accessible point and embrace every opportunity that may arise to wipe out treason and its authors. Those who have expected, if there be such, that he will heal divisions by counselling concessions of principle and those who have anticipated that he will immediately blow up rebellion with gunpowder, have both alike no doubt been mistaken. But the work of redemption will be accomplished and Abraham Lincoln will be known in history as the second Father of his Country.

Congressman Kellogg's compromise resolutions in the House late in February were condemned by the republicans of this county gen-

erally; so were those of Mr. Crittenden. But the Corwin resolutions which passed the House by the vote of 153 to 136 met the approval of all in this county who favored maintaining the Union. The democrats of this county openly insisted that compromises were the only measures that would restore the Union. The Force Bill in Congress, which provided for calling out the militia to suppress insurrections, repel invasions, etc., was favored here by republicans but bitterly opposed by the democrats. But in this county, as everywhere else over the whole country, individual opinions and principles were undergoing revolution and hence there was great diversity of ever-changing thought. Meetings held at Keithsburg, New Boston, Viola, Millersburg and elsewhere showed wide divergence of political views. A so-called Union festival held at the Barton House, Aledo, on March 8, 1861, favored the "Union as it is," and advocated concessions. This was really a democratic meeting or a meeting that was opposed to coercive measures by the administration of Mr. Lincoln. There were present about fifty men representing that shade of thought.

After reading President Lincoln's Inaugural the Record said that it was one of the best that had ever been delivered; that the president's duty had been delicately performed; that the president was correct in denying the right of secession and in his determination to enforce the laws; that while President Buchanan for three months had repeatedly violated his oath of office, President Lincoln, under the same obligations, would fulfill all his duties; that while many would be pleased to have him violate his oath and permit the grand carnival of treason to go on unchecked until the Government should be disintegrated, there was every indication now that he would enforce the laws and uphold the Union.

In March, soon after Mr. Lincoln's inauguration, the rumors that Fort Sumter would be evacuated, caused great consternation here, where exactly the opposite course was expected. It was shown that the evacuation might become necessary if the Government was not permitted to provision the fort. On the other hand it was urged that it was the duty of the Government both to provision and to reinforce the fort. But all then saw that such a step would mean war when it was hoped that diplomacy would accomplish the desired result without bloodshed, without evacuation of the fort and without causing the Government to commence the conflict. The defiant attitude of the democrats in Congress that Fort Sumter should not be reinforced caused intense indignation among the unflinching and

unflinching Union men of Mercer County. This feeling was voiced in the Record.

On April 16th came the news that Fort Sumter had surrendered to the rebels and that war had commenced. The news caused much suppressed excitement and all citizens anxiously awaited the next scene in the tragedy of war. Enthusiastic meetings in favor of upholding the administration and preserving the Union were held on the Saturday following at New Boston and Keithsburg. The former promptly commenced the formation of a company of volunteers, in fact led in this war measure, though Keithsburg was not far behind. Companies were also started at Aledo and Viola. Thus on Sunday following the call for 75,000 volunteers there were four companies well started in this county. A thorough military organization of the whole county was called for by the newspapers at Aledo, Keithsburg and New Boston. On the evening of April 16, 1861, a crowd assembled at the Barton House, Aledo, to hear the news, and upon being told that war had actually begun and that Fort Sumter had been forced to surrender after a gallant defense, it was proposed to take down the two flag poles—democratic and republican—that had been erected during the political campaign of 1860, united them, and raise aloft the stars and stripes on the combined pole. All agreed and the change was promptly effected on Friday morning, with a streamer at the top, bearing the words, "All for the Union." When the old flag was run up, all swore new and eternal fidelity to the Constitution and the Union and then listened to stirring and patriotic addresses from Judge Tyler, Colonel Henderson, Warren Shedd, Dr. I. Edwards, W. E. Riley and others. At this time nearly all men at Aledo admitted that party considerations should be sunk and loyalty alone be considered.

However, soon afterward, the Keithsburg Press, edited by Mr. Shouf, came out with scathing strictures on the course of the North. All republicans and many democrats so promptly and so emphatically resented this step that he subsequently modified his severe statements. A loyal meeting held at Aledo on Friday evening was addressed by J. C. Pepper, Captain Henderson, W. P. Baker and others. All the speakers favored saving the Union. At a called meeting held at the courthouse, Aledo, on April 22d, a large crowd assembled to take action relative to the war. Colonel Henderson called the meeting to order and George Simms, of North Henderson, was made chairman and J. H. Reed, secretary. Rev. J. S. Poage offered prayer and the band played in spirited fashion one of the

national airs. A committee of one from each township was then appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, as follows:

North Henderson, Nicholas Dowell; Rivoli, R. R. Cox; Richland Grove, Warner Kinsey; Suez, Doctor McClannahan; Greene, W. M. Pinkerton; Preemption, J. Rodgers; Ohio Grove, W. I. Nevius; Mercer, George B. Burnett; Perryton, J. G. Gilmore; Abington, J. C. Main; Millersburg, J. Haverfield; Duncan, C. Vernon; Keithsburg, V. B. Shouf; New Boston, R. S. Cramer; Eliza, J. J. Hueston. While the committee were preparing their report the meeting was addressed by W. L. Campbell, Dr. E. P. Wood and J. H. Reed. The committee reported many resolutions which were adopted; they pledged earnest and willing support to the Federal Government; declared that party difference should cease until the Union was saved; promised that the stars and stripes should never be trailed in the dust if they could prevent it; extended sympathy to the earnest and insulted Union men in the South; cordially welcomed the promise of Stephen A. Douglas that he would support the administration; pledged protection to the wives and children of all men who should volunteer from this county; and appointed a committee of one from each township to carry out the promise contained in the above last resolution. After addresses by Rev. J. S. Poage and G. B. Burnett, the following committee was appointed as above: Keithsburg, R. C. Cabeen; New Boston, James Thompson; Eliza, D. F. Noble; Abington, Frederick Frick; Millersburg, R. Kiddoo; Duncan, A. R. Sutton; Ohio Grove, W. I. Nevius; Mercer, J. McCoy; Perryton, J. G. Gilmore; Suez, Charles Caldwell; Greene, W. M. Carnahan; Preemption, H. M. Boone; North Henderson, Thomas Jones; Rivoli, J. W. Miles; Richland Grove, E. S. Roberts. The proceedings of this meeting were interspersed with patriotic music by the New Boston band. All sang the Star Spangled Banner when the meeting adjourned.

Following the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 volunteers, Governor Yates called for six regiments of volunteer militia for active service. This caused prompt action in this county. According to previous notice the volunteer company of Aledo and Viola met at Masonic Hall on April 27th and elected the following officers: Dr. W. D. Craig, captain; Hardy Moorhead, first lieutenant; A. T. Waterbury, second lieutenant; John A. Gilmore, third lieutenant; C. Doty, flag sergeant; John C. Welliver, sergeant; Russell A. Osborn, Archie S. Corken, Oscar Dungan and Joseph Hoover,

corporals. The name "Union Company of Mercer County" was adopted. Of this meeting Thomas F. McClintock was chosen chairman and John C. Welliver, secretary.

The citizens of Keithsburg, irrespective of party ties, met at the old courthouse on April 20, 1861, to consider the call of the president for volunteers and to commence the formation of companies. W. J. Ungles was chosen chairman and W. R. Calhoun, secretary. The meeting was addressed by D. B. Ellett, Reverend Mills and J. C. Pepper. The latter, a strong democrat, took an eloquent and patriotic stand for the maintenance of the Union. D. B. Ellett, B. P. Frick, H. G. Calhoun, R. C. Cabeen and Isaiah Willits were appointed a committee on resolutions. While they were out speeches were delivered by Doctor Kelley and B. C. Taliaferro. The resolutions adopted declared it to be the duty of all patriots to aid in raising volunteers for immediate service; stated that the sense of this meeting favored the enlistment of all who could do so and pledged care of the families of volunteers during their absence. Volunteers were then called for and the following names were at once enrolled: Edward S. Bruington, Samuel J. Morrison, Hugh Campbell, Freeman Dorse, Sr., Hugh Morrison, Osborne Holland, Robert B. Ungles, Columbus O'Leary, George W. Elliott, A. H. Thompson, H. F. Perry and Elisha E. Beal. Three cheers were given for the volunteers and three for Major Anderson and his gallant men and the meeting adjourned to meet the 22d.

At the adjourned meeting W. J. Ungles served as chairman and W. R. Calhoun, secretary. Patriotic addresses were delivered by Reverend Mills, Doctor Wood, of New Boston, and Doctor Marshall. As Reverend Mills concluded the New Boston volunteers made their appearance and were received with three rousing cheers, and their band played Hail Columbia in attractive style. Then a quartette sang the Star Spangled Banner, after which Doctor Marshall called for volunteers for a calvary company. At this meeting the following volunteers were enrolled: John R. Galbreath, W. A. Lorimer, O. H. Dennis, Jr., James Kile, Jr., James F. Dorse, E. J. Foland, William Gutgar, Harry Weaver, W. H. Davis, Albert Lisk, Thomas Taylor, Henry Hiatt, E. M. Humbert and Bethuel Adams. All of the Keithsburg volunteers were invited to New Boston for the purpose of uniting all into a single company to be in readiness for the first call from the governor.

The citizens of Keithsburg again assembled on the 24th and listened to speeches from Reverend Hart, Reverend Mills and Mr. Ellett. The following resolution introduced by H. G. Calhoun was

passed unanimously: That we the citizens of Keithsburg, lovers of our country and our country's flag, do abhor and detest traitors, come from where they may, and that we will not patronize, countenance or suffer such persons to advocate such principles among us. Doctor Marshall introduced the following, which was also adopted: That in case any of our citizens shall at any time be accused of treason or dissatisfaction with our present Government, a committee be appointed to investigate such charge in order that innocent parties may not suffer thereby. R. C. Cabeen, S. M. Evans and C. P. Elder were appointed such committee. E. D. Ellett, J. Cooper, J. Harvey, J. C. Humphreys and H. G. Calhoun were appointed a committee to hoist the stars and stripes upon the new pole on Main Street. The enrollments at this meeting were F. M. Gruwell, Alonzo Fish, Ben Cummins, Thomas Wolfe, Samuel C. Willit, John W. Nelson, Truman Rhodes, J. W. Bates, James Hiers, W. A. Hubbard, William Patterson, William P. Kelley and James Nelson.

On April 24th the Keithsburg and New Boston volunteers assembled at the latter city and were presided over by R. S. Cramer, with C. O'Leary secretary. It was found that the rolls contained the names of 104 volunteers, of whom eighty-five were present, the others being excused on account of business. Dr. E. P. Wood was elected captain of the company. Other candidates for the same position were William K. Trabue, William Avery and E. S. Benedict, all of whom received votes. Doctor Wood declined the honor unless the company should elect him unanimously, which they at once did. The other officers elected were as follows: First lieutenant, George W. Sanders, New Boston; second lieutenant, Dr. E. S. Benedict, New Boston; third lieutenant, Thomas I. Simmons, New Boston; orderly sergeant, C. O'Leary, Keithsburg; second orderly sergeant, William A. Lorimer, Keithsburg; third orderly sergeant, C. Holway, New Boston; fourth orderly sergeant, R. B. Ungles, Keithsburg; corporals, Albert Beach, Hugh Campbell, James Ferguson. With everything in readiness Captain Wood started for Springfield to tender the company to the Government.

At this time the Record advised that while outspoken traitors merited severer treatment they should be given a sound thrashing only for the present. It was suggested that the Mississippi River should be patrolled to prevent the rebels from receiving supplies or recruits from up the river. Two members of the Aledo-Viola Company were over sixty years of age—Henry Kimmel, of Ohio Grove, and James Haverfield, of Millersburg. William, the colored barber at the Barton House, offered to shave Union men for a dime and traitors

for nothing; the inference was that he expected to cut the throats of the latter.

In Preemption Township, on May 3, 1861, a company of twenty-eight was enrolled as Home Guards. At this meeting H. M. Boone served as chairman and E. S. Roberts as secretary. The following offered by John Whitsitt was adopted: Whereas, Our beloved country is in a state of rebellion and her Constitution and institutions are seriously threatened; therefore, Resolved, That we, the citizens of Preemption, do pledge our honor and means and if necessary our lives for the support of our national honor and flag. A band present furnished music.

The citizens of Ohio Grove met on April 30th and called A. Carns to the chair and chose W. H. Gilmore as secretary; several patriotic speeches were delivered, and resolutions pledging the patriotism of the township for the support of the families of volunteers were passed. Samuel G. McClure, James B. Gilmore, T. S. Robb, W. R. McCreight and John Allison were appointed a committee to look after the wants of the families of volunteers.

Early in May the Mercer County volunteers—two companies—left here without much ceremony and went into camp at Peoria under the call for 90-day men. In the hurry, though the citizens did all they could to make them comfortable, they were sent away without many blankets and with few food supplies and accordingly suffered much in camp at first. Immediately other companies were commenced at half a dozen places in the county.

The New Boston Rifle Company met at Graham & Roberts' Hall, May 18th. Roll call showed fifty-eight members present. The following officers were then elected: H. B. Southward, captain; Simeon Sheldon, first lieutenant; R. P. Lytle, second lieutenant. The sergeants were George R. Beardsley, Mahlon Sanders, Amos Prouty, S. B. Atwater, and the corporals were Charles A. Bruso, Richard Shields, Ira Burlingim and Omri Taylor. J. I. Arnold presided over this meeting. There were fifty privates.

By June 1st, six new companies were being formed in the county—one each at Aledo, New Boston, Keithsburg, Millersburg, Ohio Grove and Suez.

The New Boston boys at Camp Mather, Peoria, refused to enlist for three years and part of them were sent home under a cloud until it was learned that they had enlisted for only three months and could not leave home for a longer period. The Keithsburg-New Boston Company was assigned to Fourth Congressional District Regiment; the regimental officers being L. F. Ross, colonel; E. P. Wood (of

Mercer County), lieutenant colonel; F. M. Smith, major. The Mercer Company elected Mr. Bruington, captain. John W. Miles corresponded with the Record from Peoria while the company was stationed there.

About the middle of June the volunteer company being organized at Aledo was notified it would be accepted in a regiment that was being formed in Chicago. At once prompt efforts to fill the company were made.

About the middle of June the citizens of New Boston sent to their volunteers at Camp Mather a large lot of necessaries and luxuries—chickens, canned fruits, towels, pillow cases, handkerchiefs, socks, etc. The regiment there was ordered on the 12th to march to Alton and preparations to leave on the 17th were at once made. At this time Dr. W. D. Craig was busy enrolling volunteers for the call from Chicago.

Aledo also sent a large quantity of supplies to its volunteers at Camp Mather. They were taken over by J. M. Warwick, who volunteered the services of himself and team for the purpose; he took over a large load of provisions, pillow cases, towels, sheets, etc., arriving there on the 7th and returning on the 11th.

Late in June several volunteers south of Pope Creek joined the cavalry company of Captain A. C. Hardin, of Warren County.

In response to a call the citizens of Perryton Township assembled early in June (1861) for the purpose of forming an independent military company for home protection. William Doak was chairman of the meeting. Cruser Gray, William McHard and Theodore Guffy were a committee on resolutions. The meeting adjourned to the 15th when the committee's resolutions were unanimously adopted. They recited the deplorable condition of the country and resolved that it is the duty of all good citizens to sustain the administration in the performance of all its constitutional duties, and that we as a company with all good citizens here or elsewhere in the county hold ourselves in readiness to aid in suppressing mobs and all other violations of law when called on by the legal authorities. The company volunteered about fifty men.

At Alton the two companies rendezvoused at Camp Pope, where they received a considerable quantity of supplies. William Prouty and Mrs. Monroe Willits sent them a coop of live chickens for the use of the sick in the hospital. Their regiment became the Seventeenth.

In July several volunteers south of Pope Creek joined a Monmouth company for service in Virginia. By July Doctor Craig had

a company nearly completed; it was at first intended for the "Douglas Brigade," Chicago, but the plan collapsed, whereupon he applied for admission into the Ninth Regiment at Cairo. In August the county board paid \$80 to cover the necessary expenses of the two companies while at Monmouth before their wants had been provided for. There was great indignation here when it became known that Congressman Kellogg had voted in favor of using Federal soldiers to hunt down, arrest and return to their masters runaway slaves. In July came the cry "On to Richmond," which was taken up by nearly all papers and speakers in the North and really led to the advance of the Federal troops in Virginia and to the battle of Bull Run, against the judgment of General Scott. But the disaster opened the eyes of the North to the fact that the northern troops would not have a holiday excursion, but would meet troops as brave as themselves.

Late in July the Seventeenth Regiment left Camp Pope, Alton, and moved to Warrenton, Missouri. Late in July Col. E. A. Paine came here to secure recruits for the Ninth Regiment; he obtained a few and while here saw the Ohio Grove Company under Judge Hays drill. M. S. Barnes, of Rock Island, secured a few recruits in the northern part of the county about this time. About twenty-five Preemption and Richland Grove men joined a company sent to help General Love in Kansas, going first to Fort Leavenworth.

MILITIA OF MERCER COUNTY, AUGUST, 1861

North Henderson.....	171	Perryton	188
Rivoli	90	Abington	211
Richland Grove.....	191	Millersburg	192
Suez	213	Duncan	150
Greene	125	Keithsburg	199
Preemption	156	New Boston.....	229
Ohio Grove.....	220	Eliza	144
Mercer	232		
		Total.....	2,711

The company of Capt. W. D. Craig left for Cairo August 6th, about sixty strong, with the others not quite ready to follow later. This company was composed of mature men—none better in the county. They departed in a hurry, slept at Monmouth as best they could, and rode on stock cars to Cairo. Colonel Paine was blamed for not providing proper care and transportation. The boys "cussed" a little, but otherwise bore their treatment uncomplainingly.

At the County Fair in 1861, all the soldiers in the county were offered free admission on "Soldiers' Day" and all were urgently invited to attend in order to have a grand parade for the benefit of the Fair and to show what this county was doing to secure new recruits. There was a large attendance and all had a good time. As Rev. J. S. Poage had gone to the war as chaplain of the Seventeenth Regiment, Col. W. D. Henderson took his place as orator at the Fair.

At New Boston, in August, was completed the company of sharpshooters under Captain Southward. The company was enlisted and mustered in within a week or so and left for Springfield about the 20th. In Ohio Grove, W. I. Nevius enlisted a full company which likewise left for Camp Butler, at Springfield. The disaster at Bull Run did more to aid enlistments in this county than any other single factor. It aroused the pride, courage and fighting spirit of the men as no orator could. Before the citizens generally were aware of what was going on there were eight or ten companies commenced—several in country districts away from villages, at schoolhouses and churches. Warren Shedd's Company at Aledo secured sixty men in less than a week; his company was at once popular because he had received military training in Vermont, had become county treasurer and prominent here, and all had confidence in his judgment, bravery and military knowledge and skill. At Millersburg and to the southward was another company half formed in a week. At Viola, Richland Grove, Preemption, North Henderson and Abington, companies were commenced. Many were leaving the county and joining outside companies and it was seen that this miscellaneous enlistment should be stopped, or the county would not receive its proper credits. In fact there came a demand that a record of all men who enlisted from this county should be kept for future reference. By August 17th, Captain Shedd's Company numbered ninety-seven men. In August the Seventeenth Regiment had a few small skirmishes with bushwhackers and were ordered to Herculaneum, twenty miles below St. Louis.

The General Fremont episode at St. Louis was condemned here, because it was not understood. Loyal citizens and soldiers here could not comprehend why the negroes should not be declared contraband of war and armed and placed in the field. Later President Lincoln's moderation was seen to have been far-sighted and wise. Neither could it be understood at first why southern sympathizers should not be promptly and effectually suppressed when guilty of disloyal utterances. There were several disloyal outbreaks in the

county during the fall of 1861—in North Henderson, Abington, Suez and Preemption townships, but they were allowed to settle themselves. Usually at any public gathering the Union men present were so preponderant that rampant disloyalty was crushed by numbers.

The North Henderson Greys were raised in August under Captain Cowley and Lieutenants Bruner and Holmes. When nearly completed the company held a rally, on which occasion they were presented with a fine banner by Miss Sallie Bowen and Miss Martha Rusk, on behalf of the ladies of the township. Miss Brown made the presentation speech, to which reply was made on behalf of the company by Doctor Taylor. Addresses were made by A. A. Smith and George Simms and "Forward Boys, Forward!" was sung by J. W. Davison. Before the New Boston Sharpshooters, under Captain Southward, left for camp they were given a fine picnic dinner by the citizens of that town, during which time speeches were delivered by W. M. Wilson, Jr., M. R. Good, James S. Thompson, Anderson Kirlin, Charles Hall, Anthony Burdick, C. H. Bell, J. E. Griffin, John W. Green, George W. Warner, Thomas Malat, C. W. Searles, W. B. Crapnell and others. It was a long time before the boys forgot that dinner in the grove, the stirring speeches, the fair women present and the cheers that sent them to the bloody front. They left on the Kate Cassel and just before their departure were addressed on board by John W. Green and Judge Gilmore. They left August 20th, 100 strong, and as they passed Keithsburg they were saluted with cheers and volleys from the cannon. They went to Camp Butler, Springfield.

On August 27th, Captain Shedd's company left for Camp Butler, Springfield. With about one hundred wagons they marched to Henderson Creek, Ohio Grove Township, where the citizens had prepared them a fine repast in the woods. There about five thousand people gathered to bid them goodbye and God speed. It was estimated that three thousand persons sat down at the tables. Speeches, farewells and other ceremonials made the occasion attractive and memorable. The boys reached Monmouth about sunset, secured supper at the Baldwin House and slept in Claycomb Hall. The next morning they took cars for Jacksonville and encamped at Camp McClernand.

In August, James H. Stewart, state's attorney, defined treason to the grand jury and instructed them to take action against any persons believed guilty of that crime. In September the county board appropriated \$1,500 to be raised as a tax of five mills on the dollar for the support of soldiers' families.

The health of Rev. J. S. Poage was so bad that he was compelled to resign his post as chaplain of the Seventeenth Regiment in August. At this time Captain Hart was engaged in raising a company in Suez Township. In August and September many citizens of the county visited the various camps in order to learn what could be done to assist in caring for the sick and wounded. Judge Gilmore, Colonel Nevius and Elisha Miles paid such visits as representatives of large masses of the citizens. In September came the news of the battle of Lexington, Missouri, where Colonel Mulligan's Brigade showed such signal gallantry. A few Mercer County boys participated. In the fall A. P. Taylor of Millersburg distributed considerable wheat to soldiers' families. By October 1st, Capt. O. A. Bridgford of Millersburg had raised twenty men for Colonel McChesney's Regiment at Rock Island.

At Viola in October, Thomas J. West was raising a company and W. B. Spaulding one at Aledo. At Berlin, Thomas Merryman and others called for a company. The special fast day called in September by President Lincoln was observed generally by all the churches of the county. Reverends Townley and Poage preached at Aledo. Michael R. Good recruited men at New Boston for General Paine's Brigade. H. G. Calhoun raised a company at Keithsburg, which marched to Camp Black Hawk, Rock Island. On October 15th, the Seventeenth Regiment was at Cape Girardeau; the Ninth at Paducah, and the Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth at Cairo. These were the regiments that contained the most Mercer County men. W. K. Trabue was recruiting a company in Mercer and Warren counties in October; they were called the Fremont Light Guards. The ladies of Aledo organized a Soldiers' Aid Circle in October and sent to camp and hospital boxes of supplies. Elisha Miles of Aledo assisted Colonel Good to raise 101 men at New Boston within two or three weeks in October.

In November came the news of the battle of Belmont, where the companies of Captain Shedd and Southward were engaged. Several Mercer County boys were killed or wounded in that engagement. At first the battle was regarded here as a Federal defeat, but as the facts became known it was seen that the Union troops had fought gallantly, but in a measure blindly. It was an accidental and confused engagement in which each side reversed itself and fired in opposite directions as the battle proceeded. S. B. Atwater, who was present, wrote the following extraordinary communication to the Record:

"As I turned to load my gun some of our men behind me discharged a gun within two inches of my ear, and in fact from this time on I saw more men killed and wounded by our own shots than from the enemy's. * * * Craig was killed and Smith wounded by guns in the hands of Union men in their rear who had not the courage to advance as far as they did."

On November 25th, Capt. James Burnett left with about twenty recruits in addition to those who went with Captain Shedd for his company at Cairo. Thus Mercer County had two companies in the Thirtieth Regiment.

In all parts of the county in November men assembled in groups and husked corn for the families of soldiers. In Ohio Grove Township fifteen or twenty men assembled one day and husked fifty acres. The people of that township packed a large box with turkey and other good things and sent it by S. G. McClure, William McClure and George McPherran to Company A, Thirtieth Regiment for Christmas, 1861.

When the news began to arrive in February, 1862, that the western Union troops were investing Fort Henry and were soon to attack Fort Donelson, Mercer County became intensely interested, because five companies from this county were sure to be involved, namely: Company G, of the Twenty-seventh Regiment; Companies A and G, of the Thirtieth; Company I, of the Forty-fifth; and Company E, of the Ninth. No one here thought for an instant that the brave boys from this county would prove unequal to any task where courage and heroism were required; but many were sure to die or suffer terrible wounds and so all hearts were anxious while beating with confidence and pride. News of the capture of Fort Henry came and then all awaited anxiously for reports from Fort Donelson. In the meantime news of the death from disease of Mercer County boys began to sadden all hearts here.

Finally when tidings of the battle of Fort Donelson arrived, it caused mingled joy and sorrow—joy at the gallantry of the home boys, and sorrow that many had suffered death or wounds. In Companies E of the Ninth, I of the Seventeenth and A and G of the Thirtieth, many were either killed or wounded. In spite of the losses there was great rejoicing that Mercer County had borne such a splendid part in the greatest Federal victory thus far of the war. Among the rebels captured at Fort Donelson was a former resident of Keithsburg bearing the rank of first lieutenant of a Tennessee company. Soon the wounded boys began to return home on furlough and were everywhere welcomed as the heroes they were.

In February, 1862, Capt. Thomas J. West opened a recruiting office at Viola for a company to join the Scotch Regiment, Douglas Brigade. Capt. Warren Shedd was promoted lieutenant colonel as the result of his services before Forts Henry and Donelson. Col. L. F. Ross, of the Seventeenth, was made a brigadier-general; he had served in the Mexican war.

When the news of the great battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh) arrived soon after the 7th of April, 1862, the whole county was again anxious for news of the Mercer County companies in that desperate struggle. In that battle were the Ninth, Seventeenth and other regiments containing Mercer County boys. Letters from Lt. W. D. Craig and Sergt. L. L. Troy were the first definite accounts received and showed that many from here had suffered death or wounds while gallantly facing the enemy. On this engagement the Ninth Regiment suffered a loss of over three hundred men in killed, wounded and missing. In Company I the first reports showed four killed and twenty-seven wounded. This was over half the number actually engaged.

The severe battles in the West caused such a depletion in the Federal ranks that in July, 1862, a general system of recruiting was inaugurated throughout the northwestern states. J. C. Pepper and L. T. Ball at Keithsburg called for recruits under the recent proclamation of President Lincoln; they asked for 100 men from this county and announced that the county must furnish 300 or be subjected to the draft. They held recruiting meetings at Keithsburg, New Boston, Ditto's schoolhouse, Eliza Creek schoolhouse, Millersburg, Aledo, Duncan's Corners, Bridger's Corners, Perryton, North Henderson, Ohio Grove schoolhouse near Bigger's Church, Jones schoolhouse in Abington Township, and elsewhere. A promise of \$40 to each volunteer as soon as mustered into service was made. At this time nine regiments were called for from Illinois to meet the new levy. The Record and numerous prominent men in all parts of the county urged that the call be filled as speedily as possible. It was at this time or earlier that Governor Yates wrote to President Lincoln urging a more energetic prosecution of the war along all lines. In this emergency New Boston for a time took the lead in recruiting activity. Dr. E. S. Benedict promptly commenced the enlistment of a company there. In addition to the bounty offered by the Government, individuals began to offer special bounties for substitutes. Pepper and Ball also conducted active operations in all parts of the county to fill the company they had promised to raise if possible. It was believed that the three companies needed to fill

the Mercer County quota would be enlisted in a short time. The Record said: "The men must be had, if not voluntarily within the next two weeks, drafting will undoubtedly be resorted to. The crisis in our affairs is terrible and we must meet it like men." Rev. J. M. Snyder of Greene Township commenced raising a company at this time. He promised that his volunteers might remain at home until the harvest was past. All over the North at this time a more vigorous prosecution of the war was demanded. Gradual emancipation had been offered by President Lincoln.

Thus war meetings were held in all parts of the county and every effort was made by prominent and patriotic men to raise the quota. A war meeting to raise recruits was held in Ohio Grove Township, Samuel Dihel being chairman. Judge Hays delivered the principal address. The resolution adopted said: "We are in favor of furnishing our share of soldiers to suppress this unholy rebellion, but express our opinion that the Government in making war on the rebels should use rebel property for the support of our armies, subsist off the enemy's country, use negroes as laborers and put arms in their hands when necessary."

About this time an itinerant clock cleaner was severely thrashed by Rev. J. D. Taylor at the residence of John M. Ashbaugh. His offence was insulting and disloyal language and conduct to Mrs. Ashbaugh. As soon as she learned of his character she refused to let him continue the work and upon his refusal to quit undertook to recover the clock from his possession. He resisted and a scuffle ensued, during which Rev. Mr. Taylor, who was passing, was called in; he promptly stretched the secessionist on the floor with a blow of his fist. The reverend gentleman became so thoroughly in earnest that he offered to throw the scamp over the fence into the road if Mrs. Ashbaugh so desired. During the encounter the minister's coat was badly torn, but the citizens, as soon as they learned of the occurrence, promptly made up a purse and bought him a bran new suit, which they presented to him at the Barton House, Aledo, on July 25, 1862, with speeches and much ceremony. On the same occasion Elisha Miles presented him with a fine new hat. One of the speakers exhorted Mr. Taylor to remain with the church militant until the war should end. It was while he was out assisting to recruit volunteers that the above fistic battle occurred.

The war meetings were attended with steady and most gratifying success. Young men came forward at every meeting when volunteers were called for. Pepper and Ball secured a squad at Millersburg, at Aledo, at Bridger's Corners, at North Henderson, at Perryton, at Ohio Grove and elsewhere. In Ohio Grove fourteen young

men were secured and ten more were promised. This was the banner township in July, 1862. At a rousing war meeting in New Boston on July 26th, ten volunteers were secured. Speeches were delivered by Thompson, Campbell, R. W. Smith (of Chicago) and Rev. C. M. Wright. By the evening of July 26th Pepper and Ball had enrolled sixty-five men for their company.

It was reported in July, 1862, that fully eighty men had enlisted from a single township in this county in companies raised in other counties and that fully thirty-five men from this county were in Company B, Sixty-fifth Regiment. Others were in companies raised at Rock Island, Monmouth, Young America, Burlington, Galesburg, Muscatine, Moline and elsewhere. It was now demanded by all that a record of such enlistments should be made in order that this county should receive due credit.

On July 21st a stirring war meeting was held at the courthouse, Aledo, on which occasion Rev. William Townley was chosen chairman and J. A. Forsythe, secretary. Patriotic speeches were delivered by Messrs. Pepper, Ball, Campbell, Thompson, Reed, Williams, Townley, Taylor and Edwards. Several recruits were secured. A committee of the citizens was appointed to secure others. A recruiting station was at once opened at the office of M. L. Marsh.

Pepper and Ball visited the City of Berlin, Richland Grove Township, on July 29th, but encountered much opposition from persons with southern sympathies and failed to secure any recruits. Their meeting was interrupted with cheers for Jeff Davis and curses for the abolitionists. It was stated that the draft would be a good thing for a few of the residents there. There were too many men at this time who wanted to raise companies and not enough enlistments in the companies already commenced, it was declared. The Record said that all could not be brigadier generals at once. James Henderson, Frank Shedd, J. E. Harroun and others received commissions to raise companies. When they became aware of each other's efforts they withdrew in favor of the companies already commenced. It was about this time that a man at Viola was treated to a free ride on a rail, with suitable embellishments, for outspoken disloyal sentiments.

On August 5th the New Boston Company numbered about forty men. Snyder and Robb were securing recruits in the eastern part of the county. Often wounded boys home from the front on furloughs were exhibited at the war meetings and never failed to rouse the audiences to enthusiasm. A. C. Harding and A. A. Smith were engaged at this time in raising a regiment in this congressional district. By August 5th their regiment was about half filled. Here

and there in this county citizens who discouraged enlistments were found but they were usually squelched before doing much damage to the cause. Jackson Thornton began to raise volunteers at Millersburg but finally transferred his men to the New Boston company. He had seen four years' service in the army of the United States.

At a big war meeting in Preemption early in August, 1862, Dr. J. S. Matthews served as chairman and E. S. Robertson, secretary. John Whitsitt, L. T. Ball, W. L. Campbell, J. C. Pepper, Rev. J. D. Taylor and S. H. Rodgers delivered addresses. The sentiment was thoroughly loyal and warlike. Thirteen recruits were secured. Sheriff Rodgers offered a bounty of \$25 to any and every married man who would enlist. Three men promptly responded, whereupon Mr. Rodgers just as promptly paid over the cash amid the hearty cheers of the audience. Already Preemption Township had fifty men in the field and now thirteen more were added. By August 8th the New Boston company had eighty-seven men. About this time Sheriff Rodgers and J. M. Mannon raised about fifty men for a new company. Other companies were commenced at Keithsburg by Wycoff and McManus, by Cabeen and Gayle and by the Lloyds. James S. Gilmore commenced the formation of a company at Millersburg. Thomas Likely and S. R. Moore were raising volunteers in Suez Township. They filled their company in six days. It was stated on August 12th that this county thus far, under the last call of the president, had raised not less than six hundred men for the Union army. Six or seven war meetings were held in the county each evening during the week ending August 12th.

The Pepper-Ball company was completed early in August and the following officers were elected: J. C. Pepper, captain; L. T. Ball, first lieutenant. This company rendezvoused at Aledo on the 14th and the same day went to Keithsburg, whence they took the boat to Quincy, where they went into camp.

A big war meeting to raise recruits for Robb and Snyder's company was held at Viola on August 9th. Addresses were delivered by Reverends Poage, Warren, McAlister and Stratton and by the two recruiting officers. Several recruits were secured, among whom was a young man who said his father was in the rebel army. He was loudly cheered. An old gentleman present said that he had but one son and he was in the rebel army. "He was taught to love his country, but has gone over to its enemies," he sobbed. The Robb-Snyder Company received its first recruits on August 2d and its last on August 7th and all were mustered in on the 11th. The company challenged any quicker recruiting anywhere in the county. Captain

Likely's company was full, its officers elected and its complete muster roll was in Springfield by August 15th. Thomas Likely was captain; D. W. Sedwick, first lieutenant; Mr. Brown, second lieutenant. It became a member of Colonel McMurry's regiment. At this time Doctor Craig and Messrs. Miller and Cox of Company E, Ninth Regiment, were here to secure recruits for that organization.

On August 14th an immense crowd gathered at Aledo to see the Sheriff-Mannon company parade and witness the departure of the Pepper-Ball company. A splendid dinner was served to the boys; speeches and music enlivened the occasion. In the evening before their departure by boat the citizens of Keithsburg gave the latter company a bountiful supper and God speed on their mission to the battlefield. About one-fourth of the men in Captain Mannon's company were furnished by Eliza Township and over one-fourth of Captain Pepper's company were furnished by Preemption Township. The Wycoff-McManus company was quickly completed and was in Springfield before the citizens of the county generally knew of its existence. This made seven full companies that were raised in three or four weeks' time under the call of President Lincoln for 300,000 men.

If you look upon our valleys where the growing harvests shine
 You may see our sturdy farmer boys fast forming into line;
 And children from their mother's knee are pulling at the weeds,
 And learning how to reap and sow against their country's needs;
 And a farewell group stands weeping at every cottage door:
 We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more.

Of the Sheriff-Mannon company the following officers were elected: J. M. Mannon, captain; S. H. Rodgers, first lieutenant; William A. Wilson, second lieutenant. Upon the departure of Captain Pepper's company Doctor Edwards, of Aledo, placed at their disposal \$25 to be expended for their sick and announced that he held in reserve \$25 more for their families when needed. Much of the excellent result in so quickly raising the companies was due to the excellent and persistent work of Col. M. R. Good of New Boston. For a year he had worked early and late to secure volunteers for the war. Lieut. E. B. David, of Company A, Thirtieth Regiment, was here in August to secure recruits for Captain Shedd's company. The numerous fragmentary companies in the county continued their organizations and drills. Capt. Frank Shedd's company was completed before August 26, 1862, and the following officers were elected:

Frank Shedd, captain; A. Shaw, first lieutenant; Curtis Trego, second lieutenant. At this time John McClure recruited here for Company G, Thirtieth Regiment, and S. G. Wright for Company C, Thirty-sixth Regiment. A military company for home service was formed at Aledo in August under Capt. L. F. Jobusch, who had seen three years' service in the Prussian army. By the last of August this county had about fifteen hundred men in the service, or ready for service. It was at this time that the county, with the rest of the North, deplored the failure of the dreary campaign of the Army of the Potomac in the marshes of the Chickahominy and the James.

In August, 1862, Captain Scudder raised a company at and near New Boston, and late in the month went to Springfield and encamped at Camp Butler. It became a part of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment. Capt. J. M. Mannon became major of his regiment (McMurtry's) in August. Capt. J. M. Snyder raised a company in August and was chosen captain. H. M. Robb was made first lieutenant and F. M. Sykes, second lieutenant. A. C. Harding was elected colonel of the Eighty-third Regiment, Pepper's company became H of the Eighty-fourth, and Snyder's, D of the Eighty-third. By September, 1862, Millersburg Township had furnished 144 volunteers for the war; Ohio Grove, 143, and Suez, 129. Others had done nearly as well.

The Keithsburg Soldiers' Aid Society was organized in September, 1862, with Mrs. Margaret Ungles, president; Mary A. Cabeen, secretary; and Samuel Hart, corresponding secretary. This society at once began a vigorous campaign to secure books, magazines, papers, etc., for the soldiers in the field and in the hospitals. It appealed to every township in the county to organize at once a soldiers' aid society, the duty of which should be (1) to provide extra clothing for the men in the ranks—shirts, drawers, socks, handkerchiefs, suspenders, etc.; (2) to furnish them with suitable clothing in the hospitals—sheets, quilts, comforters, blankets, pillows, slippers, wrappers, bandages, lint, etc.; (3) to supply them with fruit and vegetables, etc.—tomatoes, grapes, sweet corn, dried corn, dried apples, dried rhubarb, canned plums and cherries and pickles; (4) to provide them with pins, needles, thread, buttons, awls, wax, testaments and Sunday school papers. Complete arrangements were made at Keithsburg and New Boston for the shipment of all such supplies to the hospitals and camps.

The militia company organized at Aledo was nearly completed about the middle of September and the following officers were

elected: G. G. McFadden, captain; H. Scott, first lieutenant; G. A. Luvin, second lieutenant.

In September, 1862, Governor Yates appointed Matthew Sheriff, the county treasurer, enrolling officer to make and issue a complete and correct enrollment of the county militia, which was to be used as the basis for future enlistment credits.

At the September session, 1862, of the county board a tax of 5 cents on every \$100 was levied for the benefit of volunteers and their families. It was also ordered that \$25 out of the military fund should be paid to each supervisor to be expended in furnishing necessaries for the families of volunteers who might be destitute.

In September, 1862, James Henderson called for a company and promised a large bounty and pay in advance to all who should enlist under this call.

On October 21 the Aledo Soldiers' Aid Society gave a fine supper at the Barton House for the benefit of the hospitals, and were aided by the ladies of the Good Templars' Society. About forty dollars was realized.

COUNTY ENROLLMENT, 1862

TOWNSHIPS	NUMBER ENROLLED	NUMBER ENLISTED
North Henderson	246	96
Rivoli	138	42
Richland Grove	210	106
Suez	248	131
Greene	161	77
Preemption	208	72
Ohio Grove	300	134
Mercer	252	95
Perryton	192	84
Abington	224	91
Millersburg	223	134
Duncan	195	72
Keithsburg	302	154
New Boston	398	178
Eliza	155	50
Totals	3,452	1,516

Number subject to draft, 1,936. Millersburg was the banner township.

The Emancipation Proclamation was up for discussion in this county in the fall of 1862 and kindled a great diversity of views. The subject was debated here and there, and numerous verbal clashes occurred. Strange as it may now seem, there were found very few who warmly and enthusiastically advocated the measure, because they feared the results of granting freedom to the colored race.

In October J. M. Mannon became lieutenant colonel of the One Hundred and Second Regiment. Colonel McMurtry had resigned and Smith was advanced to colonel. Lieut. E. B. David secured a squad of recruits here for Company A, Thirtieth Regiment, in October.

Tidings of the great Battle of Murfreesboro came early in January, 1863, and aroused deep concern, because several Mercer County companies were engaged. The aid societies at once sent forward hospital and store supplies for the wounded.

At the January meeting (1863) of the county board the clerk of the county court was authorized to get printed the sum of \$1,000 in county orders to be drawn on the military fund, payable to William M. Hays, or bearer. The orders were to be drawn as follows: \$200 in the denomination of 10 cents; \$400 in the denomination of 25 cents; \$400 in the denomination of 50 cents. They were to be signed by the county clerk and countersigned by the county treasurer. Provision for their issuance was made.

The Soldiers' Aid Society of Aledo met every Tuesday evening during the winter of 1862-3, collected supplies of every description and forwarded them in boxes to the hospitals. They solicited contributions of clothing and food products and promptly shipped them to the front. Large quantities of butter, eggs, onions and potatoes were thus dispatched. Other similar societies throughout the county did the same, and all worked under a general county organization which accomplished a great amount of good.

In April, 1863, an effort was made to secure an indictment against certain persons for bringing several negroes into the county; but the evidence against any person presumed to be guilty was unsatisfactory. The jury also investigated the report of a threatened resistance to the draft. Elisha Miles was charged by certain democrats with having brought three negroes to the county. Judge Gilmore was charged with aiding and abetting Mr. Miles in this act. The democrats threatened to go and drive the negroes to the South or out of

the county, but were informed by Judge Gilmore that any such course was not only unlawful, but would be resisted. An account of this transaction was published in the Keithsburg Observer in April, 1863.

Much disloyalty was manifested throughout the county in 1863. Butternut badges and pins were often worn by Southern sympathizers at public gatherings, and more than one fistic encounter over such and other evidences of disloyalty occurred. It was said that a returned soldier tore such a pin from the coat of a judge in this county.

In May, 1863, came news of the bloody battles on the Rappahannock. In June five Mercer companies participated in the awful assaults on the trenches of Vicksburg—I of the Seventeenth; A and G of the Thirtieth; I of the Forty-fifth; and G of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth. Calls for aid from the wounded at Vicksburg were promptly met at Aledo when the news first became known, with the result that \$45 cash was raised at a called meeting in about five minutes. Joseph Lair raised in the eastern part of Mercer Township in one day's ride about the same amount. The Ladies' Aid Societies all over the county promptly donated their cash and raised additional sums for the same object.

The invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania by the Army of Northern Virginia, under General Lee in June, kindled the keenest interest in this county. All realized that a decisive battle must result or that General Lee would capture Washington. Times were ominous with mighty events along the whole battle line, which stretched like a stream of blood from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains. Rosecrans was trying to pierce the heart of the Confederacy in Tennessee; Meade was concentrating a large army to checkmate General Lee; Grant was pounding without cessation at the earth-walls of Vicksburg. One line or the other must surely break soon.

The Fourth of July (1863) oration of Rev. W. W. Williams, delivered to a large audience in the open air at Sugar Grove, was so full of patriotic and eloquent utterances that upon request it was published in full in the Aledo Record. It was one of unusual beauty, eloquence and power.

In June, Samuel W. McCoy was appointed enrolling officer for Mercer County. At this time there were several cases of smallpox in the county, brought here, it was presumed, by soldiers who had recently returned from the South.

The events of the week ending July 4, 1863, will long be remembered by Union-loving people everywhere. The national cause was

at its darkest hour; the rebel army, 100,000 strong, was marching almost without interruption, through the richest section of Pennsylvania, marking its trail by desolation and destruction; Vicksburg, after a siege of six weeks, and many hand-to-hand engagements, still frowned defiance on the besiegers; Port Hudson was firm in its resistance and fears for the safety of Banks' army were openly expressed; Price at the head of a force twice as strong as the Union army at Helena was marching upon it, confident of an easy victory; along the whole rebel line Bragg only was retreating, and he merely falling back upon a position of greater security. Add to this the defiant attitude of rebel sympathizers at home, resisting the laws in some places, shooting officers in the discharge of their duties at others, and chuckling over the presumed inability of the Government to crush the rebellion anywhere—and you have the gloomy picture over which loyal men pondered at the opening of the week; the dark cloud grew darker and darker at each new point of observation, until the stoutest heart was oppressed with fears for the safety of the Republic.

Then came with lightning rapidity the first tidings of victory in Pennsylvania. The people had been so often deceived by false reports that they were slow to believe this one; but when the confirmation came, rendering the victory still more complete, a loud and prolonged shout of joy went up from every loyal throat. Hope took the place of despondency; smiles supplanted despairing looks. Before the masses had full time to congratulate each other and their former friends and neighbors in the old Keystone State on their deliverance from rebel rule, came the stirring news, in a laconic note from the commander of the Mississippi Squadron, that Vicksburg had fallen. The shouts with which patriots welcomed the reception of this glorious finale of a protracted siege were rendered louder and longer by the fact announced at the same time that Price had been driven back at Helena and some twelve hundred of his men captured; and all these brilliant achievements were the work of a single week. The boasting rebels were thoroughly whipped in three different battles; dislodged from their foothold in Pennsylvania, and the Great Father of Waters was almost released from their grasp. Such were the stirring events of a single week. In importance they outshine everything that has gone before. A few more such vigorous blows would break the backbone of the rebellion. Already its votaries stood aghast. Richmond was in a panic; Lee was peremptorily ordered back to Virginia. These events showed the strength

of the Government, the weakness of its adversaries and roused the drooping spirits of the North.

The Ladies Soldiers' Aid Society under the bluff near New Boston donated a portion of their funds to the purchase of fruit cans, which were distributed among the members and filled for the boys in the field. The society had been organized but a few months in 1863, but their active and effective work indicated that they intended to make up for lost time. Scores of cans were thus filled with fruit and sent to the front.

There was great joy in the county when the news came that Port Hudson had surrendered to General Banks on July 8, 1863, and when it became thus known that the Mississippi River was at last opened to the Gulf. Now the river could be used as a base to strike east and west at the vitals of the Confederacy. At once the event was celebrated at half a dozen places in the county, but at no spot with half the enthusiasm as at New Boston and Keithsburg, situated as they were on the "Father of Waters." An immense barbecue at the former to celebrate the fall of Port Hudson was held by the two villages combined, there being present an immense assemblage for that day. Feasting, speaking and shouting with happiness were the order of the hour. It was estimated that over five thousand people were present.

In August, 1863, William I. Nevius estimated the number of men in the Union army from Mercer County to be 1,577, distributed as follows:

First, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Forty-seventh Cavalry Regiments; Seventh Missouri Cavalry; Seventh and Eighth Kansas Cavalry; First Pennsylvania Cavalry; Second Iowa Cavalry; Captain Jones' Cavalry; Captain Dodge's Cavalry; Mississippi Flotilla; Berge's Sharpshooters; First Iowa Artillery; Captain Waterhouse's Artillery; First Pennsylvania Artillery; Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Seventeenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth, Forty-third, Forty-fifth, Fiftieth, Fifty-sixth, Sixty-fifth, Sixty-ninth, Seventy-fourth, Eighty-third, Eighty-fourth, Eighty-eighth, One Hundred and Second, One Hundred and Seventh, One Hundred and Twelfth, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry Regiments; Third, Fourth, Seventh, Eighth and Thirty-second Iowa Infantry Regiments; Fourteenth Indiana Regiment; Eighteenth Missouri Regiment; Eighty-fourth and One Hundredth Pennsylvania Regi-

ments; Irish Brigade, Virginia. In August, 1863, it was thus shown that Mercer County had furnished about forty-four men out of every hundred of its citizens liable for duty for the Union army.

Capt. James Burnett, killed in battle in May, 1863, was brought here for burial at Candor Churchyard in August. A large and sorrowful crowd received the remains, wrapped them in the Stars and Stripes and escorted them to the grave. The special escort was a body of soldiers, headed by martial music. Colonel Shedd, Captain Sanders, Captain Scudder, Lieutenant Gibson, Lieutenant McClure and Lieutenant Blackburn were the pallbearers. He was duly buried with military honors, a salute over the grave ending the sorrowful services. This was only one of many such scenes in this county during the continuance of the war.

The Keithsburg Soldiers' Aid Society, from August 11, 1862, to July 9, 1863, received \$286.36 and spent \$189.30 for soldiers' families and soldiers in field and hospital. The receipts came from De Haven's Circus, canvassing committee, quarterage members, sociables, donations, Thespian Club, festivals, etc. The report of the secretary reveals the most commendable and persistent efforts to help the cause. Many boxes of supplies were sent from time to time; the articles being shirts, drawers, socks, pillow-cases, pillows, blankets, quilts, bandages, lint, linen, cornstarch, canned strawberries, raspberries, apple butter, cranberries, etc. One such large box was sent to Mound City Hospital, another to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and another to Quincy, Illinois. Mrs. E. C. Gurley was president of the society in 1863, and Mary E. Wolfe, secretary. It made the best showing of any society in the county.

Under the conscription act of 1863 the following record of the militia of Mercer County was made out in August, 1863, by S. W. McCoy, county enrolling officer:

TOWNSHIPS	FIRST CLASS	SECOND CLASS	TOTAL
North Henderson	108	40	148
Suez	72	48	120
Ohio Grove	127	57	184
Abington	75	42	117
Keithsburg	98	55	153
Rivoli	45	30	75
Greene	68	38	106
Mercer	87	58	145

TOWNSHIPS	FIRST CLASS	SECOND CLASS	TOTAL
Millersburg	92	49	141
New Boston	136	86	222
Richland Grove	97	56	153
Preemption	98	46	144
Perryton	95	42	137
Duncan	82	42	124
Eliza	75	33	108
Totals	1,355	722	2,077

On September 8, 1863, the Ladies' Union League of Aledo and other ladies of the village gave a festival and supper at the Barton House for the benefit of the county's sick and wounded soldiers; tickets for gentleman and lady, \$1. The hotel was crowded and the festival was a notable success. The hall was beautifully decorated with flowers, evergreens and mottos. The receipts were nearly \$150, of which about \$125 was net. After the feast came speeches, sports and social observances.

The Millersburg Soldiers' Aid Society from January 3, 1863, to September 2, 1863, sent the following supplies to the sanitary commission at Chicago: 50 comforters, 32 pair drawers, 59 pillows and pads, 65 pillow-slips, 1 sheet, 1 bedsack, 24 dozen handkerchiefs, 4 dozen towels, 1 pair socks, 14 pair slippers, 6 wrappers, 1 vest, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel beans, 1 sack onions, 150 pounds dried apples, 8 pounds dried grapes, 10 pounds dried plums, 10 pounds dried cherries, 5 pounds dried currants, 2 pounds dried strawberries, 10 pounds dried blackberries, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds dried corn, 6 pounds dried hops, 2 cans gooseberries, 1 can strawberries, 2 can cherries, 1 can pickles, 1 can of cheese, besides lint, linen, bandages, needles, thread, pins, buttons, yeast, peppers, cookies, pamphlets, papers, etc. Elizabeth F. Thornton was secretary of the society in 1863. The young people of Millersburg gave a concert in the town hall for the benefit of the soldiers, charging 25 cents admittance and netted over \$30. The Ladies' Union League of Aledo employed Dr. S. Macy as their agent to buy vegetables and other products for the sanitary commission; they advanced him \$100 to start with and instructed him particularly to secure potatoes and onions, the two food products most needed in camp and hospital. When that sum was expended more cash was forthcoming. At this time the county board levied a tax of 10 cents on each \$100 for the county military fund. At the county fair in

1863, the stand of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Millersburg realized \$125 net for the soldiers. At the same time the young people of that village raised \$53.05 for the same cause by an exhibition at the church.

There was much disloyalty in the vicinity of Bridger's Corners during the latter stages of the war. Children of disloyal parents began to wear butternut breastpins and badges to the school taught by J. S. Hughes. This was forbidden by the directors and the teacher, but was persisted in by several young ladies. When they were forcibly removed, a personal encounter between the parents and the teacher ensued. Similar scenes occurred in other parts of the county. The Knights of the Golden Circle, a disloyal organization, were established at several places in the county in 1863; and in order to counteract their teachings and practices lodges of the Union League were likewise organized.

A company called the Union Protectors was organized in Suez Township in October, 1863, of which S. R. Moore was captain; George W. Sedwick, first lieutenant; Martin Pease, second lieutenant, and Thomas Greenwood, third lieutenant. A soldiers' aid festival, held at the residence of R. R. Mathers, North Henderson Township, November 4th, netted over thirty-five dollars. In October, Philip Gore donated \$30 to the Keithsburg Soldiers' Aid Society. A soldiers' festival at the United Presbyterian Church, Ohio Grove Township, November 19th, netted over one hundred and fifty dollars. At this festival speeches were made by Rev. J. S. Poage, Rev. J. N. Edie, Rev. Kinnie and others.

In November, 1863, Col. W. I. Nevius was appointed recruiting officer for the county. He immediately made appointments to speak in every township in the county with the object not only of thoroughly organizing the militia but of securing new recruits for the Mercer companies already in the field. At this time the county claimed to be the banner one of the state in furnishing volunteers in proportion to population. "When this gigantic rebellion shall be known only in history and our generation shall have mingled with its kindred dust, the patriotic deeds of the gallant sons of Mercer will furnish themes for the entertainment of their youthful descendants during the tedious watches of the long winter evenings." The quota of the state under the recent call was nearly twenty thousand, and Mercer County prepared to do still better by raising at once men enough to clear itself of the draft.

In November, 1863, Col. W. I. Nevius, Col. M. R. Good, of New Boston; Col. J. C. Pepper and H. S. Senter entered actively into the task of recruiting in this county. They held meetings in

about every schoolhouse and made stirring appeals for volunteers to replace in the old companies the gallant Mercer County boys who had fallen in battle or through disease.

"The last call! Fill up the old regiments! Enlist now, secure the bounty and avoid the draft! The undersigned has received authority to enlist men in the United States service under the late call of 'Father Abraham.' All persons desiring to serve their country and at the same time receive a liberal bounty should do so immediately and avoid the draft. Call at my office, Main street, New Boston, Illinois. M. R. Good."

On Thanksgiving, 1863, a collection of nearly one hundred dollars was taken up at the Free Presbyterian Church in Aledo for the purpose of purchasing reading matter for the soldiers.

The Viola soldiers' aid festival on Thanksgiving Eve, 1863, at the Viola House was attended by a large assemblage of citizens and over one hundred dollars net was realized. The hotel was packed with people ready to aid the cause of the soldier. A "postoffice" and a "grab bag" yielded much amusement and a goodly sum of money. It was noted that nearly all the receipts were in the new postal currency of the government.

In November, 1863, at a public meeting near Bridger's Corners, a squad of Copperheads wearing butternut pins was attacked by a band of soldiers who tore off and destroyed the emblems. The soldiers were arrested by the civil authorities upon warrants sworn out by the Copperheads, taken to Keithsburg and tried for assault and battery, but were acquitted. The trial cost the Copperheads about three hundred dollars, not counting the butternuts.

At a large massmeeting of the citizens held in the courthouse, Aledo, early in December, 1863, a committee consisting of three from each township was appointed to devise ways and means to clear the county of its quota. Several eloquent speeches were made and the determination to escape the threatened draft was manifest. A few days later, December 12th, another large meeting was held, S. R. Moore serving as chairman and J. B. Rathbun as secretary. Col. W. I. Nevius stated the object of the meeting. J. W. Miles submitted the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the board of supervisors be and are hereby petitioned to pay a bounty of \$10 per month to all who now have or may hereafter volunteer in the service of the United States for the term spent in said service, to them or their heirs, guardians or assigns, as the case may be. The following introduced by J. S. Hughes was also passed.

Resolved, That a committee of two from each township be appointed to procure subscribers to a petition asking the board of supervisors to meet on Thursday, the 17th inst., to act upon a petition that will then be laid before them.

The following were named as such committee: North Henderson—Joshua Bruner, William Jones; Rivoli—J. W. Miles, Lyman Smith; Richland Grove—Dr. J. B. Rathbun, E. S. Roberts; Suez—James Hughes, Robert Caldwell; Greene—J. V. Frazier, William N. Carnahan; Preemption—George Morey, David Little; Ohio Grove—S. M. Dibel, A. G. Burnett; Mercer—H. S. Senter, Elisha Miles; Perryton—Alvah Coffman, Benjamin Dunn; Abington—M. R. Gushee, J. C. Ogle; Millersburg—William M. Brown, W. A. Bridgford; Duncan—William Shafer, Martin Boyd; Keithsburg—Washington Wolf, B. F. Taliaferro; New Boston—B. F. Thompson, G. W. Sanders; Eliza—M. A. Cook, D. F. Noble.

It was later figured out that if the county board should really pass a resolution to give each volunteer a bounty of \$10 per month while in the service that the 1,500 men already in the field, should they serve three years each, would receive \$540,000. It was then seen that this sum was too high.

By December 22, 1863, Colonel Nevius had secured fifteen recruits and dispatched them to the front to join the old companies. At a big war meeting in New Boston in December ten recruits were secured and \$400 was raised for soldiers' families; there were several \$50 subscriptions. There was great enthusiasm, the recruits being for Company I, Seventeenth Regiment. A soldiers' festival at the house of George Simms, Rivoli Township, in December, netted \$60. A big supper by the Union League of Aledo about the same time netted over one hundred and sixty dollars; it was held at the Barton House. A supper given by the Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society of Suez Township on the 23d yielded \$156. Speeches were made by J. H. Nash, Rev. D. G. Bradford and others. This society sent large quantities of hospital stores to the sanitary commission.

The county board passed the following preamble and resolution in January, 1864: Whereas, It has been ascertained by members of this board that C. H. Bell & Brother (of New Boston) have donated largely to the relief of families of volunteers in furnishing them with meat; therefore, Resolved, That the thanks of this board be and are hereby tendered to them on behalf of said families. In January the citizens of New Boston raised by subscription \$500 more for the relief of soldiers' families. At one of their meetings several declared that the community must raise the amount of \$1,000. In

this respect New Boston led the county at this time. In January the citizens of Keithsburg to the number of twenty-five with a dozen teams or more chopped and hauled wood for soldiers' families across the frozen river, to the number of seventy loads—four loads for each family needing wood. On February 18th, a free dinner to all soldiers and their families was given at the North Henderson United Presbyterian Church. It was a grand reunion for the soldiers and was conducted by a special committee of the citizens.

The citizens of Suez Township met at Caldwell schoolhouse, February 6, 1864, to devise means to fill the quota of the township. E. D. Crouch presided and J. S. Hughes served as secretary. C. S. Richey, C. S. Caldwell, James Buchanan, S. R. Moore and Christ Hart prepared a program of action. The meeting passed resolutions deciding to offer a special bounty of \$100 each for about fifteen recruits to free the township from the draft and appointed C. S. Richey, W. A. Dryden and B. W. McLaughlin a special committee to circulate the subscription paper. The meeting subscribed \$400 at once.

The Ladies' Union League of Aledo held a dinner and sociable at the Barton House, February 18th, and in addition rendered a musical entertainment; a large sum for the soldiers was realized. On February 22d, an elaborate concert at the Methodist Church, New Boston, secured a large sum for the soldiers; the New Boston String Band furnished free music. About this time Serg. D. T. Hindman secured seventeen recruits for Company I, Seventeenth Regiment, in this county. Miss Martha N. Thornton, of Millersburg, had done so much for the soldiers in the field, camp and hospital, that Company I, Forty-fifth Regiment, purchased and sent her a present costing \$30 as a reward for her efforts and success in softening the rigors of war for them.

In 1858 an indentured apprentice named George Pickup lived with George Scott at High Point, Mercer County. Suddenly he became missing under what were alleged to be suspicious circumstances. Mr. Scott inserted the following advertisement in the Aledo Record:

"Reward \$5. Runaway from the subscriber on the 12th of August, George Pickup, an indentured apprentice. All persons are hereby forbid to harbor or trust the said George Pickup on my account, as I will pay no debts of his contracting and will pay the above reward for his return. George Scott, High Point, August 31, 1858."

Why such a suspicion should arise is not known, but it is a fact that rumors began to circulate that all was not right and that the

advertisement was inserted as a mere blind to conceal foul play. Once started the rumors grew in extent and magnitude until there was a general belief throughout the county that Mr. Scott was guilty of some criminal act. Witnesses appeared who stated that articles of the boy's clothing had been found, bones discovered, etc., until finally the grand jury were induced to investigate the alleged murder of the boy, but sufficient evidence to convict could not be found and the matter was dropped, though the accusation still remained to condemn Mr. Scott and the members of his family. Nearly six years passed. In the meantime the boy had lived in or near Oquawka, had enlisted in the Tenth Illinois Infantry Regiment, had served bravely with his company and had recently reenlisted. Mr. Scott heard of his existence about the same time that the boy learned of the suspicion attached to the Scott family. Early in February, 1864, the boy, now a man—bronzed and bearded—returned to the Scott farm in order to dispel the false suspicion. He received a hearty welcome at the Scott home. In company with Mr. Scott he visited Aledo and announced that he had not been killed by Mr. Scott, was very much alive and desired to see an end of the unjust suspicion against Mr. Scott. Immediately all the scandal-mongers who had fed Mother Rumor with suspicions and lies, became the warmest friends of Mr. Scott, had known always that the reports were false and had done their best to counteract the rumors, etc. Had the boy been killed in battle or never been heard of again, the suspicion would still rest against this worthy family—would probably never have been wholly removed or dispelled. There was a general demand that the witnesses who had come so near convicting Mr. Scott should be punished for their perjuries, but nothing was done.

In March, 1864, the Mercer County volunteers, in Companies A and G, Thirtieth Regiment, who had reenlisted for the war, or veteranized, came home on a furlough and were received with unbounded joy and pride by their friends, relatives and acquaintances. They left Vicksburg March 5, came up the river by boat and landed at Keithsburg on the 18th, where they were warmly welcomed by the whole populace. There was no formal reception, because the date of their arrival was unknown. But they were welcomed at hundreds of firesides.

At the spring session (1864) of the county board a large sum of money was paid out from the military fund for the relief of soldiers and their families. They ordered that all bills for medical attendance to soldiers or soldiers' families presented for allowance should be accompanied by affidavit of services rendered, the number

of visits made and that the patient was a soldier or a member of a soldier's family.

It was planned late in March, 1864, to give all the soldiers at home on veteran furlough a grand and formal reception at the Barton House on March 31st. In order to meet this big outlay all the citizens were asked to contribute large baskets of eatables, etc. A large crowd assembled from far out in the country until fully twelve hundred were present. The ladies took possession of the viands and soon the tables were loaded with the good things and tastefully decorated with flags, evergreens and mottoes. So great was the crowd that the tables were kept full for six hours. The soldiers and their wives or best girls were feasted first. There were nearly one hundred and fifty soldiers present and all were treated royally. Rev. J. S. Poage welcomed them to the county, to their homes and to the bounteous repast set before them. He was followed by Colonel Shedd on behalf of the soldiers. The Thirtieth Regiment was represented by the veterans of Companies A and G; the Twentieth by the veterans of Company G; the Forty-fifth by the veterans of Company I; besides other commands were represented by small squads. The banquet was greatly enjoyed by the veterans and by all present.

By April 2, 1864, Lieutenant Kidd had secured forty-seven recruits from all parts of the county for nearly all of the old companies that had gone to the war from this portion of the state. They were permitted to join any company and regiment they wished. Of the number eleven came from Keithsburg and eight from Mercer Township.

Upon receipt of the call for 100 day men, in April, 1864, the county prepared to raise its quota. Meetings to secure recruits were at once held in Keithsburg, New Boston, Aledo, Viola and other centers. In ten days seventy-one volunteers were raised and sworn in at Aledo alone. They left for the front on May 18th and were commanded by Russell S. Osborn, captain; George Boone, first lieutenant; Van R. Harriott, second lieutenant. At this time there were six or eight cases of smallpox in the county.

In March, 1864, the citizens of Preemption Township held a fair and festival for the soldiers and the receipts amounted to \$175. A similar festival given by the citizens of Suez Township for the soldiers' benefit netted about one hundred and fifty dollars. Over six hundred persons were present. Gen. A. C. Harding was one of the speakers. The soldiers were feasted free; all others were required to pay.

The North Henderson Soldiers' Aid Society was organized in July, 1863. In one year they sent five tierces and six boxes of clothing and hospital stores—total value of the articles sent was \$467.58. They were forwarded to the sanitary commission at Cairo. Total amount raised, including the above, \$602.68.

In July, 1864, came the call of President Lincoln for 500,000 more men. This staggered the county, but all went to work heroically to raise the assigned quota. It was openly announced that every able-bodied man must go or furnish a substitute. The quota for this county was about one hundred and sixty men. Large bounties were offered and volunteers were permitted to enlist for one, two or three years and were paid accordingly. The One Hundred Day Company became a member of the One Hundred and Fortieth Regiment, of which Lorenzo H. Whitney became colonel. In August came the news that Colonel Shedd and part of his company had been captured at Atlanta. Also came the news of the terrible fighting at Chancellorsville, Spottsylvania and other places in Virginia.

The draft for the Fourth Congressional District came off at Quincy, September 5, 1864. Just before it occurred the following letter was received from the district provost marshal:

"PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE,
"Fourth Congressional District, Illinois

"Quincy, August 30, 1864.

"Editors of Aledo Record. Sirs—Let me congratulate you on the war record of your County of Mercer. The quotas for this district have reached us today from the office of the acting assistant provost-marshal-general of Illinois, Springfield, where all quotas are made due. They show that Mercer County has to raise seventeen men: Six from Abington and Ohio Grove, and eleven from Perryton, Preemption and Richland Grove. Can't you raise these men and avoid the draft?

"Yours respectfully,

"HENRY ASBURY."

A later letter from Captain Asbury showed that the county as a whole was 117 men ahead of all calls, but that notwithstanding this fact the county sub-districts that were behind would have to furnish their full quotas. The following was the official record:

Sub-Districts	Total Quotas	Total Credits	Excess	Deficit
Suez and North Henderson.....	307	318	11	..
Abington and Ohio Grove.....	242	236	..	6
Keithsburg and New Boston.....	276	346	70	..

Sub-Districts	Total Quotas	Total Credits	Excess	Deficit
Eliza, Dunean and Millersburg.....	281	293	12	..
Mercer, Greene and Rivoli.....	232	274	41	..
Perryton, Preemption and Richland Grove.....	301	290	..	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,639	1,757	134	17

At the September term, 1864, of the county board soldiers' claims to the amount of about thirteen hundred dollars were ordered paid out of the military fund upon recommendation of the committee on military claims. The board also levied 20 cents on each \$100 valuation for the military fund and 30 cents for general county purposes. An amendment to make the military levy 15 cents instead of 20 cents was defeated.

The ladies refreshment stand at the County Fair for the soldiers in 1864 was a fine success, the total receipts being \$371.42, and the expenses only \$31.56. The Agricultural Society donated the ground and stand free and otherwise aided in the success of the movement. In addition Graham Lee presented the proceeds of the sale of a premium hog and the premium itself amounting in all to about forty-five dollars, to the stand. The ladies of Millersburg deserved and were given credit for the success of the movement.

In the fall of 1864 so many of the old soldiers returned on their veteran furloughs after three years of service that they were publicly and ceremoniously received at several places in the county. The reception at New Boston was particularly fine and imposing. There was an immense crowd present for that time and all enjoyed the barbecue of four beeves, four sheep and dozens of turkeys and chickens, besides the speeches of the citizens and the replies of the brave boys. Captain McManus delivered one of the principal speeches. The Aledo Sax-Horn Band furnished the music.

Formal notice was given on October 5, 1864, by Assistant Provost Marshal R. B. Ungles, of the Fourth Congressional District, Keithsburg, that the draft would take place in this county that week unless the quota was filled. The number required was four from Ohio Grove and Abington and five from Perryton and Preemption. The two sub-districts not having furnished their quotas, were subjected to the draft on October 29, 1864. Three men and their alternates were drafted from Ohio Grove and Abington and five from Perryton, Preemption and Richland Grove.

On October 26, 1864, the Soldiers' Aid Society of Keithsburg gave a public festival which netted \$105. The attendance was large and all cheerfully contributed to the wants of the suffering boys

in the hospitals. The Mellengers donated the free use of the hall, and Rev. Samuel Hart delivered an appropriate address. The Sunbeam Glee Club and the Keithsburg Brass Band supplied the music. Ad Wolf was secretary of the society at this time.

In November, 1864, Judge E. Gilmore distributed \$4,262 which had been sent him by the members of Company K, One Hundred and Second Regiment, to be handed to their families. There were twenty-seven sums of one hundred dollars each or over thus distributed, the largest being \$160.

Sherman's march to the sea late in 1864 was watched with intense interest and enthusiasm in this county. Mercer County boys were with him. At Thanksgiving services in Aledo over one hundred dollars was contributed to the sanitary commission. No doubt every other church in the county made similar collections and contributions. The North Henderson Soldiers' Aid Society raised over one hundred and fifty dollars in December, 1864, and January, 1865. Late in December came the news that Sherman's army had found a base on the Atlantic, had captured Savannah and was sweeping through the heart of the Confederacy, and the joy was spontaneous and prolonged. All now saw that a few decisive engagements would end the rebellion, end slavery, save the Union and reward the heroes for their wounds, losses and sacrifices. About this time came another call for 300,000 men, and again the county bent to the task of filling the quota. Its quota was comparatively small, owing to the excess under previous calls.

OFFICIAL QUOTA AND EXCESS, FEBRUARY, 1865

TOWNSHIPS	QUOTA	EXCESS
North Henderson	20	..
Rivoli	15	..
Richland Grove	17	..
Suez	5	..
Greene	9	..
Preemption	17	..
Ohio Grove	22	..
Mercer .....	...	14
Perryton	22	..
Abington	22	..
Millersburg	6	..

TOWNSHIPS	QUOTA	EXCESS
Duncan	19	..
Keithsburg .....	...	12
New Boston .....	...	1
Eliza	12	..
	—	—
Totals	186	27

Several of the townships began in February, 1865, to take subscriptions for a fund to be used to secure volunteers in order to escape the draft. In other portions of the county clubs were formed, a fund was raised, and in case a member should be drafted he received a portion of the money thus provided. The draft was finally postponed to the 8th of March in order to give the townships the chance to clear themselves. The citizens of North Henderson raised, by subscription, \$5,000 and secured ten volunteers by paying each \$500. Mercer Township citizens assembled to do the same thing, when they learned that the township was already ahead fourteen men. They, therefore, raised \$200 for the benefit of the families of volunteers already in the service. Millersburg Township raised \$3,000 and cleared itself of the draft. Suez raised \$2,000 for five men. Rivoli filled her quota of fifteen men. Preemption raised \$8,000 with which to secure seventeen men. Perryton raised \$11,000 for the same purpose. Ohio Grove raised eight or nine thousand dollars.

At a big meeting in the Free Presbyterian Church, Aledo, in March, 1865, \$700 was raised for the Christian Commission. It was announced that the famous Chaplain McCabe would be present, but he was unable to be, and James Tompkins spoke in his place. At this time William Willits donated fifty barrels of apples to be dried for the soldiers. The Teachers' Association of this county was asked to participate in the Sanitary Fair at Chicago.

Early in April, 1865, came the news that Richmond and Petersburg had been taken, and almost immediately afterward came the news of the surrender of General Lee. The whole of Mercer County at once gave itself up to spontaneous and continued rejoicing. The Record said: "The day of jubilee has come! Lee has surrendered! He and his whole army are prisoners! The military power of the rebellion is broken! The laws are vindicated! The Union is perpetual; not a rope of sand. We have a Government able to protect itself alike from internal and external foes. This news reached here

early on Saturday afternoon by private conveyance and was generally known before the arrival of the mail. When the mail came a crowd collected waiting for a confirmation of the news. When informed by the driver that Lee had surrendered, a deafening shout burst from every lip; flags were flung to the breeze, and at night bonfires were kindled, speeches made and every demonstration of joy exhibited. The rejoicing was kept up to a late hour. The destruction of Lee's army is tantamount to the end of the rebellion. All praise to the gallant army and navy whose glorious deeds have made the land vocal with shouts of joy.

"Richmond has fallen! The rebel capital that has withstood the assaults of our army for nearly four years has at length had to succumb to the genius and valor of Grant and his brave men. The great event of the war has come to pass. The news caused the wildest excitement. Men, women and children were frantic with joy. Business was partly suspended and the day was devoted to rejoicing."

While the people of the county were still shouting with joy over the capture of Richmond and the surrender of General Lee, the awful and sickening news came that President Lincoln had been assassinated. The Record said: "The first news of the assassination of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward reached here about half past five on Saturday afternoon. The report was doubted by most of our citizens. The general feeling was that it was impossible. During the evening the report was brought from two or three places and accompanied by so many details as to leave no doubt about the matter. A deep gloom pervaded the people. Political dissensions were forgotten. All felt that a terrible crime had been perpetrated; that the head of the nation had been stricken down by an assassin and hoped the fiend who struck the blow would be caught and punished. On Sunday all the flags in our village hung at half mast and our citizens did little else than talk about the sad event. The distressing news was announced in the Sabbath schools and churches and formed the staple of conversation in the family circle and upon the streets. Strangers coming in to attend court brought full particulars which were eagerly read and attentively listened to by grief-stricken people. Monday was the gloomiest day we ever witnessed. Court was in session, and a large number of people from the country were present. Grief was visible on every countenance. A general gloom pervaded the mass and tears trickled down many manly cheeks as they listened to the recital of the horrible crime."

On the day appointed for the funeral of President Lincoln, court adjourned and the courtroom was appropriately draped in mourning.

Rev. J. S. Poage preached on the assassination at Millersburg, April 30th.

When the news of the assassination reached Keithsburg and New Boston the same gloom settled upon all hearts, business was partly suspended, many buildings were hung with the trappings of death, and sincere sorrow was shown by nearly all. In this county, as in almost every other in the North, were men who had formerly lived in the South, whose sympathies were with that section and who now were much sorer over the defeat of the rebels than over the assassination of the President. In some instances they refused to take part in the Lincoln obsequies.

At a meeting of the citizens of Keithsburg on April 15, 1865, H. S. Scott was made chairman and O. Holland, secretary. Reverend Fiske, Reverend Stuart and B. D. Ellett were appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the grief of the community over the assassination of President Lincoln. While the committee was preparing the resolutions the meeting accepted as satisfactory the explanation given by J. A. J. Birdsall concerning certain remarks made by him upon receipt of the intelligence that the President had been assassinated. They also passed the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, On receipt of the sad intelligence of the assassination of the President and attempted murder of the secretary of state, Walter J. Pepper declared that he felt more like firing a salute of rejoicing than hanging out black crape; and,

Whereas, The said W. J. Pepper has positively refused to explain or take back what he said; therefore,

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Keithsburg, unqualifiedly disapprove and condemn the course taken and the sentiments expressed by the said W. J. Pepper and look upon him as indorsing the assassination of the man whose loss the whole nation mourns; and that we withdraw from him all our sympathy and support and determine to discountenance him as a traitor and murderer at heart.

After remarks by members of the committee and others, the meeting adjourned to meet again on next Monday evening. On that occasion the resolutions adopted recited the high character and great accomplishments of the murdered President. All resolved to wear badges of mourning for the next fifteen days, that appropriate funeral services be held, that Reverend Fiske be requested to preach at the funeral services, and that it was the wish of this meeting that on that occasion all business houses be closed.

The war being over, all that was left was to receive the gallant soldiers—welcome them to the homes they had secured and made

sacred by sacrifices and bloodshed. The One Hundred and Second returned in June. Squads were formally received at McHard's Grove, Perryton, Berlin, Aledo, Keithsburg, New Boston, Viola, Ohio Grove, Sugar Grove, Millersburg, North Henderson and other centers of population. These reception ceremonies were enacted during the remainder of the year 1865 as fast as the soldiers were mustered out and came back to their friends and homes. Nearly all of the receptions were tinged with sadness at the thought of the vacant chairs and the broken-hearted wives, mothers and sisters whose dear ones slept in perhaps unknown graves after weeks of terrible suffering.

The 4th of July, 1865, was celebrated with a spirit and earnestness never before witnessed in Mercer County. The war was over, slavery was forever dead, the Union was saved, the soldier boys were at home or on their way home, and why not forget all differences, shout for the flag and unite in praise to God? it was asked. A great celebration was held at Atchison Grove, on which occasion special honor was extended to the soldier boys. The committee on arrangements were J. W. Stewart, O. C. Richardson, J. C. Pepper, J. P. Wycoff and William A. Lorimer.

A convention of the G. A. R. was held at Aledo, October 23, 1866, on which occasion delegates from all the posts of Mercer County were present—Aledo, Keithsburg, New Boston, Ohio Grove and Pleasant Hill. The object was the organization of this district and the election of the necessary officers. The committee on credentials, one from each post, were as follows: Mannon, Clay, Gilmore, Primley and Lorimer. The following officers were elected to serve until January 1, 1867: Col. I. McManus, district commander; S. D. Paxton, assistant adjutant general; Capt. L. D. Phelps, district quartermaster. W. D. Craig was chairman of this convention. Twenty-one delegates participated in the convention.

In January, 1879, there were living in the county the following soldiers of the Black Hawk war: Benjamin F. Brown, Notley Scott, Robert Simms, Swade Garrett, James Garner, B. S. Cunningham, R. H. Spicer, Abraham Crabtree and Foreman Moore.

The most notable reception of soldier boys in the county was the grand military review held at Keithsburg, September 21, 1865, in honor of Gen. Warren Shedd. Hundreds of soldiers were present, and as they marched in splendid order through the packed streets they were greeted with thundering cheers from a grateful people. Over thirteen companies were represented at this memorable review.

Keithsburg did all that was necessary to make the occasion one never to be forgotten by the participants and witnesses.

In 1875 a movement to effect a permanent organization of the old soldiers of the county was inaugurated, but at the first called meeting in Bank Hall only three townships were represented, owing to rain. At the second meeting, held August 12, 1875, ten townships were represented by delegates. W. P. Morgan, N. P. Smith, H. B. Frazier, J. E. Harroun, D. M. Candor, W. E. Ellsworth, W. O. Dungan, D. T. Hindman and J. Y. Merritt were appointed a committee on permanent organization. While they were preparing their report the subject of a county soldiers' monument was discussed. The committee reported the following permanent organization:

Maj. D. W. Sedwick, president; J. E. Harroun, vice president; Capt. E. B. David, secretary; L. B. Doughty, assistant secretary; J. E. Gilmore, treasurer. The committee recommended the following name for the organization: "Soldiers and Sailors' Association of Mercer County." It was provided that a reunion should be held October 15th; that a committee of two from each township, one soldier and one citizen, should be appointed to solicit funds for the erection of a soldiers' monument to cost \$20,000; that a committee be appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. The following persons were appointed the soliciting committee: North Henderson—William Brown and Joshua Bruner; Rivoli—A. P. Petrie and A. J. Streeter; Richland Grove—J. B. Rathbun; Suez—J. W. Page and B. W. McLaughlin; Greene—H. B. Frazier and B. F. Morey; Preemption—William Hammond and W. C. Gray; Ohio Grove—J. W. Sidwell and Joseph Carns; Mercer—Thomas Merryman and John Holmes; Perryton—John Montgomery and Graham Lee; Abington—Alvah Jay and Frank Strong; Millersburg—J. M. Warwick and John T. McGinnis; Duncan—T. H. Jones and Martin Boyd; Keithsburg—Henry Weaver and George Whiting; New Boston—William A. Wilson and A. D. Keeler; Eliza—L. B. Noble and J. J. Huston. The secretary was instructed to communicate with marble workers and get prices and designs. At this meeting Eli Detwiler served as chairman and E. B. David and L. B. Doughty as secretaries.

On October 15, 1875, the old soldiers again formed into ranks and marched to the courthouse yard, where the representatives of each regiment selected a member who gave an account of the battles and skirmishes through which their flags had passed. Among the other speakers were Rev. S. Brink, Rev. Robert Nourse and Hon. A. J. Streeter. The field officers of the old soldiers' organization

were D. W. Sedwick, colonel; Stephen Brink, lieutenant-colonel; A. P. Petric, major; W. O. Dungan, adjutant. The monument committee appointed were Joshua Bruner, A. J. Streeter, W. E. Griffin, Thomas Likely, H. B. Frazier, W. C. Gray, J. N. Markee, Hiram Parkman, William Doak, John McClure, J. T. McGinnis, E. M. Castle, C. C. Wordin, L. H. Scudder and J. Y. Merritt.

It was at this time that the Soldiers' Association organized a centennial brigade to take part as such in the centennial services during the coming year. They made full preparation, ordered uniforms and arms and effected subordinate organizations in all parts of the county. During the public services of 1876, in commemoration of the founding of the Republic, they were present at all the ceremonials and were received with unbounded enthusiasm.

The committee on monument kept steadily at work and had collected means enough by the latter part of 1877 to commence work on the shaft. Bids were called for and the contract was finally awarded to W. W. Webster, of Muscatine. It was admitted that Capt. E. B. David did more to make the monument movement a success than any other individual. Finally the shaft was brought here and preparations on a grand scale for its appropriate unveiling on July 4, 1878, were made. It was put in place late in June and the ground was sodded and prepared. The Village of Aledo did all that was necessary to make the occasion a notable success. A double arch was erected at College Avenue and Seventh Street and a single arch at College Avenue and Fifth Street. Two twelve-pound howitzers were secured from the Rock Island Arsenal; also a squad of artillerymen who knew how to use them.

The Fourth was ushered in with salutes from the cannon and soon afterward the delegations began to arrive. It was estimated that between fifteen and twenty thousand people were present. They came from all the surrounding counties to hear General Logan speak and witness the unveiling. It was the largest assemblage of people ever in the county up to that time. Mr. Frick was chief marshal. During the forenoon all was bustle and confusion incident to the arrivals, but after dinner order was secured. The grand parade took place at 1.30 P. M. and was as follows:

1. Chief Marshal Frick and aids.
2. Alexis Martial Band of Keithsburg.
3. Officers of the day.
4. Viola Cornet Band.
5. Thirty-eight young ladies of Viola in one wagon, driven by a lady.

6. Detachments of soldiers.
7. The artillery squad from Rock Island.
8. Aledo Light Guard Band.
9. Orators, monument committee, etc.
10. Soldiers of 1812, Mexico and soldier guests.
11. Secret societies.
12. Aledo fire and ladder companies.
13. Aledo ladies representing the thirty-eight states.
14. New Windsor Cornet Band.
15. Delegations of citizens.

At the conclusion of the parade the great audience assembled at the grand stand. Order was called by Col. J. M. Mannon and a committee of ten was appointed to solicit funds to be applied on the monument debt. The exercises then were opened by the Viola Cornet Band, followed by a prayer by Rev. O. W. Van Osdel and music by the Aledo Light Guard Band. The Declaration of Independence was read by Hon. J. C. Pepper. An octette led by Alexander Woods then sang "Wrap the Flag Around Me Boys." Gen. John A. Logan then delivered one of his best and most eloquent orations, one of superior logic, patriotism and eloquence, which address was published in full in the Aledo Record. At the conclusion of his address the monument was unveiled amid the deafening cheers of the multitude. Music by the bands and a national salute by the artillery closed the day's proceedings. On the grand stand during the services were John Rainey and Father Moore, who had served in the War of 1812. At night fireworks were set off from the roof of the county office building. General Logan refused to take pay for his services, nor would he allow his expenses to be paid. At this time there was yet uncollected on the monument subscription \$600, and an additional debt of \$525 to be provided for. Aledo raised about five hundred dollars to cover expenses, of which about one hundred dollars was left on hand; this was turned over to the monument fund.

On June 8, 1883, pursuant to call a meeting of old soldiers was held at the Ancient Order United Workmen Hall, Aledo, for the purpose of organizing a post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Forty-three were present and many came from a considerable distance—Joy, Viola, Sunbeam, Millersburg, Perryton and other points. Special Mustering Officer J. O. Anderson and eleven comrades of Ellsworth Post at Oquawka came to institute the post and install the officers, all of which was done to the satisfaction of the old soldiers of this county present. The new post was called Warren Shedd Post, No. 262, Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the

Republic. The charter members were: James A. Cummins, Horatio Wells, Matthew Moffet, R. H. Boyd, J. W. Reynolds, E. B. David, W. P. Brown, James Galloway, L. B. Doughty, Alexander Calhoun, F. C. Cunningham, John McKinney, Jr., John F. Harvey, A. C. Welliver, B. F. Mawby, D. Kennicutt, S. McCreight, J. R. Spence, S. C. Haverfield, L. F. Chamberlain, J. F. Milligan, S. B. Atwater, W. C. Gillespie, John Rubert, Joseph Hoover, David P. Spence, Godfrey Unangst, Edward Smith, E. G. Clark, John Brady, H. H. Weaverling, H. D. Bridgford, James Shingledecker, Eli Detwiler, S. C. Calhoun, M. P. Peterson, G. W. Werts, J. P. Chowning, James McDonald, James M. Walker, John P. Felton, William H. Holmes, C. C. Worden, J. Y. Merritt, A. P. Petrie, A. R. Morgan. The officers elected were: J. A. Cummins, post commander; J. F. Harvey, senior vice commander; F. C. Cunningham, junior vice commander; A. C. Welliver, quartermaster; J. W. Reynolds, surgeon; H. Wells, chaplain; J. F. Milligan, officer of the day; B. F. Mawby, officer of the guard; R. H. Boyd, adjutant; W. T. Brown, sergeant-major; L. B. Doughty, quartermaster-sergeant. A general invitation was extended to all old soldiers in the county to join the post.

The Warren Shedd Woman's Relief Corps, No. 20, was organized May 21, 1895, by Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Beatty, of Moline, with the following charter members: Abbie G. Morey, Mary P. Merritt, Florence E. Wells, Mary K. Marquis, Emelie F. Rice, Olive M. Hammond, Lizzie Winders, L. Cora David, Bessie Merritt, Jewel Richey, Elizabeth Killey, Carrie Lord, Sarah M. Brown, Maggie Kinsloe, Emma Candor, Jane Rubert, Maggie McGuffin, Lizzie Kinsloe, Jamima Dihel, Maggie Johnston, Lucy Butcher, Elmira McKinney, Sarah Trovillo, Sarah J. McCormick, Emilie J. Spence, Clara D. Doughty, Ann Roberts, Zulah Kinsloe, Isabel Parkinson, Delilah Guthrie, Hannah McPherran, Elizabeth David, Hattie Bigelow, Carrie Graham, Mary E. Pickup, Mae Butcher and Mary C. Holmes. The first president was Mrs. Abbie G. Morey, and the first secretary, Mrs. Florence E. Wells. The present officers are: President, Mrs. Hattie Gibson; secretary, Mrs. Foley Reed.

On April 5, 1884, a new post of the G. A. R. was organized at New Boston by Special Mustering Officer F. C. Cunningham, assisted by L. F. Chamberlain, S. McCreight, H. Wells, B. F. Mawby, W. T. Brown, officers, and J. F. Harvey, Ed. Smith, J. Galloway, J. B. Felton, D. Kennicutt, M. Moffet and S. C. Haverfield, comrades, of Warren Shedd Post, Aledo. The ceremony took place in Ballard Hall, where the following officers were elected and duly installed:

L. H. Scudder, commander; Robert Livingston, senior vice commander; W. P. Hunt, junior vice commander; H. B. Southward, chaplain; E. L. Willits, quartermaster; W. D. Hodson, officer of the day; Clay Riggs, officer of the guard; A. V. Larrance, sentinel; M. Chamberlin, adjutant. After muster all repaired to the Union Hotel, where a bountiful supper was enjoyed.

A G. A. R. post was established at Keithsburg, May 21, 1884, by Commander F. C. Cunningham of the Warren Shedd Post of Aledo, and at first there were twenty-two members. L. G. Mertz was the first commander. About the same time another post was established at Viola by the same officer.

ROLL OF HONOR

Ninth Regiment, Company E—Joseph B. Jones, Calvin Martin, W. D. Nevius, Augustus B. Cox, George M. Gilmore, J. N. Shoemaker, Jesse Mock, A. T. Waterbury, Frank M. Moore, James Haverfield, John Moorehead, William P. Kelley, John Beatty.

Seventeenth Regiment, Company I—James Phelps, John W. Nelson, William Norris, James M. Findley, Thomas T. Timmons, George E. Elliott, Erastus M. Gruell, Sam C. Willett, Albert Beach, George Hardy, George W. Kingen, Chris B. Simmons, Nathan T. Griffin, Thomas S. Robinson, M. H. Anthony, Jesse Sumner, James A. Scott, Chris Middler, William H. Davis, Henry France, Elijah Myers, John F. White, Samuel Boyce, Henry Y. Goeway, Mathew S. McCoy, John W. Miles, William Voris, W. Dryden.

Twenty-second Regiment, Company K—Robert Scott, Joseph Straub.

Twenty-sixth Regiment, Company C—James W. Brown, David A. Byler, William D. Bouge, Orson C. Follett, John C. Gaston, John U. Kourt, James L. Reed, John B. Shirder, Granville Goodson, Jacob Aull, William A. Blizzard, William G. Fenton, Obediah Goodson, Nicholas Kile, Isaiah F. Pollett, John Senn, Chris Marguth.

Twenty-seventh Regiment, Company G—Joseph S. Briner, William Fortner, Charles White, Hugh M. Love, Charles E. Thompson, Andrew L. Smith, Michael L. Sadler, Mahlon Boyd, Calvin Gibson, Joseph Manuel, James C. Sisk, Amasa Wood, Benjamin Craig, J. Van Meter, Jefferson Morley, John C. Webber, Charles Etherton, William D. Malably, Joseph Shalich, Gilbert Fortner, Michael Lalley, A. H. Ryan, J. F. Thornton, W. W. Wilcox.

Thirtieth Regiment, Company A—Henry Arnett, Benjamin Bell, James E. Brown, Robert R. Crist, Henry Peters, John Gilmore, Phil

R. Alexander, Isaac M. Home, J. P. Paxton, N. R. Kirkpatrick, William Gardener, John P. Mitchell, John Smith, Samuel Whitham, Perry Paxton, William Lowe, T. B. Moore, William Adams, Henry Bistline, Samuel Cook, Robert H. Davis, Phineas S. Snyder, George W. Hill, John Cannum, S. McIntire, Charles N. Shull, John P. Instead, William P. Kimel, Charles C. Dennis, Abner G. Titus, Thomas Home, David A. Felton, William G. McGaw; Company G—Joseph R. Humbert, Levi Jackson, Van C. Ogle, Albert A. Holland, J. Wesley Main, James W. Ogle, G. B. Rice, John Garrett, James Burnett, James W. Ditto, J. Cook, Brisbane, Stephen F. Moler, Sam D. Boden, William C. Kelley, William C. Bickett, James W. Purdum, Alvah Shumway, William W. Humbert, John Ogle; Company K—Samuel Ebner.

Thirty-sixth Regiment, Company C—Jackson Caldwell, Rich Godfrey, Samuel N. Wilson, Nat McCutcheon, Thomas R. Pollock, William Shearer, H. Buchanan, Hugh Shearer, F. Ingles; Company B—Bruce Brownlee; Company A—Thomas Moore.

Thirty-seventh Regiment, Company A—Francis Cannon, Andrew Wilson, Oran Cochran, I. K. Williams, John Dorritty, James Valentine, Sylvester Mizner, William F. Little, Robert Armstrong, John C. Whitsel, Henry H. B. Clarke, J. W. Cathcart.

Forty-fifth Regiment, Company I—Robert Dav, Levi Lunn, Benjamin Burleigh, William H. Sheriff, George W. Debord, William L. Green, Isaac T. Bridgford, Ira G. Smith, Benjamin Bryant, James Ebner, Elisha Wages, Thomas J. Miller, Samuel Gorman.

Fifty-eighth Regiment, Company G—Daniel Knapp, William H. Mercer.

Sixty-fifth Regiment, Company B—George Fortner, John Hale, Lorenzo Wood, John M. Jones, H. J. Hanck, Robert Hampson, John McGaughey, James Hires, George W. Shaunce, Henry Hires.

Eighty-third Regiment, Company D—A. O. McCreight, George N. Marquis, John C. Woodham, James S. Stewart, James S. Eveland, D. M. Nevius, Erastus Kinney, Sam G. McCreight, Francis M. Shearer, George Mitchell, James M. Veach, Amos Kenney.

Eighty-fourth Regiment, Company H—Luther T. Ball, Andrew J. Hellings, James J. Kidwell, Frederick Kamp, William Lipton, Peter Rothrock, E. Levis Spicer, Daniel Williams, Francis Whan, W. W. McCandless, Joseph Ballien, Alonzo Guest, O. R. Personis, Andrew Jackson, John M. Sterling, Francis Brown, H. E. Abercrombie, John M. Wiedner, John Diech, Bigalow Kile, L. McManus, George McPherran, Mack Tirney, H. Welliver, Robert Whan, Alvon Wilber, Michael Conway, John H. Gillespie, Marvin

Sullivan, J. R. Eckley, George M. Haney; Company C—William Whiting.

One Hundred and Second Regiment, Company A—John A. Holmes, Albert P. Cooper, Robert F. Carl, Eli Judd, William Miller, Oliver N. Tyler, William H. Augustine, Alfred Boyd, John Edwards, Orlando Kenney, Arthur F. Sabin, Jacob A. Walton; Company B—John Rich, Harvey Rogers; Company C—Francis Freeman, George Huffman, Henry Herr, Edmund Kinsey, Charles Anderson, George Bahringer; Company E—Peter F. Cook, John B. Carmichael, John McCutcheon, Chauncey M. Royce, William Sevits, Albert C. Bridger, Seth Gravatt, Michael Oswald, James C. Simpson, Rich Brown; Company G—John C. Reynolds, W. W. Hibbs, John S. Burnett, John Gibson, William P. Irwin, Richard M. Hay, R. B. Seaton, John McHard, R. H. Cabeen, Jared Y. Harris, I. H. Casebolt, Samuel Harvey, William T. Todd, A. T. Dopp, Samuel Parks, D. W. King; Company K—Allen Wilson, Abram Fuller, S. D. Hutchinson, J. T. Collier, T. H. Hand, Peter O. Pierce, I. N. Stevenson, Moses White, Jr., Marvin R. Wright, William Volk, George W. Bartlett, James P. Hampton, Michael Bryant, M. Dagger, Albert Kiddoo, Noah Spicher, Jacob Shields, P. Waters Willett, William H. Hampton.

One Hundred and Twelfth Regiment, Company C—John F. Barney, Ed. R. Petrie.

One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment, Company G—Lee James, Oliver G. Swafford, Amos C. Goddard, John Fitzgerald, George Middleton, Charles Shafer, Joseph S. Dungan, B. F. Noble, Levi Landreth, John T. Bates, John D. Linn, John Shaw, Henry Sloan, George Sloan.

One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment, Company B—Henry Debaun, Isaac A. Linn, Andrew Landreth, J. Martindale, David Van Meter, James M. Rodgers, Jacob Fender, George Lavery, Clisby Landreth, James Swartout, George Volkal.

One Hundred and Fortieth Regiment, Company F—Edward B. Harris, Jonathan Mounts, Joseph W. Shawver, John W. Maury, Alfred B. Noble, Z. P. Warren.

Eleventh Cavalry, Company C—F. T. Crane, William H. Gilliam, B. F. Mahaney, Stephen Barhan, C. E. McIntyre, William J. Simpson.

Miscellaneous Organizations—William Swarts, Twenty-ninth Illinois, Company I; J. W. Warwick, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Illinois, Company H; Edward Bruner, Fifty-fifth Illinois, Company I; A. Cook, Fifty-first Illinois, Company K; E. R. Cooper,

Ninth Illinois; D. A. Moler, Tenth Illinois Cavalry, Company C; Robert Morgan, Twelfth Illinois Cavalry, Company G; George Edgerly, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, Company C; Silas Valentine, Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, Company L; Walter Kennedy, Seventh Iowa, Company A; Jacob Alberson, Seventh Iowa, Company A; Morton Moroe, Seventh Iowa, Company A; W. D. Swift, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, Company A; John Stevenson, Ninth Iowa, Company D; Samuel Boice, Ninth Iowa, Company D; Leslie G. Moore, Second Iowa Cavalry, Company A; H. M. Boone, First Colored Infantry, Company C; Eli C. Crosley, First Mississippi Marine Brigade; Cyrus W. Trego, Eighth Kansas, Company H; John A. Robinson, Eighth Kansas, Company I; J. D. Ashenurst, Eighth Kansas, Company H; F. M. Carroll, Eighth Kansas, Company H; John L. Arnold, Fourteenth United States Infantry, Company I.

Incomplete Record—Jasper Reed, Luther Waterman, Henry Billings, W. C. Cathcart, Marion Hutchinson, John A. Preston, C. M. Clarke, Thomas Campbell, Allen D. Streeter.

PENSIONERS OF 1884

Aledo—Sarah Trovillo, \$20; Foreman Moore, \$8; Ephraim Ashenurst, \$8; Emma Maus, \$12; Samuel C. Calhoun, \$4; James M. Walker, \$8; Jonathan Price, \$14; Eli Detwiler, \$8; John W. Dilley, \$10; John Downing, \$6; Phillip Killely, \$8; Gottlieb Pfitzenmair, \$6; Levi Walston, \$8; Andrew C. Welliver, \$2; James M. Macy, \$6; John Valentine, \$8; James A. Cummins, \$6; Russell W. Cool, \$12; Lewis Williams, \$8; Thomas Spence, \$12; Henry J. Walters, \$18; Ira F. Powers, \$4; James Galloway, \$8; Noah Guthrie, \$18; Solomon Smith, \$10; Richard C. Smith, \$2; Samuel McCreight, \$15; Elizabeth McFarland, \$3; John B. Felton, \$6.

Cable—Hugh Gorman, \$6; Hugh Boyle, \$6; Samuel Cox, \$6.

Eliza—Margaret L. Moberly, \$12; Jay Martin, \$10; John J. Reed, \$4; Harrison Bishop, \$6.

Hamlet—Albion P. Nichols, \$4; Cass B. Halsted, \$8; William Gorman, \$4.

Joy—Augustus H. Mays, \$14; Broxton Miller, \$4; Richard S. Edgar, \$6; Marion Riggs, \$4.

Keithsburg—John W. Fish, \$8; Lemmon Dewitt, \$6; Patsy Flynn, \$8; David H. Wolfe, \$12; Oscar V. B. Wickiser, \$3; Alonzo Campbell, \$18; Daniel Clark, \$4; Henry G. Calhoun, \$17; Reuben R. Huntington, \$24; Uriah Stephenson, \$2; John Thompson, \$12; John Gilrain, \$1; George W. Hoover, \$6; Lucien Murphy, \$4; Gar-

rett De Haven, \$6; John Dunn, \$6; John Mingler, \$8; William D. Reynolds, \$3; Charles B. Fleming, \$6; Daniel A. Simpson, \$4; Anthony Blair, \$4; Adam A. Wolf (pending); James A. Scott, \$2; Elijah L. Marshall, \$17; Hugh Campbell, \$6; John Moore, \$4; Charles Dryden, \$4; Joseph P. Wycoff, \$15; Hiram W. Olcott, \$4; William Shaw, \$8; David M. Holsted, \$8.50; George E. Knox, \$8; W. P. Criswell, \$2; John Henry, \$5; Joseph Gray, \$8; John McClure, \$4; Rachel Hadden, \$8; Jonathan Pursel, \$8; Eliza J. Passmore, \$8; Lucinda Gray, \$8; Lydia C. Van Eaton, \$8; Massy Marshall, \$8; Benjamin S. Cunningham, \$8; Lucy Gruwell, \$8; Mary A. Garrett, \$8.

Marston—Alexander Travis, \$4.

Millersburg—Rebecca C. Green, \$15; Eliza Peterson, \$8; Mary A. Price, \$8; Anna Harroun, \$18; John T. Davis, \$6; W. W. Wake-land, \$2; Herschel Felton, \$8; Jacob G. Staley, \$8.

New Boston—Otis S. Albee, \$18; Laban B. Noble, \$6; William Chidester, \$5; Jesse M. Sanders, \$8; Esom Jackson, \$18; Harvey J. Fisher, \$24; James R. Miner, \$4; Sidney Beach, \$10; Henry D. Southward, \$20; William Smith, \$4; Lyman H. Scudder, \$15; Frances E. Landreth, \$8; Henrietta Wilson, \$8; Emily Burleigh, \$8; Teresa Blackburn, \$8; Henry Hires, \$8.

New Windsor—Alex P. Petrie, \$12.75; John Anderson, \$18; Leonard Cummings, \$8; Chauncey Smith, \$6; Alfred B. Firkins, \$6; Mitchell R. Lloyd, \$6; Anna Crigler, \$8; Phebe J. Regan, \$20; Matilda Alexander, \$8; Henry Middany, \$6.

North Henderson—James G. Moore, \$24; W. H. Brown, \$6; Huldah Shafer, \$8; Elizabeth M. Nash, \$8.

Norwood—Peter Peterson, \$18; W. P. Morgan, \$4; James M. Lee, \$4; Sarah McCartney, \$8.

Preemption—Margaret A. Armstrong, \$8; Frederick Heim, \$4; Peter Cameron, \$8; Mitchell T. Hunting, \$8; William Hammond, \$17; John L. Sample, \$12.

Suez—William Puller, \$6; Joshua H. Brown, \$2.

Sunbeam—George Brown, \$4; Thomas Cowan, \$4; James G. Robinson, \$18.

Swedona—Mary Love, \$17; Anna C. Samuelson, \$8; Charles F. Peterson, \$2; John C. McElhinney, \$6.

Viola—Melissa H. Fleming, \$8; Miriam Gilliam, \$8; Margaret Augustine, \$8; Mary Griffin, \$8; Laura McFarlan, \$8; W. F. Winn, \$8; Nancy A. Mitchell, \$8; Elizabeth McKillip, \$8; Isabel McGaughey, \$8; Sylvanus B. Atwater, \$6; Joel Hill, \$4; Matthew B. Kennedy, \$12; George Bolton, \$4; John Forsythe, \$8; Frederick

Schroyer, \$4; John Schmitt, \$6; Elizabeth J. Shaunce, \$8; Moses Florey, \$4.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

The destruction of the Maine in Havana Harbor early in 1898 did not cause much excitement in this county. The subject of war was discussed at every cross-roads and every village store, but no one believed that war was certain until after the Maine disaster had been declared by the investigating committee to have been the work of a mine—a Spanish mine, of course. Even then many thought the matter would be settled without a call to arms. But in the meantime, as early as the middle of March, a company was partly recruited at Keithsburg with the expectation of entering the service in case war should be declared. Captain Hardy was the recruiting officer and the first volunteers were Charles Dryden, Lucien Murphy, Frank Duffy, W. C. Porter, John Shawley and Henry Wishar. The volunteers decided that Frank Duffy should be their captain. But as time passed and war was not declared, the company was discontinued.

No sooner did President McKinley declare, in 1898, that a state of war existed between Spain and the United States than a large massmeeting assembled at Aledo to consider the question of taking steps to raise a company and of otherwise showing the patriotism of the county. The meeting was under the leadership of the Grand Army of the Republic and numbered over twelve hundred people who gathered in the skating rink. W. J. Graham called the meeting to order and Judge J. H. Connell was made permanent chairman. The first speaker was Colonel Sobieski, a temperance lecturer, who was here at the time; he delivered an eloquent and patriotic address. Other speakers were Guy C. Scott, Dr. M. G. Reynolds, J. M. Breces, Rev. W. S. Davis and Rev. A. M. Stocking. All favored action by the county to meet the demands of the governor and the President. Mr. Graham, who had received three years military training at the University of Illinois and had just been commissioned by the governor to raise a company, explained the situation and conditions and then called for volunteers and the following at once signed the roll: Charles Smith, Joy Galloway, George Hawks, James Palmer, William H. Dunlap, Louis C. Trovillo, Arthur C. Damp, James G. Gorman, Henry E. Abercrombie, James H. Bjorkman, Fred N. Taylor, Gussie Mohl, Charles P. Swanson, William E. Fox, Zachariah Partridge, Louis F. Chamberlin, John F. Mardock, J. H. Tomlinson, W. J. Graham, George R. Bitts, William

Braucht, H. C. Haverfield, Bert Beach, Omar Bevens, John Dalrymple, W. N. Evans, Harry Decker, Frank Artz, Frank O. Goddard and C. E. Dixon. The meeting adjourned but the work of recruiting was rapidly continued until the full roll of 112 men was secured. Great expedition was used in order to get into the service as a unit. Men came from every township of the county and drilled regularly at the county seat. W. J. Graham was elected captain; F. N. Taylor, first lieutenant; George A. Cooke, second lieutenant. But it was found impossible to enter the service as a company and it therefore soon dissolved and many of the men sought service in outside companies. At this time an effort to raise a company at Alexis was made; a large massmeeting assembled at the opera house and a dozen or more signed the roll, but they likewise were compelled to scatter out in order to get into the service, and but few did even under those circumstances. Charles H. Winders joined Company C, Sixth Illinois Regiment, and during the war was the correspondent of the Times Record. J. A. Wells, David Murphy and W. H. Dunlap also joined the Sixth Regiment. J. E. Mardock, Hayes Dool and Evart Farr joined Company L, Third Nebraska Regiment, under Col. W. J. Bryan. Homer A. Galloway went to the Philippines on the United States steamer Charleston. William M. Winders entered the First Washington Regiment, which left San Francisco for Manila late in 1898 and saw arduous service in several severe battles, skirmishes and campaigns. Mr. Winders was himself wounded, but survived. T. R. Awbrey entered the Ninth Illinois Regiment; Charles Thompson the One Hundred and Sixty-first Iowa; Benjamin J. Mitchell, the First Wisconsin; Kenneth Smith, Wentworth Smith and William Davis, the Sixth Illinois. Roe W. Vincent, F. E. Bogart, D. J. Van Meter, Walter B. Primley, C. L. Lutz, W. H. Braucht, John A. Hall, George White, G. T. Mehl, O. E. Carlstrom, I. H. Tomlinson, Clyde McPherren, R. C. McMullen, William Dungan, Clyde Saunders, G. G. Denning and others from this county saw service in various regiments of this and other states.

In September, 1898, upon the return of the Sixth Illinois Regiment the four Aledo boys were given a public reception at the courthouse, on which occasion they were feasted and otherwise royally treated. On November 3, 1898, all the boys of this county who had returned were given a formal reception at the skating rink. The hall was beautifully decorated with banners and emblems and the best orators of the county were present. Of the eighteen soldiers invited the following only were able to attend: J. A. Wells, Charles

Winders, D. L. Murphy, William Dunlap, J. E. Mardock, William David, and Benjamin Mitchell. N. H. Guthrie was toastmaster. The following were the responses: "Our Honored Guests"—Rev. A. M. Stocking; "The Soldiers of '61"—Col. W. A. Lorimer; "The Soldiers of '98"—Charles Winders; "Effects of the Spanish-American War"—Judge J. H. Connell; "Loyal Women of America"—Judge J. M. Wilson. Several of the boys were yet in the field.

As early as June, 1898, the Woman's Relief Corps and the Grand Army of the Republic of Aledo raised \$20 for the relief of the Mercer County boys already in the service. Of this sum \$10 was set apart for lemons and ice for the sick in the camp hospitals. This money was sent to Company C, Sixth Regiment. The Relief Corps of Aledo continued to do good and needed service while the war lasted, so far as it was permitted and able to do so. On November 17, 1898, the convention of the Woman's Relief Corps of the Tenth Congressional District met in Aledo under the care of Warren Shedd Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and the Relief Corps. On this occasion Warren Shedd Post gave a check to cover all the expenses of the banquet and reception tendered the returned soldiers on November 3d. Mrs. Tillie Gregory delivered the welcoming address to the convention delegates. Mrs. Abbie Morey, district president, presided. The report of the Warren Shedd Relief Corps showed that the following expenditures had been made: Garments distributed, \$112.40; meals, \$2; vegetables, fruits, etc., \$3.20; delicacies, \$5.95; cash, \$3.95; muslin and thread, 40 cents; hospital goods, \$75; lemons and ice for the sick, \$10; flag fund, \$1; room in Andersonville College, \$1; floral tributes, \$4; total, \$218.90.

After the Civil war the old soldiers almost instinctively began to assemble annually to talk over the stirring and dangerous scenes through which they had passed. Soon annual reunions of the various separate commands were held as the years passed, and a little later Decoration Day came to be a permanent and loved observance, in which not only the old soldiers participated, but the younger generations took part with full appreciation of the heroism of their fathers. The orations on that sacred day, the file of old soldiers growing rapidly less, the grassy graves where sleep the brave men, the flowers and flags and the inspiration that fires the hearts of all beholders cannot be treasured too highly in view of the permanent land of liberty and law now enjoyed by all.

CHAPTER IX

POLITICAL PARTIES IN MERCER COUNTY

Owing to the loss of some of the early records, or to the fact that they cannot be found now, it is difficult to determine accurately who were all of the officers from the organization of the county until the Constitution of 1848 was adopted. But it is very evident that at the time the county was organized the majority of the people were of the whig party, and that most, if not all, of the early officers were whigs.

Among the early officers and those first elected were Abraham Miller, Ephraim Gilmore, William Drury, three whigs. Subsequently, William Drury and then James S. Thompson were clerks of the Circuit Court; Hiram W. Thornton, recorder; Silas Drury, Erastus Dennison, Abraham Thompson and A. B. Sheriff, sheriffs of the county, all of whom were whigs. Albert P. Taylor and Joseph Lloyd were, respectively, sheriffs of the county and were democrats. After the adoption of the Constitution of 1848 Benjamin D. Elliott, a whig, was elected sheriff of the county. The county was represented in the General Assembly of the state these earlier years by Ephraim Gilmore, a whig, for different years, and by Dr. Thomas Willits, of New Boston, and Reuben H. Spicer, of Keithsburg, democrats. In 1852 James Garner was elected sheriff, succeeded by James H. Lynn in 1854, who was succeeded by Benijah Lloyd, Jr., in 1856, all democrats. Lewis W. Thompson, a whig, served as clerk of the Circuit Court for a short period in 1848, and after the adoption of the Constitution of 1848, Thomas B. Cabeen, a democrat, was elected clerk of the Circuit Court, and by the Constitution of 1848 the clerk of the court was *ex officio* recorder. Cabeen was succeeded by Alexander McArthur, and Alexander McArthur by William McManus, and William McManus by Samuel A. Nelson, who is the present incumbent, all of whom are republicans.

In 1858 James M. Mannon was elected sheriff of the county, succeeded in 1860 by Samuelson H. Rodgers. Then came, in 1862, Oliver A. Bridgford, in 1864 John P. Clay, in 1866 Charles Barry, in 1868 William O. Dungan and Noah H. Guthrie and Joshua Brown, all of whom were republicans. J. M. Warwick, John S.

Paxton, J. A. Cummins, all republicans, held the office of sheriff for two terms, not successive terms, however. Richard Graham, Cyrus A. Dryden, Reid Thomlinson, A. V. Larrance, F. M. Baker and C. A. Hickok, all republicans, have held the sheriff office since.

The judges of the County Court in the earlier years were not lawyers. Ephraim Gilmore, a whig, served for several terms; I. N. Hardy, William I. Nevius, Sr., whigs, each served for a term prior to 1848. William M. Hays, a whig, was elected in 1853 and served until 1857, when J. D. Matlock, a democrat, was elected and served out only a part of the term, and Henry Hoglan, a republican, was elected to succeed him for the unexpired term. In 1861 J. E. Griffin, a democrat, was elected and was succeeded by John R. Bassett, a republican. Then came Joshua Bruner, a republican; Thomas Likely, a democrat; John R. Bassett, a republican; James M. Wilson, a republican; James H. Connell, a republican; William T. Church, republican, and Henry E. Burgess, republican, the present incumbent.

John S. Thompson, a whig, was elected clerk of the County Court after the adoption of the Constitution of 1848; in 1855 he was elected judge of the Circuit Court, as a republican, and Harvey S. Senter was appointed for the unexpired term of one year; John Ramsey was elected for the succeeding term and served for several terms, and was succeeded by Samuel C. Amberson, both republicans; Samuel C. Amberson was succeeded by Charles F. Durston. Then came Charles Worden, republican; James S. Sexton, Henry E. Burgess, John W. Dilley, Fred Hendrickson, and Frank Gibson, the present incumbent, all of whom were republicans.

As to the office of treasurer, John Gilmore, a democrat, held it in the earlier years for one year; Harvey S. Senter, a whig, held it from 1853 to 1855; Isaac N. Bassett, a republican, from 1855 to 1859; General Shedd, a democrat, from 1859 to 1861; Mathew Sheriff, a democrat, from 1861 to 1863; Wilfred J. Ungles, a republican, from 1863 to 1865; Isaac N. Dunlap, a republican, from 1865 to 1869; William N. Graham, from 1869 until 1871; Daniel T. Hindeman, republican, from 1871 to 1875, and all of the persons who have filled the office of treasurer from that time until the present have been republicans, S. S. Johnston being the present incumbent.

The state's attorneys since 1848 were William C. Goudy, who resigned, and Alfred N. Craig, who afterwards became one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the state, and was elected to fill out the unexpired term, and both were democrats. James H. Stewart, a republican, succeeded Craig, and the state's attorney's office from that time

until the present has been filled by a republican, John M. Wilson being the present incumbent.

The offices of coroner and county surveyor have never been considered political places, but the most of the time both have been filled by republicans since that party has been organized. William B. Frew held the office of county surveyor for many more years than any other person, and was a very scientific, competent surveyor. The office is now ably filled by Robert L. Watson; and the office of coroner by Dr. A. N. Mackey.

In the last election in 1912 on the vote for President of the United States, the progressive republicans had a plurality of over four hundred, but in all presidential elections, commencing with 1856, the county gave the republican candidate a great majority; and the congressman from the district was for a large majority of the years a republican. Benjamin F. Marsh, of Hancock County, and James McKinney, of Mercer County, both republicans, served for a greater length of time than any other. The present incumbent, Mr. Tavenner, is a democrat.

Commencing with 1855, after the formation of the republican party, the county has been republican in the elections, except in 1861, when a majority of the democratic ticket was elected; and in 1877 when a majority of the candidates on the ticket opposed to the republican party, denominated as greenback or people's ticket. In the judicial election for Guy C. Scott in 1903 for justice of the Supreme Court, Mercer County gave him, a democrat, an overwhelming majority, and it did the same thing for George A. Cooke, a democrat, in 1909 and 1912, but his majority was not as great as Guy C. Scott's.

From the adoption of the Constitution of 1848 until 1870 the county was represented in the General Assembly by whigs first and by republicans subsequently until the adoption of the Constitution of 1870; Judge Ephraim Gilmore was elected for several different years as representative. Subsequent to the adoption of the Constitution of 1870 the district with which Mercer County was connected has been strongly republican, but by the provision for accumulated vote there has usually been from the district one democrat sent to the Legislature, and on a few occasions the senator from the district was a democrat.

In the earlier times after the organization of the county, Hiram W. Thornton, a whig, was elected to the Legislature, and at the same time Judge Thomas Drummond, afterwards judge of the United States Circuit Court at Chicago, was elected from the Galena dis-

trict, and he and Mr. Thornton were great personal friends from that time until the death of the judge.

No special matters have arisen in the Legislature at any time that excited any great and absorbing interest in Mercer County. Perhaps the greatest interest manifested was in the two elections in regard to the county seat, removing it first from Millersburg to Keithsburg, and subsequently from Keithsburg to Aledo. In the latter election there was a bitter contest throughout the county, Keithsburg struggling to retain the honor, and, strange to say, Millersburg strongly supporting Keithsburg, while New Boston strongly favored Aledo. Keithsburg, it seems, has never felt right over that contest. However, it has had a fair share of the county offices, that is, William A. Lorimer and William McManus, as clerks of the Circuit Court; Cyrus A. Dryden, sheriff; Mathew Sheriff and Wilford J. Ungles, treasurers of the county; also Charles Worden and Fred Hendrickson, clerks of the County Court.

The republican party was formed in Mercer County in the State of Illinois, commencing in Mercer County in 1854 and over the state in 1858. This account of the formation of the republican party was prepared by I. N. Bassett for "Hill's History of Mercer County" in 1882, and the same is inserted here as being a correct statement.

Prior to the passage of what is known as the "Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854," Mercer County was a whig county in politics. The democratic party was in a minority of some two or three hundred. The anti-slavery feeling was strong in both of the old parties, and there were quite a number of voters who were abolitionists or free-soilers, and who would vote for the abolition or free-soil candidates when an opportunity occurred; but the most of these, in all except presidential elections, voted and acted with the other political parties.

When the "Kansas-Nebraska Act" was passed in May, 1854, it created such an excitement and alarm that a large number of the people of both of the old parties were ready to unite with the free-soilers and abolitionists in the formation of a new party, to resist the aggressive policy of the pro-slavery party, which controlled the two dominant political parties of the United States. Meetings were called as early as June 9, 1854, in two at least of the townships of the county, and resolutions passed in opposition to the "Kansas-Nebraska Act," and calling for a united effort of all persons opposed to the extension of slavery in the territories, to form a political party to stay the aggressive pro-slavery legislation.

Leading citizens of the county conferred with each other, and a convention of all persons in the county, of all political parties, who were opposed to the "Kansas-Nebraska Act" and the extension of slavery in the territories, was called to meet at Millersburg for the purpose of organizing a new political anti-slavery party.

The convention assembled in Millersburg pursuant to the call, in the summer of 1854, and was represented by delegates from all parts of the county and from all of the old political parties. John Collins, an old settler, and lifelong democrat, was elected president of the convention. A committee of nine was appointed to draft resolutions and articles of organization. The committee was composed of Judge E. Gilmore, a whig, and an old resident of the county, who had filled many important offices, and who is now (1882) residing in Aledo; James H. Reed, a whig, who was afterward successively editor of the Oquawka Plaindealer, the Aledo Weekly Record and the Monmouth Atlas and who died in Monmouth; L. W. Myers, an abolitionist, then a young man, who is now and has been for a number of years editor of the Wapello Republican, Iowa; Isaac N. Bassett, a whig, who is still living, a lawyer in Aledo; John W. Miles, a whig, afterward quartermaster of the Seventeenth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, who died in 1863; Harvey S. Senter, a whig, who filled various offices in the county and has since died in Aledo; Tyler McWhorter, a democrat, now (1882) resident near Aledo; Samuel Miller, an abolitionist, who has been dead several years; J. R. Whitham, abolitionist, now (1882) residing near Aledo.

There was an animated controversy in the committee room, and at one time it seemed impossible for the committee to agree; but finally resolutions and a platform were agreed upon that was satisfactory to all and a unanimous report was made to the convention, which was adopted, and the organization of the republican party of Mercer County was completed. The exact date of this convention cannot now be ascertained, but it is believed to have been the first county convention of the kind held in the state.

There had not at least been any convention called for a similar purpose in any of the adjoining counties, and Mercer County is properly entitled to the credit of being the pioneer county in the formation of the republican party. The greater part of the whigs in the county approved of the platform and at once became active members of the new party. Some of the political leaders in the whig party, however, approved the formation of the new party. John S. Thompson and Lewis S. Thompson (both lawyers, and one clerk of the County Court in Keithsburg), were at first violently opposed

to the new party organization, but another year gave the party such recognition throughout the state and United States that they, with other opponents, ceased their opposition and became warm supporters of the party. The abolitionists and free-soilers, with a considerable number of the democrats, were incorporated into the new party, which was, from the commencement, strong in numbers.

From that time until the present, Mercer County has been a republican county and has elected republican officers except as hereinafter shown. The republican party thus organized in 1854 held several meetings the next year for the purpose of strengthening the organization and settling upon a definite policy. The first was held at Millersburg on March 19, 1855, and in the call all men who were opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill were asked to be present. It was announced that J. Codding would be present to address the convention. There were nearly two hundred voters present. Mr. Codding delivered a telling speech and immediately thereafter the party was duly and formally organized as it had been the year before and the following central committee was appointed: J. W. Miles, E. Stafford, J. P. Boyd, H. Hoagland and D. Jones. J. W. Jones and L. W. Myers were appointed delegates to the State Republican Convention. William Hays, Samuel Miller, D. Willits, Tyler McWhorter, J. R. Whitham, Horace Greenman and H. H. Roberts were appointed delegates to the Congressional Convention. J. W. Dihel, E. Stafford, A. Prouty, Joshua Bruner, J. H. Trego and J. P. Boyd were appointed delegates to the State Republican Convention. Mr. Codding spoke at Jacksonville early in July, 1855, to an immense assemblage of republicans gathered from this portion of the state. Many citizens of Mercer County were present to learn more of the new party. Ohio and Pennsylvania were examples for the republicans of Mercer County to follow in their republicanism. In those states, whigs, know-nothings, locofocos and any other element opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska program joined the party there and likewise in this county. At first the term anti-Nebraska was applied to the new party, but a little later the term republican was adopted and became permanent. The republicans held another convention at Millersburg on October 31, 1855, there being present delegates from every township in the county. By this time the party was firmly grounded here and in a short time had political control of the county.

The result of the election of June, 1855, was: For supreme judge: E. S. Leland, 625; J. C. Caton, 499; clerk Supreme Court: J. P. Root, 680; S. S. Leland, 348; circuit judge: John S. Thompson,

782; Ivory Quimby, 409; for prohibition, 713; against prohibition, 483.

In March, 1856, Mr. Coddington again appeared in the county and spoke at several schoolhouses in the leading villages. His addresses were clear, plain, logical and brought out clearly the measures laid down in the platform that had been adopted by the republican convention at Pittsburg. The republicans this year nominated for governor W. H. Bissell, and the democrats nominated W. A. Richardson. At the local election in May, 1856, Keithsburg gave the democratic ticket fifteen majority, and New Boston the republican ticket eighty-five majority.

The nomination of John C. Fremont and William L. Dayton for president and vice president by the Republican National Convention suited the republicans of Mercer County. Likewise the democrats here were pleased with the democratic nominees, Buchanan and Breckenridge. On July 29th, the democracy called a mass meeting to ratify the proceedings of the Cincinnati Convention. They met at the office of Taliaferro & Gore. Addresses were made by several of the leading democrats. A little later a mass convention of the democrats at Apollo Hall, New Boston, was held for the purpose of forming a democratic club. J. B. Matlock was made president of the meeting and F. Eubeck, secretary. G. W. Rodeker stated the object of the meeting. The club was duly organized with thirty members. The chairman stated that the democrats must defeat the new party by all means. The war cry of the republicans at this time was "Free speech, free territory and Fremont." The republicans held their county convention at Keithsburg in September, 1856. It was harmonious and enthusiastic. John W. Dihel was nominated for sheriff and H. S. Senter for circuit clerk. In the afternoon of the same day Hon. William Kellogg, congressman, addressed the assembled crowd. A little later Colonel Bissell, John Knox, James Miller, Governor Grimes, of Iowa, and Owen Lovejoy spoke for the republicans at Galesburg and many citizens of Mercer County went over to hear them. In 1856 Abraham Lincoln was one of the republican electors of Illinois. At the Galesburg meeting the delegation from Mercer County carried a banner bearing the words, "Mercer County good for 1,200 votes for Fremont and Dayton."

At the November election, 1856, the democrats elected their sheriff and the republicans their circuit clerk. The total number of votes polled was 2,058. The republican electors received 1,141 votes; the democratic electors, 769; and the Fillmore electors, 140. For Congress, Kellogg (R.) received 1,185 and Davidson (D.),

796. For governor, Bissell (R.), 1,146; Richardson (D.), 775; Morris (Am.), 122. The republican majority on the county ticket was generally about the same. For state senator Henderson (R.) defeated Dickson (D.). For representative, Little (R.) defeated Marshall (D.). For circuit clerk, Senter (R.) defeated Shedd (D.). For sheriff, Lloyd (D.) defeated Dihel (R.). For the convention, 703 votes; against the convention, 650 votes.

At the Republican County Convention held at Aledo September 19, 1857, there were nominated candidates for county judge, clerk of the Circuit Court, county commissioner and school commissioner. At this time E. Stafford was chairman of the Republican County Committee. Forty-eight delegates were present. Isaac N. Bassett was renominated for county treasurer; John W. Miles for county judge; John Ramsey, county clerk; C. S. Richey, surveyor; J. E. Harroun, school commissioner. This convention, it was charged, was a frame-up and was opposed by a portion of the convention. E. Stafford was instrumental in organizing a separate faction which put out the people's ticket. This year the issues were very important. The Kansas-Nebraska trouble was before the country, popular sovereignty was discussed by everybody. Buchanan's message was the means of partly dividing the democratic party; Stephen A. Douglas taking a separate and independent course. The principles of the Dred Scott Decision were incorporated into the Lecompton Constitution, which encountered great opposition. Buchanan sided with the South in the extreme pro-slavery views. As a matter of fact, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed with the expectation that Kansas would vote for slavery and thus become a slave state. The rush of anti-slavery partisans into Kansas prevented that design. It was said of Buchanan that he was a northern man with southern principles. Douglas opposed him on the stump and began to pull away from the ultra views of the South. The result of the election in November, 1857, was as follows:

Townships	Judge		Treasurer		Clerk		School Commissioner		Surveyor
	Miles	Mattock	Bassett	Gilmore	Ramsay	Alger	Harroun	Clendenin	
North Henderson	36	39	38	17	49	8	45	12	55
North Pope	17	24	25	19	31	14	20	25	44
Richland Grove	26	17	31	19	42	6	42	6	49
Suez	18	30	24	28	25	13	23	22	45
Greene	17	34	28	29	44	12	6	51	52
Premption	19	7	21	6	22	5	22	5	27
Ohio Grove	51	21	54	23	63	13	54	21	69
Mercer	124	28	131	28	147	14	126	29	161
Perryton	10	19	10	20	28	1	11	18	29
Abington	12	40	13	40	21	31	12	41	53
Millersburg	18	51	37	32	47	21	28	41	69
Duncan	7	8	8	8	13	4	8	8	16
Keithsburg	10	196	44	170	60	138	25	186	210
New Boston	111	45	107	53	132	23	108	41	156
Eliza	No returns		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	476	539	571	492	724	303	530	506	1,035

At the election of county supervisors in April, 1858, the result was: North Henderson, Notley Scott; Rivoli, Daniel Jones; Richland Grove, Thomas Merryman; Suez, J. G. Torbet; Greene, B. C. Perkins; Preemption, John Whitsitt; Ohio, William M. Hays; Mercer, John W. Miles; Perryton, J. C. Gilmore; Millersburg, J. T. McGinnis; Duncan, S. R. Chase; Keithsburg, Washington Wolf; New Boston, William Drury; Eliza, James M. Mannon; Abington, Frederick Frick.

Early in 1858 Abraham Lincoln was mentioned prominently in connection with the United States senatorship from Illinois. It was felt that Trumbull and Lincoln would make a strong combination for the republicans in the United States Senate. At the Republican Convention in June, 1858, W. M. Hays, I. N. Bassett, J. K. Herbert, H. S. Scott and W. J. Humphrey were nominated delegates to the State Republican Convention. This year the principles at issue were squeezed out until slavery was seen to be at the bottom of all political contests.

The Republican County Convention of July 5, 1858, was presided over by B. C. Perkins, with Leonard Swearingen as secretary. J. H. Reed, J. K. Herbert and James Haverfield served as committee on resolutions. The latter affirmed allegiance to republican principles; favored economy in public affairs; declared that the administration of James Buchanan was weak, imbecile, sectional, proscriptive and alarming and that the doctrines of the administration concerning Kansas and the Dred Scott case were in direct conflict with the views of the fathers of the Republic; opposed the extension of slavery into any new states or territories; condemned the acts of the administration in forcing the people of Kansas to submit to the program of pro-slavery partisans; approved the course of the republican members of Congress in their efforts to prevent the extension of slavery; approved the course of Stephen A. Douglas in opposing the Lecompton Constitution, but condemned his course in breaking down the Missouri Compromise and in approving the Dred Scott Decision; favored Abraham Lincoln for United States senator to succeed Mr. Douglas; advocated the reelection of William Kellogg to Congress and recommended that all republicans of the county subscribe to *The Aledo Weekly Record*.

At the Republican State Convention in June, 1858, a banner was borne down the hall bearing the words, "Cook County for Abraham Lincoln." It was received with deafening cheers. Immediately a motion to amend the motto by inserting "Illinois" in place of "Cook County" was carried unanimously and with tremendous cheers.

This convention declared Abraham Lincoln to be the first and only choice of the republicans of Illinois for the United States Senate to succeed Stephen A. Douglas. The speech of Mr. Douglas in Chicago, in July, 1858, was published in full by the local newspaper. Mr. Lincoln's speech at Chicago in reply was also published. In that speech Lincoln's famous statement appeared: "I protest now and forever against that counterfeit logic which presumes that because I do not want a negro woman for a slave I do necessarily want her for a wife." This county was keenly alive to the historic debate of Lincoln and Douglas in 1858. The characteristics of the two men were noted and had their due effects. Douglas' art, adroitness, power of evasion, subterfuge in statement, concealment of purpose by sweeping generalities, annoyed the republicans but were frankly and ably answered by Mr. Lincoln, whose penetration, fairness of statement, broad humanity, analysis and logic, pierced the sophistry of Mr. Douglas and laid bare the political skeleton grinning underneath. In answer to Mr. Douglas he completely revealed the purposes of the slave power and the objects of Senator Douglas' course. On October 7th they spoke at Galesburg and a large delegation from this county was present. Nearly twenty-five thousand people listened to this memorable address. Mr. Douglas spoke for one hour and was followed by Mr. Lincoln for an hour and a half, and the closing was by Mr. Douglas with a half hour. The delegation from this county could not unite outside of the city and march in as had been planned, owing to severe storms the day before.

The campaign of 1858 was opened by the republicans in Mercer County with a rally at Aledo. The leading speaker was William Kellogg. It was estimated that over one thousand voters were present. He spoke nearly two hours and was listened to with rapt attention. The Republican County Convention of September, 1858, was presided over by B. C. Perkins; S. D. Trego and S. Sheldon served as secretaries. The convention was addressed by D. Willits, G. Simms and H. J. Humphrey. James M. Mannon was nominated for sheriff and Edward Atchinson for coroner. The new central committee were J. H. Reed, H. Hoagland, L. W. Thompson, H. H. Roberts and G. Simms. The following delegates to the district convention were chosen: Eliza, J. M. Mannon; Perryton, J. Candor; Greene, B. C. Perkins; Keithsburg, H. S. Scott; Suez, C. S. Richey; Millersburg, E. Gilmore; New Boston, J. Graham; Duncan, A. R. Sutton; North Henderson, B. P. Brown; Ohio, W. M. Hays; Mercer, J. H. Reed; Rivoli, R. R. Cox.

The Mercer County delegates to the Republican Congressional Convention in August, 1858, were J. W. Miles, J. H. Reed, J. S.

Poage, H. Hoagland and L. Hollisten. Hon. William Kellogg, of Fulton, was renominated by acclamation.

In August, 1858, many republicans went to Galva to hear Owen Lovejoy deliver one of his brilliant, eloquent and fiery political speeches. There were many prominent democrats at Keithsburg and New Boston, while Aledo was strongly tinctured with republicanism, as was Millersburg. This opposition gave spirit and life to the campaign. Many prominent speakers from abroad addressed assemblages in this county during the campaign. The leading local speakers also took the stump and explained the purposes of the new party and the objects of the democracy. The result of the election in November, 1858, was as follows: Congressman: Kellogg (R.), 1,419; Davidson (D.), 898; representative: Judge Gilmore (R.), 1,434, Gould (D.), 890; sheriff: Mannon (R.), 1,206, Lloyd (D.), 1,173; coroner: Atchinson (R.), 1,360, Hale (D.), 1,008.

The Republican County Convention met in the room of the Mercer Collegiate Institute, Aledo, September 13, 1859. Under the new apportionment Mercer Township had ten delegates, Keithsburg nine, New Boston twelve, Ohio Grove seven, Millersburg six and the other townships smaller numbers. B. F. Thompson was nominated for county treasurer; Henry Lee, county surveyor; Rev. J. S. Poage, school commissioner against the old and efficient commissioner, J. E. Harroun, who had done so much for education in this county.

On October 18, 1859, the Weekly Record came out with the name of Abraham Lincoln for republican candidate for president in 1860. Mr. Reed said this action was not the result of sudden impulse, but of careful and mature deliberation. This was done in spite of the fact that Mr. Reed considered William H. Seward superior in statesmanship to any man in the United States. He came out for Mr. Lincoln because he believed him the peer in patriotism and purity of private character of any man in the world and because he had so ably conducted himself in the contest with Senator Douglas.

The result of the election in 1859 was as follows: Treasurer: Thompson (R.), 762, Shedd (People's), 1,055; school commissioner: Poage (R.), 1,739, scattering, 8; surveyor: Lee (R.), 1,761. Thus the people's ticket carried Mr. Shedd to victory. Five votes were cast for Mr. Brown, the colored cook at the Barton House, for the office of school commissioner. This was just after John Brown had been convicted at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Local quarrels, private malice, spite against the Johnson family and personal defamation were the causes that led to the defeat of Mr. Thompson for county

treasurer. It was a secret combination which encompassed his defeat—a combination of republicans professing to be his friends, yet uniting with the democrats to accomplish his downfall.

The republicans called a mass meeting to be held at Aledo, February 22, 1860, and in making the call J. H. Reed, chairman of the County Central Committee made the following statement: In calling this meeting the movers are not insensible of the claims of consideration of other candidates and would support them most cheerfully, we have no doubt, should a sound policy dictate the nomination of any one of them. * * * So far as Illinois is concerned we are sure that the popular voice is for Mr. Lincoln in preference to all others. He has been tried and has not been found wanting in any of the elements required to fit a man for the place. His capacity is beyond question; his integrity is above suspicion; his conservatism is all that any republican could desire, and we believe that no man can roll up such a majority in this state as Abraham Lincoln. He made a splendid run in 1858 and we are sure that his popularity has been accumulating every day since. Let there be a full turn-out of the friends of Lincoln.

The 22d of February was rainy and the mud was deep, but there was a fair turn-out. The meeting was called to order by J. H. Reed, chairman of the Central Committee. J. W. Miles was elected president of the meeting and J. H. Reed, secretary. A committee of three for each township was appointed with instructions to organize and report action to a second meeting that was called for March 21st. Messrs. Brisbin, Reed and Wolf were appointed to prepare the program of the next meeting.

In 1860 Mercer County was entitled to six delegates in the Republican State Convention. In the summer Mr. Lincoln's famous speech at Cooper's Institute, New York, was published by the local newspapers. It was a masterly effort which kindled great enthusiasm among republicans throughout the country. The Record of Aledo published all of Mr. Lincoln's great speeches in full and praised them unstintedly.

On March 6, 1860, the Mercer Township Republican Club reorganized and elected the following officers: Harrison Scott, president; Dr. J. A. Maury, Elisha Miles and Ralph Grow, vice presidents; Casper Schenck, secretary; S. W. McCoy, treasurer; Col. W. D. Henderson, Capt. James Henderson and J. H. Reed, executive committee; C. M. Kay, Thomas J. Willits, W. A. Wilson and W. W. McCandless, vigilance committee. The club passed resolutions endorsing Abraham Lincoln as its first choice for the presidency. J. K. Herbert addressed the club at length on the issues of the day.

Republican and democratic clubs were organized throughout the county in 1860. All realized that questions of vital importance to the country were pending and all were determined to secure the success of their own tickets, in which they had confidence and faith, if it could possibly be done. Keithsburg organized a republican club in March, with Washington Wolf, president; and Cyrus Cabeen, secretary.

The republicans of the county met in mass convention at Aledo on March 21, 1860, pursuant to adjournment and were called to order by J. W. Miles, of Rivoli. The committee on resolutions were J. H. Reed, Samuel Carnahan, R. S. Cramer, Dudley Willits, Washington Wolf, Theodore Glancey, C. S. Caldwell, J. Cox, W. C. Gray, B. C. Perkins and A. R. Sutton. A vigilance committee for every township was appointed. Col. W. D. Henderson, J. H. Reed, Ephraim Gilmore, Dr. E. P. Wood, S. H. Redman and Dr. J. P. McClannahan were chosen delegates to the congressional and state conventions. A long series of resolutions was adopted. It maintained that slavery was only a local institution; insisted that all new territory should be free; admitted that slavery should not be interfered with in the states where it already existed; favored the home-stead bill; declared that the action of the democratic party was hostile to the Constitution and the Union; asserted that the present administration was servile to the slave power; announced Abraham Lincoln as its candidate for the presidency; and recommended to the State Convention that the name of Col. W. D. Henderson be placed on the state ticket. B. C. Perkins offered as a substitute for the Lincoln resolution one containing the name of William H. Seward, but when put to a vote it was lost. Mr. Seward had many friends in the county and was regarded as a statesman of the highest rank. But the convention as a whole favored Mr. Lincoln.

The Republican Club of Richland Grove Township was organized on April 28, 1860. E. S. Roberts called the meeting to order and Thomas Merryman was made chairman and W. M. Scott, secretary. John M. Waugh, E. S. Roberts and W. H. Griffin were appointed a committee to draft a constitution for the permanent organization of the club. The permanent officers were Thomas Merryman, president; J. M. Waugh and E. S. Roberts, vice presidents; E. Beardsley, treasurer; and Walter M. Scott, secretary. On motion of C. C. Phillips a vigilance committee of two in each school district was appointed. Resolutions presented by Walter M. Scott were adopted unanimously; they denounced the attempt of Senator Douglas to pass a sedition law designed to suppress free speech and favored the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency.

At the Republican State Convention in May Richard Yates was nominated for governor. Abraham Lincoln, who was present, though not a delegate, was asked to take a seat with the convention and did so. While he was present a great demonstration was made in favor of his nomination. During the proceedings a banner was borne down the hall, with the words: "Abe Lincoln, the rail Candidate of the people in 1860." With the banner were borne two rails from a lot of 3,000, which were split by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks in 1830, ten miles west of Decatur. This convulsed the convention with cheers, whereupon Mr. Lincoln came forward and said he was not certain that he made the identical rails, but was entirely sure that he made a great many quite as good. He was named by the convention as the candidate of Illinois for the presidency. When Lincoln and Hamlin were nominated at the Memorable Chicago Convention in May, the republicans of this county expressed their delight in numerous rallies and ratification meetings in every township.

The split of the Democratic Convention in April, 1860, at Charleston, thus dividing the democracy by Mason and Dixon's line, was seen by the republicans to be their great opportunity. They accordingly entered the campaign with redoubled efforts to win success.

The Republican County Convention met at the courthouse in Aledo, May 25, 1860, and was called to order by J. H. Reed. William M. Green was elected president and J. H. Reed, secretary. The convention elected to the judicial and senatorial conventions the following delegates: Joshua Bruner, Robert Caldwell, B. C. Perkins, Richard Brisbin, S. V. Prentiss, Daniel Jones and Henry Lee. The delegates to the representative convention were W. M. Hays, Thomas Merryman, W. M. Pinkerton, J. G. Gilmore, W. L. Green, R. Caldwell, J. W. Miles, A. Prouty, Elias Willits, R. Brisbin and B. C. Perkins. Resolutions favoring the party candidates were passed—Kellogg for Congress, Yates for governor and Lincoln for president. At the close of the convention a Lincoln and Hamlin flag pole was erected in front of the Barton House. It was 145 feet tall and surmounted by a streamer forty feet long bearing the names "Lincoln and Hamlin." The crowd had been enthusiastic, but now grew hilarious and hoisted Rev. J. S. Poage to the top of the Daguerrean car and demanded a speech which was forthcoming in off-hand and eloquent style. Judge Thompson, Col. W. D. Henderson and E. Miles were treated likewise and responded nobly to the urgent demands of the spectators.

The Democratic Central Committee in 1860 were: A. P. Taylor, T. C. Cabeen, B. F. Burnett, Joseph Hogan and Thomas S. Robb. They called their county convention for June 9, 1860.

The democrats of the county were alive to the importance of great exertions and prominent speakers from abroad and local orators were enlisted to take the stump in favor of the success of that party. At a big democratic rally at Redman schoolhouse, Abington Township, Charles Pepper, of Keithsburg, was the leading speaker. He was followed by Messrs. Burnett, Taliaferro, Heaton and McCane. The same speakers held meetings also at New Boston and at many schoolhouses throughout the county. At a republican mass meeting held in the grove near the Universalist Church, New Boston Township, William Kellogg addressed one of the largest political gatherings of the campaign, there being present large delegations from New Boston and Keithsburg, with bands and banners. He likewise spoke at Aledo, North Henderson, Viola and in Suez Township. At all the political gatherings this year the marching of the Wide Awakes and the Hickorys were prominent features. Henry Clay Dean, "the great unwashed" spoke at Keithsburg to an immense crowd of democrats late in August. He was one of the most brilliant, sarcastic and eloquent orators of this memorable campaign.

The greatest event of the campaign of 1860 in this county was the joint debate held at Aledo between Judge William Kellogg and Robert G. Ingersoll. It was estimated that five thousand people were on the ground at the time. The democrats secured the services of the Monmouth Cornet Band, one of the best in the state, whose instruments had cost about one thousand dollars. Not to be outdone the republicans also secured from Monmouth a band equally as good as the other and was composed entirely of republicans. The people of the county came in great delegations early in the day. Ohio Grove came first with fifty-four wagons and 277 persons and was the largest township group present. Next came the New Boston delegation escorted by their band and 150 Wide Awakes, fifty of whom were from Keithsburg and sixty from New Boston and forty from Aledo commanded by their respective officers who were assisted by Gen. E. A. Paine of Monmouth. This delegation was joined outside of town by the Ohio Grove forces and by another group from the eastern part of the county. The latter had one wagon which contained thirty-three young ladies dressed in white, each bearing a flag and representing the states of the Union, and one young lady dressed in black personating Kansas and carrying a black flag inscribed with the words, "They will not let me in." When this combined proces-

sion reached town it numbered 110 vehicles, mostly wagons, with many four-horse teams, all well filled and their parade through town was a fine sight and greatly enjoyed by all.

The speaking took place in the open air at a temporary stand near the Council House. Judge Kellogg spoke first for an hour and was then followed by Mr. Ingersoll for an hour and a half. Judge Kellogg closed with a half hour speech. All here had heard Judge Kellogg and were familiar with his style and power as a public speaker; but they had never before heard Mr. Ingersoll, who was a stranger to this part of the state. They knew that he must be an uncommon orator, or he would never have been pitted against Judge Kellogg. Of his address the Record said: "All seemed anxious to hear what this new champion for Douglasism had to say. Mr. Ingersoll is a fluent speaker and a man of considerable intellect, we infer, but he was no match for the herculean task he had undertaken—that of defending modern democracy. One by one his fallacies were dissected by Judge Kellogg and he fairly writhed under the merciless castigation he received. We had before frequently asked our republican friends abroad, who had enjoyed the privilege of hearing them, how Kellogg handled his competitor and received the invariable quiet reply, 'You will see.' Well, we did see, and our candid opinion is, if Bob Ingersoll had not more cheek than ordinary mortals he would never encounter Bill Kellogg again." Reading between the lines of this statement it must be inferred that Mr. Ingersoll must at least have held his own with Judge Kellogg. In the evening the Wide Awakes and the Hickory Jacksons paraded the streets, headed by the bands, amid the greatest enthusiasm of the partisans. The occasion closed with speeches from R. W. Smith, of Rock Island, and Rev. J. S. Poage, of Aledo. This was one of the most brilliant and successful gatherings ever held in Mercer County.

At the meeting there was borne in the parade by a democrat a banner, on which was depicted a white man embracing a negress. A democrat in the crowd thought it was a republican banner and represented what would actually occur should the republicans elect Mr. Lincoln. He declared that he would not belong to a party that would carry a banner like that. "Why that is a Douglas banner," he was told, whereupon he subsided, thinking it strange that the democrats should predict or desire such a state of affairs.

The Republican County Convention was held September 12, 1860, at Aledo. J. W. Miles was elected chairman and H. G. Calhoun, secretary. The following were the delegates present: Richland Grove—Thomas S. Kincaid, John M. Waugh, Elisha Beardsley and E. S.

Roberts; Rivoli—J. W. Miles, J. B. Loughley and C. F. Durston; North Henderson—B. F. Brown, E. E. Kendall, J. B. Hoag and J. H. Hunter; Preemption—H. Boone, J. M. Carver, Allen Trego and G. F. Morey; Greene—Henry Hoagland, E. S. Fugate, S. E. Russell and David Summerville; Suez—R. Caldwell, D. W. Sedwick, John Blair and W. T. McLelland; Perryton—S. D. Trego, J. L. Ruth, Alvah Coffman and C. C. Phillips; Mercer—T. Candor, W. W. McCandless, J. S. Paxton, H. Lee, W. A. Wilson, L. S. Moore and E. C. Partlett; Ohio Grove—J. B. Gilmore, J. P. Gilmore, William Calhoun, J. McGee and S. Miller; Millersburg—J. T. McGinness, A. Eddy, W. M. Brown, O. H. Stratton and J. S. Bissell; Abington—F. Jones, S. G. Wright, J. Mains, T. Glancey; Keithsburg—C. J. Simpson, B. D. Ellett, H. S. Scott, H. G. Calhoun, J. M. Weidner, S. Boden, R. C. Cabeen and O. C. Richardson; Duncan—A. J. McGrew, T. McWhorter and J. N. Close; Eliza—D. W. Noble, S. Duffield and William Shields; New Boston—R. W. Kyle, E. Commons, A. Kirlin, E. Crapnell, L. Woodard, L. W. Myers, C. Hall, S. V. Prentiss, S. Chidester and Van Willits.

At this convention James M. Mannon was nominated for circuit clerk; S. H. Rodgers, for sheriff; and Charles Hall, for coroner. Hall was nominated by acclamation, but there was a sharp contest for the other two offices. As a whole the convention was quiet and harmonious.

The republican flag pole, which had been raised with so much ceremony and glee at Aledo by the members of that party, was blown down, much to the amusement of the democrats, who declared it presaged the fall of republicanism in November. However, another pole, 100 feet tall, with a brush or broom at the top, signifying a clean sweep by the republicans in November, was erected on the same spot in September. The democrats determined to raise a higher one and accordingly sent to Keithsburg for Mr. Murphy and machinery with which to raise it. While being raised, it broke in two sections, fell to the ground with a crash and seriously injured two men. They were obliged to erect it shorter than the republican pole.

One of the greatest meetings of this memorable campaign was held at Rock Island on October 12th. It was estimated that twenty thousand freemen attended the gathering. The speakers, all famous orators, were Owen Lovejoy, Joseph Knox, John A. Kasson and Henry O'Connor, the latter two coming from Iowa. Many present were from that state. Mercer County was well represented there. The Keithsburg Wide Awakes under Captain Cabeen; the New Boston Wide Awakes under Colonel Myers; Aledo Wide Awakes

under Captain Scott; delegations from Preemption; fifty teams from Richland Grove, Rivoli, Perryton, Millersburg, Greene, Ohio Grove and nearly every township in the county were present and participated in the parades and heard the great orators. There were twenty-four companies of Wide Awakes in the parade, and as they marched through the streets of the city they presented a picture of enthusiasm and patriotism never before surpassed in this portion of the state. In the parade were hundreds of young ladies representing the states and various phases of political advancement and social order. The speaking took place in the courthouse square. Many bands furnished splendid music for the occasion. The fiery and impassioned address of Mr. Lovejoy was never forgotten by those who heard it. The other speakers were equally eloquent and effective. In the evening Judge Fowler, of New York, delivered a speech of unusual power to the large audience that remained. The Wide Awakes went over to Davenport for the evening parades and mass meetings and there the great speakers again held forth. It had been advertised that Charles Sumner would be present, but he was unable to come. Republican enthusiasm along the Mississippi attained its climax at this great meeting.

The democrats met somewhat informally in convention in October, 1860, and nominated T. B. Cabeen, of Keithsburg, for circuit clerk, and Joseph Hogan, of Aledo, for sheriff. The democrats openly boasted that they intended to reduce the republican majority in the county to three hundred or four hundred and cited the activity of that party at Keithsburg and New Boston to prove their claims. At this time every schoolhouse in the county was used for political meetings by members of the various parties.

John C. Pepper was candidate for prosecuting attorney of the Tenth Judicial Circuit (1860). William S. Dillely was an independent candidate for circuit clerk. A large republican meeting at Keithsburg in October was addressed by Leonard Swett, R. W. Smith and others. The Wide Awakes, in large numbers, paraded the streets. A similar meeting at New Boston was addressed by T. J. Pickett and R. W. Smith. It was stated that 3,000 persons heard the speakers. The Wide Awakes paraded in the evening. Mrs. Joseph Lair, of Mercer Township, was an enthusiastic republican and on the occasion of the republican meeting at Keithsburg she drove a four-horse wagon containing thirty-three young ladies to that town. On the wagon, in large letters, were the words "Old Abe." In the same way she drove to the New Boston meeting.

At the election in November, 1860, Mercer County went strongly republican. For president, Lincoln (R.) received 615 votes over Douglas (D.); for governor, Yates (R.) over Allen (D.), 608; for Congress, Kellogg (R.) over Ingersoll (D.), 600; for state senator, Picket over Mason, 603; for representative, Smith over Streeter, 606; for prosecuting attorney, Stewart (R.) over Pepper (D.), 261; for circuit clerk, Mannon (R.) over Cabeen (D.), 388; for sheriff, Rodgers (R.) over Hogan (D.), 497. The majority for a constitutional convention was 1,420. The electors received the following vote: Lincoln's, 1,808; Douglas', 1,193; Bell's, 35; Breckinridge's, 3; Smith's, 4. North Henderson and Abington gave Douglas 126; Mercer gave Lincoln 195 and Douglas 56.

In 1860 the townships of Perryton, Preemption, Rivoli and Suez went democratic, but at the election in April, 1861, all four returned goodly republican majorities.

Under the act of January, 1861, Mercer and Henderson counties were constituted the Thirty-second Representative District, and Mercer, Warren, Henderson and McDonough the Fourteenth Senatorial District. The Republican County Congressional Convention was held February 19, 1861, at Aledo and the following delegates were chosen: W. M. Carnahan, E. S. Fugate, J. N. Markee, J. J. Glenn, J. H. Reed, Theodore Glancey, Richard Kiddoo, W. P. Myers, L. H. Scudder, R. H. Day, John C. Welliver, Benjamin Brown.

At the judicial election in 1861, Mr. Lawrence, candidate for judge, received a total of 1,723 votes in this county, there being no opposition. For clerk, Hough received 880 votes, and Mr. Leland, 704.

The convention for the election of delegates to the Berlin Convention met here October 12, 1861, and was presided over by B. C. Perkins, with J. E. Griffin, secretary. The delegates selected were A. J. Streeter, S. W. McCoy, J. E. Griffin, E. S. Roberts, A. P. Taylor, David Little, Dr. J. V. Frazier, William M. Hays, Simeon Macy and J. Whitsitt. The committee that named this delegation was composed of three republicans and three democrats. Straight out republicans objected to this fusion of two party members, A. J. Johnson in particular.

At the Berlin Convention in the fall of 1861, of the counties of Mercer, Rock Island and Henry, J. S. Hinman served as chairman. Whitsitt, of Mercer; North, of Henry, and Dickson, of Rock Island, were committee on credentials. Drury, of Rock Island; Perkins, of Mercer, and Wilson, of Henry, were committee on resolutions. George W. Pleasants, of Rock Island County, was nominated for

delegate to the coming Constitutional Convention. The resolutions adopted were thoroughly loyal, the vigorous prosecution of the war being strongly favored as the most vital and important consideration of the present time. It was brought out sharply by the resolutions that party problems and issues should be relegated to the background, while war measures were before the people. Several sections for the new constitution were suggested.

The principal candidates in the fall of 1861 were as follows: For treasurer, Col. W. D. Henderson, Matthew Sheriff, Z. P. Willett and W. I. Ungles; for county clerk, John Ramsey; for county school commissioner, Rev. L. N. Stratton and Rev. J. S. Poage; for surveyor, J. I. Arnold; for county judge, Elias Willits and Henry Hoagland.

At the November election, 1861, for county judge, Griffin received 617 votes, Hoagland 569, Willits 228; for clerk, Ramsey, no opposition, 1,363; for treasurer, Sheriff 487, Spaulding 432, Henderson 294, Ungles 164, Willett 67; for surveyor, Frew 866, Arnold 392; for school commissioner, Waterman 725, Poage 317, Stratton 293; for the banking law 31, against the banking law 1,231; total vote 1,457; for delegate to the Constitutional Convention, Pleasants (no opposition) received 1,389 votes.

The State Constitution of 1862 met with considerable opposition in this county. The republicans and generally all in favor of Lincoln's administration of war matters called it the Secesh Convention. When submitted to the voters it was rejected by the overwhelming majority of 1,537 to 936. The articles to which objection was made were those relating to the management of the negroes in this state.

The Republican County Convention convened at the courthouse, September 9, 1862. B. C. Perkins became chairman and J. H. Reed, secretary. The following committee was appointed to select delegates to the State, Congressional, Senatorial and Representative Conventions: J. B. Gilmore, J. Libby, J. Holland, J. Merriman, F. Jones, J. Bruner, C. Hall, E. Gilmore, L. S. Moore and H. Reddle. The following served as committee on resolutions: Andrew Carnes, E. Gilmore, J. H. Reed, B. C. Perkins and E. S. Roberts. The resolutions declared that the convention recognized but two parties: Those who were for the Government and those who were either directly or indirectly for its enemies; and announced as its unwavering policy support of the state and national administrations, unconditional support of the Union and a prompt and vigorous prosecution of the war by use of all the means at the command of the Government consistent with the laws of civilized warfare. C. S. Caldwell was nominated

for sheriff and Charles Hall for coroner. At Monmouth, Judge Charles B. Lawrence was nominated for Congress by the republicans. John McKinney, Sr., received the republican nomination for state senator from the Fourteenth District.

In September, 1862, the Republican and Union Congressional Convention assembled at Monmouth. Mercer County had nine delegates. Ephraim Gilmore of this county was a member of the District Senatorial Committee. At this time Mercer County was part of the Fourth Congressional District, part of the Fourteenth State Senatorial District and part of the Thirty-second Representative District.

The Representative Convention was held by the republicans at Keithsburg in 1862, J. C. Graham, of Mercer County, serving as chairman. On the second formal ballot H. S. Senter of Mercer County received the nomination for representative. Loyal resolutions were passed. In October, 1862, Charles S. Caldwell, candidate for sheriff, withdrew from the contest in favor of Capt. O. A. Bridgford, a wounded soldier.

At the November election, 1862, Mercer County gave large majorities for the republican candidates with the exception of its nominee for representative. Cabeen (D.) defeated Senter (R.) by the vote of 1,005 to 909; Bridgford (R.) was elected sheriff; Hall (R.) coroner; Judge Lawrence (R.) was defeated for Congress by Mr. Harris (D.), though Mercer County gave the former a majority. This was a democratic year. Only five republican congressmen out of fourteen were elected. The rebels rejoiced at the democratic successes in the North.

Early in 1863 the democrats throughout the country, and in this county as well, adopted what was called a peace policy, meaning the restoration of peace and in the end the withdrawal of the Federal armies from the field. Thomas B. Cabeen, a prominent democrat in this county, favored these measures and opposed the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus by the military authorities. He likewise opposed the other measures which had been adopted by the Lincoln administration to carry on the war.

The unconditional Union men of the county called a convention to be held at Aledo on October 24, 1863. The call was signed by 210 persons whose names were published in the newspapers. This convention was opposed mainly by men who were in favor of the continuance of the war for the preservation of the Union. Dr. S. Macy served as president, and C. S. Caldwell as secretary. The first vote for county treasurer resulted in a tie for the two candidates, Isaac N. Dunlap and Wilford J. Ungles. On the first formal ballot

Mr. Ungles received a small majority and was thus nominated. W. L. Campbell was named for school commissioner and W. B. Frew for surveyor. The result of the election in November, 1863, was as follows: For treasurer—Ungles (R.), 1,033; Matlock (D.), 675; for school commissioner—Campbell (R.), 828; Gushee (D.), 459; for surveyor—Frew (R.), 1,212, no opposition; total vote, 1,782.

The Unconditional Union Convention met again April 19, 1864, at the courthouse, Aledo, and were presided over by William Drury, with H. S. Senter, secretary. H. G. Calhoun, S. V. Prentiss and Washington Wolf were a committee on credentials. For delegates to the Judicial Convention, Gideon Ives, John S. Thompson and Joshua Bruner were nominated; and John W. Miles, S. V. Prentiss, H. S. Senter, W. I. Nevius, Washington Wolf and G. D. Miller to the State Convention. William M. Hays, H. S. Senter, B. F. Thompson, William Jones and Josiah Candor were appointed county central committee. The delegates to the Judicial Convention were instructed to support C. B. Lawrence. In order to more effectually carry out the Union program in contemplation, the convention upon motion of Joshua Bruner appointed a township central committee for every township, as follows: North Henderson—E. E. Kendall, George Crosby and William R. Mathers; Rivoli—C. F. Durston, N. P. Smith and J. B. Longley; Richland Grove—John Scott, W. E. Griffin and L. F. Langford; Suez—G. W. Sedwick, S. R. Moore and C. S. Hart; Greene—W. M. Carnahan, E. S. Fugate and B. C. Perkins; Preemption—David Little, S. H. Rodgers and Hopkins Boone; Ohio Grove—S. M. Dihel, W. R. McCreight and James Smith; Mercer—J. R. Bassett, E. Gilmore and T. J. Willett; Perryton—Benjamin Dunn, Josiah Candor and Daniel Ebner; Abington—George Jay, Jerry Purdam and Jesse Wickett; Millersburg—H. W. Thornton, John T. McGinnis and W. M. Brown; Duncan—W. S. Rowe, A. R. Sutton and S. H. Riddell; Keithsburg—A. B. Sheriff, W. Wolf and H. S. Scott; New Boston—Amos Prouty, G. W. Warner and R. S. Cramer; Eliza—D. F. Noble, John Glancey and S. L. Duffield. The delegates to the State Convention were instructed to use their influence to have delegates to the National Convention appointed, who were in favor of the renomination of Abraham Lincoln for president. This convention was harmonious and loyal. They were determined that disloyalty in this county should not get the upper hand and become the dominating factor in public affairs. The watchword of the convention was "Union for the sake of Union."

In June, 1864, the Perryton Democratic Club took the lead of that party in the coming campaign. They called a county conven-

tion to be held at Aledo on May 28th to effect a thorough organization of the party in accordance with the peace policy that had been outlined by the National democratic authorities. Frederick Frick served as president of the meeting and committees were appointed to effect thorough party work throughout the county. At this time John Whitsitt was president of the County Democratic Committee. This convention passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we, the democrats of Mercer County, are in favor of maintaining and preserving the Union and the Constitution as our fathers bequeathed them to us and are determined that the valley of the Mississippi shall never be their grave, the mountains and hills of this country their monument, nor the flag of our country their winding sheet; and further

Resolved, That we believe in this trying crisis the best method of advancing and carrying out practically the sentiment of the above resolution is to use our best and united endeavors to restore again the democratic party to power.

The nomination of Lincoln and Johnson in 1864 was hailed with great joy by the republicans and unconditional Union men of Mercer County. James S. Poage was one of the republican state electors and Richard J. Oglesby was the republican candidate for governor.

At the Union County Convention in August, 1864, James M. Wilson was nominated for circuit clerk; John P. Clay for sheriff; and C. J. Simpson for coroner. Judge E. Gilmore presided and Theodore Glancey served as secretary. A special committee of one from each township named the delegates to the Congressional, Senatorial, Judicial and Representative conventions. At the judicial election in 1864 John S. Thompson received the nomination of the republicans. This convention was held at Monmouth and the delegates from this county were I. N. Bassett, W. L. Campbell, T. Glancey, J. Bruner, W. H. Ungles and S. W. McCoy. Thompson won on the second formal ballot. In this county he received 846 votes and his opponent, Judge Craig, received 564.

The Democratic County Convention was held early in September, 1864. They selected delegates to the Congressional, Senatorial and Representative conventions and nominated M. L. Detwiler for circuit clerk and Hugh Campbell for sheriff. The democratic candidate for governor was James C. Robinson.

The nomination of McClellan for the presidency in 1864 met the warm approval of the democratic party of this county. They held a big ratification meeting at Millersburg, September 17, 1864; it was one of the largest held by the members of that party in this

county during the war. The Aledo Brass Band furnished the music. One of the speakers was George W. Ford of this county. Large processions attended from different parts of the county. The campaign was lively, many candidates and other able speakers taking the stump in this county. Governor Yates spoke here in October, as did also W. P. Kellogg and many others. What delighted the republicans was the fact that General Logan took the stump for Lincoln and Johnson and thus became identified with the republican party. His ability, his former democracy and his skill and prominence as a soldier favoring the policy of the administration endeared him to all loyal hearts in this county.

At the Union Representative Convention held at Keithsburg October 1, 1864, Erastus Rice served as chairman and Horace Bigelow, publisher of the Record, as secretary. Mercer County was represented by the following delegates: S. H. Redman, W. A. Dryden, H. H. Roberts, Horace Bigelow, M. R. Good and C. S. Caldwell. Jonathan Simpson was nominated for representative.

The campaign of 1864 was one of the most strenuous, aggressive and vindictive ever conducted in this county. The issues were for a continuance of the war along the lines laid down by President Lincoln's administration or along the so-called peace lines proposed and advocated by the enemies of the administration. Local orators of both parties were aided by brilliant men from abroad and large crowds assembled at all meetings to hear the issues discussed, so great was the general interest. Such meetings were held at every village and city and at all the principal schoolhouses. The grand Union rally at Aledo on October 12th was the largest affair of the kind ever staged in the county. The day was bright and fair and all loyal hearts beat high with the spirit of the hour. Early in the morning the crowd began to gather. First came single teams and then groups of wagons resplendent with banners and emblems and joyous citizens. Gloom had departed, because all felt that the rebellion was already within the power of the Government. A large pole had been raised on the streets and there the people met to exchange patriotic bon mots and cheer the Stars and Stripes. By 10 o'clock the township delegations began to wind in from the country in long streams of color and enthusiasm. Nearly all were accompanied by some sort of music. As high as twenty delegations thus arrived, several containing as high as forty wagons, each filled with men, women and children.

About 11 o'clock a large delegation was observed approaching from the west. All knew that it was the escort of the great orators

who were to fire the hearts of the citizens that eventful day with renewed pledges of fidelity and allegiance—Governor Richard Yates, Gen. A. C. Harding and others. At once a delegation headed by the Aledo Brass Band advanced to meet and greet the cavalcade and escort them to the city. They met about a mile outside and there united and formed the most imposing parade that ever entered the county seat—a shouting and enthusiastic army of brilliancy and loyalty. The scene was grand in the extreme when the long line advanced to the flag-pole, surrounded it and gave way to their pent-up loyalty in round after round of thundering cheers.

After dinner all gathered at the stand, where, first, General Harding was introduced to the audience by James S. Poage, and delivered a powerful, analytical and argumentative address. At its conclusion Mr. Poage introduced Governor Yates who at once received an uproarious welcome. His speech took up more of the home and sentimental side of the great war questions and was frequently interrupted with cheers. It lasted two hours and was followed throughout with the closest attention. Judge McLean, of McHenry County, then spoke briefly and the ceremonies ended with cheers and music. In the evening a large crowd heard J. S. Poage in the courthouse.

The democrats held a large meeting at Keithsburg the next day, October 13, 1864. S. Corning Judd delivered the principal address. He was democratic candidate for lieutenant governor. The Aledo Brass Band furnished the music. The meeting was large and enthusiastic. J. A. J. Birdsall, editor of the Keithsburg Observer, was democratic candidate for representative in 1864 and was nominated at the convention held at Keithsburg, October 4.

In October a joint debate of the political and war issues was held at New Boston by Mr. Strain (R.) and Mr. Peffer (D.). There was a large attendance of the members of both parties. James A. McKenzie spoke at Aledo, October 20. He also spoke elsewhere in the county. Jonathan Simpson, John R. Bassett, S. W. McCoy and L. W. Thompson addressed audiences throughout the county.

The election in November, 1864, filled all loyal hearts with intense joy. Lincoln's majority over McClellan's in this county was 659, a gain of forty-four over the vote of 1860. The republicans gave every man from president to coroner a handsome majority, the average being a little over 600. For state senator, Strain beat Peffer 1,760 to 1,100; for representative, Simpson beat Birdsall by 1,758 to 1,099; for circuit clerk, Wilson beat Detwiler by 1,633 to 1,221; for sheriff, Clay beat Campbell by 1,747 to 1,113; for coroner, Simpson beat Suter by 1,743 to 1,111. The republican or Union

successes all over the country gave unbounded gratification to all who favored the course of President Lincoln's administration. General Harding was elected to Congress over Mr. Harris by 855 majority and Simpson was elected to the Legislature over Birdsall by 987 majority. Two years before Cabeen (D.) was elected representative by sixty-three majority. Oglesby (R.) was elected governor by a large majority. The triumph of the republicans was complete. It meant the vigorous continuance of the war along the program of President Lincoln's administration.

The conclusion of the war early in 1865 ended in a large measure the excitement over political questions in this county. In January Mercer was made a part of the Seventh Congressional District. Previous to October few, if any, speeches or meetings of a political character were held. All was quiet and the few candidates themselves, though enthusiastic in their own support, did not receive much encouragement from the people who were thinking more of the restoration of peace and the success of their industries than they were of the welfare of political aspirants.

The Republican Convention of September 18, 1865, made several important changes in political procedure. Previous to this date the custom was to appoint a committee to recommend candidates, but now the convention nominated them without such circumlocution. John R. Bassett was nominated for county judge; Isaac McManus, county clerk; William B. Frew, surveyor; Isaac N. Dunlap, treasurer; and S. B. Atwater, school superintendent. On motion the central committee was instructed to make arrangements for nominating candidates by primary elections in the future.

The election was spiritless and the number of votes polled only a little over half of those cast at the November (1864) election. There were no contests except for county clerk and county treasurer. The vote for clerk was: McManus (R.), 732; Amberson (Ind.), 761. The vote for treasurer was: Dunlap (R.), 957; Ungles (Ind.), 526. Bassett, Frew and Atwater were elected judge, surveyor and school superintendent respectively. The Union ticket had no regular opposition.

Early in 1866 the reconstruction questions engrossed the attention of the voters of this county. Several amendments to the Constitution were proposed and at once differences began to arise concerning their effect upon existing conditions. On July 28th all of the townships held primary meetings and selected delegates to the county convention to be held July 30. Perhaps the most important questions were the Freedmen's Bureau Bill and Civil Rights Bill,

both of which had been vetoed by President Johnson against the judgment of the republican party.

The Republican County Convention met at the courthouse on July 30, 1866, and was called to order by H. S. Senter of the Central Committee and the usual committees were appointed. R. S. Cramer, C. S. Richey, Dr. J. V. Frazier, J. R. Bassett and B. C. Taliaferro served as committee on resolutions. While this committee was preparing its resolutions, the convention was addressed by I. N. Bassett, L. W. Thompson and B. F. Brock. The resolutions strongly opposed the course of President Johnson and warmly approved the course of Congress and of the congressmen and senators from Illinois. The delegates to the state conventions were J. M. Mannon, H. S. Scott, James M. Wilson, D. W. Sedwick, Samuel Wharton, James Y. Merritt, and those to the Congressional Convention were J. V. Frazier, W. E. Griffin, B. F. Brown, C. S. Richey, A. G. Lucas, H. M. Robb, John Roberts, J. P. McClanahan and L. V. Willits. The following were the new County Central Committee: H. S. Senter, C. S. Richey, S. H. Riddell, J. M. Mannon and C. S. Caldwell.

In August, Gen. A. C. Harding was renominated to Congress from this, the Fourth District, and Gen. John A. Logan was nominated at the State Convention for Congress at large.

It was in 1866 that the first exciting political events occurred here since the war. John S. Thompson, who had for years been identified prominently with the republican party, accepted the nomination of the opposition and did so upon the following grounds:

"The republican party by its radical leaders is firmly and unalterably committed to three propositions: (1) Negro suffrage; (2) opposition to the admission of loyal representatives from the southern states in the Congress of the Union; (3) to an insatiable spirit of hatred and vengeance toward all men, North and South, East and West, who do not yield obedience to their will and vote their ticket. To the first proposition I am opposed; to the second I cannot subscribe and to the third there is hardly need of a response." The Record, edited by Horace Bigelow, said in reply, "All three of these propositions are absolutely, unequivocally and maliciously false. Nay, more; the judge when he penned them knew that he was telling a deliberate lie. The republican party, as such, are unalterably committed to nothing of the kind. To say so is an insult to the intelligence of this community." The Record endeavored to refute the statements of the judge, but succeed only in part.

At the Republican County Convention for the nomination of county officers in September, 1866, Col. W. I. Nevius was elected

chairman and A. G. Lucas, secretary. All was quiet and harmonious. Delegates to the representative convention were instructed to vote for Capt. D. W. Sedwick. Thomas Simpson was nominated for sheriff and Samuel Paxton for coroner. The delegates to the representative convention were B. F. Brown, J. B. Langley, D. P. McClanahan, H. B. Frazier, Robert Candor, J. E. Harroun, Theodore Glancey, H. W. Thornton, A. R. Sutton, A. G. Lucas, A. Prouty and D. W. Noble. Horace Bigelow and Lewis Leslie were district committeemen.

In October, 1866, Gen. A. C. Harding and J. B. Hawley stumped the county speaking among other places at Aledo, Keithsburg, New Boston, Sunbeam, Evans' Corners, Hickory Grove and Preemption. Daniel W. Sedwick was duly nominated for representative. On October 6th, Lyman Trumbull addressed a large audience at Aledo on the issues of the day. The day was beautiful and large delegations came from all parts of the county with banners flying and bands playing. Senator Trumbull's speech was one of great power and compass and revealed in detail the differences between Congress and President Johnson. He was followed by General Harding in a short speech full of local references and arguments. In the evening Doctor Fisk and Colonel McManus spoke at the courthouse. The Aledo Republican Club had charge of the ceremonies. The presence at Aledo of Governor Oglesby during the campaign of 1866 was made the occasion of a general rally of the old soldiers under the management of Aledo Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. The committee on arrangements were Lewis L. Troy, J. H. Connell, I. N. Dunlap, J. M. Warwick, F. C. Cunningham and Washington Waugh. Large delegations from all townships arrived early and the streets were paraded by a long line of wagons and pedestrians led by 200 members of the Grand Army and the band. Greene Township sent a wagon drawn by six horses and containing thirty-six young ladies representing the states. Governor Oglesby reviewed the parade and was greeted with cheers and the waving of small flags. His speech delivered on the east side of the courthouse block was listened to by nearly ten thousand people it was estimated. He reviewed with intense severity the acts of President Johnson and was frequently applauded.

At these important meetings other republican speakers were I. N. Bassett, J. E. Harroun, Rev. J. S. Poage, J. R. Bassett, J. M. Wilson and S. W. McCoy.

Early in November, 1866, the democrats held a big mass meeting in Aledo, the speakers being Judge John S. Thompson of this county

and Gen. A. C. Dodge, of Iowa. Both delivered strong and able speeches in support of the democratic doctrines of that day.

The result of the election of November, 1866, was as follows: For Congress at large, Logan (R.) over Dickey (D.), 729; for Congress Fourth District, Harding (R.) over Thompson (D.), 689; for representative, Sedwick (R.) over Hanna (D.), 759; for sheriff, Simpson, no opposition, 2,190 votes; for coroner, Paxton (R.), no opposition. Total vote 3,317. Three townships went democratic, namely: Perryton, Abington and Keithsburg. The vote for congressman was as follows: Harding (R.), 1,992, Thompson (D.), 1,303. There was much rejoicing in this county that the election generally showed that President Johnson's policy was condemned and that the radicals should hold power and rule the country.

At a special election for county sheriff in February, 1867, the candidates were E. E. Harris, C. J. Simpson, John C. Welliver and Charles M. Barry. The latter received the nomination. At the convention of the Tenth Judicial District held at Monmouth in May, 1867, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for circuit judge, order was called by I. N. Bassett and W. S. Gale was chosen chairman and Horace Bigelow, secretary. On the second formal ballot Thomas G. Frost received the nomination. The other candidates voted for were A. A. Smith, W. C. Rice and P. H. Sanford.

The Republican County Convention met at Aledo, September 11, 1867. Joseph McCoy was elected chairman and J. H. Connell, secretary. The usual committees were appointed. I. N. Dunlap was nominated county treasurer by acclamation. William B. Frew was nominated for surveyor. H. S. Senter, I. McManus, B. F. Morey, E. B. David and C. S. Richey were elected central committeemen.

The result of the election in November, 1867, was as follows: For treasurer—Dunlap (R.), 980, Ungles (D.), 721; for surveyor—Frew (R.), 1,149, Lee (Ind.), 528. Only about one-third of the vote was polled. The democrats had no regular ticket but ran their candidates as independents.

The Republican County Convention met April 13, 1868, at Aledo and named the following delegates to the State Convention: S. H. Riddell, Col. I. McManus, Joshua Bruner, H. N. Chandler, and I. R. Kidd; and the following delegates to the Congressional Convention: B. F. Brown, J. M. Mannon, E. W. Livingston, I. N. Bassett, J. N. Markee, J. V. Frazier, W. O. Dungan, W. D. Craig, J. B. Longley, W. M. Hays and W. M. Pinkerton. The delegates to the State Convention were instructed to vote for John M. Palmer for governor.

In case he refused to run they were instructed to vote for Anson S. Miller. The congressional delegates were instructed to vote for J. B. Hawley.

In 1868 the republicans of this county from the start favored the nomination of General Grant for the presidency. As early as May a Grant Club was organized at Aledo, at New Boston and at several of the townships throughout the county. At Aledo I. N. Bassett was made president of the club; L. S. Troy and E. E. Harris, vice presidents; James H. Cornell, secretary; Hugh R. Morrison, treasurer, and J. C. Cummins, marshal. This club met regularly every Saturday night at the courthouse. The nomination of Grant and Colfax met the approval of the republicans here. The democrats were well pleased with the nomination of Seymour and Blair for president and vice president respectively. They likewise formed clubs in all parts of the county and commenced a stirring campaign for success. There was considerable feeling at this time throughout the county that the ultra views of the republicans were too severe for the restoration of friendly relations with the southern people. The attitude of leading republicans was to force the South to observe and adopt the reconstructive measures proposed by the ultra republicans. All democrats and many republicans believed that a conciliatory policy would be far better than to send troops to the South to enforce objectionable reconstructive measures. Accordingly the republican party in a measure was slowly disintegrating and falling away from the severe measures advocated by the extremists. In the end this feeling led to an open rupture in republican ranks and to the formation of the liberal republican party, which was composed of democrats and such republicans as favored a policy not so stringent and exacting toward the South.

The Republican County Convention assembled at Aledo, August 17, 1868. Col. H. W. Thornton was elected chairman and T. Glancey, secretary. Col. I. McManus and I. N. Bassett addressed the convention while the committee on credentials was at work. William A. Lorimer was nominated for circuit clerk. Mr. Dungan was nominated for sheriff on the first ballot. Rezin W. Kile was nominated for coroner by acclamation. The new Central Committee were C. S. Richey, B. F. Morey, I. McManus, Horace Bigelow and J. M. Mannon. Delegates to the Senatorial, Judicial and Representative conventions were chosen.

John R. Eden, democratic candidate for governor, addressed a large audience on the issues of the day at Keithsburg, August 18,

1868. Cannon and music ushered in the event. D. P. Phelps, democratic elector, was the first speaker.

At the Representative Convention, held at Keithsburg this year, David M. Findley was nominated by acclamation. W. O. Dungan was the republican nominee for sheriff. At the Senatorial Convention in Monmouth in 1868, Col. I. McManus, of Keithsburg, received the nomination for state senator. Gen. John M. Palmer was republican candidate for governor and spoke here September 16th. His address continued for two hours and was listened to by 5,000 people. General Singleton, democrat, spoke at several places in this county to large audiences. He was an able and eloquent speaker and was listened to with rapt attention. He spoke at Aledo and a few days later Rev. J. S. Poage answered him in a speech of unusual power and eloquence. Mr. Poage was quite a brilliant speaker and was popular throughout the county. C. C. Matlock, of Keithsburg, was another democratic nominee for representative. At the Democratic Convention in October, Doctor Stanway, of New Boston, was nominated for circuit clerk, and Thomas Cummings, of Keithsburg, was nominated for sheriff. The campaign of 1868 was unusually active, vindictive and brilliant. The people were interested and usually assembled in large numbers to hear the able speakers of this county and those who came in from abroad.

At the November election (1868) the county went republican by a large majority. For president, Grant (R.), received 2,078; Seymour (D.), 1,388; for governor, Palmer (R.), 2,073; Eden (D.), 1,394; for congressman, this district, Hawley (R.), 2,067; Singleton (D.), 1,393; for state senator, McManus (R.), 2,015; Hungate (D.), 1,399; for representative, Findley (R.), 2,063; Matlock (D.), 1,397; for circuit clerk, Lorimer (R.), 1,988; Stanway (D.), 1,474; for sheriff, Dungan (R.), 1,993; Cummins (D.), 1,454; for coroner, Kile (R.), 2,004; Gilmore (D.), 1,445. The vote was the largest ever polled in the county, although fully two hundred had moved to Missouri.

The Republican County Convention of September, 1869, nominated Joshua Bruner for county judge; F. W. Livingston for county superintendent; J. W. Dilley for county clerk; I. N. Dunlap for county treasurer; W. B. Frew for county surveyor, and named J. S. Poage as a delegate from this county to revise the Constitution. In order to defeat the republicans the democrats and the disgruntled republicans united to put out a fusion ticket in part. The result of the election in November, 1869, was the success generally of the republican ticket. The fusionists nominated J. C. Pepper as delegate

to the Constitutional Convention and exhausted every resource in their power to effect his election. They desired certain changes or certain articles in the new Constitution and were willing to grant almost any concession to effect the desired result. But they failed, the vote being Poage 882, Pepper 522. At the Republican County Delegate Convention in 1870 Walter Pryne served as chairman and T. Glancey and H. Bigelow as secretaries. The usual delegates to the State, Congressional and Senatorial conventions were chosen. Congressional delegates were instructed to vote for J. B. Hawley and the senatorial delegates to vote for H. S. Senter. The convention also instructed the state delegates to vote for John A. Logan for any office he desired, and to vote for J. S. Strain, of Warren County, for penitentiary commissioner. The new Central Committee were George P. Graham, Walter Pryne, T. Glancey, S. D. Paxton and J. B. Longley. At the Republican County Convention in October, 1870, Dr. J. P. Boyd served as chairman and H. Bigelow as secretary. The candidates for representative were E. Gilmore, S. F. Fleherty and J. M. Mannon. It required eighteen ballots to effect a nomination. On the last ballot Gilmore received 41 and Fleherty 42. The following were candidates for sheriff—Cummins, Reddell, Noble and Guthrie. It required ten ballots to settle this contest, the last being Noble 33, Guthrie 50. The candidate for representative was instructed to vote for John A. Logan for United States senator. R. W. Kile was nominated for coroner by acclamation. The contest this year was largely local, was lively and sharp, but there was little ill will. Among the speakers were John B. Hawley, John A. Logan and Governor Oglesby. General Logan was at Aledo in September and during the afternoon the rain fell in torrents, yet over one thousand persons were present to hear him. In 1870 the democracy nominated Thomas S. Cabeen for state senator. The republican speakers attacked Mr. Cabeen for his peace policy during the war and declared that he was now not entitled to recognition by the county. H. S. Senter became the republican candidate for state senator this year. John Geiger was nominated by the democracy for representative.

The election of November, 1870, resulted as follows: For Congress, this district, Hawley (R.), 1,284; Cable (D.), 973; for state senator, Senter (R.), 1,305; Cabeen (D.), 952; for representative, Fleherty (R.), 1,259; Geiger (D.), 997; for sheriff, Guthrie (R.), 1,253; Cool (D.), 1,007; for coroner, Kile (R.), no opposition, 2,211.

In 1871 at the Republican Convention it required thirty-five ballots to nominate a county treasurer. Van A. Noble was finally

named. W. B. Frew was nominated for surveyor for this convention. H. N. Chandler was chairman and Col. J. M. Mannon, secretary.

The election of November, 1871, resulted as follows: For Congress, Beveridge (R.), 878; Hayes (D.), 527; for county treasurer, Noble (R.), 825; Ungles (D.), 559; for surveyor, Frew (R.), 733; McLaughlin (D.), 661.

At the Republican Convention of May, 1872, Dr. J. V. Frazier was elected chairman and H. Bigelow, secretary. The resolutions adopted declared faith in the republican party and pledged fidelity to its platform and principles. W. A. Lorimer, B. D. Ellett, C. H. Eaton, H. Bigelow and C. A. Ballard were nominated for delegates to the state convention. At the republican county convention in July, 1872, held in Aledo, B. D. Ellett served as chairman and H. Bigelow as secretary. Delegates were named to the congressional and senatorial conventions. Congressional delegates were instructed to vote for Rev. J. S. Poage for Congress. Delegates to the senatorial and representative conventions were instructed to vote for George P. Graham. W. A. Lorimer was nominated for circuit clerk, B. F. Brock for prosecuting attorney, N. H. Guthrie for sheriff and R. W. Kile for coroner. This convention was addressed at length by I. N. Bassett on the issues then stirring this community. B. D. Ellett, Walter Pryne, William Byrus, L. B. Morey and D. W. Sedwick were the county republican central committee. The republicans of this county were pleased and ratified the nomination of Grant and Wilson for president and vice president respectively. At this time there was a decided split in the ranks of the republicans. The liberal wing of that party was now fully organized and many prominent republicans, believing it the wisest course to pursue under the circumstances, joined the new movement and fought for its success. The liberal republican convention met at Aledo in June and was called to order by I. N. Bassett. H. S. Scott was made chairman and T. Glancey, secretary. They passed resolutions accepting the Cincinnati platform adopted by the liberal republican party which had nominated Greeley and Brown for president and vice president. This convention favored uniting with all persons who endorsed the Cincinnati platform and favored a tariff for revenue only. John M. Palmer was favored for governor. H. H. Roberts, T. Glancey, I. N. Bassett, S. V. Prentiss and W. T. Dilley were appointed delegates to the state convention. C. S. Richey, H. S. Scott and W. P. Myers were placed on the county central com-

mittee. The leading speakers and workers at this convention were Messrs. Glancey, Bassett and Scott.

A Grant and Wilson Club was organized at Aledo in July and started out with 125 members. James M. Wilson was president, J. S. Boice, secretary, and M. L. Marsh, treasurer. The republicans of Millersburg also formed a Grant and Wilson Club, of which Robert H. Day was president. Another was formed at New Boston, with Gideon Ives, president. Still another was organized at Keithsburg, with G. W. Whitney for president. William D. Henderson was republican state elector from the Tenth District this year.

The democrats and liberal republicans, after some maneuvering, finally united and held a convention and nominated a ticket composed of both parties. The democrats named the circuit clerk and the prosecuting attorney and the liberal republicans sheriff and coroner. The candidates of the democrats were Benijah Lloyd for circuit clerk and F. Martin for prosecuting attorney. The vote in this county in 1872 was as follows: For president, Grant, 1,984; Greeley, 1,046; for governor, Oglesby (R.), 1,980; Koerner (D.), 1,173; for state senator, Sanford (R.), 1,991; Curtis (D.), 1,174; for representatives, Graham (R.), 3,082½; J. S. Chambers (R.), 2,881½; Streeter (D.), 3,297½; Hensley (D.), 1,96½; for state senator, Brock (R.), 1,918; Martin (D.), 1,241; for circuit clerk, Lorimer (R.), about 1,644; Lloyd (D.), 1,279; for sheriff, Guthrie (R.), 2,147; for coroner, Cline (R.), 1,996; for the stock law, 1,210; against the stock law, 1,713. The last measure was a law to keep stock from running at large.

At the judicial election in 1873 Craig (R.) received 1,487 and Lawrence (D.), 484. In 1873 the democrats and liberal republicans united. They apparently held separate conventions, but agreed upon the fusion ticket and entered the field to win. At this time the fusion movement was called the people's party. The county convention of this organization was signed by every member of the county board except one. The labor movement was taken up by the democrats who made the most of the circumstances. Many republicans joined this movement because the Grangers, or Patrons of Husbandry, favored the fusion ticket. The old liberal republican party was thus merged into the new organization largely under the control of the Patrons of Husbandry.

At the republican county convention in September, 1873, J. P. Boyd served as chairman and H. Bigelow as secretary. The committee on resolutions were Dr. J. V. Frazier, D. W. Sedwick, W. A. Wilson, A. B. Smith and J. McKinney, Jr. The platform pledged

fidelity to the republican platform and principles. J. R. Bassett was nominated for county judge; J. W. Dilley, county clerk; M. M. Jones, treasurer, and Miss Amanda Frazier, county superintendent. The county republican central committee were H. Bigelow, B. D. Ellett, Walter Pryne, D. W. Sedwick and William Byrus.

Late in August, 1873, the people's convention, composed of democrats, greenbackers and fusionists generally, met at Byers' Hall and elected W. E. Griffin chairman and L. D. Holmes secretary. The committee on platform were N. P. Smith, J. P. Wycoff, A. Bruntington, J. E. Harroun and J. W. Sedwell. The preamble to the platform recited that a portion of the people deemed it advisable to dissolve connection with the old parties and set up a new political organization based upon the following principles: (1) All corporations to be controlled by law; (2) greater economy in public office; (3) the producing classes to be better represented in official position; (4) that honesty, ability and competency should be the test of fitness for office; (5) a tariff for revenue with a few exceptions; (6) representatives of the people should obey the wishes of the people or resign; (7) favored the election of president and United States senators by direct vote of the people; (8) opposed to further land grants to railroads or other corporations, the same to be given to actual settlers; (9) that the next Congress should repeal at once the back pay or salary grab steal as it was called; (10) advised the repeal of the railroad law which advocated the pro rata principle. This convention nominated the following officers: Thomas Likely, county judge; C. F. Durston, county clerk; W. N. Graham, treasurer; W. B. Frew, surveyor.

The result of the election in November, 1873, was the success generally of the anti-monopoly ticket, so-called. For county judge, Thomas Likely (A. M.), 1,224; John R. Bassett (R.), 992; for county clerk, C. F. Durston (A. M.), 1,244; John W. Dilley (R.), 988; for treasurer, W. N. Graham (A. M.), 1,340; Milton M. Jones (R.), 890; for county superintendent, Miss A. E. Frazier (R.), 807; Miss M. L. Walker (Indp.), 772; William D. Condit (Indp.), 479; for keeping up hogs, 610; against keeping up hogs, 1,063. This election resulted in a partial defeat of the republican party. The democrats, disgruntled republicans, liberal republicans and grangers, when united, were strong enough to make heavy inroads upon the ranks of republicanism. At this election in Illinois twenty-nine women were candidates for county superintendents and eleven were elected.

At the people's convention in June, 1874, John Geiger, H. E. Harroun, S. V. Prentiss and A. J. Streeter were named as delegates to the state convention of that party. At the republican county convention in June, J. R. Bassett served as chairman and H. Bigelow as secretary. Dr. J. V. Frazier, W. A. Lorimer, J. B. Gilmore, J. C. Graham and David Little were chosen delegates to the state convention.

At the republican county convention in August, Judge Bassett was made chairman and H. Bigelow, secretary. John S. Paxton was nominated for sheriff and Ambrose D. Keeler, coroner. John T. McGinnis was the choice of the convention for representative; B. C. Taliaferro for Congress. Delegates to the congressional and representative conventions were selected.

The independent county convention met at Aledo in August, with R. H. Day presiding, and T. J. Martin served as secretary. B. W. McLaughlin was nominated for sheriff and C. S. Richey, coroner. A. J. Streeter was the choice of the convention for representative. John T. McGinnis and John H. Lewis secured the nomination for representatives. Henderson Ritchie secured the nomination for Congress. The latter spoke here in October to a large audience. Bagby was his opponent. They conducted a joint discussion throughout the district during the campaign. In October, Shelby M. Cullom, then speaker of the House of Representatives, spoke here in Byers Hall to several thousand voters.

The result of the November election of 1874 was: For congressman, Ritchie (R.), 1,313; Bagby (D.), 1,115; for representative, McGinnis (R.), 2,248; Lewis (R.), 1,679; Harvey (D.), 268; Cabeen (D.), 3,136; for sheriff, Paxton (R.), 1,307; McLaughlin (D.), 1,093; Crawford (Indp.), 43; for coroner, Keeler (R.), 1,350; Richey (D.), 1,077.

At the republican county convention in August, 1875, Col. J. M. Mannon served as chairman and H. Bigelow as secretary. Daniel T. Hindman was nominated for county treasurer and W. B. Frew for surveyor. The independent or democratic convention of August was presided over by R. C. Cabeen, with O. P. Arthur as secretary. This convention strongly favored greenback principles and advocated the immediate repeal of the Sherman resumption law and took steps for the formation of greenback clubs in every considerable neighborhood in the county. W. N. Graham was nominated for treasurer and Williams McLaughlin for surveyor. Opposition to the republicans during this campaign was a fusion of the democrats and greenbackers. At the November election the republicans were

successful with the treasurer but the democrats and greenbackers elected the surveyor.

At the republican county convention in August, 1876, Col. George W. Warner presided and H. Bigelow officiated as secretary, with L. B. Doughty as assistant. Alexander McArthur was nominated for circuit clerk; John S. Paxton, sheriff; John C. Wharton, state's attorney; R. W. Kile, coroner. The convention renominated J. B. Taliaferro for state senator. There was not as much excitement over political matters in 1876 as might have been expected. However, both parties were well organized, with clubs in almost every neighborhood. The candidates stumped the county and the republicans lost many votes through the dissatisfaction which then existed in political affairs.

The result of the election of November, 1876, in Mercer County was as follows: For president, Hayes (R.), 2,209; Tilden (D.), 1,428; Cooper (Ind.), 92; for governor, Cullom (R.), 2,212; Steward (D.), 1,530; for state board of equalization, Boice (R.), of Mercer County, 1,925; Cabeen (D.), 1,699; for state senator, Taliaferro (R.), 2,165; Smith (D.), 1,531; for representatives, Latimer (R.), 3,264; Curtis (R.), 3,260; Harroun (D.), 4,105¹/₂; Brown (D.), 336¹/₂; for state's attorney, Wharton (R.), 2,238; Morgan (D.), 1,440; for circuit clerk, McArthur (R.), 2,370; Lloyd (D.), 1,227; for sheriff, Paxton (R.), 2,457; Reynolds (D.), 1,170; for coroner, Kile (R.), 2,212; Barrett (D.), 1,290.

At the republican county delegate convention, July 14, 1877, to name delegates to the judicial convention, J. M. Wilson served as chairman and H. Bigelow as secretary. The delegates chosen were: T. B. Mayo, J. W. Close, E. T. Crosby, T. R. Gourley, R. Wolfe, W. A. Lorimer, S. V. Prentiss, R. A. McGee and Dr. E. Kendall. They were directed to present the name of Isaac N. Bassett before the Galva convention for nomination as judge and to use all honorable means to secure his selection. John J. Glenn, of Monmouth, was nominated.

The republican county convention of September 3, 1877, was presided over by Robert Candor, and H. Bigelow served as secretary. John R. Bassett was nominated for county judge; Miss A. E. Frazier, for county superintendent; E. C. Humphrey, for county clerk; D. T. Hindman, for county treasurer; R. H. Atchison, John McClure, J. V. Frazier, Gideon Ives and A. P. Petrie were chosen county central committee.

The democratic county convention of September, 1877, elected Josiah McCaw chairman and R. H. Winger, secretary. C. C.

Worden was nominated for county clerk. This was a partial fusion of the democrats and greenbackers.

The campaign of 1877 was mean, vindictive and personal. E. C. Humphrey received the nomination for county clerk in 1877 as against Charles F. Durston, who was then incumbent, having served for four years. Mr. Durston had made an excellent clerk and was a man of most excellent character, very popular in the county, and had lived in the county nearly all his lifetime. His father and his brothers had lived in the east part of the county, where he had other relatives. Also he had relatives in New Boston, in the western part of the county. Mr. Humphrey had only lived in the county a few years and came here as station agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. Mr. Humphrey was a wary politician and he and Dr. J. S. Boice managed to get the political bosses to obtain their nominations, Boice for member of the state board of equalization, and Humphrey for county clerk. This was against the wishes of the great body of the republicans in the county. If the matter had been submitted at a primary both of these men would have been defeated, and Durston would have been nominated more than two to one against Humphrey. This caused great dissatisfaction and Charles Worden was put up as a candidate. He was born and lived all of his lifetime in Keithsburg, was a republican, and was a man of excellent character and ability. J. H. Connell and others, but particularly Mr. Connell, wrote a number of articles that were published in the democratic newspaper of the county, urging the election of Mr. Worden, and while he was urging that Mr. Humphrey was a railroad man, the real thing that defeated Humphrey was getting the nomination by the political bosses and not by the people.

The result of the election of November, 1877, was as follows: For county judge, Bassett (R.), 1,474; Dilley (D.), 710; for county clerk, Humphrey (R.), 923; Worden (D.), 1,378; for county treasurer, Hindman (R.), no opposition, 2,149; for county superintendent, Miss Frazier (R.), 1,243; Gibson (D.), 913; for county judge Scott received five votes in Keithsburg and fifty in Perryton Township. Mrs. L. P. Gibson was the democratic-greenback candidate for county superintendent. Only eighty-one votes were cast in the county in favor of the proposed state house appropriation.

The partial successes of the greenbackers and democrats united gave them great encouragement, whereupon they prepared to organize at an early date for the campaign of 1878. They held a large convention at Aledo in December, on which occasion S. F.

Norton, a greenback enthusiast from Chicago, explained the principles thus advocated by the greenbackers. Inflation was the panacea for all political ills of that party, according to Mr. Norton and other members of the greenback party. He likewise discussed the provisions of the Bland silver bill.

At a mass convention of the republicans in February, 1878, the financial condition of the country was fully and deliberately considered. The ablest speakers of the party analyzed the policies and demands of the greenbacks and insisted that their position was unwise and should not be made a part of the laws of the Government. At this meeting Graham Lee was chairman and H. Bigelow, secretary. The committee on resolutions were A. P. Petrie, V. R. Harriott, W. C. Gray, Robert Candor, George P. Graham, Josiah Candor, Edward Griffith, Washington Wolf and J. J. Huston. Speeches were made by Edwards, Taliaferro, Judge Bassett and Brock, each giving briefly his views on the greenback question. The resolutions favored the repeal of the resumption act so far as it related to the time of resumption; expressed the belief that the demonetization of silver was uncalled for and hailed the passage of the Bland silver bill; expressed the further belief that the legal tender notes of the United States were the best and most reliable money in the world; opposed the contraction or withdrawal of the legal tender notes; demanded the substitution of legal tender notes for national bank currency as fast as received from the treasury; advocated the payment of Government bonds in accordance with law, favored making Government notes a legal tender for all debts except where coin should be specified; urged the issuance by the Government of bonds of the denomination of \$10 and upward to the full amount of the demand not exceeding the amount of bonded indebtedness; favored the establishment of postal savings banks under control of the postoffice department.

On March 23, 1878, the greenback county convention was held at Union Hall, Aledo. R. H. Bay served as chairman, J. E. Harroun as secretary, and S. J. Mason as assistant secretary. R. J. Cabeen, A. B. Swisher, W. A. Wilson, William Hill, J. L. Robb, Dick Wolf, T. S. Robb, Richard Winger, James Goold and J. E. Harroun were appointed committee on resolutions. Speeches were made by R. H. Day, W. H. Heaton, R. S. Cramer, A. J. Streeter and Doctor Baker. The committee on resolutions recommended the adoption of the Toledo platform except as to the name of the party, which they stated should be national greenback instead of national. The report was accepted and the committee was discharged. The

resolutions were along the line of the greenback policy of that day.

At the republican county delegate convention in August, E. L. McKinnie served as chairman and H. Bigelow, as secretary. Delegates to the congressional and senatorial conventions were named. Joshua R. Brown was nominated for sheriff and E. B. Harvey for coroner. At the greenback convention in August, R. B. Cabeen presided. George W. Gregg was nominated for sheriff and Dr. W. H. Hall for coroner. The greenbackers and democrats were unable to unite this year and accordingly the former nominated a separate ticket, as follows: William H. Brown for sheriff and Rezin Pratt for coroner. B. F. Marsh was candidate of the republicans for Congress. The same party named Joseph F. Latimer and Rufus W. Miles for representatives.

In 1878 Keithsburg had the largest democratic club in this congressional district. At an immense barbecue held there in September, over six thousand people were present according to estimates. A prize was offered for the largest club of the party and although immense delegations came from neighboring cities, Keithsburg won the prize. Among the speakers on this occasion were Brick Pomeroy and D. P. Stubbs, of Iowa. Six bands were present and furnished the music. Organization clubs came from Muscatine, Aledo, Oquawka, New Boston, Alexis, Viola and elsewhere. The efforts of the greenbackers of Keithsburg were successful in making this the most notable gathering of the campaign. A little later, in order to counteract the effect of the greenbackers' barbecue, Governor Oglesby and B. F. Marsh spoke to a large audience of republicans in Keithsburg, as did John B. Hawley and D. P. Phelps.

The result of the November election (1878) was as follows: For Congress, Marsh (R.), 1,850; Phelps (D.), 900; Streeter (G.), —; for representatives, Latimer (R.), 2,768; Miles (R.), 2,762; Sloan (D.), 2,326½; Wilson (G.), 3,084; for sheriff, J. H. Brown (R.), 1,772; W. H. Brown (D.), 852; Gregg (G.), 852; for coroner, Harvey (R.), 1,829; Hall (D.), 1,231; for drainage amendment 1,611; against it, 849.

In May, 1879, R. J. Cabeen served as chairman of the greenback convention and W. H. Heaton as secretary. The lack of success had somewhat dampened the ardor of the greenbackers, so that they only nominated Jacob Cool for county coroner. At the republican county convention this year A. P. Petrie served as chairman. D. T. Hindman was nominated for county treasurer and C. S. Richey, surveyor. At the democratic county convention John Geiger served as chairman. Cornelius O'Leary was nominated for treasurer

and William McLaughlin for surveyor. The greenbackers this year held their convention in September and were presided over by Charles Roberts. D. H. Hayes in a long speech scored the policies and practices of the two old parties. The convention nominated Cornelius O'Leary for treasurer and William McLaughlin for surveyor, thus fusing really with the democracy. Late in October, owing to some dissatisfaction, the democrats nominated W. R. Lemon for county treasurer.

The result in November, 1879, was as follows: For county treasurer, Hindman (R.), 1,233; Lemon (D.), 471; Cabeen (G.), 478; for surveyor, Richey (R.), 1,139; McLaughlin (D. and G.), 1,003.

E. C. Humphrey was one of the republican electors in 1880. The nomination of Garfield for the presidency pleased the republicans of this county. The democrats were equally delighted with the nomination of Hancock and English. The campaign was spirited, many prominent speakers visiting the county. Richard Oglesby spoke at Aledo to over five thousand people.

The result of the election of November, 1880, was as follows: For president, Garfield (R.), 2,348; Hancock (D.), 1,487; Weaver (G.), 448; for governor, Cullom (R.), 2,295; Trumbull (D.), 1,408; Streeter (G.), 583; for state senator, Berggren (R.), 2,360; Clay (D.), 1,874; for representative, Wood (R.), 3,480; Petrie (R.), 3,564¹/₂; Boyd (D.), 4,386¹/₂; Dilley (D.), 1,317; for circuit clerk, McArthur (R.), 2,417; Pratt (D.), 1,850; for state's attorney, Wharton (R.), 2,282; McBride (D.), 1,978; for sheriff, Cummins (R.), 2,375; Cool (G.), 1,897; for coroner, Porter (R.), 2,363; Danford (G.), 1,869; for constitutional amendment, 3,390; against it, 552.

In recent years local interest in the parties has not been of much consequence. There have been no issues of importance and the parties have contented themselves with merely advocating the policies advanced by their own factions. Very few contests of any importance outside of Mercer County have been made for over thirty years. The battle has been waged along state and national partisan lines.

In August, 1882, at the republican county convention, George Lytle served as chairman and H. Bigelow as secretary. J. R. Bassett was nominated for county judge; T. H. Doughty for county clerk; E. B. David, treasurer; J. A. Cummins, sheriff; Joseph A. Goding, county superintendent; W. C. Porter, coroner, and Mr. Ansley, representative.

At the democratic county convention, A. B. Swisher served as chairman and G. M. Eames as secretary. The convention concluded not to nominate a county ticket, but to run a few candidates inde-

pendently. They named delegates to the state, senatorial and congressional conventions and offered to fuse with the independents and name part of the ticket. This offer was in part accepted.

The result of the November election, 1882, was as follows: For county judge, Bassett (R.), 1,633; Wilson (Indp.), 1,843; for county clerk, Doughty (R.), 1,427; Worden (Indp.), 2,064; for treasurer, David (R.), 1,793; Nelson (Indp.), 1,707; for sheriff, Cummins (R.), 2,075; Hayes (Indp.), 1,421; for superintendent of schools, Goding (R.), 1,817; Willits (Indp.), 1,630; for coroner, Porter (R.), 1,869; McDougal (Indp.), 1,691.

In 1884 the republican county ticket was: Circuit clerk, Alexander McArthur; state's attorney, Samuel D. C. Hays; surveyor, Cornelius S. Richey; coroner, William C. Porter. The democrats nominated: Circuit clerk, S. N. Adams; surveyor, William McLaughlin; coroner, Jacob Cool. No nomination for state's attorney was made.

The county democratic convention of 1884 met at the courthouse, Aledo, July 24th, and was called to order by Martin Boyd. C. V. Shore was elected chairman and George E. Eames, secretary. Delegates to the senatorial, representative, congressional and state conventions were chosen. The convention was addressed by Martin Boyd, John Whitsitt, John Downing, Louis Gradky and John Henry. Thomas B. Cabeen was elected chairman of the county central committee. A resolution was unanimously passed, heartily approving and endorsing the course of Hon. W. H. Neece, congressman.

In 1884 the prohibitionists were prominent in this county. The name of St. John and Daniels for president and vice president, and the wave of temperance reform which then swept the country, were sufficient to spur members of that party into activity. They assembled at Aledo and ratified the nomination of St. John.

Late in October, Robert T. Lincoln spoke at Aledo to an audience estimated at about ten thousand. Delegations were present from all parts of the county. Large pictures of Lincoln, Blaine and Logan were borne in the parades and posted conspicuously at the speakers' stands. All enjoyed listening to the son of Abraham Lincoln. The meeting was continued in the evening, other speakers being Clark E. Carr, T. J. Henderson and O. F. Berry. The grounds were lighted with Chinese lanterns and 800 torch bearers paraded the streets, led by bands.

The result of the November election, 1884, in this county was as follows: For president, Blaine (R.), 2,273; Cleveland (D.), 1,634; Butler (?), 227; St. John (Pro.), 90; state senator, Sedwick (R.), 2,297; Streeter (D.), 1,886; representatives, Gittings (R.), 3,456;

Graham (R.), 3,459; Stevens (D.), 2,652½; Cherry (D.), 3,010½; circuit clerk, McArthur (R.), 2,360; Adams (D.), 1,822; state's attorney, Hayes (R.), 2,328; coroner, Porter (R.), 2,322; Cool (D.), 1,854; surveyor, Richey (R.), 2,234; McLaughlin (D.), 1,947. The democrats were jubilant over their success in electing Cleveland and numerous ratification meetings were held in all parts of the county.

In after years the political issues were national instead of local. In 1888 there was considerable enthusiasm over the national tickets. The renomination of Cleveland pleased the democracy and numerous democratic clubs were organized at various places in the county. What made this year memorable was the fact that A. J. Streeter, of Mercer County, was nominated by the union labor party for President of the United States. During the campaign he was opposed by Robert H. Cowdry, who was the candidate of the united labor party for president. Mr. Cowdry challenged Mr. Streeter to a joint debate, but the latter declined because the issues between the two factions were not divergent enough to warrant warfare and Mr. Streeter declared he did not care to fight over trifles. He stated that he was not in favor of Henry George's land tax theory—a principle which was supported by Mr. Cowdry.

The democratic county convention in 1888 made the following nominations: State senator, W. C. Williams; representative, Thomas A. Marshall; county clerk, Charles H. Finch; state's attorney, Guy C. Scott; surveyor, William McLaughlin; coroner, John W. Lanfers. This convention was presided over by A. T. Forgy, with Ed N. Heaton, secretary. The democrats this year held an immense rally at Mannon, where a seventy foot pole was erected and where Willis Prentiss, Guy C. Scott and Mr. Heaton, of the Keithsburg News, were the principal speakers. The democratic club there was one of the largest in the county.

The republicans held their county convention late in August and the full ticket was nominated. They nominated Mr. McManus for circuit clerk; Mr. Brock for state's attorney; Mr. Porter for coroner, and Mr. Frew for surveyor. The prohibitionists nominated J. W. McIntosh for Congress; F. Doud for state senator, and P. M. Carnahan for representative. Among the republican speakers who campaigned the county were Cullom, Carr, Gest, Berry and Milchrist. These men were all present at Aledo, three speaking in the afternoon and two in the evening. At an immense democratic meeting held in Keithsburg about the same time the speakers were C. S. Darrow, Thomas A. Marshall, W. J. McElhinney and Guy C. Scott. At another meeting in the same city the speakers were Black and

Prentiss. Delegations were present from New Boston, Joy and elsewhere. The result of the election in November, 1888, was as follows: For president, Cleveland (D.), 1,804; Harrison (R.), 2,349; Fish (Pro.), 126; Streeter (labor), 60; for governor, Palmer (D.), 1,854; Fifer (R.), 2,347; Haits (Pro.), 106; Jones (labor), 32; for state senator, Williams (D.), 1,809; Berry (R.), 2,364; Doud (Pro.), 111; Whitehall (labor), 61; circuit clerk, Finch (D.), 1,744; McManus (R.), 2,504; state's attorney, Scott (D.), 1,977; Brock (R.), 2,297; coroner, Landers (D.), 1,804; Porter (R.), 2,410; surveyor, McLaughlin (D.), 1,909; Frew (R.), 2,339.

In 1890 the republicans nominated James H. Connell for county judge; R. J. Graham for sheriff; James S. Sexton, clerk; T. A. Vernon, treasurer; Alexander Calhoun, county superintendent. The prohibitionists nominated James Feather for county judge; E. R. Gilmore, clerk; C. W. Bridgford, treasurer; George Bloomer, county superintendent; William Henderson, sheriff. Governor Oglesby was one of the speakers during the campaign. The result was the success of the republican party as follows: Connell's majority, 265; Sexton's, 279; Graham's, 164; Vernon's, 130; Calhoun's, 834.

During the campaign of 1892 there was no important local interest at stake. The famous Aledo campaign quartet of the republican party traversed the whole county and enlivened the meetings. The labor question was all important, but was a national affair and involved factories rather more than farms. The result in Mercer County in November was as follows: Republican ticket, 2,467; democratic, 1,975; prohibition, 126; people's 60.

In 1894 the labor movement had become one of great importance in the great centers of population. It did not seriously affect Mercer County. William Mason, of Chicago, spoke at Cable to a large audience in September. He was introduced by J. B. McFarland. There was a large crowd present, two bands and a glee club. He also spoke at Keithsburg and other towns in the county. The republicans carried the election as follows: For county judge, J. H. McConnell won by over one thousand majority; county clerk, H. E. Burgess, 936 majority; sheriff, Cyrus E. Dryden, 654 majority; treasurer, Charles Kinsey, 761 majority; county superintendent, C. L. Gregory, 947. Miss Pepper was a candidate for county superintendent but was defeated.

The contest of 1896 was one of more importance because the labor question and the money question were brought to a climax during that campaign. Never before since the rebellion had the country been so stirred up over important issues as in 1896. The democrats

under their leader, Mr. Bryan, brought the money issue prominently before the people and free silver and better conditions for the laborers in the cities were the slogans. The republicans named William McManus for circuit clerk; James M. Brock for state's attorney; W. B. Frew for surveyor, and Fred D. Dixon for coroner. The result in November was as follows: For president, McKinley (R.), 3,105; Bryan (D.), 2,314; Levering (Pro.), 51; for county clerk, McManus, 931 majority; attorney, Brock, 877 majority; surveyor, Frew, 772 majority; coroner, Dixon, 915 majority. A few votes were cast for Mr. Palmer for president. This contest really settled the free silver question and the demands for laboring classes. The voters as a whole were convinced that with gold and silver as a basis and with a protective tariff regulated to benefit the working classes the country would be more prosperous than it had ever been before. The result in November, 1898, was as follows: County judge, William T. Church (R.), 2,687; John E. Mardock (D.), 1,468; county clerk, Fred Hendrickson (R.), 2,709; Warren B. McClure (D.), 1,430; sheriff, Alfred H. Tomlinson (R.), 2,542; George W. Werts (D.), 1,615; treasurer, Charles A. Frene (R.), 2,643; Alex P. Petrie (D.), 1,511; superintendent of schools, Charlton L. Gregory (R.), 2,720; John N. Cox (D.), 1,433.

The issues in 1900 were mostly national and the result in this county was as follows: For president, McKinley (R.), 3,305; Bryan (D.), 2,111; Woolley (P.), 124; for governor, Yates (R.), 3,305; Alschuler (D.), 2,121; Barnes (P.), 11; for Congress, Prince (R.), 3,301; De Forest (D.), 2,117; Logan (P.), 115; for representatives, Rankin (R.), 4,908; Samuelson (R.), 4,984 $\frac{1}{2}$; Craig (D.), 6,135; Mathews (P.), 370; Brunington (I. D.), 174 $\frac{1}{2}$; for circuit clerk, McManus (R.), 3,323; Werts (D.), 2,110; for state's attorney, Graham (R.), 3,319; Wiley (D.), 2,117; for surveyor, Frew (R.), 3,306; Cabeen (D.), 2,129; for coroner, Austin (R.), 3,291; Hamilton (D.), 2,144.

One of the most interesting campaigns in recent years was the one in 1904, when Roosevelt ran for president to succeed himself. His opponent was Judge Parker, for whom little interest and enthusiasm was shown. The campaign was spirited, particularly on the side of the republicans, nearly all of whom were great admirers of Colonel Roosevelt. The result in this county was that he received 3,215 votes and Parker received 1,376.

In 1906 the new primary law came into effect. The Australian ballot was first used here early in the '90s and gave immediate satisfaction. The local contest in 1906 was livelier than it had been for

several years. Although the issues were mostly national, the contest between individuals was sharp, recriminating and more or less slanderous. The result of the election of November, 1906, was as follows: For state senator, Lander (R.), 1,910; Whiting (D.), 1,157; Strom (Soc.), 49; for representative, Campbell (R.), 2,136; Abbey (R.), 2,302; Werts (D.), 3,397½; McCaskrin (Pro.), 2,355½; Shipman (Soc.), 112½; county judge, Burgess (R.), 2,108; Wait (D.), 1,077; Busley (Pro.), 207; county clerk, Hendrickson (R.), 2,080; Downing (D.), 1,074; Carnahan (Pro.), 233; treasurer, Dilley (R.), 1,974; Miller (D.), 1,166; Pinkerton (Pro.), 240; superintendent of schools, Gregory (R.), 1,927; Crabs (D.), 1,206; Quinlan (Pro.), 253; sheriff, Baker (R.), 1,879; Flynn (D.), 1,381; Frantz (Pro.), 232; surveyor, Frew (R.), 1,942; Wright (D.), 1,157; coroner, Leif (R.), 1,926; Wray (D.), 1,237.

The nomination of William H. Taft for President in 1908 satisfied the republicans of this county. The democrats of course were pleased with the nomination of Mr. Bryan. The contest was almost wholly national and the voters adhered closely to their party tickets. The result of the election of November, 1908, unofficial, was as follows: For President, Taft (R.), 2,871; Bryan (D.), 1,777; Chafin (Pro.), 205; for governor, Deneen (R.), 2,601; Stevenson (D.), 1,829; Sheen (Pro.), 298; for congressman, McKinney (R.), 2,933; McEniry (D.), 1,726; Clark (Pro.), 235; for representative, Campbell (R.), 3,737; Abbey (R.), 3,785; Wheelan (D.), 4,184; McCaskrin (Pro.), 2,119; for circuit clerk, Nelson (R.), 2,891; Walkenshaw (D.), 1,711; Graham (Pro.), 225; for state's attorney, Wilson (R.), 2,934; Mardock (D.), 1,691; for surveyor, Frew (R.), 2,876; Harvey (D.), 1,741; Pinkerton (Pro.), 243; for coroner, Frick (R.), 2,840; Wallace (D.), 1,748; McClanahan (Pro.), 353.

An event of local importance in 1909 was the nomination and election of George A. Cooke, democrat, to the supreme judgeship of this district to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Guy C. Scott, who had filled the position with ability and prominence for several years. Many republicans of this county voted for Judge Cooke, with the result that the republican candidate, McClure, was defeated.

The election of 1910 possessed no local importance. The contest was national and personal. The vote of November, 1910, was as follows: County judge, Henry E. Burgess (R.), 2,130; R. C. Livingston (D.), 850; county clerk, Frank A. Gibson (R.), 2,040; T. R. Wright (D.), 910; B. F. Townsley, 103; county treasurer, S. S. Johnston (R.), 2,059; J. F. Ryan (D.), 864; Robert Bradford, 115; sheriff, C. A. Hickok (R.), 2,095; C. M. Hesley (D.), 850; E. R.

Gilmore, 114; county superintendent, C. L. Gregory (R.), 2,056; S. N. Adams (D.), 918; Cleon Mason, 104. All through public policy questions carried.

The most important event in recent years in political circles was the formation of the national progressive party in 1912. A thorough organization was effected on April 27th at a mass convention held in Aledo. On that occasion the principles of the party generally were announced and delegates were named to the national republican convention at Chicago. The real principles of the party could not be announced until they had been prepared by the Chicago convention. After that event the principles defined were so broad, aggressive and advanced that hundreds of republicans left the ranks of the old party and cast their votes for the progressive candidates.

The state of affairs in this county is shown by the result of the primary election in April, when, for president, Taft received 459 votes; Roosevelt, 1,833; and LaFollette, 376. At the same time, for state's attorney, J. M. Wilson received 1,369, and O. E. Carlstrom, 1,172. The result at the November election of 1912 was as follows: For president, Taft (R.), 949; Roosevelt (Prog.), 2,027; Wilson (D.), 1,598; Chapin (Pro.), 117; Debs (Soc.), 263; for governor, Deneen (R.), 1,158; Funk (Prog.), 1,872; Dunne (D.), 1,502; Worrell (Pro.), 109; Kennedy (Soc.), 201. The entire republican county ticket was elected.

CHAPTER X

AGRICULTURE

The first regular fair of Mercer County was held in October, 1853, and was considered a success. Very little of the proceedings are known. The grounds were surrounded by a brush fence. The price of a family ticket was fixed at \$1, which admitted the purchaser and his entire family each day of the fair. The purchaser by getting a ticket became a member of the association. There were a few artificially increased families in Mercer County that attended the fair that year. It was authoritatively stated that year that one of the wealthiest farmers in the county purchased a ticket, and he and his wife attended the first day of the fair, and then he sold his ticket to his hired hand for 50 cents. The latter attended the next day, but as the rules of the association were that no purchaser had a right to dispose of his ticket to any one else, the hired man had to pay 50 cents when the admission for one day was but 25 cents. At the first fair and for a few years thereafter, about nineteen out of every twenty of the conveyances were lumber wagons, there being very few carriages from the country outside of the villages of Keithsburg and New Boston. The change gradually came by increasing numbers of carriages until about ten years ago, when perhaps nineteen out of the twenty conveyances were carriages. Then set in gradually the automobiles. Last year more people attended the fair in automobiles than in all other conveyances.

The following year the fair was equally successful and was characterized by several novelties which drew a large crowd. A lady received the prize of a saddle for best riding. The fairs were held at Millersburg and continued to be held there for many years. In October, 1855, the exhibits were much better than before. Pure blooded stock was shown and much pride was taken by the exhibitors. Durham cattle and Poland China hogs were the leading breeds shown. The exhibit of grain, particularly of wheat and corn, was excellent. The vegetable display was equally fine, several of the pumpkins being of enormous size. Beets, cabbage, potatoes and other garden truck were shown in abundance. A fine display of apples was also exhibited. The ladies' department was better than

before. The needlework, embroidery, quilts, etc., had not thus far been surpassed. The fair of 1856 seems to have been abandoned, because no account of it appears in public print or elsewhere. Thus the fair of 1857 was called the "fourth annual fair."

Notwithstanding the panic, the farmers were prosperous and took pride in the exhibits. In the spring of 1857 timothy hay was worth in this county \$30 a ton. That year Judge Gilmore grew on his farm, five miles west of Aledo, 150 acres of timothy hay, which proved a very profitable crop. Wheat at this time averaged in this county about fifteen bushels to the acre and was worth about sixty cents per bushel. Prairie grass was cut and made into hay and thus in a large measure served all stock purposes up to this time, although a few fields of timothy began to appear here and there in the county.

The fourth annual fair was held at Millersburg late in September and early in October, 1857. The usual premiums were offered. The judges on farms were W. M. Hays, William Doak, Paul Sheriff; those on road horses were Dr. J. Trego, Benjamin Decker, Josephus Wade, with Martin A. Cook, superintendent; those on farm horses were Hiram Knox, Knotley Scott, Joseph Huston, with Martin A. Cook, superintendent; those on mules were D. F. Noble, W. A. Dryden, Solomon Wolf, with J. P. Boyd, superintendent; those on sheep were Henry Lee, Jonathan Duncan, Samuei Fletcher, with W. S. Haverfield, superintendent; those on cattle were W. S. Rowe, George McFerren, William Wilmerton, with William Brown as superintendent; those on swine, Dr. A. Ashbaugh, David Summerville and Levi Cooper, with N. W. Crippen as superintendent; those on fowls were John M. Ashbaugh, George Spitznoble, Samuel Moor, Sr., with Dr. A. Ashbaugh as superintendent; those on field and garden products were David Harris, David Stratton and William Lafferty, with J. E. Bray as superintendent; those on farming utensils were A. P. Taylor, George Jay, Andrew Burnett, with John Gilmore as superintendent; those on manufactured articles were Anderson Kirlin, M. J. O'Brien and William Crozier, with Henry Donaldson as superintendent; those on the dairy and kitchen were Mrs. Robert Shearer, Mrs. Stephen Stratton, Mrs. Catherine Mills, Mrs. Joseph Robertson, with William Pavy as superintendent; those on household manufactured articles were Mrs. Ezra Willits, Mrs. Rachel Larew, Mrs. Luman Castle, Mrs. Brady Willits and Mrs. Andrew Myers, with J. E. Bray, superintendent; those on ladies' work were Miss Maria King, Miss Mary Wright, Miss Margaret Harris, Miss Catherine Phillips, Mrs. John Summons, with E. G. Howe as superintendent; those on

miscellaneous articles were Amos Prouty, William Strong, John Scott, H. G. Calhoun, with James Sheriff as superintendent. Graham Lee was general superintendent of all the departments.

The executive committee of the society were Tyler McWhorter, president; Amos Prouty, vice president; William Nevius, A. P. Taylor, John Scott, William Strong and James M. Mannon, directors; Washington Wolf, treasurer; L. B. Howe, secretary; W. I. Nevius, chief marshal; S. T. Stratton, assistant marshal; Dudley Willits, orator. As a special inducement to secure a large audience the fair management promised to exhibit several head of elk and buffalo. Wolves were also promised. The tickets were 25 cents each. Mr. Crapnell at this fair made an exhibit of natural history specimens. He had 100 specimens of birds' nests. In all there were about five hundred entries and the receipts were \$1,230.22, and the expenses, \$938.85. Immediately after this fair there was a public sale of cattle, calves, hogs and horses. Probably the Durham cattle were the best live stock exhibits. The Apollo Band of Keithsburg furnished the music. At this time sugar cane growing was quite a rage throughout the whole county. Sugar was so high and so difficult to get and the necessity for something sweet so great that farmers eagerly accepted the growing of sugar cane to meet the deficiency.

In 1858 Graham Lee was elected president of the agricultural association. Tyler McWhorter, who had come to the county in 1846, was the owner of a large nursery a short distance from Aledo. Quite regularly he published in the local newspapers articles concerning the growing of fruit and how to get rid of orchard pests. Particularly he explained how the borer could be eradicated. His nursery was called Pome-Roy. He was an experienced and practical pomologist and landscape gardener and probably did more than any other person for fruit and forestry in early days. At this time the Illinois Farmer was the paper which gave up-to-date information on advancement in agricultural science.

The panic of 1857 and the poor crops, it being a wet year, caused great hardships in 1858 and the result was many debts, which required many years to be liquidated. In 1858 the wheat crop was also poor, which added still further to the difficulty, so that in 1859 and 1860 many taxpayers were delinquent and numerous sales under the tax law were made. William Willits had one of the best orchards in the county at this time. It was located at the Bluff farm near New Boston. He made a specialty of apple growing and every fall sold several hundred bushels either in the county or for ship-

ment on the river. People came with teams from a hundred miles out in Iowa to get apples and were entertained by Mr. Willits when they came. The fair of 1858 was not as great a success as that of 1857, though several of the departments made superior exhibits. The Keithsburg Brass Band furnished the music. This year the fair ran about one hundred dollars short of paying expenses. The ladies department was as good as usual or better. The stock exhibits were excellent but few in number. Graham & Roberts of New Boston exhibited a fine wagon of their own construction. Judge Perkins was the orator. At this time the farmers realized the importance of having good seed of every description. The matter was discussed at the fair and steps to improve the selection of seed were taken.

The fair of 1859 was better than ever; in fact in the newspapers was called "a grand success." The crowd present on the last day was 50 per cent larger than ever before. Over three hundred horses were exhibited, though more than one-half of them were grades, and the blooded animals were mostly Morgans and Messengers. Among the swine were Berkshires, Poland Chinas and Suffolks. The cattle exhibited were Durhams and Devons. The poultry exhibited was the best ever seen in the county. Several new varieties were exhibited. Tyler McWhorter displayed ninety varieties of apples. Others to show fruit, particularly apples, were John Glancey, D. J. Noble, Bell & Brother and D. F. Noble. The exhibits for ladies were large and attractive. W. B. Crapnell, as before, showed a fine collection of natural history specimens. An equestrian contest ended the ceremonies. J. H. Reed of the Record was orator. At this time sub-soil plowing was strongly advocated as a means of improving crop products.

The nursery of Mr. McWhorter near Aledo was one of the best in the state and its owner became prominent in horticultural circles. He grew successfully, in addition to apples, peaches, plums, cherries, pears and grapes. Those who purchased stock from him were instructed fully in regard to methods of propagation and culture. In 1859 Anderson Kirlin, of New Boston, was the inventor of a corn planter which had three points of especial merit. The ground was spaced so that laying it off was not required; the deposit of seed was certain and uniform and slightly scattered; at the bottom where the seed was placed the ground was left loose for the roots to spread.

The fair of September and October, 1860, was an improvement upon those of former years. The exhibits of poultry, fruit, cattle, hogs and horses were particularly fine. Mr. Whitsitt exhibited

eighteen head of Durham and Devon cattle. J. E. Harroun was the orator, and his address was published in full in the Record. It was a strong plea in favor of agricultural schools and colleges and for progress in practical and scientific agriculture. He strongly recommended experiment grounds and was thus far in advance of his time. His address was really a forecast of what came to pass in the '90s.

In February, 1861, the first prize of \$10 for the best essay on the breeding and rearing of horses was awarded to Dudley Willits, of New Boston, by the executive committee of the state agricultural society. This essay was published in the local newspaper and was really an advanced and meritorious production. During the '50s and '60s large numbers of hogs throughout the county died of cholera and the farmers were in despair as to how to prevent the loss. More than one farmer lost over one hundred head from cholera and quite often in the warm months the carcasses could be seen by the scores laying along the public highways. Every effort to prevent the loss was made, but no one seemed to be able to suggest a certain remedy. The agricultural authorities were appealed to but they could give little relief. It was at this time also that the question of maintaining the fertility of the soil was duly and fully considered. There were no experiment stations in those days and the government had done little for the farmer. It had been left to him to discover his own methods of improvement, so that it came to pass that the farmers formed societies and institutes and discussed advanced methods and related their experiences in practical operations on the farms. It was publicly advertised throughout this county that the secret of good farming was "to make the land rich and keep the weeds down." In fact, this was a maxim of the *Scientific American* for improvement in agriculture.

It was in 1860-61 that the first great step toward the improvement of live stock in this county was begun. Col. W. I. Nevius and J. B. Gilmore, of Ohio Grove, were the pioneers for the improvement both of cattle and hogs. Largely through their efforts and through that of the county agricultural society, hogs particularly were improved and new varieties were introduced. In the spring of 1861 there could be seen in this county creditable herds of Poland Chinas, Berkshires, Essexes, Suffolks and Chester Whites. A. R. Sutton, of Berkshire; C. G. Taylor, of Essex; James Henderson, of Suffolks; S. G. McClure, of Chester Whites, and Dr. Edwards, of the Makey hog. Late in the '50s there was a great improvement in harvesting machinery throughout the county. The

reapers were those of Champion, Ball, McCormick, Manny, Kirby and Buckeye. In 1861 they contested for supremacy in the rye field of John Doak, near Keithsburg. Richard Kiddoo purchased a Champion, but other farmers secured other makes. In 1861 the locust pest appeared in the county and ruined thousands of trees. Almost every farmer cultivated sorghum this year. Cane mills were to be seen everywhere and numerous accidents occurred. The army worm appeared in the county in June, 1861. It was found on Judge Gilmore's farm. Rust and chintz bugs were a nuisance at this time, but as a whole the harvest of 1861 was superior. The prices of hogs were unsatisfactory and scarcely paid for the trouble. They varied from \$3 to \$4.50 a hundred. Packers paid small prices, so that farmers in a measure did their own killing and sold the carcasses. In November, 1861, Elias Willits marketed ninety head of hogs in Chicago and realized only \$2.60 gross per hundred. In December, James Graham, of Ohio Grove Township, sold in Monmouth ten hogs, which weighed 5,180 pounds gross. Three of them weighed 1,890 pounds. One of the number, 18½ months old, weighed 670 pounds. The average age of the lot was 19½ months. Late in the fall of 1861 hundreds of hogs died of cholera. Around Millersburg and Aledo particularly the loss was very great. The symptoms were loss of appetite, severe cramping of the legs, chilling, slime or saliva running from the mouth and suffocation and death in a few hours. On examination, the lungs were found to be black and more or less rotten. S. R. Moore announced that slack coal mixed with a quantity of salt would check the disease and prevent it if taken before infection.

The fair of 1861 was only partly successful. The war detracted from the interest. The receipts were about seven hundred dollars. The last day was rainy, but as a whole the exhibits of live stock and fruit were up to the standard. The hog show was better than usual, owing to the large number of new varieties which had been introduced in the county.

In 1862 Philip Coonrod, of Keithsburg, placed upon the market a new two-horse riding corn cultivator of his own invention, which attracted much attention and had a large sale. In the spring of 1862 Elisha Miles lost seventy-five hogs from cholera. At this time corn was worth 15 and 16 cents at New Boston and Keithsburg. A. P. Taylor was president of the agricultural society. During 1862 many beef cattle were driven to market from this county. Quite often they were driven directly through to Chicago. Hogs were usually driven to Muscatine or to other railroad stations. This year

John Whitsitt held several public sales of full-blooded Durham cattle of both sexes. He also sold full-blooded Southdown sheep. It is safe to say that during 1862 not less than one thousand hogs died of cholera in this county. So many carcasses lined the roadways that thirty-five farmers in the vicinity of Aledo signed a paper to assist in burying the animals as soon as they died. John Ashbaugh lost over one hundred near Sugar Grove.

In March, 1863, Isaac Edwards sold over two hundred head of stock hogs at his farm, one mile west of Aledo. The principal breed was Makey. He also sold many Durham cattle. Mr. Edwards was a farmer, a physician, a lawyer, a storekeeper, real-estate agent, etc.

Owing to the excitement of the war no fair was held in 1862. In 1863 the fair was held in Millersburg in September. It was unusually good; in fact, the best since 1860. There were nearly two hundred entries of horses alone, mostly of Morgan and Messenger stocks. Cattle, sheep and swine exhibits were good. The ladies' department was excellent. The receipts were a little over one thousand dollars. Horses were shown by J. R. Benedict, John McH. Wilson, Paul Sheriff, T. Noonan, M. A. Cook, E. Drury and Brady Willits. Cattle were exhibited by Poage & Lair, C. Drury and William Willits. They were mostly of the Durham breed. Sheep were exhibited by Thomas S. Love, Henry Dool, Henry Huffman and J. Beatty. Hogs were shown by T. J. Willett, W. S. Rowe, W. H. Riggs and David Finch. There was a good display of poultry by several exhibitors, the principal ones being W. D. Clark and Jeremiah Pomeroy. The exhibits of women's and girls' work were better than ever. The prize for the best farm of 160 acres in this county was awarded to P. Lippencott. The prize for the best twenty acres of corn was given to Milton L. Willits. The prize for the best orchard of 100 trees or over went to Walter Pryne. The refreshment stands of the soldiers' aid societies of Keithsburg and Millersburg were prominent features of this fair.

The county fair of 1864 was well attended, although the weather was bad. The exhibit was not up to the standard of former years, owing to the excitement of the war and the hard times. The exhibits of cattle and hogs were small, but the horse exhibit was almost as good as usual. The sheep exhibit was up to the standard. Judge Gilmore and William H. Riggs exhibited Spanish Merinos. The ladies' department was not up to the standard, although the dairy and kitchen manufactures were well represented. S. M. Weliver exhibited a bee-hive of his own invention. The receipts amounted to over one thousand dollars and were unexpectedly large. The

society had enlarged the grounds to more than double their former size.

The fair of 1865 was the most successful thus far ever held. It was noted that on the best day more than one thousand teams were tied outside the grounds. On the best day nearly eight thousand people were present. The receipts were about fourteen hundred dollars, or nearly four hundred dollars more than ever before. The races for the first time attracted much attention and were really meritorious. Up to this time racing had not been a prominent feature of the fair, because the horses were not fast enough to attract attention. Now, however, several farmers of the county had speedy animals for that day and the prizes offered were sufficient inducement to bring outsiders here with fast trotters and pacers. The cattle, sheep and hog displays were better than ever. The agricultural products surpassed anything thus far seen at a county fair. R. H. Spicer was the orator.

In 1866 Tyler McWhorter was president of the agricultural society. The war having ended, attention was directed to improvement in farming. Sub-soiling particularly was practiced by all the leading agriculturists. Its benefits were described fully at farmers' meetings and in farmers' journals.

In October, 1866, a committee consisting of Graham Lee, Horace Bigelow and W. P. Strong was appointed by the Mercer County Agricultural Society to ask pledges of the candidates for the next Legislature to use their best endeavors for the immediate establishment of the industrial university or agricultural college which had been provided for by Congress in 1862, but which had been neglected by the Illinois Legislature. D. W. Sedwick, republican candidate for the Legislature, was communicated with by the committee and he promised to do his best to secure the passage of a bill for the establishment of the agricultural college at the earliest day possible.

The fair of 1867 was successful. There was an excellent exhibit of all the usual animal and vegetable products. In this year Tyler McWhorter took the first prize at the state fair for the exhibit of the largest number of named varieties of apples—154. This was the third time he had taken a prize at the state fair. The drop in prices at this time was felt by every farmer in the county. One farmer had 1,000 bushels of wheat which he could have sold the year before for \$3 a bushel, but it now was worth less than \$1.50 a bushel. In February, 1867, hogs brought from \$6 to \$7.50 a hundred and cattle from \$4 to \$7.25 a hundred. In February, 1867, the bill for the agricul-

tural college passed both houses of the Legislature, was signed by the governor and became a law. This gave great satisfaction to the agricultural and horticultural interests of this county. In 1868 J. E. Harroun had one of the finest herds of shorthorn cattle in the state.

The fair of 1868 fell below the standard, owing largely to bad weather. There was only a moderate attendance, but the exhibits, though few in number, were almost as good in quality as in previous years. It was at this time that the first steps were taken to change the location of the fair grounds from Millersburg to some other portion of the county. In the spring of 1869 the agricultural society, after viewing various locations, finally bought twenty-seven acres for \$100 an acre, a short distance southwest of Aledo. The land was purchased of D. V. Reed and was admirably located for a fair site. They advertised the fair ground at Millersburg to be sold at public auction on May 29th. It comprised about five acres, on which there were several substantial buildings. At once the executive board of the society undertook to devise means to pay for the new grounds. They called for subscriptions and received considerable assistance, though not enough to pay for the grounds. It cost a considerable sum of money to fit up the new grounds, but they were ready by fair time in the fall.

About this time the society began to offer special premiums for seed corn, school educational work, better results in domestic science and show novelties that would attract a large attendance. The first corn prize in 1869 was awarded to John P. Lemon, who raised 72 bushels per acre and was paid \$10. The second prize of \$8 went to Ed Moseley, who raised 67³/₄ bushels to the acre. The total receipts in 1869 were \$4,280.64. The premiums actually paid amounted to \$4,162.47. This was one of the best fairs thus far held, because it showed so many innovations, so much enterprise and so many improvements. The new grounds, though somewhat rough, were satisfactory and all acknowledged that it was the best fair that had thus far ever been held in the county. It was stated that on Thursday, the principal day, there was an attendance of 10,000 people. The receipts were larger by \$600 than ever before. The exhibits of horses and mules were better than ever, but those of cattle and sheep were somewhat inferior to former displays. The hog and poultry displays were likewise excellent. The display of agricultural implements was perhaps better than ever before. Dairy and kitchen products were displayed in large quantities and showed growing interest in those departments. The fruit exhibit was superior.

It was the ambition of the agricultural society not only to make each fair better than its predecessor, but to make some decided improvement in the exhibits and methods that would attract attention and engage the interest of the farmers. Thus the fair of 1870, as a whole, was made better than it had ever been before. The racing schedule surpassed that of all former fairs. However, the time made by trotters and pacers was not better than 2:50. Special premiums were offered for fast stock raised in Mercer County. This year the fair authorities overstepped the limits somewhat by giving too much latitude to games of chance and questionable exhibits and performances. The result was much drunkenness on the grounds and some disorder. As usual, Thursday was the best day. The stock shown was the best ever exhibited in the county. Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs were fully up to the standard, if not somewhat in advance. Sixty-nine blooded cattle were exhibited, also fifty pens of hogs. The receipts were over twenty-eight hundred dollars. Monroe Willits took the first prize of \$10 for the best managed farm. M. L. Willits took the prize of \$5 for the best orchard of over one hundred trees. G. A. Thornton took the prize of \$5 for the best five acres of corn. A specialty was made of girls' and children's work generally and many premiums were awarded. The flower show surpassed any exhibit of the past.

At this time McWhorter & Hayes conducted the big nursery near Aledo. They made grape growing a specialty at this time. The vineyard when in fruit was a sight enjoyed by all the inhabitants. They showed Concords, Hartfords, Clintons, Delawares and other varieties. They also had a large orchard loaded with apples and other fruit. Large quantities of grain were shipped in 1870 and 1871 from the new railroad which had just been built and was in good condition. At Aledo in the spring of 1871 nearly two hundred head of cattle were shipped at one time.

In January, 1871, the farmers near Windsor announced publicly that they desired the establishment in that locality of a cheese factory and would guarantee to such a concern the products of at least one hundred cows, and likewise promised to assist such factory with considerable financial aid if needed. T. Merryman was one of the promoters back of this movement. This creamery was finally established and at first did a good business, but a little later was abandoned for a better field in another part of the county. The fairs of 1871 and 1872 were good, though hardly up to the standard. In some departments they surpassed those of previous years. In 1872 the 17-year locusts killed thousands of fruit trees throughout the county.

Mr. Ives of New Boston lost about four hundred young apple trees by this insect. The nineteenth annual fair was held in October, 1872.

It was early in the '70s that the farmers of the county began to organize lodges of Grangers in all parts of the county. In a short time every township had such organizations and the meetings were usually held in the schoolhouses. The county organization of the Grangers became very strong, not only as a means for dissemination of up-to-date agricultural information, but for the exercise of the farmers' love for political contests. The lodges were started by a convention which met at the courthouse in Aledo on January 8, 1873. This convention was called to meet by the following named persons: William Doak, Perryton; R. J. Cabeen, Abington; W. H. Johnson, Preemption; B. W. McLaughlin, Suez; W. A. Wilson, New Boston; Martin Bear, Eliza; Benjamin Lloyd, Keithsburg; B. F. Morey, Greene; Daniel Mowry, Richland Grove; T. S. Sheets, Duncan; H. N. Chandler, Ohio Grove; George P. Graham, Mercer; A. J. Streeter, Rivoli; Richard Garrett, North Henderson; R. H. Day, Millersburg. There was a large attendance, notwithstanding bad weather prevailed. R. H. Day was made chairman of the meeting and delivered the first address. Judge Willard also delivered a speech. Both explained the nature of the Grange organization and predicted a great future for the order. D. M. Foster of the state Grange then spoke, and explained how the lodges were organized and the rules governing them. They were called the Patrons of Husbandry, and were a secret organization. S. J. Frew was appointed deputy for Mercer County, and during the next two years he organized about thirty lodges in the county. This organization did much good while it lasted, but its participation in politics dwarfed in a measure its usefulness in the fields of agriculture.

Early in the '70s special exhibits of animals were made in different parts of the county. A colt show at New Boston was an important event. More than one hundred fine young animals were exhibited. The fair of 1873 was not up to the standard but was fairly successful. They ran in debt about seventeen hundred dollars, but in a large measure this was due to expenses in fitting up the grounds. By 1874 the county had gained an enviable reputation throughout the state for the ownership of fine stock of all kinds. James Feather owned a herd of registered Shorthorns and purchasers from all the surrounding states came here to secure stock animals. In seven months he sold seven animals for \$1,092. He also made a specialty of pure-blooded Berkshires and sold seven animals for \$155. His idea was that "the better the stock the better

it pays," and this maxim became the ruling guide of the whole county at that time. All farmers were intent upon improving their herds. It was at this time also that the farmers began to import blooded animals from Europe. L. V. Willits secured one of these splendid animals. A few persons in the county at that time began to extend their varieties of poultry. Cochins, Brahmas and game fowls were to be seen at the fairs. The fair of 1874 was, perhaps, the most successful for several years. The weather was ideal and the attendance was larger than ever before. It was estimated that ten thousand were present on Thursday, the principal day. For the first time all gambling was excluded from the grounds and no liquor was allowed within the fence. The receipts were \$3,478.18. William Drury at this time was the owner of several imported horses. He owned a gang plow which was exhibited in a field near the fair grounds. It attracted great attention and all realized that the old-fashioned way of plowing on a large scale was almost at an end. The display of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs was as good or better than ever. The cattle displayed, though few in number, were excellent in quality. Two hundred and fifty pens of hogs were shown. The leading breeds were Berkshires, Poland-Chinas and Chester Whites. The poultry exhibit was better than ever before. The display of farm machinery was up-to-date and attracted great attention. The exhibits of flowers, fruit, vegetables, domestic manufactures and the products of the dairy and the kitchen were as good or better than ever. William Lewis, of New Boston Township, took the first premium for the best kept farm of 160 acres in the county. Several games of baseball were played on the grounds during the continuance of the fair. The Icloris of Keithsburg played the Andes of Aledo and defeated them, winning the first prize, a bat, estimated to be worth \$20. The sheep display was better than ever. There were shown Merinos, Cotswolds and Leicesters.

In 1875 J. E. Harroun became president of the agricultural society. In May John Whitsitt purchased in Chicago a fine lot of Durham stock. He secured seven head for \$3,000 and laid the foundation of a splendid herd. Col. Robert Holloway at this time owned a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle near Alexis. He also about this time secured several Clydesdale horses from Europe. One animal weighed 2,440 pounds and cost \$7,000. His farm was one mile west of Alexis. James Feather owned a herd of sixty-eight thoroughbred Durham cattle in Ohio Grove Township. All were registered and all were sold in the end for good prices. There were other herds of fine cattle and other stock at this time. The Mercer

County cheese factory between Millersburg and Aledo was established about this time, with Charles Lee, owner, in charge. The fair of 1875 was pronounced still better than ever. There were several new departments and several novelties that attracted the farmers. G. D. Miller of Perryton exhibited blooded Shorthorn cattle. John Whitsitt, of Preemption, showed Shorthorn cattle and Southdown sheep. A. J. Streeter made an exhibit of Durham cattle. A specialty was made at this fair of the work of boys and girls. A prize was made to the boy under fourteen who had raised the best five acres of corn. Melvin Geiger took the first premium and Willie Goodhue the second. The departments of flowers, needlework, domestic manufactures, dairy products and painting and drawing were fully up to the standard. J. E. Harroun's herd of Shorthorn cattle was likewise famous at this time. Among the novelties shown at this date was a "chicken hatcher," invented and manufactured by J. B. Hoag, of Alpha. It was a curiosity and was viewed by everybody with surprise. It was heated by a furnace with gasoline and made self-regulating by means of an electric battery, which kept up a uniform temperature of 100°. The hatcher had a capacity of 1,000 eggs, and it was declared that the time required to hatch healthy chickens was but eighteen days. This was probably the first incubator in the county.

In 1875 and 1876 the county lost nearly two thousand hogs by cholera. Henry Weidling lost 70; E. L. Emerson, 75; Jacob Beard, 80; and Richard Kiddoo, 100. In 1876 Mercer County raised more corn than any other county in the state—a total of 7,079,015 bushels. It was estimated that in 1876 the county lost 13 per cent of the assessed value of its hogs through cholera. The loss was estimated at \$25,601.

At the fair of 1877 there was a large display in all departments. The total number of entries was 1,760. Two hundred fine horses were shown this year, of which twenty-five were owned by the Holloways. There were also shown 55 blooded cattle, 146 sheep and 214 hogs; 49 of the latter were exhibited by S. H. Nichols of Millersburg. At this fair James Feather took first premium on Shorthorn cattle. After the fair the winning animals were sold at auction on Mr. Feather's farm. There was sharp rivalry at this fair to secure premiums, because farmers had learned that animals which were successful at the fairs sold for two or three times as much money as ordinary animals. Colonel Holloway exhibited Clydesdale horses. One of the animals had cost him \$8,000 and had been exhibited at the Centennial Exposition. S. H. Danner showed fine animals of

the Messenger stock. W. P. Collins exhibited a superior 3-year-old Percheron horse. J. J. Huston exhibited his well-known horse, Kenesaw. A fine animal was shown by Tim Noonan. Full-blooded cattle were exhibited by James Feather, A. J. Streeter, Isaiah Brown and B. F. Smith. They were mostly Shorthorns and Jerseys. The swine display was large and included Berkshires, Poland-Chinas and Chester Whites. As a whole there were too many grade animals with the expectation that they would secure large premiums. The trotting between horses owned in the county brought out entries by C. Drury, S. H. Davis, J. M. Smith and Joe Carter. Their respective animals were Lady Fox, first; Kitty, second; Cornell, third; and the Brown horse, fourth. The best time made by these animals was 2:43. At Mr. Feather's sale of fine stock this year the following animals were sold and prices secured: Princess, \$400; Bluebell 9th, \$335; Belle Boyd 5th, \$300; Bluebell 16th, \$240; Countess of Marlborough, \$225; Golddust, \$210; Stossa Duchess 2d, \$215; Clifton Princess, \$200; Bluebell 10th, \$200; Emma Spur, \$200; Canada Lad, \$180; Belle of New Windsor, \$175; Bluebell 11th, \$175; and others to the number of thirty-eight down to prices as low as \$45. All brought nearly seven thousand dollars.

Hog cholera again prevailed in 1878. On the county farm ten large animals succumbed to this disease. Hundreds died elsewhere throughout the county.

The fair of 1879 was an unexpected success. Rain fell during the proceedings, but on Thursday it was estimated that nearly ten thousand people were present. The number of entries was 2,368 and the total receipts over thirty-five hundred dollars. Every department was filled with exhibits and had never been surpassed in point of excellence. It was stated by the Record that the exhibits of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry were the best in sixteen years. This statement was made by a citizen who had attended the fair every year during that period. The fruit exhibit was never better. The famous nursery of Bever & Son, a short distance north of Keithsburg, comprising forty acres, made an excellent exhibit this year. It had been well known for many years and had supplied the orchards of the western end of the county with stock trees. The trotting and pacing this year was better than usual, because the premiums offered began to attract outside racing stock more than ever before. The entries of cattle numbered 72; horses, 217; sheep, 55; swine, 121; poultry, 77; trotting horses, 15; mechanic arts, 60; farm products, 278; fruits, jellies, etc., 982; fine arts, 61; textile fabrics, 387; miscellaneous, 43. This fair was spoken of as "one grand gambling den,"

owing to the large number of games which were permitted. The fair realized \$600 from this source. There were swings, chance games, dance halls, etc., usually found at the early county fairs. Immediately after the fair there were several public sales of blooded stock which had been on exhibition.

In 1880 Ives & Willits, of New Boston, did a very extensive shipping business in cattle and hogs. Aug. Muhlenberg was another extensive shipper. He grew over two hundred acres of corn alone. On one occasion he sold thirty-two cattle, which averaged over sixteen hundred pounds each. Ives & Willits also grew live stock as well as shipped them. On one occasion they sent off 200 head of cattle and 200 head of hogs.

Again it was declared in 1880 that the fair this year was better than ever before. This seems like a trite expression, but it tells the truth, because there was a steady improvement in the exhibits and in the methods of the fair authorities. The receipts amounted to \$3,500, larger, in fact, than ever before. The crowd present was not quite as large as on several previous years, owing to threatening weather. Griffin Brothers showed tile of their own manufacture from their works, five miles north of New Windsor. M. Chamberlain exhibited wagons of his own manufacture. His shops were at New Boston. Peter Bear, Taylor Gilmore, Mr. Tomlinson, S. H. Danner, L. S. Maddux and Tim Noonan exhibited splendid horses, nearly all of which had been imported from Europe. The sheep display was better than ever, not only in quality, but in number. The poultry exhibit was likewise large and fine. The hogs exhibited were not quite up to the standard of previous years. The cattle were excellent, but fewer in number than usual. O. A. Bridgford and J. H. Lafferty exhibited Shorthorns. F. C. Coningham showed several carriages and buggies of his own manufacture. John Seastone exhibited excellent wagons. The new floral hall was open for the first time under the management of the ladies. They planned its decoration and arrangement, and all were pleased with the order and taste displayed.

Early in 1881 Jacob Cool was one of the chief auctioneers for the sale of fine stock in this county. His services were required when large and important sales were to be made. It was noted by the Record that the average farm land throughout the county at this time was worth about fifty dollars an acre. Tracts nearer town commanded higher prices, but \$50 an acre was the ruling price out some distance from any village or city.

Again in 1881 the fair was pronounced better than ever. The entries were not quite so many, but the exhibits were superior in

quality. On Thursday the largest crowd ever on the grounds assembled. The receipts were about thirty-seven hundred dollars. The stock exhibits were of better blood—not so many grade animals as in former years. As a matter of fact, from year to year the stock exhibit had constantly improved in quality. Fewer grade animals were to be seen. The expenses were nearly one thousand dollars less than the receipts. The sweepstake prizes on live stock were unusually high. As high as \$50 was paid as a premium on a few of the best animals. A \$15 premium was the first prize on the ordinary classes; \$30 was paid for the best draft stallion and six of his colts. The Scientific Association made a fine display at this fair. This collection had accumulated for many years and probably was not surpassed in Western Illinois. The gate receipts amounted to \$2,679.55. The rent of booths and stalls amounted to \$524. The state appropriation was \$100. An old debt of \$400 was liquidated this year. The following Mercer County men were on the awarding committees at the state fair in 1881: Shorthorn cattle, Joseph McCoy; thoroughbred stallions and mares, A. B. Swisher; sweepstakes Southdown sheep, David Calhoun; Polish fowls, Gideon Ives; trees for cultivation and ornament, D. H. Hayes.

The fair of 1882 was fully up to the standard already set by the county. It was called the twenty-ninth annual fair. The weather was cool and pleasant and the crowd was equal to the average of previous years. The cattle and hog exhibits were not quite up to the standard. The other live stock shown was even better than previous years. The new exhibition hall was occupied this year and presented a fine appearance. The attendance, as a whole, was larger than ever before. A feature of this fair was the Ladies' Cornet Band, composed of young ladies of Aledo. The Western Theater Band also supplied music. The horse exhibit represented several of the finest animals that had ever been shown in the county. The garden products were better than ever before. The total receipts were \$3,890. Other features that attracted much interest were the baby show and the baseball games. The trotting, pacing and running races were better than ever before.

The sale of imported horses by Robert Holloway, at Alexis, November 1, 1882, was one of the largest fine stock sales ever held in the United States up to that time. About one hundred and fifty head were sold at high prices, the highest being \$1,650. Buyers were present from all parts of the country. The sales aggregated many thousands of dollars. It was about this time that a forcible seizure of horses was attempted at Mr. Holloway's farm. The Scottish

American Importing Company, with headquarters in Chicago, of which concern Mr. Holloway was a member, imported Clydesdale horses which, upon arrival in this country, were shipped to Mr. Holloway. In an attempted settlement between the members of this company an agreement could not be reached, whereupon Johnson, Buchanan and other members, with about one hundred men, came by special train and undertook to take forcible possession of the stock in dispute. The special train had two passenger coaches and sixteen box cars fitted for carrying the fine stock and arrived at Alexis about 1 o'clock at night and immediately marched out to Mr. Holloway's farm. They surrounded the house and stables, captured the night watchman and confined him in a box car, took possession of the horses and started for Alexis, intending to load them on the train and take them to Chicago. The news of this invasion spread like a prairie fire, and a large posse of citizens met them at the station and attempted to retake the horses, but were charged upon by the men on the horses and were thus forced out of the way. The Johnson-Buchanan forces took possession of the stockyards at the station and began to load the horses in the cars. In the meantime Mr. Holloway escaped from his guarded house, hurried to Alexis, and endeavored to send a telegram to the sheriff of Monmouth, but the operator refused to send the message. Mr. Holloway then dispatched a messenger on a fast horse to Monmouth and at the same time caused the arrest at Alexis of the train conductor, engineer and telegraph operator and took all possible steps to thwart the operations of the other men. So rapidly did the news spread that within a short time about five hundred people assembled around the train, determined to prevent its departure with the animals until the arrival of the sheriff, even if they had to tear up the track. The sheriff arrived about noon and at once served a writ of replevin upon Johnson, Buchanan and the railroad company, demanding the return of the animals, which were valued at about one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. The station agent refused to recognize the writ of replevin until he could confer with his superiors. The result was the arrival of a special train from Galesburg, bearing the officers of the railroad company, who, after consultation, ordered the cars unloaded, and the horses thus were delivered to Mr. Holloway and returned to his stables. Judge Drummond of the United States Court finally decided the case by directing Mr. Holloway to proceed as before with the sale of the Clydesdale stock belonging jointly to him and the Glasgow Exporting Company. This decision completely justified Mr. Holloway in the course he had taken. The animals

were divided in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the parties, the Scotch claimants securing forty, which they removed to the fair grounds at Monmouth. Mr. Holloway kept his share and later sold them. This settlement stopped all litigation.

The fair of 1883 was made memorable by the number of novelties presented. There was a novelty running race of a mile and a half, the prize being \$60. Three baseball clubs played during the continuance of the fair. This year over one hundred and seventy sheep were exhibited, the largest number ever entered. About one hundred and fifty head of hogs were shown and nearly two hundred horses. Hereford cattle were shown by G. A. Sharer, A. L. Duncan and R. G. Ranny. M. M. and F. Jones of Seaton entered twenty-eight head of pedigreed Poland China hogs. The Bridgfords showed Polled Angus cattle—the first time that breed was ever exhibited at the county fair. There were shown this year excellent specimens of full-blooded Shorthorns, Jerseys, Herefords and Polled Angus. Jersey Red hogs were shown by Lemoine Duncan. Jersey cattle were shown by J. F. Troville and A. R. McDonald; forty-five carriages and buggies of home manufacture were among the exhibits. R. H. Whitsitt, formerly of Preemption Township, but now of Millersburg Township, exhibited about fifteen cattle. There was a larger attendance this year at the fair during the last three days than ever before. The receipts amounted to over forty-four hundred dollars. Soon after the fair J. H. Lafferty, of Norwood, sold fifty-one head of Durham cattle, several of which had been exhibited at the fair, for \$10,930—an average of over two hundred and fourteen dollars each. This was one of the highest priced sales thus far conducted in the county.

The Shorthorn Breeders' Association of Mercer County was organized in the spring of 1884. At the second meeting at the Button House, Aledo, March 13, 1884, a constitution was adopted, to which the following first members appended their names: O. A. Bridgford, R. H. Whitsitt, J. H. Lafferty, C. W. Brigford, John Greenwood, A. P. Petrie, A. J. Streeter, W. F. Lafferty, Thomas L. Johnson and W. P. Collins. O. A. Bridgford was elected president; R. H. Whitsitt, secretary; John Greenwood, treasurer. Price of membership was fixed at \$1. It was resolved to hold an annual sale as near the 20th of May as practicable.

The fair of 1884 did not present any unusual or striking feature. It was a success throughout, but was characterized by no novelties or innovations except perhaps the bicycle race. This year Col. E. B.

David of this county was vice president of the Illinois State Agricultural Society.

The fair of 1885 was likewise successful. The first annual sale of stock owned by the Mercer County Shorthorn Breeders' Association took place at the fair grounds this year. Many buyers from abroad were present. Col. J. W. Judy was chief auctioneer. About eighty head of fine animals were disposed of at prices ranging from \$200 down to \$30. Generally farmers were averse to paying fancy prices, even for blooded stock. However, there were exceptions and here and there throughout the county were to be found animals equal, if not superior, to any others in the state or in the West.

The third annual meeting of the Mercer County Farmers' Institute was held in January, 1890. Papers on many leading farm subjects were read by the members. By this time Mercer County had become celebrated throughout the West for its pure-blooded horses, cattle, swine and sheep. The three or four leading nurseries of the county had made vast improvements in horticulture. All shipped stock as far west as Nebraska. There was a large demand from Missouri for the fruit trees of these nurseries. At the fair of 1890 the Women's Christian Temperance Union occupied a pavilion on the grounds. A novelty this year was a prize offered for the best oration by Mercer County children between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four years. The production was limited in length and was required to be of the young person's own composition. The points of merit taken into consideration by the judges were thought, composition and delivery. The first prize was a two years' scholarship in Wheaton College. The first prize was won by Lee D. Thomason. His subject was "Lincoln." This year the cattle exhibit was far superior to any of the previous years. There were shown Shorthorns, Herefords, Polled Angus, Galloways, Red Polled and Holstein Friesian. The breeds of hogs represented were Poland Chinas, Berkshires, Duroc Jerseys and Chester Whites. Capt. O. A. Bridgford was called the pioneer Polled Angus cattle breeder of the county. Aberdeen Angus cattle were shown by Wilson & Burgett, of Keithsburg. A. P. Petrie, of New Windsor, showed Shorthorns. Mr. Bridgford lived near Joy and called his stock Oak Ridge herd. William Drury exhibited horses from his farm, known as Verdurette. The best exhibit of poultry was made by N. H. Clayton, of Viola. William Drury owned a large park, upon which he kept about forty head of deer. In December, 1890, several of them broke through the fence and escaped and were later shot by

hunters in the forest. In the park were elk and formerly there were buffaloes. The park was not far from New Boston.

The fairs of 1891 and 1892 possessed no striking features. They were almost exact duplicates of the fair of 1890. In February, 1891, about twenty poultry breeders of the county met at Aledo and organized the Mercer County Poultry and Pet Stock Association. T. A. Vernon was chosen president; Edwin Carter, vice president; George T. Irwin, secretary, and Miss Bertha Pepper, treasurer. In after years this association did splendid work for the upbuilding of poultry stock in this county.

In 1893 the grand stand and the amphitheater were moved to the south side of the park—a step that made a great improvement in the appearance of the grounds. The fair this year was not quite as good as usual. However, faster horses were present than ever before. The best time made was by Harry C., a pacer, 2:15. The horse Dan Wilson, owned by James Wilson, of Keithsburg, made a mile in 2:22 trotting. Previous to this year the record was 2:25. The attendance was comparatively small this year. The Clydesdales and Percherons exhibited surpassed any exhibit of those breeds ever shown here before. There was a mile trotting race, time 2:50³/₄. In the half-mile running race the time was 55¹/₄. The entries numbered 2,434. The total receipts were \$5,691.13, less \$35.40 on hand at the beginning of the year. J. T. Gilmore was president of the association this year. The premiums amounted to \$3,335.

It was early in the '90s that the fruit growers of the county began systematic spraying in order to get rid of insect and fungus pests. This was done under the direction of the State Agricultural College. It had the result of improving greatly the exhibits of fruit shown at the subsequent county fairs. The old idea of seeding down an orchard and of never cleaning it had gone forever. Now it was known that orchard trees required fertilization as well as any other growth in order to produce the highest standard of crops.

In June, 1894, Benjamin Whitsitt offered at public sale thirty-three full-blooded Shorthorn cattle. They sold at prices ranging from \$25 to \$120 each.

The fair of 1894 was better in many respects than ever before. The entries numbered 106 horses, 162 sheep, 49 swine, 110 poultry, 61 farm products, 163 mechanic arts, 31 poultry, 18 dairy and kitchen, 813 flowers and plants, 118 fine arts, 100 textile fabrics, 520 educational exhibits, 195 special, 10 speed. The premiums actually paid amounted to \$3,158.75. The receipts amounted to \$5,633.59, less \$44.65 on hand at the beginning of the year. The

cattle exhibits showed the following breeds: Shorthorns, Jerseys, Herefords, Polled Angus, Red Polled and Holsteins. The leading horse exhibits were Percherons, Clydesdales and English Shires. There were also exhibited a fine group of mules and ponies. The sheep exhibit included American Merinos, Cotswolds, Liecesters, South Downs, Shropshire Downs and Hampshire Downs. The swine shown included the following: Poland Chinas, Berkshires, Chester Whites and Duroc Jerseys. A specialty was made of public school exhibits. On Thursday 1,400 school children's tickets at a special price were sold. Among the exhibitors were the following: F. M. Irvin, Shropshires; Peter Balmer, Shropshires; E. H. Crandall, Long Wools; McCoy & Voris, Red Polled cattle; R. H. Whitsitt, Shorthorns; A. C. Bridgford, of Viola, Jerseys; C. H. Bopes, Shropshires; William Volentine, twenty-eight head of Poland China hogs; Whitham & Croson, horses, cattle and sheep; William Scruble, Cleveland and Messenger horses; Trovillo Brothers, Jersey cattle; Carter Brothers, road horses; Albert Zwicker, Shire horses; W. R. Lemon, Clydesdales. Miss Evelyn Pinckney, of Viola, won the first prize as orator.

In January, 1895, the seventh annual meeting of the Farmers' Institute was held in the courthouse. Alvah Jay was president; W. L. Candor, secretary. Maj. J. M. Brock delivered the welcoming address. At this session the members discussed clover culture, sheep husbandry, the farms, "Garden and Berry Patch" (written by Mrs. Hammond), grapes, blackberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries and strawberries. The subject of feeding oil meal was duly considered and it was concluded that ordinarily the expenses swallowed up the profits. Potato culture was also discussed. Perhaps the most interesting subject considered was intensive vs. extensive farming. This brought out several interesting speeches and many questions. As a whole the farmers were not yet ready for intensive farming, generally speaking.

The fair of 1895 was excellent in nearly every particular. Grain, fruit and vegetables were never better. There was greater interest, if possible, in the live stock exhibits than ever before. Black Polled Angus cattle was shown this year. There were 201 entries of hogs and 92 of sheep; 63 hogs were of five breeds. Shropshires, Cotswolds, Lincolns, Oxfords, Leicesters and Merinos were shown by Frank Irvin, Charles Bopes, Fred Volentine, Samuel Huffman, James Rader, Samuel Batson, Peter Balmer and George Bell. Mules were shown by M. S. Fisher and W. D. Hammond. Polled Aberdeen cattle were shown by Laon McWhorter. M. F. Sterling ex-

hibited Poland China, and E. H. Small, of Norwood, a fine group of Duroc Jersey hogs. The Alpha Nursery made an excellent exhibit of nursery stock. However, the apples, grapes and small fruit shown were not up to the standard. Horticulture seemed to be deteriorating from year to year. On the other hand, live stock and corn growing were increasing and improving rapidly. The racing this year was unusually good, there being several special events—one a trot, which was won by Joseph D, a local animal which made the mile in 2:21.

In September, 1896, C. H. Thornhill, of Duncan Township, had a large public sale of registered Poland China hogs. T. W. Davis' orchard in New Boston Township was famous throughout Western Illinois at this time. It was by far the best in the county. It comprised about forty acres and in 1895, 1,000 bushels of apples were marketed therefrom. A few years before as high as 3,000 bushels were gathered in one year. The same year he also marketed fifty bushels of pears.

At the fair in 1896 there were 3,035 entries, of which 72 were cattle, 121 horses, 82 hogs, 45 sheep, 207 poultry and 1,061 dairy. Better horses were shown this year than ever before. The poultry exhibit was excellent. There was shown here for the first time a sample of the United States cream separator, which was carefully studied by all the dairy owners of the county. At this fair Albert Zwicker of Preemption exhibited twelve Shire horses. This was his third year with this breed of animals. A feature of this fair was a Roman hippodrome race. C. E. Bentley exhibited Percherons; Fred Crosby, Barred Plymouth Rocks; M. B. Kennedy, Chester Whites; B. F. Townsley, Jersey cattle; Laon McWhorter, Polled Angus cattle; Logan Duff, Shorthorns. The paid premiums amounted to \$3,493.

At the fair in 1897 several novelties were introduced. There was a special running race and free-for-all pace, a running half-mile race and repeat and a mile running race for local horses. There were a total of 2,929 entries. The premiums amounted to \$3,598.75. The expenses of this year amounted to \$1,700 more than the receipts. The swine exhibit was the largest in the history of the fair—Berkshires by Elmer Swallow and W. R. Lemon; Chester Whites by Frank Wilson, Oren Phillips and M. B. Kennedy.

The fair of 1898 did not possess any especially striking features. It was called the forty-fifth annual fair of Mercer County. The receipts amounted to \$4,300. The school exhibit this year was unusually good.

The fair of 1899 was about up to the standard. Floral hall was grander than ever before. T. H. Croson exhibited five pens of Shropshires. Albert Zwicker exhibited his fine herd of Shire horses. Scott Kiddoo showed Leicester sheep; L. C. Dennison entered Jersey Red hogs. At this time there were more herds of fine sheep than ever before in the county. They were owned by C. A. Bopes, Fred Volentine, A. C. Bridgford, William Kiddoo, Charles Bentley, T. H. Croson and others. O. M. Phillips, of Hamlet, exhibited a small but excellent group of Ohio improved Chester White hogs. Robert Holloway exhibited several of the best Clydesdale horses ever shown in the county. There were a total of 2,581 entries and the paid premiums amounted to \$2,961. The receipts aggregated \$4,831.20, less \$32.74 on hand at the beginning of the year. At the conclusion of the fair much of the fine stock was offered at public sale.

In December, 1899, the Farmers' Institute met at Viola. There was a special day set apart for women's proceedings, on which occasion there were discussed the following subjects: Bread of all kinds, butter, early potatoes, apples, cakes and other questions of domestic science. Mrs. T. A. Vernon was president of the domestic science association at this time.

In January, 1900, O. H. Drury sold at public auction twenty head of trotting and pacing horses. The fair of 1900 was a record breaker. It was good in every department. Many of the departments were better than ever before. The total receipts amounted to \$4,858.90. The entries numbered 2,395. In 1900 the leading fine stock breeders of the county were as follows: Cattle, thoroughbred, G. E. Aikins, Aledo; O. A. Bridgford, Joy; T. E. Cabeen, Josh Cabeen, W. L. Candor, L. N. Ditto & Son, Seaton; L. McWhorter, Aledo; R. G. Ranney, Little York; G. E. Thornton, Millersburg; Benjamin Whitsitt & Sons, Preemption; cattle feeders and stockers, A. J. Clark, Keithsburg; cattle and sheep, C. A. Bopes, Hamlet; William Kiddoo & Son, Joy; chickens, Mrs. T. W. Davis, Keithsburg; J. C. Murdock, Ada M. Nesbitt, Aledo; W. J. Rowley, W. J. Palmer, Seaton; A. L. Woodhams, New Windsor; horses, Thomas F. Greer, Aledo; A. M. Higgins & Sons, North Henderson; George M. Houser, Millersburg; J. M. Lord, Marston; McIntire Brothers, Reynolds; L. B. Morey, W. A. Van Meter, Aledo; Jonas Peterson, New Windsor; W. S. Van Tuyle, Millersburg; Albert Zwicker & Sons, Preemption; hogs, S. F. Burrows, Buffalo Prairie; L. C. Dennison, Norwood; J. M. Nesbitt, Aledo; O. N. Phillips, Hamlet; horses and cattle, E. M. Castle, Buffalo Prairie; horse buyer, H. B. Eshbach, Aledo; horses and ponies, Bridgford & Reed Broth-

ers, W. W. Egbert, Millersburg; horses, cattle and sheep, C. E. Bentley, Aledo; jacks and mules, Fisher Brothers, Pomeroy; sheep, T. H. Croson, Aledo; stock buyers and shippers, H. F. Greenwell, Aledo; Reed & Shingledecker, Aledo and Joy.

At the fair of 1900 Belgian horses were shown by J. C. Spivey, who lived near New Windsor.

At this time Mercer County led America in breeding pure-blooded Angus cattle. During 1901 about six hundred head worth \$20,000 were shipped out of this county. O. A. Bridgford began with this breed in 1882. Other herds of the same breed were started by Laon McWhorter, Candor Brothers, R. B. and Josh Cabeen, C. A. Bopes and G. E. Thornton. Shipments of these animals were made to Ohio, Mississippi, Texas, New Mexico, Montana, Nebraska, Colorado and the Dakotas. One animal—a 2-year-old bull—sold for \$1,750.

At the Farmers' Institute, held at Woodman Hall in New Windsor, in December, 1901, the following subjects were considered: "Education," by C. L. Gregory; "The Weather," by Prof. J. C. Burns; "Some Wastes in Apple Growing," by J. T. Galbraith; "Peaches," by H. Bigelow, Aledo; "Breeding Corn for Quality," by Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins, Urbana; "Special vs. General Farming," by B. F. Wyman; and "How to Make \$100 Acre Land Pay Interest," by Henry Wallace, of Des Moines.

The Farmers' Institute of the Tenth Congressional District convened at Aledo in January, 1901. Connected with it was the meeting of the domestic science association of the county. Mayor M. G. Reynolds delivered the welcoming address, which was replied to by A. L. Woodhams, president of the county institute. The meeting was given into the hands of the domestic science association, with Mrs. T. A. Vernon presiding. The following papers were read: "Domestic Help," by Mrs. W. A. Lorimer; "Partnership in Farming," by Mrs. Jennie Barlow; "Ways and Means by Which a Farmer's Wife Can Assist on the Farm," by Mrs. Mary McHard; "Foods and Nutrition," by Mrs. Barbara E. Page.

The fair of 1902 was excellent in nearly all respects. Several novelties were introduced to draw crowds. There was a hippodrome race, baseball games, shows, swings, etc. The school exhibit was unusually fine. The exhibit of draft horses was never surpassed. More canned fruit and vegetables were exhibited at this fair than ever before. Floral hall was made by the ladies superior to that of any other fair. The entries numbered only 1,661 and the premiums paid amounted to only \$2,255. Though the fair was smaller,

yet it was better probably than ever before. At the Farmers' Institute in December, 1902, Judge Church made the opening address. Papers were read as follows: "Corn Breeding," by Fred Duncan, of Ohio Grove; "Silos and Ensilage," by F. M. Parsons; "The Farmer's Son at the University and the Boy at the University," by Prof. F. R. Crane, and "How to Keep Children on the Farm," by E. N. Cobb.

The fiftieth county fair was held in 1903. All departments were well represented, but the fair possessed no particularly striking feature. The children's department was perhaps the most important. After the fair a large combination sale of forty-six Angus cattle was held by Capt. O. A. Bridgford, W. L. Candor, E. M. Castle, C. G. Ditto and Reed Brothers. All animals were registered.

At the Farmers' Institute held in Joy, January, 1904, papers were read as follows: "Farm Machinery," by E. N. Cobb; "Feeding and Breeding Beef Cattle," by Ira Cottingham and others. The subject of hogs for profit was discussed at this session; also clover culture. The fair of 1904 was one of the best held in recent years. The vegetable display was better than ever before. They had shown greater interest in the selection of good seed than ever before, particularly of corn. There were twenty-three entries of field corn. As a whole the fair was a success.

In January, 1905, the C., B. & Q. Railroad began sending out special trains over its lines, carrying agricultural lecturers and experts to hold meetings for the instruction of the farmers. At every designated stoppingplace large audiences of agriculturists gathered to hear what the experts had to say. A special train arrived at Aledo, January 21, 1905. The meeting was held in the opera house and hundreds of people listened to the experts. W. H. Manss, industrial commissioner of the road, gave an outline of the work and results which were expected to be accomplished through these excursions and lectures. He stated that the railroad was directly interested in the prosperity of the farmers and was willing to make sacrifices in order to advance agricultural interests. The fair of 1905 was the best, as a whole, in the history of the association. The exhibits were rather better than ever before. There were more fast horses entered and better racing than at any previous fair. The paid admissions to the grounds numbered 9,441, and to the amphitheater, 1,901. The weather was excellent and all enjoyed the displays. The entrance fee was raised to 30 cents and the total receipts amounted to \$7,701. The best time made was in the free-for-all race, 2:12. There were 2,785 entries.

In the spring of 1906 the local branch of the Corn Belt Beef Producers' Association was formed in this county. The farmers met in the courthouse and prepared to form local branches in other parts of the county. A. L. Ames was president of the association. Several hundred of the most prominent cattle feeders of the county were present. George E. Thornton was chosen president of the new organization and M. F. Morrow, vice president; A. C. Bridgford, secretary and treasurer.

At the fair of 1906 the corn contest was perhaps the most exciting event. Ten premiums were offered for Yellow Dent and White Indian, each exhibit to consist of ten ears. Among the other novelties were a balloon ascension and high dive by experts, three days' races and the usual shows and swings. The cattle and poultry exhibits were better than ever before. The prizes for the public school exhibits brought out a large display from all parts of the county. The floral hall was never more beautiful than on this occasion. The usual stock exhibitors were present with their herds. After the fair there were large combination sales of Aberdeen Angus cattle by C. A. Bopes, G. E. Thornton, G. E. Aikins, J. E. Reed and S. Lee. This was one of the most successful fairs ever held. Within five years the old debt had been almost wholly extinguished and many new pens, stalls and buildings had been constructed on the grounds. Over sixty-five hundred dollars had been spent within a few years on building improvements. There were 2,555 entries this year and the receipts amounted to \$7,328.62, less \$37.65 on hand at the beginning of the year.

A large sale of Duroc Jersey hogs was held by E. M. Castle & Son soon after the fair. Grant Marquis also at a public sale sold forty-five excellent Shorthorn cattle. Bridgford & Nesbitt held a public sale of about fifty Poland China hogs. The Mercer County Driving Association was organized here at this time.

The fifty-fourth annual fair in 1907 was as successful as usual. The cattle, horse and hog exhibits were unusually excellent. The poultry exhibit was never better. There were exhibited as one of the novelties the collection of trophies, medals, cups, etc., that had been won by T. A. Marshall, of Keithsburg, the champion wing shot of the world. The Davenports' high wire performances were also here. As the season was dry and dusty the road leading from Aledo to the fair grounds was covered with green hay to keep down the dust. The races were excellent, the best time being 2:14 $\frac{1}{4}$ at pacing. Floral hall was never finer than on this occasion. It was filled with an interesting display and at all times was crowded with

spectators. The school exhibit was better than ever before, almost every country and village school in the county being represented by specimens of work done by the children. Dairy products were better than usual. The county now had many creameries, and study had led to more perfect methods and cleaner and purer products. Notwithstanding the room for live stock had been increased, the authorities were compelled to turn away live stock that applied for entrance. G. W. Felton exhibited Aberdeen Angus cattle and Frank Townsley, Jerseys, and J. M. Nesbitt, Poland China hogs. A herd of eleven head of Galloway cattle was shown and attracted much attention. W. D. Emerson, secretary of the association, was given credit for the splendid success of this and many other previous fairs. It was due to his judgment, intelligence and energy, it was stated, that the fair had become one of the most important in the state. In the free-for-all pace a purse of \$300 was offered and the best time made was 2:13¹/₂. However, owing to bad weather the crowd was not as large as expected and the receipts were not sufficient to pay expenses. The society ran a little behind this year. The total receipts amounted to \$8,454.27. This was \$243.33 less than the expenses. The society spent on the speed ring alone \$2,140 and on improvements, \$956. At this time the King log drag was attracting much attention throughout this county.

In February, 1908, the Mercer County Poultry and Corn Association was organized at Viola, largely through the efforts of J. B. Bradford, who became secretary of the new organization. F. M. Taylor, of Aledo, was president, and C. P. Shaw, of Aledo, treasurer. The meeting at Viola established the organization on a firm basis and thereafter it became a power in the county for the improvement of poultry breeds and the corn crops. They paid particular attention to the selection of seed corn. The varieties upon which most care was bestowed were Yellow Dent, White Dent, the early varieties of sweet corn and popcorn. In addition to chickens the association paid particular attention to turkeys. At this time spraying was practiced more extensively throughout the county than ever before, and with excellent results. Paris green, kerosene emulsion and Bordeaux mixture were used on almost every farm. Animal diseases were better understood than ever before. Already the farmers had begun to comprehend the nature of hog cholera and their experience and the investigations of the department of agriculture combined to prevent, in a large measure, the wholesale destruction of hogs by that terrible disease as had prevailed in the past.

The fair of 1908 was fully up to the standard, and in many respects better. Among the exhibitors were the following: Duroc Jersey hogs by Ira H. Dodson; the same by E. M. Castle; the same by Bigelow & Son, of Aledo; the same by Clair Kiddoo. C. P. Peterson exhibited Chester Whites; Whitsitt Brothers exhibited Berkshires; Bridgford & Nesbitt entered twenty-five Poland China hogs; W. K. Tyler showed several pens of red hogs; George E. Close showed about a dozen Berkshires; F. E. Shearer showed several Chester Whites; D. S. Mayhew & Son exhibited Hampshires; C. S. Goddard exhibited Poland Chinas, and L. R. Hyett, Duroc Jerseys. Excellent sheep were shown by J. S. Rader and A. C. Crandall. They were of the Cotswold and Leicester varieties mainly. Farm implements were shown by Christ Thede and Glidden-Strong Company, of Joy. The Aledo Brick and Tile Company made an exhibit of their products. Poultry were entered by J. C. Rupert, John Babcock, Charles F. Schleuter and H. R. Morgan. The latter showed Partridge Wyandottes. Rupert exhibited Light Brahmas. There was probably a better exhibit of garden products than ever before. Among the products shown were muskmelons, peppers, pumpkins, squashes, cabbage, potatoes, beets, celery, etc. The attendance during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this year was 16,691. For the same days in 1907 the attendance was 15,323. Earl Dixon made a display of ponies; Roy Dellitt, mules; Lewis Dellitt, of all purpose horses; H. E. Robbins, W. R. Collins and William Van Meter, road horses; J. C. Weihler, Lowell Harroun and J. C. Stewart furnished draft, Percheron and Belgian horses; W. R. Collins, Samuel Robbins and Albert Zwicker, Clydesdales and English Shire horses. Others to exhibit sheep were C. S. Hechlner, Wayland Brothers, R. B. Findley and R. M. Cooper & Son. The varieties shown were medium wool animals, South Downs, Shropshire Downs, Oxford Downs, Hampshire Downs, Cotswolds, Leicesters and other long-wooled animals. Wayland Brothers made an exhibit of goats—one of the first ever seen at the county fair. This year the fair association received from the state an appropriation of \$1,180. From the sale of tickets at the gate there was realized \$4,707.30. The total receipts from all sources were \$10,343.92. There were 3,057 entries and the premiums paid aggregated \$2,976.35. This year they paid off the shortage of \$243.33 of the previous year. R. M. Cooper & Son of Alexis took the first premium on the best exhibit of ten ears of corn. Their exhibit scored 78.6 perfect. They secured the prize of the Christy corn cup; Roland Greer took the prize for shucking 161 bushels of corn in ten hours, on December 2, 1908. The poultry business had become very profit-

able and very extensive in this county under the efforts of the Poultry and Corn Association. Their exhibit was made in the opera house, there being over three hundred entries of corn, chickens, turkeys, etc.

In December, 1908, forty-one head of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle were sold at Viola by the Collins and Gillis combination. The Farmers' Institute of December, 1908, was attended by many agriculturists from all parts of the county. The following addresses were delivered: "Systematic Road Work in Township Road Improvement," by Clifford Older; "The Business End of Swine Farming," by William Dietrich; "Our Friends, the Birds," by Rev. William Mason; "Organic Matter and Soil Texture," by A. F. Gustafson; "Farm Gumption," by Rev. W. Mason; "The Housekeeper's Capital," by Mrs. Jennie Barlow. She treated of two leading sub-topics: "Left Overs and What to do With Them," and "Little Things That Count in a Kitchen." As a whole, the session was instructive and progressive. W. H. Bissell was president.

The fair of 1909 was likewise very successful and conducted on an elaborate scale; 150 horses were entered in the racing department. The educational department was conducted by Supt. C. L. Gregory; the horticultural department by L. M. McConnell; the dairy and kitchen department by Mrs. William McManus; the farm products department by W. H. Bissell; the textile fabric department by Mrs. Lura Park; and the mechanical arts department by E. L. Drury. A fine herd of Shorthorn beef cattle exhibited by Stead & Shearer attracted much attention at this fair. This generally was pronounced the greatest fair ever given by the society. The racing far surpassed that of any previous year. The receipts were so great that all indebtedness was wiped out and many important improvements were made to the grounds. The total receipts amounted to \$10,664.41; the entries numbered 2,725 and the premiums paid were \$3,013.75. Wayland Brothers took forty premiums on hogs and sheep. They were paid \$145.50 for their exhibits. Dodson & Son took eleven blue ribbons on Duroc Jersey hogs; Bridgford & Nesbitt took twelve blue ribbons and forty-four red ribbons on their exhibit of swine; Bigelow & Son took several blue and red ribbons. Walter Davison exhibited Poland China hogs and Mayhew & Son, twenty-two Hampshire hogs. W. H. Whitsitt made the best display of Chester Whites. Poultry were exhibited by Patrick O'Day, M. Parkman, E. L. Carnahan, G. F. Close, J. H. Fessnacht, F. M. Taylor, Mrs. Willard Ruse, H. R. Morgan, Mrs. John Ransden, William Woods and others. The varieties shown included Buff Orpingtons, White Leghorns, Houdans, Silver Spangled Ham-

burgs, Golden Polish and the usual Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Leghorns, etc. John Ruse took first premium on a bushel of Yellow Dent corn; E. L. Woodhams received a prize of \$20 for the best ten ears of Yellow Dent corn; Mrs. Mary Davis took first prize on popcorn; R. M. Cooper & Son were awarded first prize on one bushel of seed corn; Walker Jones took the prize on corn exhibits.

In December, 1909, C. L. Gregory commenced instruction in a whole course in live-stock farming. He was the author of several works on scientific agriculture. It was at this time that Mr. Woodhams, who was secretary of the Farmers' Institute, asked the county board to set aside twenty acres on the county farm to be used as an experiment plot for scientific agriculture. It was stated that the only expense to the county would be that of providing fertilizers. At this time there were in the county the following veterinary surgeons: At Aledo, J. H. Hogan, W. W. Warnock; Seaton, W. J. Morgan; Joy, J. C. Brown; New Windsor, O. E. Bridgford; Reynolds, C. A. Kell; Alexis, J. A. Dilley and A. R. Rockwell.

In November, 1909, G. E. Aikins sold at public auction seventy Duroc Jersey hogs and other stock, a considerable portion of which were grade animals.

The fair of 1910 was about equal to that of 1909. It fell short in some departments but surpassed in others. As a whole, it was about the same. Shorthorn cattle were exhibited by Nelson Stead and Robert Failon; Herefords by N. J. Hiltabrand; Polled Angus by E. G. Thornton & Son and L. McWhorter; Jerseys by C. H. Armstrong and Orr Calhoun; mules by J. W. Dellitt and L. H. Kirch. The sheep exhibits were Cotswolds and Leicesters by A. C. Crandall and Frank Rader; South, Shropshire, Oxford and Hampshire Downs by Frank Shearer, R. B. Findley and W. H. Hunt. The hog exhibits were as follows: Poland Chinas by Cox & Hollinrake, Elijah Storey, Bridgford & Nesbitt; Berkshires by G. E. Close; Chester Whites by Guy E. Smith, Frank Little and Oren Phillips; Duroc Jerseys by E. Crabs, H. Bigelow & Son, Ira Dodson & Son and N. F. Morrow; Hampshires by John Mayhew and J. B. Cooper. The entries numbered 3,371. The total receipts were \$10,123.53. The state appropriation amounted to \$1,222.82. A large line of automobiles were exhibited at this fair. There were 114 entries for the trots and paces alone.

The Illinois Creamery Company started operations in Aledo in 1910. In eight months they did a business of \$50,000, marketing 90,000 pounds of butter, which sold at an average of 30 cents a

pound. In addition, they sold \$6,000 worth of cream separators and helped place in the county \$20,000 worth of dairy cows.

In February, 1911, Cox & Hollinrake, of Keithsburg, sold a large number of full-blood Poland China hogs at auction. Dodson & Son sold 100 of the famous red hogs, which totaled \$5,060.75. In December Warnocks' sale of dairy cows took place at the fair grounds. They were Jerseys, Guernseys and Holsteins. They were guaranteed to be tubercular tested animals.

The fair of 1911 was equally successful with those of the two previous years. Many new cattle pens and a new pavilion were erected for this fair. There was a better grade of corn shown than ever before. Premiums for the corn exhibits were increased to \$225 cash. There were single ear exhibits, the first prize being \$10, then on down to \$8, \$6, \$4 and \$2. The sheep exhibit was excellent, there being Shropshires, Hampshires, Leicesters and the various Downs. Tamworth hogs were exhibited by C. H. Finch. Three animals were shown, weighing on an average of 600 pounds each. When sold they yielded the owner \$113.52. At this fair for the first time the assembled multitudes witnessed the flights of an aeroplane by Mr. Nelson. Other amusements were baseball, motorcycle races, automobile exhibits and the usual games. The cattle pavilion was full to overflowing. The cattle displayed were unusually fine, there being shown Shorthorns, Angus, Galloways, Herefords, Polled Durhams, Jerseys and Holsteins. The hog exhibits were fully up to the standard and embraced the usual breeds. The poultry show was better than ever, there being represented fifteen different varieties. Horses were shown by J. W. Dellitt, J. B. Vance, Albert Zwicker, the Hamlet Horse Company and J. J. Smith & Son. The Hamlet Horse Company exhibited several splendid Belgian animals. It was noticed that the cattle exhibit was larger than ever before. The fair authorities were obliged to secure a tent in order to properly display the cattle entered. The school department exhibit was fully up to the standard. The dairy products were even better than any previous year. There were shown specimens of the destructive work of various insects, fungi, rusts, blights, galls, scales, smut, worms, bugs, thistles, weeds, etc. The police department at this fair was better than ever and the order was therefore correspondingly good. The aeroplane did not arrive until Thursday of the fair week. Mr. Nelson made several flights, circling one day westward over the farms and back to the grounds, lighting without accident. On the next day he took a southerly course at a height of about three hundred feet and again returned without accident. Ira Dodson & Son

showed Duroc Jerseys. Wayland Brothers took ten blue and ten red ribbons on sheep and other animals. Gid Jackson showed Duroc Jerseys, as did Bigelow & Son. Frank E. Shearer entered Shropshire sheep; J. M. Bay, Shorthorn cattle; George Close, Berkshire hogs; R. E. Calhoun, Jersey cattle; McWhorter & Son, Aberdeen Angus cattle; Thornton & Son, the same. This was the greatest live stock exhibition ever held in the county. The paid attendance was as follows: Wednesday, 3,662; Thursday, 7,754; Friday, 9,503; Saturday, 2,498; total, 23,417. The total receipts amounted to \$12,763.76. The best time made at the races was in the free-for-all pace, when 2:11 $\frac{1}{2}$ was made. Floral hall was better than ever before. It was more elaborate, had a better classification, was made more beautiful by the ladies and was enjoyed to the utmost by the immense audience every day. At one shipment in August, 1911, five Indiana silos were received here under orders from W. H. Dunlap, Orr Calhoun, W. C. Egbert, Nelson Stead and A. J. Scranton. By this time silos were to be seen numerously in all parts of the county. More road and hackney horses were shown at this fair than ever before. The display of apples was unusually good, owing to the excellence of the local crop.

At the corn and poultry show great interest was shown this year. In order to make it successful the citizens of Aledo subscribed several hundred dollars to help in defraying the expenses. One hundred and thirty boys and girls entered the corn judging contest. There was a three days' course and students came from all parts of the county. The course was conducted by C. L. Gregory, A. L. Duncan and Robert L. Watson. The poultry show at the same time was elaborate and good. The Mercer County Experiment Station this year had seven acres in alfalfa. The oat field on the station farm yielded sixty-three bushels to the acre. The manager used cement posts and wire fencing this year.

In January, 1912, the following sales of fine stock took place in the county: Chester Whites by B. N. Gilmore; Duroc Jerseys by Dodson & Son and H. Bigelow & Son; Poland Chinas by J. M. Nesbitt. The state food inspectors visited the county twice this year. Edward R. Petrie was elected superintendent of the agricultural society in November, 1911; W. D. Emerson, secretary; Joseph Boyd, treasurer. There was considerable hog cholera throughout the county during the fall of 1911. Experts were called in and every effort was made to check the disease, and, in a measure, the effort succeeded. The fair of 1911 gave total receipts from all sources of \$14,743.03. Of this sum \$1,244 came from the state appropriation. In December,

1911, the creamery at Aledo became known as the Western Illinois Creamery, under the management of L. E. Ballard.

In January, 1912, Gideon Jackson had a special sale of thirty-five head of Duroc Jersey hogs. About the same time E. M. Castle & Son sold the same number at Reynolds. Later J. L. Moseley, near Mannon, sold sixty head of Poland Chinas. W. E. Huffman of Joy sold forty-one head of Chester Whites; Ira Dodson & Son of Joy sold forty-seven head of Duroc Jerseys; F. M. Martin and R. M. Noble sold hogs, cattle and horses. Other sales were by M. E. Vance & Son, C. E. Yarrington, S. Lee, J. M. Nesbitt, J. F. Cox & Son and others.

The fair of 1912 was fully up to the recent standard. There were many new houses, pens, sheds, barns, etc., built. The corn and grain show was unusually excellent. There were fourteen races—trotting, pacing and running. Children were admitted free on Wednesday. On that day occurred the baby show. The best looking baby was paid \$15; the fattest boy baby, \$10; the fattest girl baby, \$10, and the best natured baby, \$10. It was designed to have old bachelors act as judges, but apparently there was not an old bachelor on the ground. There were twenty babies entered in the contest. The prize for the best looking baby went to Catherine Emma Smith, daughter of Alfred T. and Anna C. Smith, of Aledo. There were 114 entries in the fast horse races. Shropshire sheep were exhibited by H. C. Haverfield, B. L. Warwick and J. W. Kesler. The display of cattle, horses and hogs was fully up to the standard, the usual breeds being shown. On Thursday 13,000 persons in round numbers paid admission. This broke all previous records by about two thousand. It was noted that within the grounds about twelve hundred automobiles were lined up in the places set apart for their occupation. There were eighteen heats trotted in the afternoon of Thursday. The best time made was 2:12 $\frac{1}{4}$ in the free-for-all pace. The seed corn exhibited was sold at auction at the close of the fair, to the highest bidders, and was purchased in small lots, and was thus scattered throughout the county. The total number of entries was 3,511; total receipts, \$13,682.61, less \$141.98 on hand at the beginning of the year.

The Mercer County short course in agriculture took place in December, 1912. The contests were on corn judging, hog judging, dairy cattle judging, beef cattle judging, alfalfa and conservation. At that time the Mercer County Breeders and Feeders' Association was organized at Aledo, with W. B. Cooke, of Hamlet, president; H. McWhorter, secretary-treasurer. The object was the improve-

ment of live stock. Connected with it was the Mercer County Domestic Science Association, also the Poultry and Corn Association. All united in making the session memorable and valuable. During 1912 Mercer County farmers, from July, 1910, bought sixty new silos. During three months in the spring of 1912 Mr. Winders, of Aledo, paid the farmers \$18,000 for eggs.

At the first field meeting of the Mercer County Experiment Station, seventy-five farmers were present to learn how to grow alfalfa.

In the corn show of December, 1912, the first prize of \$10 for the best ten ears of Reed's Yellow Dent corn was awarded to Jones Brothers, of Seaton. They were expert growers of corn. The next year there were many large sales of full-blood animals throughout the county. J. M. Bay, of Sunny Slope Farm, sold a herd of Short-horns at an average price of \$150 each. The highest price obtained was \$295. J. F. Cox & Son, of Keithsburg, sold a herd of large type Poland China hogs at auction. J. L. Moseley also sold at public auction a herd of the large bred type of Poland Chinas.

In 1913 C. A. Campbell, superintendent of the local experiment station, reported forty-two bushels of wheat to the acre. This was much higher than was grown in the county and about three times higher than the average grown in the state. Cox & Hollinrake, of Keithsburg, sold many of the large type Poland China hogs at public auction. In 1913 the large crops of alfalfa grown on the experiment station near Aledo attracted the attention of farmers throughout the county. At the first cutting the yield was two tons to the acre; at the second cutting, one and a half tons, and at the third cutting, about one and a half tons. The total was a little over five tons to the acre for the season. With hay at \$12 a ton, farmers realized that alfalfa could be grown in this county with great profit.

The sixtieth annual fair was held in September, 1913. The society planned the program on an extensive scale and carried it out with success. The Tom Marshall trophies of cups, medals, etc., were on exhibition. He had already given this outfit to the Chicago Athletic Association, but it was secured for exhibition here. The total collection was valued at \$50,000. At this fair the authorities took special pains to secure better order than had prevailed on other occasions. They were instructed particularly to look out for pick-pockets and crooks of all descriptions. A feature which helped advertise the fair was a motordrome race against time. Many fast horses were entered and better arrangements for meals for the people were made. The fair was recognized as an annual clearing house for the agricultural products and ideas of the county. As never

before scientific agriculture was practiced throughout the county and was recognized as the most profitable course to pursue. Another feature of the fair was an educated horse. The grounds were put in splendid condition and the fair was called in the advertisements the "Diamond Jubilee Fair," being the sixtieth (less two) thus far held in the county. Ten small shows were advertised, besides games of every description. The purses offered for the races were as follows: On Wednesday, \$500 for the 2:30 trot; \$500 for the 2:12 pace; \$500 for the 2:25 pace, and \$75 for the 4¹/₂-furlong dash. On Thursday, \$500 for the 2:16 trot; \$500 for the 2:15 pace; \$600 for the free-for-all trot; \$300 for the four-year-old and under pace; \$100 for the derby mile run, and \$35 for the mule team wagon race of a half mile. On Friday, \$500 for the 2:20 pace; \$600 for the free-for-all pace; \$500 for the 2:22 trot, and \$75 for the five-furlong dash.

Another feature advertised was the daylight fireworks. The fair opened September 16th with the largest array of exhibits ever shown in Northwestern Illinois. The swine exhibit was far better than ever before. The horses and cattle were about equal to the best previous shows. The exhibits were greater in number and the arrangement was better. The draft-horse exhibit fell off a little in excellence. T. B. Danielson, of Preemption, showed ten road horses; Robert Marus, of Viola, road horses; J. M. Brown and W. A. Nesbitt, same; George D. Reed, Clydesdales; Roy E. Vance, of Alexis, showed jacks and colts; Jones Brothers, of Seaton, exhibited Shetland ponies; Earl Dixon, who owned the largest pony farm in the county, exhibited twenty-four from a herd of 200; A. L. Whan showed Percherons; Albert Bonyng also showed Percherons; Dellitt & Son, of Duncan, exhibited Percherons and mules; A. J. Marky showed Belgian horses; C. W. Bridgford exhibited several French draft horses; R. H. Whitsitt showed a Percheron horse weighing 2,200 pounds. In a small tent on the grounds were two young buffaloes, a cross between a buffalo cow and an Aberdeen bull.

The poultry show was even better than ever before. Jones Brothers, of Seaton, exhibited Orpingtons; Bert Keilman, Rhode Island Reds; Mrs. J. M. Strong, of Keithsburg, White Plymouth Rocks; Percy Crabbs, White Plymouth Rocks; Mrs. D. A. Brown, Buff and Bronze turkeys and Leghorns; H. R. Morgan, Partridge Wyandottes; Thomson Sisters and J. H. Fassnacht, Rose and Single Combed Rhode Island Reds; Ed Valentine, white turkeys. There were other poultry exhibits. The cattle show was one of unusual excellence. G. E. Thornton & Son, of Millersburg, showed Aberdeen Angus cattle; J. M. Bay, Shorthorns; W. C. Egbert, a herd of

Jersey cattle. These were but a few of the many fine cattle exhibits. Those to exhibit swine were the following: Guy Smith showed twenty-five Chester Whites; G. W. Winters, Duroc Jerseys; Bigelow & Son, Duroc Jerseys; Wayland Brothers, Berkshires and Chester Whites; J. B. Cooper, Hampshires; John Mayhew, Hampshires. Racing was postponed Wednesday on account of rain. At this fair was Samuel Braucht, of Humboldt, Kansas, aged ninety-two years, one of only three men present who had attended the first fair in the county at Millersburg in 1853. C. W. McCreight was the other one who had attended the first fair. Mr. McCreight said the grounds at the first fair were enclosed with a brush fence. He was eighty-five years old at this time. Isaac N. Bassett was the third person who was present at the fairs of 1853 and 1913. What is told here concerning the first fair of 1853 comes mainly from his excellent recollections. He is now eighty-nine years old. Among the sheep exhibitors were H. C. Haverfield, Bistline & Kistler and Bruce Warwick. Jones Brothers, of Seaton, won the first prize for an exhibit of fifty ears of corn. They also took the first and third prizes for the ten ear exhibit. They had 160 acres in corn this year. The daylight fireworks made the hit of the fair, it was stated. The works exploding in part showed spread out the Stars and Stripes and other interesting objects. The motordrome race was done by E. A. Bachus and was called dare-devil by the local newspapers. Ralph Thede made an excellent exhibit of farm machinery; Noonan Brothers showed an excellent line of vehicles of various kinds. The fair as a whole was unusually successful and satisfactory. The total receipts amounted to \$10,064.84. Thus they were not as large by a considerable sum as those of previous years, but the falling off was occasioned by the rains which prevented the usual attendance. However, the society came through the show with good success. The total entries were 4,224 and paid premiums amounted to \$4,286.25; the total receipts, including the state appropriation, were \$12,375.72.

After the fair there were several important public sales of full-blood animals. Nesbitt sold fifty-four large type Poland Chinas at Warnock's Pavilion at Aledo; Frick & Wickett sold at Keithsburg sixty of the large type Poland Chinas, and Jordan & Son sold 350 head of grade cattle at a farm one mile south of Spaulding. E. M. Castle & Son sold at public sale forty head of full-blood Jersey hogs; W. A. Huffman had a sale of pure-bred Chester Whites, and H. E. Robbins sold twenty-five full-blood Clydesdales. H. Bigelow & Son also had a public sale of pure-bred Duroc Jerseys that averaged about forty-seven dollars per head. The poultry plant of T. D.

Winders at Aledo had grown so in size and business as to attract general attention in recent years. At one time in 1913 he was feeding 12,000 chickens. He enlarged his building and his facilities greatly. Late in 1913 he packed from one thousand to twelve hundred chickens daily and had a weekly payroll of over three hundred and fifty dollars. At this time he had 8,000 chickens on feed. They consumed three tons of cornmeal, and large quantities of oatmeal every week; also large quantities of chopped alfalfa, meat scraps and other articles to balance their rations.

In December, 1913, the sixth annual poultry and corn show was held at Aledo. Buff Plymouth Rocks were shown by W. E. Nesbitt, W. W. Warnock, D. A. Brown and Ira Dodson; Barred Plymouth Rocks were shown by William Denen, Howard Dunn, C. F. Schinter, B. F. Cullison and Mrs. E. Durston; White Plymouth Rocks by E. B. Dodson; White Wyandottes by E. M. Dixon and Bower Brothers; Silver Laced Wyandottes, Frank Jones; Partridge Wyandottes, H. R. Morgan; Rose Combed Rhode Islands by S. Pinkerton, Thomson Sisters and Emma Reaber; Single Combed Rhode Island Reds by Thomson Sisters; Buff Orpingtons by Jones Brothers; White Orpingtons by C. C. Abercrombie, Mrs. Charles Welsh and Judd Britton; Black Minorcas by J. H. Harney and O. M. Simpson; Golden Crested Polish by Earl M. Dixon; Silver Spangled Hamburgs by Earl M. Dixon; Cecilian Buttercups by Harry Simpson; Campines by W. W. Warnock.

The corn show at the same time was equally interesting and important. Jones Brothers, of Seaton, took the first prize of \$10 for the best fifty ears in Class A; S. S. Lane, of Alexis, showed the best fifty ears in Class B; E. Jones, of Aledo, showed the best single ears in Class C; E. B. Dodson, of Joy, exhibited the best ten ears of any color, Class D; S. S. Lane, of Alexis, showed the best ten ears, Class E; W. E. Stancliffe, of Viola, showed the best ten ears of Class H; E. Johnson, Aledo, showed the best ten ears, Class I; J. G. Miller showed the best five ears of any color.

The annual Farmers' Institute was held in December at Aledo and was presided over by A. L. Duncan, president. Among the proceedings were the following: A lecture on "Alfalfa and Its Relation to Live Stock Farming," by A. M. Abbott, of Morrison; "The County Agricultural Adviser," by G. R. Bliss. During his address the latter offered to bet \$100 that if a pig at weaning time was given the double serum treatment it would not die of cholera. Prof. W. A. Hook spoke on "Crop Rotation," and C. A. Campbell, of the local experiment station, spoke generally on the results of his management of the experiment station.

CHAPTER XI

EDUCATION

Facts concerning the early schools of Mercer County are almost wholly lacking, owing to the fact that the records were either not kept or were lost. It thus happens that recollection alone of the early settlers has to be depended upon for the few scraps of history of early teachers and early schoolhouses and the early methods of instruction. It is generally agreed that Abraham Miller, Jr., taught the first school near New Boston in the summer of 1833. He taught in a small log cabin that stood on the claim of Erastus Denison. It is remembered that he had about twelve scholars enrolled with an average attendance of nine or ten. The second school in the neighborhood, which to this day has been called the Bluff, was taught three miles east of New Boston by Joshua Willits. Both Miller and Willits taught several terms, and for that period were good teachers. Other early teachers in New Boston Township were George W. Julian, who afterwards became prominent as a member of Congress from Indiana. He taught one or more terms on the Willits farm. In the '40s New Boston Township was laid out first into three districts and finally eight and by 1850 there were at least eight schools in the township.

The first schools taught in Keithsburg Township are not now remembered. One was taught by Mrs. William Sheriff in her residence a short distance northeast of Upper Keithsburg. Another early school was taught by John McH. Wilson, and another by Miss Lucy Wilson and by others. Mr. Wilson taught in a cabinet shop in the Village of Keithsburg. In those days one school term a year was all that was taught. The parents considered themselves lucky if they could place their children in school for three months of each year. All were subscription schools and the wages paid were very low, probably not more than fifteen dollars or twenty dollars a month, or even less. An early school in Keithsburg was taught by Thomas Libby and another by Isaac Bliss. The latter taught in a cabin which stood in Robert Keith's dooryard. John Heaton taught in 1847 in a frame house that was fitted up for the purpose. He continued to teach for several terms. Mrs. Lucretia Freeman taught in the

McManus brick building. The first regular schoolhouse built in Keithsburg was put up in 1849. This was erected by private subscription. From this time forward the Keithsburg schools were unsurpassed by any in the county, but they were almost wholly select schools. Some of them were really excellent for that day.

In 1855 a female seminary was organized at Keithsburg. William Gayle was president and Isaac N. Bassett, secretary, and there was a very competent teacher, Miss Mulkey, who was employed and taught for one year. Miss Mulkey was an able teacher and had a fair attendance of girls and young women. The Misses Todd succeeded her and held forth in the Methodist Church. Other teachers were employed, but in a short time the school was suspended.

In 1863 Rev. C. M. Wright founded the Mercer College in the Orth House and later occupied the Masonic Building. He was assisted by Mary W. Evans and Emily J. Whitlock. J. S. McMillan kept a select school in Keithsburg at the close of the Civil war. W. P. Allen gave instruction in a business course in Keithsburg in the early '70s, occupying Apollo Hall. Rezin W. Kile was a teacher at this time. John C. Pepper taught several terms about 1849 and 1850, at Keithsburg; so did Isaac N. Smith, who was assisted by Mrs. Freeman. From 1851 to 1855 Harvey S. Senter taught several terms in this township. So did N. P. Brown. The second school building at Keithsburg was built in 1856 and was occupied first by Warren Shedd and later by T. C. Swafford, Isaac McManus, William A. Wray, John P. Chowning, C. W. Searles, W. H. Farris, E. H. Jamison, William A. Griffin and others. The first big brick schoolhouse in Keithsburg was finished in 1882 and was at that time the best school building in the county. It was fitted with up-to-date and excellent apparatus, the seats and desks being patented. The building was two stories and furnished four rooms when necessary. In the '60s and '70s the Keithsburg District had serious trouble over the question of bonding the district for school purposes. The matter was taken into the courts and required many years before a final and satisfactory settlement was accomplished.

The Mercer Female College and Branch Normal School was opened at Keithsburg on April 4, 1864, with Rev. C. M. Wright, A. M., as principal. It had been projected the previous year, but the school was not actually commenced until the spring of 1864. T. B. Cabeen was president of the institution and William Gayle, secretary. The tuition per quarter was as follows: Primary department, \$3; preparatory, \$4; collegiate, \$5; normal, \$5; music, German,

painting and drawing were extra. Students could secure board for \$2.

A school was first established in Millersburg in 1838, taught by Mr. Lane. In 1839 Lane was also the teacher, assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth F. Thornton, wife of H. W. Thornton. A complete list of the teachers is not obtainable, but in 1846 school was taught by Hiram Felton, father of Herschel Felton, now a resident of Millersburg. The building in which Mr. Felton taught was owned by him and stood on the prairie south of the present residence of Mrs. Ellen Boyd. From 1847 to 1849 Harvey Senter, afterward circuit clerk of Mercer County, taught. He first taught in the old courthouse and afterward in the new schoolhouse, which was erected on the southwest corner of the present school grounds and which was moved across the street when no longer used for school purposes and is now occupied by John C. Summers and family as a dwelling.

In 1856, what is now known as the Old Brick Building, was erected. It stood until 1893, when it was torn down and replaced by the present modern brick structure. William McK. Young and Mrs. A. M. Young, of Aledo, and Judge William H. Gest, of Rock Island, were teachers in the school at an early day. This school was never made a graded school and consequently has no regular graduates or alumni. For this reason it has long been the wish that among the pupils of a school having such an early origin and historical setting there should be some sort of an organization that might take the place of an alumni of the graded school and the college. This wish has been realized, to which credit should be given to a few ladies who were formerly pupils of the school. At their request a number of the former pupils met and plans were discussed and adopted by which a permanent organization was effected. Under its constitution any pupil who has attended the school at any time up to and including the spring of 1881 is eligible to membership in the association. All teachers employed during the same period are likewise eligible to membership. Under the organization as originally effected, Rev. N. W. Thornton was made president; Mrs. Emma Mardock, secretary, and Mrs. Minnie Hollenback, corresponding secretary.

In 1839 the Millersburg Seminary of Learning was incorporated by the Legislature. This institution would no doubt have continued and become permanent and useful had it not been for the fact that the county seat was soon removed to Keithsburg. This led to the abandonment of the school.

In Eliza Township the first schoolhouse was a log structure on top of the bluffs near the Noble farm. Miss Mary A. Delaber was teacher. Another early teacher was Miss Emily Cawkins. The exact date when these schools were taught is not known, but was probably all in the decade of the '30s. I. N. Bassett taught one term in this schoolhouse in 1853, and his son, Victor H. Bassett, taught several terms about 1890. Bessie Bassett, his daughter, about the same time, taught one term at the schoolhouse near Petersville.

One of the first schools in Perryton Township was taught by Miss Farwell in a small house on section 26. It was erected by Jackson Woods for other purposes. The first regular school was a log building which had been occupied by J. Jingles, which was moved to section 28 and fitted for school purposes. Abraham Miller is said to have been one of the first teachers in this township. He also taught one of the first schools at Sugar Grove in Mercer Township.

An early school in Ohio Grove Township was taught in 1839 by Miss Ruth Conner in a new barn erected by Capt. Richard Rice. One of the first regular schoolhouses was erected on section 4 and another on section 7. By 1843 the township had six or seven schools in successful operation. The names of the teachers are not remembered.

One of the early schools in Duncan Township was taught by Buford Duncan in the settlement which was named for him. The second was taught in the Pomeroy District. In 1839 a schoolhouse was fitted up in Abington Township near the residence of W. T. Jackson. Miss Harriet Wilson was the first teacher in this building. It was a round log structure, covered with clapboards and had a puncheon floor. Warren Shedd was one of the early teachers in this township. John Nevius and Miss Lucy Wilson were others. By 1850 the township had from six to eight schools.

The first schoolhouse in Suez Township was erected in 1837, though terms may have been taught a little earlier in other buildings. Robert A. Pollock, James A. Stewart and Samuel Shaw erected this building. It stood on section 21, was built of logs, had a clapboard roof and a puncheon floor. R. Caldwell was the first teacher in this building. By 1843 the township had four or five schools.

The first school taught in Greene Township was in the John Collins' residence and was taught by his daughter, Elizabeth, in 1840. In 1842 the first public school building was erected on the hill in the east part of the present Village of Viola. This building was used until 1856, when a two-story brick structure was erected forty rods to the southwest and occupied until 1871. On that date

a much larger and better one was erected on two blocks, which were purchased in Viola at a cost of \$500. Miss Sarah Hayes was the first preceptor in this building. The building and grounds, with their equipment, cost a total of \$7,000, and reflected great credit upon the little village that day. It was two stories high, contained four rooms and was in charge of S. M. Wiley, of Aledo, in 1872.

The first schoolhouse, so far as now recollected in Preemption Township, stood at Farlow's Grove, and the first term therein was taught by Miss Boose. The second was taught at Preemption Corners on section 11, in the Brewster House. The exact date when these sessions were held is not known but it was some time in the '40s. By 1848 Preemption had at least five schools in session.

The first school in Richland Grove Township was taught by Chauncey Stanard during the winter of 1837-8 in a log house, 12 by 14 feet, which stood on the farm of Peter Metzler on section 14. This was the only schoolhouse in the township until 1840 and by 1843 there were four. The names of the other early teachers are not remembered.

Rivoli Township was slow with its early schools. When the first was taught is not known. By 1848 there were several in session in the township. The first regular schoolhouse perhaps was built in 1848 on James Durston's farm and was a frame structure. Among the early teachers in this township were E. H. McConoughty, L. Chidester, H. Brown, Sarah C. Westfall, L. Cawkins, John Libby, A. M. McChesney, Mathew Cole, Catherine B. Harvey, J. S. Mahan, Harmon Brown, Melissa Welliver, Nathan T. Smith, Mary Underwood, Lydia A. Wilber and others.

Among the first schools in North Henderson Township was one taught by John Wilshire in the house owned by William McGreenwood. Robert Shaw taught in a small cabin owned by Young C. Mann, about 1838. By 1843 the township had four or five schools.

When Judge Thompson and Levi Willits laid out the town plat of Aledo, they offered \$10,000 to a religious denomination that would establish a college in that village, and in the fall of 1856 Levi Willits made a contract with the Methodist Episcopal Church at their general conference to accept the donation and take charge of the direction and operation of the college. Willits agreed, in addition, that he would loan \$10,000 to the college for a term of years. Lewis W. Thompson and others gave the college forty acres, the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 18. Hector J. Humphrey was appointed by the Methodist conference agent of the college and soon located in Aledo. Trustees were elected and the organization

was completed and subscriptions of a few thousand dollars were made by individuals, and the work of erecting the college was commenced. The corporate name was Mercer County College. The site for the building was where Archie Bridgford's residence is now located. During 1857 and early in 1858 the basement of the building was completed and brick were manufactured and placed on the ground for the erection of a three-story structure. A very good commodious building was planned. The lumber was procured and the windows and door frames were all made ready to place in the building. Levi Willits' wife was a Methodist and Judge Thompson's wife was a Presbyterian, and when Willits had made the contract with the Methodist conference, Thompson was very much dissatisfied, and they then made an agreement to give to the Presbyterian assembly \$10,000 for the erection of a college in Aledo, which offer was also accepted, and the organization was perfected in 1857, and a small frame building was erected which was used for a preparatory school, commencing in 1857 and continuing for about two years. The Presbyterian college was incorporated and organized as the Mercer Collegiate Institute, and is hereafter narrated in detail as the Mercer Collegiate Institute. Levi Willits died in February, 1858, without having paid over to the trustees of the Methodist college the loan of \$10,000, and the financial crisis coming on that year, the college was without funds, Judge Thompson not being able to pay the balance of the \$10,000 that the firm had agreed to donate. The trustees of the Methodist college then delivered to the trustees of the Presbyterian college, all of their material and gave up any further attempt to finish the college building.

There was then an attempt to establish an academy and a two-story brick building was erected on part of the block where the courthouse now stands in Aledo, and the school was continued for about four years, when the building was sold to pay the indebtedness that had accrued on account of the erection of the same. Shortly after that time the Wylie brothers erected a two-story frame building in the southeast part of Aledo, just east of the residence of Levi Lewis, now occupied by Mrs. Morrow, and J. M. Wylie conducted a private school or academy for some three or four years, after which it was suspended.

There was also a private school for young ladies or girls established about 1870 or 1871. A Miss Housekeeper, who was a very competent teacher, was employed. This school continued for two or three years with a very good attendance of young ladies, when that was also suspended.

In February, 1855, the common school law of the state was passed by the Legislature. It provided for a state superintendent of public instruction, a county school commissioner, who had general supervision of the schools of each county, three township school trustees and school directors for each local district. All teachers were to be examined by the county commissioner in orthography, reading in English, penmanship, arithmetic, grammar, modern geography and history of the United States. Provision was made for the payment of teachers, but the amounts were left wholly to the directors of each district. This all made a complete revolution in methods of teaching. Under the new law, houses were to be built by the districts and were to be kept in order and teachers were to be paid so much per month for their services.

Immediately a new order of educational affairs was instituted in this county. The Teachers' Association was organized September 5, 1855, and among the first members were D. Willits, Tyler McWhorter, John Ramsey, Warren Shedd, N. P. Brown and a few others. By February, 1858, the membership of the association had increased to over one hundred and twenty-five. At this date Aledo did not have a hall large enough to hold all who wished to take part in the proceedings. In 1856, the Schuyler Presbytery located their Mercer Collegiate Institute at Aledo and appointed Rev. William Townley as first principal.

Pursuant to call, a limited number of teachers assembled at Aledo, on December 23, 1856, for the purpose of holding an institute and putting the school machinery of the county in operation. It was stormy weather and but few ladies were present. The male sex were represented by T. McWhorter, N. P. Brown, J. E. Harroun, S. B. Atwater, James H. Reed, F. W. Livingston, Doctor Ashbaugh and a few others. The first day was consumed in getting in working order. In the afternoon of the second day exercises in reading and grammar were conducted, with J. E. Harroun and S. B. Atwater as leaders. In the afternoon arithmetic, orthography and miscellaneous discussion engaged the attention of the teachers. In the afternoon James H. Reed lectured on the subject "The Relations and Responsibilities of the Teacher." Other subjects discussed were School Government, Corporal Punishment, Physiology, Order Studies in Schools, Physical Education, Composition, Uniformity of Text Books, etc. A resolution favoring the abolition of corporal punishment was lost by a small majority. Resolutions favoring the better organization of the teachers of the county were adopted. Gen-

erally, all present were improved by this means of intelligent interchange of thought and method on educational subjects and systems.

In July, 1857, the Mercer Collegiate Institute duly went into operation under Rev. William Townley. He was an experienced instructor, had taught elsewhere for many years and was thoroughly competent to establish the institute in excellent working condition. This he did in a short time. John H. Nevius was president of the Collegiate Institute Board. The course of instruction was divided into several departments. The primary branches cost \$3 per quarter; common school branches, \$5 per quarter; if algebra, bookkeeping, surveying, philosophy, astronomy and the languages were required, a charge of \$7 was made. A temporary structure was used in which to hold the institute, and in this building the various church organizations held their first services. The old school Presbyterians, the Associate Reformed Lutherans and the Free Presbyterians used it when not occupied by the school or each other. At the same time Rev. M. Bigger, another old and experienced teacher, taught a term on the second floor of his dwelling in Aledo.

Under the act of February 16, 1857, to establish and maintain a system of free schools throughout the state, a new impulse was given to the free or common school movement. This law was further amended in important particulars in 1858-9 and as the years passed other improvements were added until the county has its present splendid school system. The reform movement took possession of the whole county in 1857. Teachers became enthusiastic in support of the new movement. Parents were pleased with the change, but taxpayers were fearful lest their taxes would be so increased as to make the system burdensome. At the institute of February, 1858, thirty-two teachers took part in the work of the session. This number did not include all the teachers in the county and at once those present demanded that all should be required to attend in order to secure a uniformity in methods. It was argued that if teachers desired better wages and better houses in which to teach, they should improve their methods by attendance at the institute and by courses of study and reading. There was great enthusiasm and good feeling generally at the session in 1858. Previous to this time very little had been done to improve methods of instruction. In 1858 the teachers themselves demanded more rigid examinations and higher requirements as part of their duties. It was at this time that the teachers asked that the certificates should be graded first, second and third, but it required several years before their wants in this regard were carried into effect. The county school commissioner had a

difficult task before him. It was no easy matter to overturn the prejudices and customs of all former years and establish an entirely new system that would give satisfaction to teachers and parents. Perhaps if all the teachers had not assisted him it would have taken a good many years longer to have secured satisfactory results. But the institute and the enthusiasm of the teachers themselves were sufficient to support and sustain the school commissioner, N. P. Brown. Their objects were stated at the institute. One of the chief results sought was self culture, or the elevation of the profession of teaching and the improvement of instruction tactics.

The new schoolhouse in Aledo was completed in October, 1857, and immediately occupied. So great was the demand for school facilities that pupils were admitted from numerous outside districts, coming often from three to five miles and paying tuition. This gave Mr. Bigger a larger number of pupils than he could properly instruct and F. H. Herdman was employed as his assistant. During the winter of 1857-8 lectures on school subjects were frequently delivered by Mr. Bigger and others in the schoolhouse and were attended by the citizens generally. About one hundred and twenty-five pupils attended the session of 1857-8. In the fall of 1857 the new schoolhouse in Keithsburg was finished. It was two stories high and contained four large rooms and cost \$4,500. Warren Shedd was the principal and the attendance was about one hundred and thirty.

The schools of the country districts were slower to take advantage of the new and improved methods. Often the teachers were uneducated and had the crudest notion of the methods of instruction. Particularly a knowledge of grammar was almost generally lacking among the country teachers. The times were hard, money was scarce, parents were poor and almost any person who desired, whether he was competent or not, could secure a school and become a teacher. The teacher offered his services at extremely low rates. Many schools were taught for \$10 or \$15 a month. Such teachers, usually having nothing else to do, could pass the winter and maintain themselves and thus cared for little else. The parents were satisfied if he produced a certificate from the school commissioner and the latter would grant the certificate to the person recommended by the parents. The first instructors thus were not really teachers but were simply keepers of schools. They were not even instructors. The school commissioner was indulgent because good teachers were extremely scarce and the districts were compelled to employ the best they could secure. Often the certificates were renewed or transcribed from year to year, even though the teacher did not attend

the institute, or make any advancement. One teacher in this county, wishing to have his certificate renewed, wrote as follows:

"Most Honorable and respectable Sir:—I have been Solicited to teach in this winter and if I Should teach for them it wd be necessary for me to have a certificate, permit me to ask you to transcribe a certificate for me. the district in which I am Solicited to teach is a half mile from the a distance of about twenty-five Miles from and there being no way of gitting to by public conveynce these are the reasons why I ask you to transcribe, I have a certif. from county. I will send one along and would concider it a great obligation for you to transcribe, as the distance is great and the conveynce poor. Transcribe and oblige your humble servant"

P. S. Direct your letter to transcribe or write soon and oblige yours.

P. S. Please andorse this certificate and please return it."

The real difficulty at that time was the poverty generally of the whole country. The directors wanted cheap teachers and they voiced the sentiments of the school patrons. The school superintendent was satisfied if the parents were. Thus the supply met the demand. Why should teachers educate when it was not necessary in order to secure schools? it was asked. Thus in all the districts there was a general movement to save money even at the sacrifice of the children's education. Schoolkeepers instead of schoolteachers were wanted. Good professional teachers would demand three, four and five times as much as was paid to the usual country teacher. This meant heavier taxation and as the farmers generally had about all they could do to pay their taxes, low as they were, they objected to any change that would add an additional burden to their pay-rolls. The wages paid were \$15 to \$20 in summer and from \$20 to \$30 in winter. Thus persons throughout the county opposed any change, and there were many who called the common school systems new fangled notions and ridiculed any changes in the old, and to them satisfactory, system. This being the condition throughout the county, the teachers who desired improvement had an up-hill task before them. It was now necessary to educate the people generally to the new condition of affairs before any important and permanent improvement could be made. However, when once put in operation the new methods proved so satisfactory that enlightened public sentiment supported the movement and favored the continuance of teachers' institutes and the system of school improvement inaugurated. But it required many years before all poor teachers were

wholly eradicated from the educational system of the county. It was said by one of the teachers that "the idea is generally adopted that any man with education and shrewdness enough to obtain a certificate will do well enough for a teacher provided he will teach low. Hence our schools are supplied with a set of trifling drones who have not energy enough to make a living at work."

From the institute of February, 1858, may be properly dated the revolution in school methods in this county. The association elected the following officers on that date: Ralph Grow, president; M. Bigger, vice president; Tyler McWhorter, treasurer; J. E. Harroun, secretary. Prof. S. Wright was present and assisted in the proceedings. During the session three lectures were delivered as follows: Moral Courage in Scholar and Teacher, by Rev. J. S. Poage; Graded Schools, by Prof. S. Wright, of Lee County; Mutual Relations of Patrons, Teachers and Pupils, by J. K. Herbert; Objects of Education, by Rev. William Townley; Sundry Educational Topics, by Prof. S. Wright; Light, by J. H. Reed. These exercises, though new, were interesting and instructive in the extreme to all the teachers present and made a profound impression. Teachers were present from all parts of the county. At the close of the session there were adopted strong resolutions favoring uniformity of text books; requesting a greater attendance and better school apparatus; asking all teachers to attend the meeting of the association; favoring wages in proportion to the labors and qualifications of teachers without regard to sex; approving assistance to the proposed normal university; and recommending the organization of graded schools in the townships as feeders for high schools and colleges. This session was succeeded by branch organizations of teachers throughout the entire county under the leadership of J. E. Harroun, the new school commissioner. Among the branches organized were those at the following schoolhouses: Bates, Pryne, New Boston, Willits' Brickyard and the Bluff Church. Holbrook's school apparatus was recommended.

In January, 1858, the examination of the students of the Mercer Collegiate Institute embraced the following branches: Reading, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, Latin and a few other branches. Rev. Wm. Townley was yet principal of the institute. In July, 1858, Rev. James R. Brown, a professor in Monmouth College, was elected professor of ancient languages in the institute. In the spring of 1858 Miss S. J. Woods taught a select school near Braucht's Hotel in Aledo. She charged \$2.50 per quarter, in advance. At this time the educational movement throughout the

county was so great that public school libraries were considered and in every instance started in the different townships. So great was the demand throughout the state for such means of instruction that publishers or school authorities prepared such special libraries and sold them for very low rates in various counties. A. O. Moore, of New York, was one of the publishers to prepare such specific libraries. J. K. Herbert and J. A. Forsythe introduced Mr. Moore's library in this county. They visited the various districts and explained the usefulness of the collections of books.

The advancement in education in 1857-8 had never been paralleled up to that date. Revolution in methods was complete. In Aledo, Millersburg, New Boston, Keithsburg and elsewhere new and better schoolhouses were immediately erected and many others were built in the country districts throughout the county. Particularly were all the facilities improved, such as text-books, reference books, blackboards, globes, libraries, etc. Within a few years scarcely a schoolhouse in the county could be found without fairly good equipment, but it must be admitted that when this wave of reform or improvement had subsided there was a tendency in many districts to return to former negligence and inefficiency.

In 1858 the Millersburg school district was one of the most important in the county. W. L. Green was instructor and was paid \$35 a month for his services. That year he taught in an old building not much better than a barn, but the reform compelled the directors to erect a new building, which was occupied first in the fall of 1858. At once eighty children were enrolled in the village, with an average attendance of nearly fifty. The building was brick, two stories high, contained three rooms and at this time the entire school was graded in part. The Aledo Public School in 1858 contained four rooms, was two stories high, 32 by 50 feet, and the teachers were Rev. M. Bigger and F. H. Herdman. There was one room below and three above.

In August, 1858, the citizens of New Boston who were active friends of education, held an educational meeting on which occasion Prof. J. F. Eberhart, of Chicago, and Rev. J. S. Poage, of Aledo were the leading speakers. The committee of arrangements were David Kirlin, H. H. Roberts, E. P. Wood, E. J. Denison, A. Burdick, J. E. Willits, A. Howes, Ed Drury and R. P. Lytle.

In the summer of 1858 the schools of New Boston were revolutionized. Sixty varnished desks were secured and a similar number of two-braced chairs. In addition there were two desks for the teachers, a clock, an orrery, a tellurian, Pelton's hemisphere, a set of

Mitchell's maps, a five-inch terrestrial globe, Page's normal chart, geometrical solids, cube root blocks, two numeral frames, a magnet, a prism, etymological chart, a universal school register, two unabridged Webster's dictionaries, a set of Webb's normal charts and a set of McGuffey's charts, all costing about six hundred dollars. The schoolhouse was new, of brick, heated and lighted in modern style. It was a good building and a school in which the inhabitants from the start took the greatest pride. J. K. Herbert was the principal in 1858-9, and his assistant was Miss Maria Harroun. There were enrolled about one hundred and twenty scholars with an average attendance of about ninety. For many years previous to this date Simeon P. Smith had taught in New Boston Village and Township. He was well known and was one of the best instructors in the county. He took part in the early common school reform movement.

So great was the educational advanced movement in New Boston that in August a special educational convention was held in that village, on which occasion delegates were present from all portions of the county. Prof. J. F. Eberhart, an experienced instructor from Chicago, was present and delivered several interesting and instructive addresses. The occasion was made even more memorable by the presence of the Keithsburg Brass Band, which furnished music. Rev. J. S. Poage delivered an interesting address on True Life, or Living and Existing. He dwelt upon the fact that it required moral courage to acquire and apply knowledge. Dudley Willits addressed the convention on the subject of the Present Occasion. Professor Eberhart delivered a second address on the subject of Free Schools. Rev. Mr. Hawks lectured before the convention on the subject The Schoolhouse and Printing Press. L. W. Myers spoke on Mercer County Schools. E. Stafford read an important paper on Free Books for Free Schools. Dr. Libby responded to the toast, The Ladies. The Keithsburg Band was called upon and replied with a musical production. One of the founders of the Mercer County Teachers' Association was Tyler McWhorter. He took as much interest in the school advancement as any person in the county, except perhaps J. E. Harroun. J. E. Griffin spoke on the subject Devotees of Education. Rev. J. S. Poage's second address was on the subject of Female Teachers. R. C. Hardin spoke on Public Schools. J. E. Harroun delivered one of the most interesting addresses of the convention on the subject of Mercer County Teachers. A volunteer toast on the subject of Youthful Minds was responded to by Tyler McWhorter. The convention was held at a period when the Atlantic telegraph had just been recently completed by Cyrus W. Field.

When this subject was referred to in the convention it elicited three rousing cheers for "Cyrus W. Field, the national school boy." Dr. Libby again addressed the convention on the subject of Our Worthy Marshal, a Modern Job. On this occasion the movement for the establishment of high schools at all the large centers throughout the county was projected. All the principal villages or cities had already taken preliminary steps, but the enthusiasm created by this convention gave additional momentum to the high-school movement. Several speakers advocated the construction of a high school at public expense near the center of every township and in every considerable village. Others declared that such a result could not be accomplished.

In September, 1858, the Teachers' Association held another session, there being present nearly forty teachers. There were present from abroad Professor Standish, of Lombard University, and Professor Hamill, of Monmouth College. At this session the gymnastic drill by Doctor Myers was an important feature and was loudly applauded and greatly admired by the teachers. The following program was carried out in full at this session: Orthography, Ralph Grow leader; Elocution, J. S. Poage leader; Mental Arithmetic, F. H. Herdman leader; Algebra, J. R. Whitman leader; Written Arithmetic, J. K. Herbert leader; Geography, A. M. Dickey leader; Grammar, J. E. Harroun leader; Physiology, J. H. Reed leader; Physiology, M. Bigger leader; Theory and Practice, principal leaders. Essays: Uniformity of Text Books, W. W. Biggart; Thoroughness and Accuracy, A. M. Dickey; Reading as an Accomplishment, F. W. Livingston; Composition in School, Miss M. Harroun; History of Improvement in Text Books, F. H. Herdman; School Government, William Townley; Physical Geography, Tyler McWhorter; Poem, J. H. Reed. Addresses by J. S. Poage, J. E. Harroun, J. W. Lane, J. K. Herbert, principal, E. P. Wood, M. D.

The school collections of the county for the fiscal year 1858-9 were \$6,964.48; expenditures the same; interest received \$64; loan, \$10; on hand, \$54.

The Teachers' Institute of 1859 was one of the best ever held in the county thus far. There were present nearly fifty members. The new officers elected were: Warren Shedd, president; S. B. Atwater, vice president; Alexander Lamb, treasurer; F. W. Livingston, secretary. J. S. Poage, A. Lamb, W. W. Biggart and J. E. Harroun served as a committee on program. Among those present were: S. Hart, G. J. Baird, C. S. Richey, M. C. Clark, E. Forsyth, J. E. Griffin, A. J. Reid, J. A. McKee, J. R. Miller, W. H. McKinney,

Samuel Chaney, W. H. Voris, H. G. DePuy, James C. Pursee, Walter Pepper, W. H. McCoy, L. W. Myers, T. C. Swafford, J. K. Herbert, R. W. Kile, J. M. Hunter, R. M. Dihel, Charles Eaton, C. T. Chase, James McConnell, William Miller, Miss M. E. Morgan, Miss Jennie McMillan, Miss L. P. Worden, Miss Sarah Henderson, Miss Lizzie M. Voris, Miss Sarah Holmes, Miss Kate Miles, Miss Emily Allen, Miss Emma Hubbel, Miss Adaline Wolff, Miss Jennie Robb, Miss Mary Robb, Miss E. J. Graham. Exercises in all the leading branches taught in the common schools were given. Nearly all educational topics were discussed while the session lasted. Many lectures or interesting papers were presented to the institute. The resolutions adopted recommended uniformity in textbooks, favored the introduction of vocal music in the schools, disapproved of indiscriminate corporal punishment and urged the importance of better schoolhouses and equipment. This session was held in the old courthouse in Keithsburg.

The Eliza Township Teachers' Institute was organized in 1858 and held its first important session in the Boruff schoolhouse on October 15, 1859. Miles Shires was chosen president and Thomas J. Swisher, secretary. There were present in addition to those two, A. F. Waterman, A. B. Swisher and five or six others. At the next session in the Glancey schoolhouse there were present all of the above and in addition C. M. Clark and S. M. Dickey.

In February, 1860, the Teachers' County Institute was held at Millersburg. S. W. Atwater presided in the absence of Warren Shedd, president. There were present about twenty-five teachers, who adopted a program of lectures, speeches, discussions and essays, all of which was carried into effect. In February, 1860, the Associated Teachers' Institute met at New Boston. This association embraced several of the western townships of the county. They met at Pyrne schoolhouse and carried out the usual program. W. Pyrne was chairman of this session, and P. Griffith, secretary. Among those present were J. E. Huston, T. C. Swafford, C. M. Clark, J. M. Hunter and R. W. Kile. The exercises were almost wholly in the common branches. In February, 1860, the school directors of Aledo purchased a full set of Holbrook's apparatus, consisting principally of a ten-inch globe, a five-inch hemisphere globe, tellurian, orrery, geometrical solids, a numeral frame, magnet, etc. At this time the Aledo schoolhouse and apparatus throughout were greatly improved. The seats were patents and the heating and lighting were up to the standard of that date.

In the fall of 1860 William P. Baker took charge of the Mercer Collegiate Institute at Aledo. He continued with the same until

April, 1861, when he resigned with the intention of going to Missouri, but the commencement of the war prevented this course, whereupon he was continued during the summer. He announced that the children of accepted volunteers would not be charged tuition. In September, 1860, the teachers of Aledo were J. L. Pinkerton, principal; Miss Morgan, first assistant; Miss Harris, second assistant. Mr. Baker was still in charge of the Mercer Collegiate Institute. At the fall session, 1860, of the Teachers' Association, Warren Shedd, Joseph E. Harroun and John Ramsey were appointed a committee to ask the county board to help bear the expenses of the next annual meeting of the association and also for a remuneration to the school commissioner for services as such. The county board laid the whole subject on the table.

The school fund apportionment in the spring of 1861 was as follows: North Henderson, \$475.80; Rivoli, \$412.65; Richland Grove, \$472.05; Suez, \$413.75; Greene, \$368.25; Preemption, \$423.80; Ohio Grove, \$464.80; Mercer, \$488.05; Perryton, \$426.60; Abington, \$411.95; Millersburg, \$460.80; Duncan, \$443.45; Keithsburg, \$477.65; New Boston, \$689.25; Eliza, \$408.45; total, \$6,736.70.

In the fall of 1861 all attempts of the teachers to hold institutes failed, owing to the war excitement. In October, Rev. W. W. Williams was placed at the head of the Mercer Collegiate Institute. He was the pastor of the Old School Presbyterian Church at Aledo. In July, 1861, a new public schoolhouse for Aledo was proposed and soon afterwards work on the building was commenced. In November, 1861, Joseph McCoy and Miss Madden were connected with the public schools of Aledo. At the same time M. V. B. Shattuck was principal of the New Boston schools.

In January, 1862, the teachers who took part in the New Boston Teachers' Institute were C. M. Waterman, M. V. B. Shattuck, J. McManus, Miss S. B. Huntington, Miss Hamby, C. W. Searls, Miss E. Dodge and others. Rev. J. Scott delivered a lecture on Practical Education, and Mr. Waterman showed the proficiency of his methods of teaching geography by singing or chanting. Several very instructive essays were read.

In January, 1862, Amos F. Waterman, school commissioner announced that at the November session of the Teachers' Institute a prize consisting of Webster's Unabridged dictionary (pictorial edition) would be awarded for the best essay on the subject Duties and Requisite Qualifications of the School Teacher. The second prize was to be Page's Theory and Practice of Teaching. Each teacher who wished to compete was required to forward to the school commissioner at Aledo his or her name and address, accompanied

by twenty-five cents. This admitted such teachers to registry as a competitor. The essays were to be written on or before March 5th and forwarded to the commissioner, where all would be exactly copied in the same handwriting, the name of the competitor being omitted, and a number used instead. On the third day of the institute the three judges chosen from different parts of the county would decide upon the comparative merits of the compositions and award the prizes.

The spring term of the New Boston High School commenced on Monday, February 24, 1862, and continued eleven weeks, under the management of Prof. M. V. B. Shattuck, assisted in the intermediate department by Mrs. Shattuck, and in the primary department by Miss S. B. Huntington. The tuition for the three departments was respectively \$4, \$3 and \$2. During the term Professor Shattuck gave special attention and instruction to persons who desired to become teachers. In fact he introduced and established a short normal course. A teachers' class was formed and conducted daily and instruction was given in theory and practice of teaching. Vocal music in each department was taught throughout the entire term and particular attention was given to composition and declamation. The school building at New Boston was one of the best in the state at this date. It had modern equipment throughout and had 500 square feet of blackboard. Board and room for students were easily secured in the city. James S. Thompson assisted greatly to make this high school and normal attachment a success.

At the Teachers' Institute in February, 1862, there were present C. M. Waterman, M. V. B. Shattuck, W. I. Steel, Mrs. Shattuck, C. Higgins, J. McManus, J. C. Cristoe, J. J. Arnold, O. N. Sanders, G. W. Black and others. At this time the teachers of Perryton also conducted an institute, there being present William Townsend, L. W. Hawes, J. A. McCorkle, Peter Griffith, Charles Wright, T. C. Swafford and others.

The Keithsburg Union School was in charge of T. C. Swafford in 1862-3. He was an experienced instructor and attended many of the institutes throughout the county in the country districts. He was assisted at Keithsburg by Miss Huntington and Miss Wolf.

In May, 1862, Miss Parnee Harroun opened a private school in the public-school building at Aledo. She charged a small tuition and had over thirty scholars. In September, 1862, Miss Madden was placed at the head of the public schools of Aledo. She was assisted by Miss E. Henderson and Miss Sanderson. Miss Madden had taught here the previous winter and had given almost perfect satisfaction.

In September, 1863, James Gorton was placed in charge of the schools at Millersburg. He was a graduate of the Michigan State Normal School and had had several years' experience and was eminently qualified for his position. He was recognized as one of the most up-to-date instructors in the county at this time. He had one assistant.

The new school building at Aledo was ready for occupancy in 1863. It was 31 by 42 feet, two stories high, with a vestibule 14 by 20 feet. George P. Graham erected the building. This building was first occupied in September. W. McK. Young was the principal in charge and W. N. Graham had charge of the intermediate department and Miss Ena Marquis of the primary department. There were three rooms in this building, all supplied with patent seats, improved blackboards and the building was finished with a 300 pound bell. About the same time Hettie B. Townley opened a private school in a brick building owned by Mr. Paxton. She charged a small tuition and had about twenty-five scholars. The new organization of the Teachers' Association was established at Aledo in November, 1863. W. McK. Young presided and stated the object of the meeting. William N. Graham was secretary. These two teachers and Miss Ena Marquis were constituted a committee to prepare a constitution and by-laws and report at an adjourned meeting on November 21st. In September, 1864, C. S. Kirk was principal of the Aledo public schools. Miss Lizzie Perkins and Miss Ena Marquis were assistants. The site of the new schoolhouse at Aledo was decided by vote.

At this time there were 100 schools in the county, which number did not include the different departments of the graded schools. There were six graded schools. In more than one district there was an average attendance of sixty to seventy pupils—too many for any one teacher to properly instruct. He noticed that in all parts of the county the tendency to grade the schools prevailed. At this time there were in the county 8,967 persons under twenty-one years of age, and 6,134 between the ages of five and twenty-one. There was an attendance of 2,566 males and 2,497 females. This gave an average attendance of about fifty to each of the 100 schools. In six of the schools the Bible was read as a daily exercise. The commissioner expressed the wish that it could and should be read in every school in the county. He urged the directors to make it a part of the daily exercises in the schoolrooms. Corporal punishment had almost wholly disappeared and there was great improvement in classification, text-books and the art of imparting instruction.

During the year \$1,712 was paid for new schoolhouses and \$1,987.90 for repairs and improvements. The total amount expended for all school purposes was \$22,285.92. "We are building better houses and filling them with better furniture. Now occasionally the smallest pupils' feet touch the floor; he finds something more than airy nothing to lean against and he writes on a desk inclined at an angle less than forty-five degrees. People are actually beginning to think that our children are human beings and the schoolhouses should be better than a horse stable," said the commissioner.

The schools had felt the effects of the war—many of the best teachers having gone to the field and many teachers more or less unqualified having taken their places. During the year ninety-nine certificates were granted to teachers, twenty-one to males and seventy-eight to females. The highest monthly wages paid to male teachers was \$60 and the highest to females, \$40. The lowest was \$20 to males and \$10 to females. The average monthly wages to males was \$30 and to females \$13.37. "I cannot see why this difference. The competent, faithful and true female who devotes her time, energies and talents to her school is entitled to just as much compensation as the male. She performs the same amount of mental labor, undergoes the same wear and tear of mind and body and accomplishes the same amount of good. The honest truth is we do not pay our teachers enough and particularly our females. In the county as a whole the number of well qualified teachers has increased while those that fall below mediocrity are finding employment more difficult to obtain," observed the commissioner at the conclusion of his report.

At the session of the Legislature in 1864-5 important changes were made in the school law of the state. The county school commissioner became under the new law the county superintendent of schools to be elected for a term of four years.

The public examination of the Mercer Collegiate Institute invariably called out a large attendance of friends of the pupils and citizens generally. In June, 1865, the examination was unusually interesting. Classes in Latin, analysis of the English sentence, advanced classes in parsing, algebra, arithmetic, geometry, botany, etc., passed creditable examinations. The exercises were interspersed with vocal and instrumental music, Aledo Saxe-Horn Band supplying the latter and the students the former. One song "Good Bye Jeff" was exceedingly well received at this time. The subject of "Equality of the Sexes" was debated by the students; the decision was given in favor of the ladies. George Powers recited an original

poem. The exercises in the evening netted about eighty-five dollars for the benefit of the Great Sanitary Fair at Chicago.

In the summer of 1866 Mrs. Harroun conducted a select school in Aledo. The old Harroun schoolhouse was situated about three and a half miles southeast of Aledo. In September, 1866, J. S. McMillan was principal of the Aledo schools; Mr. Hardy first assistant; Mrs. E. Porter, Mrs. Harroun and Miss A. M. Smith assistants of the other departments. The previous year S. B. Atwater was principal of the Aledo schools.

For the winter term of 1866-7 the board of directors of the public schools of Aledo adopted the following rules and regulations: That children should be punctual in attendance and in returning home; that all children residing within a convenient distance from the schoolhouse should go home for their dinners; that new pupils would be admitted at any time during the first two weeks, but thereafter only on Mondays with written permission from the directors; that all resident children between the ages of six and twenty-one years should be admitted and that others could gain admittance by permission of the directors and by the payment of tuition; that no scholar should be permitted to leave school at recess nor at any time before the regular closing hour, nor be absent from any historical exercise or any examination without the consent of the teacher; any pupil who should violate this rule would not be permitted to reenter without written permission from the board; that no pupil would be permitted to remain in school unless supplied with suitable and necessary books and utensils unless extreme poverty on the part of parents or guardians should prevent such supply; that should any pupil be absent three days in days or half days without an excuse satisfactory to the teacher, the superintendent should notify the parents and if he should be absent six days he must secure permission to reenter school in formal way; that pupils engaged part of the time in other studies or pursuits would be excused under proper arrangements; that the studies pursued in each grade should be only such as were prescribed by the board. These rules were strongly favored by J. S. McMillan, superintendent.

The report of the school superintendent for the year ending September 30, 1866, showed 102 school districts in the county and ninety-seven schools. In six of the districts no school was held. The average number of months school was kept was 6.94. Whole number of white persons under twenty-one years of age, 9,392; whole number of white persons between the ages of six and twenty-one years, 6,709; whole number attending school, 5,977; average daily attendance,

2,785.4; number of graded schools, 6; number of private schools, 2; number of schoolhouses, 95; amount paid for teachers' wages, \$23,972.68; amount paid for new schoolhouses, \$5,328.90; total amount expended for all school purposes, \$42,988.26. Average monthly wages paid to male teachers, \$40.68; average monthly wages paid to female teachers, \$27.60; number of first grade teachers' certificates, 20; number of second grade teachers' certificates, 128. The superintendent reported that the great majority of schools were poor and the buildings were the same. The apparatus which had been purchased six or eight years before was now nearly worn out and worthless. The teacher really made or unmade the school, usually the latter. Reading was taught in a perfunctory way, in a sing-song manner without sense, pauses, inflection or emphasis. Penmanship was almost wholly neglected. Recitations were rattled off mainly to get through and not to understand. There were a few exceptions. Arithmetic was taught to better effect; so was geography and history. None of the schools graded as should be. The report showed that in the graded schools of Aledo, Keithsburg and New Boston more than one hundred pupils should have attended each department. During the year some of the departments actually did contain more than one hundred. In the higher department of New Boston School the recitation of seventeen classes was heard daily. Aledo had made an extensive addition to its schoolhouse and five teachers were employed. It was urged that if the teacher was to be continued as the whole school, none but those with first class certificates and abundant experience should be employed. Although several hundred dollars had been collected from fines imposed for violations of the liquor laws, not a dollar had been paid into the school fund of the county. Sylvanus B. Atwater, superintendent, made a scorching criticism of the manner in which the schools were conducted.

The charge having been made in December, 1866, that Aledo's "Science of Government" was a disloyal work and should not be allowed in the schools, the students of Aledo College met and formally passed resolutions that the charge was unfounded and further resolved that as students they were entirely satisfied with the book and heartily endorsed and recommended it to other schools. Twenty-four students signed the resolutions.

In October, 1866, the public schools of Aledo were graded into five departments and numbered about two hundred pupils. Rhetorical exercises took place every two weeks in the superintendent's room and were attended generally by the parents of the pupils.

About the same time the students organized a literary society and held weekly meetings during the winter of 1866-67. The exercises consisted of readings, declamations, essays, dialogues, debates, discussions, etc., and usually were varied, instructive and interesting.

At the close of the Aledo public schools in December, 1866, the five departments had about two hundred and twenty-five pupils. For the first time punishment by whipping was avoided and better order than ever prevailed. It was declared that flogging was a relic of barbarism and should never again be employed in the schools of Aledo and the county.

In March, 1867, Mr. Atwater, county superintendent, offered the following prizes for the school year commencing April 1, 1867: To the teacher who should succeed in teaching the best school in the county, \$100; to the teacher who should teach the best school in each township, \$10. No school would be examined before eighty days actually taught. No premium was to be paid to the county unless the names of at least forty-five teachers should be registered as competitors. The following points were to be considered in the examination: (1) Order; (2) classification; (3) methods of teaching; (4) good manners of the pupils. Preliminary arrangements for awarding the premiums were made at the April meeting of the County Teachers' Association.

In September, 1867, William Pardee was principal of the Aledo schools and the assistants were Miss Ann Allen, Miss Burbank, Miss McCoy and Mrs. Porter. In September, 1868, Mrs. E. M. Walker was principal and Miss Burbank, Miss Stevens, Miss Morey, Mrs. Young and Mrs. Porter, assistants. Miss Morey was one of the teachers in the Aledo High School. The enrollment for the Aledo public schools at this time was 208.

The Mercer Collegiate Institute, which had been abandoned for some time, was opened again in November, 1868, under the charge of Rev. A. A. Hough, of Pennsylvania. He taught a term of five months and had three departments: Advanced, Middle and Primary. The tuition for the advanced course was \$15; for the middle course, \$12.50, and for the primary course, \$10.

During the winter of 1869-70 the Mercer Collegiate Institute was conducted by Prof. S. E. McKee, who had conducted the academy at Washington, Iowa. He called it a high school, but in reality it was a continuation of the Mercer Collegiate Institute.

In 1869 I. N. Bassett was elected one of the directors of the Aledo schools. His associates were N. P. Brown and H. R. Morrison. The directors met and organized and agreed unanimously in favor



SOUTH SIDE SCHOOL, ALEDO

of employing S. B. Atwater as principal and Mrs. Young and Miss Jennie Marquis. Miss Burbank was to be continued and Amanda and Matilda Frazier were to be employed. Miss Burbank lived in New Hampshire and the Misses Frazier were attending the State Normal School at Bloomington, and Mr. Bassett was authorized to employ these three persons, which was done. They were all good teachers, but Mr. Atwater did not give satisfaction as a principal, and in 1870 C. W. Sherman was employed as principal and the other teachers above mentioned were employed in their respective departments. In 1872 there was dissatisfaction with Mr. Sherman as principal. He was a good teacher but failed in his government and treatment of the teachers employed under him. Nearly all of them were teachers of much more experience than he had had, but he did not treat them with the courtesy they were entitled to. Mr. Bassett was in favor of employing another superintendent, but one of the directors wanted to continue Mr. Sherman, and the other was inclined to decide with Mr. Bassett. The latter was reelected director upon the issue that a new superintendent of the school would be employed. The result was Mr. A. U. Barler was employed as superintendent for 1872-3. When Mr. Bassett was elected director he found the school building in a very bad condition. There were no walks from the sidewalk to the door and there was no sidewalk on the north side of the schoolhouse. The building needed painting and many of the blinds were off, laying on the ground, and the maps and books inside were poorly taken care of. The outhouses were in a miserable condition and obscene language was written all over the walls. Mr. N. P. Brown, soon after the directors were organized, was absent the balance of the year and Mr. Morrison and Mr. Bassett undertook to put the building and grounds in good condition, Mr. Bassett taking the lead after they had agreed what should be done. A sidewalk was built at the expense of the school board on the north side, and walks to the door and over the grounds wherever needed. The house was repainted and repaired in every respect and the furniture, library, etc., put in a good condition to be cared for. These expenditures cost considerable amount of money and when it came to the election of a successor to Mr. Brown, Robert Irwin was induced to become a candidate. Quite a number of the persons in Aledo, some of whom had no children in school, became clamorous to have some one elected who would not expend so much money. In other words, using their own language, "They wanted a man who knew the value of a dollar." Mr. Irwin was elected, but as soon as he was qualified he called on Mr. Bassett and said to him: "You

know what many of the people said about you in supporting me for a director, but I want to say to you that you will find me ready to cooperate with you in getting needed expenditures for school purposes."

At the head of the Aledo public schools in September, 1870, was C. W. Sherman, principal. The assistants were Miss Burbank, Miss Amanda Frazier, Miss Tillie Frazier, Miss Jennie Marquis and Mrs. Young.

In December, 1870, the citizens of Aledo met at the Barton House for the purpose of forming a joint stock company to erect a suitable college building in the town. Eli Detwiler served as chairman. On motion of Rev. J. S. Poage, steps to form a joint stock company were immediately taken. The shares were placed at \$100 and a committee was appointed to report at a subsequent meeting, having prepared the necessary writings for the purpose. J. S. Thompson, J. M. Clokey and I. N. Bassett were this committee. On motion, Horace Bigelow stated that all who desired to subscribe stock now were permitted to do so. The earliest stockholders were Dr. W. D. Craig, J. S. Pinkerton, W. K. Fulton, H. Parkman, J. M. Clokey, T. Maddux, W. H. Holmes, L. F. Chamberlin, A. M. Byers, D. H. Porter, Horace Bigelow, I. N. Bassett, J. S. Poage, N. Edwards and W. A. Lorimer. A. M. Byers, D. H. Porter, J. S. Poage and Thomas Ryan were appointed a special committee to secure further subscriptions. The meeting thereupon adjourned to December 21st. This meeting was again postponed and a special meeting was held on December 31st, on which occasion Eli Detwiler again served as chairman. This meeting was held at the courthouse. The committee previously appointed prepared articles of incorporation which were read and adopted. They recited that the corporation was formed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining an institution of learning in the Town of Aledo to be called the Mercer County Academy. The capital stock was fixed at \$25,000. Five trustees were provided for and as soon as practicable suitable grounds were either to be purchased or secured by gift for the purpose of education. Provision for courses of study, the employment of a competent faculty, etc., were made. It was provided in Article 3 "That the said Mercer County Academy should be and remain forever non-sectarian and should not be managed or controlled by any religious sect or denomination." These articles of incorporation were signed by Nicholas Edwards, W. A. Lorimer, I. N. Bassett, J. M. Clokey, I. N. Dunlap, J. S. Pinkerton, W. K. Fulton, John C. Pepper, James S. Poage, W. H. Holmes, P. F. Chamberlin and Horace Bigelow. At this

session a new committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions as follows: J. S. Poage, I. N. Bassett, J. M. Clokey, Nicholas Edwards and John G. McGuffin.

In the year 1872 several waves of reform in school matters swept the county. One was instruction in music. This step was taken by all the villages and cities and by many of the country schools. At Aledo the directors employed Professor Hanchett as special instructor in music in the public schools of the village. Every Friday he was required to give an hour to musical instruction to each of the public school departments. Children were especially instructed in how to read notes and in an understanding of the musical staff. In the fall of 1872 the Aledo Academy was placed in charge of James Henderson, A. M. He was assisted by J. M. Wylie, J. T. McCrory, T. S. Slaughter and Mrs. J. DeC. Henderson. The principal taught English literature, French and Spanish. Mr. Wylie gave instruction in Greek, Latin and mathematics; Mr. McCrory was assistant teacher of mathematics; Mr. Slaughter gave instruction in music and Mrs. Henderson taught German, music, drawing and painting. The term was twelve weeks and the tuition for the higher classes was \$10; intermediate department, \$8; primary, \$6. The trustees were I. N. Bassett, L. D. Holmes and one other.

In September, 1873, the Aledo schools were conducted by A. U. Barler, principal, and Miss M. L. Walker, Miss Edie Pryne, Miss Ella Gaily, Miss Merryman and Mrs. Comfort, assistants.

The efforts of the committee to raise funds for the construction of a new academy were slow, but in the end successful. The building was commenced in 1873 and was finished, ready for occupancy, by September, 1874.

The site for the new schoolhouse at Aledo was chosen by vote in June, 1881. The result was as follows: Block 101 west of J. M. Wilson's, 107 votes; block 1, Center Addition (Lorimer's), 58; block 109, south of J. Harvey's, 31; block 96, Lou Brown's, 2; block 64, south on Monument, 6; total vote, 204.

The Aledo public schools in 1876 had an enrollment of 347 pupils, and the following year an enrollment of 392.

In September, 1875, the New Boston public schools were opened by J. E. Harroun, principal, and Miss Josie Calhoun, Miss Flora Bartlett and Miss P. A. Willits, assistants.

In 1878 the enrollment of pupils in the Aledo public schools was 401. In 1881 the enrollment in Aledo was 368, and the average attendance was 341.8. At this time Alexander Stevens was principal

of the high school and had one assistant. There were seven other rooms occupied at this time.

On April 13, 1835, John Long was appointed the first county school commissioner by the county board. He does not seem to have been inspired with his duties, but on the contrary was somewhat indifferent, so that very little progress was made under his direction. Teachers were few, wages low, parents were satisfied to get anybody to keep school and the commissioner spent most of his time on his land projects. It is said that he and his successors for many years cared more for what they could make out of the sale of school lands than for improvement in the manner of conduct of the schools or in educating the children. At first the commissioners did not examine teachers but left that duty to the school directors of each district. It was nearly fifteen years after 1835 before the school commissioner assumed the duty of examining teachers and in a general way guiding the management of the schools. The school directors or trustees, of which in each district there were three, really had little or no education and hence their examinations were more of a farce than anything else. If they could secure a teacher who could read, write and cipher they were willing to accept him, although the law required that teachers should also be examined in geography and grammar. In those days the examinations were usually oral, except in written arithmetic. John Long served until December 5, 1836, and retired without having accomplished any progress whatever in the schools.

Mr. Long was succeeded by William I. Nevius, who was reappointed in 1837, 1838 and 1839. He seems to have done better than Mr. Long. On June 6, 1839, Ephraim Gilmore succeeded Mr. Nevius and through his intelligence and efforts some progress was made in the condition of the schools and the qualification of the teachers. In 1841 the office became elective and Ephraim Gilmore was elected to the position he had formerly occupied by appointment. He continued to occupy the position until 1846, by which time there were in the county at least fifty schools, such as they were. On August 3, 1846, Thomas Candor was elected but was succeeded by Benjamin D. Ellett the next year. The latter held the office two years and was succeeded in 1849 by Tyler McWhorter.

Since 1835 very little progress had been made in the methods of qualified teachers or suitable schoolhouses. Mr. McWhorter was the first school commissioner to undertake the examination of teachers. Under him the first real advancement was made in the public schools. He was somewhat exacting with the teachers, but

all seemed to like him. In some instances, as good teachers were scarce, he was obliged to give certificates where some doubt existed as to the qualification of the teacher. He was careful, painstaking, watchful and gave excellent advice to all the teachers. Under him several of the best teachers in the county became prominent in local educational affairs. Among them were Simeon Smith, David Felton, Rezin Kile, Harvey S. Senter and others. In November, 1853, John Ramsey succeeded Mr. McWhorter and continued for two years, when he was succeeded by Norman P. Brown, a practical and competent teacher, but neither Mr. Ramsey nor Mr. Brown possessed the executive ability and the competency to continue the advancement which had been started by Mr. McWhorter.

On November 6, 1857, J. E. Harroun became school commissioner. The new law gave him full power as superintendent and required him to visit the schools. This he did with excellent results, as narrated elsewhere. He seems to have made the mistake, however, of not being practical enough. He did not find out the mistakes made by teachers in actual practice and assist them to improve, but in his visits he usually delivered speeches to the whole school and although his remarks were pertinent and valuable they did not result in improving the practices in the schoolroom. However, through his great energy he accomplished much good. Under him the great wave of teachers' institutes swept over the county as narrated elsewhere.

In 1859 Rev. J. S. Poage was elected school commissioner. He was an able man, a fine speaker, but largely a theorist, and was not a practical teacher nor a good manager of teachers. His services therefore were largely abortive. In 1861 Amos T. Waterman, a practical teacher, was elected school commissioner. He was practicing law at the time and in the end became a brilliant member of the bar. He devoted enough time to the office to make it fairly successful and made considerable progress through improved school conditions. In 1863 Washington L. Campbell succeeded him, but the Civil war being then on, he could accomplish little. In 1865 Sylvanus B. Atwater, who had served gallantly in the Union Army and been wounded, was elected county superintendent for four years. He was a practical teacher but seems to have been too strict and critical in his conduct with the teachers. It is said that he drove nearly half of them out of the business. The result was that the county was destitute of sufficient able teachers to fill the schools and trustees or directors were compelled to secure persons in many instances who did not have certificates. Mr. Atwater was a man

of great energy and no doubt did his best. He reformed the textbooks; in a measure created uniformity therein throughout the county. In many instances he forced his views upon many districts and even spent considerable of his own means to carry out his ideas of reform and improvement. He fought for a blackboard in every schoolhouse, made the examinations of teachers extremely difficult, criticised the patrons for the poor buildings and apparatus and thus secured the ill will of many teachers and patrons, but as a whole his influence, though critical and severe, put the people on their mettle, with the result that the schools were really improved under his management.

In 1869 Frederick Livingston became county superintendent. He was well qualified from an educational standpoint, but was too theoretical and had little administrative ability. He mismanaged the records and the funds of the office and in the end left somewhat in disgrace. During his administration the Legislature passed a law making women eligible to all school offices. Accordingly, in November, 1873, Miss Amanda E. Frazier was elected county superintendent for four years. She was reelected in 1877 and in December, 1881, upon the change of the law, was unanimously reappointed to succeed herself by the county board to fill the vacancy thus created.

J. E. Harroun began holding meetings for the establishment of school organizations in all parts of the county. He spent several months visiting every township and putting the school districts in much better condition than ever before. He did more than any other person, except Tyler McWhorter, to place the new system and new order of educational affairs in a permanent and improved condition. He held special meetings in the Edward's Schoolhouse, Monroe Schoolhouse, J. W. Lane's Select School in Millersburg, where there were twenty-eight pupils, Pomeroy Schoolhouse, in Duncan Township, Jingle's Schoolhouse, Antioch Schoolhouse, in New Boston Township, Pleasant View Schoolhouse in New Boston Township, Center, Glancey and Eliza Creek schoolhouses in Eliza Township, and numerous other places. He recommended the following books, which soon were found in nearly all the schools of the county: Sander's and McGuffey's readers and spellers; Adam's, Davies' and Ray's arithmetics; Mitchell's geography and Clark's grammar.

In 1859 Rev. J. S. Poage was elected county school commissioner. He visited during the winter of 1859-60 thirty schools and delivered twenty lectures at central points throughout the county. He was very active and energetic as a school orator and his influence did a great deal to advance the educational interests. He found

great fault throughout the county in his addresses with the habit of school patrons of paying no attention to the school after employing the teacher and after choosing the directors. They rarely ever visited schools, seemed to care little for the methods of instruction, but trusted almost wholly either to the teacher or to the county school commissioner. He declared that they had more interest in their corn fields than in their children and stated that many stables and barns throughout the county were better than the average school-house. In a few instances he likened the schoolhouses to hog pens. He insisted in eloquent language that parents should cooperate with teachers in their work, should visit the schools, should take school journals and otherwise should know what instruction their children were receiving and what progress they were making. His lectures were scorching and progressive and caused a revolution in the minds of parents concerning their duties to the teachers and the public-school system.

In October, 1864, W. L. Campbell, school commissioner, made a full report on the condition of the schools of the county since December, 1863. During that time he visited all the schools of the county, remaining all day at many of them. His object was to suggest improvements in the methods of instruction and government. At the same time he held many interviews with the parents and delivered addresses to the pupils, pointing out how better results could be secured.

In August, 1866, Sylvanus B. Atwater, school superintendent, held regular examinations of teachers in Aledo, Viola and Sunbeam. In order to secure a first grade certificate the applicant must possess a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of all the studies required by the school law, aptness to teach, ability to govern, an acquaintance with the theory and practice of teaching and generally must have had one year of successful teaching in the schoolroom. To secure a second grade certificate the applicant was not expected to have such a comprehensive knowledge nor all the requirements.

In 1870-71 F. W. Livingston, county superintendent, having been accused with palpable violation of the law and having had his case investigated by a special committee of the county board, appeared before that body upon request, in June, 1871, and defended himself against the charge. He made such a thorough analysis and success of his defense that the board directly dismissed the charges against him, approved his course in the case indicated and passed a resolution condemning and dropping the whole subject.

In 1872 Miss Amanda Frazier was elected county superintendent. She was successful from the start and greatly liked for her efforts

and her amiability. In 1874 the county board showed a disposition to cut her wages down and to limit her time spent in the country schools. She offered a written objection to their course and claimed that it was necessary for her to have sixty days yearly for the examination of teachers, ten days for preparing records and reports to the state superintendent, eighteen days to make out her annual report based upon the assistance from all the schools of the county, and twelve days for additional duties. She therefore asked payment for 100 days' service. Her paper was so clear and strong that the county board were convinced of its fairness and justice and accordingly her request was granted.

In March, 1875, Miss Frazier, county superintendent, gave public notice to the school directors throughout the county that she should oppose their practice of continuously employing persons as teachers who had not secured certificates. She described how damaging such a custom was to the progress of the educational movement and requested the directors to assist in checking such unprofessional practices. She stated that if they persisted in employing teachers without certificates she would invoke the law to prevent them from paying public funds to such persons. She pointed out to what extent the law opposed such procedure. She gave so strong a plea that its effect was almost instantaneous in the direction of a discontinuance of the practice. She announced that no first or second grade certificate would be renewed and that new examinations annually would be held. She stated also that this step was necessary in order to compel the delinquent or idle teachers to study methods and thus keep up with the times. She even went so far as to decline to endorse certificates issued by other county superintendents of the state.

In May, 1875, at her request, she read an important article to the county board in the interest of education throughout the county. Such a good impression was created that the board secured the address and had it published in the local papers and spread it upon the records. This year she was given fifty days additional to the time already granted in which to visit schools throughout the county. Her success as superintendent was pronounced and emphatic. She made greater advance than had been made by any superintendent since the '50s, when Tyler McMorter, J. E. Harroun and Rev. J. S. Poage made such uncommon and unprecedented changes in the school system of the county. She established the first Teachers' Normal School at Aledo in August, 1875. On that occasion over one hundred teachers were present, owing to her energy and determination shown in the way of announcements and her private com-

munications to the individual teachers. She managed to secure here the presence of S. M. Etter, state superintendent of public instruction, who lectured before the school near the close. The session lasted four weeks and among the instructors present were Miss A. E. Frazier, county superintendent, Miss Mary A. West, J. E. Harroun and William Griffin. Lectures were delivered by Miss Sophia Lovejoy, Isaac N. Bassett and Professor Standish. Pupils came from every township in the county, mostly women, and the improvements during the four weeks' instruction can scarcely now be measured by modern standards. This session was but the beginning of what followed in after years.

In 1876 the Normal School was represented and on this occasion 128 teachers were present. Special instruction was given for kindergarten teachers. Several prominent educators from abroad were present and took part in the proceedings as the days passed. Among the lecturers were Miss West and Professor Bateman. Every subject connected with education was discussed, analyzed and held up for the inspection of the teachers and for their professional and mental improvement. Special attention was given to concentration, culture, conscience and moral subjects generally.

In 1877 the Normal School accomplished still better and more effective and far-reaching results. S. M. Etter, state superintendent, was present on more than one occasion and delivered memorable addresses. He spoke in highest terms of the benefit dispensed by this normal course. His lectures were delivered at Union Hall and in point of merit they perhaps exceeded any addresses ever delivered in Aledo up to that time on educational subjects. In one of his lectures he stated that the Mercer County Normal School was scarcely second to any other in the state in discipline, drill and the proficiency of the teachers. He declared that in attendance and attention it headed the list in the state. He paid a high compliment to the great energy and professional enterprise of County Superintendent Miss Frazier. He did not hesitate to say openly that she was one of the very few most proficient instructors and superintendents in the state. At the conclusion of the term in 1877 the teachers present issued the following card, which they signed.

A Card.—The Normal Drill, which has been in session in this place for the past four weeks, now draws to a close. From a statement made by Hon. S. M. Etter, state superintendent of schools, we have a drill second to none in the state; therefore

We the teachers of Mercer County, believing this to be due to the efficient manner in which the school affairs of the county have

been conducted for the past four years and in view of the interest awakened among the teachers; of the manner in which the drill has been conducted; of the standard to which our schools have been raised, and the interest manifested by our citizens generally in education, tender our thanks to Miss A. E. Frazier, county superintendent, for her efficient and untiring efforts in the discharge of all the duties pertaining to the office; for marked justice and discriminations in examinations and for the kindness and courtesy with which she ever meets her fellow teachers; therefore

Resolved, That as the past labors of Miss A. E. Frazier have been so highly satisfactory we cordially and respectfully recommend her reelection.

Resolved, That our thanks are also tendered to all the instructors in the drill for their kindness and valuable instruction. (Signed) H. R. Turner, Will Hille, J. A. McCrory, A. B. Candell, B. F. Eckley, J. W. Dorland, Daniel E. Cline, Richard Wolfe, Charles E. Bentley, Nantie Henry, Melissa Fleming, Cora D. Harvey, Martha J. Christie, Nettie Pinkerton, M. F. McCrory, Debbie Cummins, Lizzie Gilchrist, M. E. Wolfe, May C. Sheriff, Josie Mathers, Beckie Gray, Susie Calhoun, Mary L. Thornboon, Maggie Manning, Katie Craig, Sadie L. Stewart, Emma Law, Jennie Smith, Louis Bartlett, Celia Bartlett, Clara E. Morris, Jane Henderson, Minnie Bentley, Vergie Robinson, Alice Watson, Mary Scudder, May M. Travis, Florence Adams, Fannie Sheriff, Ida Morris, W. R. Turner, Hattie Pullen, Della Allen, Sadie Candor, May Allen, Mina Hunck, Loomice Smith, Ollie Byers, John Haughie, Warren W. Robins, C. Grosgean, W. S. Ross, K. M. Whitham, G. W. Bridger, Charles M. Peters, Joseph A. Goding, J. E. Harroun, John Erwin, S. J. Mason, J. P. Campbell, J. Cabeen, F. A. Boggs, S. D. Willits, Della McWhorter, Mary Sharer, Ella M. Gaily, Camilla Reed, Emma Crawford, Minnie Merritt, Carrie C. Henry, Geneva Farran, P. A. Willits, Mary Mitchell, Mattie Bradford, L. P. Gibson, Mary Robinson, Ella Cabeen, Clara E. Hudson, Mary Somers, Una Evans, Retta M. Cooper, Eva Lloyd, Ida A. Huyck, Mary Passomore, Jennie Henry, T. H. Cornell, Fannie Cornell, Clema Harriott, Anna Galloway, A. G. Snyder, Lula Bassett, Minnie Cabeen, Lydia Anderson, Dora Harroun, Lena Harriott, Ella McDuogal, Rettie G. Kincaid, Imogene Webster, Nettie Patterson, Mary H. Comtort, Tabitha Saxon, H. H. Jewell, S. P. Wylie, Frank Herbert, M. L. Heflin, O. C. David, B. V. Leonard, Charles McKee, Lizzie Henry, James S. Dalrymple.

In 1881 the Viola public schools were conducted by S. P. Wylie, formerly of the Aledo Collegiate Institute, principal, and Mrs. Fleming, Miss Clemma Harriott and Mrs. Mattie Henry, assistants. In the principal's room were about forty pupils and in each of the others about thirty-five.

In October, 1881, the Joy School had an enrollment of forty-seven pupils and an average attendance of 38.9. Miss Una Evans was the teacher.

In December, 1881, the New Boston schools were in charge of D. F. S. Johnson, principal, with 43 scholars; Mrs. Irene Willits, 39 pupils; Miss Essie Vaughn, 39 pupils, and Miss Tena Smith, 42 pupils.

In September, 1882, the Aledo schools were taught by the following teachers: Alexander Stevens, principal; Mary E. Turnbull, assistant; Kenneth Whitham, grammar department; Miss Nan A. Campbell, fifth grade; Miss Lizzie Hause, fourth grade; Miss Zevie Miller, third grade; Mrs. M. A. Hall, second primary; Miss May I. Allen, first primary, and Miss Aggie McCoy, also first primary. At this time the enrollment was 420, with an average attendance of 388.

In October, 1883, the Swedona public schools had fifty-nine scholars. F. E. Matson taught the upper room and Miss Mina McKinney the lower or primary room. In 1883 Keithsburg established a high school, but the details concerning the same are missing. The second annual commencement was held in May, 1885, and was attended by nearly all the inhabitants. There was a graduating class of nine or ten. Several prominent educators from abroad were present and addressed the graduates.

In December, 1888, the County Teachers' Institute held a two days' session and the exercises consisted principally of instruction in the common branches. Papers on many important school subjects were read and classes were conducted by the leading teachers of the county. At that time K. M. Whitham was county superintendent. Nearly all teachers of the county were present at the session. Late in the '80s the subject of township high schools came before the teachers of this county. It was an important question and, at first met with great encouragement, but when the subject came to be investigated it was found that the work and expense were too great to be borne at that time. The patrons themselves objected, even though the teachers were in favor of the project. The plan was to have a central high school in every township which would serve as an advanced educational institution for the common schools of that township. The question was submitted to a vote in several of

the townships but invariably was defeated. In Mercer Township the vote was, for the high school, 45; against it, 295. The people were not ready yet for this innovation.

In February, 1889, the County Teachers' Association met at Viola. Among the exercises were the following: Class recitations conducted by Miss Ferson; then followed singing by the Viola high-school pupils. The subject of "Special examinations" was then discussed, G. N. Kneeland being the leader, and Superintendent Whitham being one of the principal speakers. J. R. Wylie responded to the subject "What is the Best Method of Conducting Our Association." Miss May David entertained the association with "Quotations of Schoolroom Maxims." Other papers were read by Miss Ora Stratton and Miss Lizzie Carnahan. The association had a query box which elicited much amusement as well as furnished no little instruction.

In May, 1889, the Legislature passed a compulsory educational law, which required that children of school age should attend school a certain number of months each year.

In 1890 there were eight teachers in the public schools of Aledo. In Keithsburg there were seven. At that time K. M. Whitham was principal of the Keithsburg public schools.

The county superintendent in 1888 reported that greater interest than ever before was shown by teachers, patrons and pupils throughout the county. The township central examinations which had been instituted a short time before and for which diplomas were granted, were highly successful. One hundred and forty pupils passed the examination and received such diplomas in 1888. Many of the holders immediately thereafter entered the high schools, to which the diploma entitled them. These examinations made the examination days of the past no longer bugbears.

In November, 1890, the following were the exercises at the Teachers' Institute: Arithmetic, C. L. Gregory; Penmanship, W. S. Bowers; Physiology, W. S. Welch; Compulsory Education, J. A. Dixon; Primary Classes, Miss Alfaretta Fisher; Literature in the Common School, J. M. Brosius; What to Teach in History, George Bloomer; School Needs, Richard Russell; Uniformity of Text Books, K. M. Whitham; Higher Institutions of Learning, C. F. Ainsley; Class Work, F. K. Warwick; The Teacher, Miss Mabel Pepper; Professional Training, J. R. Kasbeer; Teacher and Citizens, L. B. Cocklin. At that time K. M. Whitham was county superintendent. He was a practical teacher and took pride in securing the best results from the teachers as well as from the pupils. He took the



HIGH SCHOOL, ALEDO

ground that the teacher was more responsible than any other person for the proper and rapid advancement of pupils, and further, that the teacher was often the cause of the backwardness of children with certain temperaments.

In 1891-2 Alexander Calhoun was county superintendent. During his short term he made considerable progress in sanitary work in the public schools. In all the cities he insisted upon better conditions and succeeded in placing the houses under better care and surroundings. In all new houses he insisted that proper attention should be paid to light and ventilation. The surroundings were also improved under his urgency.

In 1893 literary exercises were instituted in the high schools of the county and in many of the grammar grades. It was found that school libraries were not thought to be very important and that they had been neglected in the past. Accordingly a new movement for improvement in this respect was instituted and steadily carried into effect. High school athletics received considerable prominence about this time. Football was played between high school teams of the different villages and cities of this county. A game played at Keithsburg by the Aledo and Keithsburg high school football teams was won by the former, but the return game was taken by the latter.

In 1894 C. L. Gregory became county superintendent. He was a practical teacher, and the fact that he has held the position until the present time is proof of his ability, skill and prominence in his official position. In his first report to the state superintendent he stated that experience, preparation and salary guided the school boards in the selection of teachers in this county. There was a growing demand, he said, for teachers with normal training and special preparation. There had been no meetings of school patrons, as had been suggested. Institutes and teachers' meetings were later valuable and popular. There was as yet no uniformity of text-books. Central examinations were held each year in March and the finals in April or May. An average of one hundred and thirty-five took the former examination and about thirty the latter. Child study had at this time awakened much interest throughout the county.

In January, 1894, a fine new school building at Millersburg was opened to the pupils. County Superintendent Gregory was present and addressed the assemblage. T. A. Vernon was present and gave an amusing description of the crude conditions in the early schools. This year Norma and Mabel Pepper started a kindergarten in Aledo and soon had about twenty-five children in attendance. The Keiths-

burg High School Commencement in May, 1894, graduated seventeen pupils—eleven females and six males. Kenneth M. Whitham had been connected with this institution for many years, although for a short time he was county superintendent. Up to and including 1894, ninety-two young ladies and gentlemen had graduated from this school. Mrs. Whitham had taught nearly as long in Keithsburg as Professor Whitham. Both were popular and in reality were excellent instructors. The same year the Seventeenth Annual Commencement of the Aledo High School occurred. There was a large crowd and nine girls and three boys were graduated. At this time Prof. P. J. Kuntz was superintendent of the school. Exercises were held in the Presbyterian Church. The Alumni Association met soon afterwards and reviewed old times.

In 1895 Prof. Henry R. Musser had charge of the Keithsburg schools. He had occupied the position for several years, but soon after this date resigned.

In September, 1895, the public schools of Aledo enrolled 491 pupils—the largest number ever recorded thus far. At this time Miss Mabel Pepper was principal of the public schools and Charlotte Stetson, first assistant. Nine other teachers gave instruction in the lower grades. In 1895-6 the Viola high schools were the pride of the people of that village. Professor Miller was principal and had several assistants. In 1896-7 the curfew law was put into effect in Aledo and perhaps in other cities in the county. It was in operation at New Windsor, Keithsburg and perhaps at Viola and New Boston. The hour for retirement was 8 o'clock in winter and 9 o'clock in summer. After those hours children under the age of sixteen years were required to be off the streets.

In 1899 Mercer County made great efforts to secure the new normal school, which was designed to be located in the western part of Illinois. A large subscription was raised here but the commissioners, after viewing many locations, finally decided against this city.

In 1898-1900 Superintendent C. L. Gregory reported as follows: Teachers' meetings throughout the county had been divided into principals' association meetings three times a year at the office of the county superintendent; township institutes held four times a year under the management of the county superintendent; general meeting of teachers, under the direction of the superintendent, once a year, at Thanksgiving. Sometimes two general meetings were held in one year. More good was accomplished at township meetings than at any other, because the teachers felt more at liberty to take part and

express themselves. Practically all the teachers of the county were doing reading circle work, which was given a place on the program of the township meetings. Little had yet been done with the pupils' reading circle work, but the teachers were generally urging the library question with good results. At that time about two-thirds of the schools had started the collection of libraries. No practical effort to get school officers together for a general county conference had been made. School buildings generally were in good condition. The new ones were invariably excellent and up-to-date. Few schools had good grounds, the most of them being rough and uncultivated. Arbor Day was observed and then the yards were cleared and trees were planted. Throughout the county many schoolrooms were decorated and arranged in tasteful fashion. About one-third of the schools had no libraries, but a year or two later almost every school had made a commencement. In 1898 there was an average attendance of 3,473 pupils in the county; 76.8 per cent of the children of school age were enrolled at this time. The average wages paid males were \$50.73; females, \$34.76. The county school fund in 1899 amounted to \$102,603.44; the estimated value of school libraries at this time, \$2,466; estimated value of school apparatus, \$5,945; amount of bonded school debt in the county, \$19,290; estimated value of all school property, \$140,650; number of schools visited by the superintendent in 1899, 115; total enrollment in 1900, 4,844. At that time there were 115 school districts in the county. In only one district that year was no school held.

The County Teachers' Institute convened at the high-school rooms in Aledo in August, 1900, and held a week's session. Professor Hurst, of Streator, had charge of the work on pedagogy, reading and geography; Superintendent Butler, of the Kewanee schools, instructed in grammar, arithmetic and physiology; Miss Cora M. Hamilton, an expert in township high-school work, had charge of the primary classes; Prof. C. B. Baymiller, of Seaton, conducted the singing. One hundred and fifty teachers were present.

In 1901 the text-books in ungraded schools in Mercer County were as follows: Baldwin's readers, Natural geographies, Metcalf's language and grammar, Blaisdell's physiology, Montgomery's history, Modern spellers, Warner's arithmetic, New Era copy books, and Dale's American Citizen.

The Teachers' Institute in 1903 was held at Aledo and was one of the most inspiring and successful ever held in the county. It was in charge of Superintendent Gregory. Miss Cora M. Hamilton gave instruction in primary work; Professor Hall, of Aurora, instructed

on various subjects, including arithmetic and agriculture, and Mr. Prince told the teachers how to give instruction in music. The attendance was about one hundred and fifty. Other sessions were held the same year and also in 1904. Many prominent educators from outside came in to assist local instructors. From 1900 to 1904 there had been almost wholly completed in this county the following reforms: (1) County uniformity of text-books; (2) a good library in every school if possible; (3) great improvement in school buildings and grounds. There had been, during this period, almost a complete revolution on these particulars. Especially was the uniformity of text-books fully and permanently established. This was of great importance to tenants, who passed from farm to farm every year and were thus saving the expense of purchasing each year new books for their children. Almost every school in the county now had a library, and in most cases bookcases had been provided by the school authorities. The libraries, it was found, had awakened great interest in literary work and had expanded and broadened the minds of the children. By the use of the diplomas offered by the state department and also by personal work, much had been done to improve the conditions of school buildings and grounds. The yards were cleaned and planted with trees and shrubbery, school buildings were repaired, repainted and otherwise improved, and the teachers employed were of a higher standard than ever before. This was due to the fact that better wages were paid. The total number of children in the county under twenty-one years of age in 1904 was 8,368; total number between six and twenty-one years, 6,003; total enrollment, 4,423. There were at this time 115 school districts in the county. In the high schools were the following teachers and pupils: Aledo—143 pupils, 5 teachers; Keithsburg—49 pupils, 3 teachers; Viola—30 pupils, 1 teacher; Seaton—21 pupils, 1 teacher; New Boston—20 pupils, 1 teacher. The number of volumes in the high-school libraries were as follows: Aledo, 1,120; Keithsburg, 824; Viola, 60; Seaton, 275; New Boston, 180.

In the fall of 1906 the grammar grades at Aledo were completed, as were also the more thorough grading of high schools. This year the Teachers' Institute was held in March, there being present 120 teachers. Prof. Frank M. Hall made the opening address on Accuracy in Arithmetic and Spelling. He insisted that 80 per cent perfect was not sufficient. Prof. L. B. Mitchell, of W. & V. College, read a paper on A Broader Approach to Academy and College; Prof. J. Percival Huget read one on Looms of Life. County Superintendent Gregory gave important instruction at this institute. The exercises

were progressive and instructive and great interest was shown by all the teachers present.

In the county, in 1908, were 7,406 children under the age of twenty-one years; number of boys in the graded schools, 1,103; number of girls in graded schools, 1,244; total enrollment in the county, 4,318; number school districts, 116.

In April, 1911, a new school building was planned for Aledo and soon afterwards was constructed. It was ready and occupied in September that year. This year the literary work of the high schools was more elaborate and of a higher class than ever before. The high schools were making a specialty of this feature of improvement.

In 1912 the Teachers' Institute enrolled 170 members. There were present W. H. Cheever, Western State Normal; S. B. Hurst, of the same; E. L. Philbrook, professor of music.

In 1913 there were in the Aledo high schools 136 pupils, and in all the schools, 460. This was the first time that domestic science and manual training came before the schools to be taught. The subject had been considered for several years, but the school authorities had not decided definitely until this year. The apparatus was not ready in September, but as soon as it arrived instruction in these important departments was commenced. Prof. H. K. Whittier had charge of the instruction in manual training and Miss Mabel Stone that in domestic science. At that time, as never before, there was demand from every center of population in the county for experienced teachers and for better work in the schoolroom than ever before. Wages had gone up and now ranged from sixty to ninety dollars per month in the leading country districts, and to from sixty-five to seventy-five dollars in others. As a whole the schools of the county in 1914 were up to the standard of the best in the state.

On March 13, 1897, William Drury died at his home, Verdurette, in this county, aged nearly eighty-eight years. He had come to the county first in 1833, but had returned to Indiana and the following year came back and took up a claim and settled down near the Bluff. In 1840 he returned to Indiana, married Vashti Lewis, daughter of Caleb and Polly (Willits) Lewis, and brought her to their house in this county. In 1835 he was elected county recorder, to which the duties of county clerk were added in 1836. In that year he formed the partnership of Drury & Willits at New Boston, which packed the first pork for shipment in this county. In 1871 he helped to organize the Farmers National Bank at Keithsburg. He occupied many responsible positions with credit and was a member of the Universalist Church which flourished for many years at the

Bluff. He was also a member of the Society of Independent Thinkers which in early times distinguished the settlements in the western part of the county. During his lifetime he amassed a large property, which was disposed of in his will. In that instrument he made the following statement:

"I have long contemplated founding an Educational Institution in Mercer County, Illinois, which might prove of benefit to the youth of the coming generations and it has been my thought and desire that such a school might be conducted along polytechnic lines where the education would be practical and of a mechanical and industrial character as well as scientific and classical, and free from denominational and sectarian bias or influence."

This statement reflects the views which he entertained in his lifetime. He wanted the "Educational Institution" thus established to be "free from denominational and sectarian bias or influence," but did not prohibit religious services where denominational or sectarian bias or influence was excluded. The will was filed of record March 25, 1897, and the necessary legal proceedings were instituted by the trustee to free the property for the uses specified by the testator. A careful estimate of all the property left to the college showed its value to be \$169,269.31. The will provided that all of his property should be held during the lifetime of his wife for her benefit, she to have the income thereof until her death, and thereupon the property should all be converted into money for the establishment of an institution of learning which was to be named William and Vashti College, to be established in the town of Mercer County which would subscribe the largest amount for its location and support. The will provided that the fund should be divided into 100 parts and nine parts were given to certain of his nieces and nephews and the balance of the fund was left for the benefit of the college. He provided also that the chairman of the board of supervisors and the county officers should be the trustees of the college. Mr. Drury did not have any children and his wife was dissatisfied and renounced the will. She and James H. Connell were the executors and in the meantime Mr. Drury had bought a large amount of western land in the sub-arid regions of Colorado, Nebraska and Texas and had undertaken an irrigation project in which he invested a large amount of money, and which was absolutely lost.

On July 25, 1906, James H. Connell, trustee, reported the estate closed up so that steps to establish the school could be taken. The sum thus to be used was found to be \$112,397.98. The will provided for a college building and accordingly Judge Connell called for

bids for its construction. Aledo made a cash bid or bonus of \$6,210 and the William E. Marsh collection of geological and paleontological specimens. At once a building to cost about forty thousand dollars was planned and a site for the institution was sought. The Hammond block was finally decided on, the price being \$5,000. Four acres adjoining were purchased of Horace Bigelow for \$1,200. A brick residence standing on the property was remodeled and made suitable for a residence for the school officials. In March, 1907, the contract for the college building was let to Harney Brothers, at \$39,525, the structure to be 65 by 107 feet and to be built of brick and stone. The cost of the finished building alone was about forty-five thousand dollars.

On September 16, 1908, the institution was duly opened with an enrollment of sixty students and with the following faculty: President, T. J. Davis; professor of mathematics, W. R. Woodmansee; professor of Latin and Greek, L. B. Mitchell; professor of German and French, Eric Greenfield; instructor in music, Josephine E. Moore. The institution was named "William and Vashti," which were the given names of Mr. Drury, the donor, and his wife. In 1909 Drury Academy was established as a preparatory school for the students who designed to enter the college. The enrollment of the college has been as follows: 1908-9, 98; 1909-10, 141; 1910-11, 285; 1911-12, 301; 1912-13, 272.

Judge Connell died before his task as trustee was completed, whereupon a board of trustees was appointed to finish the work, as follows: H. E. Burgess, W. T. Church, Fred Hendrickson, John W. Dilley and E. L. Wickett, of Keithsburg. When the work was completed the following permanent board was appointed as provided in Mr. Drury's will: H. E. Burgess, Fred Hendrickson, John W. Dilley, C. A. Clark and W. T. Church.

Soon it was seen that the endowment was not sufficient for the needs, expansion and success of the college. In January, 1911, and later, meetings were held to devise ways and means of increasing the permanent endowment and hence the annual income. It was decided to try to raise \$200,000 for this purpose and at once earnest and persistent efforts were made toward this end by organized bodies of both men and women. The Woman's College Federation organized and commenced active work. So effective was the work that by November, 1911, Mercer Township's donation to this endowment fund amounted alone to a little over one hundred thousand dollars. About twenty thousand dollars was obtained from other sources. The money began to come in and Robert L. Watson was appointed treasurer to care for it.

The Marsh collection of specimens was turned over to the college by the Columbian Club in April, 1912. In March of the year before Dr. Frank E. English was elected president of the college. Since the start other buildings have been erected and other necessary expenses incurred until the endowment of \$200,000 is urgently required. The following table shows the cost of the entire institution:

College building	\$ 58,606.27	Gymnasium	\$ 4,291.22
Dormitory	29,188.54	New sewer plant	55.00
Boiler house	2,204.73	Miscellaneous	352.24
Tunnel	883.56	Grounds	9,873.70
Residence	2,473.93	Athletics	73.98
			<hr/>
		Total	\$108,003.17

Late in 1913 the following statement was prepared to show the financial condition of the college:

RECEIPTS

From William Drury's estate	\$112,397.98
From Sophia Miller's estate	9,418.14
From interest on the fund	1,810.37
From location notes and interest	6,067.19
From annual support notes and interest	4,260.13
From miscellaneous contributions	1,500.09
	<hr/>
Total	\$135,453.90

CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES

College building and equipment	\$ 63,358.79
Boys' dormitory and equipment	30,917.85
Heating plant	2,486.63
Gymnasium and equipment	643.20
Real estate and improvements thereon	10,577.85
Other improvements	602.71
	<hr/>
Total	\$108,587.03

The following statement concerning the endowment fund was made by Robert L. Watson, treasurer, on July 1, 1914:

Subscriptions collected and loaned	\$ 32,600.00
Rock Island Southern bonds subscribed	13,800.00
Original subscriptions yet uncollected	63,150.28

Collections under the 19 per cent subscrip- tion clause	\$ 9,789.94
Cash on hand.....	1,272.12
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$120,612.34
Total paid out.....	14,914.94
	<hr/>
Balance income producing fund.....	\$105,697.40

CHAPTER XII

THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The oppression of women by the other sex is an illustration of the cruelty and tyranny of men. In the earlier stages of the human family, married women had no rights, legal or financial, that were recognized by men. The latter, by reason of their superior physical strength, tyrannized over women and were cruel beyond expression. In the earlier stages of the human family the man could take the life of his wife with impunity. She was condemned to perform all of the drudgery and hard labor and she could not own or possess any property in her own right.

As the nomadic condition of tribes changed to that of a more permanent home, women's influences became greater and the husband treated her with more leniency and respect, and gradually the laws and customs of society became such that the husband could no longer take the life of his wife without being prosecuted as a criminal, but he still held her in bondage, largely, and she was still practically his slave, condemned to perform the greater part of the menial labor and largely to support the family.

By the boasted common law of England with the encomiums of Blackstone thereon, and which is still largely praised by the lawyers of the present day as the wisest and best laws ever devised, a woman had no right after marriage to earn or acquire property in her own right. If she owned any property when she was married, her personal property immediately passed to the possession of her husband; this included her money and all other personal property, except her wearing apparel; and if she owned any real estate, her husband immediately became entitled to the rents and profits of the same during the life of the wife. If a child was born to such marriage, the husband became entitled to the rents and profits of her real estate during his lifetime, although the wife might die the next day.

A married woman could neither sue nor be sued by the common law of England, and Blackstone says that a man could flog his wife and correct her by physical punishment. This boasted common law

of England was with very few modifications the law of Illinois until 1861.

The woman received very little education and was shut off from the colleges until recent times, and the churches joined largely in keeping women in absolute subjugation to the other sex. St. Paul ordered them to keep their heads covered in church and be silent, and suggested that they should obey their husbands, and the church ritual provided in the marriage ceremony the woman should promise to obey the man. All the old religions practically ignored woman, and until the Christian religion set aside the Jewish, she had no place in religious privileges and promises. Woman could do nothing but protest against this enslavement, and she had to submit quietly to all demands of her husband.

It was not hers to reply,
It was not hers to reason why,
It was not hers to defy,
It was hers to obey or die.

Among other things the husband, in case of separation of husband and wife, was entitled to the custody of the children even in tender years. However, in the courts of Illinois, the judge in a contest would almost always give the wife the custody of the children during the tender years of infancy, and public opinion was so strongly manifested against a man for whipping his wife that he was almost universally despised. Physical punishment of the wife came to be regarded as cruelty and she would be entitled to a divorce for repeated cruel treatment.

In 1861 the Legislature of Illinois enacted what was usually known as "The Married Woman's Act," which provided that a married woman should possess, control and own personal property, that she could sue for the same, and that she could be sued for any indebtedness, or for what is legally known as a tort. She could receive and use the rents of her real estate, but until 1874 she could not sell or convey her real property without her husband's joining in the deed with her, but by that act she could convey her real estate without her husband joining. The courts were still so adverse to the law that after the act of 1861 they construed it very strictly until the passage of the acts of 1867 and 1869, which were so strongly expressive of the married women's rights that the judges were compelled to construe the law more liberally. The law of 1869 also gave a married woman the right of her own earnings after marriage.

But women married or unmarried had not the right of franchise upon any question under the laws of Illinois until 1891, when they were permitted to vote for school offices, and subsequently by an act of the Illinois Legislature, women were eligible to act as school directors. In 1913, by an act of the Legislature, women were empowered to vote, who had the same qualifications of residence and age as men were required to have, for all statutory offices—that is, all offices that are not provided for by the constitution of the state. After the passage of this act women voted at the next election for city and township officers and others, and on questions of local option, but their right to vote was questioned, and it was decided by the Circuit Court in favor of the right in this regard. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the state and the decision has just recently been announced sustaining the right of women to vote under this act of 1913. This settles the question so far as to the right of women to vote for all statutory offices or upon all statutory questions on the same terms as men are entitled to vote. There had been for many years a spirited contest by many women for a change of the common law, and for a right to vote and to hold offices on equal term with the men.

The women of Mercer County, with the other women of the state, took a lively interest in this question, and in 1871 there was a literary society organized in the Congregational Church, Aledo, composed of women. During its existence, they secured a number of lecturers, among whom were Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Phoebe Cousins. These three women were strong "equal rights women." Miss Susan B. Anthony assisted the women of Aledo in organizing a woman's suffrage society, of which Mrs. Martha F. Mathews was made president and Miss Amanda D. Frazier, secretary. Soon after this organization was formed there was a national women's suffrage convention held in St. Louis, Missouri. Among the number of ladies who went from Aledo were Mrs. Martha F. Mathews, Mrs. Emeline Graham and Misses Matilda and Amanda Frazier. Miss Amanda Frazier served as secretary for that great body. Mrs. Martha Mathews is the only one now living of the women who were members of that society. Women were permitted by law to hold the office of county superintendent of schools and Miss West was about this time elected to fill that office in Knox County, and in 1873 Miss Amanda Frazier was elected in Mercer County. The latter made a very efficient superintendent of schools. It is universally conceded that she and Miss West had shown a capability for that office superior to that of many

of the other sex who had filled the position. Since that time women have filled that office in different counties of the state, with eminent satisfaction and ability, but the political bosses have most generally combined to prevent them from being elected or nominated to fill the office, for the reason that they want a man nominated, who will have more influence in getting voters to support their nominees. Other women later were active upon this subject, but had no organization, and after women were empowered to vote at school elections there was much activity among the great number of the women in the county, not only in voting at the election for school officers, but in advocating a change of the law, so as to give them the right to vote upon all questions the same as was exercised under the law by men.

The right of women to hold any political or municipal office was not recognized until recently, except in a few countries where she could by the laws become a reigning sovereign, a queen, or a duchess, as the case might be. But where she simply had the title of queen, as the wife of the king, she was subject even to be put to death by the order of the king, as was the case in England by Henry VIII as late as the sixteenth century. He had two of his wives executed, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. Elizabeth, first queen of England, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, made a very brilliant record, and there was Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII, and Anne Stuart, daughter of James II, and her sister, Mary, who however, reigned jointly with her husband, William III, and subsequently Queen Victoria. Some of these women showed great ability.

There is no statute or law in Illinois by which a woman can hold any political office except that of school director, trustee, superintendent and notary public. There was a very thorough argument in a case in Illinois just decided, holding the validity of the law authorizing women to vote for all statutory offices, and the case was most thoroughly considered by the members of the Supreme Court. It was sustained by a bare majority of four out of seven judges, and Justice Cooke wrote a very lengthy, able, but ineffective dissenting opinion. The vote of the women in this first election under the law of 1913 put at rest the argument often made that women would not turn out to vote, because there was quite a heavy vote. On one question particularly—the saloon question, more generally known as the wet and dry question—they voted heavily. The vote of the women in a majority of the election precincts was against saloons, and in a great many of them decided the question for the drys. In Mercer County the one place where saloons were licensed was Keithsburg,

and the vote of the women there decided against the saloons and made Mercer County unanimously anti-saloon.

With reference to the education of women in Illinois, as well as in other places, there was quite a struggle for coeducation of the sexes in the colleges. In former years a woman could enter the great majority of the colleges, but in some of the states they were insulted and hooted and almost driven away from the school. Now nearly all colleges are open to women the same as to men, and it has come to be regarded necessary for women not only to have an education in music, good manners, etc., but in classics, sciences and domestic duties. Gradually laws for the better protection and elevation of women in the most of the foreign countries, and especially in the United States, and in the State of Illinois, have been passed. Such laws were passed and are now being enforced generally against what is called the white slave trade, the degradation of women; and the men are laboring as hard as the women to have such laws enforced. For the same purpose also laws have been enacted protecting young women from the social evil, all of which shows that men have become convinced of the real civilizing value of women, and are doing much to improve not only the laws which are necessary for their protection, but for their social and religious ideals, her real position in the family and in society, giving her more influence and power which she is exercising for the good of the home.

Among the other laws in Illinois have been those protecting her in various employments in which she was compelled or induced to labor too many hours, and under conditions which injured her health. In the first instance a law was held to be unconstitutional in the State of Illinois. In 1893 there was an act passed by the Legislature prohibiting the employment of women for more than eight hours of the twenty-four in any day, in shops and factories, and providing a penalty against the firm, company or corporation employing her for a longer period each day. Women were employed by a certain manufacturing firm in violation of that statute, and suit was brought and a fine of \$5 imposed for a violation of the law by the Circuit Court. On appeal the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Circuit Court and held that the law was unconstitutional. (See *Richie vs. the People*, 155 Ill., page 98.) In 1909 the Legislature passed a similar statute prohibiting employment of women in factories for more than ten hours during any day. A suit was commenced against a manufacturing firm under this statute, and the lower court, following the decision made under the former statute, decided the law unconstitutional, and on appeal the Supreme Court reversed the deci-

sion of the lower court, and held that the law was constitutional. This follows the ruling in several other states in which it was held that under the police power of the state, such statute was constitutional. The Illinois court in citing the latter case referred to the case decided in the 155 Ill., and cited the distinction in the wording of the former one prohibiting the employment for more than eight hours in the twenty-four hours, and the latter case prohibiting the employment for more than ten hours out of the twenty-four hours. Justice Hand, who wrote the opinion of the case, quoted with approbation what the Supreme Court of the United States had said, to wit: "Law is or ought to be a progressive science." There are many persons now both in the Legislature and in political conventions advocating a change of the Constitution, not only of the State of Illinois, but of the United States, giving women the right to vote upon all questions the same as is given to men.

The people of Mercer County were not, as will be seen, active participants in most of the foregoing matters, but they were affected by such matters, and took an interest in the proceedings of the courts in this and other states, and the growth and development of the law in favor of the enlargement of women's rights. Prior to the Civil war there were no avocations open to women in Mercer County, except the drudgery of housekeeping and manufacturing to a certain extent the cloth and garments for the family. Clerks and bookkeepers and salesmen in stores were confined entirely to the men and teachers in the common schools were largely composed of men, being not more than one-tenth women. When the Civil war commenced the avocations were open to women as clerks, accountants, saleswomen, and largely as teachers in the common schools. They voluntarily also did much work on the farms and in other places that had been done by the men before they went into the army. After the close of the war the women continued in these avocations and as teachers in the common school. The order in which they stood to the other sex has changed, there being now only one male teacher to nine of women in the common schools, and women are found everywhere in the mercantile houses and other business places as accountants, cashiers and saleswomen, and in addition to that they are more numerous as stenographers than the other sex. They have thus been enabled to receive better pay for their services, and because of their employment in these vocations have become more independent. They do not receive, as a general thing, as much wage for their work as is given to the men who perform like services. It is alleged, however, that the reason that they do not receive as much for the

same services as men, is on account of their physical and sexual constitutions. They are not able to endure as severe labor as the men, and they do not become as perfect and reliable in the performance of their work, as a general rule, as the other sex, because they cease to follow these vocations when they become married women, while the men, on the other hand, continue the same vocation after marriage and thereby become more proficient. But by reason of the employment to these avocations, women have become far more intelligent and independent and much better prepared to struggle with life than formerly.

CHAPTER XIII

TEMPERANCE

The people of Mercer County were generally temperate, but there was no great temperance movement in the early settlement of the county. There was a temperance organization in New Boston in the early '50s, William Drury and Elmore J. Dennison, two prominent merchants, being members thereof, and in the latter part of 1852 or 1853, I. N. Bassett became a member of that organization. There was also an organization in Keithsburg, "The Sons of Temperance," of the "Good Templars," and among the members in that organization was John S. Thompson. No doubt there were other organizations in the county. There was no saloon selling whisky or intoxicants in New Boston in 1852, but doubtless the drug stores were selling it, but in 1853 and 1854 William Becket opened a saloon in New Boston and continued the same for several years in violation of the law. He was an aggressive saloon man and defied the public opinion and sold liquors to everybody that he could entice into his saloon to buy. When suit was commenced against him, he would contest the same energetically and would pay his fines, his profits being sufficient to enable him to pay several fines during the year and still make money in his business. Finally however the prosecutions were so vigorous that he surrendered and left the place. New Boston would have saloons however from time to time, after it was incorporated under the laws of the state until about eight or ten years ago when it succeeded in getting an anti-license council, but some two years later a license board was elected and thereupon granted licenses to three persons, and they each erected a cement building in the city and opened a saloon. About two years later there was an anti-license board elected and the saloons closed, and New Boston has been a dry town ever since, and the buildings have been sold and each are occupied for other purposes.

Keithsburg in the early years had open saloons. Dan Keith was among those who sold liquors in violation of the law in the early '50s, and there was no term of court for quite a number of years but there were two or three indictments against Dan Keith. He was doing such a thriving business that he could afford to pay a

considerable number of fines and the expense of litigation, but his death finally put an end to the saloon business. Patrick T. Hughes also about 1855 or 1856 opened a saloon in Keithsburg and continued selling in violation of law for a number of years. He was indicted also at several terms of court for selling whisky and fined. However the saloon men were frequently victorious in their suits. The witnesses often had bad memories and juries were not so ready in those days to find a verdict against a liquor seller as they are now. The temperance movement in the county was active in very many other places and especially so in Aledo. In 1856 and 1857 when Aledo was first settled it was strongly temperance and has continued to be strong as will be shown hereafter. In the fall of 1857 at the first term of the Circuit Court held in Aledo after the removal of the county seat from Keithsburg, Dan Keith came to Aledo and put up a large tent and with a large supply of liquors commenced the sale of the same. His tent disappeared the first night and Mother Earth drank up all his liquors. Keith bundled up his effects that were left and returned to Keithsburg. The temperance movement continued for the most of the time in many places of the county for a number of years.

The Civil war coming on checked the movement, but immediately thereafter temperance workers appeared and the Good Templars' organizations became more active at all the principal centers of population in Mercer County. On May 16, 1867, the Good Templars of Mercer and adjoining counties met in convention at Aledo and called to the chair A. Y. Green, grand worthy marshal. The following lodges were represented: Aledo, No. 849; General Sherman, No. 848; General Grant, No. 946; Viola, No. 914; Friendship, No. 862; Beulah, No. 950; and Everett, number unknown. Among the delegates were L. L. Troy, A. Shaw, Mary McCandless, Mrs. S. A. Hasbrook, Rev. J. J. Fleharty, J. A. Forsythe, Jennie Garrett, Kate Ward, Mrs. A. McBride, Libbie Gould, Mrs. E. Welliver, and Mr. Allen. Many questions of importance to the order were discussed. A permanent county organization was determined upon and a charter from the grand lodge was ordered. It was determined to hold the next meeting at Berlin, where there was a strong organization of the order. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: Rev. J. S. Poage, W. C. T.; Miss Libbie Gould, W. V. T.; Lewis L. Troy, W. R. S.; A. Shaw, W. F. S.; Mrs. Samantha Harriott, W. T.; J. A. Forsythe, W. M.; Rev. J. J. Fleharty, W. C.; J. H. Southwell, W. A. S.; Miss Lou A. Spicer, W. D. M.; Miss Emma Girton, W. I. G.; Mrs. S. A. Hasbrook, R. H.

S.; Miss Marcella David, L. H. S.; Thomas Baldwin, P. W. C. T. Strong temperance resolutions were adopted. A. Y. Green, Mr. Camp and Mr. Allen from the grand lodge were present.

A big temperance meeting was held at Viola, May 30, 1867, to consider ways and means to promote the cause in that place. J. S. Cooper served as chairman and W. N. Harriott, as secretary. W. Patterson, Leander Tidball and J. A. Forsythe were appointed committee on resolutions. James M. Walker, N. H. Pond, William Patterson, Mrs. Dora Southwell and Miss Julia Perkins were appointed to prepare a pledge for the association that was to be formed. Several spirited speeches were made and the organization was effected. The name adopted was Viola Total Abstinence Society and Anti-Whisky League; the object was to promote total abstinence and suppress the sale of intoxicants. The pledge adopted was strong, covering all alcoholic, spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider as a beverage; but it was provided that nothing in the pledge should be so construed as to conflict with any duty as citizens or Christians. The latter was evidently meant to cover the use of wine at the Lord's Supper.

It was at this time that the villages began to divide on the question of license or no license. At Keithsburg, New Boston, Aledo, Millersburg, Viola and perhaps elsewhere, the temperance question began to cut an important figure. At Aledo the temperance people were determined to root out the few saloons here and accordingly placed in the field a temperance ticket. At this time, in 1869, there were two saloons in the village conducted by Messrs. Bamer and Summers. The object was to suppress the sale of liquor in the town. The saloon under the Button House was conducted by Mr. Summers, who repeatedly violated the existing law, whereupon the town constable, Underwood, was sent to his place of business with a warrant to effect his arrest. Mr. Summers resisted, drew his revolver on the officer and a scuffle ensued, during which several other persons interfered and prevented anything serious. Mr. Summers was arrested and bound over to court in the sum of \$500. He was also arrested on a warrant from Underwood on the charge of assault with intent to kill. This event occurred in January, 1870.

The temperance ticket managed to win but probably by the slenderest majority in the history of the county. The following was the vote of the temperance ticket: J. S. Pinkerton, 68; R. Mentzer, 69; H. R. Morrison, 69; A. J. Holmes, 68; I. N. Dunlap, 69. License ticket: Jacob Cool, 67; S. W. McCoy, 67; Joseph Haney, 68; S. Button, 68; T. Irvin, 69. Thus three out of the four trustees

elected were opposed to license. There was a toss up between the others as to who should be elected. In the end the temperance ticket won. At the same time a similar contest was held in New Boston, Keithsburg, Viola and perhaps elsewhere in the county.

Again in 1871 the question at Aledo was license or no license. The temperance people had during the previous two or three years controlled the sale of liquor through the election of no license trustees. Previous to that time the village indebtedness was about four hundred dollars, but during that period the no license board had managed to pay off all the debt except thirty-two dollars, notwithstanding the obliteration of the income from licensed liquor shops. Not only that, but the village board had improved the sidewalks and streets and had advanced the village in temperance ideas to an unusual degree. In 1871 Rufus Mentzer, Nicholas Edwards, Thomas Maddux, Hugh L. Thompson and John Geiger were the trustees. They had been elected on the no license ticket. The majority in their favor, however, averaged only about ten or fifteen, showing that the liquor element was strong in Aledo. It was successful in Keithsburg and undoubtedly was in New Boston. During these few years it was noted that almost every vote in the village was polled either for or against the temperance movement.

In the spring of 1872 the Legislature passed a new temperance law, which went into effect on July 1st of that year. Ratification meetings were held in various parts of the county as soon as this law was signed by the governor. The meeting in Aledo was held in Professor Henderson's schoolroom and was attended by all the temperance people of the village. This law made liquor sellers responsible for the damage done by reason of their sales. Many suits resulted as will be seen in the following pages. In the summer of 1872 Reverend Doctor Ross held temperance meetings in five or six of the leading villages of the county—Aledo, Viola, New Boston and at several of the country schoolhouses. The ratification meeting in Aledo was held April 2, 1872, N. Edwards, chairman; H. Bigelow, secretary. The committee on resolutions were Reverends Warner, Poage and Spurlock. Resolutions strongly in favor of prohibition were passed by this meeting. The senators and representatives were ready to oppose to the bitter end the repeal of the existing and recently passed temperance law. The liquor element was making a strenuous attempt to kill this law. In the end the repeal measure in the house was laid on the table by the decisive vote of 98 to 30.

At the Aledo meeting the following preamble and resolutions were passed:

"Whereas, We have noted with alarm the increase of intemperance during the past few years among the people of this state coming in upon us like a flood with its baneful influence, corrupting the youth, despoiling the fair fame of the gifted and noble, destroying homes that were otherwise happy, robbing a host of innocent victims, not only of the comforts of life, and causing immeasurable suffering, sorrow and woe; therefore, it is by us the citizens of Aledo in mass convention assembled

"Resolved, That we hail with satisfaction as the dawning of better days, the effort of our Legislature to check this cruel tide and hereby declare our hearty approval of the temperance law by them enacted, as a measure of expediency, justice and humanity.

"Resolved, That, abating nothing from the drunkard's criminality in his voluntary drinking to drunkenness, we regard the principle made central in this law, that the vendor of ardent spirits, like any other man engaged in an occupation attended with danger to the community, should be held responsible for the damages caused by his traffic, as eminently just

"Resolved, That the giving to the hitherto defenseless, whom both the drunkard and the drunkard maker have trampled upon with impunity, the power of self-defense as does this law, is approved by every sense of what is right, chivalrous and humane.

"Resolved, That ceasing not our efforts at reform by moral suasion and recognizing ever the fact that a state of virtue cannot be brought about by legislation alone, we will stand by the law so long as it stands and as far as belongs to us will seek its due enforcement.

"Resolved, That our hearty thanks be given to the Legislature for their wise, patriotic act."

Remarks on the resolutions were made by Rev. M. Spurlock, Rev. P. F. Warner, Rev. J. D. Taylor, N. Edwards and John Geiger. They were then passed without a dissenting voice.

It was in March, 1872, that there was passed by the Legislature the bill "to secure all persons freedom in the selection of an occupation, profession or employment." This measure was directly signed by the governor and gave women the right to occupy any office in the state.

In 1873 the liquor question again came prominently before the villages of this county. B. F. Brock, state's attorney, made repeated investigations, but the liquor sellers were so sly and adroit that it was difficult for him to secure sufficient evidence to convict. It was

declared at Aledo that a compact existed between the village board and the one saloonkeeper who still held forth. Mr. Brock asked the village authorities to repeal the local liquor ordinance in order to enable him to conduct prosecutions under the state law. The board chosen seem to have complied with his request. Five cases against M. R. Good were decided against him, whereupon he appealed, but in the end the cases were dismissed at his costs. Two cases from New Boston were appealed to the Circuit Court in 1873. One was the state vs. Ferguson, who was fined \$170 for selling liquor to an habitual drunkard. The other was the case of Olive Dobbins vs. Ferguson, the latter being fined \$130 for damages resulting from the sale of liquor to her father. These cases were decided in the Circuit Court against the liquor seller.

A large temperance meeting was held in Collegiate Hall, Aledo, in August, 1873. It was called by a score of ladies who began another movement for the suppression of drunkenness in the village. It was at this time, 1873, that another temperance reform movement swept the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. An immense convention in New York started the wave. Among the ladies in the temperance movement and in the movement for woman's suffrage were Louisa M. Alcott, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Lydia Maria Childs, Julia Ward Howe, Lucy Stone and other prominent suffrage and temperance workers. This was probably the most aggressive and successful temperance wave that swept the United States. The wave reached Aledo in the latter part of 1873, but did not take effective form until the spring of 1874. Temporary meetings had been held, but late in March the women of the county were prepared to take aggressive and unusual steps. The women of Aledo met at the Methodist Episcopal Church in the afternoon, organized and proceeded in a body, forty-six of them, to the saloon of Mr. Berrisford, on Seventh Street, and drew up before his door. He cordially invited them in and then turned the key in order to prevent interruption from outsiders. The ladies appealed to him to forsake the liquor traffic, but he politely refused. They then asked permission to sing and pray in the saloon, which request he granted, whereupon they spent a half hour there singing and praying. Upon their departure he invited them to call again, which they promised they would do. They then went to the saloon of Mr. Severin. He had anticipated their coming and had fitted up a large sign in front of his place of business with the words: "Prayer meeting at 2:30." Though not quite on time they held the meeting just the same and were invited inside the saloon. They appealed to him to forsake the sale, but he also refused and showed more opposition or spirit

than had been manifested by Mr. Berrisford. He told them he had been raised to think his business right and proper, that he paid his taxes, was permitted by the authorities to sell, had done much for the improvement of Aledo and did not care to suffer the loss which the closing of the business would entail. He stated to the ladies that many of his permanent customers were members of the churches which the ladies attended. He said, "Reform my customers and you reform me." Upon their departure the ladies reassembled at the Methodist Church and prepared for further movements to prevent the sale of liquor in this village. On the following Saturday they again visited the saloons, held their services and were courteously treated. It was evident that the ladies had made a strong impression on the saloonkeepers, because there was less opposition and a spirit of submission was manifested. This whole community was awakened as never before. On Sunday all the churches took up the question and many praying and singing temperance services were held and pledges were circulated and signed by over five hundred persons to abstain further from the use of spirituous or malt liquors as a beverage. On Sunday afternoon a temperance massmeeting was held at the Presbyterian Church, on which occasion the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved, That we, the citizens of Aledo and vicinity, do hereby pledge ourselves that if Mr. Severin and Mr. Berrisford will give up their present business of selling intoxicating liquors, we will to the extent of our influence assist them to enter upon any lawful business they may wish to engage in."

The next day the ladies again visited the saloons, but without definite results. During the entire week they kept up the visits in the churches and in the saloons. On Thursday both saloonkeepers appeared with their families at the Methodist Church. Being called upon for remarks, Mr. Severin stated that his building had cost much to fit up as a saloon and that if they would pay him \$400, the cost of his equipment, he would quit the business. This put the subject squarely before the meeting, whereupon a committee was appointed to value his fixtures and reach a definite conclusion. The next week began with meetings even stronger than those that had gone before. Frequently as high as 600 people were present at these temperance massmeetings. Mrs. I. N. Dunlap was president of the ladies' temperance society at this time. She presided at an immense massmeeting held on Thursday this week. Mr. Severin appeared, as did the committee, with their report. Being called upon he said that he had decided to quit the business forever. This caused

an outburst of applause that made the welkin ring. The meeting raised \$300 by subscription to reimburse the old board of trustees, who had been fined for making false imprisonment of one of the saloonkeepers. There had yet to be raised \$100 more to cover the costs. The ladies visited the Severin saloon and were told by the proprietor that on the following morning he would turn over the stock to them to do with as they pleased. Accordingly they gathered at the saloon, the stock was rolled out in kegs and barrels and all was emptied into the street. On this occasion upwards of one hundred in number gathered in front of the building, formed a circle and themselves destroyed seventeen kegs of beer and many bottles of stronger drink. At the same time the church bells of the city rang, the whistles of the flour mill were blown and cheers resounded through the streets. Immediately thereafter the furniture and fixtures were sold at public auction, there being realized about fifty dollars. Many of the visitors paid fancy prices for the various articles. This event was pronounced at the time to have been the most important that ever occurred in the village.

Mr. Berrisford continued to hold out against the movement, whereupon the meetings at his place of business were continued. At first he absented himself and finally refused them admittance, whereupon they held services on the street in front of his saloon. At the end of a few days he promised he would quit the business at the end of the month. This was the best that could be accomplished, but the society continued its organization and kept up its active work. It occurred that both men continued the business after the election of the license trustees in April. Thus the village authorities in a measure counteracted the good work which had been accomplished by the ladies. The contest for the success of the no license trustees was exciting in the extreme. Both factions were determined, aggressive and outspoken. The friends of the liquor movement formed clubs and thus in a measure evaded the law. They had a large membership and plenty of money and did everything in their power to win success and in a measure succeeded. In order to circumvent the law one of the saloonkeepers began selling clothing and the other opened a grocery in connection with their sales of liquor, but the fight continued, and in the end the temperance movement won, so that by the spring of 1875 Aledo was free from saloons for the first time in many years. The only sales of liquor were by druggists. During the previous term of the village board there were sold in this place according to close estimates, 5,000 gallons of beer, which cost the consumers \$6,000. In addition large quantities of whisky

and other intoxicants were sold. During these years New Boston, Keithsburg and Viola had similar experiences. The temperance movement by desperate efforts would manage to elect a temperance board, then a license board would succeed and would pass a license ordinance or repeal a no-license ordinance. Thus the villages of the county for several years were first under the influence of temperance and then under the influence of the liquor element.

Viola had a fight almost as severe as that in Aledo. In 1875 that village decided in favor of the license system and elected as trustees A. Elliott, Charles J. Andrew, W. K. Garwood, W. H. Hall, John Gilbert and C. Kallenberger. By the following year the village elected a no-license ticket.

In the fall of 1874 Mr. Severin at Aledo was indicted for keeping a nuisance. He was found guilty and fined \$200, but appealed the case, which was tried by Judge Pleasants, who sustained the fine, with costs. Pepper and Wilson appeared for the trustees. Other suits against Severin and Berrisford were instituted at this time and carried up to the higher courts, but were invariably decided against the liquor sellers.

In March, 1875, Francis Murphy, the famous temperance lecturer, came here and held a series of meetings. He appeared under the auspices of the Ladies Temperance League of Aledo. His lectures were of great power and often moved his audience to tears. His descriptions of drunkards' homes were dramatic in the extreme. He held meetings during the days and evenings for three successive days, ending on Sabbath with the largest audience that ever assembled under one roof in the county, it was alleged. Over three hundred signed the pledge on this occasion.

In 1875 there was a feeling in this community that the temperance movement was becoming one of persecution and there was a relaxation in the temperance efforts, with the result that the liquor element again made progress and opened various saloons in different parts of the county. The question of license or no license was submitted in every village of the county and in some instances favored and in others opposed the reform movement. In Aledo the vote was against license, 95; for license, 92. After this the temperance movement was quiet until 1878, when new organizations were formed and a new movement commenced. The Home Temperance Society of New Boston did most effective work at this time. The blue ribbon movement was the name given to this latest temperance crusade. The movement may be said to have been inaugurated by the visit of Clifford W. Phillips, who lectured in Aledo in April, 1878. At the

first meeting over two hundred and fifty-two people signed the pledge. At New Boston Susan B. Anthony lectured and there was formed in that village an organization which did effective work against the liquor traffic. At Aledo the Blue Ribbon Temperance Club was organized, with J. R. Wylie as president. Noble and Driver, two great temperance workers, the former an orator and the latter a singer, held a series of meetings in the leading villages of this county in June and July, 1878. During the previous ten months they had secured, it was stated, in the newspapers, 100,000 signers to the temperance pledge. J. B. Hill, of Streator, a member of the Supreme Lodge of Good Templars, lectured with great effect at New Boston, Keithsburg, Aledo, Viola, Reynolds and elsewhere in this county. In July and August, 1879, Rice and Mack, of Chicago, prominent temperance revivalists and workers, held open-air meetings throughout the county and secured hundreds of names to the pledge. In October, 1879, Francis J. Adams and wife, gospel temperance workers, held meetings in New Windsor and organized there a branch of the W. C. T. U., with over two hundred members. T. B. Mayo was president of the union. It was at that time that Frances E. Willard added her wonderful influence to the practical operations of temperance work in this field.

The result of these various meetings was the formation of the Mercer County Temperance Alliance in December, 1879, of which J. C. Pepper was made president, and thereafter was kept constantly at work for several years in the cause. A temperance convention was held in Aledo on January 13, 1880, to organize a Mercer Township temperance club. John W. Edwards was chosen chairman. W. L. Campbell addressed the meeting for nearly an hour. A constitution and by-laws were prepared and adopted and the organization was duly set in motion. J. T. Thomson was elected first president of the club. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union at New Boston was reorganized in January, 1880, with a membership of fifty. So great was the influence of the temperance movement at that time that the Aledo Record established a temperance department under the editorship of L. B. Doughty. This department from week to week was filled with communications from temperance workers in all parts of the county. Never before had the temperance movement been so thoroughly organized and made so efficient. Branches of the alliance were established in every considerable community in the county. At New Boston the movement continued with unabated vigor and success. In January, 1878, two saloons there were in full operation, but by September both were closed and the licenses were

annulled. The trustees there passed what was called the iron-clad ordinance, which completely prevented the sale except under very restricted measures.

At Viola the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was in full working order by March, 1880, with Miss Mary J. Aitken as president. The village board of Keithsburg in the spring of 1880 passed an ordinance to carry out the provisions of the local home protective petition, which provided for an annual election of the license or no license questions. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union in that city became a power, at this time numbering over forty active and determined women workers. They prepared to make a desperate fight to close up every saloon in that place, and in the end succeeded.

In Richland Grove an alliance was formed at Swedona by F. J. Adams, the agent of the County Temperance Alliance; 250 persons became members. Dr. J. Ainsley was president. Mr. Adams organized another alliance in Preemption, which had 161 members, with R. H. Whitsitt as president. He organized another in Abington Township with 141 members, also one at Millersburg, with 75 members. This organization became one of the strongest in the county and did effective work in educating people along temperance lines. They held an immense quarterly meeting of the alliance in this village, on which occasion declamations, music, tableaux and other performances and amusements were enjoyed. In time the New Boston alliance numbered nearly three hundred persons.

In Ohio Grove the alliance was presided over by Rev. D. Ayres and was strong and effective in its work. The branch at Aledo was presided over by Mrs. C. S. Richey. Mrs. Morgan was vice president; Miss Debbie Cummins, recording secretary; Miss A. E. Frazier, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. I. N. Dunlap, treasurer.

The North Henderson Red Ribbon Club was at one time the largest in the county. At one time it numbered 343 members. It was three years old in the spring of 1880, thus being perhaps one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in the county. Its president was Adam Bruner; vice president, Newton Holmes; secretary, George A. Blue; treasurer, Mrs. G. A. Blue. This organization was not a member of the W. C. T. U., but was a branch of the Red Ribbon Club and a member of the County Temperance Alliance. Mr. Adams in time established over fifty branch organizations under the control of the County Temperance Alliance.

In 1880 the home protective ordinance was passed by the village board of Keithsburg. The question was license or no license. The

women were permitted to vote, but were required to cast their ballots at a separate window and in a separate box. Their votes were not legal, but were taken as an expression of the opinion of the women. The influences of the river were in favor of the sale of liquor. Accordingly they had a greater fight than had other towns, except New Boston. In fact, Keithsburg had a harder task before it to prevent drunkenness, owing to the river influence, than any other village of the county. Finally an immense temperance massmeeting was held there, on which occasion Mrs. Hibben, of Peoria, president of the W. C. T. U. of Illinois; Mrs. W. L. Wells, state lecturer; Miss Lois Smith and Miss Cassie Smith, two temperance evangelists from Rock Island; Mrs. Kirkpatrick, president of the W. C. T. U. of the Tenth Congressional District; John C. Pepper, president of the County Temperance Alliance; I. M. Kirkpatrick, of Warren County, a prominent temperance promoter, came to Keithsburg for the purpose of assisting in crushing the liquor movement. A series of powerful meetings were held in the churches, halls and schoolhouses day and night for weeks, all culminating finally in the grand effort at the polls in April. The success was the election of the no-license ticket. At the polls twenty ladies appeared and used every reasonable influence to secure votes in favor of the temperance movement. The efforts were successful. Mrs. Sheriff and Miss Josie Calhoun were clerks of election and A. F. Glover and Mrs. J. A. Wilson, judges. When the hour for opening the polls arrived, the women, fifty strong, met at the Methodist Episcopal Church and marched enmasse to the voting place in the Holland Building, where a short time before a saloon had been kept by Dunn & Nagle. The women were bright, lively, "chatty," but terribly in earnest. They pleaded for their ticket and accomplished a result which was felt in that community for many years afterward. Their candidates were called the anti-license ticket. They had out the Silver Cornet Band, which marched with them to the polls and there for hours in the morning and again in the afternoon played for the entertainment of the crowd which surrounded the polls. They formed a circle and played while the women worked. In the afternoon the band returned and was headed by boys carrying banners with temperance mottos, such as "Bad Luck to Whisky," "Down With License," "Up With the Gospel Temperance," etc. The ladies employed nearly all the buggies in town to bring out the women and the negligent men. The following was the result of this remarkable election of the anti-license ticket: R. C. Humbert, 110; T. B. Cabeen, 102; F. P. Burgett, 106; Joseph Venerable, 100; James D. Clark, 99. License ticket:

Denis Murto, 97; John Helwig, 89; Hugh Campbell, 91; E. Pritz, 91; J. J. Kauffman, 83. This board promptly passed a no-license ordinance. The previous board had passed the ordinance permitting women to vote in response to a petition of 300 persons of legal age within the corporate limits of the city. This splendid result was regarded as due to the efforts of the able speakers and temperance promoters who had recently visited the city and by the efforts of the local ladies themselves. Almost every woman in the city was a member of this movement. The local branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union there passed the following resolutions after the election:

"Whereas, Our late municipal election resulted in complete victory for temperance both on the question of license and in the election of an anti-license village board, and believing the blessing of God accompanying the self-sacrificing of Mrs. E. G. Hibben, state president of the W. C. T. U. of Illinois; Mrs. M. E. Wells, Illinois state lecturer; Miss Lois and Cassie Smith, evangelistic workers; and Hon. J. C. Pepper, of Aledo, and I. M. Kirkpatrick, of Monmouth, who so generously came to our rescue, were efficient in securing this election; therefore,

"Resolved, That the members of this union desire to express and put on record our appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable services rendered us by these ladies and gentlemen, and we pray the blessing of God upon their future life and labors. (Signed by) Visa Griffin, Maggie Boyd, Evaline Halstead, Ladies' Committee."

The Hamlet Temperance Alliance was organized in March, 1880, by F. J. Adams and had sixty-one members. The president was Elisha Lee, and among the members were Mrs. Lloyd Girton, Mrs. Lee Hollister, Mrs. Ann Dumbell, Carrie Candor, Mrs. D. M. Candor, Mrs. Albion Nichols and others.

The branch of the alliance in Duncan Township had eighty members and was located at the coal banks north of Millersburg. The president was M. J. Burk; Amos Linn, secretary; and Thomas Sloan, treasurer. The organization at Pomeroy had forty members and O. P. Lloyd was president. In the summer of 1880 the Millersburg Temperance Society, a new organization, voted in favor of forming an auxiliary of the County Temperance Alliance. At this time there were in the county sixteen branch alliances, nine Woman's Christian Temperance Union organizations and one Good Templars lodge—twenty-six active temperance organizations in all. The Perryton Alliance, organized at Jingle's Corners, was presided over by Samuel McHard. Oliver Miller was secretary.

In 1880 the Young Women's Christian Association established an organization in Aledo with a membership of about twenty-five. Norma Pepper was the first president and Lizzie Hause, first secretary.

The celebration of the Fourth of July throughout the county in 1880 was almost invariably merged with the temperance movement. Such meetings were held at Keithsburg, Aledo, Cable, Viola, New Windsor, New Boston, Alexis, Millersburg and elsewhere. Patriotism and temperance combined on this occasion.

At the democratic county convention in July a resolution was passed, at the request of the temperance alliance, asking the representatives to vote only for persons who would favor the temperance movement. The convention passed such a resolution. At the greenback and republican conventions similar resolutions were passed at the request of the County Temperance Alliance.

An event of great historic importance was the convention of the Tenth Congressional District Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which convened at Aledo, June 2, 1880. There were present the following delegations: Keithsburg—Mrs. W. Griffin, Mrs. Sheriff, Mrs. Taliaferro, Mrs. Slocum, Mrs. Boyd; New Boston—Mrs. Irene Willits, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Craft, Mrs. Knapp, Mrs. Doughty; Suez—Mrs. Page, Mrs. Ransom, Mrs. Maucks, Mrs. Sedwick, McLaughlin Bowers; Roseville—Mrs. Ostrander, Miss Artu; New Windsor—Mrs. D. Alexander; Swan Creek—Mrs. G. W. Stice; Alexis—Mrs. Bruington, Miss Dalhouse; Millersburg—Mrs. Merryman, Miss Dunn, Miss Shafer, Bay Lee; Viola—Miss Maggie Mitchell, Mrs. M. McGrew; Aledo—Mrs. I. N. Dunlap, A. R. Morgan, R. H. Atchison, J. C. Thomson, E. A. Ploof; Pomeroy—Mrs. Vernon. Among the visitors present were Mrs. Julia Vernon, Miss Eva Morey, Mrs. Dr. Bras, Mrs. J. C. Bell, Mrs. Emma Gore, Miss Jo Willett. Mrs. Emma Kirkpatrick presided. Mrs. Taliaferro, Mrs. Watt, Mrs. Merryman, Mrs. Page and Mrs. Ostrander served as committee on resolutions. The address of welcome was delivered by Mrs. C. S. Richey and was responded to by Mrs. Eva McIntyre, of Carthage. New Boston reported that it had 35 workers; Viola, 42; Roseville, 30; New Windsor, 27; Aledo, 19. The session lasted two days and the exercises were important and progressive. There were many spirited discussions over policies and practices. At the close a long series of resolutions was adopted voicing the enmity of the organization against the liquor traffic. One of the resolutions ran thus: "That we, as a band of Christian workers, disapprove of the use of fermented wines for eucharistic purposes and pledge ourselves, as far as we know,

to use only the unfermented wine." Others were, "That it shall be the duty of each local union to have a children's meeting auxiliary to our union to educate our children in the principles of temperance; that this association exhort and urge all temperance men to so far ignore party politics as to vote for temperance men only." The presence of this convention in Aledo did a great deal to encourage and strengthen the temperance movement.

After 1880 the temperance fight waned and became ineffective, but the former influence was not forgotten by the liquor element for many years, although here and there saloons were started, though in a covert and secretive fashion. After a few years village boards were more liberal and from time to time granted restricted and short-time licenses to liquor sellers.

In January, 1881, J. C. Pepper, of Aledo, was elected president of the Illinois State Temperance Alliance, at the Springfield temperance convention. In 1882 a temperance wave swept across the country taking Mercer County in its grasp in August. During two weeks prohibition meetings were held in a dozen places throughout the county. Miss Marie B. Holyoke, a strong speaker and worker in the cause, addressed large audiences at New Windsor, Viola, New Boston, Keithsburg and elsewhere.

In January, 1883, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at New Boston petitioned the Legislature to pass a prohibitory law and one granting suffrage to women. Their prohibition petition contained the names of 88 men and 128 women, and the suffrage petition the names of 60 men and 86 women.

The Mercer County convention of the W. C. T. U. assembled in the Methodist Church, New Boston, early in March, 1884. The convention was called to order by the president, Mrs. W. J. Wycoff, of Keithsburg. A paper on "The Duties of Christian Women" was read by Mrs. Anne G. Randolph and the subject was afterward discussed. A paper on "Temperance Instruction in the Rural Districts" from Mrs. Sisson, of Cable, was read and the subject also discussed. The convention was addressed by Mrs. Randolph and Mrs. Kirkpatrick. The constitution of the union was revised and amended at this session. Reverends Metcalf and Bassett and S. V. Prentiss addressed the convention upon request. Numerous questions of importance were duly considered, among which were children's meetings; the liquor traffic vs. the Sabbath; finance; primaries, etc.

In April, 1884, the temperance people of Aledo united and by hard work managed to elect a temperance ticket by a majority of about twenty. The trustees chosen were: J. B. Moore, E. B. David

and J. R. McCrea, for two years; and J. F. Henderson, for one year; clerk, S. D. C. Hays; police magistrate, W. McK. Young. The other called citizen's ticket was defeated.

In September, 1888, at the annual meeting of the County Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Mrs. W. A. Lorimer, of Aledo, and Mrs. Campbell, of Larchland, were appointed delegates to the national convention of the union in New York City in October. At this time the union was doing a wonderful work among children. As never before children began to be understood and given the attention which their youth and innocence demanded. Particular attention was paid to the observance of the Sabbath, to the disuse of tobacco, prevention of liquor selling and to the upbuilding of women. At the meeting of the convention at New Boston in December of this year, Mrs. Irene Anderson, president of the union there, called the meeting to order and invited the county president, Mrs. J. M. Wright, of Aledo, to take charge of the session. Many important questions were analyzed at this important meeting. They passed resolutions favoring greater effort to secure social purity, to effect evangelistic work, to obtain better observance of the Sabbath, to secure scientific temperance instruction for the benefit of children. Mrs. M. E. Metzgar was chosen president of the Tenth Congressional District W. C. T. U. at this time. There were reported at this meeting twenty-six new organizations in the district.

In recent years the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has not been so aggressive in temperance fields but has been directed more to the proper instruction of children and the management of domestic and evangelistic programs. At times the organizations here died out, but would be revived, and again for a season would be active and prominent in local morals.

In 1893 a new branch of the union was organized at Aledo with thirty members. This union was instrumental in reopening the city library, in establishing a reading room and in other good work in the county seat. In 1899 the district convention was held in this city. Mayor M. G. Reynolds welcomed the ladies, as did Rev. W. M. Story, the Ladies' Relief Corps, the Woman's Missionary Society, and other local organizations. At this time the unions of the district numbered forty-seven, with over one thousand active members. Homes during the past year had been found for 25 children; 63 young girls had been helped to lucrative positions; 23 infants had been cared for; and 135 meetings had been held by the various branches. Mrs. T. A. Dunlap was elected the new president of the district union.

The twentieth annual convention of the Mercer County W. C. T. U. was held in the Methodist Church at Joy in June, 1901. There was a large attendance and much good was accomplished. At the W. C. T. U. Institute held in April, 1902, Doctor McMillan, of Sunbeam, read an interesting paper on non-alcoholic medication; Miss Epha Marshall, district president, led in the discussion, "What Shall We Do for the Children?" Miss Marie C. Brehm read a paper on "Children and Their Needs"; Mrs. Spivey, of New Windsor, read one on "Why Some Unions Discontinue"; Rev. Alford addressed the institute on the subject of "Abolition of the Liquor Traffic."

A gold medal contest of the union was held at the Methodist Episcopal Church at North Henderson in 1904. Catherine Mink, of Galva, spoke on "Rum's Tragedies"; Cleo Daniels, of Alpha, "College Oil Cans"; Ida Dickerson, "Christian Citizenship"; Ora Mead, on "Old Soaky"; Miss Rawlston, of New Windsor, "An Angel in a Saloon"; and Miss Garrett, of New Windsor, "The Court of Last Appeal." The medal was won by Cleo Daniels.

In 1905 numerous temperance meetings were held throughout the county and considerable work against the liquor traffic was done by the union, but the work was not in the aggressive fashion of former years, and the results were equally unsatisfactory. This year the anti-saloon column of the Times-Record was filled with temperance communications from the leading citizens of the county. The question of license or no license, when submitted to the people of Aledo this year, resulted as follows: For license, 166; against license, 276.

In 1908 a change was effected. Local option was voted upon and carried throughout the county. Every township went dry and the twelve saloons then existing in the county were compelled to close. This ended the sale of liquor in this county so far as public business was concerned. The following majorities were against saloons by the townships indicated: North Henderson, 103 majority; Rivoli, 122; Richland Grove, 91; Suez, 67; Greene, 166; Preemption, 31; Ohio Grove, 71; Mercer, 169; Perryton, 84; Abington, 93; Millersburg, 106; Duncan, 40; Keithsburg, 2; New Boston, 89; Eliza, 40; total, 1,274, against saloons.

The executive committee of the Mercer County W. C. T. U. met at the house of Mrs. O. J. Lorimer, Aledo, December 9, 1908, and held an all-day session. The county superintendents belonging to the Aledo union made report and five of the seven unions were represented. The "State Plan of Work" was discussed in detail. The

county was divided into two sections in order to secure more effective work and Mrs. F. A. Griffin and Mrs. Martha F. Mathews were appointed division superintendents. Mrs. Tirza A. Dunlap was county president. Elaborate plans for evangelistic work were laid.

At the annual convention of the Mercer County W. C. T. U., held at New Boston in October, 1913, the address of welcome was delivered by Mrs. W. L. Barnes, president of the New Boston union. There were present Mrs. Neva F. McFarlan, president of the Keithsburg union; Mrs. J. M. Wright, president of the Aledo union, and many other prominent union people. Rev. Baxter R. Nesbit addressed the convention on the subject of "Our Nation's Evils"; Miss Louise Hollister, of Evanston, delivered an address on "Woman's Franchise." The new officers elected were: Mrs. T. A. Dunlap, of Viola, president; Mrs. Anna Baker, of Aledo, vice president; Mrs. Inez Spicer, of Viola, corresponding secretary; Mrs. O. J. Lorimer, of Aledo, recording secretary; Mrs. S. A. Nesbit, of Aledo, treasurer; Mrs. Anna Baker, of Aledo, auditor. The union at this time had twenty different departments with active committees and with a large association.

CHAPTER XIV

THE BENCH AND BAR

The first record of the Circuit Court found is Book A, Chancery Docket, which shows an account of court proceedings of the October term, 1839, it being the first and earliest record now found in the clerk's office. Peter Lott was the judge presiding, and the first case in the record was Joseph Crawford vs. Elizabeth Crawford, decree for divorce. The second case is a divorce case, Long vs. Long, which was granted. The third case is Rachel Vance vs. William Vance, for divorce, which was granted.

Thomas C. Brown was judge of the same court at the May term, 1841; O. T. Skinner was judge at the September term, 1851, and entered a decree for Lewis W. Thompson, guardian of Marie McPherran and others, to sell real estate (Page 133, Chancery Record A). At the April term, 1853, H. M. Wead was judge.

The judge's docket for the May term, 1853, shows on the criminal docket, first case, indictment against Walter A. Bridgford for sale of liquor; indictment quashed. The next case, indictment against John Morris for larceny; Reynolds, state's attorney; Davidson for defendant. There were seven cases on the criminal docket. In the case of Beach and Eddy vs. Judah, Browning and Bushnell appeared for defendant. Isaac Williams vs. David Merryman, Manning appears for defendant.

Harris appears as attorney in another case; so do Madden, Beardsley, Stephen and W. Wagley and H. W. Thornton. There were thirty-seven common law cases on the docket.

At the May term of the Chancery Court, 1853, E. A. Paine appeared as attorney; also L. B. Howe. There were twenty-six cases at that term of court.

W. C. Goudy came in as state's attorney, October term, 1853. There appeared the suit of James Garner, Benjamin C. Taliaferro, John C. Pepper vs. Levi Willits, ejectment. This was for property in New Boston. At the October term, 1854, John R. Deeds was indicted for murder of his father-in-law, Doctor Ditto. W. C. Goudy was state's attorney; trial and verdict—not guilty. At the special January term, 1858, there were 66 criminal cases on docket; cases in common law, 409; and 101 cases on the chancery docket.

At the time Mercer County was organized in 1835 there was not a resident attorney in the county. In 1839 Hiram W. Thornton located in Millersburg as an attorney for the practice of law. James H. Stewart was one of the early lawyers in Mercer County, being in practice there as early as 1842. John S. Thompson commenced practicing law in the county as early as 1844, when he was only about nineteen years of age. Not far from that time L. B. Howe located in Millersburg to practice law. There were attorneys, however, from Quincy, Knoxville, Monmouth, Rock Island, and other places from time to time before and after 1848. In those days quite a number of the attorneys would go around the circuit with the judge who held the court. Among those of prominence who appeared in Mercer County just before or after 1848 were O. H. Browning, Nehemiah Bushnell, Isaac N. Morrison, Archibald Williams and others from Quincy; Julius Manning, of Knoxville; S. C. Harding, Ivory Quinby, James G. Madden and E. A. Paine, of Monmouth; Charles M. Harris, William Rice, James M. Davidson, of Oquawka; Joseph Knox and Jerome J. Beardsley, of Rock Island.

One of the most prominent of these attorneys was Joseph Knox, who was regarded as the greatest advocate then at the bar in Northwestern Illinois; he was one of the attorneys who defended the men who assassinated Colonel Davenport on the island near Rock Island, but he was not enabled in that case to save his clients from the gallows. He was famous for several years thereafter at Rock Island, but only appeared occasionally in Mercer County.

Jerome J. Beardsley, of Rock Island, attended the courts of Mercer County more generally than any other attorney from Rock Island, but his attendance commenced in the early '50s. He was a very able attorney, was well versed in the law, and could present his case to the court or argument to the jury very forcibly.

Good attorneys in those days very frequently, however, descended to pettifogging, and it is related of Mr. Beardsley that in defending a man in Rock Island County who was indicted for stealing logs from a raft of timber, Mr. Beardsley in his argument to the jury read from the indictment which charged the defendant with stealing certain logs from a raft of timber "then and there found." Mr. Beardsley argued to the jury that from the language of the indictment the defendant did not steal the logs, but found them; and, consequently, he could not be found guilty of larceny, and the jury on that argument returned the verdict of "not guilty."

O. H. Browning, of Quincy, stood at the head of the bar in Adams County and the surrounding counties, and his place in the history

of the state is well known. He was afterwards a member of Mr. Lincoln's cabinet. The last case in which Mr. Browning was connected in Mercer County was the indictment for murder against a man by the name of Hollingsworth, which was on a change of venue from Henderson County to Mercer, and was tried in Aledo at the September term, A. D. 1859, in which the defendant was found guilty of murder in the second degree and sentenced to the penitentiary. It was a case that created considerable excitement and interest, as the Hollingsworth family was a very prominent one in Henderson County, the father of the criminal being a prominent Quaker, and during the trial of the case sat in court with his hat upon his head.

Mr. Browning's associate in the practice of law at Quincy, Nehemiah Bushnell, was also a very able attorney, and in the early '50s attended the Circuit Court in Mercer County, but never appeared there after 1854.

Archibald Williams, of Quincy, was regarded as one of the ablest lawyers in ejectment suits and other suits involving titles of real estate. As an advocate, his style and manner of speaking were not eloquent, but he was logical and had great power with the court and very good success with the jurors. He, however, did not attend the courts in Mercer County after 1854.

Julius Manning, of Knoxville, Knox County, was an attorney also of very fine ability, eloquent before a jury, learned in the law, and was a close and logical reasoner, and exercised great influence with the court. His co-partner, Leander Douglass, was also an excellent lawyer, and in 1854 and thereafter Mr. Douglass appeared in the Circuit Court of Mercer County, and Manning no longer attended the Mercer County Court.

In addition to the attorneys mentioned from Monmouth, there was an attorney by the name of Hite that attended the courts of Mercer County for about four years—from 1855 to 1858. Mr. Hite was not an attorney of very much prominence and ability, but he succeeded, by a little pettifogging, in getting a man acquitted who was indicted for malicious mischief in killing a colt. The indictment charged the killing on a certain day and month of the year, as was usual and necessary. On the trial of the case it was shown that the defendant had shot and injured the colt, from which it died, on a day different from that stated in the indictment, but some time within eighteen months prior to the finding of the indictment. The court instructed the jury that it was not material at what time the defendant had injured the colt, except that it must be shown that he injured the colt within eighteen months prior to the finding of the

indictment. Hite got the court to instruct the jury that in order to find the defendant guilty they must find that he inflicted the injury upon the animal "in manner and form as found in the indictment," and then argued to the jury that, as the evidence showed that the injury was inflicted on a different day from that charged in the indictment, therefore the defendant was not guilty, and succeeded by that argument in obtaining a verdict of not guilty. One of the jurors in the trial of that case was a bright, intelligent young man, who had been reading law for a year or two, and was quite ready to condemn the technicality of the law, as he termed it, and was an advocate of disregarding all technicalities and only to give effect to the substantial evidence produced; but, strange to say, this young man was very prominent in contending before the jury in that case, and procured a verdict of not guilty by reason of the evidence shown that the injuries were inflicted on a different day from that charged in the indictment, and he, with the other jurors, disregarded the instruction of the court that it was not necessary to prove the criminal act to have been inflicted on the day alleged in the indictment.

The county seat of Mercer County was removed from Millersburg to Keithsburg in 1848, and Jas. H. Stewart about that time located in Oquawka, Henderson County, and after a number of years there removed to Warren County, where he practiced a number of years and died. He was elected state's attorney for the circuit in 1856, and served two or three terms. He was a very good lawyer, argued a case very strongly before a court and before a jury. In those days, that is from 1839 until 1856, there were not very large libraries, and especially not in Mercer County, to which lawyers could have access, and consequently the production of authorities and reading to the court was very limited. The lawyer would argue upon general principles, reading sometimes from a text-book and making a logical argument in support of his contention.

Among the early lawyers of Mercer County were John C. Pepper, Benj. C. Taliaferro, Lewis W. Thompson, John S. Thompson. Hiram W. Thornton also still continued to practice for a short time. Mr. Thornton had the best law library in the county from 1839 until 1855. In that year Mr. Thornton had practically retired from the law practice and had engaged in merchandise in Millersburg, and about that time became one of the promoters for a railroad from Warsaw, Illinois, to Rockford, called the Warsaw & Rockford Railway Company. Mr. Thornton afterwards became the president of the company, and during his connection with it a railroad was built from Moline Junction, a point a few miles east of Moline, to

Port Byron, the latter place being the head of the Rock Island Rapids. Work was done in other places on the line of the road and the right-of-way acquired largely from Warsaw in Hancock County through Henderson and Mercer and Rock Island counties to Rock Island, but no other part of the road was actually constructed by the company.

John C. Pepper was a lawyer of excellent ability; his address was very nice, his language good, and his selection of words well chosen, presenting his case always logically and forcibly. He was really an eloquent speaker, confining his arguments almost universally to the points at issue, seldom descending to anything approaching pettifoggery. In his earlier practice he did not rank, perhaps, with John S. Thompson as a lawyer, but from 1855 until he retired from practice about forty years later, he was the head of the Mercer County bar and ranked with the best lawyers in Northwestern Illinois. He, however, in a few years after he commenced practicing became intemperate in his habits, which for a time greatly destroyed his power and usefulness as an attorney; but in later years he reformed and became a strict temperance man, and used all his energies and influence in the temperance cause. Among the cases in which Mr. Pepper was early involved was one of Jas. Garner, Benj. C. Taliaferro and John C. Pepper against Levi Willits, which was an ejectment suit against Levi Willits for the house and lot that he occupied as a residence in New Boston, being at that time the finest building in the little Village of New Boston. This suit caused quite an excitement, because if the plaintiffs in the case could succeed in that suit they would succeed in other suits against other occupants of a large part of New Boston. Taliaferro had entered the land upon which New Boston was located in 1852, and the suit was founded upon the patent given to him by the United States. It appeared that the land was patented or conveyed to Denison by the United States in 1839, and subsequently to Benj. C. Taliaferro in 1852, and it was contended by Taliaferro and plaintiffs that there was no authority for issuing the patent to Denison in 1839, but the case was decided against the plaintiffs, and the people of New Boston were relieved by the decision of further anxiety in regard to the title of their property. The case will be found to be reported in the 18th volume of Illinois Reports—page 455. The plaintiffs in the suit in the Supreme Court were represented by William C. Goudy, Norman B. Judd and Julius Manning, three of the most prominent lawyers in Western Illinois, and the defendant was represented by H. M. Wead, who had been judge of the Mercer County Circuit Court from 1849 until 1855.

Mr. Pepper was, during the time of his practice, employed in quite a number of murder cases, among them the defense of Doctor Stuart and his wife, who were indicted for the murder of William H. Brown in the year 1883. This case created great excitement in the Village of North Henderson, where the parties resided, William H. Brown being one of the proprietors in laying out and platting the Village of North Henderson, and he and Stuart both being physicians and brothers-in-law, their wives being sisters. Mrs. Stuart entered the house of Brown in the night; he opened the door at her call and admitted her, and while he was proceeding to light a lamp she shot him in the back with a revolver, inflicting a serious wound which caused his death a few months thereafter. Mrs. Stuart and her husband were both indicted, charged with murder; but they were tried separately, her husband being tried first and acquitted, and Mrs. Stuart then tried and also acquitted. Subsequent to that time, Stuart was shot and killed while driving on a public highway near North Henderson in the practice of his profession. There was no clue by which it could be ascertained who fired the fatal shot.

Another important case that Mr. Pepper was employed in was a suit by Richard B. Ellis, of Richland Grove Township, Mercer County, against Frank Von Ach and others, the board of health of the Village of Cable, on a charge of false imprisonment. Mr. Benj. C. Taliaferro was the attorney for the plaintiffs; Richard B. Ellis, John C. Pepper, Isaac N. Bassett and John C. Wharton were attorneys for the defendants. The suit grew out of the imprisonment of Richard B. Ellis, a smallpox suspect, by Von Ach and others, acting as a board of health for the Village of Cable. It was tried twice, the verdict of the jury being for the defendants in each case, and was appealed to the Appellate Court by Ellis, where the decision of the Circuit Court was affirmed. It created quite an excitement in the Village of Cable and in the Township of Richland Grove, and some interest in the county, involving the question as when and how a person might be arrested and, if necessary, imprisoned who was suspected of having been exposed to a contagious disease.

Benjamin C. Taliaferro, who was mentioned in connection with the last case, was a lawyer quite prominent in Mercer County for a great many years, first in Keithsburg, and afterwards in Aledo, where he died. Mr. Taliaferro was a very energetic, industrious lawyer, arguing his cases with great energy and earnestness before court and jury, but he was not a close lawyer and was not very logical or well versed in the law in many instances, but Mr. Taliaferro had a very large practice and continued to have until his death.

John S. Thompson, one of the early lawyers, commenced practice in Mercer County while the county seat was at Millersburg, and while Mr. Thompson was a very young man he was elected clerk of the County Court in 1852, and was not very active in the practice after that time. In 1855 he was elected judge of the Circuit Court of Mercer County and the judicial circuit in which Mercer County was located, which included the counties of Henderson, Warren, Knox and Fulton.

Judge Thompson resigned in 1860 and Aaron Tyler, of Knoxville, was appointed by the governor to fill out the unexpired term, which was less than a year; and in 1861 Charles B. Larrence, then residing on a farm in Warren County, formerly a prominent lawyer of Quincy, a copartner of Archibald Williams, was elected judge of the Circuit Court to succeed Aaron Tyler. Judge Larrence was elected justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois in 1865; John S. Thompson was then elected judge of the said circuit for the unexpired term, but resigned again in 1866, when Arthur A. Smith, of Galesburg, Knox County, was appointed judge of the circuit for the unexpired term, which was less than a year after the resignation of Judge Thompson.

Judge Thompson engaged in the practice of law after his resignation in 1860 until his election again in 1865, and after his resignation a second time he was engaged as he had been before that time, as one of the promoters of the Western Airline Railroad Company, which, however, changed its name to the American Central Railway, and which was finally constructed in 1869 from Galva in Henry County, to New Boston in Mercer County, while Judge Thompson was president of the company.

Judge Thompson removed to California in 1872 and settled at Los Angeles, where he practiced law for a time, and subsequently engaged in promoting railroads, and died about 1903.

John S. Thompson was a very good lawyer and made a very good record as judge of the Circuit Court. He was a very ambitious politician, being a whig under the old regime and then a republican until 1868, when he succeeded in getting a nomination on the democratic ticket for candidate to Congress in the district of which Mercer was a part, and made a very energetic, spirited contest, but was defeated by Gen. A. C. Harding, of Monmouth. Judge Thompson, after his removal to California at Los Angeles, was also a candidate for Congress from that district on the greenback ticket, but some years later he identified himself again with the republican party.

Lewis W. Thompson, one of the early attorneys of the county, had quite an extensive practice from 1850 to 1858, mostly confined,

however, to collections, and quite extensively before justices of the peace. In those days there was quite an amount of litigation in the courts of the justices of the peace of the county, and all of the attorneys were more or less engaged in such suits, largely confined, however, to collection cases, but frequently forcible entry and detainer suits, actions of trespass, etc. Mr. Thompson was also frequently engaged in suits in the Circuit Court of considerable importance in those days, but in those cases was most generally assisted by his brother, John S. Thompson, or some prominent foreign attorney. Mr. Lewis W. Thompson was not successful in his practice a few years later, in 1856, '57 and '58, and lost a large part of his practice, but he continued to practice law in the county until his death, which occurred April 22, 1881. Mr. Thompson was a respectable attorney, of strict integrity, but made prominent every little technical matter that he could raise, and was not very successful either in the courts or before a jury on questions of vital and great importance.

Elias Willits and Isaac N. Bassett commenced the practice of law in Keithsburg in the spring of 1855 under the firm name of Willits & Bassett. In the spring of 1856 Mr. Willits went to Chicago and entered into a partnership there with a man by the name of Johnson, but not being successful returned to Mercer County in the latter part of the year 1857. In the spring of 1857 John R. Bassett, a brother of Isaac N. Bassett, came to Aledo and commenced the practice of law with Isaac N. Bassett under the firm name of J. R. & I. N. Bassett; and on the return of Elias Willits from Chicago he entered into the said firm, which was then changed to Bassett, Willits & Bassett, and they continued to practice together until February, 1860, when I. N. Bassett withdrew for a time, and Willits and John R. Bassett continued to practice under the firm name of Willits & Bassett until February, 1862, when Mr. Willits removed to Monmouth and entered into the practice of law there, and a few years thereafter was elected judge of Warren County Court, and continued in that office for twelve years, until his death in 1881. Mr. Willits was well educated, a graduate of the law department of the University of Indiana; he was a man of fine physique, but he could not practice law successfully, not because he was not sufficiently acquainted with the law, but it seemed that when he got on his feet that his power to express himself was gone. He could sit down in the office and argue a case with great force; he was metaphysical in a high degree. Mr. Willits made a successful and satisfactory county judge, and was well qualified to fill the office of circuit judge. He was a man of strict integrity, upright in every particular, and commanded the respect of all people.

John R. Bassett had practiced in his native state, Kentucky, for some two or three years before he came to Illinois; he was a good lawyer, could argue a case logically and forcibly before judge or jury, but he would never undertake a case unless he believed his client's case was good. He always told his client, after learning about his case, whether he thought he could succeed or not for him, and if he did not think he could succeed for him would not undertake it. He continued to practice in Mercer County in connection with his brother, I. N. Bassett, as above stated, from February, 1862, until the spring of 1869, when he retired from practice. He was judge of the County Court for two terms, and removed to Kansas in 1881, where he died in 1913, at the age of 92 years.

Isaac N. Bassett was elected treasurer of the County of Mercer in the fall of 1855, and his practice largely increased in 1856, '57, '58 and '59; he and his brother, John R. Bassett, had the largest practice in the county. The great majority of the cases were collection cases, in which there was really no defense, but in those days there would be an attempt even in defense in order to get a continuance of the case and get time. The practice was quite different then from what it is now. In those days if a suit was commenced in which the plaintiff was bound to give security for costs without filing a cost bond, on motion of the defendant the cause would be dismissed—the plaintiff could not file a bond and proceed with the suit, but it would be put out of court and he would have to commence a new suit, or on account of any defects, he would have to amend his declaration, the case would be continued. For these reasons and the desire to get time there was a great delay of technicality in endeavor to put the plaintiff out of suit or get the cause continued.

During 1857, 1858 and 1859 the dockets were very large; at a special term held in January, 1858, there were on the docket 68 criminal cases, 409 cases in common law and 101 cases on the chancery docket; and that was about the average of the docket commencing with 1857 up to 1860. Among the cases in which Isaac N. Bassett and his copartners were employed was an ejectment suit for a half section of land in North Henderson Township. The suit was commenced in 1855 by Lewis W. Thompson for a man by the name of Bragg, and had run along for several years in which there were two trials, each of the parties having gained a judgment, but under the statute each party had paid the costs and procured a new trial. In 1866 John R. and Isaac N. Bassett were employed to assist Mr. Thompson in conducting the case. When the suit was commenced the land was vacant and the suit was against James P. Erskine, a

prominent land dealer in Quincy, Ill. After the commencement of the suit Mr. Bragg contracted to sell all of the land to three different persons, and his vendees took possession of the land and commenced the cultivation of the same. In 1867 Mr. Bragg dismissed his ejectment suit as his vendees were in possession of the land; thereupon Mr. Erskine sent persons up in the land and invaded the possession and commenced improvements thereon; and the respective purchasers from Bragg through J. R. & I. N. Bassett commenced for a forcible entry and detainer and recovered judgment against Erskine's tenants.

Erskine then conveyed the land to a non-resident and suits were commenced in the United States Circuit Court at Chicago against the three persons respectively to whom Bragg had sold. That litigation continued for a number of years, each of the parties, plaintiff and defendant, having recovered a judgment in the United States Circuit Court, each having paid the costs under the statutes and reinstated the case.

George F. Harding and Alexander McCoy, copartners, were employed in the case with J. R. and I. N. Bassett in the Federal Court; and finally the matter was settled by Erskine upon payment of \$1,000 to him by Bragg, who was defending the suit for his vendees. William C. Goudy was the principal attorney for Erskine in the United States court. At the commencement of the ejectment suit, in 1855, the half section of land, which was No. 1 prairie land, was worth \$1,600, and when the suit was concluded it was worth \$16,000, and at the present time it is worth over \$200 an acre. The contest in that case grew out of a title for a half section of land given to a soldier of the War of 1812 by the name of Corey. Erskine claimed under a deed commencing with Corey to some one, and Bragg claimed under the same party, and it was finally shown by evidence, the deposition of a great many witnesses having been taken in different states, proving that Corey did not execute the deed under which Erskine claimed, and among the witnesses was the deposition of Corey himself. This is given as an illustration of litigation that often arose in Mercer County over the titles of real estate; and most frequently arose in regard to the lands that were granted to soldiers of the War of 1812; the greater part of these lands having been sold for taxes and tax titles acquired by the purchasers, and the soldier's title often being represented by conveyances of persons claiming to be their heirs; and persons purchasing through the heirs very frequently found that they did not have the title, were not able to prove the heirship, and had litigation over the title or had to purchase again.

Another important case in which Isaac N. Bassett and John C. Pepper were engaged was known as the Turner will case. William J. Turner, formerly a citizen of Baltimore, Md., bought a large quantity of land in Mercer County and settled in Warsaw, Ill., about 1850, and subsequently in New Boston, Ill., and later died in Aledo, about the year 1875, leaving a will, devising most of his property to Fred Mead and Rachel Mead, his wife, who had taken care of Mr. Turner in the last years of his life, as he was a bachelor. The will was contested by some nieces and nephews, heirs of Mr. Turner, alleging that he was mentally incapable of making a will, and that it was obtained by undue influence. The estate was worth some forty or fifty thousand dollars—over one hundred thousand dollars if it had not been for a banker failing who owed Mr. Turner some seventy or eighty thousand dollars, just a short time before Turner's death. In the trial of the cause in the Circuit Court Mead's attorneys, besides I. N. Bassett and John C. Wharton, were Benjamin C. Taliaferro, James H. Connell and Lewis D. Holmes, who put on the stand seventy-five witnesses, and succeeded in sustaining the will. There was subsequent litigation over the estate of Turner between Mead and other persons in different courts, among them the Federal Court of the United States, which lasted for twenty-five years.

Luther T. Ball located in Keithsburg for the practice of law in 1856, and continued in the practice until 1862, when he went into the army and was lieutenant of a company in the Eighty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and was killed at the Battle of Stone River in Tennessee. Mr. Ball was a very good, honorable, upright attorney.

Also in 1856 Charles M. Kay located in Keithsburg for the practice of law and continued to practice in Mercer County for some ten years, part of that time being master in chancery, and then removed to Michigan. There were several other attorneys who were not very prominent and who practiced but a short time in the county. But in 1856 and 1857, after Aledo was laid out and settled, Samuel W. McCoy commenced the practice of law in Aledo and continued to practice for some fifteen years and had considerable practice, but he was a lawyer of very moderate ability. A young lawyer, John M. Shoemaker, commenced practicing in 1860, entered the army in the Civil war and was mortally wounded in the battle of Shiloh, and a young lawyer by the name of Waterbury, who entered the war from Aledo, was also killed.

Walter J. Pepper, a brother of John C. Pepper, commenced the practice of law at Keithsburg about 1870 and had considerable practice for a number of years; he was an attorney of very good ability

and had some important cases. Among the cases of importance that he had was one against Dr. George Irvin by Frank Smith for malpractice. The plaintiff was a boy who was injured by riding in a wagon and Doctor Irvin was called to treat him, and the result was that the young man was left a cripple; and it was charged that it was caused by the neglect of Doctor Irvin giving proper treatment. The case was three or four weeks on trial and created considerable excitement, because Doctor Irvin was a physician of good standing, a prominent man, and the physicians throughout the county almost unanimously sustained him. In fact, about that time there was a county organization of physicians, and suits against physicians on account of malpractice had been frequently brought before and judgments obtained against the physicians; and the physicians throughout the county effected the organization, among other things to unite in sustaining all physicians who were regularly licensed and were fair physicians. There was quite an amount of bitterness exhibited during the trial, and considerable between the attorneys; Benjamin C. Taliaferro appeared with Walter J. Pepper, and John C. Pepper, brother-in-law and brother of said attorneys, appeared for Doctor Irvin. The result was that Doctor Irvin was successful.

James M. Wilson later was admitted to practice, having served a term as clerk of the Circuit Court, and entered into partnership with John C. Pepper. Mr. Wilson was master in chancery for a number of years and then was elected judge of the County Court, which he held for one term, and afterwards continued to practice alone until his death, which was very sudden.

J. E. Griffin was an attorney in New Boston in 1860, was elected county judge in 1861, and served one term, and then removed to Los Angeles, California.

Amos Waterman also commenced practice about 1860 and located at New Boston, was county superintendent of schools for one term, and continued in the practice until about 1872, when he removed to Los Angeles, California, where he died.

Charles H. Brass was also an attorney of New Boston, commencing practice there not far from 1870, and after about ten years' practice in Mercer County removed to South Dakota.

William McK. Young, who is still living in Aledo, commenced practice in 1860, but taught school, being the principal of the public schools both at Millersburg and Aledo; and then was elected justice of the peace, and filled that office for more than thirty years.

Walter J. Pepper was quite successful financially for a time in the county and commenced farming operations and stock raising,

having a large farm in Millersburg Township, and practically retired from law practice. He was unsuccessful in his farming business and became badly involved financially, left his family and went to Washington Territory, as it was then. His farm property was all sold under execution, and a number of years later his family went west at his request and they were united again, and he is still in Washington, if living. Mr. Pepper, when he went out West, changed his name, and when writing to his wife urging her to come out and live with him again, he told her that he had changed his name, and to come to him as his wife under another name. She replied that if she went out to meet him she would go as Walter J. Pepper's wife, and consequently Mr. Pepper had to reveal his right name, and his wife met him, and he was thereafter known by his proper name, had a farm there, and also practiced law there.

Among the important suits in Mercer County was one against John R. Deeds in 1854. Deeds was indicted for murder, having killed his father-in-law, Doctor Ditto, and was tried in the fall of 1854, William C. Goudy being at that time state's attorney, and he was acquitted. There was a great deal of interest manifested in the case, especially in Keithsburg, the sympathy being almost entirely in favor of the defendant, Deeds. Doctor Ditto was a farmer, a very rough, overbearing, tyrannical man, and it was through his overbearing manner and language that the altercation was brought about in which he was killed.

Another incident occurred in the fall of 1854 in the trial of a civil case. Lewis W. Thompson was attorney for the plaintiff and Leander Douglass for the defendant. Clifford J. Ungles had been a witness in the case. In the argument to the jury, Mr. Thompson characterized some one of the witnesses as being a "swift witness," and in reply to that Mr. Douglass, in his argument, said he did not know what Mr. Thompson meant by a swift witness, but that there had been a witness testifying for Mr. Thompson's client that was death on settlements, Mr. Ungles; and just when Mr. Douglass got that far in his talk to the jury, Mr. Ungles, who was sitting inside of the bar, jumped to his feet, called for protection from the court, and immediately proceeded to assault Mr. Douglass. Douglass, in addressing the jury then, had his back to Ungles, and knew nothing of Ungles' demonstration behind him. Ungles aimed to strike Douglass' head, but just when he delivered the blow, Douglass had bowed in addressing the jury and thereby escaped the blow. Judge Weed, who was presiding in the court at that time, was sitting inside of the bar and immediately seized Ungles, shoved him back, and went and took his seat on the bench, and fined Ungles \$50.

Mr. Ungles was a man of fine character, and was very sensitive about any charge affecting his character; and supposed that the language used by Mr. Douglass was disrespectful. Ungles was never committed, and never paid the fine.

Another important case in Mercer County should properly be mentioned here. In 1897 William Drury died, leaving his property for the benefit of his wife during her lifetime, and at her death his property to be sold and converted into money by James H. Connell, who was made trustee for that purpose by his will; and all of the remaining property, except nine-one-hundredths part thereof, which he gave to certain of his nieces and nephews, was to be used and given to a college to be located in that town in the county that would give the largest amount of money for its location.

Mr. Drury had no children nor descendants of children—Ed L. Drury was a foster-child, but had never been legally adopted, and he did not give him anything in his will. This and some other things dissatisfied Mrs. Drury, and she renounced the will under the provisions of the statute and consequently took one-half of his estate. There was a contest of the will by several of the heirs of William Drury, his nieces and nephews; but the will was sustained. In another chapter there will be given an account of the college established by Mr. Drury's will.

Another case showing how land titles in Mercer County may be disturbed after a great many years, had its commencement in 1847. Romulus Riggs, of Philadelphia, bought a great many tracts of land in Illinois, and among them as many as thirteen quarter sections in Mercer County. Riggs made a will in 1846 in which he devised the land in Mercer County to his daughter, Illinois Riggs, and in case of her marriage to the daughter and her husband, to be held and used for the benefit of any children that might be born to them under said marriage. Romulus Riggs died in 1846 and his will was duly probated; in 1847 his daughter, Illinois, was married to Charles H. Graff, and a child, Nettie Graff, was born to them during that year. In 1853 a suit was commenced in Mercer County Circuit Court by Chas. H. Graff and his wife, setting out the provisions of the will and the birth of Nettie Graff, and praying the court for authority to sell the land by the petitioners in order to obtain money to educate their daughter Nettie. It was alleged in the petition that the land was all vacant, and that the petitioners had no money to pay the taxes levied against said land was another reason why the land should be sold.

A decree was entered by the Circuit Court in 1854 authorizing James L. Riggs, a son of the deceased Romulus Riggs, who resided in Peoria, as commissioner to sell the land, and under that decree the thirteen quarter sections of land were sold and bought by different persons in the county. The purchasers improved the land, and have been in the actual possession of each tract of land for sixty years.

There was another child afterwards in 1863 born to Illinois and Chas. Graff, who was a son and named Chas. H.; and subsequent to that time Nettie Graff died, and still later Illinois Graff and her husband, Chas. H. Graff, died, leaving the son, Chas. H. Graff, who is still living; and now, after sixty years, the real estate having been in the active possession of the persons who improved and cultivated the land for more than fifty years, suit is threatened by Chas. H. Graff against the occupants of all but three quarter sections of land, which had been conveyed by Chas. H. Graff prior to that time.

Chas. H. Graff is now claiming title to the ten quarter sections of land, or about that number, and suits have been entered by nearly all of the occupants of said land in the Mercer County Circuit Court against Chas. H. Graff to quiet the title to said real estate, and the suits are now pending.

Another suit affecting the interest of quite a number of persons, illustrating the insecurity of real estate titles, arose in the county some years ago. In 1854 Harrison Riggs was residing upon a half section of land in Millersburg Township, and in that year, with two of his sons, went to Texas, leaving his wife and ten other children on the farm in Mercer County. Harrison Riggs afterwards sent one of his sons back to Mercer County with instructions to make sale of some property and then to return to Texas, and bring the mother and family along if she would come; but the mother refused to leave the place and go to her husband. In 1892 the wife of Harrison Riggs died, and thereupon Harrison Riggs wrote to Isaac N. Bassett, authorizing him to sell the half section of land. The children of Riggs in Mercer County set up title to the land and brought suit for partition, making the children of one of Harrison Riggs' sons, who died in Texas, and the wife of the son, parties defendant. Riggs was at that time living with the widow of his deceased son in Texas; thereupon Riggs conveyed the land to his daughter-in-law, and the heirs in Mercer County then set up that Riggs was incompetent mentally to convey his real estate, and that the deed was obtained under undue influence. They also alleged that the land was bought with the money of their mother, and also that when Riggs left Illinois

in 1854, he had made a contract with his wife in and by which she was to remain on the farm, take care of the children, give them a common school education, and when each of them became of age, give them a horse and \$100. They made proof of the compliance with this contract substantially by the wife and mother. One of the other points made in the case was that the father was mentally incapacitated to make a deed to his daughter-in-law; the proof sustained the mental capacity and right to make the deed.

Mr. Isaac N. Bassett and his co-partner, Thos. W. Bassett, were employed by Mr. Riggs and later by his daughter-in-law, who was married to a man by the name of Erringdale, to defend the suit brought by the heirs in Illinois. The judge of the Circuit Court entered a decree for the children in Illinois for partition; and Mrs. Erringdale appealed the case to the Supreme Court, and the case was reversed, the Supreme Court holding, among other things, that the contract between Mr. Riggs and his wife in 1854 was illegal; that a married woman at that time could not make any valid or binding contract; and this decision of the Supreme Court settled the title in Mrs. Erringdale. The case may be found on page 403, 148 Illinois Reports.

The common law has since been changed by the statutes so that a married woman now can make a valid contract with any person, including her husband, and can sue and be sued, and hold property in her own right, which she could not do in 1854.

Lewis D. Holmes and James H. Connell both commenced the practice of law in Mercer County about the year 1869. Holmes continued to practice until about 1887, when he removed to Omaha, Nebraska, and died there some two or three years ago. He was a very good lawyer and had very good success both in Aledo and Omaha.

James H. Connell became associated with Isaac N. Bassett and practiced with him from 1869 until 1874; removed to Colorado about 1879, and after some three years returned to Aledo, and was elected county judge, in which office he served eight years, and thereafter continued to practice in Aledo until his death in 1906. Mr. Connell was engaged in some important cases during his practice, but he was not a very close lawyer nor a pleasant speaker to a jury. He gave fairly good satisfaction as county judge and was an honorable, upright lawyer. When Mr. Connell returned from Colorado and became a candidate for judge of the county court, it was charged against him that he was not eligible, the statutes requiring five years' residence previous to election as a qualification for the office of county judge,

and Connell had only been in the state since his return from Colorado a little over a year. Mr. Connell contended that he was eligible, and after his election his title to the office was contested by James M. Wilson, who was the candidate opposed to him. On a trial it was proved that Connell, with his wife, had gone to Colorado, having sold his house and other property in Aledo; and under the statutes of Colorado, in order to obtain a license to practice law, a person must either be a citizen of Colorado or take and subscribe an oath that he intended to become a citizen within six months from the time of his application. Mr. Connell took such an oath and then received license to practice, entered into a partnership with an attorney there and continued to practice between two and three years under that license, and then returned to Mercer County; and testified that he did not go to Colorado with the intention of becoming a citizen of Colorado only upon conditions; that is—that his wife's health was poor, and that if he found it necessary to remain there for his wife's health, he would remain, and if not, he would return; and upon that evidence the Circuit Court held that he had not lost his citizenship in Illinois, and on appeal to the Appellate Court the judgment of the Circuit Court was sustained. The case created a good deal of interest among political parties in Mercer County and the friends of the respective candidates, and also in the legal fraternity on account of the question involved; it being contended that Judge Connell was estopped from saying that he did not intend to lose his citizenship in Illinois by going to Colorado by the oath he took there, and remaining to practice under that license for two years and a half after obtaining the same.

The later attorneys in Mercer County who took any prominent part in litigation were Benj. F. Brock, James M. Brock, Guy C. Scott, Alex. McArthur, Creighton Hayes, George A. Cooke, William J. Graham, Thos. W. Bassett, Leander Thomason, David A. Hebel, Oscar E. Carlstrom, Henry E. Burgess, Robert Watson, William T. Church, Friend Church, George Werts, Frank Carnahan, L. D. Kirkpatrick and some others whom it is not necessary to note in this connection.

Benj. F. Brock and James M. Brock, his brother, practiced law for a number of years in the county, and were both very good lawyers, and each of them filled the office of state's attorney.

Creighton Hays also filled the office of state's attorney and removed to Denver and practiced there a while, and at present is located in Philadelphia.

George B. Morgan, who has not been mentioned heretofore, commenced to practice in Mercer County about 1880, and was for a number of years a co-partner of Benj. F. Brock, and was master in chancery for some twenty years, which office he filled with ability and satisfaction to the courts and legal fraternity. Subsequently, he was a co-partner of Isaac N. Bassett for the practice of law, and then with I. N. Bassett and D. A. Hebel, under the style of Bassett, Morgan & Hebel, but on account of ill health he removed to Los Angeles, California. Mr. Morgan was a very popular man, a man of undoubted integrity and a lawyer of fair ability.

Guy C. Scott and George A. Cooke both were elected to the office of justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, Guy C. Scott in 1903, and upon his death in 1909, George A. Cooke was elected to succeed him, and upon the expiration of the term in 1912 Cooke was again elected and is now serving as one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the state, and both of them acquired an excellent reputation as justices of said court.

Henry E. Burgess and William T. Church have both filled the office of county judge of Mercer County, Burgess being the present incumbent. Robert L. Watson is now master in chancery of the Circuit Court and county surveyor.

Of the judges of the Circuit Court Charles B. Larrence was considered by the bar as the finest judge that occupied the bench in Mercer County, and he acquired a fine reputation as one of the justices of the Supreme Court, and afterwards practiced law in Chicago until his death. George W. Pleasants, of Rock Island, who subsequently was judge of the Circuit Court for many years, was considered universally by the bar as being next in ability to Judge Larrence, and by many claimed to be fully equal to Judge Larrence. And Judge William H. Guest, who filled the office for a number of years and died while occupying that position, was universally considered as a very able judge. The other judges of the Circuit Court of Mercer County were John J. Glenn, of Monmouth; Hiram Bigelow, of Galva; Frank D. Ramsey, of Morrison; Emory C. Graves, of Geneseo; Robert W. Olmsted, of Rock Island, the three last mentioned being the present incumbents.

The judiciary of the county has stood as high as any of the surrounding circuits, and the bar of Mercer County has always maintained a very excellent reputation in the adjoining counties and with the judges who presided in the Circuit Court of said county.

Among the attorneys of prominence who attended the courts of Mercer County from other counties was Thomas G. Frost, of Gales-

burg, who was a lawyer of excellent ability, and who attended the courts in Mercer County for about ten years, from about 1866 to 1876—the exact dates are not known. He assisted in the trial of some cases of considerable importance, afterwards removed to Chicago and had a large practice there, and died while living in Chicago.

There was one attorney in Mercer County that has not been mentioned who was very prominent. Mr. Cox, who was a bachelor and resided with his brother near the line in Knox County, attended the circuit courts of Mercer County, commencing with 1856, for about ten years. Mr. Cox was also a very prominent political speaker, being a republican, and would frequently, during a term of court, speak in the evenings on some political question, and especially during the period of the Civil war. He was not a good lawyer, but he was a good orator; full of wit; and could tell a story either in a political speech or in an argument to a jury with all the ease and facility and appropriateness with which Abraham Lincoln could always illustrate his points by a story. Mr. Cox, in addressing a jury, would nearly always during his address turn to the audience in telling his stories, and the old farmers and others who would listen to him would stand with open mouths, thinking that he was the greatest lawyer that they had ever heard. He would bring down the house, both in his political and jury speeches, with roars of laughter. He was not a deep lawyer, did not often make a logical speech, but could make a very good point with his stories. In preparing his pleading he did not show any great versatility in the law, and was defeated in the points that he raised in regard to his pleading in a great majority of cases.

Another lawyer I have mentioned heretofore as attending the courts of Mercer County was Charles M. Harris, of Oquawka. Mr. Harris was a regular attendant of the circuit courts of Mercer County from early in 1850 until about 1869, when he removed to Chicago. Mr. Harris was a large, heavy-set man, heavy-jawed and had a strong voice, and argued a case with great energy, and he was quite a good lawyer; not only a good lawyer, but a careful lawyer. Among the cases that he had in Mercer County was one for a client in New Boston. His client was Mrs. Sabra Ann Sink, an heir of J. R. Denison of New Boston. J. R. Denison owned a large portion of land in the vicinity of New Boston, all of which was sold by the administrator for the payment of debts, and the land was improved, farmed and held by the following persons, to-wit: William Drury, Courtney Drury, Pettis Finch and Thos. Willits; some of the farms had been very highly improved. Separate suits were brought against

each of the defendants in ejectment, and judgment given in the Circuit Court in favor of the plaintiffs; and the several defendants appealed to the Supreme Court, which reversed the decision of the Circuit Court and held that the defendants had a good title. Chas. M. Harris was assisted in the Supreme Court in the trial of the cases by Blanchard & Leland, and the plaintiffs in the Supreme Court, being the defendants in the Circuit Court, were severally represented as follows: William C. Goudy, J. R. and I. N. Bassett. John C. Pepper was the attorney in all of the cases for the defendants in the Circuit Court, except Courtney Drury. The case will be found to be reported in the 46th volume of Illinois Reports. The property involved in the suit against William Drury was that which contains the fine residence occupied by William Drury when he died.

Among the attorneys of Mercer County, John M. Wilson has been practicing law for some ten years or more, and is now state's attorney, serving his second term in that office.

A very prominent young attorney practicing in Mercer County for some four or five years was George Burnett, also his father. They both came from Michigan to Illinois and the father had been a Methodist minister there, and engaged with others in tearing up the Michigan Central Railroad, and the elder Burnett had resigned from the ministry and barely escaped the state prison, and removed to Mercer County. He was quite an intelligent man, but was not a successful lawyer, for he seemed to have the idea that the law was based upon such technicalities that it was not created to promote justice but to defeat justice; but the younger man was a well-read lawyer and could make a fine, logical argument. He afterwards removed to Madison County at Edwardsville, and was for many years chief counsel in St. Louis of the Wabash Railroad Company; and his father removed to Montgomery County from Aledo.

John C. Wharton was another attorney in Mercer County and held the office of state's attorney for eight years. He was educated at the college at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, read law there with Woolson & Babb and then read law with Isaac N. Bassett in Aledo, and in 1875 commenced the practice of law in Aledo as a co-partner with Isaac N. Bassett, and was elected state's attorney in 1876 and again in 1880, and continued to practice law with I. N. Bassett until 1888, when he removed to Omaha, Nebraska, where he is still living, being at the present time postmaster of Omaha. Mr. Wharton was a fine trial attorney and tried a great many cases in the Mercer Circuit Court, and was an excellent prosecutor as state's attorney. He was

also quite a politician, being a republican, and was a speaker not only in Mercer County, but in other counties, on political questions.

Frank Martin was another Mercer County lawyer who read law with John C. Pepper, and was married to Mr. Pepper's oldest daughter. Mr. Martin removed to Fall City, Nebraska, and engaged in practice there, and some years later removed to Omaha and was an attorney of prominence and ability. He is now dead.

Of the other attorneys mentioned in Mercer County who are now living, it is not deemed proper to say anything particular in regard to their ability. But the Mercer County bar still maintains a high position and has taken a very active part in endeavoring to have the members of the bar of the county take high, ethical positions.

There was a local bar association formed more than forty years ago which had for its object the purpose of encouraging all the members of the bar in becoming proficient in their profession, and especially in observing the ethical rules applicable to the members of the profession; and its further object to cultivate kindly, social feelings between the members of the bar, and to adopt some rules in reference to the fee bills in the trial of costs. It is very difficult, however, to adopt any rules fixing the prices to be charged by attorneys for their services, and any fee bill that was fixed by the association would be only to fix the minimum fee to be charged, and it was of very little service to the bar or to anyone else.

The association, however, has been of great benefit otherwise to the bar, to the court, to the litigants, and to the people of the county, by arranging the dockets and arranging the time when a jury was to be called, and having their cases fixed so that the litigants did not have to remain with their witnesses for several days awaiting trials, and so as not to keep jurors and other officers on expense awaiting jury trials while the pleadings were being settled and the cases tried that were submitted to the court.

There are other attorneys that have not been mentioned that were perhaps of equal importance, some forgotten or overlooked; and many of those not mentioned, as well as those mentioned, who were not prominent in practice and were not identified with cases that were deemed of great importance.

Alexander McArthur, however, who has not been mentioned, served as clerk of the Circuit Court, and afterwards settled at Washington City, and practiced at Denver for a few years and came to Aledo, was quite a prominent attorney, being at one time a copartner of George A. Cooke, the present Supreme Court justice, and served for a number of years as master in chancery.

John C. Pepper, Benj. C. Taliaferro and Isaac N. Bassett were delegates to the Illinois state convention that inaugurated and formed the Illinois State Bar Association at Springfield in 1877; Mr. Pepper and Mr. Taliaferro both being dead, and Mr. Bassett still being a member of the association. Robert L. Watson, William T. Church and William J. Graham are also members of the Illinois State Bar Association.

The Illinois State Bar Association at its first meeting appointed a committee to procure an enactment of a law creating the Appellate Court of the State of Illinois, and through the efforts of that committee the Appellate Court act was passed. The Illinois State Bar Association has been active in procuring other legislation; among the acts was one reforming the practice act. Another act has been before the Legislature for two years; an act proposed by the Illinois State Bar Association to make a sweeping change of the practice act, but the act has never been passed upon by the Legislature.

Among other attorneys in Mercer County was Charles J. Bartleson, who read law with John S. Thompson, and was admitted to practice about 1870, and removed to Minneapolis, Minnesota, some five or six years later and became a prominent attorney there, and subsequently removed to Spokane, Washington, where he died in 1912. He was a very able lawyer and had some very important litigation while remaining in Minneapolis.

Among other important cases in the Circuit Court of Mercer County was one against John Valentine in the April term, 1865. Valentine was indicted for murder for killing a woman in Richland Grove Township, and in the first trial in the Mercer Circuit Court the jury disagreed, on second trial he was found guilty of murder, but on motion a new trial was granted and then the defendant took a change of venue to Henry County. George W. Pleasants was one of his attorneys, and was elected judge of the Circuit Court, which included Henry County, and consequently the case was continued for a time on account of the judge not being competent to sit on his trial, and the only witnesses that could testify against him died or left the State of Illinois so that they could not be procured, and he was acquitted. Subsequently this same John Valentine killed a man in Henry County, and was tried, convicted and hung for the crime.

In the spring of 1856 there was a conspiracy entered into by four men—David Bradbury, Frank Folmsby, Walter Hatch and James Pullen—to burglarize a gun shop in Keithsburg, get arms, and then proceed to rob indiscriminately the people in the Village of Keithsburg. One of the conspirators, however, entered into the agreement

under the advice of some friends in Keithsburg. James Pullen, who was acquainted with the persons and to whom they proposed for him to be a party in the burglary and robbery, made the agreement with them on the advice of friends, and time was fixed in which they would go in the night and enter the gun shop, arm themselves, and then proceed to the robbery. Pullen informed the authorities in Keithsburg of the time fixed for the burglary, and with the other three he came from the Iowa side in a skiff to Keithsburg at a late hour in the night and proceeded to enter the gun shop; Pullen being among the first to enter there, and another one entering, when the police, who were secreted near by, appeared on the scene. Bradbury and Pullen were arrested; the other two got in the skiff and escaped, but Hatch was arrested a day or two afterwards. Bradbury was subsequently tried, convicted and sent to the penitentiary; Hatch took a change of venue to Rock Island County, and was imprisoned there in the jail with a provision that he might be released by giving bond for \$1,500 for his appearance for trial. In lieu of giving bond the sheriff accepted \$1,500 and let Hatch go free and he never appeared. Subsequently the board of supervisors authorized Isaac N. Bassett, who was then treasurer of Mercer County, to proceed against Rock Island County to recover the forfeiture, but the board of supervisors of Rock Island County refused to pay the same, and thereupon suit was brought against the county and judgment recovered for the amount of money deposited, the same having been paid by the sheriff of the county into the county treasury of Rock Island County.

At the December term, 1859, there were on the docket 133 chancery cases; at the April term, 1859, there were 778 common law cases, and the firm of Bassett, Willits & Bassett was engaged in 242 of these cases. The docket was larger than it otherwise would have been on account of the arbitrary position that Judge Thompson took in calling the dockets for trial. He refused to call the docket of the return cases at the first term after the suits were brought, consequently all the cases brought at the term preceding April, 1859, went over to that term, unless they were voluntarily dismissed. There was no authority for the judge to pass the cases over, and if he had called the docket perhaps there would have been 100 cases disposed of on default and as many more tried at the previous term. This resulted also in an injustice to the people of Mercer County especially. The merchants of the county almost universally bought their goods in the market of Chicago, St. Louis or in the eastern cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia. The non-residents of the state could bring their suits in the Federal Court and proceed to get

judgment at once against the merchants for the non-payment of their debts; and the statute then provided that a suit in the state courts might be brought against the defendant in the county where he resided or was found, and also might be brought to the county where the contract of indebtedness was incurred. Consequently persons indebted to merchants in Chicago for goods could be sued in the Chicago courts, where no such arbitrary rules prevailed in regard to calling the docket. The result was that the merchants in Mercer County were prevented from getting judgment and enforcing payment against those indebted to them, while they could be sued in the Federal or Cook County courts, and judgment taken against them.

In the foregoing list of attorneys there were some omissions, among them John F. Main, who was born in this county and was admitted to practice law here and engaged in the active practice for some three or four years in Aledo. He was well educated and about ten or twelve years ago moved to Seattle, Washington, and subsequently was elected judge of the Circuit Court there and in 1913 was elected one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Washington. The following is the list of attorneys who are members of the bar in Mercer County in active practice, including those on the bench, to-wit: Isaac N. Bassett, George A. Cooke, justice of the Supreme Court; Henry E. Burgess, judge of County Court; John M. Wilson, state's attorney; Robert L. Watson, master in chancery; William T. Church, Friend L. Church, William J. Graham, Paul G. Graham, Oscar E. Carlstrom, David A. Hebel, Homer D. Dines, George W. Werts, L. D. Kirkpatrick, and James A. Allen.

CHAPTER XV

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

In the early settlement of the territory there were centers of influence, moral forces, divine light, which are not now appreciated to their full value. There were many in the county at Keithsburg, New Boston, Pleasant Bluff and Duncan Prairie. They did much to give Mercer County a splendid heritage. The men who served in these early days were of a strong, true and noble type. Of these were Revs. Eld. Harris, E. Underwood, J. C. Post, T. M. Matthews, C. C. Moore, J. P. R. Young, William Whitehead, G. W. Benton, J. K. Barry, E. J. Odell. One of these, Elijah Jordan Odell, is still living at his home in Joy, Mercer County, Illinois. He is in good health, and is now at the ripe old age of over ninety, awaiting the reward of his labors. Besides these there were Baptist religious centers at Millersburg, Sugar Grove and Hamlet. The Hamlet Church is now the Reynolds Church, the Sugar Grove and Millersburg interests have been taken up by the present Antioch Church.

The Methodist Church no doubt is the pioneer church of the county, and no doubt it was the first church organization in New Boston. The first church building in the county was erected in New Boston, it being the Methodist. There was a Baptist church in New Boston that may have been erected about the same time; also a Universalist church building erected in New Boston Township near the foot of the bluff. All of these churches in the early history of the county had church organizations and pastors. I do not think the Baptists had any pastor after 1855. A man by the name of Brunhall was the last pastor and held the last services in the church, and the church has long ago been abandoned. The sand has blown in the windows and over it, as it was located south of the Patterson Hotel. It was the general custom of the Methodist people to hold camp meetings in some grove, and in Mercer County the location was in Sugar Grove, northeast of Aledo, about three miles northeast of the north side of Edwards. This was a fine grove of hard maple trees on the farm of John M. Ashbaugh. The meetings were held in that grove for a great many years, and later some time perhaps in the early '70s, they were changed to the east side of the public highway on the land of John Artz, but not more than one-

eighth of a mile from the former place. They have not been held, however, for over thirty years. At these meetings persons came from all over the county and for forty or fifty miles away. A great many of them would bring their families and some live in tents, but the majority of those who camped on the ground had inclosed buildings made of "ruff" lumber. There was a building for the minister, and a platform in front of it where they would speak in conducting the services, and in front of that platform there was a little inclosure of logs, where the zealous shouting Methodists would be seated, and frequently prayer meetings and other special meetings would be held there in that inclosure. It was called by the vulgar "the bull pen," and during the meetings every one seemed to vie with the other in seeing who could make the most noise by responses and by prayer or otherwise. They would join in singing a song, and then in praying, some one being called on to lead, but so many would join in praying and in responding that the leader would not be heard above the din of the other voices. In 1867 at the close of the meeting, which was on Monday, the members present formed in a line some two or three hundred, and then commenced singing, "Shall We Journey to the River," etc., and the one at the head would start and go around and shake hands with all of the others, and then the second, and so on, until the last one had passed around. It was very wonderful and glorious to hear the singing, all joining in the song, and to see the people shake hands with each other with joy and gladness.

Another early Methodist church in the county was in the Village of Berlin, in Richland Grove Township, now the Village of Sewdona. This church was erected in 1834 and is still standing, but the organization no longer exists.

There was a United Brethren church at Keithsburg in the earlier years, Thomas Marlat being the minister, or, at least, one of the earliest ministers. Saint Clair Ross was a minister of that denomination in 1855-56. The church organization went out of existence a great many years ago, and the only United Brethren church in the county is one that now is at Sherrard, in Richland Grove Township. The only Universalist church now existing in the county is one in Suez Township.

The Wesleyan Methodists early in the county history organized in Henry County, and from there the services were commenced at Hopewell, in Rivoli Township, where a church was subsequently organized and remained in existence with a pastor until very recently. The church building is still there, but the society has au-



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. SEATON

thorized the trustees to dispose of the church and close the same. There was one more Wesleyan church in Greene Township, west of Viola, which existed for quite a number of years, and Joshua M. Snyder was the pastor for a great number of years.

There was a Presbyterian church once organized in New Boston about 1870, and erected a church building and had services for a few years, but the society and church have gone out of existence.

The Christian Scientists in Aledo and perhaps some other places have an organization, but no church building.

The Mormons Anti-Polygamists have a small church in Millersburg, but do not have services now, and also have a church in Duncan Township, which still holds services. There is an organization also of some kind in Aledo, but they have a special school held at the private home of Mordecai Terry.

The Spiritualists are and have been for many years tolerably strong in New Boston, and for several years they had Sunday services there in a public hall. They do not have any such services any longer, but have their seances.

The Seventh Day Adventists have a church southwest of Aledo, in Millersburg Township, and a church building. They are the only organization of the kind in the county.

There is a Free Methodist church organization in Sherrard and the only one in the county.

The Free Presbyterian Church had an organization in the Carnahan Settlement, east of Aledo, in Greene Township, and in the Kiddoo Settlement, west of Aledo and south of Joy in Millersburg Township, some time prior to 1852. There was a church building by the society in the Kiddoo neighborhood and the services in the Carnahan neighborhood were held in a building that was used for some other purpose. Probably Joseph Whitham was the first pastor in 1852, or about that time, to 1856. Then the Rev. James S. Poage came to Aledo and a society was organized here in 1859 or 1860, and a church was erected on the ground where the Methodist Episcopal Church now stands, and the original Free Presbyterian Church is part of the Methodist Church that is now reconstructed. Rev. James S. Poage served as pastor for all three of the churches until they were disorganized some time after the close of the Civil war, about 1867 or 1868, and no church of that denomination now exists in the county. Rev. James S. Poage was one of the ablest ministers of any denomination in the county. A man of excellent ability and very popular with the people; he died in Aledo about ten years ago.

There was an Episcopal church erected in Aledo some time between 1865 and 1870 on the lot just east of the north park, where

Mr. Hartman now lives. The Reverend Mr. Chamberlain was for many years the pastor of that church and one or two others at different times whose names I do not remember, were installed as pastors. The church was very feeble and had to have assistance in the erection of its building and in the payment of the pastor, and services ceased some thirty years ago, and the church building and lot was sold to Mr. Hartman about three years ago. He took down the building and erected his private residence on the ground. So far as can be learned there never has been any other Episcopal church society in the county.

There was a German Lutheran church organized in Aledo in the early years of 1856 or 1857 and the Reverend Mr. Hammer was the pastor for some two or three years, and they had services in Aledo every alternate Sunday, but the church was disorganized during the early '60s and the Swedish Lutheran Church has taken its place subsequently.

There was a Congregational church organization in Viola in the early '50s. There was a Congregational church organized in Aledo about 1868 and they erected a building on the southeast corner of College Avenue and Tenth Street, which is now occupied by George Werts, Sr. The church was organized particularly through the instrumentality of Judge John S. Thompson. Judge Thompson had become, with his wife, a member of the Presbyterian Church of Aledo, and in a few years thereafter the minister of the church, Mr. Williams, got into a quarrel and the judge took part in the quarrel and organized a second Presbyterian church. After the Second Presbyterian Church was organized, about 1868, a few years, the Congregational Church was organized by him, and the most of the members of the Second Presbyterian Church went with him and the Second Church went out of existence. This church remained until some time in 1893 or 1894, perhaps a little later, and among the ministers was Rev. Robert Nourse, for two or three years, who was a very able minister and afterwards became a lecturer of some notoriety in the United States. The church had some very prominent persons as members and held a very prominent position for years, but on account of deaths of some of the members, it was deemed wise to disorganize. The church at Viola also went out of existence. There is a Congregational church now at Sherrard, and one in New Windsor, which are still in existence.

In 1856 there were but three Free Presbyterian churches in the county, viz.: (1) In the Kiddoo neighborhood near what is now

Joy; (2) in the Carnahan neighborhood east of what is now Aledo; and (3) in Aledo, the latter being established by Rev. J. S. Poage. The negroes having been freed during the Civil war, the Free Presbyterian Church went out of existence soon afterward. Mr. Poage then became a member of the Presbyterian Church, but in the '70s served the Congregational congregations at Aledo, New Windsor and Rio.

The Mercer County Ministerial Association has been in existence ever since soon after the Civil war and has done much to prevent a clash of the sects or creeds. Their mission is one of peace for all seekers after righteousness and salvation. Prominent ministers from abroad often address this association. In 1870 they held a four days' convention at Aledo and ended with a grand concert, of which Prof. P. P. Bliss, of Chicago, the famous sacred musical composer, was conductor.

The County Bible Society and the County Sunday School Association have been prominent and active for a great many years. It would be difficult to tell all the good they have accomplished. In 1888 there were forty-three Sunday schools in the county, with a total membership of 3,489. The Sabbath school workers held normal institutes with much success. Thomas Candor was for many years president of the County Bible Society.

Occasionally, conferences of the different denominations have been held in this county. George R. Wendling replied to Robert G. Ingersoll at Aledo in June, 1878. An immense audience heard him. Right Reverend Bishop Burgess spoke here about the same time on "When He Came to Himself," from the parable of the prodigal son. At all times in early years the camp meetings at Sugar Grove were famous for the religious zeal kindled, the number of church members secured and the remarkable sermons of the old-time ministers.

The great revival of Reed and Grant in 1899 was a memorable religious advancement. They were given a chorus of 100 voices. At the first meeting were 600 persons. Twenty converts were secured in the first four days and 125 at the end of one week. But the revival conducted by "Billy" Sunday in 1905 surpassed anything of the kind ever held here. A total of 959 converts were secured in two weeks at Aledo and the contributions amounted to \$1,919.13. He went to Keithsburg and conducted a few stirring meetings. Wood and Rice, evangelists, were here in 1910 and secured a number of converts. Evangelist Redding held forth at the Methodist Church, Aledo, in February, 1913. In 1907 Hicks and Galloway, evangelists,

conducted a series of meetings at Keithsburg and in the end secured 456 converts. This was a grand awakening.

Now will follow a more specific description of the churches late and early so far as information has been received after persistent inquiry.

The first meeting for the purpose of organizing a church at Aledo was held at a schoolhouse near the village, November 8, 1856. The Rev. William Townley, Rev. John H. Nevius, together with Thomas Candor, an elder of the Pope River Presbyterian Church, were the committee appointed for the purpose of organizing a new church at Aledo. Services were held on that day and on Sabbath, November 9th, and the organization was completed on Monday, November 10th. The members who joined at that time were: James Officer and Mary Jane Officer, his wife; Jacob Vanbuskirk and Mary Ann Vanbuskirk, his wife; William McCandless and Sarah Ann McCandless, his wife; John McKee, Martha Detwiler, David Brown, Edgar Allen and Eliza Allen, his wife; Simeon Macy and Amanda M. Macy, his wife; Eliza B. Townley, Hattie B. Townley and Margaret Beck. The first elders were William W. McCandless and Edgar Allen, and the first deacon was Jacob Vanbuskirk. Rev. E. K. Lynn was the first installed pastor. The first board of trustees was Simeon Macy, John McKee and John S. Thompson. Rev. William Townley, formerly of Crown Point, Indiana, was the first minister. On July 18, 1858, Mrs. Mary Wilson, widow of Judge J. M. Wilson, was received on certificate from the church of Galesburg, Illinois, and has been a member of this church longer than any other person at this time.

The first church building used by the church organization in Aledo was in the Hollenbaek House. The first church built was the present building in 1871 and dedicated December 31st. The present membership of this church is about four hundred and fifty and the present pastor is Rev. Arnold E. Moody. There are Presbyterian churches in Mercer County in Keithsburg, Seaton, Viola, Millersburg, Perryton, Norwood, Hamlet, Peniel and Aledo.

Previous to the close of the Black Hawk war the territory now occupied by the counties of Mercer, Henderson and Warren was very sparsely settled, but with the year 1834 settlers began to arrive, chiefly from Pennsylvania, Ohio and the Carolinas. Soon after, they began to make provisions for religious organizations and the building of churches. In old Henderson a congregation was organized in 1830 among the Paxtons, Turnbulls, Rodgers, Nashes, Kendalls, Sunlies, Panes, Morrisons and Atchisons. Cedar Creek

Associate Reformed Church was organized in 1835 among the McCrearys, Brownlees, Arthurs, Hannas, Martins, Maleys, Porters, McCoys, Gibsons and Wallaces. Pope Creek, now Sunbeam, Associate Reformed Congregation was organized in 1842 among the Neviuses, McCreights, Pollocks, McPherrens, Smiths, Rices, Dilleys, Hardys, Moores and Jays.

Before the organization of church societies in Mercer County, some families from near what is now Aledo and vicinity frequently went on special occasions and were entertained for days among their friends in Warren County, at Cedar Creek and Henderson.

In the center of the ridge extending east and west through what is now Mercer County, were located the Carnahans, Collinses, McGaheys, Russells, Stewarts, Haverfields, Galloways and others who had been raised in the Associate Reformed churches. These felt they must have church services of their own, hence in 1853 or 1854, Rev. Matthew Bigger, pastor at Pope Creek Associate Reformed Church, preached occasionally to these few members of the Associate Reformed Church living in Millersburg Township. Services were generally held in the home of Samuel Carnahan, or sometimes in the schoolhouse near his place.

On September 22, 1855, Rev. Matthew Bigger, with R. M. Miller and Samuel Wright, proceeded to organize a congregation in Millersburg, with the following charter members: Samuel Carnahan, Sr., Mrs. Jane Carnahan, James Haverfield, Mrs. Mary Haverfield, William Haverfield, Mrs. Ruie Haverfield, Samuel Carnahan, Jr., Mrs. Emeline Carnahan, David Galloway, Mrs. Jerusha Galloway, Miss Elizabeth Galloway, Mary Ellen Galloway, Miss Isabel Galloway, James S. Russell, Mary C. Russell.

Samuel Carnahan, Sr., and William Haverfield were elected elders of the church. Rev. David C. Cochran was installed as the first regular pastor, November 9, 1856, and continued two years. He was also pastor of the Twin Grove (now Viola) and Millersburg congregations. The first organization was effected at Millersburg.

In 1856 the Town of Aledo was laid out and the name of Millersburg congregation was soon afterward changed to Aledo. In the fall of 1856 Reverend Bigger and his family moved to Aledo and he often preached here in the evening, having preached to the Pope Creek charge in the morning. In 1858 the Associate Presbyterian Church and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church were united and has since been known as the United Presbyterian Church.

The society was without a house of worship and services were held in the Free Presbyterian (now Methodist Episcopal Church),

in the courthouse and in the house known as the James Smith House, which was then occupied as a boarding house by David Calhoun, and stood on the corner of Locust and Second streets. Occasionally Reverend Bigger preached in the home of Samuel Carnahan, in the Carnahan schoolhouse and the Kiddoo Free Presbyterian Church, as the majority of the members still lived west of Aledo.

About this time the Civil war broke out and Doctor Bigger left to serve as chaplain of the Fiftieth Regiment of Illinois Infantry. The congregation grew discouraged and could not support a minister, and it was decided that the organization must die out. However, the presbytery sent out pastors to preach to this congregation, among whom were Dr. D. A. Wallace, Rev. J. A. Reynolds, Dr. Alexander Young and others, and the congregation took on new life.

Rev. John R. McAlister was installed as pastor in October, 1862, and soon after he took charge steps were taken toward the erection of a house of worship. At that time there were but thirteen male members and some of these were able to render little financial assistance. Lumber had to be hauled from the river and the price of material was very high in war times. Farmer members did the hauling. The entire cost of the building was \$2,400, and was erected on the site of the present church building. Services were first held in the new building, September 2, 1864. During Reverend McAlister's pastorate, the church increased in membership and interest. December 22, 1868, Alexander W. Clokey assumed charge. In August, 1873, Thomas B. Turnbull, a student from the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, preached a sermon in Aledo. He was called to the charge April 16, 1873, having in the meantime been ordained.

By 1874 the old building had become inadequate to meet the needs of the increased congregation and the old building was sold to the Swedish Lutheran Congregation for \$400, and it was moved from the lot. In due time a new building was completed and occupied.

June 25, 1877, a tornado passed over the Town of Aledo and the church was damaged to quite an extent. Steps were at once taken to repair the church, which cost about \$2,200. In the spring of 1882 the congregation decided to complete the auditorium, and on March 8, 1883, the new church was dedicated by Rev. Thomas Hanna, of Monmouth College. The cost of the building when completed was nearly thirteen thousand dollars.

Reverend Turnbull resigned as pastor of this charge and his successor was William J. McCrory, who took charge April 28, 1885.



SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALEDO, ERECTED 1904 OLD CHURCH, ERECTED 1875

He remained two years and under his pastoral charge the congregation purchased a parsonage, March 7, 1887, from Mrs. Sarah J. Macy, the cost being \$1,200. In 1891 this property was sold and property was bought in the Willits and Thompson Addition at a cost of \$1,500, and this is the present parsonage.

The next pastor was Rev. David M. Cleland, who remained from April 5, 1888, to September 2, 1889. The next pastor was William M. Story, April 13, 1891, to September 9, 1902.

On Sunday, December 3, 1893, just after the congregation had assembled for worship, the church was discovered to be on fire, and although strenuous efforts were made to save the building, it was completely destroyed. However, the pews and most of the furniture were saved and were installed in the new brick building, which was erected during the summer of 1894, and was dedicated on October 24th of that year, the dedicatory sermon being preached by Rev. W. W. White, D. D. In the meantime services had been held in the Congregational Church. On the 20th of October, 1903, Rev. William G. Martin assumed pastoral charge. The present membership is 130.

The Aledo Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the spring of 1857 by Rev. J. Shelton, then traveling Camden, now Milan circuit. In the fall of 1857 Aledo was connected with Millersburg circuit and D. A. Faulkenburg was appointed pastor. J. P. McEwen was appointed leader of this new society. The additional members were Mary McEwen, Mary M. Cool, Harriet Criss (afterwards Harriet Laughlin), Mr. Hawkins and wife, Elizabeth Baxter, Charles Moore and wife. The first Methodist service held in Aledo was in a barn located on the east side of block No. 60, lot 4 (the block on which 'Squire Young now resides). The property belonged to Mr. Manning, who, with his wife, afterward became prominent members of the church. The subsequent appointments to Millersburg circuit while Aledo was connected with Millersburg were as follows: In 1858-59, L. R. Crouch; 1860, B. E. Kaufman; 1861-62, J. D. Taylor; 1863, G. C. Woodruff; 1864, J. D. Taylor. In 1865 Aledo was first appointed an independent charge, with M. D. Heckard as pastor; 1866, A. P. Hull; 1867-68, Frank Smith. During the incumbency of Reverend Smith the first vote was taken on lay representation. In 1869-70, G. I. Bailey; 1871-72-73, M. Spurlock. During the pastorate of Reverend Spurlock there was a revival in the church and nine men were taken into membership, of whom part are still members. In 1874-75, M. C. Bowlin was pastor. During the pastorate of J. D. Taylor, John S. Thompson, one of the

founders of the town of Aledo, gave the building now occupied by Mrs. Lucian Doughty, on lots 1 and 4, block 64, to the Methodist Church for a parsonage. The building then consisted of walls ready for ceiling joist. Reverend Taylor raised money and finished the building, which was occupied as a parsonage until it was sold and a building on lot 8, block 29 (the house across the street west of Mrs. Hause) was purchased for a parsonage. This was used as such until the coming of Reverend Spurlock, when a larger building was rented. During the pastorate of Reverend Bowlin the building now occupied as a parsonage was built and has been used until the present day. In 1876-77, W. M. Collins; 1878-79, A. R. Morgan; 1880, William McPheeters; 1881, J. G. Evans; 1882-83, John D. Smith; 1884-85-86-87, William Woolley; 1888-89-90-91, A. R. Brown; 1892-93, John Wilkenson; 1894, D. F. Wilson; 1895, R. G. Pierce; 1896-97-98-99, A. M. Stocking; 1900-01-02, J. W. Edwards; 1903, U. Z. Gilmer; 1905-06, G. C. Shaffer; 1907-08-09-10-11, T. S. Pittenger; 1912-13, J. B. Bartle. In 1862, under the administration of J. D. Taylor, the society purchased a half interest in the Free Presbyterian Church. In 1865 the Free Presbyterians sold their remaining interest in the building to the Methodists. The church was overhauled.

During the pastorate of Reverend Brown in 1890 the west twenty feet of the church was removed and the present auditorium, 42 by 60 feet, was built and the building made as good as new, and has continued to be the house of worship for the Methodist Episcopal Church from that time to the present.

Spiritually the church has had its ups and downs. Under some pastors deep spiritual interest seemed to be manifested in the lives of the members and some wonderful revivals have taken place and many additions won to the church. Most important as far as members are concerned was the ingathering after the union revival services under the leadership of Rev. William Sunday.

The church has had a steady growth in members since the organization and today holds a position of influence for good in the City of Aledo.

It has always maintained a healthy, progressive, spiritual Sunday school and with rare exceptions, good faithful officials, and has been the means of doing much good in the community and today it has a Sunday school second to none in the county. There are about two hundred and twenty-five present every Sabbath; sometimes the number reaches 325. A fine band of young people are found in the Epworth League and all organizations of a wide-awake church are found here.

The annual conference of 1913 reported a membership of five probationers and 495 full members. During the present year 105 have been received into membership. Following are the present members of the official board: R. J. McDonald, D. A. Hebel, J. R. Sheats, Thomas Hartman, J. G. Carlson, W. A. Lorimer, W. Pfitzenmaier, E. E. Thompson, D. E. Farr, Joseph Harbour, C. N. Vertrees, J. P. Nesbitt, J. M. Nesbitt, C. A. Anderson, T. C. Henderson, C. K. Marquis, Sidney Bolton, B. F. Townsley, D. D. Clark, B. F. Cullison, H. E. Burgess, M. C. Danford, H. H. Winger, W. C. Egbert, Harry Morgan, W. J. Brown, E. R. Burke.

On January 5, 1867, the First Baptist Church of Aledo was organized with the following constituent members: Moses White, John B. Taliaferro, Mrs. Lydia Wellett, Mrs. Ann Jones, Sarah Cash, Mary Taliaferro, Gwen Clifford, Amelia A. Burgess, Malinda Burgess, Jane C. Shafer, Aloan Harroun, N. J. Harroun, Aaron Patterson, C. W. Kay and R. H. Day. The first pastor was Rev. J. C. Post and the first clerk, R. H. Day. The first trustees elected were: William B. Crapnell, C. M. Kay, J. B. Taliaferro, Moses White, Aaron B. Shafer, Robert H. Day and Aaron Patterson. The first deacons chosen were Moses White and John B. Taliaferro. The church building was erected in 1875 on the present courthouse square and was moved to the present site in 1894. It has had some periods of great difficulty but in this year of Our Lord 1914 it has a membership of over eighty, is free from all debt, is beautiful in spirit, active, and in better condition for a larger work than at any time in its history. The present officers of the church are: Pastor, Rev. J. M. Jones, who has been with the church now over five years; deacons, J. U. David, C. L. Baldwin, D. J. Odell, J. P. Berglund, W. H. Odell; trustees, C. L. Baldwin, D. J. Odell and John P. Berglund; church clerk, Mrs. G. J. Clifford; treasurer, Mrs. D. J. Odell; organist, Miss Bernice Baldwin. Bible school officers: Superintendent, O. S. Day; assistant superintendent, Clyde Baldwin; secretary, Lon Day; treasurer, W. H. Odell; primary superintendent, Mrs. Grace Gleason Ruse. Young People's Society officers: President, Miss Bernice Baldwin; vice president, Miss Ada Gleason; secretary, Miss Opel Ketchum; Ladies' Circle officers: President, Mrs. C. L. Baldwin; vice president, Mrs. D. J. Odell; secretary, Mrs. G. J. Clifford. Officers of Missionary Circle are: President, Mrs. C. L. Baldwin; vice president, Mrs. D. J. Odell; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Anna Black.

Special mention should be made in this connection of Mrs. G. J. Clifford, the only one of the present membership who joined the

church at the organization, and who is now the efficient clerk and a most active and loyal supporter.

The Congregational Church at Aledo was organized February 15, 1869. They built a house of worship at once and dedicated it July 3, 1870; it cost about four thousand five hundred dollars. The first trustees were John S. Thompson, Horace E. Wright and P. Roberts; clerk and treasurer, U. S. Boice. Rev. P. F. Warner became first pastor and continued as such until 1872. Rev. Robert Nourse was pastor from 1874 to 1877. Rev. W. E. Smith became pastor in 1880.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran at Aledo was organized May 19, 1873, Rev. A. Andreen presiding. At the start there were about forty members. They were without a church building until March, 1877, when they bought the old United Presbyterian Church for \$400 and removed it to its present site and there refitted it at a cost of about two thousand dollars. The first trustees were J. O. Lundblad, P. Ringdall, Charles Neiberg and Samuel Anderson; deacons, C. Bjorkman, C. Runborn, John E. Swomsen and O. G. Olsen. Rev. Andreen, the first pastor, was succeeded by Rev. Nils Fersander. T. H. Winguist was pastor in 1878. In 1882 the membership was about eighty. In 1902 the old building was torn down and a fine new structure erected at a cost of about eight thousand dollars. A parsonage was built at the same time. Rev. J. B. G. Idstram was pastor in 1893; he was succeeded by Rev. A. T. Lundholm.

The Episcopal Church at Aledo was organized in 1870 and became an independent congregation in 1882. Their church built late in the '70s cost about four thousand dollars. Among the early rectors were Reverends Chamberlain, Brown, Gates, Allen and Farrar.

The Seventh Day Adventists held services in Aledo beginning in 1869 and continuing several years under Rev. R. F. Andrews. Finally their efforts were turned to the Marsh schoolhouse where a strong society of that faith was formed.

In November, 1909, Rev. Father Walsh of Keithsburg organized a Catholic Congregation in Aledo, one of the leading first members being Patrick O'Day. Previous to this date the few Catholics at Aledo were included in the Keithsburg parish and congregation. Plans to build a church were laid and the work was soon afterward commenced. St. John's Catholic Church at Viola and St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Preemption had been organized for several years and in 1908 had been made separate parishes under Rev. Father McKinney.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of New Boston was organized in July, 1838, at the residence of Emily Burleigh. The following named were charter members: Joseph Alyea, Thorlea Alyea, Thomas Alyea, Mary Alyea, Dr. Edmond Harrell, Mr. Butler and Emily Burleigh. New Boston at that time constituted a part of what was known as Mercer Mission. The first resident pastor was Rev. George Smith, who first conducted services in the home of Emily Burleigh and later in the home of Joseph Alyea. After a year Reverend Smith was succeeded in the pastorate by Rev. Thomas M. Kirkpatrick, who remained for a similar period. He was succeeded by Reverends McMurtry, Wilson and Burr. In 1866 the society erected a parsonage at a cost of \$1,500, and in 1876 a church was erected at a cost of \$6,000. Methodist services in New Boston were first held in the spring and summer of 1835 in the house of Mr. McMurphy, and the second quarterly meeting of this mission was held at the residence of Lewis Noble in March, 1835. Rev. John Jordan had charge of the services and Samuel Pinkley was class leader. The first church was erected in 1845. The New Boston charge was organized in 1857 and included Keithsburg and Antioch. The parsonage was built in 1865. Among the pastors have been Smith, Kirkpatrick, McMurtry, Pitner, Wiley, Burr, Smith Ross, Giddings, Whatman, Hadley, Oliver, Clark, Rhodes, Morey, Woodruff, Taylor, Bartles, Scott, Wesley, Ashbaugh, Wasmuth, Bailey, Brown and others later. A new church was erected in 1875-6. The congregation still worships in the city. The old church building is used as a city hall. A new parsonage was built in 1911. The present membership does not exceed fifty.

The Baptist Society at New Boston was organized in 1844, by Elder Hovey, with the following as charter members: William Denison and wife, James Denison and wife, Harrison Smith and wife, M. Poffenbarger and wife, E. A. Crapnell and wife, William Crapnell, William Noble and wife, Mr. and Mrs. McChesney and Miss Williamson. Elder Hovey remained in the pastorate here for five years, when he was succeeded by Elder Brimhall, who remained in charge until 1854 and was the last resident pastor. In 1845 the congregation commenced the erection of a house of worship, but this was not completed until 1848. This building was destroyed by a wind storm in 1859.

A Presbyterian Society was organized in New Boston in February, 1857, with the following charter members: Mrs. Eva Nevius, Mrs. Joseph Kane, Mrs. M. J. Edwards, Mrs. Sarah Poffenbarger, Mrs. M. J. McLaughlin and G. W. Crabb. In 1868 a church build-

ing was erected at a cost of more than six thousand dollars. The first pastor was Rev. S. G. Hair. For want of support the church has long since abandoned its meetings.

A Universalist Church was organized in New Boston Township, perhaps as early as 1844. Very little concerning it can be learned. It is probable that among the early members were Dudley Willits, William Willits, Joseph Graham, Walter Pryne, Joseph Glancey, William Drury, Tyler McWhorter, H. H. Roberts, Brady Willits, J. I. Arnold, L. W. Myers and R. S. Cramer. A church was built about four miles east of New Boston at the bluff and was generally referred to as the "Bluff Church." Rev. M. Slade was pastor of this congregation in 1865. The church seems to have had a large membership and in connection with the Universalist Society at Suez appears to have exerted a strong influence throughout the county. They held several church conventions in the courthouse at Aledo in the '50s and '60s, on which occasions President Skinner, a Universalist, of Lombard University, was present and delivered addresses. Such an assembly met in July, 1858, and present were Reverends Gregg, Brown and Abbott. President Skinner was here also. All delivered addresses. In May, 1858, the Henderson River Universalist Association met in the schoolhouse at Aledo and listened to President Skinner and other able ministers and speakers. In June, 1878, the Bluff Church was burned down, presumably by an incendiary, shortly after having been repaired. It was not rebuilt.

There was a strong Free Thinkers' movement at New Boston in the '50s and '60s. The following announcement appeared in the Aledo Record in August, 1860:

A meeting of the Friends of Progress will be held in New Boston, Illinois, on Saturday and Sunday, 8th and 9th of September, 1860; meeting with convene on Saturday at 2 o'clock P. M.

The call for this meeting is designed to meet one of the real wants of society. Earnest and thinking minds are scattered through our community, whose aspirations for Truth and Freedom have destroyed their affinity for the proscriptive spirit of popular religious organization. Such minds feel the want of congenial communion in an atmosphere of Freedom and need awakening as only the association of kindred minds can inspire.

Reformers! Friends of Man! All who feel a desire to promote the cause of Truth and Progress—brothers, sisters, without distinction, let us meet together and freely reason on any subject that pertains to human happiness. Full long have we been taught the essential wickedness of human nature. Let us meet to exchange the

Truth which the Infinite within us has taught us and to read in each other's hearts the pleasing reality that human nature is essentially good. So shall we consecrate the time and the place while we aid each other in the great work of attaining a higher, better and more harmonious life. Able speakers from abroad are expected to meet with us. Preparations will be made to entertain friends from a distance. (Signed) Dudley Willits, William Drury, Joseph Graham, Tyler McWhorter, J. I. Arnold, H. H. Roberts, L. W. Myers and R. S. Cramer, Committee of Arrangements.

In 1861 Elder Gaston of the Christian denomination and Dudley Willits debated in the courthouse at Aledo, the question of the Authenticity of the Bible. In January, 1865, the Free Thinkers of New Boston Township celebrated the birthday of Thomas Paine. Walter J. Pepper was the principal speaker on this occasion. In May, 1868, the Free Thinkers or Liberalists held a convention in Robert's Hall, New Boston, for the purpose of organizing a county society. Present were J. T. Rouse, Mrs. S. E. Warner and J. S. Loveland, all of whom addressed the convention. R. S. Cramer was corresponding secretary of the organization. The next year the Liberalists and Spiritualists united and held a convention in Scott's Hall, New Boston, on which occasion a strong lecture was delivered by E. V. Wilson. The organization had its maximum strength at this time.

In June, 1867, William Drury, Mrs. R. S. Scudder, Mrs. William P. Myers, Mrs. A. J. Hollowell, Tyler McWhorter, John Roberts, Samuel Hollowell and R. S. Cramer called a convention of the "Friends of Progress," to be held at New Boston on the 29th of that month. The call said, "All who believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Universal Brotherhood of Man; in the progress of intellectual, religious and political liberty, and are willing to labor that right and knowledge shall supersede might and ignorance, are cordially invited to meet with us and partake in the social greetings and intellectual discussions of the occasion."

The Presbyterian congregation at Keithsburg was not permanently organized until 1857 and at the start had twenty-eight members. Joseph P. Wycoff and Paul Sheriff were elected ruling elders and Dr. I. N. Anderson deacon. Harvey Senter, A. B. Sheriff and Paul Sheriff were first trustees; Rev. E. K. Lynn was first supply, and Rev. Samuel Hart first regular pastor. Before the regular organization, in 1857, Presbyterians in Keithsburg quite often attended the church in Ohio Grove Township. In 1866 the congregation bought a church organ and the next year a large bell was

obtained. In 1875 the church was much improved at a cost of \$1,000. The church society is in a prosperous condition at the present time.

During the '40s religious services were conducted in Keithsburg occasionally by visiting ministers of various denominations, among whom were Reverend Crittenden, Reverend Vail, of the Presbyterian faith and Reverend Gregg, a Universalist. Methodist ministers also visited this community and held services from time to time, the meetings being conducted wherever a room could be found to accommodate the people. The first Methodist services were held in the house of John W. Nevius in 1838 by Rev. Asa McMurtry. Other meetings were held in the house of B. L. Hardin. A Sunday school was held as early as 1844 in a cooper shop that stood on the corner of Main and Seventh streets, but it was not until August, 1849, that the first regularly organized Sunday school was established here. In the spring of 1850 a second school was organized in the brick school-house and John Kile served as its first superintendent. At that time Mrs. Thomas Hiatt was the only person of the Methodist faith living in the Town of Keithsburg; but shortly afterward Col. George S. Pierce, also a Methodist settled here. In the country lived John Wilson, James Gibson, B. L. Hardin, John Kile and John Eckley, all Methodists, but it was not always possible for them to attend services in town, so that it became necessary to reorganize the school and W. L. Mathews was chosen superintendent. B. C. Cabeen taught the Bible class and other early teachers and active workers were Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Hiatt. From this society finally developed the church organization, which was made a part of the New Boston circuit and meetings were held every two weeks in Keithsburg. In the fall of 1851 a church building was erected on the northwest corner of block 13, at a cost of nearly two thousand dollars. It was not finished and dedicated, however, until 1853, Reverend Chandler of Peoria, having charge of the dedicatory services. The first regular pastor was Rev. Pierce T. Rhodes, who was succeeded by Rev. C. M. Wright. In 1860 Keithsburg charge was taken from New Boston circuit and made a separate charge. Other early pastors who served this organization were Revs. Job Mills, Steward, J. L. Phares, Stafford, G. W. Brown, J. Winsor, S. Brink, A. R. Morgan, L. B. Dennis, J. Smith, Richard Haney, G. W. Martin, C. B. Couch and H. S. Humes.

During the pastoral charge of Rev. Stephen Brink, in 1871, a very successful revival was conducted which resulted in the addition of 100 members to the church. In the following year, 1872, steps



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SEATON

were taken to replace the old house of worship with a more modern and imposing structure. This was dedicated by Bishop McCabe October 29th of that year, the entire cost of the building being \$10,000. It was burned down in 1890 and soon afterward the present structure was erected at a cost of \$7,000. The society now has a considerable membership, and a prosperous Sunday school with a good attendance.

A society of the United Brethren was established at Keithsburg in the winter of 1849-50, the original members being St. Clair Ross and wife, James Goldsberry and wife, Mr. Mapes and wife and a few others. A church building was commenced in 1857 and completed in 1861. Among the early pastors were Reverends Condon, Smith, Wagner, Knowles, Keller, Weaver, Bear, Toll, Watts, Stanley, Speaks, St. Clair Ross, Bugley, Godfrey, Shesler, Davis, Wolf, Pease, Spurlock, Worman and others. At one time it was a strong organization with a large membership.

A society of the Christian denomination was organized in Keithsburg in 1856. Services had been held here for several years earlier by traveling ministers who finally organized the class. Rev. Mr. Davidson of Monmouth supplied the congregation for several years at the start. In 1866 their church was built and at this time the membership was quite large. Among the early pastors were Shortridge, Wallace, Warren, Fisk, Royal, Walker. Their present church was built in comparatively recent years. Their church was rededicated in March, 1909. Levi Ender donated the lot for the church. Services were first held in the courthouse and the schoolhouse.

The Catholics held services in Keithsburg back in the '40s and the families of that faith received occasional visits from priests from Monmouth and elsewhere. Rev. Father Lorimer began to hold regular services here in 1865 and was succeeded by Rev. R. P. O'Neill in 1867. In 1869 the church was built at a cost of about six thousand dollars. Rev. Father Bowles took charge of the parish in 1870. The parsonage was built in 1877-8 at a cost of \$2,000. Other priests in charge at an early date were Fathers Halpin, O'Farrell, Weldon (who was the first to settle in the parish), O'Neill, McKenna, and Corley. In recent years the church has been prosperous, has increased in membership and has furnished the priests to organize other Catholic congregations in this and neighboring counties.

Occasional services were held in Millersburg by the Methodists, probably as early as 1838-9 by ministers from Camden Mills, now Milan, Rock Island County. This town remained a part of the Camden Mills circuit until 1855 when it was set off as the Millers-

burg circuit and at first included Aledo which was later set off as an independent circuit. They began to have regular preaching about 1850, but did not have an organization independent of the Camden Mills Church until 1857, after which date it was a part of the Peoria conference. Elder R. N. Morse officiated at the organization and J. W. Long was secretary. The first pastor was Rev. D. M. Falkenburg and the first class leaders were John Ashbaugh, Jacob Wharton and James Sheriff. Services were held in the schoolhouse until 1854 when the first church building was commenced, but was blown down before it was half completed. Later, work on it was resumed and the structure was completed in 1856 under the pastorate of Rev. Watson Bell. At this time the following official board was organized: Stewards, J. W. Lane, Ambrose Eddy, Joel Collins, Peter Blue, Joseph Richmond, E. C. Bartlett, W. P. Shafer; trustees, James Gibson, Jacob Wharton, Ambrose Eddy, Joseph Richmond and Philip E. Stevens; Sunday school superintendent, Samuel Wharton; class leader, J. M. Gilmore. The old church was taken down and a new one was erected and dedicated in February, 1908. The Joy M. E. Church was built in 1876, but was destroyed by fire in December, 1909. It was promptly rebuilt and was dedicated in August, 1910. The Pomeroy M. E. Church was erected in 1877. Both of these churches were built under the pastorate of Rev. J. J. Walter. The new parsonage at Joy was built in 1908. In recent years Joy has been made the head of the circuit. At present the Millersburg Church has a membership of seventy-five; Pomeroy, twenty-five; Joy, 200. The church organizations are stewards, trustees, Sunday school superintendent, class leader, Epworth League, Junior League, Ladies' Aid Society, W. F. M. Society and W. H. M. Society. The church has had a Sunday school since 1857.

The Presbyterians of Millersburg at first attended the meetings of that faith in the church on Pope's Creek, which had been founded and established in 1837 by Rev. John Montgomery. In fact a number of them became members of that society, but withdrew as soon as a society of that denomination was established in Millersburg in 1839. Regular services were held after this date in the courthouse, but there was no class formed here until about 1843-4. Rev. John Montgomery held the services in the courthouse. In 1844, when the new and commodious schoolhouse was erected, regular services began to be held therein by the Presbyterians, and at this date the following persons were dismissed from the Pope Creek Church in order to organize a class at Millersburg: E. Gilmore, J. M. Gilmore, Henry Lee, Edward Brody, John Brody, J. T. McGinnis, J. G.

Gilmore, A. A. Sherer, Samuel Guffy, John Kiddoo, Graham Lee, David Morrow, H. W. Thornton, Betsey King, Margaret S. Gilmore, Ann J. Taylor, Martha Lee, Mary Marsh, Mary E. Murphy, Sarah E. Lloyd, Sarah Clark, Elizabeth A. Edgar, Elizabeth Davis, Mary M. Steele, Mary Sherer, Eliza Brody, Catherine Gilmore, Tabitha W. Bay, Mary A. McGinnis, Mary Guffy, Eliza Kiddoo, Elizabeth Morrow, E. F. Thornton, Rachel T. Willits and Hannah Reed and enough more to form a class of forty-four members. Services were held in the schoolhouse until 1854, when a building was erected at a cost of \$1,600. It had a seating capacity of 300 and remained in use for many years. Among the early ministers were Revs. John Montgomery, Thomas Vail, L. V. Crittenden, A. Loomis, J. N. Jamison, William Dool, J. McBride, Joel Kennedy and W. B. Phelps. The first elders were Ephraim Gilmore, J. W. Nevius, J. T. McGinnis, J. M. Gilmore and Henry Lee. At one time the society had a membership of 140, but dismissals to other congregations greatly reduced it as time passed. Forty-five members were dismissed to Peniel Church; eighteen to the Hamlet Church, and small bodies to others. A Sunday school was connected with this church as early as 1842, its organization taking place in the courthouse under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Joy was organized in 1874 by Reverend Head. Irregular services were held before that date in the schoolhouse and in the brick church two miles south of the town. The first members in 1874 were J. W. Wood and wife, W. P. Zentmire and wife, Richard Edgar and wife, William Kiddoo and wife, Frank More and wife, K. H. Day and wife, Eliza Kiddoo and Augusta Mays. The first church was built in 1877 at a cost of \$1,800. Among the early pastors were Reverends Head, Walters, Morey, Frizall. The new church was dedicated in 1899; it cost \$10,877.71 and is one of the best in the county.

The Free Presbyterians had an early organization in the southern part of Millersburg Township, among the leading members being James, Richard, William and John Kiddoo. Rev. James S. Poage was the second pastor. Their first church, a brick structure, was erected in 1847 from brick burned by Richard Kiddoo. The first elder was James Kiddoo. The war having ended the object of their existence, the members finally united with the Methodist Church at Joy. The old church had a cemetery and a Sunday school. This old congregation under Reverend Poage was a power for great good in this community.

The first Seventh Day Adventist Church had its origin in the Marsh Schoolhouse a few miles southwest of Aledo and was organized May 14, 1871, under the leadership of Elder R. F. Andrews, who conducted the organization services. The charter members were W. O. Dugan, A. J. Douglas, M. J. Douglas, Joseph Hughs, Elizabeth Hughs, J. C. Middaugh, Nancy Middaugh, Kinsey Cecil, Isaiah Halsted, Reuben Greer, Thomas Greer, Minerva Greer, Jane Rupert, Mary Stiles, Henrietta Mason, Fred Mason, Samuel Mason and J. W. Ditto. The elder was Rev. J. R. Whitham; deacon, Cary Dryden; clerk and treasurer, Mary Miller. The organization of the society was not perfected until 1875. At the first organization W. O. Dugan acted as leader and J. C. Middaugh as clerk. The church building was erected in 1884. The present (1914) membership is sixty-three. The society has no regular minister. The present elders are S. I. Greer and W. A. Marsh; deacon, Howard Hoxie; treasurer, Nelson V. Marsh; clerk, Ella G. Douglas; librarian, Ella F. Marsh.

The Presbyterian congregation, known as Peniel, consisted first of forty-five members who were dismissed from the Millersburg Church in 1871. Many of them lived about four miles south of Millersburg, but had continued to attend for many years the church at that town. Previous to 1871 they had preaching for several years in Pleasant Hill Schoolhouse two miles east of Joy and sometimes attended services in the brick church a mile south of Joy. In 1871 they organized at this brick church and at the start began to raise funds with which to build a church which they completed in 1872 at a cost of \$4,500. It was a frame structure and had a seating capacity of about three hundred. J. Downing donated the ground for the church and cemetery and Edwin Gilmore donated the ground for the parsonage, which was erected at a cost of \$1,600. The first elders were William Miller, J. T. McGinnis, John Love and J. Downing. At one time the society had 125 members. This church is served by the Millersburg pastors. The new church building was dedicated in November, 1901. Rev. R. E. Fleming of Chicago preached the dedication sermon.

The new Presbyterian Church at Joy was dedicated in December, 1906. Present were Revs. W. G. Craig of McCormick Seminary, Chicago; Howard, Fulton, Crofts and Thornton. The cost was about seven thousand seven hundred dollars. The society was in a very prosperous condition.

The Latter Day Saints formed an organization at Millersburg in 1872. At first the class met in private residences until 1876, at which

time they built a small house at a cost of about six hundred dollars. Among the first members were the following: W. S. Morrison, James Vernon, Eliza Vernon, Viola Vernon, Joseph Harris, J. M. Terry, Mary Terry, Hannah Terry, Margaret Brown, William Cardman, Sarah Cardman, Elizabeth Webb; Jasper, Mary, Mary E., Clara, Juliet, Adelaide and Edward Duncan; Elizabeth, Emma, Stephen, Theresa, James and Nancy Miller. Among the early ministers were Revs. J. M. Terry, J. W. Terry, E. Bryant, J. B. Harris, J. L. Terry.

Services by other faiths have been held from time to time in Millersburg, among which were the Predestinarian Baptists, Missionary Baptists, etc.

Palestine Church of the United Brethren denomination was built in 1866 at a cost of \$2,000 and was dedicated on August 12th of that year by the Rev. L. S. Chittenden. The membership was small at the start, but established a Sunday school and maintained preaching every alternate Sabbath. Among the pastors were Elisha Godfrey, Benjamin Wagoner, O. F. Smith, John Wagoner, A. G. Smith, O. O. Smith, A. Norman, Adam Wolff and others.

Religious services were held in the cabin of George McPherrin in Ohio Grove in the '30s and were conducted by Rev. John Wallace, an Associate Reformed Presbyterian, although the McPherrins were Methodists. In 1837 Rev. John Montgomery, a missionary of the Old School Presbyterian Church, also held services in McPherrin's residence; also later in the homes of William I. Nevius and Thomas Candor. The congregation in 1837 numbered about twenty persons, among whom were the McPherrins, Ashford Hardy and family, George Smith and family, Richard Rice and family, William Moore and family, and the Cabeens, Candors, Neviuses and McBrides.

An Associate Reformed Presbyterian Society was organized in Ohio Grove Township in 1842 with the following members: Eleanor Moorhead, Phebe Smith, Jane Rice, Sophia Hardy, William Moore, William McMichael, Ella McMichael, Josiah Moor, Samuel Moor, George Jay, Agnes Jay and others. Services were held in barns, houses, groves and schoolhouses at first. Rev. J. C. Porter was an early pastor; others were Reverends Cochran, Fulton, Morrow and Finley. The congregation was reorganized in 1852, at which time the membership was forty-five. This has been one of the strong and permanent churches of the county ever since. In 1853-5 a church 40 by 60 feet was erected at Sunbeam largely through the exertions of William M. Hays. During the '60s the membership at one time was 163.

Services by the Methodists were held at the house of James McBride by Reverend Burr in the '30s in Ohio Grove. The first schoolhouse was used later. A great revival was held in McPherrren's barn in 1844, people coming from a distance of thirty miles and camping out. The McPherrrens, McBrides, Browns, Moorheads, Williames and others were members at this time. Horace Williams was class leader. George McPherrren advanced the money to build the church, which was put up about 1860; it cost \$1,400. It was dedicated by Elder Frank Smith. William Hanly and Elder Culles were early preachers. Soon after the dedication sixty members were secured at a great revival.

In 1848 there was a union of the Associate Reformed and Seceders churches, which afterward took the name of the United Presbyterian Church. The charter members were: George Jay, Agnes Jay, Jane Rice, Eleanor Moorhead, Phebe Smith, Sophia Hardy, William Moore, John Collins, Eleanor Collins, Ann Collins. Of this number John Collins and William Moore were elected elders. For several years the congregation held only an occasional service.

In 1852 the congregation was reorganized and two additional elders, R. M. Miller and William Hays, were elected. Rev. J. C. Porter, pastor at Cedar Creek, gave a portion of his time to this congregation. In 1853 Rev. Matthew Bigger came as supply and in April, 1854, he was installed as the first regular pastor. Other churches included in the charge were Pope Creek, Twin Grove and Millersburg.

On April 30, 1854, a meeting was held and steps were taken to erect a house of worship, ground for the same having been donated by Mr. and Mrs. William I. Nevius. The church was not completed, however, until the fall of 1855. During the course of its construction the congregation worshipped in the Presbyterian Church located at Candor Cemetery, which is still standing. During the spring and summer of 1855 services were held in the uncompleted building. The pews had not yet been installed and temporary seats were made of cast off slabs, secured from a sawmill run by John H. McBride's father, the mill being located on Pope Creek.

In the year 1904 a new and commodious church building replaced the old structure, and was dedicated on the 6th of November of that year. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. Thomas H. McMichael, president of Monmouth College. The church is a frame structure, built in attractive style of architecture, heated with hot air furnace and lighted by acetylene gas.



SUNBEAM METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The pastors who have served this congregation are: Revs. Matthew Bigger, 1854-60; J. H. Nash, 1861-76; D. F. Mustard, 1877-84; H. P. Ferguson, 1890-94. In the latter year he met death by being struck by lightning. The church was afterward supplied for two and a half years by J. W. Johnson. In 1898 H. B. Tyler came and remained with the congregation until 1900, his successor being H. B. Speer, who was installed as pastor in 1901.

The Methodist Church at Eliza and the Epworth Chapel at Mannon have a combined membership of 170 at the present time—1914. The old Methodist Church near Johnson Noble's residence was vacated many years ago and the house was sold and the members joined Epworth Chapel. It was called Noble Chapel and was used part of the time by the Methodists before the church at Eliza was erected, but not afterward. At the present time the church at Mannon has by far the larger membership. Noble Chapel stands just across the road opposite Eliza Creek Cemetery and was built to accommodate people at funerals.

Religious meetings were held in Eliza Township as early as 1836 in the house of D. F. Noble and later in the residence of David Shaunce and elsewhere. In the '40s a log cabin church was built on the bluff and there the various early religious bodies met—Methodists, Baptists and Christians. Asa McMurtry and Samuel Pinkley were two ministers who visited this township early. An early camp meeting ground was soon established near the Bluff Log Church and here the whole neighborhood early assembled to worship regardless, quite often, of creeds or denominations. A Baptist class was organized here in the spring of 1866 and at first had sixty-three members.

The Antioch Baptist Church began as an organization, May 22, 1866, with sixty-three members in Duncan. Its first pastor was Rev. J. P. R. Young. The church prospered and continued to render a splendid service in this community. This church is located four miles north of Millersburg and is at the present time an active, helpful organization with ninety-five members. It owes its existence to George Miller who lived at Sugar Grove. At first meetings were held at his house and later at Lunn's schoolhouse. It was called the Sugar Grove Church. Among the first members were John Young, James Young, L. H. Castor, B. F. Miller and Frederick Voekel. Preaching continued at the schoolhouse until 1870 when the church structure was erected at a cost of \$2,300. Early ministers were H. D. Kline, John Young and Alexander Sutton. Fifty-three new members were secured by a revival conducted by J. P. R. Young near the

close of the Civil war. Among the early members were Lewis Landreth and wife, John Downing and wife, Milton Elliott and wife, James Elliott and wife, E. W. Miller and wife, B. F. Miller and wife, John McLaughlin and wife and T. C. Lewis and wife.

A small band of Methodists living east of Hamlet held meetings in private houses and later schoolhouses until 1869 when they built a church house two miles east of Hamlet at a cost of \$2,100. At first the society had thirty-six members. The organization of the Methodist Society at Reynolds took many members away and the society ran down greatly in membership. Among its members have been Thomas Vannatta, George Hauck, H. Ketzel, Albion Nichols, S. Honeycut and Mr. Holiday. One of the early pastors was Rev. J. Small.

The Enon Baptist Church is located in Perryton Township and was organized in 1869 with a constituent membership of thirty-four, who were dismissed from the Aledo Church for this purpose, the Aledo Church concurring heartily. Rev. William Whitehead was first pastor, with A. Patterson and M. Debordas, deacons and William R. Burroughs, church clerk. There is now a new life rising in the community which in the future will make a strong church. They maintain a Bible school and have preaching every Sabbath afternoon by Rev. J. M. Jones, missionary pastor of the Illinois Baptist State Convention. Their church was built in 1869; Rev. John Titterington was first pastor. The building stood two and a half miles east of Hamlet and in 1879 was moved to Reynolds.

The first religious services held at Sugar Grove were conducted by the Old School or Hard Shell Baptists and soon afterward the Edwards River Church was constituted in that neighborhood as a member of Spoon River Association. Joseph Jones was pastor and Abraham Miller, Jr., deacon. They had no building and therefore held services in the residences of the members and later in schoolhouses.

At a later date the Methodists formed a class at the house of John Miller in Sugar Grove and finally established a campground which became famous for miles around and for many years. At times all the famous Methodist ministers of the West were heard at this camp meeting ground.

The Presbyterian Church at Hamlet was organized in 1870 with a membership of thirty-two. The organizers were W. S. Dool, Thomas M. Wilson and T. R. Johnson. Services had previously been held in the schoolhouse one mile to the westward. Thirteen of the original members were dismissed from the class at Millersburg. Present at

the organization were F. A. Sherer, moderator; William S. Dool, Daniel Kelly, W. W. Morehead, C. B. Bristol and T. R. Johnson. Later in the '70s a frame church was built and was used many years. This society is one of the prosperous ones of the present day.

In 1871 the Perryton Presbyterian Church Society was organized in the township south of Camp Creek. It was an offshoot of the society at Hamlet. At the first meeting William Doak, Crusier Gray and J. Harris were appointed a committee to take steps to build a church. The building was located at Gingles' Corners, was a frame structure, cost about two thousand one hundred dollars and was dedicated in 1872. There were thirty members at the start. Among the first members were Frank McHard, Mrs. Jane M. McHard, Martha Blue, Sarah Doak, Mary Guffy, J. Harris, Mary J. Harris, William McHard, Sr., Mary A. Bristow.

The first Methodist Episcopal Society at Preemption was formed in the log cabin of Benjamin Clarke in 1841. Mr. Clarke was class leader. Other members were his wife, David Little and wife and Andrew and Margaret Gilmore. They were first served by the itinerant preachers of that early period. Preaching was held in this log cabin until 1846 when the services were transferred to a school-house. Here services were held until 1867 when a church building was erected and Rev. Amos Morey became stated pastor. At this time David Little, John Clarke, G. T. Morey, A. N. Hickok and D. A. Clarke were trustees. The parsonage was built in 1901 in Preemption and cost \$2,500. The new church was erected in 1906 at a cost of \$11,000. Later heating and lighting plants have been added at a cost of about fifteen hundred dollars. The present membership is 120. The Sunday school has an organization of 125; Epworth League, 51; Ladies' Aid Society; Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and a Junior League of thirty members.

A Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in Preemption Township in 1868-9 by Rev. J. S. Chamberlain. The church building was erected on ground donated by Robert Foster on section 4. The first trustees were James Johnston, William Johnston, Thomas Armstrong and Thomas Doonan. Rev. W. T. Currie became pastor in 1872. A parish was organized in October, 1874, and was called St. John's Parish. Rev. T. M. Thorp succeeded Reverend Currie.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Matherville was organized in the fall of 1911 with an enrollment of ten members. A Sunday school and a preaching service were maintained in the public school building and a shanty until July 28, 1912, when a good substantial church building was completed at a cost of \$4,500 and dedicated

under the pastorate of Rev. F. J. Giddings. The trustees were Thomas Jackson, Henry Barr, Herman Zude, Charles Turner and Mrs. Henry Barr. The society membership is now fifty, and the Sunday school membership, 150. There is an aid society. A parsonage has not yet been built.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Preemption Township came into existence gradually. The Conways, O'Days, Bremens, and others of that faith in the southern part were visited for many years by priests from Rock Island, Keithsburg and elsewhere and services were held in the cabins of the settlers. In 1875 a subscription for a church building was circulated and signed liberally by the Macks, Conways, Dooleys, Lucuses, McMannies, and others. The church was erected that year and was dedicated in September by Rev. J. P. Rowles. The church has steadily grown and now has a large membership.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, Viola, was organized about the year 1855. For several years services were held in the school-house. In 1869 steps were taken toward the erection of a house of worship, during the pastoral charge of Rev. P. S. Garretson, but the church was not completed and dedicated until May 12, 1872, by Rev. M. Spurlock.

Viola became the head of the charge in 1892, at which time the parsonage was purchased. An addition was built to this in 1895. At the annual conference held in 1902, Viola was made a separate charge from New Windsor. In the summer of 1904 a new house of worship was erected, the same being dedicated August 14th of that year. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Matt S. Hughes, D. D., pastor of the Independence Avenue Methodist Church at Kansas City, Missouri. Other ministers who participated in the service were M. B. V. White, of New Boston; W. W. Carlton, Mason City, Iowa; J. Wellington Frizzelle, presiding elder; G. D. Hensel, of Preemption, and the pastor of the church, Rev. S. P. Archer. The church now has a membership of some two hundred, while the enrollment in the Sunday school is about two hundred and twenty-five.

Pastors who have served the congregation from the time of the organization are: 1857, Reverend Pitner; 1858, James Sheldon; 1859, U. J. Giddings; 1860, D. A. Faulkenburg; 1861, J. N. Bartels; 1862, A. C. Frick; 1863, Reverend Welsh; 1864, W. W. Browning; 1865-67, J. J. Fleharty; 1867-68, G. W. Martin; 1868-69, P. S. Garretson; 1869-70, W. B. Caruthers; 1870-72, Theodore Hoagland; 1872-74, W. Leeber; 1874-75, U. Z. Gilmer; 1876-77, G. W. Miller; 1877-78,

J. E. Taylor; 1879-80, J. W. McCord; 1880-81, J. D. Calhoun; 1882-84, G. B. Snedaker; 1884-85, W. G. Miller; 1885-86, D. A. Perrin; 1886-87, J. B. Dille; 1887-89, C. T. Cady; 1889-92, J. H. Scott; 1892-94, H. J. Boatman; 1894-85, M. B. V. White; 1895-98, R. T. Ballew; 1898-1901, G. D. Hensel; 1901-04, S. P. Archer.

The United Presbyterian Church at Viola was organized in 1855 by Rev. Mathew Bigger and at first was called the Twin Grove congregation. The first trustees were John Mitchell, W. P. Collins, S. E. Russell, J. B. Mitchell. The membership was twenty-eight. The first regular pastor was Rev. D. C. Cochran, in 1857. At one time the membership was 130; in 1882 it was 110. A Sabbath school was organized at an early date. The church building was erected in 1857 and was improved in 1876.

The Congregational Society was organized in 1857 by Rev. C. H. Eaton and the building was erected the same year. The first pastor was Mr. Eaton and the first trustees B. C. Perkins, Joseph Schofield, George Bolton, Thomas Merriman and John A. Hoffman. The society ran down in 1865-6 and became almost extinct.

The Presbyterian Society at Viola was organized April 22, 1872, in the former Congregational Church building. Many of the members of the old Congregational Church and of the Edwards River congregation joined the new church. The first pastor was Rev. E. Robb and the first elders were Russell Park and Hopkins Boone. They built a church in 1878 at a cost of \$2,700.

In 1854 Bethel Free Presbyterian Church was organized about four miles west of Viola and at first had a membership of about twenty. The first pastor was Rev. J. R. Whittim, and the first trustees were John Carnahan, W. M. Carnahan and James McClure. Since the war it has been known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1858 in Richland Grove with a membership of about fifty. Rev. Jonas Swanson had charge of the congregation. The next year a church was built. In time this society became the largest in the county, having over five hundred communicants.

A Swedish Methodist Episcopal Society was organized in 1856 and at first there was a small membership, but later the membership was large and the congregation prosperous. Their church was built in 1860.

In 1871-2 an American Society of United Brethren was organized by Rev. Abner Norman. At first the membership was about thirty; a church was erected in 1873.

In 1914 there were in Sherrard, also, a United Brethren Church, a Swedish Lutheran Church, a Swedish Free Mission and a Free Methodist Church. All were new, active and prosperous, with large memberships. Several new church buildings have gone up there recently.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Swedona was organized by Rev. Asa McMurtry in 1837, and among the first members were Chauncey Stanard, Mrs. Stanard, William and Mrs. Lewis, Lucius Dimmock, Alvin and Mrs. Arrasmith, Thomas and Mrs. Chires, Thomas Chires, Jr., Ann and Sarah Chires, Mary Love, Stephen and Mrs. Smith, Thomas and Mrs. Brittingham, Mrs. William Smith, John Rhodenbaugh, Irvin and Mrs. Stone, four of the Stower family, Mr. Consider, Mrs. Barney, Sr., Joseph Crawford and a few others. The first services were held in residences and later in schoolhouses and finally in the church, which was built in 1848. This society continued in active service for many years, but does not exist at present.

Religious services were held in Rivoli Township at the cabin of James Bridger early in the forties by Rev. Samuel T. Burr of the Methodist Episcopal Church. About the same time the Hard Shell Baptists, represented by Elder Joseph Jones, held occasional services at the cabins of the settlers. No doubt other denominations were represented here at an early date.

The first religious class formed was that of the Wesleyan Methodists at Hopewell in the spring of 1848, probably by Rev. C. H. Drake. It was first a part of the Farmington circuit and later of the Abingdon circuit. Still later the Oxford circuit included this society. Among the early pastors were C. H. Drake, B. F. Haskins, R. F. Markham, and J. M. Snyder. In 1865 the society was placed in the Hopewell circuit. Among the early members were Govert S. Fleharty, Margaret Fleharty, James Durston, Philadelphia Durston, Nelson and Rebecca Chidester, Anna Smith, Martha K. Bridger, W. D. Fleharty, Nancy Goodman, Mary T. Underwood, Harriet Woodhams, Martha Shaw, Maria Smith, Laird and Melinda Bean, Walter Goodrich, John Greenman, Catherine Braught, Erastus and Eliza Smith, Margaret J. Fleharty and Margaret E. Roberts. In 1870 their church near Hopewell was erected at a cost of \$2,700; it was dedicated in September, 1871.

The United Brethren formed an organization at Oak Ridge in 1856 under the leadership of Rev. George Weaver. They met in the schoolhouse. Among the members were James Meadows, Henry Birdwell, John and Jane Meadows, John and Mary Shroyer, Asa

and Atlanta Streeter, Samuel Young, Julia Stevens, Addison Buckley, Cynthia Birdwell and Rebecca Meadows.

A class of the Zion Methodists was formed in 1858. It was small, but they built a church on section 29, in 1870. Christian Harshbarger was first class leader; he continued to serve as such until 1879 when he was succeeded by J. A. Garret.

In 1865 the Church of Christ of Oak Ridge was organized, among the first members being James and Martha Marford, Rebecca Shoyer, Thomas and Matilda Hill, Louisa Braught, Edna Watson, Mary J. Bunyan, Martha J. Thompson, James and Mary A. Meadows, Mary A. Miller, Levi and Margaret J. Spencer and Mary Roosa. Thomas Hill was the first deacon, and James Meadows and James Marford the first elders. In 1873 this society went to New Windsor and was there reorganized by Rev. T. J. Burton. Soon afterward the society passed out of existence.

The First Congregational Church of New Windsor was organized October 11, 1870, and among the first members were W. W. Allen, Sarah A. Allen, W. D. Fleharty, Mary C. Fleharty, Alice Barnes, Mary A. Mayo, Florence C. Barnes, Delia A. Hammond, and Charlotte Goold. Among the ministers who assisted at the time of organization were L. F. Waldo, W. J. Beecher, R. B. Guild, B. F. Haskins and A. R. Mitchell. W. W. Allen was first deacon and W. D. Fleharty, first treasurer. Rev. Cyrus H. Eaton was first pastor. In 1872 they built their church at a cost of \$2,381. The society has been prosperous ever since, after many changes.

The United Presbyterian Church at New Windsor was organized in Henry County in August, 1866, and among the first members were Joseph M. and Nancy H. Christy, Thomas R., Catherine and Elizabeth McMiller, Margaret A. Hogue, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Thomas H. and Sarah Brown, William H. and Margaret Kerr, Sarah Surpluss, Nancy Epperson, Thomas and Eliza M. Ramsey, John M. and Sarah A. Christy and Stephen and Isabella Woodburn. Their church was built in 1867. Soon afterward it passed out of existence.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church at New Windsor was organized May 24, 1869. Rev. Gustav Andreen was chairman of the meeting and J. A. Falk, secretary. Previous to this date and before the town was laid out services were held in the residence of Mr. Falk between Christmas and New Years. Rev. S. P. A. Lindahl made occasional visits after the society was organized. There were about thirty members at the start. The first deacons were Carl N. Johnson, C. Bjorkengren, Carl A. Falk and Carl Falk. The trustees

were Carl A. Johnson, Piter Falk and John M. Blad. At the time of organization a subscription list was started to raise funds for a church building. All helped, the money was raised, the church was built and was dedicated on New Years day, 1869-70, although at that time the building was not quite finished. The cost was about forty-eight hundred dollars. A little later the Gregg house was bought and converted into a parsonage. In 1869 a parochial school was started with seventy-eight pupils; it has been maintained nearly all the time since. In 1905 a new parsonage was built at a cost of about three thousand dollars, largely through the efforts of the Ladies' Aid Society. The church has a cemetery of its own. The church society is now large and prosperous.

The Congregational Church Society was formed June 29, 1895, and was duly incorporated on July 4th. It was formally recognized by Congregational ministers on September 3d, of the same year. Work on their first church building was commenced in the spring of 1896, and the structure was almost completed when it was prostrated by a severe storm on May 16th. It was rebuilt the following fall and was dedicated in the spring of 1897 by Rev. David E. Evans who was pastor at the date of organization. The officers were as follows: Deacons, Matthew Williams, Matthew Stanley and Henry Hughes; trustees, W. H. Williams, G. M. Jones, Seth Crossland, M. Pritchard and Dan Thomas; clerk, Seth Crasstard; treasurer, G. M. Jones. The members were Matthew Williams, Mrs. Matthew Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Stanley, Jane A. Stanley, Seth Crossland, W. H. Williams, Ruth Brown, Mrs. Dan Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Jones, Mrs. Pritchard, John L. Haddick, Albert Pasco, Cordelia Pasco, Shed Roberts, Mrs. Celia Spargo, David T. Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Hiram Jones, R. R. Lloyd, John Hughes, M. M. Stringer, Jessie Hughes, Mrs. Hughes, Deborah Hughes, Matilda Hughes. At present the church has sixty members.

In 1913 Windsor was put on the same circuit as Alpha, the parsonage being at the latter place. The present membership is about fifty. Among the present officers are Mrs. A. C. Anderson, Edgar Pearson, Glen Anderson and Mrs. Minerva Rathbun.

The first Methodist Society at New Windsor was organized in 1868 by Rev. Peter S. Garretson. The first members were John Coleman, Elizabeth Coleman, Lovina Coleman, Samuel Coleman, Rev. John Abbott, Alice Abbott, W. A. Buckley and Mary Buckley. Rev. W. B. Crithers was first pastor. In 1869 a building that had been built for a school was purchased and converted into a church. Rev. T. Hoagland took charge of the class in 1870.

In March, 1853, the first steps to organize the Presbyterian Church in Suez Township were taken at a meeting held in the school-house on section 29. At this meeting R. C. Mathews was chairman and J. D. Porter, secretary. A postponement was taken to the spring of 1854 when a church building was commenced and completed in the spring of 1855 at a cost of \$2,100. The building committee were F. Postlewaite, S. R. Boggs and Thomas Likely. The society was duly organized in the spring of 1855. Forty names were enrolled. J. R. Boggs, R. W. Porter and S. R. Boggs were chosen elders and Thomas Likely, M. T. Postlewaite and T. S. Robb, trustees. In June, 1856, Rev. J. H. Nevius became the first pastor; he was succeeded by George Norcross in 1863. The pastors later were Revs. J. H. Moore, E. B. Miner and I. T. Whitmore. In 1880 the name of the church was changed from North Henderson to Norwood. In 1882 the membership was 206. The new church was dedicated in February, 1903. R. E. Fleming was pastor. The society is prosperous.

In 1842 Rev. James G. Bruce organized the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church at the house of S. L. Brownlee, about one mile west of Norwood. The first members were James, Elizabeth and Nancy Imbrie, Robert and Mary Caldwell, John Humphreys and wife, S. L. and Sarah Brownlee, William and Mary J. Caldwell, John W. and Sarah A. Caldwell and Samuel and Margaret Graham. The first elders were James Imbrie and Robert Caldwell. Rev. R. W. French became pastor in 1844; he was a young man and was ordained at this time by James and William Bruce. In 1846 their church was erected southwest of Norwood. This congregation was called North Henderson; about 1847 it was united with the South Creek and Bethel congregations and Rev. Nathaniel McDowel was chosen pastor. In 1866 Rev. J. A. Edie took charge of the congregation.

On May 12, 1856, Rev. M. M. Bigger organized the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of North Henderson with an initial membership of twenty-one. The meeting was held at Spring Grove and at once the Spring Grove congregation and the newly formed North Henderson congregation extended a joint call for Rev. J. C. McKnight. On June 14, 1858, the Associate and the Associate Reformed congregations united and became known as the United Presbyterian Church. In 1859 their large church building west of Norwood was built at a cost of about five thousand dollars. Rev. J. A. Edie was pastor during the Civil war and the church as a whole did much to encourage enlistments. Mr. Edie served the congrega-

tion from 1858 to 1869, during which time 338 persons were added to the membership. He was succeeded by Rev. J. M. French. In 1876 Rev. J. T. McCrory took charge of the congregation. Rev. J. A. Spalding became pastor in 1881. From the start a Sunday school has been conducted. David Molar donated the land where the church stands. Thomas Likely donated the land a mile to the southward for the parsonage.

A United Brethren Church was organized in Suez Township in December, 1873, by Rev. P. R. Adams. Their church building was erected in 1875 on section 10. The first trustees were H. R. Peters, George W. Sedwick and John McLaughlin. Rev. N. A. Walker dedicated the building.

In 1875 the Methodists erected a church house two miles west of Suez postoffice on section 8. The congregation was small and at first had no regular pastor.

The Suez Universalist Church was established about the year 1850. At that time William McGreenwood, Harrison Brown, Benjamin Brown, John Greenwood, Notley Scott and Jesse Scott and their wives and the younger members of their families, desiring to have Universalist preaching in Suez and North Henderson townships, formed an association and with the help of the Bartletts and others of Rio Township, Knox County asked Lombard College to supply them with a regular minister at least once a month, the meetings to be held at the White Lily and Mann schoolhouses. John Greenwood, who owned a fine natural grove, trimmed it up, placed seats and a platform therein and there summer meetings were held usually in the mornings and afternoons with a basket dinner. Large numbers of people, in fact the whole neighborhood, attended and much good to the morals of the community resulted. Rev. William Westfall and Rev. John Hughs were the first ministers and the latter, though a very old man, is still living at Table Grove, Illinois.

In 1855 a parish was organized with thirty-five members and this society conducted two services every two weeks and an active Sunday school was established with regular services.

In 1874 the United Brethren members built a church at Suez and the following year they sold a one-half interest in the structure to the Universalist organization of which John Greenwood was made president and James W. Page, clerk.

In 1884, under the pastorate of Rev. George Crum, now of Stockton, Illinois, a new organization was effected with a moderator, board of trustees, secretary and treasurer. Dan W. Sedwick was elected moderator and has held the office ever since—a period of

thirty years. Under this organization James W. Page was elected secretary; Thomas G. Brown, treasurer; Lorimer Johnston, John Greenwood and Harrison Brown trustees. Later, upon the death of Mr. Page, Thomas J. Greenwood was chosen secretary.

In 1896 under the pastorate of Rev. J. B. Fisher, now state superintendent of the Universalist churches of Kentucky, a new church was organized within the parish and the following officers were chosen: Moderator, Dan W. Sedwick; secretary, Edwin E. Sedwick; treasurer, Thomas G. Brown; trustees, John Greenwood, Scott Palmer and W. T. Palmer.

About this time the Meekers became interested and although they lived at a considerable distance became regular attendants and many of them became members. New members were taken in from time to time as the years passed, so that the membership of the church remained about the same. The last member received was William D. Cameron. During Reverend Fisher's pastorate more members were taken in than at any other period, among them being Mrs. William Meeker, Miss Fannie Sedwick, Edwin E. Sedwick and family, Grant Palmer and family and many others. Among prominent ministers of the faith who occupied the pulpit regularly at stated periods were Rev. E. L. Conger, brother of Hon. Edward Conger, formerly minister to China; Rev. Charles E. Garst, afterward minister to Scotland; Doctor Nash, Doctor Fisher, Doctor White, president of Lombard College; Rev. J. W. Grinner, Rev. George Longbrake, Rev. W. O. Bodell, Rev. George Cramer, Rev. Olaf Tanberg, Rev. Miss Graham, Rev. Mrs. V——; Rev. Wellington Holmes, now pastor at LeRoy, Illinois. During the entire period of its existence the church has been practically free from debt. When the half interest in the building was purchased a debt of \$100 was incurred, but was paid at the end of a year. The many who have worshipped within its walls have possessed the blessed faith of brotherly love and universal salvation which are the foundation stones of this church.

The Presbyterians at Burgess organized a class in 1912, and built a fine church the next year at a cost of \$5,000. Other religious societies have sprung up there within a year or two.

The Henderson Predestinarian Baptist Church was constituted August 14, 1830, on Spoon River, and a branch was established in North Henderson Township early in the '40s. A Methodist class was established here about 1840 by Rev. Asa McMurtry. The Bruners, Holmes, Vestals and Woods were early members. The United Brethren Society was organized in 1869 and the same year

they built a church in Section 36, which is called Maple Grove Church. A small class of Methodists was formed in the Mann schoolhouse. The Methodist church building was built at Mount Vernon south of North Henderson at an early day, but was finally moved into the village.

CHAPTER XVI

OLD SETTLERS ORGANIZATIONS

Many old settlers of the county assembled at Aledo on March 28, 1867, for the purpose of taking preliminary steps for the formation of an old settlers' society. At this meeting John McKee served as chairman and Elisha Miles secretary. After appointing the necessary committees an adjournment was taken to the 6th of July, on which occasion Col. W. I. Nevius served as chairman and H. S. Senter as secretary. Addresses were delivered by Elisha Miles, Ephraim Gilmore and Hopkins Boone. It was agreed that a residence of twenty years in the county should entitle a settler to the right of becoming a member. H. S. Senter, W. I. Nevius and Elisha Miles were appointed a committee to draft by-laws for the society. A committee of two from each township was then appointed to make out a list of all persons residing in their respective townships previous to the summer of 1847 and report at the next meeting. At the meeting of August 3d the by-laws submitted by the committee were acted on in detail and adopted. The committee to report the names of old settlers was given more time and an adjournment was taken to October. Apparently the committee did not respond, because no further account of their proceedings can be found. In March, 1869, when the railroad was completed to Aledo the old settlers made an excursion to Galva to celebrate the event.

The society seems to have died early in the '70s, or at least seems to have become inactive, because nothing further is heard of them until 1884 when they were called to meet at the office of J. C. Pepper for the purposes of reorganization. L. H. Scudder served as chairman and H. G. Calhoun, secretary. It was provided that all persons who had lived in the county twenty-five years should be entitled to membership. A constitution and by-laws was adopted at this time and the following permanent officers were elected: President, L. H. Scudder; vice presidents, W. M. Carnahan, D. J. Noble, R. J. Cabeen, A. J. Streeter and T. B. Cabeen; secretary, H. G. Calhoun; treasurer, D. M. Candor. At this meeting over fifty dollars was received in membership fees at \$1 each. After this date the society remained in action for a few years and then again became defunct.

In recent years it has been revived for short periods from time to time.

The society held meetings at New Boston, Joy, Aledo, Viola, New Windsor and Millersburg and they were generally largely attended. The meeting at New Boston was large and well attended and the citizens there arranged and entertained the people royally by providing coffee and such things for them. There were two or three meetings of the society in Aledo and they were held in the grove in North Park. Among the speakers at different times were A. P. Petrie, Graham Lee, Hiram W. Thornton, Guy C. Scott, I. N. Bassett and others. At the meeting at Viola R. H. Spicer, Josiah Whitham and others were the speakers. At this meeting William Terry brought part of a suit of clothes he had worn in the very early settlement of the county. At New Windsor Joseph McCoy, E. L. Larkin, John Geiger and others were the speakers. For the last two or three years of the society's existence, I. N. Bassett was president and E. L. Wolff was secretary. The interest in the meetings seemed to grow less and finally they were suspended altogether. The records of these meetings cannot be found. Mr. Wolff, who was the last secretary, being dead now, his family cannot find the records.

CHAPTER XVII

MERCER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

At a massmeeting of the members of the medical profession held at New Boston on March 5, 1861, as per mutual and previous engagement, Dr. T. Willits was called to the chair and Dr. J. P. Boyd was appointed secretary. The meeting then resolved itself into an informal committee of the whole, and after due and deliberate consideration, made the following report:

"Whereas, The interests of the community and physicians both seem to demand that a more definite understanding should exist as to the amount of fees and proper periods of settlement, and

"Whereas, Frequent adjustments of all credit operations avoid many embarrassments that attend the settlement of old bills, therefore,

"Resolved, That all above names appearing below deem it respectful to their patrons and just to themselves that the sum of each bill be made out and handed over or left at the nearest postoffice twice each year, say, 1st of January and July, and that this be considered notice that payment or settlement is expected, and further that if neglected 10 per cent will be charged until paid.

"Resolved, That the following fee-bill be adopted as the basis on which all charges for professional services will rest: Prescriptions in office, \$1; visit in town, \$1; dressing wounds, \$1 to \$10; reducing luxations and fractures, \$5 to \$10; simple accouchement, \$5; instrumental accouchement, \$10; protracted accouchement, extra per diem, \$5; capital operations in surgery, \$25 to \$50; minor surgical operations, \$1 to \$10; consultations, \$5; mileage on the above rates, 50 cents; at night, 50 per cent extra. (Signed) Joseph W. Gaston, T. S. Stanway, Samuel Kelley, W. D. Craig, J. A. Anderson, C. Kellermann, J. A. Maury, J. V. Frazier and G. Irvin."

At this meeting a committee of three was appointed to effect a permanent organization of the medical fraternity; they were Maury, Frazier and Stanway. An adjournment was taken to June 15th at Aledo, when and where all members of the fraternity in the county were invited.

It does not appear that a society of the medical men was formed at this time, because on January 19, 1865, they were called to meet

at Keithsburg for the purpose of adopting a new fee bill. Doctor Willits was chairman and Doctor Stanway, secretary. At this meeting a new fee bill was adopted and the physicians passed a resolution declining the offer of the county board to attend soldiers' families for about half the usual charges. Present at this meeting were Drs. A. Clendenin, T. H. Bras, E. S. Benedict, T. S. Stanway, J. V. Frazier, J. F. Woods, Thomas Willits, E. L. Marshall, Samuel Kelley, J. P. Boyd, George Irvin and J. A. Walker. The Mercer County Medical Society was organized in 1870, but as the records are missing the details cannot be given. W. D. Craig was secretary in December, 1870.

Early in 1871 the Mercer County Medical Society met in annual session at the office of Doctor Craig in Aledo and called Doctor Frazier to the chair. Several amendments to the fee bill were made. The officers elected for the coming year were as follows: President, Doctor Frazier; vice presidents, Doctors Boyd and Suiter; recording secretary, Doctor Craig; corresponding secretary, Doctor Woods; treasurer, Doctor Irvin. The following resolutions were offered and referred to Doctors Boyd, Suiter and Byrus to be reported at the next meeting:

"Resolved, That we, members of the Mercer County Medical Society, in justice to ourselves, demand that the board of supervisors be requested to pay the full amount of fees charged for paupers, provided always that said fees are in accordance with the fee bill adopted by said medical society.

"Resolved, That we, as members of the society sustain each other in compelling the said board in charge of paupers of said county to equitably pay for such services rendered by any member of this society."

One of the earliest surgical cases on record in this county was performed on Robert Shearer for strangulated hernia in 1858. Doctor Craig of Aledo performed the operation and was assisted by Doctors Willits and Stanway, of New Boston, and Boyd, of Millersburg. The patient died soon after the operation.

In the fall of 1869 the physicians gave notice of cash service in a new fee bill. At this time the dentists of the county prepared and announced the following fee bill: Gold filling, \$1.50; amalgams, \$1; extracting, 50 cents; cleaning, \$1 to \$3; artificial in rubber, \$20; upper and lower, \$40; plain temporary sets, \$15; single tooth, \$6.

At all times, even down to the present, the physicians of the county have encountered much opposition from the county board as to what should be charged for attendance upon the public charges.

The board usually maintained that the charges should be reduced, but the physicians could not always see the subject in that light.

Among the physicians in the county in 1877-8 were the following: Josiah M. Ansley, W. B. Artz, J. S. Allen, J. S. Boice, T. H. Bras, J. P. Boyd, C. S. Bigelow, W. D. Craig, J. P. Chowning, Mathew Criswell, James Cozad, J. V. Frazier, W. H. Hall, W. B. Huffman, D. I. McMillan, E. L. Marshall, J. F. McCutcheon, J. P. McClanahan, J. B. Rathbun, E. Rathbun, Thomas Shaver, O. B. Stafford, C. C. Smith, Eugene Smith, J. H. Saylor, W. F. Suiter, James D. Taylor, Thomas Willits, Samuel Kelley, A. Ashbaugh, N. H. Derr, A. H. DeWitt, C. S. Hollingsworth, George Irvin, E. E. Kendall, J. S. Roseberry, Charles Stewart and J. F. Woods.

The society organized in 1870 died out after a few years and was not reorganized until 1885. On April 26th, pursuant to call, a number of them assembled at Doctor Irvin's office to effect a reorganization. There were present J. F. McCutcheon, J. V. Frazier, George Irvin, D. R. Johnson, A. L. Craig, Samuel Kelley, M. G. Reynolds, O. B. Stafford, N. H. Derr, E. Rathbun and E. L. McKinnie. N. H. Derr was made chairman and E. L. McKinnie, secretary. D. R. Johnson, A. L. Craig and George Irvin were appointed committee on constitution and by-laws. The permanent officers elected were as follows: President, O. B. Stafford, of New Boston; vice president, J. F. McCutcheon, of Norwood; secretary, E. L. McKinnie, of Viola; treasurer, A. L. Craig, of Aledo; censors, N. H. Derr, D. R. Johnson and M. G. Reynolds. At the first meeting Doctors Craig and Irvin reported a case of labor where they were forced to decapitate the child and puncture and remove the hydro-cephalic head. After a few meetings the society again became defunct.

It was revived again in 1902, since which time it has maintained a continuous existence. On April 17th of that year, at a called meeting to reorganize, the following physicians were present: George Irvin, M. G. Reynolds, H. E. Morrison, C. W. Carter, A. N. Mackey, W. S. Ryan, V. A. McClanahan and A. P. Willits. George Irvin served as chairman and A. N. Mackey as secretary. V. A. McClanahan, C. W. Carter and W. S. Ryan were appointed committee on by-laws. M. G. Reynolds, H. H. Sherwood and A. P. Willits, on membership; and H. E. Morrison and M. G. Reynolds, on fee-bill.

A county physicians' convention was held at Aledo in January, 1903, on which occasion an interesting paper on "X-Ray" was read

by C. W. Carter, one on "Non-Alcoholic Medication" by D. I. McMillan, and one on "Action of Alcohol on the Tissues of the Body," by L. W. Wright. At the April, 1903, meeting of the society the following papers were read: "Accidental Wounds," by E. C. G. Franing; "Infantile Feeding and Care," by W. S. Ryan.

The officers elected in 1902 were as follows: President, George Irvin; vice president, H. H. Fletcher; secretary and treasurer, A. N. Mackey; censors, A. P. Willits, M. G. Reynolds and T. C. Hainline. Irvin declined and Reynolds was appointed in his stead. V. A. McClanahan was appointed censor. The society took an advanced stand on sanitation, health, medical education, good roads, examining board, health organizations, etc.

At the October meeting, 1903, the following papers were read: "Puerperal Septicemia," by H. E. Morrison; "Tracoma," by E. J. Hay; "Records on Contagiousness of Typhoid Fever and the Vitality of Typhoid Germs," by F. D. Rathbun. In May, 1904, the following papers were read: "Objective and Subjective Mind," by Doctor Fletcher; "Appendicitis," by Doctor McMillan; "The Doctor and Pharmaceutical Specialties." In 1907 diphtheria, scarlet fever and food and care of infants were discussed.

In 1908 the following papers were presented: "Treatment of Children with Summer Diarrhoea," by J. A. Kleinsmid; "Gallstones and Their Treatment," by T. C. Hainline; "Treatment of Compound Fractures," by V. A. McClanahan; "A Peculiar Case of Puerperal Fever," by D. I. McMillan; "Inebriety," by A. N. Mackey. In 1909—"Technique of a Normal Obstetric Case," by J. W. Wallace; "The Operation of Choice in Appendicitis," by Clyde A. Findley; "Collodion Dressing as a Substitute for Stitches in Wounds," by Frank Eyre. J. H. Moore was president of the society this year: "Pylo-Nephritis," by B. R. Winbigler; "Iritis," by J. W. Ramsey; "Treatment of Compound Fractures," by V. A. McClanahan; "Treatment of Septic Peritonitis," by J. F. Percy.

Recent papers or addresses on the following subjects have been presented: "Lack of Interest in the County Medical Society," by G. H. Moore; "Some of the Necessary Things in a Physician's Life," by J. F. Percy; "Establishment of a National Department of Health," by Doctor Brown; "Social Evil vs. Social Welfare," by A. H. Woodworth; "Quinsy," by M. H. Smith; "Clinic on Nervous Diseases," by A. C. Sells; "Pediatrics," by J. W. Van Derstice; "Surgical Clinics," by D. N. Eisendrath; "Our Mistakes and How to Avoid Them," by Frank Eyre; "Some of the Present Day Problems

in the Medical Profession," by J. F. Percy; "Quinine and Urea-Hydra-Chloride as a Local Anesthetic," by C. A. Findley.

On January 1, 1914, the society had twenty-five members and on September 1, 1914, it had twenty-eight members, as follows: Frank Eyre, L. W. Wright, E. L. Emerson, A. C. Sells, J. H. Saylor, Mathew Criswell, R. C. Johnson, G. F. Lytle, C. M. Murrell, E. E. Morgan, O. E. Grant, T. D. Coe, M. H. Smith, G. H. Moore, F. D. Rathbun, V. A. McClanahan, B. R. Winbigler, Walter Miles, R. H. Smith, H. L. Walker, A. N. Mackey, Mathew Ohaver, J. W. Wallace, A. B. Childs, T. C. Hainline, F. J. Rathbun, G. L. Rathbun and T. F. Manning. The officers elected in May, 1914, were as follows: President, E. E. Morgan; vice president, M. H. Smith; secretary and treasurer, A. N. Mackey. On January 1, 1914, there were only four physicians in the county who did not belong to the county medical society. An important advance in recent years are the clinics conducted by the society. Usually a practitioner of great prominence is secured from abroad to address the society with fresh points and arguments.

In recent years a few of the able physicians at Keithsburg organized, established and conducted a medical school in that city. A small body of students were instructed and perhaps graduated. The institution seems to have been a branch of the larger school or schools in the cities.

The rules and instructions to physicians and local boards of health from the county board were as follows:

Rule 1. The physician's fees in smallpox cases shall not exceed \$5 a visit and mileage of 33 1-3 cents per mile for each additional mile, provided that all patients at the same house or location be included in the same visit.

Rule 2. That the county will be liable for medicines, medical assistance, nursing, provisions, etc., in cases only where smallpox actually exists and where that patient or patients are paupers.

Rule 3. The county will only be liable for such expenses (exclusive of physician's fees and charges as fixed in Rule 1) in pauper cases as are a reasonable charge under the circumstances in that particular case.

Rule 4. That the city, village or township shall bear the expense of quarantine, of disinfectants, of damages to articles destroyed in disinfection of the premises, of vaccination, and of examination of the persons exposed, or persons suspected of having smallpox, and all other expenses of maintaining the quarantine, the bill all being

under the head of quarantine regulations, and for the prevention of spread of the disease.

Rule 5. That all expenses incurred in cases of smallpox shall be borne by the person, or persons, afflicted if they shall be of sufficient ability to pay, and it shall be the duty of the local boards of health to collect when possible from said persons, the county being in no case liable for claims in cases of smallpox where the patients afflicted with the same are financially able to pay for the service rendered to them.

Rule 6. That the relief committee of the grand army posts shall, before allowing such bills as requested, to consult with supervisor or local boards of health, when bills are presented to them in smallpox cases, in order to prevent duplicate charges for services.

CHAPTER XVIII

MERCER TOWNSHIP

The first settlement made in this township was by Abraham and John Miller in August, 1837, on Section 4. The Miller family entered in all over eight hundred acres on Sections 3, 4 and 16. They secured the right to obtain land on Section 16 from the state authorities. This was the first settlement of the township and was in the neighborhood of Sugar Grove, which at that time and before the white settlement even, was famous for its products of maple sugar. The Indians made that a favorite resort, and the first settlers saw them draw the sap and make sugar. After the settlement by the whites it was famous for its sugar product and as a site for camp meetings, which began to be held there early in the '40s, continuing annually for many years. Many of the famous ministers of the western country preached there in early times. The Millers erected a sawmill and a schoolhouse in that neighborhood. It is not possible to give the date when each of the first settlers arrived. Such record seems to have been lost, although at one time it was preserved, but many of the names of the first settlers can be mentioned. Among the early ones were the Nesbitt family, of which there were Porter, Harvey, Henry and perhaps others. David and John Brown were there at an early day. John Artz came very soon after the Millers and settled at the Grove. He conducted a grist mill on Edwards River. There were several members of the Artz family who became prominent in early years, among them being Samuel, Israel, John and Isaac. John M. Ashbaugh, a Methodist, was there at an early day, also others of the same name. Samuel Taylor also came to the Grove at an early day. Henry Lee located in the northeast corner of the township; his brother Graham was likewise an early settler. Richard Winger came in at an early day. A Mr. Jones located between Aledo and the river. Thomas Cannum and his brother Mark settled a short distance east of Aledo. The Robinson family located about two miles east of Aledo also. John McKee settled on a farm two miles east of Aledo. Hezekiah Boone came in early and had quite a large family. David Braucht was quite early in this township, as was also his brother George. The latter located on a

portion of what is now Aledo. He became active in the affairs of Aledo, an account of which will be found elsewhere. Benjamin Brown took a farm on Section 16. Edwin Bartlit, L. F. Jobusch and William Baxter were also prominent among the first settlers here. Chris Baemler and his brother Peter came in quite early. John Holmes arrived about 1860 and Alexander Marquis about 1866. J. E. Harroun arrived in the '50s and the Croson family came at a little later date. William McCandless was among the early settlers, as was also Paul Black and Joseph Lair. John W. Miles came in later and became prominent in the affairs of Aledo.

Mercer Township was not established until 1853 and the first election, so far as the records show of township officers, was held April 4, 1854. John McKee was chairman; Isaac Jones, moderator; and E. C. Bartlit, clerk. Twenty-seven votes were polled. David Braucht was elected supervisor; E. C. Bartlit, clerk; John S. Moore, assessor; John Ashbaugh, collector; John Artz, overseer of the poor; L. F. Jobusch, Jacob Sprecher and R. H. Winger, commissioners of highways; John McKee and J. L. Candor, justices of the peace; William McKee, Israel Artz, constables; and Edward Clifford and George Smith, overseers of highways. At the general election the same year there were polled in the township only sixteen votes. At this time the township voted in favor of taking stock in the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad. The next year the township voted heavily in favor of constructing the county poor house. At the election in 1857 for or against the removal of the county seat from Keithsburg to Aledo, the township voted heavily in favor of the removal. When the project came up again in 1868 this township voted heavily in favor of subscribing stock to the construction of the American Central Railway. It was many years before this debt was entirely paid by the township. Since these events very little has occurred in township matters worthy of special note or space.

At an early day men living in the western part of the county saw that, in all probability, a new town near the center of the county would eventually become the county seat. No doubt numerous plans were laid to establish such a city, because persons successful would make themselves rich by the sale of lots in a comparatively short space of time. In pursuance of such a plan Benjamin Clark, John J. Charles, Timothy Condit and William Mackey laid out the Town of Mercer near the center of the county. Judge Ephraim Gilmore, then county surveyor, made the survey. They came there from New Boston one extremely cold day and were forced to return without having accomplished their object. Later they returned and laid out

the village on the northeast quarter of Section 21. However, the town did not amount to anything. Only one house was built, in which no person ever lived, and in the end the building rotted down. In recent years the township is one of the most progressive and wealthy farming regions of the county. Its people are enterprising and industrious and are well governed by the township and county authorities.

Among the early settlers of Mercer County may be mentioned Edwin Cromwell Bartlit, oldest son of William and Catherine (Culver) Bartlit, who was born November 12, 1821, at Logan, Champaign County (now Schuyler County), New York. At the age of three years he moved with his parents to Bergen, Genesee County, New York, and resided there until eight years of age, when he moved to the Town of Preble, Cortland County, that state, where he resided until 1836, when the family came to Illinois, settling in Henry County.

On the unsettled prairies Edwin C. Bartlit grew to manhood and assisted in farm work, attending school in winter and knowing the privations and freedom of early pioneer life. The schools of Genesee were of a high order from the first and he was well fitted to teach at an early age. Music was much appreciated by the people of Genesee and a teacher of rare attainments taught there for years, a man named Bacon, revered by all who knew him in the early days. The Bartlit family learned music from him and were a full orchestra of themselves, playing the violin, bass viol and flute, or singing in quartette, making excellent music at home and in church, never for dances nor for any but social or religious services. Indians were not infrequent visitors at the homes of the Bartlits and others of the colony. Chief Shabbona often stopped at the home of Edwin Bartlit's father and was ever a welcome guest, the family having a high regard for the great genius and goodness of the powerful chief who chose to be a friend to the white people. Mr. Bartlit always spoke of him as one of the great men he had known, splendid in physique and of keen intellectual ability. Finishing his education, Mr. Bartlit taught for several years in Henry County. He next taught in Sangamon County, where he first met Abraham Lincoln as a commissioner of schools in that county. Through Mr. Lincoln's influence he secured a school and learned to know Lincoln well. They became friends, both being strong abolitionists, and throughout life he admired Lincoln more than any other man he ever knew. In the fall of 1850 he came to Mercer County, finding work near Millersburg. Here he met Adriana Brady, youngest daughter of John Brady, Sr., living five miles west of Aledo, where she had

grown up with her parents, who had located there from Ohio when she was nine years old, in 1842. On August 7, 1851, they were married and in the spring of 1852 bought and occupied a farm one mile east and three-fourths of a mile north of Aledo, being the first farmers to live near what is now Aledo. In 1855 Aledo was planned and people began to come to the new town. The first Mercer County election was held at the home of Mr. Bartlit. In 1857 the Methodist Church of Aledo was organized and Mr. and Mrs. Bartlit were charter members, continuing their membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church of Aledo through life. They were regular attendants at church and Mr. Bartlit served as steward, trustee, district steward and Sabbath-school teacher for nearly forty-five years. Mrs. Bartlit was a teacher of the Woman's Bible Class for many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Bartlit eight children were born, of whom four are living, namely: Mrs. Flora Winger and Mrs. Celia Prouty, who reside in Aledo; William J., of Denver, Colorado; and Miss May Bartlit, of San Diego, California. Arthur and Ella died when they had reached maturity but Mary and Alfred died in infancy. Culver N. Winger, the only surviving grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Bartlit, is a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota. Failing health compelled Mr. and Mrs. Bartlit to retire from farm work and they came to Aledo in 1895, residing there until their deaths. Mr. Bartlit passed away on May 18, 1903, and was followed by his wife on March 3, 1912, their married life having covered a span of nearly fifty-two years.

For many years Mr. Bartlit was an abolitionist, then a staunch republican, and later a strong prohibitionist. He had a great love for truth and honesty, which he practiced continually, and by hard work acquired a comfortable home for his family, leaving to them a good name. His word was as good as his bond and his clearly defined principles of right and wrong were fearlessly expressed. Through all his life his love of music was his greatest recreation and he played well the flute, the violin and the organ, and was also possessed of a splendid bass voice.

Edwin Cromwell Bartlit was a descendant of the Bartlit family in England, whose ancestry is traced to the days of Cromwell. They were loyal followers of Cromwell and were in favor during his rule of England. When William Bartlett came to America before the Revolution he was in high favor in English political life. Later, when he renounced England and pledged loyalty to American independence, the English branch of the house said cruel things of their "traitor brother," as they called him. This so wounded the Ameri-

can brother that one of the first acts the Continental Congress was asked to do was to authorize the change in name to Bartlit, each brother renouncing the other. In later years the family are disposed to write the original name in the original spelling but Mr. Bartlit never did, nor his father before him. It was a matter of principle to them, as they saw it.

ALEDO

Immediately after the final location of the Western Air Line Railroad through Mercer County, Levi Willits and John S. Thompson conceived the idea of establishing a new town near the center of the county and on the line of this railroad, which should become the county seat. They recognized the fact that all the eastern half of the county would favor a change of location of the seat of justice. Further, it was certain that a considerable portion throughout the western part would likewise favor a change. The county seat at this time was at Keithsburg, in the southwestern corner of the county, and was difficult to reach. Accordingly, Messrs. Thompson and Willits selected the present site of Aledo and purchased 400 acres for \$2,200, two adjoining sections for \$600 and paid Mr. McCandless \$1,600 for eighty acres adjoining the proposed town site. The situation then was bare prairie, but there were standing on the site two log houses, one in the southern part and the other in the eastern part near the present brickyard. In the haste to get the beginning made, they staked out hurriedly that part of the town now lying between First and Eleventh streets and Chestnut and Ash streets. They overlooked the fact that the statute of the state required the work to be done or at least approved by the county surveyor. They secured Simeon S. Sheldon, one of the railroad engineers, and at first planned to call the town De Soto. They advertised a public sale of lots for the 20th of March, 1856. When they attempted to file the plat for record their attention was called to the fact that the proceedings were illegal and also that there was also a town in the state called De Soto. The county surveyor, Cornelius S. Richey, was sought, an apology was offered and Mr. Sheldon was appointed deputy county surveyor and the two surveyors made a resurvey of what had been done, adding additional territory to the former lots. On the date of the sale of lots, according to John S. Thompson, about one thousand people were present. At first they intended to sell but fifty lots, but as the sale proceeded the crowd became clamorous and lots to the number of 112 were finally disposed of. The auctioneer stood up in a wagon,

holding a map, and pointed out with a stick thereon the particular lot being sold. The sale terminated only when it was too dark for the crowd to see the map. Few men bought more than one or two lots. Among the purchasers were Judge Gilmore, William Gayle, M. L. Marsh, John W. Miles, who bought the first lot; John S. Moore, Martin A. Cook, Elisha Miles, W. E. Riley and Scott Brownlee. The proprietors, Thompson & Willits, reserved blocks for a college and other purposes. The first fifty lots sold for \$5,780. The price varied from \$240, the highest price, to as low as \$35.

De Soto was the name first selected, but was not liked by Mr. Thompson, whereupon a change was made. He stated that he took a Webster's dictionary and, turning to the geographical names in the back part, selected a few, among which was the name Aledo. He submitted those he had selected to Mr. Willits, who chose Aledo. In this way, according to Mr. Thompson, the city received its name. This statement may be seen in the Times-Record of December 26, 1901. W. B. Frew states that Mr. Richey told him not many years ago that the city came to be called Aledo in the following way: After much discussion and no satisfactory name being found, it was proposed to try by lot. Separate letters of the alphabet were deposited in a hat, and after being shaken, were taken out at random and placed in lines, and when the first pronouncable and pleasing one was found that was selected. Such name proved to be Aledo. The question immediately arises who would know more concerning the name of the town, Mr. Thompson or Mr. Richey? Would Mr. Thompson have made the above statement if he had been present in case the name was chosen by lot? Of course, Thompson and Willits were the ones who named the city. Nobody else had any authority to do so. And it must be concluded that Mr. Thompson's statement concerning the dictionary is far more likely to be correct than the other.

The first house was erected in 1856 and thereafter they went up rapidly until by October 1st a fine little city was built upon the present site of Aledo. There was a brick hotel of three stories, a brick block owned by Willits & Moore, Judge Thompson was erecting a fine residence, and in all about one hundred buildings were being erected or had been projected. There were actually standing at the close of the year twenty completed houses and many in various stages of construction. During 1857 building went on rapidly. The grading of the Great Western Air Line occurred from 1855 to 1857 and the Galesburg & Muscatine Railroad was projected to extend through Aledo. The plans of the proprietors were wise, because in



Photo by Carlson

VIEW OF SEVENTH STREET, ALEDO

the end when submitted to a vote, as described elsewhere, the county seat was removed from Keithsburg to Aledo. Mr. Willits and Judge Thompson, proprietors of the town, paid into the county treasury \$130 to defray the cost of this election. They bound themselves if the election resulted in favor of the change to deed to the county board for use of the county, Block 40 for a courthouse, and the following amounts were subscribed for the use of the county: Levi Willits and John S. Thompson, \$3,000; Nicholas Edwards, \$300; John S. Moore, \$600; John W. Miles, \$500; George Braucht, \$300; Kline & Jackman, \$100; O. C. Allen, \$300; Elisha Miles, \$300; M. L. Marsh, \$50; Thomas Moorehead, \$50; David Calhoun, \$50; James Y. Merritt, \$50; Joseph B. Lair, \$100; J. E. Harroun, \$200; W. M. McCandless, \$100; Thomas Candor, \$50; Joseph S. Matthews, \$25; George A. Smith, \$25; W. J. McAlister, \$25.

In July, 1857, the business of Aledo was about as follows: Dr. S. Macy, druggist; Thomas Maddux, general store and tinware; S. S. Bean & Co., groceries; J. S. Moore, livery; McEwen & Irving, wagon shop; Charles J. Sellon, real estate; Cone & Clark, blacksmiths; Paxton & Warwick, meat market; Moore & Allen, dry goods, groceries, millinery and a general store; N. & I. Edwards, dry goods, groceries, hardware and a general stock; Summerville & Huffman, blacksmiths; J. H. Snyder, blacksmith; J. S. & L. W. Thompson had a two-story brick office building nearly ready, and Thomas Candor a new frame store almost ready; Dr. D. P. Bigger, residence nearly ready; A. J. Hellings and Mr. Maining, residences almost finished; Doctor Boroff, a Gothic cottage almost finished; J. Ramsay, an English style cottage ready; C. F. Coningham, a residence nearly completed; Griswold & Smith, a two-story frame business house; Rev. J. S. Poage, a story and a half cottage almost finished; Dr. J. A. Morey, physician and surgeon; Dr. S. Boroff, physician and surgeon; S. Macy, surgeon dentist; A. G. Spangler, attorney.

When the village was first started and when the sale of lots occurred there was already on hand materials for a hotel and at this time it was planned that a newspaper would be started here as soon as the question of the change of county seat was determined upon. Accordingly, on July 14, 1857, Volume 1, Number 1, of the Aledo Weekly Record was issued. It was published every Tuesday by Reed & Bigelow for \$2 a year in advance, or \$2.50 a year not in advance. The paper stated that it was not neutral in any respect and further said, "So far as questions of human well-being are concerned we are not neutral. This world is a great battlefield, and

while falsehood and wrong are constantly aggressive, truth and right should be intensely so."

By July, 1857, there were standing on the site of Aledo over one hundred buildings completed or partly completed where just a year before was nothing but bare prairie, with only two log houses. Now there were substantial warehouses, tasteful and commodious dwellings and many more on the way. Two colleges, Presbyterian and Methodist, had been projected, and by 1858 were advancing toward completion. The preparatory department of one was under way in July, 1857. The big brick public schoolhouse was already commenced. There were eight stores, two large hotels going up, and it was stated that there was "no room for idle loafers, whisky drinkers or whisky sellers."

In May, 1858, it was noted that there were three schools in progress in the village. As yet there had gone up no church building. Services were held in the schoolhouses, but the Free Presbyterian Church was in process of construction and several others were contemplated. The new Barton House was pronounced one of the best on the military tract and was first kept by a man named Barton until the latter part of 1860, and the hotel was closed then for some two years or more, when it was opened by Amos Willits, and in a partition proceeding of the land owned by Levi Willits and John S. Thompson the house was sold to G. A. Luvin, and occupied by other persons for a while as lessees, when it was sold to Schuyler Button, and then the name was changed to the Button House. It was subsequently burned and Mr. Button then rebuilt it and he and his son, John Button, kept it for a number of years, when it was leased to other persons, and finally sold and passed into the hands of Archibald McKinney, who reconstructed it and put it into its present form, and it is occupied as the postoffice and stores on the lower floor, and for offices on the second story, and a hall on the third story.

By the summer of 1858 the town had the following stores: Two dry goods, two druggists, two groceries, one furniture, one boot and shoe, one stove and tin, one butcher, and the following shops: Two wagon and carriage, one harness and several blacksmiths. In June a restaurant and confectionery store had been started. At this time a call was made for a steam flour mill, planing mill, machine shop, plow factory, agricultural warehouse, hardware store and clothing store. At this time lumber was obtained at New Boston, Keithsburg, Rock Island and Andalusia. Sand was found within a mile of the town; lime was obtained from the above cities, brick was obtained

near here; excellent building material was found within three miles; coal the same distance and the water was excellent. Mail coaches arrived here from Monmouth, Galesburg, Galva, Rock Island, Muscatine and New Boston. A weekly mail was established here as early as the summer of 1857, the line extending from New Boston to Galva, passing through Aledo. At this time a tri-weekly mail was urged between Aledo and Monmouth. The Muscatine mail arrived every Tuesday and departed every Friday. The Galesburg mail arrived every Friday and departed every Tuesday. A. G. Ramsey was architect and builder at Aledo in July, 1857. Later in that year Paxton & Warwick slaughtered hogs and cattle. Aledo Lodge, No. 252, A. F. & A. M., and Aledo Lodge, I. O. O. F., were established here in 1857. This year J. E. Harroun was appointed postmaster. C. F. Coningham was house and ornamental painter.

When the Barton House was opened in the fall of 1857 it was made the occasion of a party and ball at which there was a large attendance for that day, though many did not attend owing to religious scruples. In August, 1857, Willits & Thompson donated ten acres in the southeastern part of town for a cemetery. The services of Tyler McWhorter, a landscape gardener, were secured to lay out the grounds. During the fall of 1857 C. J. Sellon, C. S. Richey, G. Swindler, J. McCoy, J. W. Griswold and Harrison Scott erected new residences. Patterson & Wilson started a furniture store in September; L. Jordan opened a carriage shop about the same time. A residence was built for Rev. H. J. Humphrey, D. V. Reed opened a boot and shoe store and Ralph Grow occupied a new residence at this time. The Barton House was built by Willits & Thompson and had about fifty rooms. It came to be called Barton out of regard for the second landlord, whose name was Barton and who came from Moline. In September, H. C. Morey started a drug store, and in the same month D. Northway, Mr. Chevelier and William Doak built new residences here. The little village was wide-awake and up-to-date. In October a literary society was organized here and many questions scientific, political and otherwise were debated and discussed. One special question debated was that of hard money and the judges decided in favor of currency. About the same time J. E. Harroun lectured before the society on the subject of reputation and character. He was then county school commissioner. In November, J. W. Miles lectured before the society on kindness and love as opposed to hatred and revenge. Other lecturers during the winter were Rev. A. Tucker, President Wallace, of Monmouth; President Blanchard and President Skinner, of Galesburg, all prom-

inent speakers and educators. Rev. James Poage lectured in November on the subject of true patriotism. Dr. D. P. Bigger also lectured before the society in November. In January, 1858, the society discussed the slavery question and that of capital punishment.

In November, 1857, D. Kline opened a store of sporting goods, including guns, ammunition, hunting suits, etc. In January, 1858, Dr. G. W. Rodecker gave a series of lectures on phrenology here. At the same time a series of union prayer meetings, probably the first held in Aledo, were conducted in the Mercer Collegiate Institute, being held by the few religious organizations here. About this time President Skinner, of Galesburg, again lectured before the society and spoke on the subject of mental and physical labor. Rev. Mr. Tucker also again lectured on political integrity.

In January, 1858, an attempt was made here to put liquor on sale, but the attempt was promptly resented by the inhabitants. A large massmeeting was called and resolutions were passed to prevent the sale of liquor in Aledo at all hazards. All realized that in order to prevent the sale absolutely it would be necessary to incorporate. At this meeting Rev. H. J. Humphrey was made chairman and C. M. Kay, secretary. J. W. Miles stated the object of the meeting. On motion J. H. Reed, Rev. J. S. Poage and Rev. M. Bigger were appointed to prepare business for the meeting. The meeting was addressed by J. W. Miles, M. L. Marsh and I. Edwards. The resolutions adopted favored incorporation in order to check the liquor traffic which had been commenced the Saturday night next before. The resolutions were, "That while we are law-abiding citizens and lovers of good order, we shall feel ourselves at liberty to protect ourselves and our children against the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage in this community at all hazards; that those engaged in the sale of ale and beer in our town be and they are hereby respectfully requested to abstain from the sale of those articles; that the druggists of Aledo be and hereby are respectfully requested not to sell liquor except by a regular prescription from a physician, and that the physicians be requested to prescribe it only when it is absolutely necessary. Miles, Harroun and Reed were appointed to notify the liquor sellers of this action and Reed and Poage were appointed to arrange for a meeting to take preliminary steps for incorporating the Town of Aledo.

In January and February, 1858, the following men were doing business in Aledo: D. Kline, guns, ammunition, etc.; Moore & Allen, same; Lewis & Brother, groceries and a general stock; L. J. Gordon, harness; G. A. Luvin, restaurant; D. V. Reed, boots and

shoes; Ralph Grow, contractor and builder; Paxton & Warwick, meat market; Patterson & Wilson, furniture and undertaking; A. G. Fider, barber; Dr. H. C. Morey, druggist—he sold wines and liquors rather frequently for medical purposes, it was thought; J. M. Maus had recently opened a coal mine three miles northeast of Aledo. He charged 6 cents per bushel at the mines, but 11 cents if delivered in this village. His coal bank was opposite that of H. M. Robb.

The first session of court in Aledo was held in the upper story of the new schoolhouse. The teachers' association met here at the same time and they occupied the same room alternately in February. In fact, they occupied the same room at different times on the same day. In March, 1858, Levi Willits, one of the town proprietors, died. James H. Reed, editor of the Record, was an able and often a brilliant writer, but he enjoyed lampooning and scorching opponents too well to make his editorials popular. Horace Bigelow, the publisher, conducted the news department and is yet living in Aledo, well advanced in years. Thousands of interesting items in these pages would never have been secured but for Mr. Bigelow's kindness in lending the writers of this volume the old files of the Record in his possession.

On February 5, 1858, the citizens assembled to decide whether to incorporate the town or not. O. C. Allen was chairman and M. Bigger, secretary. J. H. Reed stated the object of the meeting. The General Act of Incorporation was read by J. W. Miles. A vote was then taken with the result that the plan of incorporation was defeated by a majority of 152.

In March, 1858, Aledo claimed a population of 700. Very probably the actual number fell a little short of that. The nearest railroad was twenty-six miles distant. The Western Air Line was already graded, but the rails were not down and all work had for the time ceased.

In the spring of 1858 S. Scribner & Co. bought the stock of drugs owned by Dr. H. C. Morey and afterwards conducted the store. J. B. Martin ran a line of hacks to Monmouth three times a week—Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Lang's grocery kept whisky for sale in June, 1858, in spite of the temperance movement of the last winter and its continuance during the summer. It was said that there were fifty drinks in each barrel of whisky. The citizens in July offered such opposition to the continuance of the doggery that it was finally closed. They went en masse and requested the keeper to quit the business, the paper submitted being signed by nearly every citizen of the town. In June, 1858, it was planned to

establish a wild-cat bank here, with a capital of \$50,000. Doctor Edwards was one of the men connected with this movement, but it was not completed. In the spring of 1860 among the business men were the following: Isaac Edwards, M. D., a stock valued at \$40,000; Willits & Bassett, land agency; A. Corken, druggist; Elisha Miles, general store; J. H. Geick, tailor; S. Macy, druggist; Thomas Maddux, an interest in two or more stores; Seymour & Robinson, boots and shoes; D. Kline, sporting goods; Fred Volk, groceries; Miss R. Smith, millinery; D. V. Reed, boots, shoes, groceries, etc.; J. H. Abercrombie, harness; Tyler McWhorter, nursery stock.

The Evening Star Lodge, No. 252, I. O. G. T., was in operation in the summer of 1860, under N. P. Brown, W. C. T. In September, 1860, W. L. Campbell delivered a speech on temperance under the auspices of this lodge, to a large audience at Aledo. The speech was one of the strongest and most elaborate ever delivered in Aledo up to this time. At this date Palo Alto Lodge of Good Templars was established here.

In 1859-60 W. H. Thompson was postmaster at Aledo. Upon the change of administration in 1861 William Townley was candidate for the office. As it appeared that there would be shown much ill will over the postoffice question early in 1861, the following citizens recommended that the question of who should be postmaster should be submitted to the voters at a special election to be held February 23d; John J. Glenn, J. M. Mannon, W. W. Carothers, D. N. Barton, J. H. Abercrombie, John Carnahan, John Ramsey, H. Parkman, I. Berlzheimer, S. Whitham, A. G. Fider, C. M. Coe, E. L. Strattan, Oliver G. Jack, Horace Bigelow, J. G. McGuffin, G. A. Luvin, Henry Malone, J. H. Reed, M. L. Marsh, William Townley, William P. Baker, A. Corken, S. H. Rodgers, N. P. Brown, J. S. Paxton, S. W. McCoy, J. H. Gillespie, George Boone and Andrew Mays. The election was duly held and resulted in the selection of J. M. Wilson. In the end J. M. Wilson received the appointment as postmaster, his papers dating from August, 1861.

It was at that time that Aledo took steps to become incorporated and at the same time planned a council house, on which work was actually commenced in August.

In the fall of 1861 J. H. Hilberry brought a daguerrean car to this city and began taking ambrotypes, daguerreotypes, etc. About the same time the Bank of Aledo was started by Isaac Edwards, although his efforts were somewhat informal and his bank was not one of issue. He received deposits, bought and sold exchange, handled notes and did a partial though somewhat informal banking business.



Photo by Carlson

SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE, ALEDO



Photo by Carlson

NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE, ALEDO

With the issue of September 9, 1862, J. H. Reed sold his interest in the Record to Horace Bigelow, who assumed at first sole management and editorship, but very soon employed John Porter to conduct the editorial department. This combination continued with success for many years.

On March 3, 1863, a public meeting at Aledo formed an organization called the Aledo Cemetery Association, the following persons becoming members: John S. Thompson, Simeon Macy, Joseph McCoy, William H. Biggs, Harrison Scott, Horace Bigelow, John W. Miles, George Irvin, Jefferson White, Joseph M. Abercrombie, William Downs, J. S. Poage, George A. Smith, John Rainy, T. H. Day, W. W. Williams and J. R. Bassett. John S. Thompson was elected first president of the association. The association secured a large tract southeast of Aledo, had the same platted and offered lots for sale in June, 1863. On August 4, 1863, "many citizens of Aledo" issued a call for a meeting to be held at the courthouse on the 15th of the same month to vote for or against the question of incorporating the town under the general law of the state. The election was duly held and was carried unanimously, with the exception of five or six, who cast votes against it. The election was held on September 5th and E. Gilmore, S. Macy, J. R. Bassett, W. McK. Young and George Turner were elected the first trustees. Doctor Macy was chosen president and John R. Bassett, secretary of the board. The corporate limits of the town included the territory embraced in the limits of the original plat of the village, Willits & Thompson's Addition and Braucht's Addition thereto. The town constable was appointed by the president and trustees. The first levy of tax was 20 cents on \$100 for corporate purposes.

In February, 1864, it was announced in the Record that a bank would be established in Aledo within a short time, with a capital of \$50,000. At the same time stock was offered for sale, the payments to be made on or before May. This plan again seems to have failed. Isaac Edwards, who had begun a partial banking business in 1861, opened a broker's office in Aledo in February, 1864. He bought and sold exchange on all principal cities and bought and sold stocks, coin, money, bank notes, uncurrent money and promissory notes.

In December, 1864, Horace Bigelow became postmaster, succeeding James M. Wilson. About this time, or a little before, the Aledo Brass Band was organized and at first had six pieces, but later was increased to twelve or fifteen. In July, 1865, the school census gave Aledo a population of 703 and Mercer County a population of 20,151.

The Aledo Record in 1865 became so boastful of what the town would become as soon as the railroad should be built that the New Boston Herald made the following observation: "There are three institutions which you cannot get up in Aledo, viz.: a fishery, a steam ferry and a steamboat line." In June, 1866, C. W. Searles succeeded Horace Bigelow as postmaster.

In July, 1866, the following business establishments were here: George Irvin, physician and surgeon; Harris & Waters, attorneys; L. H. Thompson, attorney and real estate dealer; S. Macy, druggist; M. D. Craig, physician; Isaac Edwards, attorney at law; J. R. and I. N. Bassett, attorneys and land agents; C. M. Kay, attorney and military claim agent; J. F. Woods, physician; S. Macy, surgeon dentist; Samuel W. Cay, attorney; Hugh R. Morrison, cabinetmaker; L. L. Troy, merchant; Smith & Graham, merchants; Poage & Senter, merchants; William Boney, druggist; L. F. Jobusch, grocer; Barton Hotel (for sale); J. J. Rainwater, physician; E. G. Stiles, licensed auctioneer; Fred Volk, groceries and general store; Boone & Warwick, boots and shoes; Harroun & Willits, general store in Aledo and New Boston; Miss McBride, millinery.

On September 5, 1866, Horace Bigelow sold a half interest in the Record to John Porter, who during the previous four years had been employed as his editor. In February, 1867, the Mercer County Press, which had been established a short time before, passed to the ownership of George C. Wilson. It was a democratic sheet. He was succeeded in May by Capt. D. R. Waters, who took charge of the paper.

In the fall of 1867 steps to enclose the cemetery were taken. Previous to this date it was not surrounded with a fence and cattle, horses and other stock roamed at will over the graves, much to the indignation of many of the citizens. An ordinance fixing liquor licenses at \$300 was passed in October, 1867. In November the Barton House was completely destroyed by fire. In May, 1868, the authorities finally decided to fence the cemetery and steps in that direction were at once taken. In the fall of 1868 a large grain elevator was being built here by Mack & Whiting. At the same time a flour mill was commenced and a planing mill was projected. Pepper & Young began merchandising here in 1867 and Abercrombie & Deborde opened a harness store in May, 1868. No sooner was the Barton House destroyed than a new structure on the same site was projected and commenced within a few days. It became the Button House and was the principal hotel of the town for many years.

Pursuant to call, the citizens of Aledo met at the courthouse on January 20, 1869, to consider the proposition of securing a city charter for the town. Dr. W. D. Craig was made chairman and James H. Connell, secretary. Isaac N. Bassett, C. J. Bartleson and C. S. Richey were appointed a committee to draft a city charter and submit it to the Legislature for adoption. This was done. It was introduced in the Legislature on January 25 by Mr. McManus. The rules were suspended and the bills read a second time and referred to the committee on incorporations and insurance. On the 27th it came back without amendment and was read a third time. It passed the house March 8th, having previously passed the senate, but it was not signed by the governor. The governor vetoed the measure because it embraced land that was not laid out into town lots. In preparing the bill I. N. Bassett, of the committee, insisted that there should be nothing included in the corporation but the land that had been made into town lots, but he was overruled by the majority of the committee.

The planing mill was commenced early in 1869 by Edwards, Pinkerton & Company, was soon completed and became one of the principal business establishments of the place. The elevator began operations on or about February 1st and proved a great convenience to the farming community and served to advertise the town. Early in 1869 Bailey & Byers, of Camp Point, bought property here and made arrangements to open a banking house. By the 24th of February they were prepared to buy and sell exchange to a limited extent and soon afterwards were ready to do a full banking business. Their office was in the Warwick Building. A. M. Byers took up his residence here at this date. In the end they bought the Warwick Building and immediately thereafter ended forever the sale of liquor in that structure. Thomas Bailey was associated with Mr. Byers in the ownership of the bank, but Mr. Byers was the principal manager.

In 1869 John Geiger bought the Mercer County Press, the democratic paper, at Aledo, and conducted it until 1872, when he sold out to O. P. Arthur, his stepson. In 1877 he bought an interest in the Aledo Banner, and about a year and a half later sold out the same to P. F. Warner. Again in 1880 he founded the Aledo Democrat and soon after associated with himself George M. Eames, and so continued until his death in 1883. Mr. Geiger was at all times a straight-out and consistent democrat. He refused to follow the Greeley movement in the early '70s.

The railroad reached Aledo in 1869. Samuel Marquis conveyed people to the end of the line for several months before its completion

to this town. As soon as it was certain that the railroad would be built in the near future, Aledo enjoyed a building boom. More than thirty new structures were planned and the most of them were erected, as an immediate result of this boom. The town had been laid out originally with the expectation of becoming an important point on the railroad. Thus after twelve years of waiting the hopes of the people were realized. On March 16th the first train of cars ran through the center of the town. The entire population were present to formally receive the train officials and celebrate the occasion. As the train drew up at the depot shout after shout rent the air and other manifestations of happiness and delight were exhibited. In fact, during the rest of the week the people continued to celebrate. Farmers came in from all directions and desired a part in the joyous ceremonies. On the 22d the first passenger coach arrived, and within a few days thereafter the telegraph line was in operation.

In the spring of 1869 the cemetery association, a private concern, deeded the cemetery to the town authorities, upon condition that they would at once fence the park and put it in better condition. This was agreed to, the deed was made, the property fenced and the grounds laid out and ornamented.

In May John S. Thompson offered one hundred choice lots in Aledo at public sale for one-third cash, one-third in one year and one-third in two years, with 10 per cent interest. In 1869 the Mercer County Musical Association was organized at Aledo, also the Aledo Literary and Library Society. Both began active work, and for a few years were prominently identified with many advanced movements here. In December, 1869, Aledo had seven dry goods stores, seven groceries, three hardware stores, three drug stores, two bakeries, four harness shops, three shoe shops, three jewelry shops, one book store, one bank, two agricultural warehouses, three wagon and carriage shops, three photograph galleries, two clothing shops, two furniture stores, one steam planing mill, two lumber yards, two elevators, one steam flouring mill, two livery stables, seven blacksmith shops, etc.

There are many interesting small items usually overlooked by writers in the history of a community which are of great interest to the people themselves. Having passed through those experiences, and having made such a part of their existence, they wish them preserved, and, accordingly, in the following pages many small items will be noticed, with the expectation that the readers of this volume will take pleasure in reviewing the small items of the past. The first colored man to vote in Mercer County was Samuel W. Hedge, barber. He cast his vote at the school election in April, 1870. The

Congregational Church of Aledo was dedicated by Rev. J. E. Roy, D. D., of Chicago, in the spring of 1870. Many brick buildings were constructed this year. For many years Aledo had suffered by lack of proper connection with that portion of the county north of Edwards River. Finally in 1870 the city voted \$2,500 to build a suitable bridge across that stream. It was finished and ready for use on August 20th. It was built by J. S. Pinkerton. At the same time the road from Aledo to the bridge was put in excellent order under the direction of the town authorities. Thomas A. Marquis conducted many singing classes in this town in early years. During the year 1870 there were erected a total of thirty new buildings, either wholly or in part. Four of them were brick structures, costing an aggregate of about twenty thousand dollars. Four were dwellings of much pretension, costing from \$2,000 to \$5,000. At this time the Mercer Collegiate Institute was conducted by Prof. S. E. McKee. The public schools had about two hundred and fifty scholars and the following religious societies were organized: Old School Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal, Congregational and Episcopal.

In December, 1870, J. L. Bentley and M. Cannum shipped from Aledo forty-two head of hogs, the average weight of which was 367 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds. It was one of the best lots ever sent from this portion of the county. S. G. Morris conducted a slaughter house here at this date. McBride's livery stable was destroyed by fire in May, 1871. The fire threatened other portions of the city, but was finally controlled. Professor Hanchett conducted an academy of music here in the spring of 1871. Alexander & Owen made brick on an extensive scale here at this date. In the fall of 1871 when news of the Chicago fire reached Aledo, the citizens promptly raised \$500 and forwarded at the earliest possible moment two carloads of provisions. Meetings were held and committees were appointed to raise more funds. J. S. Poage was chairman of one meeting and Horace Bigelow, secretary. There were shipped from Aledo by rail during 1871, 26 carloads of wheat; 215 of corn; 77 of oats; 28 of rye; 265 of hogs; 61 of cattle; 13 of sheep. The numbers of each were estimated as follows: Wheat, 9,516 bushels; corn, 78,990 bushels; oats, 51,282 bushels; rye, 10,248 bushels; hogs, 13,250 head; cattle, 976 head; sheep, 650 head. The corn shipped was of the crop of 1870, which was a comparatively small one. The corn crop of Mercer County in 1871 was the largest ever raised up to that date.

In 1870 a no-license board of trustees was elected for Aledo. Within the next few months five cases were brought against Michael

R. Good for the violation of the temperance ordinance. He took a change of venue to Rock Island, but the judgment of the lower court was there affirmed. He was fined \$100 in each case. Under the city authorities the cemetery was made beautiful by the summer of 1872. Walks and roads were laid out, flowers, shrubs and trees were planted and the site generally was most tasteful and attractive. Again in October, 1872, the question of incorporating Aledo as a city was discussed pro and con and there was manifest a determination to continue the struggle until this result was accomplished. There was much opposition from the element which enjoyed the presence of the saloons. J. McKinney, Jr., established a dry goods store about this time. Prof. H. R. Palmer of the Northwestern Academy of Music, Chicago, author of the "Song King," "Song Queen," etc., conducted a music school and convention here early in 1873. All the young people and the best singers of the city participated and the closing exercises were attended by the entire population. All enjoyed the beautiful music, the bright faces and the happy occasion. It was said that the largest assemblage in Aledo up to this time attended this convention.

The Fourth of July, 1873, was celebrated by Aledo in McWhorter's Grove, a short distance south of town. J. E. Harroun read the Declaration of Independence; Judge Willard, George P. Graham and A. J. Streeter were the orators. This was the time when the Granger organizations flourished and there was present a large cavalcade of that order, coming even from different portions of the county. The day was hot and the cool shade under the stately trees was enjoyed. An attempt to send up a balloon failed, but it was again tried from the courthouse square in Aledo and again failed, the great heat of the day, it was declared, preventing, in a large measure, the success of the operation of filling. However, the following week Professor Boley, who had the project in charge, ascended here over a mile high and descended in Perryton Township, three and a half miles away. A short time afterward he lost his life in an adjoining county.

During the panic of 1873, when banks everywhere crashed and went to pieces, A. M. Byers & Company of Aledo sustained the panic with success and came through without injury to credit or otherwise. During the most exciting weeks they refused to buy New York exchange and took other precautions.

In January, 1874, E. D. Woods' Academy of Music, which had been conducted here for some time, gave a musical program at Byers' Hall. Forty-five students rendered a most attractive program. The



Photo by Carlson

CENTRAL PARK, ALEDO

orchestra class consisted of twenty-five members and had eight violins, three cornets, three brass horns and one bass viol.

At every election of the town trustees after the war the temperance question cut an important figure. There were invariably temperance and license tickets, and usually sharp contests ensued between the rival tickets. The election in April, 1874, was rendered much more important by the fact that the temperance wave which swept the country was here at that date. Both sides worked at the polls and fought every inch of ground. The temperance ticket was in charge of the reform movement. The result gave the temperance party a slight majority, five of their trustees and their clerk winning. Doctor Irwin claimed that his name was placed on the people's ticket as trustee without his knowledge or consent, but he received the vote of both parties. The result was as follows: Temperance ticket, E. Gilmore, 98; J. C. Thomson, 96; C. S. Richey, 95; G. L. Bitts, 95; H. P. Graham, 94. People's ticket, H. S. Senter, 99; J. M. Smith, 93; George Geiger, 93; John McKinney, Jr., 91; E. C. Humphrey, 89. The vote for clerk was as follows: Temperance ticket, Lewis D. Holmes, 102; people's ticket, O. P. Arthur, 86.

Early in 1874 the Aledo Literary Society was organized and by the middle of March had about three hundred and fifty dollars subscribed at ten dollars a share for stock. The first trustees were C. S. Richey, H. S. Senter and Tyler McWhorter. A quantity of books were secured and the library was opened in the hall over Richey Brothers & McGuffin's store. The membership was \$2 a year. Mark Twain's latest book, the "Gilded Age," was received, among others, the last of April, 1874. In 1874 A. M. Byers planned to retire from the Aledo Bank, which he soon afterwards did, and was succeeded by John McKinney, Sr.

In February, 1875, Mercer Township collected and forwarded to the Kansas and Nebraska sufferers, twenty barrels of flour and cornmeal, forty-eight sacks of flour and cornmeal, one large box of clothing, one bundle of clothing and two bundles of dried meats. C. I. McIntire was a soliciting agent representing those who collected the materials. In 1875 the temperance excitement was almost as strong as in 1874. Two tickets again appeared, but this time the citizen's ticket won against the temperance ticket by an average majority of about fifteen. Every member of the citizen's ticket for trustee and the candidate for town clerk were elected. Soon after their election they fixed the license fee at \$240. The seller was required to give a bond of \$3,000 not to sell to minors nor to habitual drunkards, nor to sell any other kind of liquor than those specified

in the license. They were not permitted to have screens before their doors and were required to hold forth on the principal street.

The bank in 1875 was under the management of Byers & Gilmore. A little later the owners became McKinney, Gilmore & Company. At this time there was formed under the state law the Farmers Bank by A. M. Byers & Company. It consisted of a limited partnership, under Chapter 84 of the Revised Statutes, and the capital was fixed at \$48,000 and the term of existence five years. They were authorized to do in Aledo a general banking, brokerage and real estate business. A large safe and vault were secured. The following were the subscribers to the capital stock: A. M. Byers, L. B. Morey, A. J. Streeter, G. D. Miller, S. F. Everett, Martin Boyd, Martin Bear, Jacob Bear, O. A. Bridgford, R. J. Cabeen, D. M. Candor, A. W. Spicer, John Greenwood, Robert Blee, Joseph McCoy, James C. Wright, Tyler McWhorter, W. H. Holmes, E. Miles, William Rutherford, Samuel Lafferty and Josiah Candor.

Late in 1875 Schuyler Colfax lectured in Aledo, his subject being Abraham Lincoln. He came here under the management of Horace Bigelow. In the winter of 1875-6 the town secured a fire extinguisher and organized to fight fires. J. M. Smith was foreman of the firemen. The force was divided into chemical, cylinder, pipe, hose, hand engine and extra men. At first the force consisted of approximately fifty men.

In April, 1876, there were four tickets in the municipal election, one strong temperance, one lukewarm temperance, one out and out liquor and one compromise ticket. The latter was successful. In January, 1877, a special census of Aledo was taken with this result: Males, 883; females, 943; total, 1,826. Of these 1,671 were Americans, 112 Swedes, 13 English and a few of others. The number of whites was 1,805; colored, 21. There were 286 frame and 9 brick residence buildings; 49 frame and 28 brick business buildings; 7 churches, 5 other public buildings. Total value of all buildings, \$601,600.

In February, 1877, Fred Douglas lectured at Union Hall to the largest audience that ever greeted a public lecturer in the village up to that time. Six hundred persons were present. His subject was "Self-Made Men." A little later Robert J. Burdette delivered his famous lecture on "Rise and Fall of the Mustache."

In 1874 the Aledo flour mills were started by S. W. Garley, who continued the management of the same for many years. In 1877 the Aledo Manufacturing Company, a town stock concern, was organized under the presidency of A. F. Perrigo. About this time there was

another agitation of the city charter question. The total vote by village election in 1877 was 256. About 80 votes were cast in favor of license and 170 against it. J. F. Henderson was elected clerk.

In June, 1877, Aledo was visited by a destructive tornado. The storm did not reach the city in its full strength but did great damage as it passed. The following were the damages done: United Presbyterian Church, steeple and cupola blown down and three-fourths of the roof torn off; the United Presbyterian Church was toppled partly over and damaged; Doctor Irwin's house was tipped partly over; the Aledo Manufacturing Company lost many windows and a portion of its roof; the Severin building was damaged and the kitchen in the rear was lifted and set down bottom up on the other side of the woodpile; the tin roof on the Union Hall was partly blown off; Dr. W. K. Brouse's house was unroofed and the stable was blown down; windows in the Button House were blown in; the smokestack on Edwards & Son's planing mill was prostrated; the smokestack on the Aledo flour mills was left in a dangerously leaning condition; A. Bauer's hotel was damaged; the barn of Robert Blee, west of town, was blown away; John Inqmire's barn was moved eight or ten feet and injured. Two horses inside were not hurt. Other objects were picked up in all parts of the town and scattered in every direction. The same storm in other localities was much severer than here.

In the '70s the newspapers began slowly to print more local news than ever before, so that by 1878 there were correspondents in many of the villages of the county for the Record and other Aledo papers. The public library in March was removed to the office of L. D. Holmes, over Lorimer's store. C. R. Wood was librarian at this date. The library authorities urged all citizens to become members at \$2 each per year. In 1878 the Aledo citizen's ticket again won over two opposition tickets. O. P. Arthur was still editor of the Banner in 1878. In the spring of 1879 the temperance ticket was again successful for the first time in several years. In 1880 L. B. Doughty was connected with the Record as editor of the temperance department. There was a smallpox scare here in 1881. H. Bigelow was a prominent real estate dealer in 1881 and later. In June, 1881, it was planned to enlarge the cemetery and this was actually accomplished a little later. In 1883 the authorities procured a hand brake fire engine and a hose cart with 300 feet of hose at a total cost of \$835. Before this the city had only a chemical engine. The new engine weighed 1,400 pounds and the wheels were only four feet apart and thus the engine could be run upon the sidewalks. At this

date the town had this engine, the hose cart and a hook and ladder brigade. The Aledo fire department was wholly voluntary and consisted of the following members, January 1, 1883: Fire marshal, Joseph McDougal; foreman, Lee D. Elliott; first assistant foreman, Charles Detwiler; second assistant foreman, Joel Harvey; treasurer, William Winders; secretary, Joseph F. Henderson, and the following firemen: Ben Cullison, Lee Eckman, George Gillespie, Dan Kennicutt, Ed Smith, J. M. Wright, Chris Thede, Frank Hebbard, William Yount, Elmer Law, A. Marquis, Ned Abercrombie, H. Morrison, Luther Bernhard, Harry Dean, W. C. Galloway, Harry Harbour, John McPherrin, A. McKinnie, John Harvey, Charles Dunn, James Jones, John Gilmore, A. Curry, Henry Smith, George Eames, Charles Finch and Thad Wright. With the new engine and other apparatus steps to secure fifteen more members were taken.

At the Aledo village election in April, 1883, two tickets were in the field, the anti-license and the citizens. The license element endorsed, worked for and voted the citizens ticket which was successful, the trustees being C. F. Durston, John F. McBride, Joseph Boyd, Charles Detwiler, and E. L. Wolff. Joseph F. Henderson for clerk was on both tickets.

Business of all kinds at Aledo on January 1, 1881: Attorneys—Pepper & Wilson, J. H. Connell, Bassett & Wharton, L. W. Thompson, Holmes & McBride, Brock & Morgan, W. McK. Young. Agricultural implements—Spicer & Gilmore, R. Mentzer, E. L. Wolff. Boots and shoes—J. O. Lundblad, S. W. Gailey, Johnson & Wallen, H. Feltges, Thomas Palmer. Blacksmiths—Morrison & Curry, A. W. Cole, J. S. Gilmore, F. Davis, C. Thede. Bakeries—O. P. Maxfield, J. F. Pyles. Banks—McKinney, Gilmore & Company, A. M. Byers & Company. Books and stationery—J. M. Macy, Bassett & Yerty, V. K. Croson. Barbers—Cole, Eibing & Wade, B. F. Wade. Confectionery—Wash Boone, J. F. Pyles, G. M. Bauer, O. P. Maxfield. Groceries, clothing—A. O. McDonald, P. Ringdall, M. Rosenfield. Carriages and buggies—C. F. Coningham. Cigars and tobacco—M. L. Brankamp. Dry goods—M. F. Felix, H. Maynard, J. F. Calhoun, Mrs. D. V. Reed, J. F. McBride, W. A. Lorimer, Shafer & Humphrey, Richey & Dunlap, J. Black. Drugs and medicines—W. D. Craig, J. M. Macy, J. M. Wallace. Dentists—David & Coulson. Elevators—D. Fargo, E. L. Wolff. Furniture—H. R. Morrison, J. B. Moore. Groceries—L. F. Jobusch, Thomson & Edwards, H. Maynard, Boyd & Lemon, Richey & Dunlap, J. Galloway & Son, J. F. Pyles, J. R. McCrea, McGuffin & McDonald, G. M. Bauer. Hotels—Aledo House, William Crosier;

Button House, John Button; Bauer House, G. M. Bauer. Insurance—J. F. Henderson, William Carroll. Jewelry—J. H. Ramsey, F. Lemon, A. Corken. Livery stables—Jo Carter, Low Brown, S. Marquis. Lumber—Edwards, Weaver & Company, E. L. Wolff. Millinery—A. M. Young, Bassett & Yerty, Mrs. Houk, Richey & Dunlap. Meat markets—Dunn & St. Clair, Winders & Hutchinson. Marble works—A. H. Law, H. Wells. Newspapers—Record, Porter & Bigelow; Democrat, John Geiger; Banner, Peter F. Warner. Organs and pianos—J. B. Moore & Son. Physicians—George Irvin, W. D. Craig & Son, J. M. Wallace, Thomas Shaver, J. D. Taylor. Poultry and game—M. S. Boice & Company, J. D. Remington. Painters—F. C. Cunningham, G. B. Eames, J. W. Crawford. Photograph gallery—Luke Strong. Stoves and hardware—E. Detwiler & Son, W. H. Holmes. Saddles and harness—J. H. Abercrombie, R. J. Cabeen & Company. Sewing machines—Carroll Brothers, J. S. Bills. Soap factory—M. S. Boice. Tile and brick—B. F. Townsley. Undertaking—H. R. Morrison. Variety store—M. S. Boice & Company, Holiday Fair, A. E. Mead. Wagon makers—J. M. Frazier, P. Killey, W. A. Russell, George McEowen.

The library did not meet the encouragement it deserved. Accordingly, in April, 1883, the library association held an entertainment and netted \$35.25. C. S. Richey was treasurer at that time. The library room was in the Parkman Block. In March, 1884, they received twenty-nine new books, mainly Sir Walter Scott's works. H. R. Morrison was president, W. C. Galloway, secretary, and W. H. Holmes, George Gillespie, Jesse Markee and D. M. Candor, directors. Other entertainments were held for the library and a considerable sum, probably one hundred dollars, was realized with which to purchase books by November, 1884. In the spring of 1884 the new creamery at Aledo went into operation.

In 1884 Aledo had three elevators, a flour mill, a carriage and wagon manufactory, a marble yard, brick and tile works, a big new brick schoolhouse, which cost \$25,000; a soldiers' monument, seven churches, secret and benevolent societies, two newspapers, several good hotels, an opera house, fair ground, a new town hall, an engine house, the Aledo creamery and was otherwise prosperous, enterprising and ambitious. In 1885 when the term of existence of the Farmers' Bank expired, the capital stock was increased to \$7,000 under the reorganization. A. M. Byers still conducted it and was associated with W. N. Graham and Frank Evans.

On April 29, 1885, L. B. Doughty resigned his position on the local department of the Record. On the same date John Porter

and Horace Bigelow dissolved partnership in the ownership of that paper, Mr. Bigelow withdrawing permanently from connection with it. Mr. Porter was joined in its management by his two sons, Moses W. and James A. The last issue of the Times appeared February 1, 1894. The new name, Times-Record, was given the paper and was under the ownership and management of the Times-Record Publishing Company. It was a consolidation of the Times and the Weekly Record.

On April 21, 1885, the voters of Aledo were again called upon to vote on the question of city government and to elect at the same time four trustees. The question was decided in favor of the subject. The temperance people were successful in electing the first mayor by a majority of three and majorities against license were given in the First and Third wards, but license carried in the Second ward by a majority of one. The officers elected were as follows: For mayor—George Irvin (Temp.), 167; L. B. Morey (Lic.), 164. City clerk—S. D. C. Hays, 326. City treasurer—W. N. Graham, 323. Attorney—J. H. Connell, 323. Aldermen, First ward—Joseph H. Abercrombie, 106; Charles Detwiler, 108; Second ward—A. L. Craig, 57; Joseph Boyd, 69; J. R. McCrea, 48; G. M. Eames, 48; Third ward—A. W. Ransom, 67; J. E. Gilmore, 69; J. B. Felton, 48; J. F. Milligan, 47. Against license, 171; for license, 152. The salaries of the city officials per annum were as follows: Mayor, \$40; city attorney, retainer, \$50; city treasurer, \$25; city clerk, \$75; aldermen, each meeting, \$1.50; street commissioner, per month, \$40; night watchman, per month, \$40.

The Chautauqua was organized in December, 1888, with Reverend Brown, president, and Miss Merrill, secretary. They met in the rooms of the W. C. T. U., but were not successful in establishing a permanent entertainment. In December, 1888, a destructive fire occurred, the following being the losers: D. Cannum, \$3,000; Mrs. Strother, \$1,200; G. M. Bauer, \$550; W. H. Holmes, \$200; Doctor Johnston, \$500; James McKinney, \$350; Candor & Company, \$50; Mrs. Reed, \$500; V. K. Croson, \$100.

At the city election in 1889 L. B. Morey was chosen mayor. This year the city waterworks were planned and put in course of construction. The contract was let in May to the United States Windmill & Pump Company, of Batavia, at \$7,368. The works were duly constructed and a well was sunk to the depth of over three thousand feet. The water at that depth was not satisfactory and the bore was filled up practically to the level of the present water supply. The analysis of the present city water shows the fol-

lowing constituents: Total solid residue, 262.82; calcium sulphate, 57.88; magnesium sulphate, 25.50; magnesium carbonate, 15.37; silica (fine sand), 7.20; iron and alumina, 24.48; sodium and potassium chlorides, 132.39; carbon dioxide, 41.35; free ammonia, .008; albuminous ammonia, .0056; nitrates, .0425; nitrites, no trace; in 100 parts water.

The waterworks established in 1889 were under the management of Mayor L. B. Morey. The well was drilled by A. K. Wallen and reached a depth of 3,115 feet. St. Peter sandstone occupied 1,000 feet of this depth. From that region the present water supply of the city was obtained.

The original street lighting contract given by the city to Lair & Marquis was continued fifteen years, with an option to the city to buy the property after the expiration of ten years. This time expired in August, 1900. In November, 1901, that company said they were willing to improve the plant if given a longer franchise. At first there were at every cross street incandescent lights and a total of fifteen arc lights were used at the most conspicuous places. By 1900 the Aledo Electric Light & Power Company had been in operation eight and a half years. I. R. Vincent and W. R. Lair were the owners in 1900, but Mr. Marquis took Mr. Vincent's place about this time. They had two large 50-horsepower boilers and a 110-horsepower engine. At this date about eighteen hundred incandescent lights were used in the city.

In July, 1890, the council passed resolutions to secure newer and better waterworks. At the same time the plans for the city building included a fire engine room, a council room and a calaboose, all to cost \$3,000, including the lot. The new and improved water system and building were planned to cost \$10,000. In September, 1890, the Aledo Business Union was organized for the purpose of upbuilding the city and giving it proper advertising. At that time the city called for bids for an electric light system. This year the Thief Detective and Mutual Aid Association was organized in Aledo, with R. H. Whitsitt, president, and H. Bigelow, secretary. The Benevolent Union was prominent at this time. It collected in the winter of 1890-91, \$121.51, which was paid out for the benefit of destitute persons. In November, 1890, the Mercer County Coal Company was organized here. They secured coal rights under 5,000 acres in Mercer County and had large tracts in other counties. The Aledo Electric Light & Power Company was put in course of construction late in 1890. By November Robert Candor, of the soliciting committee, reported that \$9,300 worth of stock had been subscribed for

the electric lighting organization. A committee was sent to other cities to investigate electric lighting systems. An ordinance was passed by the council, granting a franchise to the Aledo Electric Light & Power Company.

This year there were shipped from Aledo the following products: Grain, 156 cars; live stock, 348 cars; hay and straw, 19 cars; miscellaneous, 15 cars; total, 538 cars. Of these, 92 cars were of corn, 54 of oats, 7 of rye, 3 of wheat, 101 of cattle, 181 of hogs, 62 of horses, and 4 of sheep. There were received here 111 cars lumber, 61 cars coal, 81 of flour, 13 of salt, 8 of lime, and 45 of miscellaneous articles. The products brought here weighed 3,382,542 pounds; the railway tickets sold at Aledo amounted to \$15,430.90.

Vincent & Lair, water contractors, received 40 per cent for pumping, and as the total water receipts were \$126.09, their total revenue was only 40 per cent of that sum. They complained that the city had broken its contract with them and permitted waste and in other ways compelled them to pump twice as much as the original estimates. The daily consumption at this time was 1,100 barrels when the original estimate was but 400 barrels in summer and 200 barrels in winter. The council, realizing the justice of the complaint, took steps to remedy the conditions.

In November, 1893, the following bids for pumping city water were received: Frank Glancey, \$26 per month; J. A. Glancey, \$26 per month; J. S. Whiteside, 10 cents per 1,000 gallons; J. S. Whiteside, 12½ cents an hour. All the other bids were higher. In 1893 A. M. Byers & Company, bankers, paid out \$76,078 for horses to be shipped from this station. The other bank shipped enough, so that the amount paid out by both was \$150,823. During that year 476 carloads of live stock were sent from this station. In January, 1894, another effort was made to revive and build up the library. J. F. Henderson, Mrs. W. A. Lorimer and Mrs. J. M. Wright asked the Aledo council for \$500 for the support of the library. After due consideration the matter was laid on the table. In April the fire department had seventy-five men and was divided into three companies of twenty-five men each. There were two hose companies and one hook and ladder company. In April they ordered uniforms.

For the fiscal year ending April 1, 1894, the receipts of the City of Aledo amounted to \$17,526.31, of which \$7,190.55 was on hand at the beginning of the year. Vincent & Lair were the proprietors of the electric light company. They had trouble with the authorities and were enjoined from digging a well on the city land and from discharging their boilers on the street. The leading subscribers of

the Farmers Bank in 1895 were A. M. Byers, \$24,500; Tyler McWhorter, \$3,000; A. J. Streeter, of New Windsor, \$2,000; Sophia Miller, \$3,000. In all there were fifty-three subscribers. The total capital was \$50,000. In February, 1895, the ladies of Aledo were permitted by the owners of the *Times-Record* to publish and edit a copy of the paper to be issued on Washington's birthday. Miss Bird Marquis was editor-in-chief, Sallie Abercrombie, business manager, and there were many assistant editors of the numerous departments. The issue was really under the management of the Ladies' Philharmonic Club. In February, 1895, there was a three days' shooting tournament in Aledo with targets and live birds.

The largest issue of the *Times-Record*, or any other paper ever in Aledo, up to that date, appeared on December 19, 1895. It consisted of twenty pages, seven columns each, or a total of 140 columns. The numerous organizations for benevolent and social purposes in Aledo in October, 1895, were as follows: G. A. R., A. O. U. W., Masonic, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Odd Fellows, Home Forum, Eastern Star, Rebekahs, Ladies' Degree of Honor, Ladies' Relief Corps, Philharmonic Club and Columbian Club. At that time the leading business men were Robert Dool, Candor & Merritt, Downing & Marquis Company, James Addison, J. F. Pyles, Detwiler Brothers, Watterson & Rogers, James H. Ramsey, C. H. Finch, E. Parkman, J. W. Murphy, W. C. Fulton, Dr. D. R. Johnston, Levi Bowers, A. W. Almquist, Stevenson Brothers, C. K. Marquis, M. F. Felix, M. T. Kirkpatrick, Edwards & Horton, Will Hall, E. P. Park, J. R. McCrea, Aledo Pharmacy by C. S. Guthrie, Citizens Bank, with T. A. Vernon, manager. The latter began business in Aledo in October, 1895; Wells Brothers, E. A. Peterson, Emrick & Owsley, S. M. Evans, Stormont & Wilson, Scannell & Furr, M. C. Brooks, P. L. Bateman, T. A. Kinslow & Son, H. R. Morrison, Peter Ringdall, O. A. Wallen, Hauk & Paul, G. M. Bauer and J. A. Matchneer.

In January, 1897, the Mercer County Building & Loan Association was organized in Aledo. Five hundred shares of stock were sold within a year and at the first annual meeting 281 members were represented. The Mercer County Field Day held at Aledo in 1896 was an interesting and enjoyable event. There were offered for the races the following sums: \$250 for horse races; \$75 for bicycling; \$65 for baseball, and \$50 for athletics.

As soon as the city government was established a board of health was appointed, but they found little for them to work upon until 1896, when typhoid fever and scarlet fever appeared, but these

were soon suppressed by a system of isolation adopted. In 1896-7 steps to improve Central Park of Aledo were taken. The city authorities and the railroad company united and in the end prepared the park as it is now. In 1898 the Knights Templar organized themselves into a templar club, with G. C. Bowers, president. The objects were sociability and mutual instruction and advantages. The Fraternal Tribunes were here at this date. For the first time in the history of the city the Knights Templar appeared in marching order on the streets on Easter, 1897.

It was noted in July, 1897, that the water supply of the city was slowly failing. The number of strokes when the system first started was forty a minute, but in 1896 was reduced to twenty-seven a minute, and in 1897 to twenty a minute. This indicated a failure of the supply. In 1899 there were pumped for the city's use 10,923,139 gallons. In June, 1900, alone there were pumped 1,179,525 gallons.

In 1901 a new system of waterworks was planned and \$6,000 was to be raised by bonds, payable \$500 each year for twelve years. In February, 1901, sealed proposals for a brick building and steel stand-pipe for the water tower and for a storage reservoir were called for by the city authorities. The work was let in sections to different firms and individuals. The authorities decided on an air lift guaranteed to furnish 175 gallons per minute from a depth not to exceed one hundred and seventy-five feet below the discharge pipe. In December, 1901, Aledo had 346 telephones in use. In March, 1902, the lot owned by the city north of the city hall was ordered to be sold for the purpose of constructing thereon an opera house. This building was soon erected. The Masonic Hall at Aledo was dedicated in March, 1902, by Grand Master George M. Moulton. The guest of honor was R. C. Cabeen, of Alexis, who was then seventy-eight years old and who had joined the lodge at Keithsburg fifty-two years before. This building is occupied by the lodge above and by stores below. At the field day meet in April, 1902, the shot-put was won by John Hall; 50-yard dash by John Hall; 100-yard dash, John Hall; pole vault, Arthur Lee; hurdle race, Arthur Lee; 220-yard dash, John Edwards; half-mile run, Carl Croson; running broad jump, Ted Durning; 440-yard run, Carl Croson; running high jump, Chester Wright; relay race won by the senior team; bicycle race, John Hall.

In December, 1903, the foundation of a law library was laid here. A number of books were secured, but the plan has languished and the library is not of much service or consequence.

The Citizens Bank of Aledo in January, 1904, was merged into the First National Bank. It had been the bank of O. A. Bridgford & Company and had a capital of \$25,000. The new opera house was dedicated in December, 1904. The Quincy Adams Sawyer Company was the first to play therein, the subject being "The Two Orphans." The building was erected by Mr. Edwards. In June, 1904, Lewis I. Hutchins joined J. E. Mardock in charge of the Aledo Democrat. In 1904 a tract of 264 lots was added to the cemetery. By June, 1904, the First National Bank was in successful working condition under the presidency of T. A. Vernon. K. M. Whitham and H. B. Garrett severed connection with the Times-Record in December, 1904, after having spent about ten years with the paper. Archibald McKinney remained as their successor and as the assistant of D. M. Blazer. In April, 1905, the leading citizens of the city concluded to build a hotel that would be a credit to the place. Those prominent in this movement were T. A. Vernon, E. E. Emrick, R. L. Watson, C. K. Marquis and C. W. Detwiler. They were made the building committee and were authorized to push the measure forward to completion and success. This they did. J. Grant Beadle was the architect of the building. In November, 1905, the citizens of the southwestern part of the city asked for admittance into the corporation. The council thereupon ordered an election to be held December 21st to decide whether the addition should be made.

The Merchants Hotel was duly dedicated March 20, 1906, the fiftieth anniversary of the sale of the first town lots. There were present 350 guests. Many speeches were made and an enjoyable and uplifting time generally was experienced. In July, 1906, the Civic Federation of Aledo was formed. Strong resolutions were passed, one being as follows: That we this day organize what shall be known as a civic federation for the purpose of endeavoring to place worthy, honorable and reliable men in public positions and to give them our support and cooperation for the enforcement of law. The officers elected were: C. W. Detwiler, president; D. A. Hebel, vice president; Charles V. Pollock, secretary; C. K. Marquis, treasurer. In 1906 the project of constructing an efficient sewer system for the city took shape and work was soon commenced. At the same time concrete walks were prepared and the park north of the railway track was planned to be improved. All this meant considerable cost, but the people under Mayor W. T. Church favored the improvements and were willing to bear the expense. In July, 1906, Luther Laflin Mills, the famous old-time lawyer and distinguished orator, of Chicago, lectured here.

In 1906 a brick and tile stock company was organized here with a capital stock of \$25,000, and the B. F. Townsley brick and tile plant was purchased. A. Gillett, of Woodhull, the inventor of hollow brick, was secured as manager. This plan has become one of the prominent industrial enterprises of the city. It was planned at first that the main pipe of the sewer system should be about fifteen inches and that a septic tank costing \$1,500 should be secured. It was determined to improve the sanitation of the city, owing to the large number of outhouses and cesspools where filth accumulated and was liable to pass into the homes and cause sickness and death.

In April, 1907, A. M. Byers, after many years' upright dealing as a banker, retired from the Farmers Bank and was succeeded by A. G. Bridgford. The First Trust & Savings Bank was organized as a collateral of the First National Bank in April, 1907. The new Peoples Telephone Company asked for a franchise in August, 1907. They were capitalized for \$20,000 and planned to take the place of the Mutual Company, which had failed to give satisfaction in all respects. To carry on the numerous improvements of recent years a board of local improvements was organized in 1908.

It was finally decided that the main pipes of the sewer system should be twelve inches, internal diameter, and the branch pipes should be ten inches, eight inches, six inches and smaller, depending on the location and the work to be done. The total cost was estimated at \$16,500. There was considerable opposition, but the matter was forced to a conclusion and the sewer system was constructed. The Farmers Bank Building was completed early in 1908.

In 1890 the Keithsburg Times, conducted by Mr. Blazer, had a circulation of about six hundred when it was moved to Aledo and was first conducted by Mitchell & Blazer. In 1909 the Times-Record, its successor, had a circulation of over thirty-three hundred. In 1894 the Aledo Record was purchased from the Porter family and merged as the Times-Record and was incorporated in 1895 as the Times-Record Publishing Company, but later, in 1901, were incorporated as the Times-Record Company. In 1909 the company had a new Cox Duplex Webb perfecting press and other up-to-date and suitable printing equipment for a first-class country newspaper. D. M. Blazer at this time was manager and Fred B. Blazer, editor.

In January, 1910, the Farmers National Bank succeeded the A. M. Byers & Company's Farmers National after forty-one years under the management of Mr. Byers. The new president was A. G. Bridgford; vice president, J. W. McRoberts; cashier, G. L. Candor; assistant cashier, F. E. Cabeen.

The first electric car reached Aledo October 29, 1910, at 2.50 P. M. and was welcomed by a large crowd. The day, however, was not as uproarious as that which witnessed the coming of the first steam train to Aledo in 1869.

In November, 1910, the ladies established a rest and reading room in the Davis Building. It was kept open four nights of the week during January and February, 1911. The young men of Drury Academy, William and Vashti College and the high schools of the city were particularly invited to visit this reading room. In March, 1911, the Aledo Democrat was sold by John E. Mardock to B. E. Beswick, of the Alexis Argus.

The year 1911 was an eventful one in this city. The citizens raised over one hundred thousand dollars endowment fund for William and Vashti College, started a new sewer system, completed the erection of a new schoolhouse, built the county jail and commenced the construction of the pavements which, in the end, made an outlay of \$100,000. The Commercial Club did much to encourage this vast system of civic improvements. In April, 1911, J. W. McRoberts was reelected mayor; G. L. Candor was elected treasurer; W. D. Emerson, clerk; and O. E. Carlstrom, city attorney. By the last of the year five and a half miles of the new sewer system had been laid. In September, 1911, the announcement was made that a postal savings bank had been ordered for Aledo. It was duly opened here on the 11th, but in two months thereafter not a dollar in deposits was received and in the end the bank was closed and withdrawn. In December, 1911, C. E. Bookout and T. B. Cromwell established an electric laundry here, the first of the kind in the city. In 1910-11 the Aledo Entertainment Union was a prominent literary and social organization which established a lecture course that was well attended and greatly enjoyed during the winter. The automobile owners held their first outing or run this year. There were 125 cars in the cavalcade and the trip was made from Aledo by Millersburg and Joy back to Aledo. In the spring of 1912 the city prepared to lay its first street paving. This was an important step and the first work was witnessed by many persons who took deep interest in the improvement. The chautauqua of 1912 was a great success and was repeated in 1913 and was greatly enjoyed by all. In November, 1912, the W. C. T. U. ladies presented the drinking fountain now standing at the Postoffice Building to the city authorities.

In September, 1912, the authorities decided, after due deliberation to secure a number of cluster lights to brighten the streets in an unusual degree at night. The improvements projected and on the

way, or just completed, were almost staggering when viewed from the standpoint of population. They were as follows: Merchants Hotel, \$35,000; interurban subscription, \$55,000; endowment fund, \$100,000; sewer system, \$100,000; street paving, \$100,000; new schoolhouse, \$25,000; cluster lights, \$3,277. This aggregated a large sum, but the people did not hesitate, because they were determined to have these improvements and the city can now boast of being perhaps the most enterprising, public-spirited and progressive of any in Western Illinois.

By June, 1912, seventy-seven blocks of paved streets had been laid by the Advanced Construction Company, of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Their contract price was \$95,354.30, or about \$1.20 per yard. In February, 1913, the fifty-four cluster lights were ready for use, but were not officially turned on until March 4th. All were then turned on in the evening and were greatly enjoyed by the populace. The city could now boast of being the best lighted of its size in the country.

In March, 1913, a fresh campaign for the benefit of a public library was inaugurated, and to make the effort more successful D. A. Hebel, J. A. Wells and D. E. Farr were appointed a publication committee with full authority to put the project forward along any reasonable lines. Their work is in progress now. In October and November, 1913, when the city council and the Tri-County Electric Light and Power Company failed to agree on terms, the city authorities considered the question of installing a municipal lighting plant. A committee was appointed and given authority to consider all phases of the question and to report at a subsequent meeting. An important industrial feature here in 1913 was the Aledo Machine Company, which spent about twenty thousand dollars in building and equipment. By April, 1912, the library contained about three hundred good books which were to be found at the reading and rest room in the Davis Building. They were allowed to be circulated and were required to be returned within two weeks. In the spring of 1914 C. E. Duvall succeeded Mr. Abercrombie as postmaster.

In May, 1914, the eighteen banks of Mercer County sent representatives to Aledo and the Mercer County Federation of Banks was duly organized. The object was improvement of banking methods and allied interests in the county. The following banks were represented: Aledo, Viola, Alexis, Norwood, Burgess, Keithsburg, Joy and Mathersville. The following officers were elected: S. R. Amlong, chairman; A. G. Bridgford, vice chairman; J. G. Zern, treasurer; C. A. Beers, secretary; G. H. Campbell, of Joy, was made

a member of the state executive committee for the banks of Mercer County.

The men of Mercer County have always taken a prominent part in the politics of the state and nation. Of these we may mention James McKinney, who was born in Oquawka, in Henderson County, and was educated at Monmouth College, removing to Aledo about 1875. He was elected to Congress from the district in which Mercer County forms a part in November, 1905, and was re-elected and served until March 4, 1913. He was a very able, influential member of Congress and was entrusted with important business by President Taft, and visited the Panama Canal and also visited the Philippines, and reported upon certain matters for investigation. Mr. McKinney was a very popular republican and is still held in high esteem by the people of Aledo.

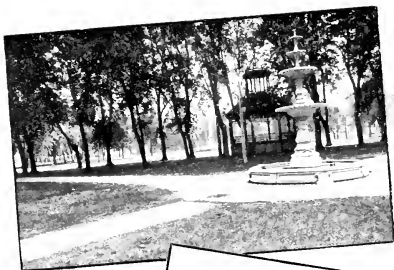
More extended mention of Mr. McKinney will be found in Volume II of this work.

In 1914 Aledo had an estimated population of 2,144. Among the business establishments were the following: Mrs. J. A. Agy & Son, restaurant; Aledo Brick & Tile Company; Aledo Democrat Printing Company; Aledo Hotel Company; Aledo Machine Company, autos and supplies; A. W. Almquist, merchant tailor; Bassett-Graham, millinery; John P. Berg, boots and shoes; Swan Bergland, tailor; B. E. Beswick, publisher; Bjorkman & Anderson, art goods; Bjorkman & Bjorkman, restaurant; S. B. Bolton, electric goods; F. D. Burton, cigars, etc.; L. E. Butler, drugs; E. E. Cabeen, racket store; E. T. Carlson, photography; G. H. Carroll, lumber; L. R. Carter, jewelry and clothing; Barr & Flake, drugs; Continental Brick Company; Detwiler Hardware Company; Edwards & Wharton Lumber Company; Enrick, Owsley & Haas, dry goods and clothing; D. E. Farr, clothing; B. F. Felix, dry goods and clothing; Finch & Ferguson, groceries and meat; Will Hall, boots and shoes; Hartman Brothers, jewelry; Heald-Duval Company, grain, coal and ice; Henderson Grocery Company; Home Mutual Telephone Company; R. C. Johnson, drugs; Albert Johnson, restaurant; J. P. Lemon, sewing machines, buggies, etc.; Laura E. Love, millinery; Lila Macklin, millinery; R. B. Merritt, dry goods; R. B. Le Master, bakery; F. A. Minor, grocery; Hugh Morrison & Son, furniture and undertaking; John W. Murphy, furniture and undertaking; Nesbit & Matchneer, feed mill; A. L. Newton, grocery; Noonan Brothers, implements; E. H. Osborn, general store; Eugene Parkman, dry goods; Parkman & Mawby, clothing; Peoples Telephone Company; Peterson, restaurant; Philleo Brothers, jewelry; A. C.

Simpson, blacksmith; W. J. Shaw, musical instruments; Strother & Brown, painters and decorators; August Swanson, boots and shoes; Christ Thede, autos; Ralph Thede, implements; Times-Record Company; Union Clothing Company; Frank Wausing, harness; W. W. Warnock, livery; Wells & Carroll, hardware; West & Almquist, grocery; C. L. Wiggins, blacksmith; T. D. Winders, hides and poultry. Three banks—First National and its saving department; Aledo Bank; Farmers National Bank.

In 1874 there was organized in Aledo what was denominated the Conversational Club. Rev. Robert Nourse, the Congregational minister, called a meeting of a few persons at his residence, among them being Tyler McWhorter, J. H. Connell, I. N. Bassett, Joseph McCoy, J. H. Abercrombie and John Geiger. The organization was very informal and it was provided that all persons who desired might become members of the association, and that it should be open for the discussion of any and all questions political, economical, financial, social or religious. The meetings were to be held bi-weekly at the residence of some one of the members. It was provided that the person who was to lead on a question should select the same the week previous to his presentation of his view upon the question selected. He might deliver orally or submit the same in writing to be read to the association, and he could have thirty minutes for opening. Then each member, if desired, could have five minutes to criticise the position taken by the leader, and the leader then could have five minutes to reply. The meeting was to convene at 7 o'clock and always to be adjourned at 10 o'clock in the evening. At the first meeting thereafter Tyler McWhorter was the leader and selected as the question he would present, "John Finley's Belfast Address." The particular part of the address he referred to was that in which Mr. Finley in substance said, "Scientists are finding in the despised matter all the potency power of life." Among the other questions discussed before the association were: The Bible; public schools; the subject of praying as effecting God; the adoption of irredeemable greenbacks as the standard of money; the evolution theory of Darwin; the agrarian subject, or the limitation of the land that one person should occupy; the tariff question; the suffrage question as applied to women; the question in regard to the soul, whether it was an entity or existed only during the existence of the body; the question of capital punishment, of the future punishment, of the treatment of criminals, and various other subjects.

Among the members besides those mentioned at the organization were: Mrs. Joseph McCoy and daughters, Laura and Lizzie; Mrs.



Fountain and Stand, Monument Park

Presbyterian Church

Bird's-eye View

VIEWS OF ALEDO

John Geiger, Mrs. J. H. Connell, Mrs. I. N. Bassett, W. N. Graham and wife, Mrs. Mary McHard, D. H. Hayes, E. L. Larkin and wife, W. C. Galloway and wife, Dr. A. L. Craig and wife, Mrs. Joseph H. Abercrombie, Rev. Mr. Grouse and wife, Rev. Mr. Smith and wife, the Misses Amanda and Matilda Frazier, A. U. Barler, Rev. Mr. Farrar, Alexander McArthur, Andrew Lorimer, Horatio Wells, A. H. Law, O. B. Arthur, P. F. Warner, Archibald Corkin, C. F. Durston and wife, and some others not now remembered, among whom were two Congregational ministers, one Methodist minister, and a Presbyterian minister. The society existed for some seven or eight years and the attendance would be from twenty to thirty and sometimes more, but on account of the death of several members, and others moving from Aledo, it finally suspended. The society was highly educational and among the women who took an active part in the leading were Mrs. Mary McHard, Mrs. Joseph McCoy and daughter, Laura, and others. The records of the society have been lost, so that all that can be given now is that remembered by the members now in Aledo.

Other questions discussed were: The prohibition question, not only in the temperance aspect, but as to the political party; the license question; the question as to gold, silver and other money as being the standard of value; and the discussion from time to time of the different religions, especially the Persian, Mohammedan, Brahmatic, Buddhistic, Chinese, besides the Jewish and Christian. In reality there was not any question but what some of the members of this society thought they were able to handle, and frequently the leader was not very well posted, but there was a great deal of excellent information obtained. In fact, there was no better educational institution in Aledo than this club. One very intelligent member of the club remarked that he had learned more in that club than he ever learned in the same given time in any other way; that it caused him to think; that it gave him information that he had never been able to obtain in other ways. Mr. E. L. Larkin, mentioned in connection therewith, was afterwards assistant professor of astronomy in Knox College, and is now and has been for a great many years in charge of the telescope at Mount Lowe, California.

The Columbian Club was organized March 31, 1892, by Mrs. Marcia Louise Gould, of the Illinois Woman's Exposition Board, and was first named the Mercer County World's Columbian Exposition Club, but after the great fair at Chicago the name became the Mercer County Woman's Columbian Club. When first organized it included women from all parts of the county and the design

was to gather an exhibit in Mercer County and send it to the world's fair. A carved wooden cabinet was built under the instruction of Miss Alice E. Hall, of the Chicago Art Institute. Mrs. Clarence Brock was appointed president of the committee on world's fair exhibit. A class was formed, was instructed and was the means of developing local art talent of a high character. A few men belonged to the class. Mrs. Ella Reynolds carved the maple-leaf panel of the cabinet and Mrs. Hortense Moses, the rose panel. Mrs. Lorimer was a special committee to collect historic relics, which were shown in the cabinet in the woman's department of the Illinois building. There were also shown the samples from the strata passed through when drilling the deep well at Aledo—3,116 feet.

At the close of the world's fair the organization was merged into a study club, which has continued in existence ever since. At first there was no specific line of work, the first studies being history, particularly of the Mississippi Valley. Now there is a printed program and the studies have been extended to literature, art, science, etc. Meetings were at first held in the homes of the members, but upon completion of the courthouse the club was given a permanent home in the court library room. A course of study for the entire year is now prepared in advance and is studied diligently by the members with great profit and progress. After taking up the regular course of study the first officers were Mrs. Mary F. Byers, president; Mrs. Theresa Dool, vice president; Mrs. Della Harr, secretary and treasurer. The membership has varied from forty to about sixty. Every progressive and educated lady of the county should be a member of this highly important club.

More extended mention of the club will be found in the final chapter (Miscellaneous) of this volume.

CHAPTER XIX

KEITHSBURG TOWNSHIP

The second settler of the county was John Vanatta, who located at Keithsburg in May, 1827. He opened a supply yard to furnish wood for the steamboats. A year or two afterwards his brother Benjamin joined him. He had preempted a claim on the southeast quarter of section 22 in 1833. John Bates settled on section 34 and a few years later Isom Lakey located on the same farm. About the spring of 1835 Samuel Vanatta, a brother of John, arrived, but in the fall of the same year all the Vanattas sold out to Robert Keith, a Scotchman, and removed to Muscatine, which was then called Bloomington. In the spring of 1836 Abner Martin built a house on section 13, but sold out the same year to John McH. Wilson. In the same year William and Paul Sheriff settled on section 24. The next year William Sheriff built a sawmill on Pope Creek on section 23. He built a large dam and at first the mill seemed destined to become very useful, but it was located on quick sand, which undermined the structure and the mill was abandoned and finally rotted down. A. B. Sheriff arrived about 1836 and Matthew Sheriff a year or two later. T. B. Cabeen came about this date. Daniel Justice located on section 1 in 1836; John W. Nevius arrived the next year. William Wilson, the father of John McH. Wilson, arrived in 1836 also and settled on section 13. Bennett Hurst located a claim on section 2. Joel A. Hall, a millwright, arrived in 1838 and established a farm on section 13. In 1837 Benjamin F. Gruwell built a home on section 1. Later he kept a hotel in Keithsburg. Joseph J. Wordin arrived in 1837. Rev. James Ross reached the township about 1841. James Garner arrived about 1842 and started a small store at Keithsburg. He sold whisky and merchandise and was one of the first business men of the village. Robert Keith was the founder of Keithsburg. The place at first was nothing but a woodyard for the steamboats and was known as such, apparently not having any other name. In the spring of 1835 it became known as Keith's Landing. In July, 1837, Hiram Hardie, deputy county surveyor, laid off the Town of Keithsburg on section 23. The original plat shows Main and Washington streets east

and west and crossed by First, Second, Third, etc., streets. In all thirteen blocks were surveyed and the first sale of lots occurred in July, 1837. They brought from twenty to sixty dollars each, but the place could hardly yet be called a village. The landing made it what it was and not any stores or shops. Garner sold out in 1839 to David Bower and moved out on section 25. In 1847 he returned and opened a hotel, was justice of the peace and sheriff. Bower went to Rock Island. A Frenchman named Rochelle arrived early in the '40s, and with a small quantity of goods brought up on a steamboat, started a store. Omy Brothers succeeded to this store. In 1842 Zephaniah Wade arrived and located on section 14 and the following year Nicholas Edwards settled on section 5 at the mouth of Edwards River. The previous year William Willett and Josiah Brown built a sawmill on the river, but in 1843 Willett sold his interest to Brown. In 1837 a Mr. Gavitt established a claim about a mile below the landing at Keithsburg and immediately laid off a small tract, which he named Columbia City. It was located on a high plateau and was the site of an old Indian encampment where yet could be seen the fields used in growing corn and vegetables by the Indians. Numerous evidences of their presence were shown, among which were pits of ashes and a few wigwam poles or bark of houses. This plat was not recorded and Columbia City amounted to nothing. The claim passed to Alexander Davis. In 1837 Bluff postoffice was established at the house of Frederick Frick in Abington Township. Keithsburg mail came there until 1846. The village amounted to very little until about 1846. Another early settler in the township was Rousy Bower, who arrived about 1834. He occupied a small house on the river bank and was employed by the Vanattas in chopping wood for the steamboats. Jesse Mount arrived about 1835.

Keithsburg became the county seat in 1847 and thereafter was a pretentious and promising place. However, the settlement of the township was still in progress. A body of farmers in 1844 formed an organization and endeavored to build a warehouse in Keithsburg for the storing and handling of grain. In those years the farmers back on the river brought their grain to river points because it could there be shipped to the large markets. Robert Keith assisted in this warehouse movement and contributed several lots upon which to erect the building. William Willett succeeded in getting title to the property soon after the frame was up and Col. J. B. Patterson, of Oquawka, secured an interest therein about the time it was finished. Patterson soon after this opened a store in the Keith Building and

with him was associated Booth Nettleton. They sold dry goods and groceries on Washington Street. Patterson really came to Keithsburg in 1845 for permanent residence, although he still had a home in Oquawka. His location at Keithsburg was for business purposes. His firm immediately began to buy large quantities of produce, grain, etc., from the farmers, and in turn they sold enormous quantities of store goods to the farmers back from the river for many miles. They had a large establishment here, including one frame house, one log house and three cabins. His trade in 1845 was 3,690 bushels of wheat, 512 barrels flour and 2,250 bushels corn. Patterson himself had other interests and left after a year or two and the management of the concern passed to Noble & Gayle, who built a one-story frame store on Main and Second streets and a large warehouse on Lot 10. In 1848 they erected a brick packing house and at that time McConaha & Rife established a combined saloon and grocery. In 1848 also Jonathan Juda established a store. He was a Jew and a successful merchant. In 1848 also Wilford J. Ungles established a store on Washington Street and built a large warehouse in 1855, at which time he had become very prosperous. Seth Redman built a brick business block about 1855. Before it was finished he sold to Dr. A. B. Campbell. In 1849 McConaha & Rife dissolved, the latter engaging in the grocery business, but later added dry goods. Still later he put up a brick building. In 1848 T. B. Cabeen built the brick block on Main and Second streets. It was a three-story structure, his family occupying the upper stories. Below Miss E. Smith kept a store. She had come from New Boston and was a successful business woman.

In 1858 R. H. Spicer & Company seem to have succeeded Miss Smith, although she was eventually a member of the concern. The location of the county seat at Keithsburg in 1847 gave it a great boom, and numerous shops and business houses of all kinds were started. In a few years Keithsburg was one of the most active and prominent of the smaller places on the Upper Mississippi. In consideration of the location there of the county seat, Mr. Keith gave half of the land of the first addition to the county authorities. It was officially laid out in January, 1848, and the division was made by giving the county and Mr. Keith the choice of alternate blocks. The county blocks were subdivided into lots and sold or used for county building purposes. Mr. Keith was a saving and close-fisted Scotchman who believed that the village was destined to become a great city. Accordingly he refused to sell his lots except occasionally. The first court was held in Willett's Warehouse, which was used for many other pub-

lic purposes. Finally the courthouse was built on Block 7 and finished in 1851. It was a good building, though low, and looked more like a schoolhouse than a courthouse. It was a one-story brick structure, about 40x50 feet. Late in the '40s William Willett began extensively buying grain from the farmers of the back country. He had associated with him Mr. McConaha for a short time, but in 1850 the latter went to California, whereupon Willett and Doughty formed a partnership and continued business. In 1851 they established a store or grain trading station at New Boston. Mr. Doughty was left in charge of the establishment at New Boston. A little later A. B. Sheriff became associated with Willett & Doughty, but in 1852 Doughty sold out to the other two. The firm was then Sheriff & Willett, who continued to do a large and successful business until 1864, when Willett retired just in time to save himself from the decline of prices at the close of the war. Mr. Sheriff was swamped and lost much of his property. The building they had occupied was used as a grain storage warehouse until 1875. It was occupied by Phelps & Brewer for a short time before it was burned.

It would be difficult to describe the importance and activities of Keithsburg from 1847 to 1856. The trade on the river, the landing of steamboats, the arrival of goods from St. Louis and other cities, the cargoes of molasses and sugar which came from New Orleans and Memphis, the river men who often made Keithsburg their stopping point, the immense amount of grain that poured in for shipment on the river, the wood, the ferry, the pork-packing, all combined to make the city one of prominence and one in which it was a pleasure to live. In October, 1850, Colonel Patterson published the *Oquawka Spectator* and connected with it a department called the *Keithsburg Observer*, which occupied the third page, with James W. Doughty as the *Keithsburg* editor. This paper served to advertise extensively the little city. In 1850 the Calhoun House was built by John Moore. Its proprietor was H. G. Calhoun, who a little later changed the name to *Keithsburg House* and rented it to J. B. McConaha. About this time numerous societies and lodges were started here. The Sons of Temperance organized about 1850 and two years later the Daughters of Temperance established a lodge. A debating society was founded in 1850 and was patronized by Robert Keith, John C. Pepper, B. C. Taliaferro, N. C. Adams, R. C. Cabeen, O. C. Allen, Dr. E. L. Marshall and others. Many public questions of that day were debated by these men and others. James A. Noble started his slaughter and packing house in 1850, and at the same time Mr. Gayle built a new warehouse. Mr. Noble started a drug store in 1851.



MAIN STREET, 1875, KEITHSBURG



MAIN STREET, 1911, KEITHSBURG

That was the year when the river was higher than it had ever been before since the first settlement. Water stood from four to seven feet deep on the streets of Keithsburg. By May 29th the water was up as high as Fifth Street. In later years the streets have been graded to a higher level so that the river does not make the encroachment that it formerly did. The flood of 1851 continued high until about the 11th of June and for several weeks all merchants placed their goods in the second stories or conveyed them to higher grounds. The river was from seven to ten miles wide and was a sight to be seen. Rafts and boats ran in the streets. The flood did not subside until about the 20th of June. The other big floods in early times were in 1828 and 1844.

On July 15, 1852, Keithsburg was incorporated as a town, and on the 26th of the same month elected officials as follows: Trustees, William Willett, J. J. Wordin, T. B. Cabeen, Alexander Davis and N. B. Partridge. These men put the town machinery in operation.

Early in the '50s William Gayle built a steam sawmill on Pope Creek at the railroad bridge, but soon afterwards sold it to John H. Marshall & Company, who in 1856 transformed it into a flour mill, which became widely known as the Ogden Mills, but after a few years' success it was destroyed by fire. The second steam sawmill was built by Ender & Eckley at the foot of Van Buren Street. It likewise was burned down and another was built, but did not prove successful. William D. Smith had possession of it. It was moved to Jackson Street, near Eighth, and was conducted as a saw and planing mill combined. In 1857 the third steam sawmill was put up for the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad, on John E. Willits' land. Thousands of ties were sawed there for the railroad company. The mill was moved to Keithsburg in 1857, but was later torn down. The fourth steam sawmill was built on the site of Ender & Eckley's old mill about 1865. It was the largest in the county at the time, employed about thirty-five men and continued until about 1872. In 1864 James C. Stevens built a grist mill on Eighth Street near Main. It was dismantled in 1877, not having proven wholly successful. In 1868 the elevator, flour mills and the Rife warehouse buildings were burned down. Keithsburg was unlucky because of many fires in early years which destroyed its best business establishments. In 1855 a distillery was built on the river by Mathews & Richardson. The following year they sold to William Gayle. Benjamin Phelps became the owner in 1857 but sold to Mr. Pickering. Others owned and conducted this property. It was finally burned in 1872, and at that time was owned by Mason & Crosley.

of Chicago. In 1880 C. A. & L. L. Morse conducted a saw and planing mill in the first addition of Keithsburg.

In 1853 the ferryboat, Dave, owned by Seth H. Redman, ran daily between Keithsburg and Huron and Prairie Point. This ferry was operated by horse power. Three years later the steam ferryboat Iowa was started and conducted for many years by Mr. Redman.

In 1853 Mr. Gayle built a 2-story packing house and began doing a large business in that line. From 1850 to 1856 several additions were laid out to the town, among which were Keith's Second, Sheriff's and Cabeen's. At this time it was one of the best produce markets north of St. Louis. Teams came here from a distance of thirty-five miles. In February, 1854, on one day, there arrived here 250 teams from the country distant from the river. Eighty remained over night, because they could not get back the same day. At that time Gayle & Company and the Noble Brothers were packers. The first considerable packing here was done in 1846-7 by Noble & Gayle. Gore & Gamble were prosperous merchants in 1854. They also did considerable packing, continuing until the time of the war. In 1855 William Gayle & Company, A. Rife, Sheriff & Willett, B. P. Frick & Company, Gore & Gamble and P. T. Hughes were storekeepers and produce dealers in the town. Several were packers. Goods were usually sold to farmers on a year's time. The merchants bought their goods twice a year—spring and autumn—and the stock they were often compelled to carry over the winter was enormous. Nearly all of the merchants, particularly Gayle & Rife, advanced large sums of money to the farmers, taking a mortgage on their crops. In fact they did almost a banking business, dealing largely in commercial paper of various kinds. They bought grain, hogs, cattle, and in this way secured the trade of the farmers. This custom was practiced extensively in the West in early years by the merchants who had the means. Such merchants would secure all the farmers' products and in return would supply them with all the store goods they needed. In fact the merchants did everything wanted done by the farmers, but in the end secured pay for this service.

From October 1, 1850, to October 1, 1851, the grain shipped from Keithsburg was as follows: Wheat, corn, oats and rye, 169,366 bushels. In addition immense quantities of meat and other products, such as potatoes, hides, etc., were purchased and shipped. The same year 407½ tons of merchandise were received here and distributed to the farmers. On February 24, 1852, 3,176 bushels of grain were received. The receipts for the week ending February 28 of the same year were over twenty thousand bushels. During the packing season of 1854-5,

6,852 hogs were slaughtered by William Gayle & Company; 4,790 by Rife & Company; 1,064 by J. A. Noble, and 853 by W. H. Ungles. From May 10 to June 14, 1856, there were shipped from Keithsburg 48,231 pieces of bulk pork, 374 barrels pork, 75 casks ham, 344 sacks hair and 250 sacks of potatoes. From May 10 to October 11, 1856, the grain taken from this port by the steamboats amounted to 270,727 bushels. During two weeks ending October 11, 1856, William Gayle & Company shipped 16,162 sacks grain; A. Rife, 10,284 sacks grain; B. P. Frick & Company, 3,536 sacks; W. H. Ungles, 7,018 sacks; and Sheriff & Willett, 2,054 sacks. The total receipts at Keithsburg from the opening of navigation in 1881 to the opening of navigation in 1882 was 550,000 bushels of grain. There was a vast difference between this sum and that which had been taken in by Thomas B. Cabeen back in 1842. He is said to have made the first shipment of grain from this port.

In 1855 Mr. Gayle erected a building which became the Larue House, but about the same time Mr. Gruwell opened a hotel which was conducted by H. G. Calhoun. The following year the Central House, built first for a residence, was opened and a little later was changed to the Beardsley House.

The third addition to Keithsburg, the Mechanic's, was laid out in June, 1854, by J. B. Stockton. A. B. Sheriff laid out another in November, 1855. Others were laid out in 1857, 1862 and 1863. Upper Keithsburg was surveyed on section 13 by C. S. Richey for Mr. Tyler and T. B. Cabeen. Larue was the first blacksmith and James Eaton the second. Thomas Hendricks, O. C. Allen and a Mr. Pierce were also early blacksmiths. William Brewer had a cooper shop early. Isaiah Willits came to the township in 1835, but returned to Henderson County in 1838. He came back in 1857 and became a merchant. Four years later he went on a farm, but in 1873 returned and engaged in business in Keithsburg. Benjamin D. Ellett came to the county in 1838. He was a lumber merchant at Keithsburg. Paul Sheriff arrived in 1836. In 1837 Benjamin F. Gruwell came to the township and located on the Jack Harris place. Later, as above stated, he kept the Calhoun House in Keithsburg. Oliver P. Emerson arrived in 1839 and David Pardee came here during the war, but had previously settled in Viola Township. Martin Wirt arrived about 1840, as did Joseph Wade. Benjamin L. Hardin and W. S. Calhoun arrived in the early '40s. The latter was a carpenter and cooper by trade. He clerked for Noble & Gayle for a while and later for Abraham Rife. He owned eighty acres near the town and was justice of the peace and deputy county recorder. Jacob Wolfe

arrived in 1844. At this time there was an abundance of wild game along the river and it was the exception not to see a man with some kind of fur cap with the tail of the animal hanging down his back. Many farmers carried their guns with them everywhere they went. Joseph Venable was early in Keithsburg. He made wagons, carriages and sold farm machinery. In the early '70s Kate Noble was postmistress at Keithsburg. The first stock of dry goods brought to the town by Noble & Gayle came from Louisville and was first landed at Oquawka, but the following spring was divided and a portion sent to Keithsburg, where Mr. Noble for a time held forth alone. Early in the '50s R. H. Alvis took Noble's place in this concern and about the same time B. F. Wilson secured a small interest in the concern. He continued until the crash of 1857, when Gayle failed with assets greater than his liabilities; but on account of the financial crisis a large portion of his assets could never be collected, and his public store building and warehouse would not sell for half of the amount that it cost to construct them, so that there were very heavy losses. Mr. Gayle made an assignment in 1858 to William L. Ewing & Company at St. Louis, making them his preferred creditors, as he could under the law at that time, and he was largely in debt to the farmers in Mercer County for produce that he had bought during the winter of 1857-8, and those debts were never paid, he going into bankruptcy. This made it remarkably hard for the people in Mercer County, as the farmers relied upon the sale of produce for money to pay their expenses and other indebtedness. Afterwards Mr. Gayle went into business with John Holland and after a few years that firm failed and Mr. Gayle went into bankruptcy again, and subsequently he made quite an amount of money in business and died in very good circumstances.

Allen F. Glover was a tailor here in 1846. James Heaton came here in 1852 and moved out to Bald Bluff. Jerome A. Sweezy was a lumber dealer and merchant here in 1852. Other business men in the early times were John J. Hawkins, Thomas Marlott, Thomas A. Cummins, Charles J. Simpson, Robert C. Humbert, Clarence S. Frick, Capt. J. P. Wykoff, Capt. David M. Holsted, Hugh Scott, C. S. Orth and Dr. Samuel Kelly. Later business men were Frederick B. Burgett, Samuel Evans, Philip Gore and many others. The early physicians were E. L. Marshall, Campbell, Adams, Rodecker, Kelly, Coe, Humbert, Allen and E. P. Willits. Early lawyers here were Isaac N. Bassett, Elias Willits, John R. Bassett, Luther T. Ball, John C. Pepper, Benjamin C. Taliaferro, John S. Thompson,

Lewis W. Thompson and a little later Walter J. Pepper and L. D. Kirkpatrick.

McCune's Steamboat Company ran a packet line between St. Louis and Keokuk in the early '50s. They did a large business, which greatly increased at the time of the Civil war. The stock of this company ran up to \$400 per share, but the construction of the railroads cut down the business so that the stock fell to par. The Northwestern Packet Company ran a line from St. Louis to St. Paul and did a large business also. Its business likewise declined after the war. The St. Louis & St. Paul Company had a fine line of steamers. The Diamond Jo Line of more recent years is still in existence. It was named for Jo Reynolds, who was in his way a remarkable character. He built the narrow gauge line from the main road to Hot Springs, Arkansas. Other early lines were the Keokuk & Rock Island, which owned two steamers called City of New Boston and City of Keithsburg; the Keokuk and Burlington, Quincy & Keokuk, and others. It was not difficult to reach any point on the river from Keithsburg in the '50s and '60s. Capt. Walter Blair established a line between Burlington and Rock Island. It was called the Carnival Packet Company. He and his company yet control the lines from Burlington to Keokuk and from Keokuk to Quincy. Before the construction of railroads nearly all traffic with New Boston was done by way of steamboats on the river. This business was entirely cut off during the winter months when the river was frozen. Accordingly the merchants were obliged to lay in their supplies in the fall in sufficient quantity to carry them through the winter. When the ice left in the spring it was no unusual sight to see three or four vessels at Keithsburg at one time loading or unloading goods. They brought in large quantities of merchandise and took away all they could carry of oats, corn, wheat, etc. In the fall of 1853 William Gayle & Company received at Keithsburg the following goods, which was supposed to last them through the winter: 100 hogshead sugar, 300 barrels New Orleans molasses, 500 ten-gallon kegs New Orleans molasses, 500 boxes soap, 250 cases boots and shoes, 500 boxes candles, 100 boxes tea, 300 bags coffee, 2,500 kegs nails, 150 cases dry goods and clothing. There was an immense quantity of other miscellaneous supplies in addition. Many stoves were brought here by boat, one steamboat being entirely loaded with them.

During the season of 1854-5 Gayle & Company packed nearly five thousand hogs and had in store over thirteen thousand bushels of wheat and 25,000 bushels of corn. All this was sent off in the spring

of 1855. At that time the Ben Campbell, Capt. R. F. Bartlett, and the J. McKee, Capt. Leroy Dodge, were busy vessels on the river. In July, 1855, the following were the leading merchants at Keithsburg: William Gayle & Company, J. C. Cabeen, Daniel Keith, Sheriff & Willett, B. P. Frick & Company, Gore & Gamble, A. Rife, W. H. Ungles, F. Power & Company, R. & J. C. Brisben, William Whiting, C. Falders, R. C. Cabeen, Henry Oldham, Thomas Souster, J. Thompson, J. H. Marshall, Truman Lord, J. C. McCandless and T. H. Freeman. In the summer of 1855 many brick buildings were erected in the village. By the last of June it was noted that twenty new buildings of frame and brick were either finished or under way.

In January, 1856, Mr. Keith sold his residence to J. B. Matlack. At that time John H. Marshall conducted a large flour mill and Hodson & Reese bought a new steam ferry but did not start it until some time later. One of the new buildings was owned by Mr. Gayle and in it was the famous Apollo Hall, which was used by the town for almost every public purpose for many years. In 1858 among other business men were Hughes & Cain, brokers, collectors and exchange dealers; P. T. Hughes, general store; Matlack & Butterfield, druggists; Joseph Henry, druggist. At that time the saloon license at Keithsburg was \$200.

In 1858 the merchants suffered much from wild cat currency then in existence. Particularly were the bills of the Nebraska Wild Cat Bank objectionable and worthless. Their actual value was as low as 25 cents on the dollar and at no time was the actual value of any such currency known. Merchants usually discounted the paper a little below what the quotations actually showed. In June, 1861, P. T. Hughes & Company advertised to buy up all the shin-plaster currency in circulation at its actual market value, which was taken at Chicago specie prices. In the spring of 1865 H. M. Bruce & Company, the latter being a Mr. Kibby, established a small bank at Keithsburg. Mr. Bruce was the active man. Without seeming to do so they made great efforts to secure deposits and in a short time succeeded in obtaining about twelve thousand dollars. On the 20th of April the door was closed and thereon was a notice to the effect that the banker had gone to Chicago but would return in a few days. Nothing more was heard of him until 1866. Thomas Cabeen, who was affected by this transaction, went to Chicago to find out what had become of Bruce and Kibby. He learned that the latter was in Coles County, engaged in promoting another bank scheme. Mr. Cabeen went there, but Mr. Kibby evaded him. John C. Pepper was sent to find him and discovered him in Ohio, arrested him and

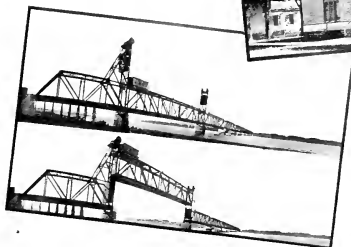
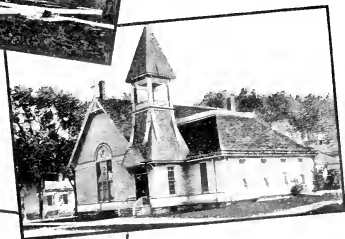
brought him back to Chicago. There Mr. Pepper compromised with him to receive a sum of money for the \$1,400 worth of deposit certificates held by Mr. Pepper. In 1866 Bruce was discovered in Canada. He was visited but refused to come back to the United States. In October, 1866, he returned of his own accord and was arrested in Michigan, where he was found at work on a farm. He was handcuffed and jailed at Kalamazoo, and finally brought to Chicago and thence to Keithsburg. In the end very little of the defalcation was recovered.

The pork packed at Keithsburg during the winter of 1858-9 was almost exactly ten thousand head of hogs. Pork was worth at that time about six dollars per hundred. New Boston packed almost as many the same winter. At that time a petition was sent to the Legislature to change the name of Keithsburg to Cornwall but the attempt failed. In August, 1857, the Keithsburg Observer passed to W. R. Calhoun. As stated in the issue, it was independent in all things and neutral in nothing. In 1860 V. B. Schouf was editor of the Keithsburg Press, a democratic organ. The Observer died out after a short time but in December, 1861, was revived by J. A. J. Birdsall, who continued it as a five column folio. The Observer had had a hazardous experience for a number of years. It was suspended in the fall of 1858 but was revived by a number of democrats who desired an organ and who started it again as the Mercer County Democrat. The Observer had been independent but in this period of political excitement and change the democrats desired a newspaper to support their principles and policies. The newly issued Observer was an unflinching opponent of black republicanism. In fact the whole policy of the Observer was changed as was also the name. The objects of the newspaper, as stated, were to advance the principles of democracy, to urge the reelection of Stephen A. Douglas to United States senator, and to war on black republicanism. Mr. Birdsall continued as editor until 1865. The Keithsburg News flourished for a time with W. H. Heaton as editor. This paper is yet issued but has undergone many changes. The Keithsburg Observer has passed away long ago. Theodore Glancey was editor of the Observer in 1867. Colonel McManus was connected with it but later sold to H. Mintun. In 1870 the Observer was suspended for want of support but about six weeks later came out again and was independent in politics. It passed to a Mr. Armstrong, of Iowa, in 1870. He paid \$900 for it but did not continue with it long. Soon afterward Glancey & Thomas started the Keithsburg Karana and ran it successfully for some time. In 1874 the Keithsburg News again

appeared under W. C. Brown but in a few months it passed to Taylor & Blackman. It was neutral in politics. In the spring of 1877 the Keithsburg News was resurrected by Will H. Heaton.

Philip Coonrod was a wagon manufacturer in Keithsburg in 1857. He invented a riding plow, or cultivator, of which large numbers were sold by Mr. Frick, a merchant. In 1859 the leading merchants at Keithsburg were C. S. Orth & Company, C. P. Elder & Company, E. B. Starkweather, A. Frazier, P. T. Hughes, Humphrey & Evans, R. Gray, Philip Coonrod and others.

In August, 1860, Thomas B. Cabeen estimated the shipments from Keithsburg from August 12, 1859, to July 23, 1860, as follows: Shelled corn, 319,150 bushels; wheat, 69,425 bushels; rye, 14,871 bushels; oats, 13,719 bushels; barley, 850 bushels; millet seed, 1,424 bushels; potatoes, 4,050 bushels; not yet shipped, 38,500 bushels; amount still in the county not counted, 100,000 bushels; totals, 606,989 bushels. In addition he estimated the following shipments: Hay, 383 bales; flour, 100 sacks; dry hides, 675; tallow, 3,600 pounds; chickens, 70 dozen; eggs, 48 barrels; hams, shoulders, etc., 406 casks of 850 pounds each; sides, 7,376 pieces; lard, 1,044 barrels. In the winter of 1859-60, 6,000 hogs were packed at Keithsburg and the winter of 1858-9, 13,000 head. The amounts hauled to New Boston, Muscatine, Andalusia, Camden, Rock Island, Monmouth and other points, raised the quantity shipped to over 1,000,000 bushels of grain. During the winter of 1860-61, there were packed at Keithsburg 4,823 hogs, their average weight being 230½ pounds. The best two hogs were marketed by John Brown, of Ohio Grove; they weighed 486 pounds each. He received a premium of \$5 from the packers. The best ten hogs were brought in by Mr. Reynolds, their average weight being 388½ pounds; he received a premium of \$8. The best twenty hogs were marketed by Burnett & Sons, their average weight being 326 pounds; he was paid a premium of \$10. The best large lot of hogs was brought in by Martin Bear; they numbered 82; the average weight was 284; he received a premium of \$15. Pettis Finch delivered two hogs that averaged 478½ pounds. David Finch sold thirty-one, the average weight being 295½ pounds. A. Frazier marketed five hogs, the average weight being 350 pounds. Brady Willits, J. W. Hueston, A. B. Childs and Harrison Riggs also delivered choice lots. One very fine lot of hogs driven in from Bridgers' Corners averaged 288 pounds. The best single hog delivered during the season was marketed by Rev. J. S. Poage, of Aledo; it weighed 528 pounds. The amounts of grain received at Keithsburg in February, 1860, were enormous. In one day as high



High School

Lift Bridge

Lower View Shows Lift Open for Passing Vessels

Third and Main Street

Methodist Episcopal Church

VIEWS OF KEITHSBURG

as 300 wagon loads of corn and wheat, besides many others of oats, corn, etc., were weighed there. A resident going out of town met one morning forty wagons loaded with wheat and corn coming to town in the first ten miles. At this time the price of wheat had advanced to nearly a dollar a bushel.

On July 4, 1870, a very destructive fire occurred at Keithsburg. It was started in the livery stable of H. N. Ives and two young boys who were sleeping therein lost their lives. Their names were Ives and Demslar. Among the buildings destroyed were the Nelson House, the residence of Mrs. Wade, a large corn crib, owned by Mr. Holland, Joseph Thompson's house and several other structures. Many buildings were saved by being covered with wet blankets. The town seemed to lack in early times means for fighting fires. In 1871 the Farmers National Bank of Keithsburg was established with the following officers: William Drury, president; T. B. Cabeen, vice president; C. S. Orth, cashier; Solomon Wolf, John T. McGinnis, B. D. Ellett and B. P. Frick, directors. A general banking business was commenced and carried on. Its capital was \$50,000, all the stock being subscribed and paid up.

In 1871 baseball took a firm hold upon this county. The game had been played here before but this year a county league was formed and games were played for money. The club at Keithsburg was called Ictaries and the one at Aledo was called Andes. At an important game in Aledo the Andes had forty-eight runs and the Ictaries, thirty. The players of the Andes were Ward, Shearer, Falloway, Mentzer, Henderson, Porter, Law, Moore and McDonald. Those of the Ictaries were Marshall, Frick (C. S.), Frazier, Hinzle, Flynn, Frick (C. H.), Cabeen, Lloyd and one other.

In the fall of 1870 a new ferry was started at Keithsburg and in one day sixty teams were taken across. In December of this year passenger trains began making regular trips to the town. The county board fixed the ferry rates as follows: Two horses and wagon, \$1.50; horse and wagon, \$1; man and horse, 50 cents; footman, 25 cents; cattle over two years old, 25 cents per head; others 10 cents per head; hogs and sheep, 10 cents per head.

In May, 1872, the distillery was destroyed by fire, the loss being about twenty-five thousand dollars, with an insurance of about fifteen thousand dollars.

Lloyd's large hotel was erected in 1871. Huron Island near Keithsburg had a bad reputation in early times. Liquor dealers and other law breakers were wont to gather there and hold high carnival without fear of molestation from officers of the law. Occasionally

when the iniquity became too great the citizens of Keithsburg would make a raid upon the island and drive off the miscreants. In time they came to be called the Huron Island devils.

About 1880 the Keithsburg Reading and Conversational Club was organized and became one of the strongest mediums of literary culture ever in that community. The members took much interest in the work and made a special study of the lives (1) of the great poets; (2) great historians; (3) great novelists; (4) great orators. They discussed and analyzed thoroughly the literary merits of the works of Bryant, Browning, Emerson, Longfellow, Whittier, Poe and others.

In October, 1879, the Keithsburg Bank quit as a national institution and became known thereafter as the Farmers Bank, being organized under the state law.

In 1888 the Mississippi River was higher than ever before since 1851. The water was not quite as high as it was in the latter year but was high enough to flood the streets and compel the merchants in many cases to place their goods in upper stories. In 1883 the new railroad was almost ready for business at Keithsburg. In 1883 a driving park was established on land donated by T. B. Cabeen, one mile east of the town. L. K. Jenne & Son leased the land and built the track. Here it was that many of the fast horses and many other sports and games were conducted from that period on for many years. The shooting tournament took place there and several of the greatest shots in the world developed at this park their surprising skill. In 1883 J. Erickson conducted a steam ferry here. About this time the village authorities purchased at Chicago 150 opera chairs and other suitable equipment for the new opera house. The Maggie Reaney was a popular local steamer on the river about this time. Captain Peal was her master.

In 1884 the town voted on the question of issuing bonds for the purchase of those which had been given the Dixon & Quincy Railroad Company in 1870 and which were still drawing interest at the rate of 10 per cent. The amount was \$35,000 and it was desired to refund them at a low rate of interest. This in the end was accomplished.

The opera house, though good and substantial, was not satisfactory to the people. In the late '80s it was remodeled and greatly improved. It was then known as the Marshall & Cabeen Opera House. In December, 1888, it was formally opened by the citizens, on which occasion a large audience was present. In 1881 a new paper called the Keithsburg Times was conducted by Wolfe & Cook. In the

end it was removed to Aledo and merged finally with the Record. H. C. Cook purchased the Keithsburg News in 1889. Theodore Glancey, who for a time had edited the Keithsburg Observer and later the Karana, went to California and became editor of the Evening Press at Santa Barbara. He became involved in a controversy there and was shot by C. Gray, the republican candidate for state's attorney. The bullet passed through his wrist and abdomen and he died the next morning. His father was the early owner of Glancey Mills on Pope Creek.

In 1890 Drury, Burgett & Company conducted the bank. The population at that time was 1,540. A large shooting tournament was held here in 1890, on which occasion many noted shots from distant places were present and many large prizes were offered and awarded. Early in the '90s Tom A. Marshall was elected mayor of the city and held the position for many years. He was exceedingly popular, a cultured and companionable man and had many friends throughout the county and the west.

In 1890 it was stated that Keithsburg was the largest grain shipping point of its size on the Mississippi River. Immense quantities of sand of excellent quality were unearthed here and shipped by rail to distant points. It is an excellent source of income at this date and will continue to be for many years. Here were some of the largest lumber concerns of the west. It was on the Galva and Keithsburg branch of the C. B. & Q. Railroad and was the western terminus of the Central Iowa Railway extending from Peoria to Mason City. Its water system was planned at this time and soon constructed. This gave it an abundance of pure, healthful water. The Keithsburg Gun Club, of which Tom A. Marshall was a leading member for many years, became known all over the world about this time. Standing purses were offered by the leading citizens and merchants, one for \$100 being offered by L. C. Smith.

Late in March, 1891, the village authorities made an offer to the Iowa Central Railroad, if it would build its round house here, to pay half of the expenses, or about eight thousand dollars, for the erection of the same. At a public meeting this proposition was agreed to and in twenty-five minutes \$4,500 of the sum needed was pledged. The town wanted the round house. It meant an addition to the population of from thirty-five to fifty families. A special committee was appointed to visit the company and secure the round house if possible.

A newspaper was started by Sweezy and Veach in 1891. Keithsburg established a city government early in the '90s and Tom A.

Marshall was the first mayor. A little later a large brick school-house, costing \$10,000, was constructed. In the early '90s during two or three years, about twenty new buildings, many of them brick, were constructed. Secret societies and social clubs were numerous here in the '80s and '90s. The Mercer County Republic, another paper, was started about 1892. In September of this year a Soldiers' Reunion was held here, which was memorable in the beauty of the speeches made and the great orators present. Over four hundred and ten old soldiers registered. It was about 1892 that the Excelsior Library was established and about two hundred books served as the nucleus for the future collection. At that time the postmaster was Mr. Mertz. The electric plant was started by E. B. Hillman & Company, of Peoria, who later sold the plant to Dr. E. L. Marshall, W. S. Cabeen, Tom A. Marshall and Charles Frayer, who formed a company and elected the first named president, the second named treasurer, the third named secretary and the last named manager. They immediately improved the plant by adding a better boiler and a dynamo completing the equipment in 1893. At the start 175 lights were taken for residences and many others were added later. The new organization became known as the Keithsburg Electric Light & Power Company. The people were proud of the public schools at this time. The high school was in an encouraging condition, with sixty-one pupils. Upper Keithsburg was annexed about the year 1889 or 1890. In 1893 new and improved waterworks were talked of. The question was submitted to a vote, with the following result: For new waterworks, eighty-three; against it, ninety-two. At the same time ninety-seven votes were cast in favor of a new city hall and 177 against the project. At this election T. A. Marshall was made mayor; H. P. Humbert, clerk; F. P. Burgett, treasurer, and S. M. Booe, attorney. The new round house which had been secured at great expense, and which had been the means of increasing the population of Keithsburg to a considerable extent, was damaged by fire in February, 1893. Six engines were almost wholly ruined and several buildings were burned. The round house itself was damaged to the extent of \$1,500. The Literary Club in 1893 was the means of adding greatly to the books in the public library. In 1893 the Republican consolidated with the News and was conducted by George Bloomer and George Porter. In July, 1893, the waterworks contract was let to the Monmouth Construction Company and the city issued bonds to the amount of \$12,000 for their construction. It was provided that the cost should not exceed \$15,000, \$3,000 was paid in cash and the rest in bonds. Tax sufficient to meet the bonds

as they became due and the interest thereon was levied. Although the city had a considerable fire fighting force, yet it seemed somewhat incompetent, because the fires usually got the start and were destructive in the extreme. In the fall of 1893 a new hose cart was ordered but in the following October another big fire occurred and swept nearly all the buildings on the river front from Battle Row to Christian Avenue. The rest of the town was saved by hard work. Twenty-eight buildings were destroyed and forty families were thrown out of homes. The total loss was estimated at \$30,000. Immediately after this event the people, now fully awake, assembled and reorganized wholly the fire company. A hose team of twenty and a hook and ladder team of thirty were organized. The three wards were divided into signal stations and J. M. Derr was appointed fire marshal. At a firemen's ball and supper held to raise means about this time, a large sum was realized, mostly through the device of voting for two young ladies for sponsors of the hook and ladder and the hose teams. The young ladies who were sponsors of the two fire concerns were known as Sadie C and Cora C. Thus one of the companies were called the Sadie C Hose Company, and the other, Cora C Hook and Ladder Company. The company gave public exhibition and on one occasion ran 227 yards, raised a 20-foot ladder and had men at the top in forty-four seconds. They joined the state association at that time. At last Keithsburg meant business in the way of stopping fires. During the '90s the temperance war was conducted and is described elsewhere herein. Usually the license ticket carried.

In April, 1897, the Circuit Court appointed a receiver for the Drury, Burgett & Company Bank at Keithsburg. It was solvent but this step was made necessary by the death of William Drury at that time. C. S. Orth was appointed receiver. About this time C. E. Bennett bought the Keithsburg News of Sweezy & Veach. In 1897 Tom A. Marshall served his sixth term as mayor of Keithsburg. He was again reelected without opposition. The Farmers Bank was organized under the statutes in the fall of 1897. Among the subscribers were H. W. Olcott, K. M. Whitham, John S. Allen, John Swanson, Solomon Wolfe, Francis Harrison, J. L. Allison, Grant M. Wolfe, C. E. Dryden, Leopold Adelsdorf, David Adelsdorf, William Kellogg and others. The managers were Olcott, Whitham & Company. The capital was \$25,000.

The first paid fire department was established in February, 1900, at House No. 1, with T. A. Marshall in the chair. C. S. Finch was elected chief. Among the members were R. E. Mellinger,

Willis Woods, Gus Fish, W. H. Davis, Edward Ott, Frank Ross, H. B. Hewitt, Arthur Dorse, Will Kauffman, George Fleming, George Frick, John Green, Clyde Hodson, Joseph Kerker and Ed Flora.

In April, 1899, Tom A. Marshall won in the great American Shooting Tournament at Jersey City against a powerful opposition and repeated the victory the next year. The shooting took place at Elwood Park, Long Branch, and there were a total of 263 entries of the best shooters of the world. He closed the shoot on Wednesday without a miss and that night sixty-two men had clear records. During Thursday all these except seven were retired. On Friday there were but two men left at one stage of the contest. Marshall in succession killed his thirty-third bird. Grim, his only competitor, missed his thirty-third bird, thus giving Marshall the victory.

In 1900 the business men of Keithsburg were as follows: Attorneys, Kirkpatrick & Wiley; bank, Olcott, Whitham & Company; bakery, E. D. Johnson; barber, Ed Ogle; bicycle repairs, W. H. Davis; boots and shoes, Famous Shoe Store, M. Hendrickson, Thomas Souster; contractor and builder, J. M. Kaufman; cigar manufacturers, B. G. Humbert & Company, the H. & H.; grain and coal, C. R. Eddington, E. J. Glancey, W. R. King; hardware, Mulford & Company, S. W. Smith; hotels, Commercial, Gem; insurance, L. L. Mertz, Porter & Cannon; justice of the peace, Daniel Clark; jeweler and optician, E. Siever; laundry, Keithsburg Steam Laundry; livery and feed barns, C. F. Beach, R. M. Willett; lumber, the Keithsburg Lumber Company; merchant tailors, A. J. Johnson, H. A. Mitze; dentist, R. E. Bloomer; dry goods and clothing, Adelsdorf Brothers; dray line, W. F. Haas; druggists, Allen & Bozarth, W. Hadley; express and baggage, M. Teberg; furniture and undertaking, W. A. Starker; groceries, Ellett Brothers, Frick Mercantile Company, Hall & Bettler, Noble, Wickett & Company; milliners, Anna Hoyt, Hattie N. Noble; meat market, J. Kerker; newspaper, The Keithsburg News; oil can manufactory, The Stoutenberg Manufacturing Company; physicians and surgeons, J. S. Allen, T. D. Coe, Wilber Kelley, E. N. McKee, A. P. Willits; poultry, J. W. Abrams; painter and paper hanger, George F. Parsons; real estate and loans, G. M. Wolfe; restaurants, E. E. Deterline, C. F. Johnson & Son; racket store, W. S. Cabeen; stone masons; Lett Brothers.

In 1906 the Monarch Button Factory at Keithsburg was a successful and promising business concern. It had hand machines, big automatic machines and other suitable equipment and secured large

quantities of shells from all points along the river and elsewhere. Mr. Wallace was manager at that time.

In December, 1908, C. A. Hoyt and L. J. Temple became proprietors of the Keithsburg Bank, buying out the stock of Mr. Olcott in April, 1909. Wolfe, Bloomer & Company were managers of the Keithsburg Bank. Grant M. Wolfe was president, J. F. Humbert cashier and the capital was \$35,000.

In 1910 the Bay View Home Study Club was an important institution at Keithsburg. In recent years the construction of the big drainage levee at Keithsburg is one of the important improvements. There were removed 182,000 yards of earth for the levee and 10,900 yards of muck for the ditch. The total cost was \$52,234.50. In the spring of 1910 the new bridge over the Mississippi was completed.

In August, 1912, a new public library was planned and at the head of this movement were Mrs. E. E. Deterline, Miss Kate Noble, Mrs. J. S. Allen, Mrs. Lottie Olcott, Mrs. M. J. Humphreys, Mrs. Hod Ogle, Miss Ethel Boruff and Miss Leila Venable.

The new city hall was projected in 1913 and was planned to cost \$5,000. The first floor was made ready for the fire department and on the upper floor were the city offices. The building was erected 28 by 60 feet. In 1913 the Keithsburg News was under the charge of A. N. Cole, editor and publisher.

In 1914 Keithsburg had a population of 1,566 and had the following business establishments: W. C. Bassett & Company, boots and shoes; H. C. Bettler, groceries and meats; A. L. Bloomberg, harness; R. E. Bloomer, oil can manufacturer; A. P. Canon, machinery; A. H. Clark, grocery and bakery; E. E. Deterline, restaurant and confectionery; Charles H. Ditto, sporting goods; Dryden Brothers, hardware; Ellett Brothers, grocery; W. P. Finch & Son, grocery and market; R. E. Fleming, restaurant; John S. Gilrain, drugs; Globe Clothing Company; Helwig & Helwig, racket store; Henderson Brothers, boots and shoes; Humphreys & Newell, grocery and market; A. J. Johnson, tailor; Keithsburg Pearl Button Manufacturing Company; W. R. King, lumber and coal; King & Venable, grocery; Marshall Telephone Company; Mississippi Sand & Gravel Company; J. W. Morgan, fish market; J. L. Noble, dry goods and clothing; Noble & Hoyt, millinery; Orth & Taylor, dry goods and clothing; A. E. Reasor, livery; H. S. Schroeder, pool and cigars; E. Siever, jewelry; H. I. Smith, blacksmith; William Streit, livery; L. F. Stuebinger, undertaker; Tri County Light & Power Company; Ed Waters, blacksmith; Keithsburg Bank, capital \$36,500; Citizens Bank.

CHAPTER XX

NEW BOSTON TOWNSHIP

The first settlers in Mercer County located in what is now New Boston Township, April 20, 1827. William Denison and his son, John W. Denison, and their families located a half mile south of the present site of New Boston. They opened a woodyard for steamboats and soon had several men at work chopping and piling the wood. As stated elsewhere herein, the site of New Boston had been famous for many years and was known as the Upper Yellow Banks by the Indians and whites. At the time of the first settlement hundreds of Indians of the Sac and Fox tribe were encamped in the vicinity. During the next two or three years Daniel S. Witter and wife and a hired man, named Twist, and a French-Canadian trader, named Pentacosa, located near what is now New Boston. Little is known of this trading post or store, but it was no doubt established for the purpose of securing the furs obtained by the Indians in exchange for articles wanted by them, such as clothing, powder, lead, tobacco, whisky, etc. In 1833 William Drury arrived and settled at the Bluffs. The next year William Wilson came. In 1834 one Irwin had a trading post where New Boston is now located. S. V. Prentiss arrived in 1835, as did Edward Drury, M. L. Willits, John Noble, Ephraim Gilmore and others. John Roberts came in 1837. The same year J. C. Sloan, N. N. Larrance and John Davids also located in this township. In 1838 Isaac Lutz came and built a grist mill on Edwards River on section 1. This mill was in operation for many years. The same year Elias Pullen, E. A. Crapnell and Joseph Alyea arrived and settled on farms. In 1839 Jacob Beard, Charles and Chusha Rader arrived. In 1838 the Burleighs arrived. Rev. George Smith came the same year. In 1839 Rev. Thomas M. Kirkpatrick and Simeon P. Smith secured homes in the township. Other early settlers were Abraham Beard, who located near the Village of Mannon; Patrick and Woody Beard, who came the same time, and Levi W. Myers, who was an early teacher in the township. Murray and Amos Prouty came at an early date. Others who came in early were George Lowe, Adam Davis, the Crapnells, William J. Turner, Nicholas Edwards, Walter Pryne, John Histed, T. C.

Emery, Anthony Imber, Pettis Finch, Thomas Martin, Nelson Wheeler, Cutus A. Ballard and Isaac Lutz. A Mr. Pratt at a little later date conducted a flour mill on Eliza Creek. Harrison Smith and Mr. McChesney arrived before 1844. Jacob A. Swafford arrived in 1837. In the '40s came David Kirlin, Gideon Ives, Lyman H. Scudder, Isom Jackson, James P. Powley, Stephen Randolph, Thomas L. Doughty, Cyrus H. Maxwell, Doctor Prentiss and Job E. Willits. Many other Willits arrived about the same time and became prominent settlers. Sidney Chidester came in 1838. Harley Ives arrived the same year and settled one mile east of New Boston. He was the first cooper in the township. At a little later date came William Lewis, Jacob Lozer, R. S. Cramer, Dempsey Jackson, John W. Fleming and many others. E. I. Drury and Courtney Drury came to the township at an early day. Dr. Thomas Willits was the first physician at New Boston. There were three Ives, Harley, Gideon and Gilbert. Thomas Alyea was a settler at a little later date. George Lowe, S. V. Prentiss, John Davis, John Roberts, J. M. Mannon and others came at an early date. By 1850 the township was well settled, nearly all the valuable land being taken up and country schools and churches were to be found in almost every neighborhood.

The township was organized in 1852 at the time the law to that effect was passed. I. N. Bassett was the first supervisor; Thomas Alyea the first town clerk; and G. W. Warner the first justice of the peace. As above stated, the Denisons selected their home on the river bank a half mile below New Boston and started a woodyard for steamboats. William Denison took a claim there, but John W. took his at what is now New Boston.

NEW BOSTON

The town, or village, of New Boston was laid out in September, 1834, and thus was the first village platted in the county. William Denison was the owner, but he sold two-thirds of his claim to Elijah Iles of Springfield, and Edward Burrall of Massachusetts. Abraham Lincoln was the first surveyor. In early years New Boston was the most promising town in the county. It was located at the famous Yellow Banks, an historic point, was not subject to overflow by the river, did not have steep hills or bluffs in the rear and was made the county seat. Everything looked promising at the start. Opposite was the mouth of the Iowa River. Sturgeon Bay was a safe and large harbor already prepared. Thus the little village had many



Glenwood Ice House
Main Street Looking South

Main Street

New School Building
Ice Harvest

SCENES OF NEW BOSTON

important and valuable surroundings. The county was organized in 1835 and New Boston was made the temporary county seat. The house of Eli Reynolds was made the voting place. The lots were offered for sale in 1835 and 1836 and brought from \$200 to \$700 each. The lot where later stood the Drury warehouse brought \$900. The first residences were those of James S. Thompson, Joseph Alyea, Dr. Mark Willits and others. In 1838 New Boston had only twelve or fifteen buildings. It did not grow very fast during the first four years. It is said the reason why it did not grow faster was because non-residents owned many of the lots and would not sell them. The village was located on sections 31 and 32. In 1856 Turner's Addition was made and in 1859 the village was incorporated as a town under a special charter and by that time had a population of 700. In 1836 Drury & Willits opened a dry goods and grocery store and began buying pork and grain and shipping the same to St. Louis. They were the first pork packers in the village.

In 1848 Drury & Willits sold their establishment to Courtney Drury and James S. Thompson, who began business as Thompson & Drury. In 1850 William Drury started a cash store, continuing until 1853, when he sold out and thereafter spent his time in handling his large real estate interests. He was later connected with the First National Bank at Keithsburg. The other firm continued there from 1848 to 1856, when they sold out and engaged in farming. Willits & Kirlin established a lumberyard in 1853. Willits a little later went into the grocery business. Burdick & Mannon were merchants. Dr. Thomas Willits, a prominent resident, represented the county in the Legislature in 1850. At this time the Sons of Temperance had a strong organization in the village. Doctor Willits was a member. Thomas Alyea was a druggist in the village for many years. He did not start until 1853 and was the second druggist in the village. Henry H. Roberts established a lumberyard in the '30s and built a carding machine, the first in the township. Several of the merchants engaged in the ice business. Mr. Roberts moved to Eliza Township and engaged in farming at a later day. In 1856 he built a large three-story brick carriage and wagon factory in partnership with Joseph Graham. The firm was known as Graham & Roberts. They continued until 1860, when Roberts bought Graham out and in 1869 started the Roberts House in the old factory, which he refitted. David Kirlin kept a furniture store as early as 1842. Thomas L. Doughty established a harness and saddle shop about 1842. A lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded in 1854-5 by J. L. Hartson, who was the first noble grand, Mark J. O'Brien, J. C. Bell,

C. H. Bell, D. Hines and others. John Seastone began blacksmithing and wagon making late in the '50s. T. H. Doughty was police magistrate as early as 1842. Gideon Ives was engaged in merchandising as early as 1843. Lyman H. Scudder conducted a livery at New Boston from 1855 to 1862. George Signor was a grocer in the '50s. George Gore was a banker. He did not start in business for himself until 1873 and did not start in the banking business until 1881. He was at one time mayor of the city.

Of course, the Frenchman named above kept the first store in what is now New Boston. That was before the town was platted and it may not be considered fair to count it as the first. Wells Willits was a merchant at an early date and also had charge of a sawmill and became prominent in many ways; was a business man and a leader of thought and action. He bought large quantities of produce and slaughtered hogs and shipped to Chicago. Elias Willits taught school here in 1851. I. N. Bassett lived with him for a while in 1852. It was while he was located at New Boston that I. N. Bassett was elected supervisor from the township. New Boston Lodge of Masons was established about 1850. I. N. Bassett was a member. In 1852 Enos Scudder kept a hotel. Michael Poffenbarger was a blacksmith at a little later date. Cyrus A. Ballard was for many years a prominent merchant here. Ives' store stood where later was erected the Ives Opera House. In later years Arthur W. Mannon, Anthony Imber, Clifford Dixon, James C. Bell, Benjamin F. Thompson, Joseph Bell, Richard Thomas and Mr. Hartwig and Mr. Tolle were prominent business men. George Lytle conducted a drug store and Dr. Thomas Bras practiced medicine here for many years. Charles Bras, his brother, was a lawyer. Thomas Alyea conducted a dry goods store from 1847 to 1853, but after that date took up drugs and continued selling the same until his death. He was county surveyor from 1849 to 1851. It was in 1837 that the Legislature passed a law by which three commissioners were appointed to locate the permanent seat of justice for Mercer County. This they did and selected Millersburg as the county seat.

The original plat of New Boston was made to conform to the river bank. This placed the streets at an angle with the cardinal points of the compass. Sixteen blocks, 320 feet square, divided by streets eighty feet wide, and subdivided by alleys sixteen feet wide, comprised the original plat. There were four fractional blocks along the river bank, but they later disappeared by the action of the river.

There is another old settler of New Boston who was a very prominent man—Capt. Charles Jack, who also had a tract of land in New Boston that he purchased about 1840. Captain Jack was an able officer in the British navy, and was wrecked and came to America, but was never naturalized. He bought a large quantity of land in Henry County, Illinois, and settled in Texas before the Civil war; and remained there until the war was over, when his son-in-law, Edward Burrall, sent a man down there, and he was brought to Rock Island, and subsequently died there or in Henry County. He had three daughters. One was the first wife of Charles Harris, an attorney in Oquawka, who died leaving one son, who is still living in Chicago. Benjamin D. Ellett of Mercer County also married a daughter of Captain Jack, as his first wife, and she died leaving one daughter, who is the wife of Fredrick P. Burgett of Keithsburg, Illinois. A third daughter was married to Edward Burrall, who formerly lived in Mercer County, but removed to Rock Island and engaged in merchandise there. Edward Burrall died some few years ago, and his wife, Captain Jack's daughter, died some time during the last year, some ninety-two years old. She conveyed shortly before her death a tract of land in New Boston that Captain Jack had bought, or a part of it, to Halcion Y. Drury.

The old Jack House was one of the first hotels. The Scudder House was a prominent stopping place at a little later date. The principal school in the village in the '40s was taught by Simeon P. Smith. For many years after the first settlement Bay Island was visited by the Indians. The New Boston Advertiser was started in 1845 and was the first paper in Mercer County. It was published in connection with the Toolsboro (Iowa) Times, the editor being F. A. C. Foreman. It was devoted to foreign and domestic intelligence, arts, light literature, politics and commercial news. It was a six column, four page paper. Later the name was changed to the Yeoman of the Prairie Land, New Boston Broad Horn, the Golden Age, the New Boston Nonpareil, New Boston Reporter, New Boston Herald, the latter being conducted by C. A. Ballard in 1872. Mercer County did not have a paper all its own until 1850, when Colonel Patterson founded the Keithsburg Observer. The Advertiser noted the presence of the steamboat Archer bound for Bloomington (Muscatine) and that S. A. Gilman conducted a ferry at New Boston. After the Advertiser the Nonpareil was published in the early '50s by Mr. Swafford. Subsequently the New Boston Vidette was issued. In 1852 New Boston was visited by a destructive fire which swept away many of its best buildings and destroyed a large

amount of property. In October, 1853, New Boston Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M., was organized and was the first Masonic Lodge in Mercer County. The Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 188, was organized about the same time.

Ives & Denison conducted a large store in April, 1855. They bought wheat, corn, oats, etc. At this time the little town was very prosperous. In May, 1855, the citizens of New Boston raised a purse of \$200 for the publishers of the newspaper Golden Age if they would remain and continue its issue. New Boston Nonpareil was a flourishing journal in 1855. The women of New Boston turned out on election day, went to the places where liquor had been sold, searched the premises but found none. The dealers had secreted the article before the ladies appeared. During the years 1855-6 New Boston grew 50 per cent more than at any other period in its history. The New Boston Steam Works were conducted by Kirlin & Jingles in 1857. They manufactured a variety of wood products and had a large trade.

In 1857 Bell & Thompson conducted a large store here. The New Boston Reporter was conducted by Stafford in 1856-7. The Nonpareil was a democratic newspaper. H. C. Bowers sold drugs here in 1857. L. W. Myers delivered a strong address on the subject of Education before the schools of New Boston at an exhibition given in January, 1858. By January 19, 1858, the merchants of New Boston packed over four thousand hogs. Bell & Thompson were engaged in this business and paid four dollars per one hundred weight. By the 26th of the same month they had packed 6,500 hogs. Gayle & Company seem to have had an establishment here. In January, 1858, Graham & Roberts conducted a wagon factory. Bell & Thompson had a large general store in 1858. Mr. Johnson sold lumber about the same time. Holden & Tyler were owners of the Vulcan Iron Works in 1858. Smallpox appeared here in February of this year, but it was soon stamped out by the doctors. During the winter of 1857-8, for the first time in at least twenty-one years, the Mississippi River was not frozen over at New Boston. It was a rare occurrence. By the last of March navigation opened, packers held their pork even longer, waiting for an advance in price. There was not much grain of any kind at this time. The Keokuk & Rock Island Line of packets were running by March 25. The favorite boat, J. McKee, had been withdrawn. Ben Campbell and Tishamingo were the two other vessels of this line. The latter was sunk in the rapids. Flora was a Rock Island and Dunleith stern wheeler. It was wrecked at Rock Island Bridge. In the '50s the New Boston Literary Union

Society gave a public entertainment, on which occasion almost the entire town turned out. This society was composed of young men and women of the city who did not feel able to take part in debates of the public lyceum, which was organized a short time before. The young people organized for the purpose of acquiring culture in literature, independent of older organizations. They had essays, discussions and dialogues and in one of the latter fifteen young ladies took part and it was said that at 11 o'clock at night the performance had not ended and yet nobody was tired nor had gone. The house was crowded to the door.

At the town election in April, 1858, the liquor license was an important subject of controversy. The people the year before elected a liquor council who had licensed two wet groceries, with disastrous and unpleasant results. This was a convincing argument for the temperance people. During the election at least three fights occurred between the factions. It seemed that a majority of the people favored "a dram occasionally." In the spring of 1858 the Steamboat James Lyon passed down the Mississippi and up the Missouri to Leavenworth. The Burlingim House at New Boston was changed into the New Boston Hotel, with Richard Proctor proprietor at this time. In the spring of 1858 many rafts and steamboats were to be seen on the river, more than ever before. Wells Willits was a large grocery dealer in the summer of 1858. Bell & Brother had a large general store. Maddux & Anderson, of Aledo, had a branch in this city at this time. Excelsior Hall was used for Fourth of July celebrations, lectures and other large gatherings. J. K. Herbert was principal of the New Boston schools in the fall of this year. Willits & Burdick were merchants this year. Crystal Front Lodge, No. 185, I. O. G. T., was established at New Boston late in 1859 with S. B. Hineman, W. C. T.

In 1860 there were at New Boston, Willits & Burdick, general store; Wells Willits, produce, commission and forwarding business; Bell & Brother, general merchants; Maddux & Anderson, stoves, etc.; Vulcan Iron Works, Holden & Tyler; Samuel Gideon, clothing, and others.

In February, 1861, E. Stafford became commercial editor of the Missouri Democrat. He had previously been editor of the Nonpareil at New Boston and was chairman of the Democratic Central Committee late in the '50s.

In the spring of 1861 Z. P. Willits sold his nursery, called Bluff Nursery, near New Boston. It was an important institution in early times. It had a large variety of plants and was patronized by hun-

dreds of farmers, not only in Illinois, but on the Iowa side as well. In April, 1861, F. P. Wood, mayor, A. Kirlin and C. Hall, aldermen, of New Boston, notified the public that the city had purchased the new steam ferryboat and were prepared to transport persons and equipments across the river. The ferry was under the exclusive control of the city government.

In July, 1863, the slaughter house and molasses factory of Wells Willits in the north part of New Boston was destroyed by fire. It was 100 feet long, had two steam engines, a sugar mill, two molasses pans, evaporators, etc. In December, 1863, it was noted that New Boston had seven pianos and six melodeons. The New Boston Lay Society was an important institution early in the '60s. Weekly meetings were held and lectures were limited to thirty minutes. There were also a course of short lectures of ten minutes each. They issued a weekly paper, edited by the ladies. At each meeting a few of the members were called out and required to talk five minutes on some subject given them after they had reached the floor.

In 1864 Charles M. Harris and F. B. Miller took the contract to carry the daily mail between Davenport and Fort Madison, by way of New Boston, Keithsburg, etc. The first annual picnic of the Old Settlers' Association was held at New Boston, August 8, 1864. The Steamer Maggie Reamey brought many old settlers to this reunion.

In April, 1865, the first issue of the New Boston Herald appeared, with Henry C. Ashbaugh, publisher, and James H. Scott, editor. It was a six column folio and was issued every Saturday. In early times New Boston was an extensive shipping point. Grain was usually sent off in sacks on steamboats, but occasionally was shipped in bulk on barges. Wells Willits shipped salt meats by the barge load. Among the steamers on the river about the time of the Civil war were the following: Pembina, Canada, Lake Itasca, Sucker State, Bald Eagle, Minnesota, Lake Superior, Northwestern, Alexander Mitchell, Hawkeye, Phil Sheridan, City of St. Paul, Red Wing, Belle of LaCrosse, Dubuque, Davenport, Rock Island, Muscatine, New Boston, Burlington, Keithsburg, Rob Boy and Gem City. These boats were not included in those owned by the Diamond Jo Line.

Among the business men of New Boston in 1865 were the following: Dr. Thomas Willits; James Noonan, saloon; J. C. Bell, merchandise; Scudder House, Enos Scudder proprietor; Henry Seavers, shoe shop; Anthony Imber, shoe store; John Rolander, harness shop; James Ferguson, billiard room; A. D. Keeler, tinshop; Mr. Thornbury, jewelry store; D. Kirlin, furniture; Lewis Gradke, saloon, bakery and lunch room; Anthony Burdick, merchandise; this passed

to James Mannon a little later; Richard Thomas and Frank Thompson were postmasters about this time; George Hartwig, merchant; David Tolle, bakery; M. R. Good, drug store; Jacob Harsh, barber; James Barrett, confectionery store and ice cream parlor; Myers House, which had many proprietors in a comparatively short time; William H. Dixon, tailor shop; Suiter & Stanway, doctors; Mrs. Southward, grocery store; Burlingame, meat market; G. W. Warner, clothing; Eli Cooke, billiard room; Ives & Denison, store; Thomas Alyea, drug store; Dr. T. H. Bras; Wells Willits, large general store; A. W. Tipton, drug store; this establishment was later owned by George Lytle; residences at this time were to be found occasionally on the business streets; Seastone & Anderson, wagon shop; Dr. O. Patterson, dentist; John Fritch, house painter; Poffenbarger, blacksmith shop; Roberts House, kept by H. H. Roberts in 1870; in the building occupied by him was the *New Boston Herald*, edited by James H. Scott, and Hugh Scott, his brother, occupied a part of the room with a repair shop.

In December, 1860, the New Boston Musical Association, under the leadership of Mr. Weatherbee, rendered a concert in that city, on which occasion an audience of several hundred was present. All who took part in the ceremonies, particularly the little girls, were roundly applauded for their meritorious performances. The receipts amounted to \$62.50.

E. V. Wilson lectured on Shakespeare in Roberts Hall in March, 1867. Not many turned out to hear the lecture. In November, 1868, James H. Scott retired from the *New Boston Herald*, which was afterward conducted by Thomas Scott and James W. Merrill, with C. A. Ballard as editor. The paper finally suspended in October, 1870, for want of support. Later it was revived by Mr. Ballard and made a success.

A literary association of New Boston gave an interesting entertainment at Noble Chapel in May, 1871. There was a large audience and the performances of the young people were greatly enjoyed. In 1872 at the city election there were three tickets—temperance, anti-railroad bond and anti-everything. The temperance ticket was placed before the public the day before election and all its candidates were elected.

H. C. Edwards, city marshal, about this time was stabbed by a man known as Robbins, alias Richey, from the effect of which he died. The town directly offered a reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer and the county board in March, 1873,

formally agreed to pay one-half of the reward thus offered. He was captured and punished.

Three prominent business concerns in New Boston in 1877 were Willits & Hall, lumber dealers; Kirlin & Jingles, dealers in dressed siding, dressed flooring, sash, doors, blinds, etc.; and Holden & Tyler, foundry. In 1877 the voters of New Boston authorized the purchase of the old Methodist Episcopal Church for \$350 to be used as a town hall. In 1877 the following concerns were doing business in this town: Dry goods and groceries, Bell Brothers, C. A. Ballard, Mr. Oleson, George Hartwig, George Warner; W. H. McLaughlin was the only exclusive grocer; hardware, John O'Donnell; clothing, Will Danford; drugs and medicines, T. Alyea and George Lytle; tinshop, Mr. Keeler, who was postmaster at that time; New Boston had a daily packet to Burlington, a small stern wheeler, which left every morning and returned the same evening. At that time the New Boston ferry boat was operated by H. Ives.

At the city election in 1878 George Gore, temperance candidate for mayor, had a majority of fifteen over A. Imber, candidate for the same office on the citizens' ticket. The election of Mr. Gore meant no license. In December, 1879, H. H. Roberts announced that his ferry across the Mississippi was ready for service day and night. A paper called the Clipper was started as an independent or neutral sheet in 1879. Later it came out as a temperance organ and still later became an organ of the saloon element. It ended its career as a democratic paper.

In December, 1880, the following were the leading business men of New Boston: C. A. Ballard, George Signor, G. W. Warner, George Lytle, W. H. McLaughlin, George Hartwig, David Kirlin, Thomas Alyea, J. C. Bell, Mr. Chamberlin, John Seastone, Hult & Peterson. At this time large quantities of ice were put up here for shipment when needed. At this date the temperance people of New Boston were well organized and met every Tuesday evening for the purpose of seeing that the law concerning liquor was enforced.

In 1881 New Boston and vicinity raised large quantities of water-melons, which were shipped mainly over the railways to Chicago. Carloads were sent to St. Paul and other distant points. The men growing these melons were W. D. Hodson, Ellis Brothers and R. S. Cramer.

The summers were made the occasion for excursions of all kinds on the river. There were many resorts, picnic grounds and other places where amusements could be held and advantage was taken



Photo by Forbes

BAY ISLAND LILIES



Photo by Forbes

BOSTON BAY ISLAND

during the warm months by groups of people to pass up or down the river and enjoy themselves.

In 1881 during the flood Bay Island was seriously damaged. William Drury of this township owned a large park, in which he kept elk, deer and buffalo. On one occasion an elk killed one of his valuable colts, estimated to be worth about five hundred dollars. Ballard's Hall was finished and ready for use in December, 1881. C. A. Ballard used the lower part for his store. In December, 1881, Bower Brothers of New Boston shipped immense quantities of fish, having recently caught over sixty thousand in one haul in a pocket formed by the river on a sandbar.

The New Boston Library Association was organized in June, 1882, through the efforts of Prof. W. S. Messmer. C. A. Ballard was elected president; C. W. Bras, vice president; T. H. Doughty, secretary; Ed L. Willits, treasurer. The first lot of books was purchased and the librarian, Thomas Alyea, was elected at a later date. In March, 1885, the New Boston Vidette was established, with Will B. Farver, publisher, and Prof. D. N. Blazer, editor.

In 1885 the following business concerns were active at New Boston: Willits & Strong, general merchandise; George Hartwig, prints, dress goods, gents' furnishing goods, etc.; Pritz & Adelsdorf, dry goods and clothing; Fred Lauer, jewelry; Mrs. M. Drury, millinery; Mr. Keeler, postmaster; G. Ives & Sons, general merchandise; Pratt Brothers, meat market; P. C. Dixon, livery and feed stable; C. W. Bras, attorney; John Rolander, harness, saddles, etc.; Murray and Murphy, the Bee Hive meat market; George H. Signor, grocery; Seastone & Anderson, shingles, flooring, etc.; Roberts & Williams, hardware, stoves, cutlery, etc.; John Seastone, wagons, carriages and farm implements; William Markgraf, cigar manufacturer; George Lytle, drugs and patent medicines; A. Imber, boots and shoes; Conrad Ohlwein, tailor; U. C. Gessenmann, grocer.

The Bay Island Drainage Ditch was projected and considered in 1890. It meant a great deal to New Boston and its construction had been fought for and against for many years. In the end it was constructed. In 1891 New Boston had a considerable debt which had been greatly reduced during the previous four or five years. It was bonded and was refunded at a later date. At this time large quantities of ice were put up and marketed at the proper time.

In September, 1893, the soldiers of the One Hundred and Second Regiment held a reunion at New Boston, on which occasion 8,000 people were present. The occasion was made memorable by the greeting given the old soldiers and by the games, boat races, etc.,

which were enjoyed. The New Boston creamery was established before 1893 and was successfully conducted for several years. It did not have sufficient cows back of it to become a permanent fixture.

New Boston Township has been called the township of bridges, owing to the numerous structures that have been built over the streams, bayous, lakes, etc. In September, 1893, Mr. Roberts succeeded Mr. Willits as postmaster.

At the spring election in New Boston in 1894, ninety-nine ladies and 133 men voted. It was a school election, Mrs. Gore receiving ninety-nine votes and Mr. Livingston 133 votes. Thus the men voted for the man candidate and the women for the woman candidate. W. C. Austin was elected mayor on the people's ticket in 1894. The candidate of the law and order party was M. Chamberlin.

In 1900 the following were the business concerns of New Boston:

Bank, Olcott, Whitham & Company; barber, W. W. Smull; blacksmith, Bert Poffenbarger; contractor and builder, William E. Merrill; coal and draying, F. A. Burlingame; collections, A. V. Larrance; druggist, George Lytle; furniture and undertaking, H. F. Babbitt; ferry, J. B. Robins; fish and game, A. S. Miller; grocers, Bell & Company, A. W. Mannon, N. W. Tieman; hotels, Patterson, Wade; hardware, Trask & Tolle; harness, John Rolander; justice of the peace, W. C. Austin; jeweler, E. M. Bras; livery and feed barn, F. C. Dixon; loans, D. S. Prentiss; lumber, R. H. Roberts; milliner, Mrs. E. C. Gore; merchant tailor, W. H. Dixon; meat market, Courtney Willits; notary public, M. Chamberlin; painters, W. P. Hunt, R. C. Livingston; poultry, Henry F. Kath; physicians and surgeons, E. H. Cutts, C. F. Lytle; restaurant, I. F. Patterson; stock and grain buyer, G. W. Bridger; vegetable dealer, W. D. Hodson; wagon manufacturer, John Seastone.

In 1900 Elias Poffenbarger built a large two-story brick bank building at a cost of about six thousand five hundred dollars. The bank located therein was reorganized at that time, the old concern being merged into the new. Fifty or sixty of the most prominent citizens became stockholders in the new concern. John E. Whitham was manager and cashier. A. Imber, Ed Noble, G. W. Bridger, John Seastone and H. H. Roberts were the advisory board. In 1901 New Boston began to wake up on the subject of waterworks, electric lighting, and other important subjects. Steps were taken to put all these movements in operation before many years. In 1901 the bank was doing a large business, had a capital of \$21,000 and was conducted by Whitham, Olcott & Company. The leading subscribers to the stock were John E. Whitham, Hiram W. Olcott, and K. M.

Whitham. The Glenwood Ice Company in 1901 packed an immense quantity of ice which was sold to good advantage the following summer. In January, 1901, the New Boston Herald was established with Vern Mendenhall as publisher.

In July, 1907, the waterworks question came to a partial climax and the voters were required to determine whether bonds to the amount of \$4,000 should be issued for such a system. In 1908 the business men of New Boston were as follows: Frank Brusor, Trask & Noble, H. F. Babbitt, P. O. Drury, D. S. Prentiss, C. F. Dixon, H. O. Baner, L. J. Temple, S. L. Crosley, I. F. Patterson, R. C. Chinery, A. W. Mannon, R. H. Roberts, J. T. Mead, J. A. Stine-man, R. C. Livingston, W. W. Small, F. E. Bruce, Bert Poffenbarger, C. R. Ballard, Fred Ives, H. F. Rice, Dr. E. Morgan, G. F. Close, Dr. L. L. McIntire, M. F. Prouty, J. G. Ohlwein, Courtney Willits, J. P. Fleming, Guy Brusor, S. S. McKown, Louis Hartwig, Leo Hand, E. L. Willits, L. D. Wade, W. S. Nelson, Frank Livingston.

The people had determined to light the city by electricity and accordingly the system was commenced in 1910 and the lighting system was put in operation first in January, 1913. It was furnished by the Tri-County Light & Power Company.

In 1914 New Boston had a population of 718. Its leading business houses were: H. F. Babbitt, furniture and undertaking; R. C. Chinery, groceries and meat; F. C. Dixon, livery; J. P. Fleming, restaurant; Gideon Ives & Sons, general store; Leo Hand, blacksmith; A. J. Imber, fish dealer; Frank Livingston, jewelry; A. W. Mannon, general store; J. L. Mead, cigars; New Boston Electric Company; New Boston Telephone Company; Noble & Bruce, hardware; Isabelle Patterson, hotel; I. F. Patterson, restaurant and groceries; Bert Poffenbarger, hardware; R. H. Roberts, lumber; J. C. Rolander, harness; N. E. Seastone, agricultural implements; W. W. Smull, cigars; Max Steineck, cigars; Courtney Willits, meat and ice; Willits & Willits, manufacturers of corn cutters.

The little village of Mannon has had a store, shop, school, church and postoffice for many years. It is located in the northern part of New Boston Township and its population in 1914 was 52. It has rural free delivery from New Boston. David Blaisdell is blacksmith and Omer Deeds conducts a general store.

In 1914 New Boston is a wideawake, up-to-date and progressive city. Its schools, churches, clubs, societies, lodges, etc., embrace the whole population. Its banks and business houses generally are sound

and reliable. Its city water is pure; its streets are clean and well lighted; its fire department is efficient; its city administration is well and economically conducted and the city is a most desirable one in which to live and be happy.

CHAPTER XXI

MILLERSBURG TOWNSHIP

Millersburg Township is divided into two nearly equal geographical divisions by Edwards River. Until suitable bridges were built across this stream the people of the two divisions were isolated and scarcely knew each other. However, as soon as bridges were built the township was a unit in growth and development. In 1872 upon petition of the inhabitants it was divided into two election precincts, the river being the separating line. This did not continue long, because the following year bridges having been built, the precincts were united into one. In the fall of 1834 settlements were made in both divisions of the township. The first farmers to locate south of the river were Edward Willette, Harrison Riggs and Ebenezer Creswell. Riggs located on section 30 and put up the first log cabin in the township. Creswell located on section 21 and built a sawmill during 1834-5. It was on Camp Creek and was the first mill in the township and one of the first in the county. Willette located on the same section as Creswell. Other early settlers in the south division were Thomas Riggs in 1836; Rice Peckinbaugh, 1840; Charles Griffith, 1836; Isaac Burson, 1837; W. Hubbard, 1836; Edward Brady, Sr., 1842; John T. McGinnis, 1846; Richard and John S. Kiddoo, 1845; William Kiddoo, 1847; John and Edward Brady, 1842; Peter Spangler, Thomas Jackson and others, about 1840. By the early '40s the settlement south of the river was general and schools had been started and religious societies formed. The first settler in the north division was Benijah Lloyd, who located on section 5 in 1834. Two years afterward the Miller brothers located at what became known as Millersburg. They had previously settled elsewhere in 1834.

Among the first settlers at Millersburg were H. W. Thornton, 1836; James Thompson, 1838; Christian Routzong, 1838; Erastus, William and Joseph Denison, about 1839; Judge E. Gilmore, about 1838; the latter at a later day located south of the river. These persons located either in the village of Millersburg or within a short distance therefrom. I. M. Gilmore located east of the village about 1840; L. B. Howe, Thomas Brighton, Elbridge Howe, W. A. Bridg-

ford and his son, O. A. Bridgford, all arrived in the early '40s. William Kline came early in the '40s, and his brother, Christian Kline, about the same time. The former was a skilful hunter. Among the settlers of the township at a later day were the following: Dr. Joseph Boyd, Albert P. Taylor, the Felton family, of whom Herschel was one; Jacob Whorton, who had four sons and several daughters; Samuel and Alexander Carnahan, Robert Shearer, Thomas Greer, John Duff, Rev. Stephen T. Stratton, James H. Crane, George Scott, James Shingledecker, James and Cliff Haverfield, John Love and his son William, Andrew Downing and his son, William W.; Absalom Volentine and his sons, James, Wesley and William; the Morrow and Close families, James M. Burgess, John Downing, Sr. and Jr., a Frenchman named Ritter, who was a skilful musician; Jacob Braucht and his sons, William and George; Alexander Green, who built a mill on Edwards River south of Millersburg; Mordecai Marsh, the father of the scientist, William A. Marsh; Charles Wakeland, who had five sons, and William Green.

Between the years 1840 and 1855 the township was well settled and the farmers were prosperous and contented. This township was one of the first away from the Mississippi to be settled. The principal reason why early settlers sought the navigable water courses was because there were no roads and farm products could not be marketed without too much trouble and expense. There were not many wagons in the country in early times. Sleds were used quite often in the summer. Previous to 1840 the settlers saw hard times, but after that date conditions greatly improved. The township was organized in 1854. The citizens met at the schoolhouse near Edward Brady's and elected Ephraim Gilmore chairman and appointed L. B. Howe secretary. The township was first divided into three road districts: No. 1, north of Edwards River; No. 2 embraced the east half of the township south of the Edwards; and No. 3 the west half of the township south of the river.

David Lloyd was elected the first supervisor; J. E. Bay, first clerk; Benijah Lloyd, Jr., first assessor; and J. R. Lemon, first collector. Prior to 1868 there were chosen each year three commissioners who had charge of the roads. In 1854 they were J. Falls, S. Carnahan and Charles Griffith. In 1868 the law was changed and W. O. Dugan alone became commissioner of highways. In 1855 the citizens were required to vote on the question of continuing or not continuing township organization. Twenty-one votes were cast in favor of the system and nineteen against it. The first justices in the township were Ebenezer Creswell, who was appointed May 3,

1835, and Abraham Miller, appointed October 5, 1835. Other early justices were Isaac Beson, who refused to accept the appointment; Christian Routzong, 1838; Frank Miller, probate justice, 1838; Abraham Thorp, 1839; E. Gilmore, 1839; John Carnahan, 1839; and others at a later date.

Beginning in 1835 roads were laid out and built as rapidly as the funds warranted. The first elections were held in the schoolhouse near Edward Brady's corner and later at the Village of Millersburg. In 1870 the permanent place of holding elections was fixed at Brady's Corner and a town hall for public purposes was built over the schoolhouse there at a cost of \$387, a portion of which was raised by private subscription upon condition that entertainments of various kinds could be held in the hall. In 1868 the township by a vote of 114 to 27 decided to pay \$13,400 to the American Central Railroad Company. The bonds were issued the next year. In 1870 the township was called upon to vote on the question of aiding the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Railroad Company, but decided against it by a vote of 107 for and 126 against. A little later another attempt was made with the same object in view, there being cast 106 votes for taxation and 117 against it.

This township is one of the best agricultural sections of the county. The soil is varied and is nearly all rich in humus and is capable of sustaining nearly all crops. In recent years no event of great importance has occurred in the history of township affairs.

MILLERSBURG

Millersburg is the oldest laid out town in the county back from the river. It was laid out by John Miller, Sr., in November, 1835, Ephraim Gilmore making the survey and preparing the plat. Mr. Miller was the original proprietor. An addition was platted in June, 1840, by W. F. Hull, county surveyor. The township and town were named in honor of John Miller. Other members of his family were John, George, Abraham, Isaac and Philip, who were brothers, and Abraham, Jr., who was a son of George. The Millers came here from Indiana and first located in Perryton at Sugar Grove in 1834. They formerly lived in Tennessee. Abraham, Jr., became one of the county's first clerks. It is probable that Abraham Miller, Jr., built the first dwelling house within the corporate limits. James Thompson and William Drury started the first store about 1836. In 1838 Erastus Denison put up the first hotel, which building stood for many years and was a two-story frame structure. For many years

the upper story was occupied by the Odd Fellows. In 1837-8 William Pinckney established a pottery in the village. Martin Willits was probably the first doctor. H. W. Thornton was the first lawyer; the first blacksmith shop was established in 1836 by Thomas Bigelow; the postoffice was started in 1837 or 1838, William Drury being the first commissioned postmaster. By 1839 the village was a promising and busy little place. The county seat was established here in 1836. The first courts were held in the hotel, but after 1839 in the new courthouse, which was erected that year. The structure was a two-story frame and was afterwards occupied by Harrison Bethuram as a wagon and blacksmith shop. This structure was used as a courthouse until 1847, when the county seat was removed to Keithsburg. Afterwards the building was used as a schoolhouse and church. When the county seat was removed W. A. Thornton purchased this building and moved it to the south side of the village. He converted it into a store. A jail was erected at an early day and was built of stone, lined inside with heavy timbers. The jail building was afterwards used for a granary and fodder house. It was located a short distance west of the old courthouse. The first wagon shop was built in 1856 by A. P. and Asa G. Shafer. The second was erected by Crippin & Powers in 1857. McGlathlin & Jones established another in 1859 and James Gilmore still another in 1861. J. H. Longshore was in the same business during the war. Previous to the removal of the county seat to Keithsburg, Millersburg was the most active and important village of the county outside of Keithsburg and New Boston. It had a large trade and had managed to secure good roads to the river landing. In recent years there have been few improvements and the little place is noted more for its social organizations and work than for its business ventures or advancement. It still has a good local trade. In 1882 W. W. Eghurt and John Farran conducted blacksmith shops. David T. Howe owned a grocery store; the hotel was kept by William Dunn. In 1880-81 the creamery was established by Joseph Stratton. It was an important industry and had a four horsepower engine. Its working capacity was 15,000 pounds of butter per day. It gave employment to twenty men and fifteen teams. The first and only mill in the village was built by Stephen Stratton about the year 1850. It was continued until 1875, when it was taken apart and moved south of Millersburg to the Edwards, where water power was used instead of steam. Other early postmasters were James Thompson, Doctor Allen, H. W. Thornton, J. M. Nevans, William H. Green, Mrs. Green, J. D. Stratton and

John Farran. At an early date Hiram W. Thornton purchased nearly all the lots in Millersburg and later had part of them vacated and merged into his farm. After 1848 Mr. Thornton quit practicing law and at first became a merchant. He became a member of the Legislature, county recorder, had a large library and was prominent, able and influential. He became connected with the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad, which was projected across the county from Millersburg to Keithsburg. In the end he became president of the road and about 1854-5 he bought the Beason Farm about one mile east of the present site of Joy and laid out the village which he called Monroe. It was located at the proposed junction of this road and the present C. B. & Q. Line. The former road not being built, Joy was established a short distance to the eastward and has become a promising little city. Thornton in the end lost the Beason property. His family were useful and prominent. His daughter during the war probably did more to aid the soldiers in the hospitals than any other lady in the county. Early in the '50s a strong temperance movement took root at Millersburg and was largely sustained by the Thorntons. Several lodges were established there and elsewhere in the township with a large membership. At Millersburg the educational reform movement in 1857-8 was conducted with vigor and great success. The churches were excellent in early times and the workers were active in visiting homes and inducing the parents to become members. Charity movements were instituted in the churches of Millersburg as early as 1840.

In 1861 Craig & Terry conducted the Union Flour Mill, which was patronized by many farmers for miles around. In 1867 Sharpnack & Menafee were owners of the Millersburg Mills. In 1867 the Farmers Lumberyard Company was organized here, with E. Gilmore president and J. S. Russell secretary. It had a capital of \$20,000 and the business was managed by five trustees. Stock in the lumber company was sold to farmers and others in this vicinity. The name taken by the concern later was Farmers Lumber Joint Stock Company. Later in the '60s Millersburg did what had been contemplated for a long time, namely: Raised sufficient funds to improve, fence and decorate its cemetery. Excellent stock was raised by Colonel Thornton at a little later date. In 1872 he delivered at Aledo eighteen hogs which averaged 459 pounds each. These animals were one of the heaviest large lots ever marketed from this county in early years. In 1873 J. D. Stratton was a prominent and successful merchant here.

In November, 1878, Willie Anderson, a four-year-old child, living at Millersburg, became lost nearby and 200 persons for miles around came to assist in the search. He came up missing late in the afternoon and was sought without success until 2 o'clock the next morning, when all went home and went to bed with the agreement to begin the search at daylight the next morning. Three hundred people then assembled and searched diligently until 10 o'clock, when the little boy was found on Camp Creek bank, a half mile from where he disappeared. When found his hand was wrapped in his handkerchief and he was crying and wiping his eyes. Though stiff with cold he had not otherwise suffered seriously. The joy of the parents was almost unbounded at the return of their little child.

In 1881 the cemetery not being satisfactorily kept and otherwise not being suitable the Millersburg Cemetery Association was organized and took over the property. Henry Lee was president of the association; S. H. Riddell, secretary; J. D. Thornton and T. V. Enough, trustees. Stock was sold and fifteen additional acres were purchased northwest of the village. The grounds were then fenced and three years later the association was out of debt. In early years Millersburg was famous for its church conferences, Christmas celebrations, lodge and society observances and patriotic doings on the Fourth of July. The town was thoroughly loyal during the war and then made a name for itself in the work of the hospitals and in the soldiers furnished that will ever stand to the credit of that community. In 1882 the creamery at Millersburg was conducted by Stratton & Lunn and by this time was a great success. Joe Green ran a horn factory here in 1891.

In 1894 Millersburg boasted of its fine schoolhouse with two teachers, its three large, commodious and well attended churches, several prosperous merchants, one harness maker and its clubs, societies and leagues. The Children's Epworth League was a prominent organization at this date. A little later the Home Forum Association had great influence in this community. Its president was J. T. Gilmore. It met in Van Tuyle's Hall. By 1895 the Mercer County Creamery at Millersburg was an important industry. It was one of the first, if not the first, to run all the year round. Mr. Henry was manager. In 1894 they shipped 1,100 tubs of butter, having a total weight of 66,000 pounds; 250 cases of eggs, the receipts being about \$14,000. In July, 1896, Col. Hiram W. Thornton died at his home here. All things considered, he was unquestionably one of the most prominent and useful citizens of the county. In recent years the Harvest Home Association has become prominent with its social

work and its picnics. In August, 1899, 1,500 people assembled and enjoyed an instructive and delightful program. Present were the Joy Band and the Millersburg Glee Club. The orators were Reverend Kile, Rev. J. O. Slyter, Reverend Fleming and Rev. J. A. Alford. On this occasion the ladies served thirty-five gallons of free coffee, and conducted two stands of refreshments.

In 1900 W. W. Wakeland & Son were contractors and builders here; Reed Brothers had a large dry goods and grocery store; T. M. Duncan was the leading blacksmith and R. J. Henry conducted the creamery.

In 1901 the University Extension Club, which had been organized for several years, held regular meetings at the residences of its members.

On May 11, 1908, Millersburg came near being entirely swept out of existence by a tornado. The whole south part of the village was wrecked and destroyed. The path of the storm was from two hundred feet to two hundred yards wide and everything therein was torn to pieces. In all twenty-one houses were either blown away or damaged. Sixteen barns were damaged or torn to pieces. Among the damages were the following: Presbyterian Church blown away, \$7,000; Presbyterian parsonage wrecked, \$1,500; Reverend Wyllie's household goods ruined, \$500; L. B. Turner's house and barn damaged, \$400; Thomas McAfee's house and two barns destroyed, \$4,000; H. Felton's house damaged, \$1,000; J. T. Gilmore's house damaged, \$500; John Cady's house blown away and other damages, \$400; N. W. Thornton damage to property, \$200; Will Wakeland's house blown away, \$300; Sarah Thornton's house damaged, \$300. On all of the above there was no insurance. But there was insurance in part on the following losses: L. R. Hyatt, two houses and three barns damaged, \$3,000; George Bristlime's house damaged, \$800; J. U. Roberts' store wrecked, \$300; G. S. Thornton's house and barn damaged, \$3,600; T. M. Duncan's house and barn damaged, \$1,700; Mrs. J. N. Clöse's house destroyed, \$700; E. R. Gilmore's house and barn damaged, \$1,100; W. A. Vetter's house damaged, \$700; W. W. Wakeland's house and shop damaged, \$1,000; R. A. Turner's store damaged, \$2,800; M. D. Murdock's house blown away, \$1,500; Steve Miller's damage to restaurant, \$500. Not a life was lost, singular as it may seem. Articles of various kinds were carried in many instances many miles. There were many narrow escapes. The same storm passed directly over Joy but was too high to do damage. The country districts in the path of the storm were devastated and many houses and barns were wrecked.

The population of Millersburg in 1914 was 225. It is a money order postoffice. The business houses are: James Burgess, blacksmith; E. R. Gilmore, pumps and windmills; S. A. Miller, groceries; Leslie B. Turner, general store.

JOY

The Town of Joy was laid out by Lewis W. Thompson and William H. Ungles, June 21, 1869, and is located on the northeast quarter of section 19, township 14 north, range 4 west. Several additions have been laid out to the town since it was first founded. Monroe, near the same line, was laid out and lots were advertised to be sold in April, 1856. It was located at the junction of the two railroads, but upon the failure of the Warsaw & Rockford Line to be built the village died without having made any start. It was about six miles west of Aledo. Joy at once became a thriving and prosperous little place. It was named in honor of J. F. Joy, president then of the C. B. & Q. Railroad Company. It dates its commencement from the completion of the railroad. The first structures were a depot and grain elevator, Ritter's Hotel and a store built and kept by Richard Braucht, who rented the structure at an early day to Richey & Company of Aledo, who put therein a large general stock of goods. James Crane bought them out the next year and continued the store and soon had a large and profitable trade. The second store was started by Elhart Brothers, who sold boots and shoes and general articles. Quite early in the '70s a destructive fire occurred and swept away nearly all the industries of the place. The first drug store was kept by John Moss and the first blacksmith shop was established by Joseph Hughes. One of the earliest buildings was a schoolhouse and therein were held the first religious services by the Presbyterians, Methodists and Latter Day Saints. By 1882 the town had a population of about one hundred and fifty and had two substantial stores, one kept by J. H. Crane and the other by J. T. Galloway. Joseph Hughes owned and conducted a wagon shop and G. W. Cook was the town blacksmith. The hotel was conducted by J. W. Wood. From the start the town became an important shipping point. The first station agent was H. N. McNeil. He was succeeded in 1870 by Hiram Standish. The Peniel Church at Joy was dedicated in October, 1871. In 1881 there were shipped from this place 196 cars of live stock and seventy-four cars of grain. The postoffice here was first established as far back as 1847 and was called High Point. George Scott was the first postmaster and kept the office in his home on the present town site.



Methodist Episcopal Church
Main Street

Presbyterian Church

VIEWS OF JOY

The second postmaster was Samuel Eayle and the third was George Scott. Peter Spangler succeeded in 1865. In 1870 the name was changed from High Point to Joy and O. F. Green was appointed postmaster.

The teachers at Joy in 1882 were Richard Wolfe, principal, and Miss Retiker, assistant. In the '80s the Joy Cornet Band of sixteen pieces was organized and its services were called into use on all important occasions not only here but elsewhere even outside of the county. Charles Jackson was secretary of the band.

Old settlers' picnics were often held in the '70s, '80s and '90s at Dodson's Grove, near Joy. In August, 1890, 3,000 people assembled there to celebrate the annual meeting of the Old Settlers' Association. In 1893 Joy shipped 99 cars of hogs, 86 cars of cattle, 4 cars of horses, 24 cars of corn and 10 cars of miscellaneous products. In 1894 the leading business men of the village were as follows: George Braucht, general store; Paul Bustard, jewelry; Jasper Riggs, hardware; Alexander Carnahan, merchant; Woods Hotel; George W. Cook, blacksmith; William Armstrong, meat shop; E. L. Bowers, blacksmith shop; Ramsey Brothers, the Joy Feed Mill; Richard Miles, merchant; the Kecks, carpenters; David Braucht, wood sawyer; Love & Shingledecker, shippers; William Keck, photographer; J. H. Thompson, grain shipper; Poland Brothers, contractors; D. F. C. Keck; Harney Brothers, contractors; Holmes & Bean, lumberyard; Alonzo Kiddoo, carpenter; B. Genaust, house repairer; Joe Green, painter; O. A. Bridgford & Company, the Farmers Bank.

The business in 1900 was as follows: Bank, O. A. Bridgford & Company; barber, E. J. Husted; blacksmith, E. M. Bateman; carpenters, contractors and builders, J. M. Keck, B. D. Keck, Alonzo Kiddoo, Paris Noble; druggist, W. R. Taylor; flour, feed, coal and collections, J. W. Terry; grain and general merchandise, J. H. Thomason; groceries and general merchandise, George Braucht; harness, E. O. Sade; hotels, Transit, Woods; hardware, Jasper Riggs; horse buyer and shipper, W. V. Love; implements, harness and blacksmiths, G. W. Cook & Son; livery, sale and feed barns, C. H. Thornhill; lumber, D. Dickinson; millinery, Mrs. Ora Thornhill; merchandise, boots and shoes, J. Downing & Company; meat market, J. M. Odell; photographer, W. M. Keck; plasterer and brick mason, John H. Hefton; physicians and surgeons, M. Criswell, L. B. Doxey; restaurant and groceries, John W. Swanson; stock buyer and shipper, H. E. Tuttle; wagon and carriage shop, Richard Mills; well drillers, J. A. Powers, August Relander, J. T. Ryan.

In 1899 the new Methodist Church at Joy was dedicated. It cost, all told, \$10,877.71.

In 1907 the Joy Bank had a paid-up capital of \$13,500. By 1910 the amount was increased to \$15,000. In 1907 the deposits amounted to \$61,325.71; in 1910 they amounted to \$147,569.75.

In the spring of 1914 the population of Joy was 550. The business houses were as follows: Joy Bank, W. V. Love, president, capital, \$21,000; Alexander Lumber Company; C. C. Belt, livery; George Braucht, grocery and restaurant; J. G. Campbell, drugs; Cunningham, blacksmith; Davison & Davison, hardware; John Downing & Company, general store; Finch & Son, grain and coal; G. O. Cool, grain and coal; Dr. Samuel Haley, drugs; Thomas J. Harney, hardware and implements; Nels Jansen, jewelry; Joy Creamery Company, A. V. Peterson, manager; H. R. Kiddoo, dry goods and clothing; H. E. Miller, bakery; Marion S. Poland, general store; M. W. Reynolds, poultry and hides; W. S. Robinson, clothing; Robison Brothers, general store; Sade & Dillon, harness; Mrs. Rebecca Sloan, milliner; Rosa J. Small, furniture and crockery; Taylor & Epperly, blacksmiths; Thompson & Company, meat market; O. A. Bridgford & Company, bank; the Joy Hotel, Harry Sutliff.

CHAPTER XXII

GREENE TOWNSHIP

Greene Township has many interesting physical and geological features. The central part from east to west is a wide plateau, which is drained north to Edwards River and south to Pope Creek. The latter extends from east to west through the southern tier of sections and the former touches the few sections in the northwest. The township is well drained, has a good soil and the farmers raise large crops of grain, hay, etc. Of course the surface deposits belong to the quarternary period; that is, alluvium, loess and drift. The drift here consists mostly of brown and blue clays, mixed often with sand, gravel and small pebbles and is spread over the entire surface of the township. Boulders or metamorphic rocks lie scattered here and there mostly along the streams. The coal measures are the most valuable products of the soil. Bed No. 3 consists of limestone, sandstone, clay, shale and coal, and altogether have a thickness of from 100 to 150 feet. A well bored near Viola did not pass through the formation after 130 feet. Three seams of coal have been found and worked in the township—Nos. 3, 2 and 1—3 and 1 have been most extensively mined. The former has been found thus far on sections 31, 32 and perhaps others. Messrs. Martin, Morrow and others mined this bed at an early date. No. 2 was worked by them also. No. 3 is the thickest and contains coal of the best quality. It varies from three to five feet in thickness and furnishes an excellent fuel coal. Coal No. 2 is too thin a vein in this township to make profitable working. It has been mined on sections 23, 27, 31 and elsewhere. Almost the entire township contains these beds and in the end the township is bound to reap enormous wealth from marketing the product. It is in the shales adjoining these coal beds that the valuable fossils peculiar to the coal measures are found here. Coal No. 1 stretches across the township from east to west and is only a part of the great Edwards River seam. It has been mined extensively already on sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12. In recent years although a great deal is mined yet very little is taken out for shipping purposes. The mines are worked for local use mainly. In this township is found an excellent quality of whitish or pale blue clay, which is

found to be first class for potter's work. This and other similar deposits are found in several places. Connected with coal No. 1 is a valuable bed of blue limestone, which upon being burned, furnishes a good quality of lime. However, it has to be sorted and screened carefully owing to impurities. Connected with coal No. 2 are valuable sandstone, parts of which though light at first, become yellowish upon exposure to the air and thus become very hard and serviceable. Several large quarries have been opened in the township and an inexhaustible supply of rock can be had. The limestone connected with coal No. 1 is drab colored and somewhat impure. It varies from eight to fifteen feet in thickness. It has been mined and used to some extent.

The first settler in this township was David Williams, who located on section 14, in 1836. About the same time William Terry arrived from New York and entered 440 acres, 160 of which were entered in his son's name. In 1837 Mathew McChesney made a permanent settlement in this township and about the same time Thomas Weir located on section 9. In the spring of 1837 John Collins came from Ohio and first located near the present site of Joy, but in 1839 moved to section 15, this township. He built a log cabin and occupied it for a number of years. His son William P. was another early settler. John Cowden arrived the same year and took up a claim on section 17. About the same time William Brownlee located on the same section and John Linn within a short distance of the latter. A little later Elijah Stewart bought the claim of David Williams. About the same time John Carnahan, Sr., came from Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and located on section 18, this township. He had two sons, William and David, and a son-in-law, Frank Anderson, all of whom also located near the elder Carnahan. William Pinkerton arrived in 1840 and took up a claim on section 18. At the same time John Walker arrived and established a home near by. In 1839 the Park family, of which there were several members, became residents of this section of the county. Other early settlers were George McPherran, Matthew Doak and Henry Griffin. Mr. Durston was another early settler. It is maintained that his son Charles was the first white child born in the township. William Terry stated a short time before his death, not many years ago, that he had seen on Pope Creek Bottoms as many as fifty deer in one drove, and that lynx and wolves were very plentiful and extremely annoying. He said that the first religious service he attended was in the cabin of James Mann, in North Henderson Township. At that

time many of the first settlers drove to church in rude wagons and ox teams.

By 1840 there were probably twenty settlers in the township and by 1850 almost all the valuable land was taken up. By that date schools and churches were well organized and the people were in much better circumstances than they had been ten years before. Under the law of the early '50s Greene Township was organized and named for Gen. Nathaniel Greene of the Revolution. The name was suggested by John Collins. The first town meeting was held in a schoolhouse which stood near the present Village of Viola. John Collins served as chairman; Uri Smith as moderator; and Henry Hoagland as secretary. The following officers were then elected by ballot: Elisha Miles, supervisor; Henry Hoagland, town clerk; William P. Collins, assessor; John Frazier, overseer of the poor; Alexander McGauhey, collector; Samuel E. Russell, John H. Park, and David Summerville, Jr., commissioners of highways. William T. McGauhey and William P. Collins, constables; Jeremiah Boyer and David Summerville, Jr., pound masters; Alexander M. Stewart, Van R. Harriott and C. Doty, overseers of highways; John Griffin and Henry Hoagland, justices of the peace.

It is declared that for a number of years previous to the Civil war people in the western part of the township were heavy stockholders in the underground railway. A depot or station was located at more than one house in that vicinity and it is stated that many runaway slaves from Kentucky, Tennessee, or Missouri, found protection here temporarily while on their way northward to the Dominion of Canada. So prominent became this feature of the settlement that the neighborhood came to be called "Nigger Ridge," which name is yet applied to the locality by the old settlers familiar with the circumstances. The people of this township in early times were much troubled with prairie fires, which usually were set by careless hunters and which often swept away valuable property.

Lodge No. 577, A. F. & A. M. was organized in this township July 16, 1867. J. B. Longley was the first master. The lodge was conducted under dispensation until 1868, after which they operated under a charter. At one time the membership was over sixty. The cemetery located about a half mile northwest of Viola was donated to the United Presbyterian Church by John Collins. The first burial therein was that of John Kennedy. In recent years it has been greatly improved and added to and now contains many graves.

The Viola Vineyard, conducted near the Village of Viola, by J. M. Erne, was a notable industry in the '70s. There were twenty-two acres devoted to the vineyard and people came many miles when the grapes were ripe to see the sight. He had at one time over six thousand vines growing and could show thirty different varieties of grapes. In 1880 he produced about fifty tons of the fruit. He likewise had an orchard of 600 apple trees, also pears and cherries and marketed large quantities of strawberries and raspberries. He is the originator of the Viola crab, which became known throughout western Illinois in after years. The Green Bower Nursery was another important industry in the '60s and '70s. In 1869 James Ferry opened this nursery. In the end it covered more than twenty-two acres and was on rolling land, and trees and shrubs therefrom were sent all over the western part of the state and the eastern part of Iowa. He raised large quantities of apples, raspberries, grapes, blackberries, strawberries, etc. Another early industry of the township was a steam mill, which was started at Viola in the '60s. In the end it was discontinued. The mill was built by contributions from about twenty persons and was not a corporation. It was operated at a loss and finally was closed out. During its existence one of the lessees of the mill purchased grain and got other credits and closed out without paying for the grain and other articles.

Among the early settlers was the Frazier family, consisting of John Frazier, the father of a large family, who settled and made a farm on section 9 prior to 1850. John Frazier was born in 1800 in Morgantown, West Virginia, and four years later moved with his parents to Hubbard, Trumbull County, Ohio. In 1821 he was united in marriage to Nancy A. Veach, the daughter of a Wesleyan Methodist minister. To this union eleven children were born. Three sons and seven daughters grew to manhood and womanhood, one daughter dying in infancy. Mr. Frazier was of Scotch descent and his wife of English, she being a distant relative of Lord Cornwallis.

In May, 1847, Mr. and Mrs. Frazier with their family of ten children emigrated to the then distant frontier of Illinois. Reaching the Ohio by canal they came down the river to the junction at Cairo and then up the old Mississippi to New Boston. From the little river town they journeyed overland to the farm one mile west of Viola, known to this day as the Frazier homestead. In this twenty-mile trip they only passed four homes. Aledo was a barren prairie, and where the village of Viola now stands there was but one house, that of Elijah Stewart.

Mrs. Frazier served the whole countryside as doctor and nurse, and through her native skill and sympathetic assistance many children owed their birth and many mothers their lives.

Mr. Frazier was a great reformer and leader in every worthy movement. For years his barn and house was the official meeting place for the whole community for miles around. He was a strong abolitionist and a part of the Underground Railroad for runaway slaves during the pre-bellum days. He established the first school in the neighborhood, and so determined was he that his children should secure an education that he bore practically the entire expense of keeping up the school alone. In every way he was a good citizen—the highest of all compliments that can be paid a man.

The eldest son, Jesse Veach, graduated in medicine at St. Louis, and after spending several years in the California gold fields settled in Viola and became an eminent physician. For almost a half century he practiced medicine in this district. Many families remember him as a dear friend and a most successful physician.

The other sons were John Wesley and Hugh Benjamin, the latter having been a successful merchant of Viola for a great many years. The daughters were Harriet Snyder, Margaret Eaton, Mary Harriott, Maria Snyder, Matilda Brown, Martha Mathews and Amanda Hunt. The youngest daughter, Amanda, was elected county superintendent of schools of Mercer County the first year that the office was made eligible for women to hold. She served three successful terms.

Of this great family of eleven children only three survive: Mrs. Mary Harriott of Viola, Mrs. Maria Snyder of Loup City, Nebraska, and Mrs. Martha Mathews of Aledo.

To this union of John Frazier and his wife there are now some two hundred descendants, most of whom are living in Mercer County, where they are known as good citizens and kind neighbors.

The Carnahan family also embraced several of that name; John Carnahan being the oldest, and there was a large family of influential men of that family, several of whom are still living in the township. There is also residing in the township a Doctor Miles, who has been there for a number of years.

VIOLA

The Village of Viola was surveyed and duly acknowledged by Benjamin C. Perkins, Milton M. Ford and Charles C. Sheppard on December 9, 1856. It was located on parts of sections 14 and 15.

Greene Township. Since that date several additions have been made to the village, rendered necessary by the growth of the place and the demand for lots.

In September, 1857, Carbon postoffice was established in Greene Township in the home of James Carnahan, who was appointed postmaster. As soon as the town of Viola was established this postoffice disappeared. This occurred about June, 1861. Viola of course sprang into existence with the construction of the railroad. Previous to that date it had been talked of, because the road was projected as early as 1855, but no town was started until the road was certain to be built, in 1869. During the summer Carnahan & Caldwell opened a large general store. At the same time other business establishments appeared. In 1870 J. H. Maxwell opened the Viola Hotel and about this time the village had grown so rapidly that it was incorporated as a town. The village was one of the most promising of the county in the early years of its growth. It had many good business establishments, reliable business men and was particularly famous for its schools, its religious organizations and its social and fraternal societies.

In 1872 a large convention was held here for the purpose of offering opposition to secret societies of all kinds. It was held in the United Presbyterian Church and was presided over by Rev. W. S. McClanahan. Fifty residents of the town and vicinity signed the constitution and by-laws. This association was a branch of the National Association which flourished at that time.

Early in 1873 Viola was an important shipping point. B. F. Morey on one occasion marketed thirty-one hogs which averaged 476 pounds in weight each. These animals were a cross between the Poland China and the Berkshire breeds. About the same time Levi B. Willits elsewhere in the county marketed ninety-five hogs which averaged 452 pounds each in weight. Many cattle were shipped from this point as the years passed. It was necessary to establish stock yards here where animals could be kept indefinitely if not in suitable condition to be shipped.

In 1875 the village had a population of several hundred and contained numerous stores and shops of all kinds and was a prosperous, progressive village. In 1875 Samuel Park marketed here fifteen head of hogs which averaged over four hundred pounds each; forty of them averaged 441½ pounds each. At this time hogs were worth here \$6.60 and in Chicago, \$7.40 a hundred.

Even as late as 1880 the little station of Carbon was on the railroad between Aledo and Viola. During one week ending January



Photo by Carlson

BUSINESS SECTION OF VIOLA

19, 1878, Viola received 1,078 wagon loads of corn for shipment, aggregating over thirty thousand bushels.

In January, 1881, H. B. Frazier & Company, the large mercantile establishment of Viola, dissolved, J. A. Goding of the concern retiring. H. B. Frazier and W. C. Breckinridge continued the business alone. In February, 1881, it was noted that Viola had in crib over two hundred and fifty thousand bushels of corn. At that time the town had four religious organizations—Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and United Presbyterian. The latter was the oldest.

In 1883 the Viola Library Association, which had recently been formed, was in active operation and had collected about one hundred books. It was at first promising and had a large membership. About the same time David Little, Jr., established here a creamery in the old Viola Mill, which he had purchased. He soon had 300 patrons and for a number of years it was a promising business institution. Mr. Little conducted creameries in other parts of the county. This was called the Rivoli Creamery.

During the '70s, '80s and '90s large quantities of coal were mined in this county and much of it was marketed. The remainder was sold for home consumption. The Empire and Aledo companies were in active operation at this time. The pay roll of these two companies in the early '90s amounted to about ten thousand dollars a month. The Gilchrist and Cable miners struck in May, 1894, and it required considerable time before they could be satisfied with the conditions and pay offered.

An early newspaper was the Viola Enterprise, conducted by Barrett Murray, but was sold out in the end to Boyd Cabeen, who managed it successfully for many years. In later years the Viola Building & Loan Association was established and did much for the development of the town. Henry Crosly was president; A. R. Moulton, secretary; and Fred L. Crosly, treasurer.

In the immediate vicinity are coal beds, valuable deposits of fire clay and an excellent article of white sand suitable for the manufacture of glass. The fire clay a little later was manufactured in large quantities into brick and tile. In the early '90s the town did not have a suitable supply of pure water. Thus far they had depended upon wells which furnished surface water only. A project to bore a deep well at a cost of \$1,500 was opposed by a majority of the voters at the polls. This was done in spite of the fact that the water was known to be contaminated and that probably the health of the inhabitants would suffer.

By March 31, 1897, the receipts of the Viola Building & Loan Association amounted to \$10,080.64. It had spent about the same amount. The profits were placed at \$1,155.87.

In November, 1898, Dr. J. V. Frazier, of Viola, one of the most prominent men of the county, a student, a scholar and a man of great natural ability, passed away after having lived here and been active as a citizen since 1847. He had spent a few years in California during the '50s, but otherwise had lived here since his first arrival.

Bankers began here in the '70s. A. R. Moulton conducted banking operations here in the '80s and '90s, but retired from the business in 1898 and was succeeded by the Commercial Bank of Terry Brothers. Mr. Moulton had started this establishment in 1893 and had been quite successful, as an institution of that kind was needed here by business men.

In 1900 the business establishments of Viola were as follows:

Bank, The Commercial; boots and shoes, B. J. Swanson; blacksmith, L. S. Whitcombe & Son; barber, B. B. Patterson; contractor and builder, J. G. Gilbert; dry goods and clothing, Frazier Brothers; druggists, Henry Crosby; furniture and undertaking, Charles J. Winn; hardware, Jenkinson & Russel, Sexton & Breckenridge; harness and merchandise, J. M. Poe; jeweler and optician, J. W. Mahaffey; lumber and grain, B. L. Christy; livery and feed, A. G. Frakes; mill (feed), C. E. Culver, R. W. Stewart; meat market, J. D. Peters, A. W. Smith; general merchandise, Ashenhust Brothers, J. C. Bradford, J. J. Mitchell & Company, R. E. Terry & Company; mason, brick and stone, James L. Dunn; painter and paper hanger, W. N. Robinson; poultry, H. H. Clayton; physicians and surgeons, E. L. McKinnie, Ryan & Packer; restaurant and hotel, C. A. Warner; stock buyer and shipper, Greenwood & Company.

In 1902 Viola had an athletic field day, upon which occasion baseball games were played, races were run and other sports indulged in. In the forenoon the Gilchrist Club played the Keithsburg Club, and in the afternoon the Gilchrist Club played the Aledo Club. In both of the games the Gilchrist nine won the greatest number of scores.

The Mercer County Chautauqua was held in Viola in 1906. It occupied a tent at the park, where refreshments were served. This was called a prohibition Chautauqua, as the principal feature of the institution was the advocacy of strict prohibition measures. Among the leading speakers were Col. John Sobieski and E. W. Chapin.

In 1909 the Viola State Bank, which had been organized a short time before, was in excellent working order, with a large amount

of deposits and with the confidence of the public. Frank Terry was cashier and B. L. Christy president. The deposits of this bank in 1913 amounted to \$173,653.

In 1913 Viola was given the electric light service of the Tri County Light & Power Company which had previously been established at several other towns and cities in the county. At that time also a new opera house was constructed at Viola and the people were put to their wits end to furnish the same. The cost was between \$1,500 and \$2,000 to place it in suitable condition for use.

The Viola Enterprise was started by Dixon in 1892. A little later it passed to L. R. Witheral, who managed it about two years and it then passed to Guy Adams, who owned it for a short time. A little later a man named Michaelson secured it. Frazier Brothers also had possession of it for a short time. D. M. Harkrader & Son, of Alexis, secured it about that time and conducted it for four years, when it became the property of Andrew C. Peterson, the present proprietor. The sheet is in better condition now than ever before and is newsy, ably conducted and a credit to the editor and publisher and the town.

In 1914 Viola had a population of 760. S. C. Fugate was justice. D. W. Sedwick was president of the Farmers Bank, the capital and surplus of which amounted to \$37,500. The business houses were as follows: Ashenhurst Brothers, shoes and general store; A. N. Bewe, rugs and carpets; E. Chilson, hay and feed; Walter Corsetius, restaurant; Fred Craig, restaurant; Forsyth & Hunting, blacksmiths; John Gilbert, contractor; E. L. Greenwell, drugs; W. H. Kent, furniture and undertaking; W. C. Millikar, coal; McCoy Hardware Company, hardware; C. B. Moore, lumber; P. F. Moore, harness; A. G. Peterson, printer; D. F. Ralston, grain; D. F. Ralston & Son, harness; Mrs. J. L. Robinson, hotel; K. M. Saunders, jewelry; William Shapiro, junk; H. H. Sidwell, music; R. E. Terry, general store; V. P. Terry, hardware and implements; Thomas Sisters, millinery; Tri-County Light & Power Company; Adolph Weinstein, general store; N. D. Winn, meat; Wood & Smith, general store; Worley & McLaughlin, automobiles and garage.

GILCHRIST

Gilchrist has a population in 1914 of 100. Its mail comes from Viola. The business establishments are: Empire Coal Company, general store; F. A. Essley, groceries; J. H. Smith, restaurant.

WANLOCK

Wanlock is a small station of recent origin on the Rock Island Southern Line in Greene Township, section 9. A few shops have been there.

CHAPTER XXIII

RIVOLI TOWNSHIP

Rivoli Township has an excellent soil and is well drained, without any abrupt valleys or high hills. The south central part is drained by North Pope Creek and the extreme southern part by Pope Creek itself. This township has valuable coal deposits which have been worked to a considerable extent from an early date. In the end this will be a source of great wealth to the owners of the soil. Owing to the fact that this township was located a considerable distance from the Mississippi its settlement was neither early nor rapid. In time, however, it became populated with an excellent class of people who came from the older states and established here Christian homes and excellent schools.

The first settler in the township was probably James Bridger, who arrived in the spring of 1836, having previously lived for a time in Schuyler County. He came here in company with another pioneer on a prospecting tour and liked the country so well that he selected a claim on section 31 and there afterwards made his permanent home. He became prominent in township affairs. The death of his wife in 1836 was the first in the township. She was the first person buried in Mann Cemetery in North Henderson Township. In January, 1837, he married Mrs. Eliza Longley and this was the first wedding ceremony in the township so far as known. His son, Ira G., who was born October 14, 1837, was the first child born in the township probably. In the log cabin of Mr. Bridger was held the first religious service in the township. Rev. Samuel P. Burr, who traveled on the Mercer circuit for the Methodist Episcopal Church, held services there during the winter of 1836-7. This cabin, which was 14 by 18 feet, sheltered at times a family of fourteen persons, still, when necessary, could accommodate a belated and weary traveler.

During the earlier years Indians encamped along the main streams of the county. A band in 1841 remained encamped on the stream near Mr. Bridger's residence for several months. While there a son of the chief was taken sick and died and was buried on the northeast quarter of section 6. This grave was surrounded later with a fence, which was pointed out for many years afterwards.

Richard Cox was another of the first settlers, his claim being taken up in the eastern part of the township in 1837. He was a native of Ohio and was a man of upright character and pure morals. He was one of the first justices of the peace and was reelected several times. He was a Methodist and a whig. James Durston came to this county first in 1837 and settled on section 36, Greene Township. In 1838 he took up a claim on section 30, Rivoli Township, which he afterward sold to Mr. Spicer and again took a claim on section 15. His family became prominent in local affairs. His son, Charles F., lived for many years in Aledo and was clerk of the County Court. On his farm was built the first schoolhouse in the township in 1848. It was a frame structure and was afterwards used as a granary. Nelson Chidester was among the early pioneers, arriving here in 1840 and taking up a claim on section 16. The second school in the township was taught on Mr. Chidester's premises. In 1844 he built a temporary school building in his yard. Stephen Smith was another pioneer of this township. He arrived about 1840 and first located in Richland Grove Township, but two years later came to Rivoli and secured land on section 4. He left several children and all the members of the family were prominent and useful citizens. Major McMullen came at an early date and located in the northeast part. In 1844 his house was blown from its foundation by a tornado that swept the Edwards River Valley. In 1837 John Heriford secured a claim on section 29, but a little later sold out and left the township. An early school was taught in his cabin it is said. It stood near where the Zion Methodist Episcopal Church stood in later years. In 1838 Abram Watson arrived in the township. He had served in the Revolutionary war and may have been the only resident of the county who served the colonies at that time. It is said that George Spies, who lived in this county, was also a Revolutionary soldier. Mr. Watson was a native of Virginia and enlisted in the Continental army at the age of fourteen years. He was present at the siege of Yorktown and at the surrender of Cornwallis. During the siege he was accidentally wounded by a bayonet thrust through the leg.

In 1837 Daniel Jones came to this county, having previously for a short time located at Knoxville. He secured land here and in time became prominent. He was a school trustee of the township and assisted in establishing permanently the early school commissioners. He was elected county supervisor in 1856 and reelected in 1858. His home was on Section 25. Orson Jones was another early settler. He arrived at an early date and became a useful and prominent citi-

zen. He held nearly all the local offices within the gift of the people. He left this county at an early date and went to Henry County and there became equally prominent in township and county affairs. Later he came back. Rev. Hugh Breckenridge was a prominent settler at a little later date. He located on section 4 and was a member of the Hopewell Wesleyan Methodist Church. These were the earliest settlers in the township. Others came in, but their names have escaped the recollection of the present generation.

The Township of Rivoli was organized in 1854. The first supervisor was R. R. Cox; James Bridger, town clerk; L. Chidester, assessor; N. Chidester, collector; C. Harshberger, justice of the peace. In 1865 the township auditors levied a tax of \$2.60 on each \$100 valuation as a bounty for volunteers. The total amount expended by the township for fifteen volunteers to fill the last quota was \$7,940.75. Of this sum \$3,620 was raised by subscription.

NEW WINDSOR

The name of this town is Windsor, but the postoffice and the railroad station are New Windsor. This should be borne in mind in reading this chapter. It is located on the north half of the southeast quarter and forty acres out of the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 13, township 14 north, range 1 west. It was platted and laid out on August 20, 1857, by William F. Petrie, Olof Johnson, William T. Hammond and Samuel Remington. The principal addition to the Village of Windsor was laid out by Johnson & Wiley. Other additions have been laid out from time to time. The village was laid out because of the fact that the Western Air Line Railroad was graded a short time before that event. It was expected that the road would be ironed and put in operation at once, but this did not occur until 1869. In the meantime a small town started there, which did not amount to much until the railroad came. Galesburg parties built a large storeroom there as soon as the road was graded, but afterwards rented the building to other parties, and in the end sold the property to residents of the little village. There were usually at the village, after it was laid out and previous to the construction of the railroad, one store and a shop or two and in addition a school and a few religious organizations. In 1866, in anticipation of the early completion of the road additional lots were offered for sale and several purchasers appeared. In 1869 the post-office at New Windsor was changed from Rivoli, which had been

its previous name, to New Windsor. The town continued with the old name of Windsor.

In September, 1868, the Town of Windsor had only two frame houses and one church. On July 1, 1869, it had, all told, seventy-three buildings, of which fifty-two had been built after March 1, 1869. The pioneer store was opened by Stevens & Gibson, who sold dry goods, groceries and a general stock. Peter Casler opened a clothing store soon afterwards and E. L. Larkin began selling drugs about the same time. The latter had a general store as well as sold paints, oils, wallpaper and various other articles. The fourth store-keeper was B. F. Brooks, who opened an exclusive grocery establishment. About the same time A. J. Smith opened a hotel. The above were about the only business establishments here during the winter of 1868-9. In the spring of 1869 business was exceedingly brisk, and, as above stated, the town grew with great rapidity. On June 1, 1869, the following business houses were here: Dry goods, Stevens & Gibson, J. A. Maxwell, Buchanan & Epperson, and a little later, W. H. Sawyer; grocers, B. F. Brooks, Stevens & Gibson, Buchanan & Epperson, J. A. Maxwell, Moore & McNaughton, William Pitman, who also conducted a bakery; iron and hardware, Olof Frenell, an old resident; Shaw & Gregg, who sold stoves as well as hardware generally, and Moore & McNaughton; hotel-keeper, A. J. Smith; drug stores, E. L. Larkin and G. R. Knowles; agricultural implements, Loomis, Potter & Allen; A. J. Smith and Olof Frenell; lumber, Lynd & Mays, Le Barron & Reed, and W. I. Edwards; grain buyer, J. W. Kline, and Mack & Company.

As yet no elevator had been erected, although considerable grain was purchased and shipped. At that time the railroad company was putting in a switch 2,700 feet long. The new depot was almost finished, with H. E. Wadsworth as agent. Already a large stock yards was built and cattle and hogs were sent away on the trains. There were three blacksmiths in the town, also two shoe shops and a jeweler and a new hotel building was being erected; wagonmaker, W. H. Gladman; painter and decorator, John McLean. Excellent residences had been built by J. M. and W. J. Wiley, Capt. P. C. Rigger, William Fleharty and J. M. Christy. Several buildings were moved here from a little place called Oxford, two miles southward. It was said at the time that Oxford picked itself up and set itself down in Windsor. Two new churches were being erected at this time—Methodist and Swedish. The Presbyterians had been here many years before. A big schoolhouse was talked of at this

time also. The Viola House was soon opened by E. B. Hoag, proprietor. A steam flour mill was being erected by A. R. Cannon & Company. Park & McKinney opened a new drug store about the same time. New residences were soon built by H. Boon and R. Park. Shipments of live stock and grain were made by H. H. Hammond. This was the Village of Windsor in June, 1869.

On August 2d the citizens decided, by a vote of 34 to 7, to incorporate as a town. On August 14th the first town election was held and A. J. Moore, E. L. Larkin, P. Casler, J. H. Epperson and G. W. Gregg were chosen for the first board of trustees. Joseph M. Christy was the first police justice.

On August 1, 1870, the people of the town voted to issue \$10,000 in bonds to aid the Rock Island & St. Louis Railroad. The measure was carried by a vote of 43 to 14. The conditions were not complied with by the railroad company and, accordingly, the bonds were never issued. In 1870 the big schoolhouse at Windsor was completed. At the same time James Evert established a printing office and once a month issued a small sheet called the New Windsor Eagle.

The New Windsor Institute was founded in September, 1873. W. S. Coe, agent of the C. B. & Q., had charge of the same. It was planned to instruct students in the operations of railways. It was planned to give instruction in telegraphy, railroad construction and the express business. The scholarships per annum were fixed at \$30. This institution seems to have died at a very early date.

In 1875 the New Windsor Press appeared, in charge of W. S. Coe & Company. It was a patent paper throughout, but contained a few columns of local news. In April, 1878, the town, by a vote of 30 to 22, decided to organize as a city under the general incorporation law of the state. As told elsewhere herein, E. L. Larkin secured and put in operation here the only telescope ever owned in the county. In 1877 the Rivoli Farmers Mutual Insurance Company was established and authorized to transact business in the Townships of Rivoli, Richland Grove, North Henderson, Greene and Suez in this county and in other townships of the adjoining county. The company had at first thirty charter members, whose aggregate policies amounted to \$60,000. A. P. Petrie was the first president; T. D. Merryman, treasurer; and N. P. Smith, secretary. The first board of directors were S. B. Shumway, H. H. Roberts, A. P. Petrie, W. S. Fleharty, N. P. Smith, T. D. Merryman, J. M. Merryman, T. S. Wilson and B. Kasenberg. Their report, made in January, 1882, showed 164 policies covering \$178,468 worth of property.

Oxford Lodge, A. F. & A. M., was moved from Henry County to Windsor in 1870. It afterwards became a prominent and fixed institution here and at one time had about one hundred and fifty members. A chapter of the Eastern Star was established with eighteen members at a little later date. New Windsor Lodge, No. 518, I. O. F., was organized in 1873 with the following officers: J. B. Armstrong, N. G.; W. H. Gladman, V. G.; Samuel Adams, secretary; A. A. Willett, treasurer. At one time it had more than one hundred members. In the township are four or five cemeteries, one on section 21, known as Woodham's; one on section 31, called Cooper's; one on section 12, known as Windsor; and another on section 12, owned by the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran people.

In 1880 the Rivoli Creamery purchased 563,356 pounds of milk. They manufactured 54,049 pounds of cheese, also 2,728 pounds of butter. They found that 10.42 pounds of milk were required to make one pound of cheese. The cash they received amounted to \$5,623.44. T. D. Merryman was treasurer of the creamery company at this date. In 1880 the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company had ninety-seven members. There were out seventy-nine policies, valued at \$100,328.

The Mercer County Shooting Club held a tournament here in September, 1881. Of this club L. H. Bruner was president; E. T. Crosby, secretary-treasurer; and S. M. Huntley, manager. In 1882 a baseball club was organized here. It played all the neighboring towns and cities. At this time C. F. Peterson & Company conducted a general store here. The Rivoli Creamery began business in 1878. Although it was prosperous at the start, yet in the end it proved a losing business. It was conducted by David Little, Jr. He closed out the institution and went elsewhere in the county. For a time C. A. Vannersberg had charge of the business. Mr. Little went to Preemption Township and established another creamery which was more successful. In 1883 he had 300 patrons. At the same time he bought the Viola mill, and as has been told elsewhere, established a creamery there. The flour mills at Windsor were owned by Gould & Shaw in 1883. In 1890 the old soldiers held a reunion at Windsor on which occasion there was a large assemblage of people and several hundred of the members of the G. A. R. The principal speaker was Judge J. H. Connell. The Sons of Veterans were present and made a fine display.

At the city election about this time the question of license or no license came before the people and the town voted in favor of temperance. A Knights of Pythias lodge was organized here in Jan-

uary, 1894. A. D. Underwood was P. C. Again, in 1894, the liquor question came before the people. An anti-license or temperance ticket was elected, as follows: S. P. Samuelson, president; Alexander Brown, clerk; J. F. Tornquist, Elias Lindorff and H. D. F. Browning, trustees. In 1896 Windsor had five churches, four civic societies—Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Woodmen—an opera house, a superior public school building, of which A. J. Amlong was principal, and Miss Anna Petrie and Miss Delpha G. Durston were assistants. J. Anderson kept the Commercial Hotel. C. A. Swanson conducted a meat market; C. J. Mead was jeweler; J. F. Tornquist was carriage maker; C. F. Peterson & Company were bankers and general merchants; James Ulam sold furniture and was an undertaker; E. Lindorff conducted a hardware store; J. E. Goold operated the flour mill; J. Wilcox owned a livery stable; Mrs. D. G. Coe was the leading milliner; John Carlson & Son had a general store; A. P. Petrie dealt in registered Shorthorn cattle. The New Windsor elevator was conducted by F. L. Huff, proprietor, and W. K. Slitt, manager. E. L. Emerson was the principal physician; Leonard Lorin sold boots and shoes; Gus Lindorff had a hardware store; O. Adams sold watches and jewelry; Robert L. Watson was a practicing attorney; M. L. Humphreys had a harness store, and the New Windsor poultry house was conducted by William Schreitlong.

In 1898 the town was almost wholly destroyed by fire. This was a severe blow, but in the end many of the losers recovered themselves and, as a whole, the town did not suffer much. The Hopewell Cemetery Association was formed about this time. Its president in 1898 was Rev. J. L. Clark.

In 1900 the following business concerns were here: Banking and general merchandise, C. F. Peterson & Company; boots and shoes, John Carlson, L. Lorin; blacksmiths, Axel F. Anderson, John A. Rosberg; barber, N. G. Kalin; contractor and builder, C. Adolph Swanson; druggist, E. L. Emerson; furniture and undertaking, C. J. Carlson, James Ulam; grain buyer, V. E. Setterdahl & Company; hardware, Gus Lindorff; harness, M. J. Humphreys; hotel, Commercial; jeweler, Gust T. Peterson; lumber and building material, G. W. Christy; livery and feed barn, C. C. Luttrell; general merchandise, James Spivey & Company; millinery, Mrs. Clara Dawson Coe; meat market, R. Knox & Company; machinery, implements, hardware, Albert Peterson & Company; notary public, W. H. Gladman; painter, C. J. Lindstrom; physicians and surgeons, E. L. Emerson, F. D. Rathbun; restaurant, S. B. Lindgren; stock buyers and shippers, M. J. Merryman, C. L. Petrie; veterinary surgeon, O. E.

Bridgford; wagon and carriage makers, J. F. Tornquist, L. A. Tornquist; well borer, J. A. Luttrell.

At a comparatively late date the Windsor Free Library has been organized and put in operation, but as yet is somewhat feeble, though still in existence. In 1901 the Rivoli Farmers Mutual Insurance Company was in excellent working condition, with A. J. Christy as secretary.

In 1914 Windsor had a population of about five hundred. The bank had a capital of about fifty thousand dollars, with A. M. Craig, president; W. H. Gladman is justice of the peace. The following business concerns were here at this date; Oscar Anderson, harness; Christy Lumber and Hardware Company; Clara D. Coe, milliner; E. L. Emerson, drugs; C. A. Fay, blacksmith; N. G. Kalin, restaurant; E. A. Lindbeck, meats; John G. Lindorff, hardware and stoves; Leonard Lorin, boots and shoes; M. L. Lutrel, restaurant and confectionery; Nelson Brothers, general store; A. V. Peterson, general store; J. T. Peterson, jewelry; W. A. Peterson, feed mill; Peterson & Johnson, general store; Rivoli Grain Company; H. M. Snyder, furniture and undertaker; Tornquist & Johnson, blacksmiths.

Anson J. Streeter was an old settler of the township, a farmer and stock raiser, and had been one of the 49ers to California. He became quite wealthy and settled in New Windsor and built the largest and finest dwelling house there at the time of its location. He was supervisor of the township for several different years, represented the county in the Legislature of the state in both branches, was a prominent greenbacker, and was candidate for the United States Senate in the '90s. He came very near being elected. Charles F. Farwell was the republican candidate and John M. Palmer the democratic, the latter being finally elected. Mr. Streeter was also a prominent candidate for President of the United States in 1900. William F. Petrie was a prominent settler in the Village of Windsor, having settled in Richland Grove before that time, and was supervisor from that township in 1854. He was a very prominent man and had induced many of the farmers in this county to set out Osage orange hedges. He engaged in planting and cultivating the hedges for the farmers over the county. Alexander Petrie, his son, was a very prominent farmer, represented Mercer County in the Legislature and was a candidate for Congress on the republican ticket. His son, E. R. Petrie, is assistant cashier in the Aledo Bank.

CHAPTER XXIV

RICHLAND GROVE TOWNSHIP

Alvin and Abner Arrasmith were the first settlers in this township. They arrived September 1, 1834, from the Wabash country, and laid claims on section 13. They were located about a mile and a half north and a little east of the Village of Berlin, where Swedona was afterwards located. They made the first trail, it is stated, from Richland Grove to Rock Island. In 1835 Wesley Arrasmith, Sr., Abner and Alvin Arrasmith and Thomas Sellers constituted the only settlers. By the summer of 1836 there was quite a cluster of cabins around the grove and among the owners were Russell, Henry, George and John Peckenpaw, Hugh Montgomery, Van Meter, John and George Love, Samuel Clark and Peter Metzler. About the same time a Mr. Huyck arrived. His daughter at a later date married Samuel Clark. Charles Minnick came in about this time. He was an educated German and proved very useful to the new settlement, because he probably taught the first school in the township. L. D. Dimmick and Levi Shaw were among the first to settle in what became the Village of Berlin. This was about 1835 or 1836. The latter married a daughter of Peter Metzler and raised a large family, which became prominent in the affairs of the township. N. M. Chilberg came in quite early and settled in the Village of Berlin. He was one of the first Swedish settlers in the county, arriving here in 1849. Soon afterwards many others of the nationality came in and a large settlement was formed by them in Richland Grove Township.

The first house in the township was erected by Abner Arrasmith on the southwest quarter of section 13. Asa McMurtry opened the first store in what afterwards became Berlin. The second was conducted by Willis Peckenpaw. The first blacksmith shop was opened by Lewis Larrance and the second by Luther Barnard. Chauncey Stannard was an early settler here and taught the second school in the township. The log house stood on the farm of Peter Metzler.

At the close of 1836 there were living in the township, in addition to the above settlers, the following: Charles Norman, Henry

Stowers, Thomas Chires, Sr. and Jr., William Parker, Hugh McMullen, Almond Wilcox, James Manning, Daniel Valentine and a few others. The next year there arrived the following: James Glenn, Alden Pierce, Alfred Dorsee, Parker Tinney, William Lowther, Jonathan Smith and Albert Merryman. In 1838 there came in Thomas J. Jordan, John A. Jordan, John Rhodenbaugh, Lucius Dimmick, L. F. Langford, Joseph B. Trego, John Morey and Abner Van Meter. As the years passed others arrived until by the early '40s the township was pretty well settled up. The soil was rich and well watered, was known to be underlain with coal, had large timber tracts and was considered a desirable place for a farmer's home. Late in the '30s churches and schools were started and roads were laid out and partly opened to the principal cities. Mr. Dimmick was quite wealthy and became prominent. The following incident is related concerning him: He succeeded in securing a rude machine for cutting wheat and concluded, therefore, to sow a large amount, which he did, and then immediately the question arose how to market it. The yield was enormous, but he could not haul it to Chicago, because it would require too many trips. That was the only near market. However, he finally concluded to build a flatboat on the Mississippi, which he did at the little town called Stevenson, now Rock Island. There he hauled his wheat and shipped it in bulk to St. Louis, where he sold it at a price so low that it did not pay expenses. He was the first one probably to retire from active business, which he did in 1851. The township was first called Arrasmith, but a few years after that family had moved away the settlers at a public meeting changed the name to Richland Grove.

BERLIN

Berlin was laid out by Abner Arrasmith and Jacob Walker on September 10, 1836. It was located on the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 24. In 1869 the name of the village was changed to Swedona and nearly the entire original plat has been vacated in recent years. In this village, as before stated, Asa McMurry was the first storekeeper and Willis Peckenpaw the second. It was located on the state road between Knoxville and Rock Island and became a thriving village, having at one time a population of about five hundred. The name Swedona was adopted under the following circumstances: There was another town of that name in the state, whereupon a meeting of the village trustees was held and

it was decided to change the title. S. F. Fleharty suggested the name Laverne and Leander Chilberg suggested Swedonia. The latter seemed a little too long and was shortened to Swedona, which was finally adopted. Dimmick & Shaw were among the first settlers in the village. Peter Metzler also lived here. A tavern was erected on the south side of the village and had a large patronage from people passing on the road from the Wabash country to the United States land office. Mr. Dimmick owned much of the town and a large farm adjoining. N. M. Chilberg located in the village at an early date. Soon afterward many other Swedes arrived and soon the population was almost wholly Swedish. Mr. Chilberg conducted a shoe shop. The first church there was the American Methodist Episcopal and is still standing in the village. There is no doubt that had it not been for this church the Village of Berlin or Swedona would long ago have been wiped out of existence. Griffin Brothers established tile works on section 34 in the '70s. They soon had a large trade, securing their clay from banks in that vicinity. In the '50s Waugh & Ellis put up a new flour mill in this vicinity and operated it by steam. It was 40x84 feet, three stories high and had four run of stones. George Walker was the miller in charge. They were called the Richland Grove Steam Mills. Waugh & Ellis at the same time conducted there a large general store, selling almost all articles kept usually for sale in all stores in the West. They also mined coal and sold it to those who wished to purchase. The store was kept in one part of the mill and was patronized heavily in 1858. In the early '60s Mrs. Collison was murdered in Richland Grove Township by John Volentine. The latter had been drinking heavily at a saloon and may not have known what he was doing. In any event, he was arrested, tried and acquitted.

At first Berlin had no saloons, because the first settlers bitterly opposed them. A little later some half dozen started up there until they became a serious matter. At last, in 1866, a large temperance meeting was held in the public schoolroom, on which occasion J. A. Forsythe served as chairman and S. F. Fleharty as secretary. George Eckley, S. F. Fleharty and Miss E. Jennie Garret were appointed a committee on resolutions, and while they were out the meeting was addressed by Reverends Weigrin and J. J. Fleharty and G. D. Bowling, all of whom declared that liquor selling in that community should stop. The resolutions recited that the object of the meeting was to adopt effective legal measures to suppress the sale of liquor and provided for a committee of five to carry out the purposes of the meeting. One of the resolutions ran thus: "That the members

of the executive committee shall be at liberty to adopt any method that they may deem expedient to effect the object for which they are chosen. Nevertheless, it is expected that they will proceed judiciously and with due moderation, yet with a firm determination to accomplish their purpose." The resolutions were adopted and were signed by seventy-three residents, men and women, of that community. The executive committee chosen were George Eckley, W. F. Garrett, N. M. Chilberg, D. D. Merryman and L. N. Peyton.

The name of the postoffice at Berlin in early times was Center Ridge, because there was another Berlin in the state. When the name was changed to Swedona the postoffice took that name. In early times, and as well as in 1880, horse thieves were numerous in this section of the county. This led to a horse thief protective association, which had been in existence for many years and was presided over during his lifetime by Samuel Clark. In 1871 the society numbered eighty members, and at that time Mr. Clark was president; D. Mowery, vice president; Byron Jordan, secretary; Dr. J. K. Manning, treasurer; George McCandless, J. A. Jordan, Warner Kinsey, T. L. Jordan and John McCandless, directors. This association was one of the most efficient and thorough ever organized in Western Illinois. They made it a point not to give up until they secured the thief. They made a special study of detective work and of quick action to head off and capture thieves. They were in collusion with all the livery stables for a hundred miles around. They held annual meetings in January. It was said at one time that not one of the members lost anything, even though it had been stolen, because the association would recover the property and punish the thief.

By 1880 Swedona was quite a thriving little village. The coal mines in that vicinity were very important and a branch railroad had come and with it many miners and a large number of stores and shops. The church societies and schools were in operation and various lodges and societies sprang into existence. One of the most important was the Swedona Literary Society, established in 1883, and with a membership limited to thirty. To this belonged many of the best people of the village. Meetings were held at the residences and very enjoyable times were had. Doctor Lawhead was president for many years. Upon the death of Samuel Clark in January, 1883, the Richland Grove Vigilance Committee, at their twenty-fourth annual meeting, passed suitable resolutions expressive of their grief at this loss. He had served as president for twenty-five years and during that period was never absent from an annual meeting. D. Mowery was elected president in his place. The Swedona Creamery

was an important industry early in the '90s. It made at one time 900 pounds of butter per week and had new and up-to-date machinery, and purchased from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of milk every day.

Swedona in 1914 had a population of ninety-seven. John Blomberg kept a grocery store and W. Chilalund conducted a blacksmith shop.

CABLE

The Village of Cable was established to meet the coal conditions of the early times. There were two mines in that vicinity that had an annual output of about eighty thousand tons, and 400 men were kept constantly employed. They had eight mining machines, each of which performed the labor of about six men. This coal was transported over the new railroad to Rock Island and thence throughout the western country. Robert Lee was one of the first superintendents in charge of the mines here. The place started back in the '60s with a small store and a few shops, and became a village proper in 1879. The first trustees were Robert Haddick, M. L. Bell, C. E. Clark, W. R. Pelton, Chris Schwartz, and Alexander Clark. John M. Waugh was the first clerk. At the first town election a total of sixty-three votes were cast. By March, 1880, the village had a population of about one thousand. Three years before, the town site was a rough, barren coal tract, with only a few small houses. Around were rugged hills and lovely valleys. Philander Cable of Rock Island had prospected here and had made the discovery of easily workable coal banks in this vicinity. Accordingly he purchased 600 acres and built the railroad from the junction at Reynolds to this point. Immediately business of all sorts sprang into existence until Cable was one of the most active and prosperous villages in western Illinois. There were at one time over twenty business houses, shops, stores, saloons, etc. Coal mining was the principal occupation and was carried on by three companies—Cables, R. B. Ellis and Mr. Peterson. The Cables employed about one hundred and fifty men and shipped from two to three hundred tons per day. They paid out to their workmen close to seven thousand dollars a month. In March, 1880, they sank two more large shafts and increased their operations until their pay roll amounted to about ten thousand dollars a month. At this time the saloons became so troublesome that a desperate effort was made for their removal, but the saloonkeepers were doing so well among the miners that they made a desperate resistance and in the end managed to remain. The

Congregationalists had an organization here in 1880, but no building as yet. Public schools sprang quickly into activity, with Pliny M. Pierce as teacher. Previous to that the schools here had been in name more than anything else. T. H. Groshel was the manager of P. L. Cable & Company's store. Dr. J. R. Roseberry was here at this time.

At the town election in the spring of 1880 the question was license or no license. At that time there were but two licensed saloons here. Francis J. Adams and wife had been here for some time working on the temperance movement and had secured 175 names of residents who opposed any saloon licenses. The work resulted temporarily in closing the saloons, but soon afterwards others started up until in a short time the liquor dealers were as numerous and prosperous as ever. In 1883 the village had several saloons. Dr. Ray practiced here at that time. Greenwood & Von Ach kept a general store. At that time five teachers were needed in the public schools. Winnie Thompson conducted a millinery establishment. J. B. McFarlane was principal of the schools, and Mary Johnson, Jennie Lee and Mary Lee, assistants.

In 1890 Cable was still growing rapidly and during that year up till the last of December paid out on new buildings and building improvements a total of \$28,000. During the year the city spent about fifteen hundred dollars on streets, sidewalks, city lights, etc. New buildings were erected by Henry Irwin, W. F. Schroeder, Frank Hauton, R. B. Edis, Julius Leidtke, August Wallgren, Aurelius Peterson, Theodore Blinkensop, Eric Enwall, James Reed, E. Topper, B. A. Johnson, William Powell, Charles Liljemann, Charles Samuelson, Alfred Swartz, Axtel Johnson, Frank Campbell, Gus Thor, Ludwic Sward, William Haddick, William Tomlinson, George Jacobson, Hubert Ford, John Verderber, H. Williams, Jacob Fruchtenich, John Lalstrom, Johnson Brothers, J. J. Williams, Albert Odeen, John Murling, William Henderson, W. L. Haddick and Peter Johnson. B. A. Johnson conducted a livery and feed stable; John Lawson was a blacksmith; John Sward kept a hotel; George Wagner opened and managed an opera house. The Catholic church was established before this date. F. Rathbun sold agricultural implements; Dunglearth & Hebbeln were coopers; Hugh & Son had an implement store, as did R. R. Cable & Company. The town was very prosperous and promising at this date. It had its building boom at this time. There were two barbers, two milliners, many dressmakers, two confectionery shops, a restaurant, etc. Mr. Brown was justice of the peace.

The Bank of Cable was conducted in the '90s by Evans & Jones, but assigned in December, 1895, and C. A. Samuelson of Sherrard was appointed to wind up the business. The assets were about twenty-one thousand dollars and the deposits amounted to sixteen thousand dollars. L. D. Thomason helped to wind up the affairs of the bank. Mr. Jones of the bank was finally arrested upon the charge of having received deposits after he knew the bank was insolvent. In recent years the town has not been as prosperous as it formerly was.

In 1914 Cable had a population of about three hundred and sixty. It was a money order office. S. C. Bell kept a general store; J. T. Hebbeln sold lumber; George Lawson, Jr., kept a hardware store; Cyrus Minnick conducted a restaurant, and William Tomlinson owned a small confectionery shop. Cable was duly laid out in 1897 by the Coal Valley Mining Company and was located on section 21.

SHERRARD

The Village of Sherrard was duly acknowledged May 1, 1894, and was laid out by Ransom R. Cable and H. B. Sudlow, and located on section 4. Since that date several additions to this town have been made. The coal branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad was extended east from Preemption to section 4, where the new coal shaft was sunk ninety-three feet deep, under the direction of David Sherrard, who platted forty-four acres there and commenced the Town of Sherrard about two and a half miles east of Cable. One of the first industries here was the Richland Grove Creamery, which ran during the cold weather of 1893-4, three days in the week. It ground feed for the farmers the other three days. During February, 1894, they paid \$903 for cream and one day in April purchased 6,000 pounds of cream. They operated two separators. In the spring of 1894 it was made a postoffice. Other coal shafts were sunk, every one being about two hundred feet deep. In May, 1894, six houses were going up at one time. The first lots were sold in May, and by January 1, 1895, there were fifty houses, nearly all of them occupied by miners and their families. There were two lumber yards, two hotels, one livery stable, and a Congregational church was organized. P. L. Jones and G. M. Jones, of the firm of Evans & Jones, built a large hotel at that time. It was 44 by 50 feet, three stories high and contained twenty-eight rooms. It was steam heated and gas lighted. The banking firm of Evans & Jones started

up at this time. In November, 1895, the village voted on the question of incorporation, there being cast forty-four votes for incorporation and fifty-five against it. The question was voted down because many of the voters did not desire to include within the town limits certain tracts of land which they thought should remain outside.

The Sherrard Banking Company began active operations early in 1896. David Sherrard was president; John A. Wilson, vice president; J. T. Vernon, cashier; directors, Charles Kinsey, T. A. Vernon, J. G. Clark, E. E. Sincox, Frank Sherrard and Alfred Lilliman. The bank formally opened for business on the first Monday in February. A Knights of Pythias lodge was organized here about this time. The Aledo knights went up there and carried into effect the organization.

In 1900 the following were the business concerns in Sherrard: Bank, Sherrard Banking Company; boots and shoes, R. L. Peterson; blacksmiths, Thomas Dawson, A. Mongerson; barber, L. T. Had-dick; contractor and builder, William Sarginson; dry goods and notions, A. L. Lawson, The Leader; furniture and undertaking, E. G. Danielson; groceries, William Schaarman; hardware and imple-ments, Robert Davison, A. F. Mongerson; harness, C. W. Nixdorff; hotels, D. E. Evans, Hotel Sherrard; jeweler, Ed Berggren; lumber and building material, Hebbeln & Dunkelgoth, C. A. Samuelson; livery and feed barn, Shull & Ralston; meat market, A. Haigh & Son; merchant tailor, Nels Nelson; painter, Thomas Bowers; phy-sicians and surgeons, James A. Mannon, W. B. Martin.

Since 1900 the village has done well, is prosperous and will con-tinue to be so as long as the coal beds hold out. The temperance question has been an important one in recent years. Four citizens were indicted for selling liquor against the law in 1909. The vil-lage has made many improvements and is now one of the most pro-gressive and active in western Illinois.

In 1910 a new bank was established there, with a capital of \$25,000. C. A. Samuelson became president and Fred N. Settdahl cashier. It was organized under the state law and the stockholders generally were farmers in that neighborhood.

Sherrard in 1914 had a population of 906. The business con-cerns were: Clark Brothers, livery; Robert Davison, hardware and stoves; Thomas Davison, blacksmith; Mrs. E. Greer, restaurant; Home Mutual Telephone Company; Johnson & Carlson, general store; A. Mueller & Son, general store; H. O. Mumma, furniture and undertaker; Nels Nelson, tailor; Charles E. Peterson, printer; J. G.

Peterson, poultry; E. J. Quaintance, meat; C. A. Samuelson, hardware and lumber; Sherrard Lumber & Grain Company, lumber and grain; V. S. Sherrard & Son, harness; H. K. Skyles, drugs; S. F. Trego, restaurant.

CHAPTER XXV

SUEZ TOWNSHIP

Suez Township is watered principally by North Henderson Creek and its branches. Pope Creek drains a small portion of the extreme northern part. The soil is excellent and large crops of grain have been grown since the earliest date. The township has been crossed in recent years by the interurban line and the new station of Burgess has been established on section 8. This township seems to have been settled more slowly than any other, although in the end all the Government land was taken up by actual settlers. Among the first settlers to arrive here were David, William and George Blake, who came in 1835, the former locating on section 22, and the latter on section 21. They took claims along the creek, so as to secure timber on a portion of their tracts. The same year James Stewart came with his family and also located on section 21. Robert Pollock arrived about the same time and secured a claim on section 27. William Moore came from Ohio the same year and took up a claim on section 5. The same year Harrison Brown came from Kentucky and located in the extreme northwest corner on section 1. William Martin also arrived this year and secured a home on section 5. It is probable that James Baine was the first permanent settler in this township. It is clear that he secured a claim and erected a cabin on section 29, in 1834. In 1837 Asa Ransom, a native of New York, established a home on section 3 and the next year John Mauk located a claim a half mile north of Suez postoffice. The Pease family arrived in 1837 and established their home on section 20, near North Henderson Creek. In 1840 John and William Lafferty came from Ohio, and the former took up a claim on section 21, and the latter on section 22. They likewise secured tracts of timber. Henry B. Fleharty came at an early day and secured a permanent home. A little later he sold out to John Greenwood, who located permanently on the place. The Bridger family arrived about 1840, or perhaps a little earlier, and became prominent settlers. The famous Bridger's Corners were named for this family.

William Moore was probably the first blacksmith in the township and William Martin the first carpenter. These men had all

they could do in early years, because when the settlement commenced it was rapid and houses went up in all directions. At first there were no roads, but a little later the one running from Macomb to Galena, which passes diagonally through this township, served as an outlet. The first schoolhouse was built in 1837, as told elsewhere. The first church was organized by the Associate Reformed Society and its building was erected in 1841 on section 31. In later years a cemetery was started there. The first postoffice was established at the residence of Moses Decker, on section 3, and was started about 1840. The second was called North Henderson and was located on section 22 at the house of Robert Pollock, who was appointed postmaster. At a later date this office became known as Norwood. Pelatiah Pease started a sawmill on the banks of North Henderson Creek, on section 21, in 1839. The power was water and the mill had a large patronage in those days. Many years afterwards a steam grist mill was built by C. S. Hart in the little settlement of Norwood. Coal has been mined in this township almost from the earliest date. A quantity was taken out on section 21 by Mr. Ditto as early as 1837. The township is well supplied with stone, which comes to the surface on sections 19, 21, 22 and 29. Along all the streams in early times grew an abundance of timber, but as time passed much of it was cut away and converted into buildings of various kinds. Here also were made the rails out of which were constructed the first fences. The first bridge across North Henderson Creek was built in 1838-9, and was located on the old Macomb and Galena Highway. This served to unite the different sections of the township. In early times there were many wild animals, such as deer, wolves, and the hunters were numerous with shotguns, rifles, pistols, muskets or any other sort of shooting iron. Wolf hunts occurred in the early times, but usually the animals were sly enough to escape; but on those occasions many deer were usually rounded up and killed.

The early settlers did much of their trading at Oquawka and Peoria. Sometimes grain was hauled to Chicago and sold at a low price. Early settlers declared that dressed pork sold as low as from \$1 to \$1.50 a hundred. Money was extremely scarce, prices for farm products very low and farmers had difficulty in securing money enough to pay for their claims.

In 1851 a terrible storm of wind and rain swept across this township. For many hours the rain fell in torrents and every brook and rivulet went high above its banks. It is stated that the waters of North Henderson Creek rose fifteen feet over the normal height.

Every bridge on that stream was swept away by the floods. Many buildings were wrecked and considerable live stock destroyed.

Suez Township was organized early in the '50s at the time the township law came into operation. This portion of the county was known before 1854 as Palmyra Township. At the time of the organization it was learned that there was another Palmyra Township in the state, whereupon the name was changed to Suez. At the township meeting held in the residence of Henry Bridger, the first township officials were chosen as follows: Thomas Likely, supervisor; John B. Hoag, town clerk; William Lafferty, assessor; F. M. Postlewaite, collector; James E. Ray, overseer of the poor; Harison Brown, John Lafferty and William McGreenwood, commissioners of highways; Robert Pollock and J. A. Edwards, justices of the peace; David Molar and A. Trask, constables. These men put the township machinery in operation.

SUEZ POSTOFFICE

The first postoffice established here was in 1842 and Henry Bridger became the first postmaster. The postoffice was called Suez, but the location was the crossing which became famous as Bridger's Corners and for certain reasons during the Civil war became known throughout Western Illinois. There was much contention between rival opinions and factions as the war progressed and frequently personal encounters disturbed the quiet and peace of the neighborhood. It was simply a clash of opinion and not by reason of any rude or unlawful acts of the citizens. In a short time after the postoffice was established a store was started. Asa Ransom started a hotel there as early as 1851, and, owing to its location on the Galena Highway, it did a thriving business and contributed not a little to the prominence of Bridger's Corners. Hundreds of emigrants stopped there on their way to different places in the West. Samuel Shove was probably the first storekeeper. The date when he commenced business is not known, but must have been not far from the time the first postoffice was established in 1842. The second man to keep store was Mr. Turner, who soon sold out and was succeeded by Mr. Nourse. Afterwards storekeepers there were Shaw, Mauk and Sedwick, and finally James Page. These men usually in later years became in succession postmasters of the place. The Corners from the early times have had a school, church, store, blacksmith shop and perhaps other institutions which were required by the neighborhood. The schoolhouse there was usually known as White Lily. Miss Stuart, of Greene

Township, taught there in 1851. A cornet band was organized there in 1881 and acquired much prominence by the excellence of its performances. Its services were called into requisition on nearly all public occasions in that portion of the county. Churches were established at a very early day, but the buildings were not erected until later. The cemetery was started about 1846 in the vicinity of Norwood. It was under the management of the Presbyterian Church. It is no doubt an association that was chartered in 1881. The grounds are kept in excellent condition by the owners.

NORWOOD

Norwood was started at an early date and there has been there usually a postoffice, and a store was established. Nearby are a church and school. In 1914 Norwood had a population of sixty-eight. The business houses were conducted by U. G. Brownlee, general store; W. A. Fraser & Company, general stock; W. H. Litzenberger, blacksmith; and R. J. Miller, restaurant.

BURGESS

In July, 1910, the Town of Burgess came into existence on section 8. Its origin was due to the construction of the interurban railway. Nine local men bought eighty acres there and gave twenty acres to the Rock Island Southern for a depot, etc. Part of the remainder they platted and in the fall of 1910 advertised a public sale of lots. The railway under contract was not permitted to throw its lots into market until after the expiration of five years. The sale occurred on October 15th and there was present a large number of purchasers. The lots were sold at auction. There were twelve blocks offered for sale, all divided into lots, with streets and alleys as usual. There were eight lots to each block, the lots being 60x120 feet for residences and 30x120 feet for business houses. At the time of the sale a store was already in existence there, conducted by John Fahey, who served lunch to the crowd present. At the same time there was projected and on the way an elevator and lumberyard and other business establishments. The place was named Burgess for County Judge H. E. Burgess. At first it was planned to call the place Centerville, but sufficient reasons arose for a change in the name. The Burgess Center Lumber Company began operations as early as August that year and on that date began to buy grain and ship live stock. It is said that 1,000 men attended the first sale of lots. Forty-four

were sold at auction to the highest bidders. The remainder of the sales were mostly in blocks. The latter sold as high as \$205 each. The lots sold were mostly those for business establishments, although a few were purchased by men who planned to erect residences. The blocks purchased were usually for speculative purposes.

In the spring of 1911 George Atkinson started a store there and kept a general assortment. By the latter part of 1911 other business houses were by Rowe Brothers, who bought chickens in large numbers and shipped them to Chicago and elsewhere; O. H. Johnson conducted a restaurant; the Center Lumber Company was doing a large business and meeting the wants of the farmers; Will Sharer had built and was conducting a stockyards. He purchased live stock in considerable quantity from the farmers and shipped to Chicago. A schoolhouse was started this year. E. W. Rowe established a livery stable here at this time.

In 1912 an additional sale of twenty-five lots took place. It was provided that no lot could be purchased at this sale unless the purchasers should agree to erect a building thereon. By the spring of 1912 the bank came into existence in a new building erected especially for it. It was called the Bank of Burgess and was under the management of John B. Bradford. At this time among the business men were the following: Dr. J. A. Dilley, merchant; Fred B. Peterson, hardware store; L. C. Swartz, restaurant; Ed Hayedelksuch, a small store; Kennicutt Brothers, restaurant; E. L. Hines, livery. The village was prosperous and full of enterprise at this time.

In 1913 the business establishments were as follows: W. J. Sharer, purchaser and shipper of farm products; the Center Lumber Company, the same; and many others. This year there were built in the village ten modern houses, which cost an average of \$3,000 each. The real owners of Burgess from the start were an organization which called itself the Burgess Town Site Company, the members of which were John B. Morford, Frank Whan, B. L. Christy, W. J. Sharer, Albert Maberger, F. N. Morford, W. C. Olin and Grant A. Brown. They purchased the eighty acres from Phil Sebert and laid out the south forty in lots. At the first sale B. L. Christy paid \$205 for a lot. This was the highest price paid.

In 1914 the population of Burgess was fixed at 100. It was already a money order postoffice. Thompson & Brooks kept a hardware store.

Dan W. Sedwick settled in Suez Township in 1854 and was married to Henry Bridger's daughter, and has resided in the county until the present time. He is a very prominent citizen and an excel-

lent farmer. He was a volunteer in the One Hundred and Second Illinois Regiment in the Civil war and when dismissed from the service had the rank of major. He has been supervisor of the township for a number of years, and has been in every way prominently connected with the interests of the township of the county, and has been quite successful in his business career.

CHAPTER XXVI

OHIO GROVE TOWNSHIP

Ohio Grove Township is one of the richest in the county from an agricultural standpoint. It is well drained and at the same time is not too rolling, and an abundance of fresh, pure water is reached at a comparatively shallow depth. The township originally was mostly prairie, and hence the groves were given names as Ohio Grove, Hickory Grove, etc. The soil is a rich black loam with an average depth of one foot. Coal and stone are found in small quantities. The first settlers located near Pope Creek in the northern part of the township. They came from Ohio and hence the grove there was named Ohio Grove and later the township took the same name. The first cabin built by white people was erected prior to 1835 and stood on the northwest corner of section 3. Its builder is unknown. This was used by the first few families who came to the township. In it was kept the first small store about 1835 by William Mackey. In September, 1835, George McPherren's family consisted of nine or ten children. Benjamin Decker, who married one of the McPherren girls, and John Walker, who married another McPherren girl, left Ohio, but on the way here they were detained, whereupon John Long and Mathew Finley, who had joined them, went on in advance, reached Little York, where the Indians a short time before had killed Hugh Martin, and later, accompanied by McPherren, Walker, Decker and Daniel McPherren, came on to Mercer County, where McPherren built a log cabin on the northeast quarter of section 4. The building was about 16 by 18 feet, one story and one room. The few boards used in its construction were hauled from Creswell's sawmill on Eliza Creek, fifteen miles distant. They were used for the floor and probably the door. The roof was of clapboards. During the winter of 1835-6 this cabin was occupied by eight persons. This building stood a quarter of a mile from the north township line. About a mile east stood the log cabin which had previously been erected. It was occupied in order to hold a claim in that district. In the same year, probably, George Smith, Richard Rice, James Moore and William Moore arrived and took up claims. Late in the same year John Morehead settled in the

McPherrren neighborhood on section 2. In 1836 among others who arrived were Ashford Hardy, who located on section 1; James McBride, on section 4. At first he occupied a small log cabin which had been thrown together by some squatters. The family came by ox teams. Samuel Cabeen, with his wife and six children, arrived here in 1836, coming overland in a 4-horse wagon. He located on section 6 and erected a cabin 18 by 22 feet. Often this cabin gave shelter to fifteen or twenty people. It had a low loft where the boys slept. The sons, Josh W. and Samuel P., improved large farms in this township. William Dilley arrived here in 1836 and brought along a carding machine. The next summer he erected a cabin in Greene Township and there he followed wool carding until 1848, when he returned to Ohio Grove. John Wall occupied a cabin on Pope Creek at an early date. John H. Brown came the same year. He lived the first year near New Boston, but in 1838 secured a tract of land in this township. He had nothing when he came here, but at the time of his death owned about one thousand acres and was rich. In 1837 many settlers arrived. Thomas Candor and his son, Robert, came that year. They changed location at a later date, but Thomas Candor erected a log cabin 18 by 18 feet in the northwest part of the township. William I. Nevius came to Warren County, Illinois, in 1832. In 1835 he moved to New Boston and was there at the time Mercer County was organized. In 1837 he located in Ohio Grove Township and improved a large farm. He purchased a tract where Sunbeam now stands. He became one of the prominent men of the township and was loyal and active during the Civil war. He was handy at all the trades, carpentering, blacksmithing, shoemaking and harnessmaking. It is said that he hauled the first apple trees to this county from Hennepin, Bureau County, Illinois. This stock he divided with the Cabeens and McPherrrens and very likely a few of the older trees may yet be in existence. They were planted in 1837. He built the first house on the prairie, the others being constructed along the streams where there was timber. In 1838 William C. Brownlee located on North Henderson Creek. The Burnetts arrived about the same time and located in the southern part of the township. John Stevens purchased the Vernon interest in the mill and also secured a large tract of land. William T. Patterson arrived in 1840. He farmed for four or five years where Norwood now stands. In 1847 he located permanently on section 24. In 1842 Joseph Robinson arrived, and in 1843 Hammond Webster came. In 1843 James Calhoun arrived and also James Emery came about the same time. Nathaniel Partridge, a carpenter, and Levi Butterfield

reached the township about the same time. James Graham came in 1845 and located on section 35. In 1848 John Seaton secured a claim on section 19. This farm afterward passed to George Seaton. In 1849 William Pepper and Samuel Lafferty came to the township. The latter had arrived in the county in 1842. In 1850 Thomas Francis and John McClellan made their arrival in the township. Jesse Mounts and John Smith arrived about the same time. In 1849-50 several of the first settlers joined the forty-niners and went to California. In 1851 James Robb, Jacob and Barnett Unganst came to the township and settled on section 13. William R. McCreight came about 1851. William M. Hays settled about this time in the township.

Other settlers before 1860 were Samuel Dihel, who had two sons, John and Frank; William Henderson, Thomas Robb, Alexander Gourley and his brothers, Robert and James; David R. Harris, John C. Ward, William Garrett, Robert Woods, Charles Litzenberger, George W. Werts, Andrew Welliver, Leander D. Thomason, Cornelius S. Richey, William S. McCormick, Henry Kimmel, Elijah Forsythe, Jonathan Duncan, who had sons, William and Thomas, and a daughter Sarah; James Feather, the Hamilton family, of which there were Robert and James S.; Robert Speer, Peter Edwards and William Stephens, Samuel and Robert Miller, Thomas Abercrombie, who had a son, Joseph, afterwards a resident of Aledo; Samuel M. Creighton, the Kellogg and Torbet families. Other early settlers here were Findleys, Gilmores, McIntires, McCutcheons, Sprowls, Garretts, Chandlers, Shoemakers, Dittos, Nolands, Gustins, Cross, the Browns, Milligans and a few others.

The people of this township went to mill at Creswells & Jack's, and sometimes hauled their grain as far as Moline. George McPherrren and James McBride went twenty-eight miles above Moline to Cox's grist mill. Occasionally the farmers hauled their wheat as far as Chicago. In the fall and winter of 1836 James McBride and Joseph Vernon built a sawmill on Pope Creek. This served the neighbors for many years. Later Vernon sold out to John Stevens, who later sold to Van Scook. The land there passed to Henry Kimmel and he erected a good flour mill. A school was taught in the township as early as 1839. The first election was held at the house of John McPherrren in 1836. The first township officers elected in 1854 were elected under the new township law. James Burnett became supervisor; T. S. Robb, clerk; John W. Dihel, assessor; and Horace Williams, collector. Among the early justices of the peace were T. S. Robb, Levi Butterfield, John W. Dihel, Andrew Carnes, C. S. Richey and others. In 1870 the township voted \$7,000 in aid of the American

Central Railroad. Bonds were issued and in the end were duly paid.

The first religious services in the township were held in the cabin of George McPherren by Rev. John Wallace. There are three cemeteries in the township and all date back to early times. The McClure cemetery was formerly called McPherren's. Another is named for the Candor family because the ground was set apart by Thomas Candor. The other cemetery is owned by the United Presbyterians and was named for William Miller, who donated the ground.

Early in the '40s the best land in the township was worth about \$200 per quarter section; by 1855 it had gone up to \$1,600 per quarter section. It is now worth about \$32,000 per quarter section. In 1855 from the Mississippi bluffs eastward for twenty miles there was almost a continuous line of fence on the south side of Pope Creek. The road there extended from Keithsburg to Henderson. In 1863 Mr. Kimmel still conducted the Ohio Grove Mill.

SUNBEAM

As before stated, William Mackey kept the first store in 1836. John Stevens was a merchant in 1839. Later storekeepers were C. S. Richey, James Feather, McCreight & Company and others. The first postmaster at Sunbeam was Samuel M. Dihel. Mary J. Williams kept the office for many years. Moses McIntire was the postmaster at the office on Duck Creek at an early day. James S. Hamilton succeeded Mr. Williams as postmaster at Sunbeam in 1863. Moses M. Warren, an attorney, lived in this township, two miles east of Kimmel's Mill, and there practiced his profession after the war. Gourley Brothers & Paxton conducted a large store there for several years. At Sunbeam in 1871 Henry White shot and killed Samuel Ford in the store of Gourley Brothers & Paxton. There had been trouble between the two men for some time and this was the result. In 1874 the Sunbeam Musical Association was an interesting organization. They gave many musical concerts at the churches and had a large membership. The Village of Sunbeam has led a quiet existence. There have usually been there a few shops and stores, two churches, town hall, good school and an enterprising community.

CHAPTER XXVII

NORTH HENDERSON TOWNSHIP

North Henderson Township is in the extreme southeastern part of the county. It took its name from the stream which passes through the central part toward the west. The southern part is drained by small streams which flow south into Warren County. The township from an agricultural standpoint is one of the best in the county. The soil is rich and black and insures large crops with suitable care. Pope Creek runs along near the northern border, occasionally coming inside the township line. A portion of the township was originally covered with timber, but by far the largest tract was prairie land. On section 1, particularly, was a very heavy body of timber, from which the early settlers took their first rails and their timber. The St. Louis Branch of the C., B. & Q. Railroad passes through the southern part of the township. This road when built in 1871 was called the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis. The township was required to vote stock to aid the road, and did so, and in the end paid its obligations promptly and cheerfully.

Probably the first settler to locate herein was Govert Fleharty, who established a home on section 1 at the edge of the heavy timber tract in the spring of 1833. In the fall of the next year James Mann & Son, Young C. Meeker and Timothy Meeker settled a short distance east of the Fleharty residence. They took up claims, but did not locate on the same until the following spring. Mr. Mann's selection was on section 6 and Mr. Meeker's on section 5. In the spring of 1835 Benjamin F. and Harison Brown took claims on sections 18 and 19. In 1837 the Scott family reached the township and became permanent residents. Notley Scott bought the Harison Brown claim on sections 18 and 19. Benjamin F. Brown also sold out his claim. Harison Brown in the end located in Suez Township. In 1838 Benjamin F. Brown took up a claim on sections 6 and 7 and there made his permanent home. Early in 1839 Allen S. and Benjamin Brown secured homes on sections 25 and 35. In the fall of the same year David Bruner and Andrew J. Holmes took up claims in the southeast part of the township. The Fleharty family became, in the end, one of the most prominent in this portion of the county. They

did a great deal for the cause of temperance and religion and set an example of sobriety and correct living that was imitated by large numbers of residents in this section of the county. Govert S. Fleharty, particularly, was a man of great mentality, earnest convictions and unrelenting in his prosecution of crime and sin. Other members of the family who became prominent were Stephen W., Bennett E., William L., Henry, Rev. J. J. and H. C. Rev. J. J. did more than any other man in the southeastern part of the county for the cause of temperance during the '50s and '60s.

In comparatively recent years this township has erected a commodious town hall. The first postoffice was called Ethel and was located on section 21, with John Goff, postmaster. After North Henderson Village was started this office was removed there and the name was changed, but Mr. Goff continued to be postmaster. Afterwards George G. Blue, a druggist there, conducted the office. The first marriage ceremony in the township was in 1838 between Benjamin F. Brown and Miss Lucinda Mann. The first child born in the township was William D. Fleharty, on October 4, 1834. The first cemetery was on land furnished by James Mann. The first schoolhouse was a cabin which had been built by Mr. Mann and stood on section 6. John Wilshire was the first teacher. The township in early times was called Liberty and continued to use this name until 1854, when under the new township law the name was changed to North Henderson. At that time the township was duly organized and the first officers chosen were: Notley Scott, supervisor; Joshua Bruner, town clerk; John W. Miles, assessor; James M. Holmes, collector; R. R. Mathers, Eli Tangham and Nathan Bailey, commissioners of highways; Timothy Meeker, overseer of the poor; Andrew J. Holmes and William F. Garrett, justices of the peace; and James M. Holmes, constable. At this first township election a total of twenty-four votes were polled. The town hall was not built until 1880. It cost about seven hundred and eighty-five dollars.

In 1874 an attempt to secure artesian water led to the boring of a deep well on section 14 on the farm of G. W. Higgins. It was commenced in 1874, but owing to the drill getting fast in a rock bed at a great depth, was not completed until 1876. The second company were forced to commence again at the surface. A depth of 1,209 feet was reached and the drift deposits were passed through at a depth of 127 feet. After that the work almost continuously was through shale and solid rock. At a depth of 915 feet an inexhaustible supply of water was struck and the tide rose to within about eighty feet of the surface. A 10-horse power engine running day and night,

and throwing a 4-inch stream, failed to lower the water line in the well in the least. The water is quite soft and contains a quantity of iron and other mineral constituents. Coal was struck at a depth of seventy-five feet, but was not of much consequence and had no roof. Again at a depth of from 440 to 485 feet other coal seams were found. Magnetic rock of excellent quality was found at a depth of 405 feet. The following are the strata or beds passed through successively: Yellow clay, 30 feet; dark clay and gravel, 45 feet; coal and shale, 40 feet; limestone and water, 12 feet; shale, 10 feet; black slate, 18 feet; dark shale, 123 feet; limestone, 3 feet; shale, 15 feet; limestone, 4 feet; shale with sulphate iron, 27 feet; bastard limestone, 18 feet; limestone, 95 feet; limestone and coal, 45 feet; limestone, 25 feet; blue shale, 65 feet; limestone, 17 feet; alternate strata of shale and limestone, 2 to 3 feet each, 78 feet; blue shale, 30 feet; limestone, 412 feet; sandstone, 88 feet; black shale, 9 feet; total, 1,209 feet. No doubt if similar wells were sunk elsewhere in the township a supply of water equally good and permanent could be secured.

The settlement of the township was rapid during the '40s and still more rapid during the '50s. By 1860 the township was well built up with permanent residences, good barns, substantial school-houses and churches and the farmers were in much better circumstances than in early times. But it was not until the construction of the railroad that the township really received its greatest benefits from outside sources.

From the earliest times stock raising has been an important industry. Hogs particularly have been raised in large numbers and marketed. In 1871 Adam Bruner marketed thirty-five hogs that averaged 424½ pounds each. The price was high at this time and he realized a large sum of money. They were of the Poland China breed. About the same time L. Eddleman sold seven hogs that averaged 490 pounds each. They were likewise of the Poland China breed. Other farmers at this time marketed herds equally as heavy and excellent.

In addition to the Mann Cemetery mentioned above, there is another on section 35 called the Mount Vernon Cemetery. It was established at an early date and has been used as a burial ground by the farmers living in the township.

NORTH HENDERSON

This village, the only one in the township, is located on the railroad and was laid out in 1871 when the line was completed. It

stands on section 26 and the first proprietors were William H. and John T. Brown, sons of Allen S. Brown, one of the pioneers of the township. The village really started before that date, or rather was a country crossroads. There were stores there in the '50s. McCutcheon & Evans conducted a general store there as early as June, 1858. There was at the same time a blacksmith shop, carpenter shop and a school, and a little later religious societies were organized at the Corners.

In early times a postoffice called North Henderson was established in Suez Township, but upon the starting of this little village in North Henderson Township that postoffice was removed and established in McCutcheon & Evans' store, with George M. Evans postmaster, in 1862. The Village of North Henderson proper was laid out November 18, 1871. Since that date there have been several additions and the place now is active and growing rapidly.

In the early '80s the village had two general stores, two drug stores, two grain merchants, two agricultural implement dealers, two hardware stores, one furniture store, one lumber yard, one restaurant, one harness shop, one shoe shop, one blacksmith, one millinery store, one livery stable, one hotel, one barber shop, four doctors and a lawyer. There was a two-story schoolhouse standing in the village and a Methodist Episcopal church. A few years before the Odd Fellows had erected a fine two-story building there at a cost of \$1,600. The lower story was fitted up for a general public hall and the second story was occupied by the lodge. In 1883 Dr. William H. Brown of this township was shot by Mrs. Stuart, wife of Dr. C. G. Stuart, and died a short time afterwards. She was arrested, put in jail and tried for murder. This case attracted the attention of the public all over Western Illinois. Its details need not be dwelt upon, because they were unfortunate and lamentable.

In 1900 North Henderson had the following business establishments: Bank, Farmers Bank; blacksmiths and wagonmakers, Peterson & Hallstrom, S. A. Tornquist; carpenter and builder, W. S. Blackstone; druggist, D. L. Rowe; dry goods and general merchandise, De Forest & West, H. Glenn Jackson, Mrs. K. O. Lindsay; grain and lumber, L. B. De Forest; hotel and livery, D. M. Bruner; hardware and implements, L. J. Smith; harness, M. Dickerson; meat market, A. Bruner & Son; millinery, Edith M. Dickerson; physicians and surgeons, J. Neil Cox, George Stuart; painter, Victor Hammerquist; restaurant, Hammerquist & Peterson; stock buyer and shipper, F. B. De Forest.

In November, 1910, the North Henderson Trunk Telephone Line was connected with the Aledo exchange. The Town of North

Henderson is well governed. It has excellent schools, churches and social societies and lodges. Its streets are clean and orderly. It is well lighted, has good water and is a promising, growing center.

In 1914 North Henderson had a population of 300. The business establishments were: George E. Allen, restaurant; Devlin & Coffey, meat market; M. Dickerson Company, harness; Frank Eyer, drugs; W. A. Fraser & Company; O. W. Holestrom, blacksmith; O. F. Lungren, general store; F. A. Mathers, hay, coal and straw; Miller & Lindsey, lumber; M. A. Peterson, general store; William Scannell, blacksmith and machinist; Arthur P. Shaver, telephone; L. J. Smith, hardware and agricultural implements; S. A. Tornquist, agricultural implements; J. W. Walker, stationery.

CHAPTER XXVIII

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

Abington Township is a rich agricultural district and produced large quantities of grain and large numbers of live stock. The soil is very fertile and in places seems almost inexhaustible. The first settlement was made about 1832 and thereafter the settlers came in quite rapidly, first reaching Keithsburg and then moving back into the interior. Among the first were Joseph Glancey, William T. Jackson, John W. Ditto, Frederick Frick and Thomas Green. Mr. Glancey located here in 1834. It is said that he turned the first sod in the township on what became the Gates farm. The first schoolhouse was built in 1839. Other early settlers were William Pepper, brother of John C., the Francisco family, Andrew J. Douglas, who arrived before 1848; William Logan, Job Heath, William Bullock, Abel Heath, Ferdinand Van Eaton. Joseph Glancey had a mill on Pope Creek at an early day. It was located on section 8. His son, Theodore, became editor of the Keithsburg News. It is said that the first marriage in the township was that of a couple who were on their way through the township from Indiana to their new home in Iowa. Their names are not remembered. The second marriage was probably between Robert Pence and Eliza Glancey.

The first bridge of any consequence across Pope Creek in this township was built in 1837 and stood a few rods below where Pope's Mill afterwards stood. It was erected by Rumley and Thomas B. Cabeen was the carpenter. Mr. Rumley boarded the hands who worked on the bridge. The first sawmill in the township was built in 1838 or 1839 by Isaiah Brown and was located a mile and half east of Pope's Mill. William Willits was the miller. The first sewing machine in the township was owned by Mrs. Eveline C. Swafford. It was a Wheeler & Wilson and was purchased in 1858 in Chicago by Theodore Glancey. The first postoffice in the township was kept in the residence of Frederick Frick. The first justice in the township was probably Frederick Frick. He was elected in 1839. After him came Orla C. Richardson, George Jay, S. G. Wright, Frederick Frick, William P. Strong, M. R. Gushee, William Willits, Ernest J. Glancey, Lewis Sponsler, John W. Landers and others.

In 1858 Glancey's Mill on Pope Creek was still in operation. On that date the bridge near by was in bad condition. In 1881 the Abington Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized and covered the following townships: Ohio Grove, Abington, Keithsburg, New Boston, Millersburg and Mercer. R. J. Cabeen was president; Robert Candor, treasurer; J. M. Candor, secretary. L. Sponsler, James Feather, William Kiddoo, J. S. Mathews, W. A. Winchester, W. P. Yule, R. J. Cabeen and Robert Candor were directors. In early years this company did a large business and served the excellent purpose of protecting the property of its members from fire losses.

SEATON

The Town of Seaton had its origin June 28, 1883, with the construction of the Iowa Central Railroad, which passed through the southern part of Abington Township. It was laid off by George Seaton, proprietor, and was surveyed by W. B. Frew, then county surveyor. Since that date several additions have been made to the town. The town was located on the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 24, township 13 north, range 4 west. G. C. Henry & Company, merchants, opened business there in the fall of 1882. They kept a general store, which was patronized by a large section of country. The town was first called Sully, but after being laid out was officially named Seaton. By December, 1884, the Mutual Fire Insurance Company had in force ninety-seven policies, covering property worth \$97,680. The Seaton Hotel was started in the '80s by John Conner. Early in 1890 the Seaton Creamery was established and for some time was active and prosperous. In January, 1893, they made 747 pounds of butter and bought 18,232 pounds of milk for 85 cents per 100. They put up their butter in 1-pound boxes. Samuel Brewer & Son started a wagon factory there about 1890. In the early '90s the Seaton Butter and Cheese Association sold all of its lots, buildings, machinery, etc., at public auction and retired from the business. N. C. Ranny was president and J. M. Candor secretary. Why they quit business is not clear because from appearances they were making money and should have continued. J. P. Yarrington had a general store at Seaton about this time. Josh Cabeen was also a merchant there, as was also Duncan & Son.

The Odd Fellows started up in the '80s and built a hall which was dedicated in December, 1894. The lodge room was 24 by 70



SEATON PARK, SEATON

feet. The hall cost about twenty-four hundred dollars and the whole building about seven thousand dollars. At the dedication Rev. D. C. Westfall, J. U. Roberts and R. M. Whitham were the principal speakers. They enjoyed in the hall a splendid banquet on this occasion.

In the '90s Abington Township Mutual Fire & Lightning Insurance Company had out 129 policies, covering property worth \$187,403. At this date George Seaton was president and J. M. Candor secretary. Late in the '90s the State Bank of Seaton was established, with a capital of \$25,000. J. F. Humbert was cashier. The deposits at the close of 1897 were \$33,864.32.

The business houses of Seaton in 1900 were as follows: Bank, State Bank of Seaton; boots and shoes, E. L. Elrick; brick and tile, George Seaton; blacksmiths, E. E. Bower, E. H. Brewer, E. L. Bower; dry goods and clothing, Josh Cabeen; druggist, Palace Pharmacy; contractor and builder, J. T. Harper; groceries and general merchandise, Greer & Logan, Gaylor & Wright, W. H. Robb; grain and lumber, A. L. Duncan & Son; harness, J. H. Wheatley; hotel, Conner House; hardware and furniture, McIntyre & Dalrymple; jeweler, B. L. Seybold; livery and feed barn, George Laird; merchant tailor, Fred Nagle; meat market, Robert Swearingen; mill, Seaton Flour & Feed Mill; millinery, Ora P. Holmes; physicians and surgeons, T. C. Hainline, V. A. McClanahan; poultry buyer, W. T. Hawkins; painter, J. S. Ellison; restaurant, Charles Amy, J. M. Ellison; stock buyer and shipper, William Burns; woodworker, S. C. Brewer.

In August, 1901, a destructive fire occurred at Seaton, the loss amounting to about thirty-five thousand dollars. During a dance in the evening in Elrick's Hall a lamp in the ticket office was accidentally turned over and the flames spread so rapidly that an explosion occurred, after which the fire secured such headway that it could not be put out. In the store room under the hall was the Green & Logan grocery and hardware stock and their farm implements were in a shed in the rear. These were all destroyed. A line of buggies kept therein was also burned. On the second floor of the building were the mechanical headquarters of Riley & Swearingen, telephone builders. Their building, as well as the remaining part of the business block, owned by J. H. Elrick, was destroyed, the loss to them being \$10,000. The other losers were: The post-office building; Nelson Brothers' restaurant; the Seaton Independent, a newspaper conducted by Mr. Duncan; Gayler & Wright's grocery stock; E. L. Elrick, shoe store; Robert Swearingen, ice

house; Josh Cabeen's millinery, dry goods and clothing store, and Conner's Hotel.

In November, 1909, Seaton was visited by another destructive fire, the loss being about the same as the previous one. The heaviest losers were the grain elevator, mill and store owned by A. L. Duncan & Sons and the poultry establishment of J. P. Yarrington. There were destroyed during this fire 12,000 bushels of corn, 15,000 bushels of oats, and 1,200 bushels of wheat.

In 1914 Seaton had a population of 326. W. D. Holmes was justice of the peace; Army & Constant, grocery; J. A. Bryans, meat; Carlson & Henry, blacksmiths; C. E. Duncan, publisher; A. L. Duncan Sons, lumber, grain and coal; C. W. Graham, restaurant and confectionery; Green & Reily, groceries, hardware and agricultural implements; R. J. Henderson, dry goods; C. W. Henry, blacksmith; J. W. Henry, harness; J. W. Hurst, drugs; C. A. McKarny, tinner; J. W. Park, livery; Pate & Campbell, grocery; Simon Poehlman, grocer; R. W. Ramage, restaurant and hotel; R. J. Seaton, hardware and agricultural implements; Seaton Telephone Company; M. L. Stivens, furniture; T. R. Wright, stationery.

OGLE

Ogle had a population of 32 in 1914. R. A. Newell kept the general store.

CHAPTER XXIX

ELIZA TOWNSHIP

This township constitutes one full congressional township and about twenty-one sections of another. It is probably the largest in area of any in the county. It is one of the most attractive in the county from several points of view. On the west lies the Mississippi, which often overflows the flat lands west of the bluffs. The eastern part is composed of higher land, through which run the small streams which empty into the lakes of the lowlands. These principal streams are Eliza Creek, which flows through the south central part to Eliza Lake; Winter's Creek, formerly known as Witter's Creek, which flows through a few of the southeastern sections; and Glancey Creek, which comes from Rock Island County and enters Glancey Lake. Eliza Creek has several small streams and altogether the township is well drained except in the western part. The bluffs extend from section 32 on the south to section 6 on the north. The three principal lakes are Upper Eliza, Swan and Glancey.

The soil of the township, as a whole, is well adapted to agricultural purposes. East of Eliza Creek it is mostly prairie and consists of a rich black loam. North of the creek it is more undulating and in places quite hilly. Much of the township originally was covered with timber. On the bluff lands are to be found many mounds which were constructed long before the white settlements by people who were called Mound Builders. The most noted mounds were found on sections 16, 19, 28, 29 and 30. Even yet there can be seen a line of earthworks thrown up for defense, inside of which are scores of these mounds. Several measure forty feet at the base and at the time of the earliest settlement there grew upon several of them trees four feet in diameter. It is not presumed that these mounds and earthworks were built by the real Mound Builders. According to the best authorities they were constructed by the Indians, who, in a measure, imitated the customs of the original Mound Builders in constructing earthworks of this character. Many of these mounds have been opened and in a few articles of coarse pottery have been found, also a few trinkets and ornaments and from one was taken out a skeleton, which was reputed to be nine feet high. It was prob-

ably not more than six or six and a half feet. These mounds show that they were built for defensive, ceremonial and burial purposes. Along the lowlands of the Mississippi the soil generally is very rich and large crops can be grown there, but it is not undertaken owing to the liability of its being flooded. More than once in the history of the township the Mississippi has risen so quickly and so high that live stock on the bottoms have been cut off and drowned. During these periods enormous numbers of wild fowl appeared, especially in the early times, and then scores of hunters came from the back country and thousands of ducks and geese were shot and marketed.

The lakes in this township are attractive bodies of water. They vary from three to four feet to nearly twenty feet in depth. Formerly they were the favorite hunting grounds of the Indians and ever since the first white settlement have been the resort of hunters in pursuit of wild fowl.

The timber of the township was very valuable in early times. It consisted of oak, hickory, ash, elm, sycamore, etc. The largest tree in the county stood in the dooryard of J. Y. Merritt. It was an elm and measured 37¹/₂ feet in circumference at the ground and 34 feet in circumference three feet from the ground. It was about one hundred and eight feet high and had a spread of 104 feet.

There are several burial places in the township, the most noted of which are Eliza and Leach's cemeteries. The former is situated on the top of a bluff overlooking the Mississippi, just east of the old Noble Place. Leach's Cemetery is in the northern part near Mr. Leach's house. In addition there was an old burial place on the Miller farm and a small one on the farm of John Glancey.

The first road in the township led from the bluff to Rezin Pratt's Mill on Eliza Creek. The road was built in 1850, but the mill was in use before that date. The latter had a large patronage in early times. Another road ran east and west through the township. Another highway led up from New Boston past Ogle's house and was laid out in 1851. At the time of the first settlement there were several Indian trails across the township, one leading from New Boston to Rock Island, which for many years was still visible.

J. H. Witter was the first settler, locating on Witter's Creek in the spring of 1833. The creek was named for him, but the name was afterwards changed, probably because Mr. Witter removed from the township. In the fall of the same year David Shaunce and family arrived and settled on section 29, but through some mistake located on the wrong tract. Other early settlers were William Wilson and John Hill. The latter took up a claim on section 29 which really

belonged to Shaunce. This in time led to considerable trouble which required years to settle.

In the spring of 1834 Silas Drury and his cousin, Charles Drury, and J. P. Reynolds arrived. Silas Drury sold out in a short time to Daniel Noble. Several of these first settlers left the township in an early day and located elsewhere. In the fall of 1834 Jesse Willits and family located on section 32. He became the first probate judge and was an early justice of the peace. In 1835 he was on the grand jury. Dr. Mark Willits settled on section 32 at an early date. Mark Mullen and family arrived about this time and took up a claim on section 7. He built a cabin and started a small blacksmith shop near the bluff. He was no doubt the first blacksmith in the township. He sold out later to Samuel Elliott. Isaac Dawson and William Jackson came about this time. The former settled on a place which he soon sold to Martin A. Cook. Jackson settled on Pope Creek, near Keithsburg, at a later date. Lewis Noble and family took up a claim on section 32 and there improved a large farm. In the spring of 1835 John Drury and family arrived and settled on section 35. Aaron Mannon came the same year and acquired a tract on section 29. Mannon's son built a house on section 30. During the summer of 1835 Abijah Wilson and Allen Wilson appeared and took up land on section 33, but soon afterwards sold out. Robert Childers settled on section 16 and built a cabin. In the fall John and William Fisher came and settled on section 18. The former also bought land on section 23. William settled on a place at the foot of the bluff. Jesse L. Adams made his home on section 19, but later moved to section 22. Rezin Pratt came to this community in 1836. First he bought on section 30 and later purchased adjoining land. He was the first postmaster in the township, the office being in his house. He was also one of the first justices of the peace. Daniel Noble and family came about the same time. His son, D. F. Noble, took up land on sections 31 and 20. Thomas Morgan came and settled on section 22. This place was afterwards owned by Martin Bear. John Moore arrived during the winter of 1836-7. Martin Bear bought his land of Thomas Morgan. It was a portion of section 22. He lived there for many years and finally moved to Aledo. In 1837 John Glancey settled in this township on section 7. He purchased his farm of Samuel Elliott.

At this time the township was full of Indians, who encamped on the lakes and on almost every stream. They belonged to Black Hawk's tribe of Sacs and Foxes. Black Hawk himself often appeared¹

at the cabins of the first settlers and was entertained and usually given food and rest if he so desired.

There were several of the Nobles who became prominent in this community. Elijah Essley was here at an early day. Aaron Mannon had several sons, among whom were James M., Preston, Samuel and Cyrus. James M. became very prominent in this county. Martin A. Cook came at an early day. Joseph Bush came in the '50s and about the same time A. B. Childs and Abraham Swisher arrived here.

The first mill built in the township was erected in 1837 by Rezin Pratt and John H. Mannon. It was located just above Daniel Noble's residence and was a combined grist mill and sawmill. It was a God-send to the early settlers of the interior who came here, in several instances, from a distance of at least thirty miles. The sawmill stood a short distance below the grist mill. These mills had a large patronage and were well known by all the settlers far to the east. A steam sawmill built by Jesse Bogart during the war took the business of the old mill in a large measure. Still later a steam grist mill for grinding feed was established by J. C. Atchison on section 16.

ELIZA

The only town of any consequences in this township was founded by Edwin Bishop, soon after 1850. He was a blacksmith and opened a shop at what was then called Bishop's Corners. This is now known as Eliza Postoffice, the old name having been resumed. The place is located on section 16. Dr. Thomas L. Edwards practiced medicine here for many years. At a later date Doctor Reynolds succeeded him. Harrison Bishop, son of Edwin Bishop, conducted a carpenter shop here for many years. Isaiah Bishop opened a store here in the '70s. Previous to this date farmers were obliged to go to New Boston and Muscatine to do their trading.

At the present time the little Village of Eliza has a population of forty-eight and a rural free delivery from Muscatine. H. S. Beeney is blacksmith, Isaiah Bishop has a drug store and Omer Jackson conducts a general store.

Early in the '50s the township was organized under the new law. The first meeting was held at the house of Daniel Noble, April 2, 1854. J. P. Mannon was chosen moderator; Joseph Leonard, clerk; John Glancey was elected supervisor; L. W. Noble, town clerk; James M. Mannon, assessor; William Irvin, M. A. Cook and D. W. Noble, commissioners of highways; H. H. Randolph and G. W. Black, overseers of highways; Dudley Willits, overseer of the

poor; and Eli Mills, pound master. There were polled at this election a total of thirty votes.

Another little hamlet in the township is known as Petersville. It is located on section 23 and at times has had a shop or a store and a postoffice. At present they receive a free mail delivery from New Boston.

In the spring of 1864 the citizens of Eliza Township met and organized the Eliza Association for the Detection of Thieves. The object was to protect its members from horse and other thieves and to pursue, capture and punish the guilty persons. The special officers or marshals were called "Outriders," and their duty was to give immediate chase to the guilty persons. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and regular meetings were held. The first members were M. A. Cook, S. L. Duffield, John Kinnamon, Henry Small, Jacob Bear, J. J. Huston, Peter Bear, Roland Bear, Milton Boruff, Valentine Boruff, William Irwin, David Duffield, H. H. Roberts, Stephen Noland, Sr. and Jr., J. B. Reed, Elias Pulien, William Shields, Patrick Green, A. R. Sutton, James Wilson, William Rutherford, A. B. Childs, Ira Noble, John Pratt, Frank Lambert, E. W. Mardock, John Boruff, Jesse Bogart, Jonathan Noble, H. B. Noble, John Miller, D. F. Noble, Elisha Essley, D. W. Noble, John McGrew, John Glancey, Rezin Pratt, Leroy Willits, Tobias Mosier, Lewis Noble, William Leach, James W. Moore and E. Moseley. The first officers were: Samuel L. Duffield, president; H. H. Roberts, secretary; Jacob Bear, treasurer.

In 1913 there was a partition suit, Charles J. Noble vs. other Nobles, heirs of Brown Noble, who was the son of Daniel Noble. Through inheritance and purchase Brown Noble had become the owner of the Daniel Noble Farm and died without having been married. There were fifty of the Noble family who were made parties in the suit, each of whom had some interest in the land, and a large number of them lived in that vicinity and others elsewhere in Mercer County, and several of the heirs lived in Los Angeles, California, and other states. The Daniel Noble land was sold and Edmund H. Noble, Sr., his grandson, bought it in and is now the owner.

CHAPTER XXX

PREEMPTION TOWNSHIP

Preemption Township has a rich soil and is underlain with beds of coal and rock. From an economic standpoint it is one of the most valuable tracts in the county. It is drained principally by Edwards River in the south and Camp Creek through the central part. On the extreme northern side a few small streams flow northward into Rock Island County. Coal has been mined in this township since the earliest date and many years ago it began to be shipped in large quantities to distant markets. In addition, it supplied the home demand. Schools and churches have been here since almost the date of the first settlement. It is probable that John Farlow and Hopkins Boone were the first settlers in the township. They arrived in 1835 to secure locations, and the place where Mr. Farlow afterwards located became known, and is so called to this date, Farlow's Grove. A considerable portion of the township was prairie then and the first settlers sought the timber, because they did not believe the prairies possessed sufficient fertility. These two men and their families appear to have been the only residents for about a year. In the following spring there arrived the families of Rev. John Montgomery, a Presbyterian, James Boone, Gabriel Barkley, Christopher Miller and Rev. Joseph Jones, a Baptist. At first these few families were somewhat isolated from outside settlements, because there were no roads. An Indian trail led from Monmouth to Rock Island and this could be traveled on foot or on horseback but not with wagons. Another early road extended from Beardstown to Galena, but was in bad condition throughout the year. In 1837 the county built across Edwards River on section 34 a trestle bridge which was covered with oak planks. Across this structure a large travel passed as the years advanced. Another early road was from New Boston to Richmond, now a defunct town in Henry County.

In 1838 there arrived in the township Benjamin Clark, David Little, John Beirbeau and Charles Minnick, who settled in the northern part. E. J. Farwell came about the same time. The first settlers were compelled to go to Monmouth or Keithsburg, or to Rock Island, then known as Stephenson, to take their goods to mar-

ket. In 1837 a postoffice was established at the residence of Hopkins Boone and was called Farlow's Grove. At first there was no regular mail, the few settlers receiving their papers and letters through the kindness of their neighbors.

At first this portion of the county was attached to Richland Grove for voting purposes. It is stated that at the presidential election in 1836 the settlers gathered to poll their votes, whereupon it was learned that no one knew the names of the electors. They were thus compelled to go home without exercising their right of franchise. The first regular election was held the following year, the residence of Hopkins Boone being the polling place. The township was duly organized in 1854 under the township law. The first officers elected were: Supervisor, David Little; town clerk, J. H. Trego; collector, H. E. Wright; assessor, Samuel Dow. After this the township machinery was put in working order and has continued down to the present time without noteworthy event.

In February, 1861, John Whitsitt of Preemption Township was offered \$900 for fifty hogs while they were in the pen, but declined. When marketed they brought him \$893.60 cash. This was an unusual price, not far from six cents a pound and was used as an example of what farmers could make by putting their corn into pork instead of selling it as such. An account of the sale appeared in the Rock Island Argus.

In February, 1867, David Little of Preemption Township sold to Ward & Sons of Aledo seventy-three hogs which averaged 425 pounds each. At the same time and place William Connelly sold ten, which averaged 461 pounds each; one weighed 668 pounds. Hog growers were challenged to beat this record.

In December, 1869, B. Whitsitt sold at Viola forty hogs, fifteen months old, that weighed 14,640 pounds. He received about ten cents a pound for this lot. In the southern part of the township Mr. Morris had a flour mill on Edwards River, which was in operation in 1869. It was operated by water power. H. Boone conducted a sawmill on the same water power. In 1874 Richard Whitsitt sold thirty-five hogs, aged nineteen months, which averaged 542 2-7 pounds each. They were Chester Whites crossed with Suffolk. The Preemption Creamery has been and was for many years an important local industrial institution. It was operated by David T. Little at first and stood three-fourths of a mile east of the Village of Preemption. At first it ran five wagons but this number was increased at a later date. In 1883 it manufactured 133,655 pounds of butter, or nearly sixty-seven tons. This was nearly ninety per

cent increase over the product of 1882. The patrons had greatly increased and the creamery had become extremely popular. Throughout the succeeding year 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per gallon was paid for milk. Mr. Little had previously been at New Windsor and was at this time also at Viola with a similar institution. Late in 1883 the Preemption Creamery had about three hundred patrons.

PREEMPTION

The Village of Preemption had a start at a very early date but was small and inconsequential for many years. Usually, however, there were here the postoffice, a general store and blacksmith shop, a school and a church or two. Wharton & Crawford were probably the first general merchants of the township. They kept really a good store and were of very great service to the population. Philip E. Stephens was another early merchant. The first hotel was probably opened by H. E. Wright at a little later date. The latter was also a storekeeper in the little village. Norton Griffith kept a blacksmith shop and W. C. Gray opened a wagon shop in the '50s. James H. Seyler opened a store of drugs, medicines and notions. William Hammond kept a very extensive general store and had a large trade. The Briggs grocery was well patronized along about this time. Mr. Carver was manager of the mill that was put up here in the '50s. He also sold lumber. J. E. Otto and D. W. Little had charge of the creamery for a number of years. This little village was an important center during the Civil war. Here many volunteers were enlisted for the Union army and here emanated nearly all the progressive movements of the northern part of the township. In later years the business has diminished but is still carried on with profit. At the time of his death in 1891 David Little owned 1,740 acres and was worth all told probably \$250,000. In the home farm alone were 750 acres. He fed many cattle and hogs for the market.

Preemption Lodge, No. 755, A. F. & A. M. was organized in 1877. Late in the same year they received their charter. The first members were W. C. Gray, Henry H. Hayford, James H. Seyler, H. H. Hammond, William Steinhauer, George Bartlett, B. W. Thompson, J. B. Harris, Jr., W. H. Hickock, Samuel Bailey, S. F. Everett, George C. Gray, Leander Stiles and John Weiler. William C. Gray was the first worshipful master. This lodge is in a flourishing condition at the present day. The Orangemen, Preemption Lodge, No. 132, was organized in 1876. John Conley was the first W. M. Other organizations, social and fraternal, have flourished

in this little village. Preemption Camp, Modern Woodmen, was organized in 1895 at the opera house. It first had twenty-six members. Charles Hammond was the first V. C.

The business men of Preemption in 1900 were as follows: Blacksmith and implements, Archie Cook; druggist, J. H. Seyler; dry goods, groceries, banking, A. D. Shearman; groceries, Pitman & Williams; harness, William Steinhauer; lumber and building material, J. E. Otto & Son; mills (custom), R. L. Carver; physician, J. H. Seyler; shoe shop, C. Steinhauer; telephone construction, Ed Hammond.

For many years until recently Dr. J. H. Seyler served as postmaster at Preemption. In 1909 he was succeeded by F. M. Vickers. In April, 1911, a \$20,000 fire occurred in this little village. The bucket brigade which had been organized before did effective work on this occasion and checked the progress of the flames. However, the following were losers: Frank Vickers, general merchandise; J. H. Seyler, drugs; William Steinhauer, harness and agricultural implements; and Benjamin David, blacksmith.

Preemption in the spring of 1914 had a population of 200. Carter Brothers were blacksmiths and sold feed; David Connelly, grocer; R. David, blacksmith; J. E. Otto, lumber and hardware; J. H. Seyler, drugs; Paul Steinhauer, gas engine, pumps and windmills; William Steinhauer, harness and agricultural implements; F. M. Vickers, general store.

MATHER

The Town of Mather is located on section 27 and was laid out by the Coal Valley Mining Company in March, 1909. The village proper is named Mather but the postoffice and the railroad station are Matherville. Several additions have been made to this little place. Forty-six lots were laid out, each being 50 by 150 feet, on land of J. A. Russell. A. R. Stein, of Cable, was probably the first merchant. The place was named for Engineer Mather of the new interurban line, upon which the village was located. In March, 1911, the village voted on the question of incorporation as follows: For incorporation under the general law, forty-seven votes; against incorporation, thirteen votes. This election was held on April 22. In March, 1911, Fred C. Schroeder was elected mayor. The trustees were Herman Zude, Henry Barr, Andrew Garrett, Alexander Simpson, John A. Jones and Miller Lewis. Charles Kirchman was clerk and John Olson police magistrate. The little place had become a

city. In 1912 the Matherville Electric Light & Power Company began operations with a capital of \$10,000. In 1914 the town had a population of 200 and the following were the principal business houses: Alden Coal Company; Cable Mercantile Store, general store; Elmer J. Geddes, meat market; Hebbeln Brothers, lumber; Inch Brothers, confectionery; McCullough Lumber & Coal Company; Olsen Chester, confectionery and bakery; H. L. Pearce, hardware; E. J. Quaintance, meat market; H. H. Quaintance, blacksmith; Emil Roquet, dry goods, clothing and shoes; Schroeder & Caddy, general store; A. R. Stein, general store; Joseph Wild, general store; George Workheiser, hotel.

CHAPTER XXXI

PERRYTON TOWNSHIP

This portion of the county is one of the best from an agricultural standpoint in this portion of the state. The soil is extremely rich, there being considerable alluvial land along Camp Creek. Originally there was considerable timber scattered in groves over the township. On sections 23 and 24 were about sixty acres of white oak and on section 21 about forty acres of excellent mixed timber. The land between the level and Camp Creek on section 29 contained several very large, old white oak trees, which had not been reached by the prairie fires. North of the creek were white and burr oak groves on sections 18, 17 and 16. There was considerable broken ground in the southeastern corner of the township and there also were small tracts of excellent timber. In places this township is broken up by sharp ravines, but as a whole there is no better soil in the county for farming purposes. The early settlers concluded that the prairie soil was not of much use for agricultural purposes and they sought land where grew the white and burr oak groves, believing such soil was richer. Along Camp Creek for several years after the first white settlers arrived, Indian bands encamped and were frequently visited by the whites. Considerable trading occurred between them. In 1845 there were still in existence at least five or six distinct Indian trails, running along Camp Creek and here and there could be seen evidences where the red men had probably made their homes and had cultivated the soil. The big settlement at Sugar Grove by the Millers in 1834 was near enough to this township to be felt in opinion and influence by those who located within its boundaries. They built there an early grist mill which was patronized by the first settlers in Perryton Township. It is stated that a boulder was used to grind the grain. At the same time the Millers were blacksmiths, carpenters and could do almost any work required in the western country among the pioneers.

The greatest handicap in this township in early times was the want of roads and it required time to overcome this obstacle. At first the settlers went to Millersburg for their mail, but in the '40s an office was established in the northern part of the township and

James Gingles was the postmaster. In the '50s an office was established at Hamlet at the house of Graham Lee and finally placed in the store of Josiah Candor. Among the early mechanics were McHard, Gingles, Burrall and others. Philip Miller cut grindstones and grave stones and Mr. Jones conducted a blacksmith shop on section 25 quite early in the '40s. All the early settlers who located on the prairie made it one of their first duties to plant out groves and orchards.

The first settler in Perryton Township arrived in 1835 and located on section 36. This was John Black and his family. Their child born in March of the following year was probably the first birth in the township. In 1836 Maj. Edward Burrall lived on section 28 and broke twenty acres of prairie land that year. At the same time William Moore began work on section 30, where he put up a log structure. At the same time Philip Miller built a log cabin on the same section and occupied it. In 1837 Ed Burrall, Jr., and Alfred Perry, living on the west side of Sugar Grove, established a home on section 28 and Dr. Perry located near him. Linus and A. Wood located on section 26 about the same time and built there a substantial log house. Dr. Perry's house was built during the winter of 1837-8 and was a log structure erected near the timber on section 28. It is stated that the crops raised by the farmers this year in this township were sold to the Geneseo Colony, the prices being \$1 for wheat and 75 cents for corn and potatoes each per bushel. In 1838 Austin Wood arrived in the township and at first took up his residence with his son. Burrall probably built the first frame house in the township on section 28, and this building was rented to Sheldon Woodin. In 1839 James Gingles and William McHard came to the township and purchased the claim of Dr. Perry, to the west half of section 28, for \$500. It was this year that the general land sale took place and many of the farmers of this portion of the state who had for years been collecting money for the purpose, went to the land office to pay for their claims. About this time John Harris and J. Gingles moved into the township. Soon afterwards came William Doak with his father and family, and others.

In 1840 McHard and Gingles divided the Perry claim and each built a new house on his portion of the tract. Much of the trading at this time was done at New Boston with the firm of Drury & Willits. In 1844 Hamlet Cooper came and became a prominent resident of the township. He went north of Camp Creek and located on section 9. He probably made the first settlement north of that stream. Other early settlers were John Black, Mr. Burroughs, Austin

Wood, Daniel Ebner, John Crooks, Josiah Lockhard, Graham Lee and Henry Lee, and others. By 1850 the township was pretty well settled up and the farmers were in better circumstances than they had ever been before.

The township was duly organized in 1854 and the first election took place the next year. The first officers elected in 1856 were as follows: Graham Lee, supervisor; S. D. Trego, clerk; William McHard, assessor; J. C. Gilmore, collector. These men were chosen under the new township law. Before that date Edward Burrall was elected justice in 1838. William Moore succeeded him in 1842. Then came Joseph G. Gilmore, Edward Burrall, C. G. Taylor, Lee Hollister, John Gingles and others. The first township meeting was held at Gingles Corners. Graham Lee was the moderator and S. D. Trego, clerk. The following year another meeting was held, with William McHard, moderator, and S. D. Trego, clerk.

Perryton for many years has been noted for its excellent live stock. The grades have nearly all disappeared and pure bred animals are the rule and not the exception. In 1869-70 G. D. Miller shipped two carloads of cattle of his own feeding to Chicago. There were thirty-two head, which averaged 1,459 pounds each. They sold in Chicago at eight cents a pound. He fattened large numbers of hogs for the market at that time. In January, 1871, L. V. Willits, of Perryton, sold forty-five hogs that averaged 419 pounds each. They were the Poland China breed. About the same time Joseph Deets sold sixty hogs of the same breed that averaged 412¹/₃ pounds each.

HAMLET

The Village of Hamlet, located in the north part of the township, was laid out on land of Josiah and Capt. D. M. Candor, in 1868, and was named in honor of Hamlet Cooper, one of the pioneers in that portion of the township. The village did not grow rapidly, there being usually a store and shop and perhaps a few other business establishments, besides the school and religious organizations. By March, 1873, it had several business establishments. The first start probably of merchandising was in 1868 by Candor Brothers, who opened a general store. By 1872-3 they were purchasing large quantities of live and dressed hogs which they shipped to market. Mr. Gustin kept a shoemaker's shop there in 1872. Dumbell & Son were blacksmiths. J. R. Doig was the practicing physician. Rev. Mr. Fisk conducted religious services there. Lee Hollister was

justice of the peace and Mr. Hartman kept a hotel and the Grangers had a lodge, which met there regularly. Soon there were organizations of the Baptists and Methodists. These few establishments constituted the Hamlet of 1872-3. By 1883 Hamlet had become an important point for the manufacture of sorghum molasses. Gray & Vandanson manufactured there 1,800 gallons of sorghum during that year. They had commenced in 1881. Early in the '80s the Hamlet Library Association was established on a firm foundation and a quantity of books was secured, but the membership was too weak for the association to become permanent. The members from time to time held festivals and other public entertainments to raise means for the purchase of books.

At a little later date the Hamlet Mutual Fire Insurance Company was a flourishing institution, under H. Ketzle, secretary. By December, 1895, they had out 225 policies, covering property worth \$552,315. In recent years there has been very little business of importance transacted here. Lloyd Girton had an early store; Thomas Lewis was the first blacksmith; Doctor Criswell conducted a drug store; A. T. Hooples and D. M. Dumbell & Son, wagon and blacksmith shop. The first postoffice was located there about 1854 and kept by Graham Lee. In 1914 the population of Hamlet was about fifty and George H. Hartman & Company kept a general store.

REYNOLDS

Reynolds originated from the construction of the railroad to that point. In 1877 it had one hotel and another nearly completed, two dry goods stores, two drug stores, one furniture store, one shoe store, one hardware and agricultural implement establishment, one harness shop, two blacksmith shops, one photograph gallery, one grain elevator, one lumberyard, a coal yard, a hay press, etc. It was at this time a great shipping point, because it was at the end of the railroad. It was the best potato market in Mercer County about this time. Scores of teams visited the town daily. Among the business men were A. S. Crandall, R. C. Olmsted, F. Freytag, John C. Clark, W. C. Ellsworth and John Robertson. The village continued to thrive and by October, 1883, was a prosperous town and an important shipping point. There were four dry goods stores here, and elevators, mills and shops of all descriptions. The Reynolds Press was issued early in the '80s and served an important medium. Prof. S. J. Ferguson was principal of the public schools there in the '90s.

Jesse A. Winger was publisher and editor of the Reynolds Press in the '90s. In 1896 the place had over four hundred population. James P. Johnston was president of the town board.

In 1900 the following business establishments were located at Reynolds: Bank, Reynolds Bank; barber, Charles F. Schlueter; boots and shoes, C. L. Berry; blacksmiths, C. M. Kreps, William H. Stanley; contractor and builder, F. E. Miller; dentist, Guy F. Wait; druggist, M. C. Crandell; dry goods and general merchandise, S. P. Ash. J. E. Volkel; furniture and undertaking, P. C. Freytag; grain buyers, M. Schoonmaker, C. H. Wayne; hardware and implements, W. G. Davis, R. L. Mallette; harness, Frank Keim; livery and feed barn, John Hogan; lumber and building material, G. R. Ainsworth & Company; lightning rods, hotel and livery, R. E. Bailey; meat market, W. G. Haefele; painters, D. L. Finley. C. W. Haskell; physicians and surgeons, A. B. Montgomery, L. C. Moore; poultry, Jennings Brothers; restaurant, W. J. Clark; stone, brick and marble worker, John McAdams; stock buyers and shippers, Bruner & Vickers. Reynolds is on the Rock Island & Mercer County Railroad, and the Rock Island Southern Railroad. All of the business places of the town are within Rock Island County and it is given here because it is an important point for Mercer County people to do their trading.

Graham Lee lived on a farm one-half mile south of Hamlet, and was the neatest and most tasteful farmer in Mercer County. He built a nice residence in an early day and set out an Osage orange hedge on each side of the road which passed by his house, and instead of running straight with his farm it meandered, running a little as the tip of a ridge, which made the appearance of the farm most picturesque. Mr. Lee was one of the most prominent men in Mercer County, serving several terms as supervisor of the township, and was active in the Agricultural Society of the county. He was an officer for a number of years of the State Agricultural Society of Illinois and was one of the trustees for quite a number of years of the Asylum or Institution for the Feeble Minded, located at Lincoln, Illinois. He was a most intelligent, excellent citizen, working for the interest of the county as well as for himself. He is now dead and his son, Elisha Lee, is living at or near the old homestead. William McHard was also one of the early settlers, living south, between Camp Creek and Edwards, near Gingles Corner. He was a prominent and successful farmer and held many township offices, and he has three sons now living in the county: William in Aledo, and Harvey and Samuel in Perryton Township.

CHAPTER XXXII

DUNCAN TOWNSHIP

The first settler in this portion of the county was Buford Duncan, who located on section 16, in 1838. He came from Indiana and at once became one of the foremost citizens of this part of the county. He was well advanced in life when he arrived and had a considerable family of children, most of whom settled in the same neighborhood. A short time afterwards his brother, Braxton Duncan, came here and located on section 17. The latter possessed a frail constitution and after a few years passed away. Several other members of the same family located in that neighborhood, which soon took the name of Duncan Settlement. Among the early arrivals were William Epperley and James Vernon. Another early settler was Luman Castle, who located on the southern boundary, not far from the Village of Millersburg. Joseph King came in at an early date and took up a claim on section 33. About the same time Robert Norris established a home on section 25. The latter came from Scotland and had a better education than the average early settler. In 1844 he became county surveyor. He was the Duncan Township treasurer at an early date also. In the '40s he went to California. About 1844 Elbridge G. Howe and Lucien B. Howe secured homes on section 33. In the summer of 1845 Tyler McWhorter and William S. Rowe came and took up homes on section 31.

Mr. McWhorter at once started an experimental orchard in connection with the nursery business. He called the place Pome-Roy (Royal Fruit) Nursery. The Pomeroy postoffice took its name from this circumstance. The whole neighborhood, in fact, is called the Pomeroy Settlement. As a matter of fact, in after years, this nursery established by Mr. McWhorter supplied the trees for the orchards of a great portion of this county. He likewise made shipments to surrounding counties and to sections in eastern Iowa. Mr. McWhorter said that when he settled in the township not a schoolhouse had yet been located there and that the only religious services which had been commenced had been conducted by a branch of the Mormons, under the ministry of Rev. Mr. Hinckle. A little later a revivalist named Ringer came to his assistance. A schoolhouse was

built in Duncan Township late in the '40s. The whole township was taxed then as one district. A little later another district was set off on the south side of the township and this was called the Pomeroy District.

The township has no considerable town and is made up almost wholly of a rich agricultural community. It is well watered by small streams and the soil is rich and productive. Live stock has been grown here for market since its first settlement. James Vernon became prominent in this township. His descendants ever since have occupied prominent positions in the county. Herschel Felton settled in the southern part at an early date.

In early times the streams were skirted with heavy belts of timber, among which there was considerable oak, which was utilized in the construction of fences and the building of homes. Perhaps the soil of this township is blacker and richer in humus than any other upland soil in the county as a whole. The first mill was located just east of Millersburg and was patronized by the first settlers of Duncan Township. A history of that mill is given elsewhere. In that vicinity were forests of large trees, which were utilized for picnics, camp meetings, etc. Underneath the soil spreading out over almost the whole township are heavy beds of coal ranging in thickness from two to five feet. This has been opened in several places, but as yet the supply has scarcely been touched.

Joseph King came in at an early date and located on section 23. The place was afterwards owned by J. C. Staley. Later arrivals in the township were Ebenezer Bunting, Joseph N. Elbridge, G. and Lucien B. Howe, brothers. William S. Rowe came in also about the time Mr. McWhorter did. Church organizations sprang into existence at an early date. An account of the same will be found elsewhere in this work.

In 1854 the township was organized under the new law. At the meeting held on April 4th, George W. Bennett was clerk; William Epperley, moderator. On this occasion four pound masters were chosen as follows: W. S. Rowe, Michael Miller, Buford Duncan and Samuel Herson. Tyler McWhorter was elected supervisor, receiving thirty-two votes. Alvah Sutton was chosen town clerk; Caleb Vernon, collector; William S. Rowe, assessor; Samuel Herson, G. W. Bennett, John Page, Buford Duncan and James Vernon, overseers of the poor; William Summers and James Lloyd, commissioners of highways; William Duncan, constable; James Vernon, justice of the peace. At the first meeting the township officials passed a resolution restraining swine, sheep and cattle from running at large.

On the ridge one mile north of Millersburg was located the seminary, which was patronized by this township as well as by the town of Millersburg.

Prior to 1881 the township was without a postoffice. At that date Leonard Gorber built a small structure on section 2 and placed therein a quantity of goods and thus was the first storekeeper. John Ball about the same time was appointed postmaster. He likewise kept store at the same time in conjunction with Mr. Gorber. In the spring of 1882 Ball sold his stock of goods to John Boltinghouse, who succeeded him as postmaster. In April, 1882, another postoffice was established in the township and Edward Connel was appointed postmaster. This was a postoffice in the extreme southwestern corner of the township and is now known as Pomeroy. A store has been there for many years. A mill was built on Camp Creek as early as 1835 on the line between Duncan and Millersburg townships. This was patronized by the early settlers of Duncan. It was a combined sawmill and grist mill and although rude, yet it served an excellent purpose during its existence. It is said that Luman Castle mined the first coal in the township about 1845. He was assisted by a Mr. McDonald. The coal seemed to outcrop along the stream and several of the citizens worked the same for their convenience without opposition from the owners.

At a later date J. A. Downey and Charles Epperly conducted the store at Marston. At one time this little village seemed quite promising. It had a brass band, a large general store, a physician, blacksmith and a few other institutions, but in recent years it has usually had nothing except one store, a blacksmith, a school and a church.



CHAPTER XXXIII

MISCELLANEOUS

THE MERCER COUNTY WOMAN'S COLUMBIAN CLUB—ITS ORIGIN, OBJECT AND HISTORY

The Mercer County World's Columbian Exposition Club was organized in Aledo, March 31, 1892, by Mrs. Marcia Louise Gould of Moline, Illinois, president of the Illinois Woman's Exposition Board. The club was composed almost entirely of ladies of Aledo and vicinity, who met to plan an exhibit of Mercer County products to be placed in the Illinois Building at the World's Fair, Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Lallie Connell, Aledo, Illinois, presided at the meeting, explaining its object, and it was voted to organize. Mrs. Clarence Brock, Aledo; Mrs. Hugh Grazier, Viola, and Mrs. Flora B. Winger, Aledo, were appointed a nominating committee. They reported Mrs. Lallie Connell for president; Mrs. Frances Byers, vice president, and Mrs. Della Harr, secretary. Mrs. Connell asked to be released. Mrs. Byers was appointed president; Mrs. Robert Dool, vice president, and Mrs. Harr, secretary; adopted by a rising vote.

Mrs. Byers took the chair and a membership roll was made, resulting in a membership of sixty-seven ladies, signing the constitution and paying a membership fee of twenty-five cents, each.

Mrs. Gould further explained what an interesting exhibit should consist of, and plans were discussed for the same. After many meetings in which various plans were spoken of the club decided to make a carved wood cabinet and fill it with Indian relics and other articles of special interest to be found in Mercer County. Mrs. Brock was appointed to interview Miss Alice E. Hall of The Art Institute in Chicago and learn the expense of such a cabinet. Miss Hall was later engaged to come to Aledo and superintend a class which should do the work on the cabinet. Twenty ladies took the lessons, beginning February 18, 1892, meeting and doing the work in the G. A. R. Hall in what was then the Richey Building, on the ground where the courthouse now stands. The wood used in the cabinet is red southern gum, which is fine grained and takes a high polish. The

design is flattened octagon, five feet high. The feet are eight in number, six inches high, arching in shape, and carved in scroll work. Two panels are of wood carved in relief. One of these is an elaborate pattern of wild roses, with over lapping leaves and stems, and is the work of Mrs. Hortense Moses, formerly of Aledo, now of Portland, Oregon. The other panel is an equally beautiful and elaborate design in maple leaves, stems and twigs, and is the work of Mrs. Ella Graham Reynolds of Aledo. There are six glass panels, two of which are doors. The frames of these panels are carved at the top with wreaths of wild roses in incised work. The bevels at the top and bottom are of conventional pattern in over lapping leaves. The roof of the cabinet is pointed. Eight rafters carved in scroll work to match the feet lead from each panel to a point in the center and terminate with a cone of closed leaves at the top. Miss Hall remained with the club five weeks, until the work on the cabinet was finished and ready for putting together. This important part of the work was done most perfectly by Mr. Gustaff Bjorkman of Aledo. Those who belonged to the class and assisted in carving upon the cabinet are the following: Mrs. Hortense Moses, Aledo; Mrs. Ella Reynolds, Aledo; Mrs. Clarence Brock, Aledo; Mrs. Della Harr, Aledo; Mrs. Melissa Fleming, New Boston; Mrs. Abbie Morey, Aledo; Mrs. Orpha Lorimer, Aledo; Mrs. Sallie Love, Millersburg; Mrs. J. C. Mitchell, Aledo; Mrs. Alice Willits, Aledo; Miss Neta Durning, Aledo; Mrs. Cora David, Aledo; Miss Fanny Bay, Aledo; Miss Katie Porter, Aledo; Miss Maggie Gilmore, Aledo; Miss Alice Young, Rock Island; Miss Pearl Love, Aledo; Frank C. Coningham, Aledo; Robert Danford, New Boston; J. F. Henderson, Aledo; all of whom worked upon the cabinet, except Mr. J. F. Henderson, Miss Alice Young and Mrs. Della Harr. A floor was fitted in the cabinet to slope from a high central part especially designed to display the Indian relics. Mrs. Sarah M. Tudor suggested that specimens of the Aledo artesian well soils be sent as it was the deepest well in Illinois, being 3,116 feet in depth. Accordingly 100 vials filled with the various strata were properly labeled and sent. There was a long list of very fine articles placed in the cabinet, which is too voluminous to enter here. These were shipped to Chicago on April 13, 1893. Mrs. Mary L. Chowning was then secretary and received the following letter: "I am glad to be able to inform you that the exhibit from Aledo has arrived today. The cabinet has been opened and is very handsome. Very truly yours, Mrs. L. D. Bayley. April 27, 1893. Office superintendent." Mrs. Byers and Mrs. Morey went to Chicago and placed the exhibit in the cabinet according to the

plans made for it, where it remained until November, 1893, a credit to Illinois, and much admired during the World's Fair. Since that time it was kept by the club for fifteen years in the club room of the courthouse, and for the past four years at the home of Mrs. Ella Reynolds. After the cabinet was finished a debt of \$70 still remained. By an act of the club, August 7, 1893, Mrs. Mary Chowning and Mrs. Orpha Lorimer were a committee to correspond with state officers to secure, if possible, the amount from the state fund appropriated for such purposes. This was granted and the cabinet became the property of the club, to keep or dispose of as they might decide to do. The first work of the club being finished, no other meetings were held until February, 1895, when the president, Mrs. Byers, called a meeting at her home to consider the securing of a room in the courthouse in which articles of historic and special interest might be kept with the cabinet, and to be known as the Columbian Club Room. Mrs. Abbie Morey, Mrs. Florence Wells and Mrs. Clarence Brock were appointed by the president to secure the same if agreeable to the Board of Supervisors of Mercer County. Mrs. Orpha Lorimer was elected secretary. While this committee was pursuing the necessary course to obtain the consent of the board for a room in the courthouse, the club voted to read and study at weekly meetings, held on Saturday afternoons, some good and instructive history. Mrs. Flora Winger and Mrs. O. J. Lorimer were appointed to plan a program, which was the beginning of the study and reading which has continued for nearly twenty years. Miss Mabel Pepper was then the instructor in general history at the Aledo Academy under Prof. J. R. Wiley, and at her suggestion to Mrs. Flora Winger that the Barnes' General History would be a good foundation for further study, it was decided to use that text book, which was the backbone, so to speak, of the literary and historical work done by the club for three years following, and no better choice could have been made then this which was offered by one in every way capable of making a wise selection. Miss Mabel Pepper is now Mrs. John W. Weeks, of Punta Gorda, Florida. The club met at various homes every Saturday, reading the history and adding such literature as increased the interest in the periods studied.

On April 27, 1895, the committee on rooms reported a permission to use for historical relics and as a permanent home for the club, the free use of the library room in the courthouse. The cabinet was at once taken there and for fifteen years it was an object of much interest to many visitors. On May 4, 1895, the first meeting of the club was held in the beautiful room granted the club as the only county organi-

zation whose object it was to preserve interesting relics of Mercer County. This brought forth many articles of interest from various parts of the county, presented or loaned to the club for exhibition in their room. Such a mark of approval by the Board of Supervisors of Mercer County has ever been appreciated by the club as one of its greatest honors. As an expression of the thanks they felt, the club decided to hold a public reception of all who cared to come to see the room on July 4, 1895, as a great celebration had been planned for that day and a large number of people were expected here. This proved a very pleasing part of the program of the day and the room was visited by many people, who registered their names in a book which is still one of the treasures of the club. A large rug and chairs were bought for the room, and it was decided to prepare a souvenir book for the fourth anniversary of the club. This book contains forty pictures of members of the club at that time, a cut of the cabinet, and 340 of the many quotations given each week at the call of the roll. It was believed that this souvenir would recall to members the pleasant and profitable hours spent together in an earnest desire for self-improvement.

How well it has performed that task is more fully realized as the years pass on. Twelve of those faces have passed from earth to heaven. Fourteen dwell in far away states. Fourteen remain in Aledo and vicinity, and all but one are still members of the club. The club list contained at that time eighty-four names, thirty past members, most of whom were charter members. The souvenir was completed March 31, 1896, and was the work of a number of committees dividing the work into groups. Mrs. Della Harr, Mrs. Tilla Gregory, Miss Alice Sponsler, Mrs. May I. Whitham, Mrs. Clarence Brock, Mrs. Hortense Moses, Mrs. Mellie Eames, Mrs. Mary McKinney, Mrs. Flora Graham and Mrs. Flora Winger being the members of the committees. Mrs. Mary McKinney presented the club with a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary at the fourth anniversary, which was much appreciated for many years. When a new one was bought this was presented to the Mercer County Jail by the club, believing many prisoners would be glad to make use of some such help to put in their time of waiting. The reading done by the club then, as now, was of the highest standard of literature, as the list of books and selections show on the records. At the fourth anniversary meeting Mrs. Mary Byers read an interesting paper, relating to her experience as president for four years, with a summing up of the work done, and expressed her hope of future usefulness for all time to come; that the Columbian Club should ever be an aid in any

good work Aledo should undertake. Mrs. Mary McKinney gave an able address on "Our Club Emblem, The Maltese Cross," one well worthy of being printed and preserved in the cabinet. Mrs. Clara Ingmire gave a "Parody on Tennyson's Dream of Fair Women;" Mrs. Harr, a paper of "The Souvenir," which was very interesting and witty. Since then the anniversary day has always been fittingly observed.

The next meeting was an important one, April 4, 1896. Mrs. Byers announced that William Marsh, Sr., had offered his valuable collection to the Columbian Club. His generous offer was accepted and Mrs. Morey, Mrs. Winger and Mrs. Byers appointed a committee to confer with Mr. Marsh, the sheriff and board of supervisors as to the placing of the collection in the club room of the courthouse. Action was taken and the collection was accepted.

The club kept open house for the Soldiers' Reunion of August, 1896. On October 9th of the same year they served meals during a political rally, McKinley Day at the city hall, clearing the sum of \$65.90. This money paid for three handsome cabinets which were placed in the club room and Mr. Marsh, himself, arranged in order the properly labelled specimens, working many days in the club room, sometimes assisted by a few of the ladies who would write labels for him, but more often he would go alone and work for hours. Visitors from far and near came to see the specimens and hear his interesting account of them. In April, 1912, it was voted to present the great collection to William and Vashti College. Mr. Marsh and the committee of supervisors agreed with the ladies of the club that the college was a worthy and fitting institution of learning and deserved such a valuable present as this.

For almost six years Mrs. Byers was president of the club, ever faithful and efficient, building so well that its growth has been of a nature to command the respectful attention of the public generally throughout Mercer County. On September 4, 1897, she asked to be released from the responsible position of president. This was granted at her repeated request and Mrs. Flora B. Graham was a worthy successor and never has an unworthy president occupied the chair. In this and in all the membership the club has been most fortunate. Those early days of hard work and much planning were full of untried plans, which experience only might pronounce wise or unwise. In all the plans for the good of the club Mrs. Byers was ably assisted by many and especially by her husband, A. M. Byers, president of the Farmers National Bank of Aledo. For many years she was also assisted by Captain and Mrs. L. B. Morey.

These four considered the welfare of the club from every standpoint and it is believed they have builded an association which will continue to be a credit to the ones who worked hardest and spent more time and money than any others to make the club what it has been and still is in Mercer County.

In 1898 the club joined the State Federation. For many years the work of the club was chiefly self-culture, and adding to the collection of Mercer County relics, which they still own. Many social events gave pleasure to members and friends. Four years ago Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Tudor and Mrs. Sarah Eshbach proposed the plan of establishing a Free Public Rest Room under the management of the Columbian Club. All business men favored the plan. The club appointed a Civics Committee of ten ladies who have solicited the necessary funds (\$500) a year, and have made up by their own subscriptions and efforts any lack of funds for that purpose, adding much needed convenience to Aledo's well equipped business interests. This is daily found to be the greatest benefit, averaging an attendance of more than two hundred out of town people every month. Often on Saturday from sixty to seventy-five out of town people make use of this public benefit. Committees of all kinds make frequent use of its comfortable rooms. A library of over three hundred books are on its shelves. It is an institution Aledo is well proud of and dear to members of the Columbian Club. This little start for a public library has been helpful in efforts now being made for a splendid new Carnegie Library.

When the William and Vashti College was built an endowment fund was a necessity. The club responded to the appeal and awoke to find themselves famous, having given the generous sum of \$2,400 to the fund. This was done largely through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Minnie Carroll whose enthusiasm awoke a corresponding willingness to sacrifice, if need be, for the college Aledo has just reasons to feel proud of. This has been the latest great work of the club, but they are earnestly engaged in many ways to be helpful all the time to the college, the new library soon to be, and the rest and reading rooms.

They have long been a member of the State Federation. Miss Lizzie Winders and Mrs. Martha Mathews assisted on committees at the recent General Federation in Chicago. The club emblem of the Maltese Cross, and the national colors of red, white and blue remind them of their privilege as Americans, and their hopes of future usefulness by a little self-sacrifice that others may be benefited by them. This is the aim of the club—To get all the good

they can, and do all the good they can. Following is the list of studies and presidents from 1892 to 1915:

1892-7: Miscellaneous and General History, Mrs. Mary Byers; 1897-9: European History, Mrs. Flora Graham; 1899-1901: American History and Literature, Mrs. Mellie Eames; 1901-02: Illinois-English Literature, Mrs. Letitia Boyd; 1902-03: Shakespeare, Mrs. Letitia Boyd; 1903-04: Shakespeare, Miss Alice Sponsler; 1904-05: Current Literature, Miss Alice Sponsler; 1905-06: Washington Irving and George Eliot, Mrs. Emma Mardock; 1906-07: Miscellaneous, Mrs. Lenore Finch; 1907-08: Miscellaneous, Mrs. Fannie Stein; 1908-09: Miscellaneous, Mrs. Harriet McArthur; 1909-10: Africa and Africans, Mrs. Alice Willits; 1910-11: Italian Art and Artists, Mrs. Minnie Hollembaek; 1911-2: Bible, American Art and Artists, Mrs. Minnie Hollembaek; 1912-3: Today and a Little of Yesterday, Mrs. Minnie Carroll; 1913-4: United States and Germany, Mrs. Jennie Morgan; 1914-5: Illinois and Pan-American Exposition and South America, Mrs. Margaret Venable.

COUNTY FAIR OF 1914

The County Fair of 1914 was fully up to the standard of excellence set by those of previous years. On Thursday there were present nearly eighteen hundred automobiles; it was found necessary to park the surplus in other portions of the grounds. The new administration building reflected much credit on the society. Numerous special trains were run on the railroad to accommodate the crowds, not only here but from outside of the county, that wanted to see the fair. The paid admissions on Thursday aggregated in round numbers 15,000. The best time made on Thursday was 2:15¹/₄ in the 2:15 trot and 2:12¹/₄ in the 2:15 pace. The biplane flights of C. L. Wiggins were witnessed by the entire population and all the visitors. He dipped, darted, spiraled, Dutch rolled, tangoed, turkey trotted, and chased a cloud up 1,500 feet. Baseball games were played in the mornings.

On Wednesday there were five starters in the 2:30 trot; the best time made was 2:21³/₄. In the 2:11 pace for a purse of \$350, the best time was 2:12³/₄, Society Leader was winner. In the 2:25 pace there were six starters, Kellerville Kid winning, the best time being 2:14¹/₄. The horse, John Morris, won first money in the 4¹/₂ furlong dash against a field of seven.

The swine show was one of the greatest, if not itself the greatest, of the kind ever exhibited in the county. About three hundred

animals were shown as follows: Duroc Jerseys, 113; Poland Chinas, 81; Hampshires, 66; Berkshires, 23; Chester Whites, 17. It is probable that more fine Mercer County horses were exhibited than ever before. The Bridgford Pony Farm exhibited eleven animals this year.

The corn show was the finest and largest in the history of the fair. L. A. McCormick, who for eight years has had this exhibit in charge, pronounced the display superior to those of other years. Other competent judges declared the display to be a record maker. Mr. McCormick placed the corn crop of 1914 in his portion of the county (the northern) at 80 per cent, a showing unexpectedly good. At this fair it was apparent that alfalfa had become a staple crop in the county.

The poultry exhibit was unusually fine, varied and comprehensive. The varieties shown were never more numerous. In addition to chickens there were shown geese, ducks, turkeys and pigeons. Over one thousand birds were shown.

Central or Floral Hall had a larger number of entries than ever before; the display of textile fabrics was especially fine. The horticultural exhibit was not up to the standard.

Among the conspicuous exhibits were the following: Duroc Jerseys by Bigelow & Son; although they competed against nine herds they secured nine ribbons; B. M. Gilmore, Chester Whites; J. M. Nesbit & Son, big type Poland Chinas; J. S. Rader & Son, Cotswold sheep; Warwick Bros., Shropshire sheep; Bistline & Kistler, Shropshires; Kiddoo & Son, Shire horses; F. E. Sherer, Chester Whites; F. S. Castle, hogs; J. F. Cox & Son, large type Poland Chinas; G. E. Close & Sons, Berkshire and Championship prizes in hogs; E. C. Wilson, Poland Chinas; W. E. Huffman, big type Chester Whites; S. S. Lane, Poland Chinas; R. H. Whitsitt, Chester Whites; Ira Dodson & Son; J. F. Hyett, Poland Chinas; C. H. Armstrong, Jersey cattle; Mrs. C. C. Willits, white Holland turkeys; W. N. Ralston, Partridge Wyandottes; Bowers Brothers, white Wyandottes; Mrs. J. M. Strong, white Plymouth Rocks; Gid Jackson, Duroc Jerseys; S. S. Lane, Poland Chinas; J. M. Bay, short horns. (The publishers were compelled to go to press before the fair had closed and thus this account is cut short.)

REMARKABLE RECORD IS MADE BY WILLIAM AND VASHTI COLLEGE

(From Rock Island Daily Argus)

A few years ago when any citizen of Aledo left the confines of Mercer county he returned with a feeling that something was lacking



WILLIAM AND VASHTI COLLEGE

if his town had not been made the butt of some crude joke as to its location on the map, its railroad facilities or its means of communication with the outside world. Those conditions are now changed and the same people who were then in the habit of twitting the people of Aledo in a friendly way are now prompt to express their admiration for the many things that Rock Island's neighboring city has accomplished. The city has moved to the front in every respect, but one of its accomplishments has been so notable and has attracted such attention that it is worthy of more than passing notice.

For the last three or four years the people of Rock Island have heard flattering reports from the school located at Aledo, known as William and Vashti college. Attention was first attracted to the school by reason of its successes in all departments of college activity. The interest thus attracted caused the people of this section of the state to take more particular notice of the institution, and it was discovered that the citizens of Aledo and Mercer county through their enterprise, devotion and determination had in less than five years accomplished what it has taken other communities similarly situated generations to bring about. While Aledo has shown much enterprise in various lines and has now become known as one of the most progressive cities of its size in the state, its greatest accomplishment is what it has done for this college. Everyone is interested in a story of achievement, and The Argus presents to its readers the interesting story of the founding and establishment of this college as a portrayal of public spirit that may well be emulated.

No doubt many who have heard of this school have wondered as to the origin of its name. The school was founded by William Drury, a long time resident of Mercer county, and was named by him in his will as William and Vashti college to commemorate the memory of himself and his wife, Vashti Drury.

By the will of Mr. Drury the school was to be located in that city or town of Mercer county which would offer the largest bonus for its location. The city of Aledo, having offered more than any other locality in the county, secured the school. The purpose of Mr. Drury was to found a non-denominational school where the student could not only secure a complete classical or scientific education, but where he could also secure such practical instruction as would fit him for some particular employment.

Mr. Drury died leaving a considerable estate. By his will he provided that his wife should have the use of all of his property during her lifetime and at her death, after paying some specific bequests it should go to the founding of this school. Mrs. Drury saw

fit after some consideration to decline to accept the provisions of the will, and as there were no children, under the law, she was permitted to take one-half of the estate. That necessitated an immediate division of the estate and permitted the portion going to the school to be used at once.

The will provided that certain of the officials of Mercer county and of the city of Aledo should constitute the board of trustees. After reducing the estate to cash the board had a little over \$100,000. It was deemed wise to invest all this money in ground, buildings and equipment, which was done. A campus of about 16 acres was acquired and the main college building, a boys' dormitory, a gymnasium, a heating plant and residence for the president were erected. After constructing these buildings and equipping them and providing for all necessary apparatus the money in the hands of the trustees was exhausted, and the board had on its hands a thoroughly equipped plant, but was without any funds in the way of an endowment and with no means of paying expenses except by such tuition as might be paid by prospective students. The situation was not at all encouraging, but in September of 1908 the college was opened with Thomas J. Davis, of Indianapolis, as president. Mr. Davis, together with the board, has selected a strong faculty to work with him, and the first year witnessed the enrollment of about 200 students in all departments.

It was soon discovered that in order to sustain the standard established by the school it would be necessary to have other revenue than that furnished by the tuition alone. Under the provisions of the will of William Drury the personnel of the board changed rapidly, and for that and other reasons affecting the legal status of any gifts which might be made to the institution, it was decided to incorporate under the laws of Illinois. This was done, and a permanent board of seven representative citizens of Aledo was selected and now manages the school.

One of the first things undertaken by the new board was the raising of an endowment fund. It was estimated that with an endowment of \$200,000 the school could be put on a permanent footing and be assured of a perpetual existence. It was determined to start the endowment campaign by raising \$100,000 in the city of Aledo and Mercer township, in which that city is located. As the city of Aledo contains something less than 2,500 inhabitants and does not boast of any men who would be rated as wealthy, it will be seen that this was a big undertaking. In the summer of 1911 a vigorous campaign was prosecuted by the board of trustees together with Dr. Frank C. English, who had then succeeded Professor Davis as the president of

the college, and something more than \$100,000 was raised, principally in the city of Aledo. Over 750 persons subscribed to this fund so that practically every family in Aledo was represented and now feels that it has a financial interest in the school. This was one of the objects sought to be obtained by the board of trustees, as it was thought that no firmer or more lasting friends could be secured for the institution than those who had contributed to this fund. The board of trustees at once inaugurated a campaign to raise the remaining \$100,000 in Mercer county outside of the city of Aledo, and considerable progress has been made toward that end.

A great deal of credit is due to President English for the success of the endowment campaign and for the fine spirit which prevails not only among those closely connected with the school but among the citizens generally of Mercer county. Dr. English was employed in the spring of 1911, coming from the city of Cincinnati, where he had been president of the Cincinnati training school. Prior to that time he was president of Moore's Hill college, Indiana. He is a graduate of Baldwin university where he took his bachelor's degree, later receiving his master's degree from Ohio Wesleyan university. He did graduate work in the University of Cincinnati and later received his degree of doctor of divinity.

Since the opening of the school the trustees have acquired a building for the conservatory of music, and during the coming summer it is proposed to erect a girls' dormitory, the plans for its erection being now under way.

Carrying out the idea of Mr. Drury, in addition to the regular college course, which is equal to that found in any small college, there has been established a department of music, a business department, a department of agriculture and a normal department. In addition to these there will be instituted next year a course in domestic science.

The attendance has steadily increased since the opening of the school until now there are about 300 students enrolled in all departments. A preparatory course is run in connection with the college and under the same management.

Perhaps no better conception can be given of what this school has accomplished than to use the language of Dr. Nathaniel Butler of Chicago university, when he visited the institution a little over a year ago in response to a request for recognition of the school on the part of Chicago university. After having visited the school and becoming familiar with the situation, Mr. Butler said: "I came here expecting to find a feeble school asking for recognition as a last resort, but instead of that I have found a new, vigorous, up-to-date

institution asking for recognition because it feels it would thus secure a larger sphere of usefulness. There is no question, at the rate it is going, but that it will continue to be recognized, because people must and will recognize that which is being done well. I will state frankly that the personnel of the student body and the character of the institution is far ahead of anything I had expected to see."

Anyone who had simply heard of the institution and knew that it had begun operations as recently as 1908, and that without any endowment fund whatever, would naturally feel as Dr. Butler did before he went to Aledo, but the most casual investigation will convince anyone of the correctness of Dr. Butler's statement.

The students of the college are provided with all that goes to make college life desirable and profitable. The customary literary societies flourish, a Young Men's and Young Women's Christian association, the glee club, the oratorical societies and the press club are all well attended and excite a lively interest.

The institution is justly proud of the record it has made in athletics, not only because of the victories it has won, but because of the fact that its athletics have always been conducted on the highest possible plane, and the standard of eligibility for participation in athletic contests is of the highest. In order to participate in any intercollegiate contest a student must carry at least 12 hours of college work and be in good standing in all the work carried. From the first, athletics have been encouraged and the faculty has had close oversight and supervision of all the teams, one of the professors having charge of football, one of baseball and track and one of basketball. Athletic relations have been sustained with such schools as Augustana, Hedding, Lombard, Knox, Monmouth, Bradley, Illinois Wesleyan, Iowa Wesleyan, Millikin, Illinois college, Shurtleff, Lake Forest, Armour institute, etc., and the showing which has been made is one in which every friend of the school may take pride. The success of the school on the athletic field is particularly gratifying for the reason that many of the best athletes who have represented the school have been boys who were born and raised in Mercer county, and many of them would have been unable to attend college and thus have an opportunity of participating in college athletics were it not for the fact that this school is located in Mercer county.

The athletic teams for the present year have all been strong. This is especially true of the football team which played eight games and won them all by decisive scores, thus acquiring the undisputed title of state champions. The prospect for football for the coming



BOY'S DORMITORY, WILLIAM AND VASHITI COLLEGE

year is very encouraging. In basketball the team captured six out of ten games of the regular schedule, winning all of the games on the home floor.

The baseball team for the coming year promises to be as good as, if not better, than any in the history of the school, which considering the triumphs of the teams in the past, is speaking well for it. This year the baseball team will meet such teams as Augustana, Lombard, Hedding, Bradley, Illinois Wesleyan, Millikin and Illinois.

Many individual stars have been developed in track work in the past and some unusual work is expected from among the 300 students enrolled this year. Track meets will be held this year with Augustana at Rock Island, Bradley at Peoria, and the state meet at Peoria, May 24. The athletic spirit in the college is of the best and the slogan has always been, "Honorable defeat is preferable to stolen victory."

The athletic field on the campus is well drained and has a splendid baseball diamond and football field and a one-fifth mile track with 120-yard straightaway. The gymnasium is equipped with physical apparatus, baseball cage and a basketball floor 45x74 feet of playing space with a 22-foot ceiling. These facilities together with tennis courts afford the best there is in the way of recreation and physical exercises.

One proof of the unusual success which William and Vashti college has attained is the way in which it is regarded by the other small colleges of Illinois and adjoining states. At the time of the opening of the school in 1908, and for some time thereafter, William and Vashti was regarded by its sister colleges with indifference. No attention whatever was paid to the college and no comment was made concerning its work except to conjecture as to how long it would be able to eke out an existence. Its athletic triumphs first attracted attention and then it demonstrated its prowess along educational lines by splendid showings in competitive debates and oratorical contests. Before the school was two years old it was attracting marked attention from other colleges and was being observed somewhat more critically. Now it is regarded by all of the small colleges as a real rival in every sphere of action.

STANDS EQUAL TO BEST

In 1910 Drury academy was placed on the accredited list with Illinois university; in 1911 with the North Central association of

schools and colleges; and in 1912 with Chicago university. The college department has kept pace with the academy in this particular and has received corresponding recognition. In 1911 the college was admitted to the Illinois Athletic association, and the same year to the State Federation of Colleges. Such recognition in the short space of time since the opening of the school is unprecedented and is the highest possible proof that the college and academy have taken their places among the substantial institutions of the state.

The splendid college spirit and feeling of loyalty that prevails among the student body can be attributed to a great extent to the friendly interest the people of Mercer county and of Aledo feel in the institution. It is easy to inspire a feeling of loyalty to his alma mater in the breast of the average student, and with the deep interest of every citizen of Aledo in constant evidence this feeling has become as intense as that which prevails among the students of the oldest universities and colleges.

One of the chief assets of the college and one of the things which will do more to achieve the final success of the institution than anything else, is the city of Aledo itself. Aledo is the county seat of Mercer county and is located in the center of one of its fine prairies. It has no large commercial industries, and none of its citizens will take offense to the statement of the fact that it is in many respects an overgrown country village. Its citizens are of the most substantial and desirable type. Its merchants are up-to-date and afford the people of Aledo and the surrounding country the best trading facilities that can be found in any city of its size in the country.

Some years ago the city adopted and installed a system of sewers, and last year a local improvement was authorized which contemplates the paving of five miles of its principal streets. A part of this work was completed last season and the remainder will be completed by the month of July of this year. The business part of the city is brilliantly lighted by up-to-date electric cluster lights. The last session of congress appropriated the sum of \$65,000 for the erection of a government building there, which shows that for a town of its size a considerable volume of business is being transacted. There is every assurance that within the next year a splendid new public library will be erected in the city and opened for the use of its citizens and the students of the college and public schools. Five different church denominations maintain thrifty organizations within the city, all owning valuable church property. They are the Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal, United Presbyterian, Baptist and Catholic. There have been no saloons in the city of Aledo for more than 40

years. The city in its makeup, environment and in the conditions existing, makes an ideal location for an educational institution.

While the people of Aledo and Mercer county are endeavoring to make this school particularly a county institution, students are welcomed from all sections, and among the present number enrolled are boys and girls from various other states as well as from all portions of the state of Illinois. The school offers advantages equal to that of any of the small colleges of the middle west, and its surroundings are such that it would be hard to find a better place to send a boy or girl to secure that part of their education which must be secured away from home.

What the people of Aledo have done and accomplished for their college stands almost unparalleled. It is doubtful if there has ever been a community of equal size in the United States which has with such a spirit and with such unanimity among its citizens done as much for any public enterprise. An institution thus founded among such ardent friends will necessarily attain the highest degree of success, and *The Argus* predicts for William and Vashti college of Aledo a brilliant future.

