

PART II.

HISTORY OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

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ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

ORIGIN OF THE COUNTY.

THE region of country now contained within the limits of Cumberland County, Ill., was subject to the legal jurisdiction of various seats of justice before it became the home of citizens. Its earlier allegiance was paid to Darwin, the early county-seat of Clark County. Crawford County was organized in 1816, and originally comprised the territory included between the Wabash and Kaskaskia rivers, and from its present southern line to the northern limits of the United States. In the following year, Clark County was formed, including all the territory of Crawford north of its present northern boundary, between the two rivers. The first white settlers in this region found it tributary to Darwin and a part of Clark County. In 1821, Fayette County curtailed the original extent of Clark on the west, and in 1823 by the formation of Edgar, in 1827 by Shelby, and in 1831 by Coles. The inhabitants of this region at this time were too few and scattered to exercise much influence upon the formation of its parent county, Coles, and it seems to have been formed in accordance with the natural law of development of the State. Darwin, the center of trade, as well as governmental influence, proved so inconveniently distant for so many that the growing population demanded better facilities, and the new county was formed. The records of Cumberland County show, of course, no account of this early separation from Clark County, nor, in fact, of the separation from Coles. Although some movement was early made to transcribe the records pertaining to the original history of Cumberland, nothing of *this* was effected. With the increase of population and the construction of the great National road, the people here became dissatisfied with the remoteness of the county-seat, and anxious to build up private interests which early clustered along

the great thoroughfare, the leading men moved for the erection of a new county. It was generally agreed that Coles County, which included Douglas and Cumberland as well, was too large and would necessarily be divided sooner or later, and a contest, mainly supported by various towns ambitious to serve as the seat of justice, early sprang up over the method of division. The people of Charleston desired the territory to be divided into three counties so as to leave that point the central place in the county, and hence the inevitable county-seat of the new county of Coles. Other localities desired an equal division of the territory into two counties, and the two propositions were known respectively as the "crop" and "split" plans. This topic was the great overshadowing issue in at least three campaigns, the candidates for the legislature announcing themselves on the stump as favoring the one plan or the other. Twice were candidates elected to favor the division of the county, but in each case the opposition mustered so strong an influence that no division was made. In 1842, Starkweather announced his position as first for a "split," second for a "crop," but in any event for a new county, and on this platform he was elected. The effort culminated in an act of the legislature, which was approved March 2, 1843. This act provided: "That, from and after the first day of May next, all that part of Coles County lying south of a line beginning at the north-west corner of Section 30, in Township 11 north of Range 7 east of the third principal meridian line, running thence east along the several section-lines to the western boundary line of Clark County, shall form a new county to be called Cumberland County.

"Sec. 2. An election shall be held on the first Monday of April next, at the town of Greenup, and at the town of Woodbury, at the house of James Gill, at Beni White's, Berry's Mill, at Ruffner's, at Long Point, for the election of a Sheriff, Coroner, County Recorder, County Surveyor, Probate Justice of the Peace, Clerk of the County Commissioners' Court, County Treasurer, School Commissioner, and three County Commissioners for the said county of Cumberland, at which said election any number of legal voters not less than fifteen, who shall be present, may choose from among themselves a sufficient number of persons to act as judges of said election, who, after being sworn, as also the clerks, shall proceed to open and hold said election according to the rules and regulations prescribed by law for conducting general elections in this State, at which said election all persons, entitled by law, residing in the boundaries prescribed for Cumberland County, to vote for members of the General Assembly, shall be entitled to vote at said election.

“Sec. 3. After the said election shall be closed, it shall be the duty of the judges and clerks holding the same to affix to each of the poll-books a statement of the names of each person voted for and the office he was intended to fill, and the number of votes such person received, and certify the same; one of which said poll-books they shall seal up under an envelope, directed to John Wolf, Judson Holley, and Alexander Magrew, and it shall be the duty of one of the said judges or clerks to deliver the same to the said persons on or before the third day after the close of the said election; and it shall be the duty of said Wolf, Holley and Magrew, or any two of them, to meet at the town of Greenup on the third day after the close of said election, and if the polls of said election shall be delivered to them, or either of them, to proceed to open the said election returns, and after comparing the returns of said election, they shall make out a written statement thereof, and shall transmit a copy thereof, certified by them, to the Secretary of State, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to make out commissions to such of the persons as shall appear to be elected, who are entitled by law to be commissioned by the Governor, and transmit the same to the persons so commissioned; *provided, however*, that contested elections for any of the above named officers shall be determined according to the principles contained in the laws of this State concerning contested elections.

“Sec. 4. The seat of justice for Cumberland County shall, for the present, be at the town of Greenup, and shall, hereafter, be permanently located in the following manner, to-wit: At the general election, to be held on the first Monday in August next, a poll-book shall be opened for the different points to be run for the county-seat; *provided, however*, that no place shall be voted for unless its proprietors or friends shall, at least twenty days previous to said election, execute a bond with sufficient security, designating the quantity of land patented by General Government and free from legal incumbrances, setting forth the metes and bounds of said land, or the number and location of town lots, or the amount of money, work, or labor, or materials to be used in erecting the county buildings which the proprietors or friends of any point may propose to give, which said bond shall be subject to the approval of the County Commissioners' Court, and be filed in their office; and at said election a column shall be opened for each point whose friends shall have executed bond as aforesaid, and all persons qualified at the time for holding said election to vote for a member of the General Assembly shall be entitled to vote for the location of said seat of justice, and the point,

if any, receiving the majority of the legal votes cast at said election, shall be the permanent seat of justice for said Cumberland County. When the votes of said election are compared by the proper officers, if it shall appear that neither one of the points voted for shall have received a majority of the whole votes cast, then it shall be the duty of the County Commissioners' Court to appoint a day within three months thereafter for holding another election, and shall publish written notices thereof in at least six of the most public places in the county, for one month, and a column shall be opened at each election precinct, for the two points having received the highest number of votes at the preceding election, and the point receiving the highest number of votes at said second election shall be the permanent seat of justice; and if changed from the town of Greenup the offices shall be removed to said new seat of justice so soon as public buildings can be prepared therefor. If any shall desire to contest the election in regard to the seat of justice, they shall, within thirty days, thereafter, give notice that they will proceed before a Justice of the Peace of the county to take depositions that certain persons (naming them) who voted at said election were not qualified voters, or that fraud or unfairness (stating in what such fraud or unfairness consisted) was practiced in said election; at which time and place all the testimony on both sides shall be written down, and the matter in controversy shall be decided by the County Commissioners' Court, subject to an appeal to the Circuit Court at any time within twenty days after the decision of the County Commissioners' Court; *provided*, that the notice in regard to the contested election as to the seat of justice shall be posted up in six of the most public places in the county. It shall be the duty of the Commissioners' Court of Cumberland County to cause public buildings to be erected at the permanent seat of justice when located in the manner provided in this act, and for that purpose they are hereby authorized to lay off any land that may be donated to, or acquired for the county, into town lots, and may sell and convey all or any part of such land or town lots, so donated or acquired, and appropriate any money, work or labor, or materials owned by or due to said county in the construction of county buildings as aforesaid.

"Sec. 5. All Justices of the Peace and Constables residing in Coles County, and in office on the first Monday of May next, shall continue in office and exercise all the duties required of them by law in Cumberland County until their successors shall be elected and qualified according to law, and shall be liable to the same penalties for omission of duty as if no change or division of Coles County had

taken place under this act, and be entitled to the same emoluments for their services.

“Sec. 6. That at the next biennial election for Representatives to the General Assembly, and until another apportionment of Representatives shall be made, the County of Cumberland shall be entitled to elect one Representative separate from Coles County, and Coles County shall separately be entitled to elect two Representatives, and no more, and, until a new apportionment of Senators shall be made, the county of Cumberland shall vote with the counties of Coles and Clark for the election of a Senator, and the Clerk of the County Commissioners’ Court of Cumberland shall attend at the Clerk’s office of Coles County to compare polls, at the same time now provided by law for the Clerk of the County Commissioners’ Court of Clark County to attend, and compare the votes for Senator, and to join in making a certificate thereof to the person elected.

“Sec. 7. At the election to be held on the first Monday in August next, for county officers for Cumberland County, the person receiving the highest vote for County Commissioner shall be entitled to hold his office three years; the person having the next highest, two years; and the next highest, one year, according to the provisions of the law concerning the election of County Commissioners.

“Sec. 8. The county of Cumberland when organized according to the provisions of this act, shall be deemed and considered, from and after the first day of May next, one of the counties of this State, and entitled to all the rights and powers generally conferred upon and allowed by the constitution and laws to other counties in this State, and to the officers thereof.

“Sec. 9. It shall be the duty of the Auditor of Public Accounts to make out and transmit to the County Commissioners’ Court of Cumberland County, on or before the first day of June next, a list of all lands within the boundaries of Cumberland County subject to taxation, for State and county purposes, and annually thereafter, as required by law; and the County Commissioners’ Court of said county shall direct the assessment and collection of taxes in said county for the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, according to the provisions of the revenue laws of this State, and direct the collection and appropriation thereof, as required by law in other counties.

“Sec. 10. All taxes assessed and uncollected in Coles County for the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, and previous thereto, of persons residing in Cumberland County, after the first of May next, and all judgments, executions and fees due to officers

in Coles County, against any person or persons residing in Cumberland County, may be collected and accounted for in the same manner as if no division of the county had taken place by virtue of this act.

“Sec. 11. It shall be the duty of the County Commissioners’ Court of Cumberland County, after the organization thereof, according to the provisions of this act, to certify the same to the judge or justice required to hold Circuit Courts in Coles County, and it shall be the duty of the said judge or justice to fix the time of holding Circuit Courts in Cumberland County, until otherwise provided by law, and it shall be his duty to hold the said courts accordingly.

“Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the County Commissioners’ Court of Coles County to ascertain from the State census taken in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty, as near as they can, the amount of school, college and seminary funds which the inhabitants residing within the limits of Cumberland County were entitled to receive as a part of Coles County, for the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, and how much, if any, is due and unpaid to the township treasurers or to teachers, and also what would be the proportionable part of the school, seminary and college funds for the year eighteen hundred and forty-three, and certify the same to the County Commissioners’ Court of Cumberland County, and direct the School Commissioner of Coles County to pay the same over to the School Commissioner of Cumberland County, and also to deliver over all notes, money, bonds, mortgages and papers, properly appertaining to school lands in the boundaries of Cumberland County, and it shall be the duty of the School Commissioner of Cumberland County to receive, keep, collect, pay out, and account for the same according to law.

“Sec. 13. That Cumberland County is hereby attached to and shall form part of the same congressional district in which Coles may be placed.”

Under the provisions of this act an election was held on the first Monday in April, 1843, which resulted in the choice of Thomas Sconce, for Sheriff; Hiram Buell, for Coroner; Judson F. Holly, for County Clerk; E. H. Starkweather, for Probate Justice of the Peace; Otis Perry, for County Recorder; Abram Trease, for Treasurer; Daniel C. Decius, for School Commissioner; and James Gill, Charles P. Chowning and David T. Wisner.

ORIGIN OF THE COUNTY’S NAME.

The origin of the county’s name seems to have been derived

from the original name of the great National thoroughfare that passes through the southeastern part of the county. Before the time of railroads the construction of this road was a work of wide-spread importance, and to the early settlers, whose experience afforded no criterion to judge of the mighty revolutions to be effected in the future by railroads, it seemed destined to develop this section far more rapidly than less favored sections. To their view there was no inappropriateness in associating the name of this highway with that of the new county. In the first year of Monroe's administration the question of internal improvements began to be the prominent question of the hour. The vast extent of territory opening up in the West made it necessary to devise and provide more suitable means of communication between the distant parts of the country. Without railroads or canals or even good wagon-ways, the people in the West suffered greatly from their inability to reach a profitable market, while the more thickly settled portions of the East were entirely deprived of the advantages growing out of the rapid settlement of the West. The people of the West felt the burden of the situation most, and their demand for relief was soon taken up by the statesmen of the country. The necessity for some relief was admitted by all, but the method by which it should be accomplished was not so clearly seen. The leading statesmen held that congress was powerless in the matter, but the pressure became so great that in 1817 congress appropriated money and ordered the construction of a National highway, from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, Virginia. Subsequent administrations, with less legal qualms, completed its construction through Columbus, Ohio, Indianapolis, Ind., and Vandalia, Ill., to Saint Louis. This road was constructed through this county about 1835, and became a famous stage route. The country along its line rapidly developed, and until the railroad robbed it of its early prestige, the "Cumberland road" was the great commercial artery which carried "the calm health of nations" east and west through the land.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The County of Cumberland, thus organized and named, lies in the southern tier of what is arbitrarily called Central Illinois; on the border of that illy-defined section popularly known as Egypt. It contains eight full and four fractional townships, making a total area of 336 square miles, and is bounded on the north by Coles County, on the east by Clark, on the south by Jasper and Effingham, and on the west by Effingham and Shelby counties. The central portion

of the county, along the Embarrass River and its tributaries, is well timbered, while the eastern and western portions are mainly prairie. The bottom lands along the river are usually from half a mile to a mile or more in width, and heavily timbered with the usual varieties found growing upon the bottom lands in Central Illinois. The prairie lands are from 71 to 100 feet above the level of the river, and are generally rolling, though occasional tracts of level prairie are found. The general trend of the water courses is southward. The Embarrass, the French pronunciation of which has degenerated into the local name of "Ambrau," traverses the county from north to south, and with its affluents is the only stream within the county. This stream rises three or four miles northeast of Tolona, in Champaign County, and enters Cumberland County about nine miles from the eastern line. From this point it flows, save one or two abrupt and somewhat extensive bends, directly south to Greenup, and then bearing to the southwest, it passes over the southern boundary about twelve miles from the eastern line. Its branches in this county, beginning on the eastern side of the county, are: Crooked Creek, which rises in the southeast corner of the county, and flowing directly south, becomes a stream of some importance in Jasper County, and finds its way to the Embarrass, east of Newton; Range Creek, which rises in the northwestern corner of Clark, and, passing diagonally across Cumberland, joins the Embarrass in the northern part of Jasper; Lost Creek and Hurricane Creek are smaller tributaries that flow diagonally southwesterly across Union Township and find their rise and outlet within its borders; Muddy River, which is the principal tributary on the west side of the Embarrass, takes its rise in the southern part of Coles County, and the northern part of Cumberland County, and flowing much the same course as the larger stream, takes its course southward about five miles distant, until it nears the central part of the county, when with a bold sweep to the southwest it suddenly comes to the east and joins the "brimming river" about a mile from the southern boundary of the county. The Cottonwood is properly a branch of the Muddy, and flows a regular course between the Muddy and the Embarrass, uniting with the former some five miles from its mouth. Mule Creek heads in the northwest corner of the county, and joins the Muddy from the west some four or five miles above the Cottonwood. Spring Point Creek rises in the southwest corner of the county, and flows a generally easterly course to the Embarrass between the points of contact of the other two.

GEOLOGY.

The superficial deposits of this county comprise the alluvial bottoms of the Embarrass and its tributaries, and a considerable thickness of gravelly clays and hard pan which increases in depth to the northward. In the southern portion of the county the drift deposits range from twenty to forty feet in thickness, consisting mainly of brown or buff gravelly clays with numerous bowlders; but to the northward this thickness is increased to fifty or seventy-five feet, the lower portion being a bluish-gray hard pan similiar to that seen in Clark. Bowlders of considerable size are not uncommon and native copper and also specimens of the sulphuret of that metal are said to have been found in the drift gravel in this county. A bed of potter's clay of fair quality is found in the drift-clays in the vicinity of Greenup, from four to six feet in thickness, from which a fair article of stoneware is made.

All the rock formations of this county below the drift belong to the upper coal measures, and include the beds intervening between the Quarry Creek limestone of Clark County and the Shelbyville coal of Shelby County, making an aggregate thickness of 200 to 250 feet. Not more than one-half of these beds are exposed in the county, and reliance is had mainly upon borings made at Greenup, and a general acquaintance with out-crops in adjoining counties, for a full description of the strata.

The following is a record of the bore made just north of the town of Greenup by Messrs. Dunlap & Co., in 1866, for oil :

1. Shale.....	51 feet	5. Very hard rock (limestone shale)	5 feet
2. Sandstone.....	11 "	6. Gray shale and sandstone.....	69 "
3. Shale.....	102 "	7. White sandstone and shale.....	45 "
4. Blk. bituminous & gray shale,	17 "	8. Sandstone.....	35 "
Total.....		335 feet.	

The very hard rock, No. 5, which was found here at the depth of 181 feet is probably the Quarry Creek limestone. Another boring was subsequently made by Mr. Talbot near his mill at the railroad depot, for coal, and the following is his report given from memory:

1. Soft sandstone.....	15 feet.	11. Shale.....	17 feet.	inch.
2. Gray shale.....	65 "	12. Black shale.....	5 "	" "
3. Black shale.....	2 "	13. Coal.....	"	3 "
4. Hard sandstone.....	8 "	14. Clay shale.....	20 "	" "
5. Shale, dark colored toward bottom.....	20 "	15. Black rock.....	1 "	8 "
6. Hard sandstone.....	5 "	16. Dark shale.....	8 "	" "
7. Shale.....	8 "	17. Black slate.....	8 "	" "
8. Dark hard rock.....	4 "	18. Coal.....	0 "	3 "
9. Shale.....	13 "	19. Fire clay.....	4	" "
10. Hard rock, probably limestone	3 "	20. Shale with pebbles.....	16	" "
Total.....		223 ft. 2 in.		

As this boring was made especially in search of coal, it is probable that closer attention was given to the character of the beds passed through than at the other, and the section reported corresponds much better with the out-crops in Clark County. The hard rock, which probably represents the Quarry Creek limestone, was found in the Talbot boring at a depth of 140, while at the Dunlap well it was reported at 181 feet, although the latter well was commenced at a level at least ten to fifteen feet below the former; hence it may be inferred that the reported depth of the boring was no more reliable than the character of the strata that were penetrated. Both these borings commence below the *Fusulina* limestone which out-crops in the bluffs of the Embarrass from the bridge west of Greenup to the north line of the county.

In the bluffs of the Embarrass, one mile west of Greenup the following section at the bridge on the old National road is found:

1. Gravelly drift clay, buff, yellow, ash-gray.....	32 feet	4. Impure ferruginous limestone.....	1 foot, 6 inch
2. Thin bedded micaceous sandstone.....	6 "	5. Thin bedded sandstone and sandy shale.....	15 "
3. Argillaceous shales, with a streak of coaly matter.....	16 "	6. Slope covering shales to river bed.....	13 "

A mile north of the bridge the limestone thickens to three feet or more, and is a nodular gray argillaceous rock, rather more calcareous than at the bridge below, nodular and thin bedded, but containing a few fossils. This is the only limestone found in the county, and varies in thickness from eighteen inches to eight or ten feet, or more, at the different out-crops examined. It is usually too argillaceous to slack freely when burned, and too nodular and irregularly bedded along the Embarrass to furnish a good quality of building stone.

The sandstone underlying the limestone in the above section affords layers from six to eighteen inches in thickness and was used in the abutments for the bridge at this point; but not being carefully selected, the shaly layers soon gave way, endangering the whole structure, so that it had to be abandoned.

On the branch north of the town of Greenup where the oil-well was located, the following beds outcrop in the bluff on the south side of the stream :

1. Yellow drift clays.....	10 to 12 feet
2. Nodular, brown impure limestone to the creek bed.....	1½ to 2 "
3. Sandy and argillaceous shales, with thin layers of sandstone.....	30 to 40 "

A short distance above Ryan's ford, and about two miles below the north line of the county, this limestone is well exposed, showing a

bench of rough, irregular bedded, brownish-gray, nodular, argillaceous limestone, from 8 to 10 feet in thickness, outcropping just above the bed of the river. The upper part of the bed is of brownish-gray, and the lower part a greenish-gray color. Numerous small fossils are found here. The limestone is underlaid here by a greenish clay shale, of which not more than two feet in thickness were visible above the bed of the river. Descending the river from the ford towards Greenup the limestone gradually rises in the river bluff, and four miles below Ryan's it is found about twenty feet above the river level associated with sandstone and shale.

On Mr. Cullum's land southwest of Jewett, the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 26, Township 9, Range 8, a quarry was opened in a hard bluish-gray micaceous sandstone, of which some eight to ten feet are exposed. The rock is very hard, and affords a durable building stone. A quarter of a mile below this quarry on the main creek, sandy shales form the main portion of the bluff, overlaid by a hard, brittle argillaceous limestone, which was seen only in tumbling blocks, indicating a thickness of about eighteen inches. Following down the creek these lower shales appear at intervals in the bluffs of the stream nearly to the bridge south of Jewett. North of the bridge towards the town several quarries have been opened in the same bed of sandstone that appears on Mr. Cullum's place.

On Long Point, a tributary of the Embarrass, which enters the main river from the eastward six miles south of Greenup, no outcrops of rock were found, the bluffs of the streams being composed, so far as could be seen, of drift clays from 30 to 40 feet or more in thickness.

On Webster Creek, Section 33, Township 9, Range 8, a thin coal is found from 4 to 6 inches thick, associated with the following beds:

	ft.	in.		ft.
1. Blue and brown argillaceous shales.....	3		6. Clay shale, partially exposed.....	10 to 15
2. Band of brown argillaceous iron ore, with fossils.....		6 to 8	7. Concretionary sandstone and sand shale.....	12 to 15
3. Shaly clay		4	8. Gray and brown impure limestone.....	2
4. Coal.....		6	9. Dark gray sandy shales.....	20 to 25
5. Bituminous shale.....	2			

The band of argillaceous iron stone, or more properly speaking an argillo-ferruginous limestone, contains numerous fossil shells in a fine state of preservation. The impure limestone, No. 8, of the foregoing section, is probably identical with the *Fusulina* bed, although the characteristic fossils could not be found in it at this locality.

This limestone thins out in the south part of the county, and the most southerly out-crops observed contain few or no fossils, but the out-crops are so continuous on the Embarrass and its western affluents that there seems to be no doubt that they all belong to the same formation.

In Coles county this limestone continues along the valley of the Embarrass at least as far north as the mouth of Brush Creek, where it overlays a seam of coal, No. 16 of the Illinois section, while the six-inch coal in the foregoing section most probably represents the thin coal, or highest seam of the general section.

Professor Cox reports a coal seam about a quarter of a mile west of the county line in Shelby County, which from its thickness and general character agrees very well with the Shelbyville coal, or No. 15 of the general section. About 200 yards west of the point where the coal was opened, on a branch of the Little Wabash River, there were ten feet of blue argillaceous shale above the coal, which further down the stream gives place to a thick bedded sandstone. He also reports the Fusulina limestone or Bear Creek, Section 22, Township 10, Range 8, where the bed is four feet thick, overlaid by twenty feet of sandstone. At Prairie City the limestone was passed through in sinking the well at the mill, and found to be four feet thick, with shales above and below it.

The trend of the strata in this county is evidently very nearly north and south, as the course of the Embarrass is on nearly the same geological level through this county and Coles for a distance of twenty-five to thirty miles or more, and the dip, if any, is apparently to the westward.

There are no streams in either county that intersect the general out-crop in an east and west direction, and no connected section of the out-cropping formations could therefore be made. The small streams do not cut through the heavy drift deposits, and hence exposures of the coal measures are only to be met with on the Embarrass and the lower courses of its main affluents.

MATERIAL RESOURCES.

No workable coal out-crops in this county, unless the seam mentioned above as occurring on the waters of the Little Wabash just over the line in Shelby County may be found in the northwest corner of Cumberland. The coal below the Fusulina limestone in Coles County seems not to have been developed in Cumberland, and the seam above the limestone is too thin to be of any practical value. For deep mining in this county a shaft would have to be carried down

from 600 to 1,000 feet to reach the main coals of the lower measures. This would require an expenditure of capital that the present demand for coal in this county would scarcely justify, and hence it will probably be some years before any serious effort to reach the lower coals will be made. In the counties lying west of this, including Bond, Fayette, Montgomery and Shelby, it is about 600 feet from the Shelbyville coal (No. 15) down to the Danville seam (No. 7?), which would be the first one of the main coals that would be reached here, and if that failed to be well developed, about 100 feet more would have to be penetrated to reach the next workable seam below.

The best building stone met with in this county is the sandstone south and southwest of Jewett Station, and that quarried in the vicinity of Greenup, in the bluffs of the Embarrass. The former is a hard, gray, micaceous sandstone, that stands exposure well, and may be relied upon for bridge abutments and culverts, as it will probably resist successfully the influence of frost and moisture. The other is rather soft, brown sandstone that will answer well for dry walls, but liable to crumble on long exposure to the elements. The Fusulina limestone, where sufficiently thick bedded, will also furnish a fair quality of stone for rough walls, and several quarries have been opened in it in the northern and western portions of the county.

The limestone just mentioned, which is the only rock of the kind found in the county, is too impure to make good lime; yet attempts have been made to burn it, though with indifferent success.

At some points it looks as though it might possess hydraulic properties, and it is quite probable that by burning and grinding a very good water lime might be made from it.

Bands of kidney ore or carbonate of iron of a fair quality were found, at several points in the shales over the Fusulina limestone, but in too limited quantities to be of any practical value for smelting purposes.

Clays suitable for making brick may be found almost anywhere in the sub-soil of the uplands, and sand for mortar or cement occurs abundantly in the valleys of the streams.

But this is destined always to be an agricultural county, and its chief resource is its soil. In the southern part this is rather thin, with a sub-soil of light drab colored clay, but in the northern portion it is darker colored and more productive, and has a sub-soil of yellow clay. Much of the prairie and a portion of the timbered land is rather flat, and requires thorough drainage to make it productive. The bottom lands on the Embarrass are from half a mile to a mile or more in breadth, and were originally covered with a heavy growth

of timber, but portions of it have been cleared and brought under cultivation, and are very productive, though subject to occasional overflow. The varieties of timber embrace white, red, black, pin and water oak, hickory, beech, poplar, black and white walnut, maple, elm, linden, cherry, locust, red birch, etc., etc. Water may usually be obtained from the gravelly drift clays above the hard pan, but at some localities it can only be had by boring or digging through the hard pan to the quick sands below.

SWAMP LANDS.

Originally, a large part of the territory of the county came under this classification. By a general act, dated September 28, 1850, congress ceded to the several States of the Union all wet and overflowed lands within their borders, not otherwise disposed of, for drainage purposes. The legislature of Illinois accepted and ratified this act of congress, by complying with the special requirements, and subsequently, in furtherance of the objects, as aforesaid, granted to the counties the lands lying within their boundaries. Between the years 1850 and 1856, much of this land was entered of the general government through the United States land office at Palestine, at \$1.25 per acre, with "swamp land scrips," "land warrants" and cash, the commissioner of the general land office issuing patents therefor. Under the act of congress, where land was selected and paid for with "scrip" or "warrants," the State was entitled to receive an equal quantity of United States land, subject, however, to the approval of the Department of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior in construing this act of congress has decided that the lands intended to be given in lieu of those which were entered with "scrip" or "warrants" must be United States land unoccupied, and lying within the State claiming the same and cannot be located elsewhere. The United States lands in Illinois has long since been entered, hence the county in its claims for reimbursement for such lands, can re-receive indemnity for such as has been entered since 1850, only in cash at \$1.25 per acre. The county has made several efforts to secure its rights in this matter, and has recently entered into contract with an attorney to collect the indemnity due from the general government under the provisions of this act. Some revenue has been received from these lands, and claims are being prepared which will probably bring several thousands of dollars to the county treasury.

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, STOCK-RAISING, ETC.

Cumberland County is strictly an agricultural county. Though possessed of good water power and timber, and situated within the

region of the coal measures, manufacturing interests have not yet assumed any particular importance here, and beyond the few mills that local necessity demands, manufacturing enterprises have received little encouragement. The chief resource of the county is its soil. The bottom lands of the principal streams have a rich alluvial soil, and when cleared and brought under cultivation, produce large crops of corn, to which they seem best adapted. The soil of the prairie region is principally a chocolate colored clay loam similar to that of the adjoining counties, and produces fair crops of corn, wheat, oats and grass. On the timbered uplands the soil is somewhat variable. When the surface is broken the soil is thin, but on the more level portions, where the growth is composed in part of black walnut, sugar tree, hackberry etc., the soil is very productive and yields large crops of all the cereals grown in this latitude.

The prevailing system of agriculture practiced here may properly be termed mixed husbandry. Specialties find little favor with the farmers. The custom is to cultivate the various kinds of grain and grasses, and to raise, keep and fatten stock. Though organized into a county in 1843, and settled considerably as early as 1830, the development of the county has been slow. Until about 1860, the larger part of the county was not in the hands of actual settlers, and the farming community has not felt able to indulge in any scientific theories of cultivation. So far, the main object has been to gain a subsistence and make sufficient returns to pay for the land, and make some of the most urgently demanded improvements. In many sections of the county the appearance of thrift and advanced improvement is marked, and the farmers may be said to have passed the experimental point. The need of studying the principles of such branches of learning as relate to agriculture, however, has not yet been felt and it will probably be some years before the "scientific farmer" will be found here.

Wheat has been considered a reasonably sure and remunerative crop, and is cultivated to a large extent. Some failures in this crop, however, have admonished the farmers that this is not to be depended upon solely, and other grains are dividing the attention of the farming community. Oats and corn are prominent products, and the failure of any one crop is not counted a fatal calamity. Corn perhaps, rather than any other grain, is the leading product of the county, and large amounts of it are annually shipped. A large part of the county is still uncultivated, and a considerable area is practically waste land. There is a great demand for intelligent underdraining which has scarcely yet attracted sufficient attention. Much of the

land is low and wet, and yet seriously affected by continued dry weather. This subject is beginning to assume considerable importance, and with good tile accessible, a good deal of draining will be done.

Fruit culture may safely be said to be in its infancy in Cumberland County. The first settlers deprived for a time of its use, and realizing the great demand in every family for this important article of food, early set about planting fruit trees. There was little opportunity for judicious selection of varieties, and but little care was bestowed upon orchards when once well set. Up to within the last ten years the cultivation of fruit has but little improved over the primitive methods, and taking into consideration the value of good fruit as a substantial element of food, as a valuable agent in preserving and promoting health, and as a luxury which all classes may enjoy, this subject has not received the attention which its importance merits at the hands of the agriculturist. The orchard culture of apples has only of late years begun to command the serious attention of some of the leading farmers. The product is barely enough to supply home demands, but each year now marks an increase in this fruit. The southern part of the county seems to be more favorable to fruit-growing than other sections, and here more care is being used in its culture. Peaches rank next to apples, and are found quite extensively planted in this favored locality. The peach is a short-lived tree here, however, both the winters and hot summers proving destructive. Care is used to replant orchards, and of late years the trees have been planted closer together that the foliage may afford protection to the bark from the scorching heats of the summer sun. Pears succeed here but are not cultivated in orchards yet; the same is true of cherries. Grapes are a prominent feature of the fruit interests of the county, almost every farmer having vines enough for his own supply.

Stock-raising has always been an important part of husbandry in this county, but of late years is attracting a larger share of attention. Grass never fails save in exceptional years, the moist nature of the ground rendering the crop a sure and luxuriant growth. Until some ten or twelve years ago but little wheat was grown, and now it requires so large an expenditure of time and labor, that it is being seriously debated whether a larger proportion of stock-raising would not yield greater returns. Cattle and hogs are already an important source of income to the farmer, the latter animal showing rather the most care in breeding. A few Shorthorn Durhams and Jerseys are found in the county for domestic purposes only, but there



James Truby
Maklow Votaw

is considerable talk by several of stocking up with registered cattle for breeding purposes. In hogs the Berkshire and Jersey Reds seem to be the favorite varieties. Sheep, though not so generally kept by farmers, are still found in considerable numbers, in the aggregate. There are no large flocks, but most farmers keep a few head, sometimes reaching a hundred or more. Dogs prove a great hindrance to this class of stock. On the subject of horses there is considerable interest manifested. Oxen have been superseded here for some years, but the average farm horse has not been greatly improved over the original stock. The taste of the farmers inclines to the "all-purpose" class of horses, and the principal improvement in breeding is toward the heavier class of animals. One or two horse fanciers pay considerable attention to speed horses and roadsters, but the farmers are rather inclined to the Norman and Clydesdale horses.

Mules are bred and used to some extent, and the practice is becoming more general. These animals command a readier sale, and at higher prices than horses, which qualification added to their hardier constitution and easy cost of maintenance makes them more profitable than horses.

FAIR ASSOCIATION.

The first attempt for a Fair Association was made in 1858. On the second of January in that year the Cumberland County Agricultural Society was formed with, Michael Ruffner, as President; C. W. Pickering, C. C. Jones and Daniel B. Green, as Vice Presidents; James M. Ward, as Treasurer; A. G. Caldwell, Recording Secretary; and James LaDow, Corresponding Secretary. This Association held two Fairs in the month of October 1858 and 1859 at Greenup. The ground selected was an elevated spot in the north part of the village, which was partially surrounded by a brush fence. No regular premiums were offered, but cups and special prizes were offered and competed for in a spirited manner. The people took an active part in making these exhibitions successful, and in the event were instrumental in awakening a widespread interest in the improvement of agricultural subjects. In 1860, the exhibitions were removed to the county-seat, then called Prairie City, and were held on a ten-acre tract west of town until the fall of 1865. The association had adopted a plan too liberal for the financial success of the enterprise, and at that time the association, finding itself unsuccessful, disbanded and gave place to a new organization. Under the new regime the site of the exhibitions was transferred to a plat of ten acres north of the village. This organization, though adopting stricter rules of

membership, proved a failure so far as finances were concerned. Ten acres were bargained for and Fairs held continuously from 1866 until about 1874, when the mortgage held on the land was foreclosed. Another reorganization followed, and the land redeemed, but the association held it but a short time when this property was sold and forty acres purchased about one-half a mile southeast of the county seat. Here Fairs were regularly maintained until 1880, when another reorganization was effected. The Fairs had degenerated somewhat and were not financially successful. At this juncture certain of the wealthy stockmen and farmers conceived the design of forming a stock company. This was done under the name of the Cumberland County District Agricultural Society. The former association's grounds were purchased and ten more acres added; large improvements were added, such as box stalls, a large covered amphitheater, new fencing outside and safety railing on each side of the track, the additional land cleaned of underbrush, etc., etc. The organization held its first exhibition in October, 1883, with the following officers: C. G. Jones, President; L. L. Logan, Vice President; William L. Bruster, Secretary; W. S. Everhart, Treasurer; A. A. Neal, W. H. Caty, S. M. Pennington, C. G. Jones, and Veley Perry, Directors. The stockholders are: L. N. Brewer, A. R. Huston, W. L. Bruster, C. G. Jones, W. H. Caty, J. A. McCandlish, R. D. Ashwill, W. C. Prather, Charles Hanker, L. L. Logan, L. B. Ross, Guy M. Lemen, Leon Sumerlin, Silas White, F. J. Heid, S. C. Miller, A. A. Neal, S. B. Pennington, F. M. Pennington, Veley Perry, Wesley Perry, George Starger, Harlow Park, S. C. Holapple, T. P. Prather, V. E. Clark, W. S. Everhart.

EARLY SETTLERS—THEIR EXPERIENCES AND INDUSTRIES.

The early immigration into Illinois was principally from Kentucky, and across its territory from the States farther to the south and east. About 1812 the inflow of population, which had been gaining force and numbers from the beginning of the century, was rapidly spreading over Southern Illinois along the main water courses. But the hostilities which broke out in that year and continued during the succeeding three years, gave a sudden check to, and subsequently diverted the course of, this tide of immigration. The "Wabash country" was famed far and near, and many adventurous pioneers came into what is now Crawford County as early as 1811, and even during the Indian hostilities, these pioneers received accessions. After coming to this land the danger of attack seemed so imminent that a considerable number were forced to remain cooped up in a palisade fort at

Palestine until the cessation of the Indian troubles in 1814-15. In the meantime the more western portions of the State were considered safer, from the denser character of its settlements and its remoteness from the Indiana country where Indian hostilities seemed more vigorously carried on. The consequence was that this region of the State was abandoned by settlers and suffered a considerable delay in its development. When this cause was no longer operative, the large navigable streams attracted the earlier settlements, and it was nearly 1830 before the region now embraced in Cumberland County received its first settlement.

It will be observed, from a foregoing part of this work, that the Indian title to the larger part of the State was extinguished as early as 1816. The savages did not at once abandon the territory ceded, but under a provision of these treaties lived and hunted here for years, while numerous reservations in favor of individuals and families made these relics of a peculiar race, like dying embers of a great fire, a familiar sight for years to many of the present generation. Until about 1825, the natives were in full possession of the territory of Cumberland County, though their numbers gradually grew less, until the Black Hawk war, in 1832, took them all away. The Kickapoo tribes furnished the larger part of those who found a home in this region. These received annuities at Vincennes, and had villages on the old Perry place and further up the Embarrass River. This tribe, in 1763, occupied the country southwest of the southern extremity of Lake Michigan, but on the removal of the Illini followed southward, making their villages on the Mackinaw and later on the Sangamon River. The settlers of Southern Illinois found them all along the Embarrass. They were more civilized, industrious, energetic and cleanly than the neighboring tribes, and it was also true that they were more implacable in their opposition to the whites. They were prominent among the tribes that for a century carried on the exterminating war against the friendly Illinois confederation. They were prominent in all the Indian struggles against Generals Harmer, St. Clair and Wayne; and maintained their hostility to the whites and friendly tribes to the last. During the years 1810 and 1811, in conjunction with the Chippewas, Pottawatomies and Ottawas, they committed so many thefts and murders on the frontier settlements, that Governor Edwards was compelled to employ force to suppress them. When removed from Illinois they still retained their old animosities against the Americans and went to Texas, then a province of Mexico, to get beyond the jurisdiction of the United States. They claimed relationship with the Pottawatomies, and perhaps the Sacs and Foxes, and Shawnees.

The white settlement of Cumberland County came close upon the retreat of the savages. Indeed, the squatter and hunter who constitute the advance line of the permanent settlement was here before, and from 1820 to 1830 this region was a common hunting ground for both the white and red man. It is difficult at this time to ascertain who first made his permanent settlement here. It is probable, however, that John Tully was the original pioneer in the territory now embraced within the limits of Cumberland County. He was a native of East Tennessee, and came early to Marion County, Ill. From this section he moved in 1828 to the site of Johnstown, in Cottonwood Township, for the purpose of establishing a still and grist-mill. The two enterprises were naturally and frequently associated at that time, and the settlements which had been formed further north gave abundant promise of a good patronage. He first built a still-house in the edge of the timber, and in 1829 built a small log water-mill, and afterwards another cabin for a residence. Early in this year, — Hunt, with his two sons-in-law, Henry Lance and Purcell, settled in the vicinity of Tully. This family came from Indiana, but were originally from Tennessee. A little later, in 1829, the families of Levi and David Beals were added to the settlement on Muddy Point, and in 1830, the family of Joseph Berry, from Maury County, Tenn. In the fall of 1829, a settlement was formed on the Embarrass near Sconce' Bend. James Gill, a native of Kentucky, and one of the occupants of old Fort La Motte, at Palestine, in Crawford County, came here. After the pacification of the Indians at the close of the war in 1812, he settled on the sand prairie, and married there. Soon afterward, with his family and household effects, he came on horseback to the site of the old homestead which he now occupies, and has lived there ever since. This was in December, 1829, and without other assistance than his horses and wife, he erected a pole cabin in which he passed the winter, near the Ryan Ford. He subsequently moved to the site of his present dwelling. In the same fall, A. Y. Dobbs, a native of Alabama, came to the vicinity of Sconce' Bend. In the following year came to this settlement Alexander Baker, three families of the Ashbys, all Kentuckians by birth; — Piner, who stayed but a short time before he left the region, and Thomas Sconce, who came from Kentucky in 1830. There was at this time a strong settlement on the upper part of the Embarrass, and not a cabin along the route of the projected National road. In 1830, a strong settlement was begun on Bear Creek, most of the families forming it coming from Indiana, but originally coming from the border States of the South.

Of these were John Inghram, originally from Tennessee; John Fulfer, from the same State; George Lake and several other families, originally from Kentucky *via* Indiana.

In 1832, the work began on the National road through this county, and attracted settlements along its line. The road had been surveyed before this, but no work was performed on it here until about this time. Wm. C. Greenup had been connected with the engineer corps that laid out the road, and subsequently, in company with Joseph Barbour, took a contract to construct the bridge at or near the village which bears his name. Ira B. Rose, then a resident of Martinsville, in Clark County, found employment with him, and seeking to enter into a speculation at the same time, secured forty acres just west of the present village and built his cabin, subsequently platting a town. Barbour came from Louisville, and brought a stock of goods, but never was considered a permanent resident. Greenup had his residence in Vandalia, and the settlement at "Rose-dale," while of some size, was chiefly made up of temporary sojourners, workers on the road. But among these were a few whose names are still familiar sounds in the county. Of these were the families of Lathrop, Ewart, Hazlewood and Vandike. About 1833, George Henson and David Henson, with Jack Houtchins, cut out the National road through this county, and settled at Woodbury. As early as 1831, George Woodbury had built his cabin here, but he made no improvements and did not own the land, though he gave his name to the village platted here. Thomas B. Ross, a native of Kentucky, came to this locality also about 1833, but two years later moved to the more thriving village of Greenup, but soon afterward returned. Levi Beal came down from Muddy Point in this year and kept a tavern. West of Woodbury was quite a strong settlement. Chipman Webster came in 1832, and settled on the National road about a mile and a quarter west of Woodbury, where he kept tavern, and about one and three-quarters miles further west was Abram Marble. John and William Owens, natives of Kentucky, were in this region as early as 1830, and James Mullen, a native of Ohio, in 1832; in 1834, the family of James Green, a native of Richmond, Va., about a mile west of Woodbury. D. B. Green was a lad of some five years when his father came first to the county in 1832. The family was then in Ohio, and his father brought some fine horses and a jack from Maysville, Ky., to Charleston, to sell. Young Green rode the jack while his father rode one and led three more. Selling these animals in this vicinity of the State, Mr. Green selected land in this county, and entered it, moving his family two years later. D. T.

Wisner came here in 1833 or 1834, to work on the National road. He was but a boy, and apprenticed to John Bruster, a tanner, of Shelbyville, Ill. The trade does not seem to have pleased him, and he sought the public work for employment. He remained here and was for a long time closely identified with this county. Samuel Kingery and son were early settlers of Cumberland. They came in 1834, from Ohio, and made their home in this vicinity. Henson Bright was an early settler on the Embarrass River, between the settlement at Sconce' Bend and Greenup. He was a native of Kentucky, and one of the families in the fort at Palestine; he came to Cumberland County about 1830. Henry Nees, a native of Tennessee, was another of the occupants of the fort, and came here about the same time, settling near the Ford which still bears his name. Fewel Hampton was among the settlers of 1830, and was noted as a great "fiddler." It is said that he would carry his violin about with him as most of the pioneers did their guns, and it was no unusual thing to find him playing on his favorite instrument when he ought to have been hoeing his corn. Aaron Mahaffey was another eccentric settler of 1830. He was noted as a great hunter, and supported himself entirely by his rifle. Among those who came in to reinforce these various settlements, from 1835 to 1845, were Daniel Decius, from Ohio, in 1835 or 1836; Dr. Samuel Quinn, about 1838, from Ohio; Dr. James Ewart, from the same State, about 1838; Silas Huffcut, a local Methodist preacher, from New York, in 1840; Wade, about 1842; Edward Talbott, from Ohio, in 1844; James Ward, from Ohio, about 1840; Charles and James McKnight, about 1843; Isaac Sayers; Shiplors, two families; House, Dow, Drummond, Petersons, Jacob Green, Armours, Beni White, Watson, etc.

In 1843, when the county of Cumberland was formed, there were about 2,000 inhabitants, but from this time to 1850, immigration almost ceased, and emigration was sufficient to keep the growth of the population at about a standstill. In 1845, the cholera proved fatal to many here, and in 1848 and 1849, a considerable number joined the current setting toward California. About 1850, however, the land warrants issued to the soldiers of the Mexican war began to bring about a change. These warrants got into the hands of persons about to seek new homes, and from 1850 to 1853 almost every acre of public land was entered, and largely by actual settlers. The early settlements were all made in some point of timber, at Muddy Point, Sconce' Bend, Nees' Ford, Greenup, Woodbury and Bear Creek, thus encircling the central part of the county, which for years was almost a marsh, water standing all over the prairie

portion up to a horse's belly until August. Daniel Kingery lost faith in the country and returned East, but after a year or two came back to this county. In his published reminiscences he says Greenup was a hamlet then of a half dozen cabins; from that point to Towertown there was but one house, and from thence to Wisner's the families of Webster, Saracool, and John Gardner were the only residents. Between where he now lives and Dutchtown, or Teutopolis, there was but one cabin, and the latter village consisted only of a double log house, which was used as store and dwelling by Jno. Trackfort. From the residence of Wisner to Newton, in Jasper County, there was but one cabin, and that was occupied by Albert Caldwell. A traveler from Ohio, on his way to the West to purchase land, came along the National road and leaves an account of his impressions of the lower part of the county, written in a diary. On the 16th of November, 1838, he reached Marshall, in Clark County, "and from thence rode thirty miles into the prairie to Greenup, making thirty-three miles of poor country and thinly settled. On Saturday, left Greenup; the weather cold and prairie large. Noticed several large hewed log houses; look like our double barns. They were mostly deserted and vacant, the people appearing to be all in the streets standing about a fire that had been kindled in the streets. They seemed in fine spirits, or fine spirits in them; the latter is supposed to be the case." The other villages do not seem to have attracted his attention.

The earlier sites chosen for the frontier cabin were along the high points of timber that skirted the streams. The prairie at that time was covered with joint grass, which at times reached the enormous height of ten or twelve feet. There was little natural drainage, and the rain fall lay upon the ground, after saturating the soil, until the whole prairie area was one great swale. Accustomed to a timbered and rolling country, the first settlers could not believe that the open land could ever be tilled; and it was practically impossible for the pioneers, few in number and limited in resources, to cultivate it. The site chosen for a farm, therefore, was in the timber. The cabin was a simple log pen with a door, a window, and a puncheon floor. At first glass was not to be had, and greased paper, which was proof against the rain, and at the same time admitted a faint light, was used as a substitute. It was no unusual thing for cabins to be erected without a nail, wooden pegs supplying their place, and most of these first structures were erected with but a limited supply. The work on the farm was carried on by the men and boys under similar disadvantages. A space cleared of its timber

was ploughed with the rude implement of the time and planted to corn. What the crows, black-birds and squirrels left was ample for the needs of the family. There was no accessible market for the produce, and few farmers but had plenty of "hog and hominy." There were very few large farms. The range of wild grass, the moss and roots were so abundant in the woods that hogs, cattle and horses required but little other food, and that was in general corn alone. It is probable that a single corn-field of five acres constituted the majority of the early farms. Wheat was not sown for some years, as there were no mills to grind it if a crop had been secured. Mills were a prime necessity of the early days, but even when secured, the demands of the farm or the difficulties of early traveling prevented the settler from "going to mill." Resort was then had, so long as the corn was soft, to the "grater" made of perforated tin, or sheet iron. Upon the rough side of this crude instrument the corn was reduced to a condition which made it adapted to the use of the pioneer housewife. Later, when the corn became hard, it had to be reduced in a mortar or handmill. Almost every family had its "hominy block." This was formed from a large block or stump. A large hole, "kettle shaped," was made in it by burning and scraping. Over this, suspended to a huge "sweep," often by a wild grape vine, was a heavy stick of wood, the lower end of which was provided with an iron wedge. The "sweep" was converted into a spring-pole by fastening the lower end by stakes driven into the ground. By such machinery hundreds of bushels of corn were reduced to hominy and a coarse meal, which furnished the corn-pone. An improvement upon this was the handmill, which some of the well-to-do farmers sometimes possessed. This consisted of one stone running upon another in a frame, the upper one being provided with an "eye" and a handle, and with this the boys were accustomed to grind the family's supply of meal.

It was not long before power-mills were built. The streams afforded good sites and power for water-mills, for a part of the year, but the lack of good mechanics often forced the pioneers to depend upon the horse-mill. This consisted of a small run of stone, manufactured by the miller out of "nigger-heads." The power was conveyed to this by a large cog-wheel of ten or fifteen feet diameter, placed upon a perpendicular axle, which was caused to revolve by levers placed in it at right angles near the ground, to which horses were attached. The earliest mills in the county were erected at Johnstown. Here in 1829, John Tully had a little water-mill, but as the river did not always afford power to run it, he erected a horse-mill,

and in low stages of water he was accustomed to transfer the home-made buhrs from the mill to the horse-power. Another horse-mill was early built at Woodbury, by Levi Beals, and in 1832 a good mill was established at Greenup. These mills drew patronage from miles around, and were generally run to their fullest capacity. The abundance of corn, and the small demand for it gave rise to another industry, which was of doubtful advantage to the community. Distilleries were generally built as a part of the miller's establishment, or near at hand. Holly had one which was patronized fully as much as the mill, and was probably more influential in making the place one of importance. H. B. Russell operated the still in later years, using a steam still. The product was sold to farmers in exchange for corn, and to the stores and groceries in the neighborhood where it was often the principal commodity for sale. Whisky was a regular beverage, and very few of the pioneers were without it. At the "still" whisky was kept in a large vessel, and a cup near by, and every one was welcome to so much as he cared to drink. After tansy came up in the spring, this was added, and "tansy bitters" was then kept for the public entertainment.

Some reminiscences, by Daniel Kingery, and published in a recent issue of the *Democrat*, give an interesting account of the resources of the southwestern part of the county at an early date:

"His place of marketing and trading was at Woodbury and Dutchtown, generally at Woodbury. Wisner kept a stock of goods such as was needed by the people at that time, and in addition to this he kept a supply of "fire water," and it was here they used to congregate and indulge their appetites and practice their pugilistic skill. At those times as well as now there were some who "went considerable," and even prided themselves upon their muscular powers. He says he has seen as much as ten gallons of whisky drank here in one day. Of course that much whisky in men would naturally produce considerable fight. For milling he depended on the horse-mill at Towertown, owned and operated by a Mr. Beals. For meat he depended to a great extent upon the woods. There was plenty of deer here then. But Uncle Daniel says he had never been trained to the chase and was not much of a Nimrod. But he had brought with him an excellent gun with the intention, of course, of shooting deer, for amusement, if nothing else. He relates his first experience in deer hunting which was taken with his brother Stephen, who was an experienced hunter. Early in the morning they were in the woods. Just north of what is now known as the 'Good' farm they separated, and in a short time up jumped a deer and he

thought he had a dead shot sure, and fired, and away went the deer. His shot brought his brother to him. After carefully examining the ground they found some blood which was evidence he had hit the deer—so they took the track expecting every moment to come upon the dead deer. Around and around they followed the deer track (there was snow on the ground), supposing the deer was 'gut' shot. This they kept up until evening when the deer passed upon the prairie close home. He then called his dog which run it up near to Gardner's, who put on a fresh dog and caught it. After putting in a whole day of continued travel, he came up to find another reaping the reward of his hard day's chase. It was found that instead of a gut wound he had only cut the deer a little on the inner side of one hind leg. His next and last experience in deer hunting he took sometime after this. The next time he concluded he would ride. Starting out one morning he had gone but a short distance when a large buck presented a broadside view; this time certain of his game he up and fired and away went the buck. He rode back home, laid his gun up, and he says that settled his deer hunting."

Game of all kinds was abundant, and most of the men were good marksmen. Fur-bearing animals were the most remunerative, as their skins found a ready sale at their cabin doors. A branch of the American Fur Company was established at St. Louis, and its agents found their way throughout this country. One gentleman relates that he caught 184 coons one season, and disposed of them all at a good price, some of them as high as seventy-five cents. Wolves were found here in great numbers, and were hunted as a means of protection from their depredations. Three kinds infested the country, the timber wolf, a large, fierce animal; the gray wolf, a large but not so powerful as the former, and the coyote, or prairie wolf. None of these animals were bold enough to attack persons, but small pigs, calves and sheep fell an easy prey to them. Their howling at night was calculated to unnerve those who were fresh in the country, or to those who knew something of the fiercer timber wolf of Kentucky and Ohio. A bounty subsequently offered by the State and county stimulated the hunters, and these animals were early driven from this region.

The work of the women was of that arduous kind found everywhere on the frontier or in a new settlement. The hatchel and brake, the spinning wheel and loom were in almost every cabin. A few sheep were maintained in spite of the depredations of wolves and dogs, and the wool once shorn from the animal was turned over to the housewife to be converted into clothing, for men and women.

Housekeeping was crowded into the smallest possible space, to give room to the more exacting duties of preparing cloth and clothing. The principal amusements of the women were the outgrowth of these latter duties. Wool picking, spinning parties and quiltings were the harmless dissipations of the women, and besides these there were the husking bees, loggings and an occasional camp meeting for diversion.

The dress of the people of Cumberland was of the most primitive kind. Coon-skins furnished caps for the men, while buckskin furnished durable if not so pleasant pants for the men. This, with the linsey-woolsey blouse completed the usual attire of the men. Linsey-woolsey was the material with which the women clothed themselves, and was their only wear, save, perhaps, a calico dress for special occasions. But this was not considered a great privation, where all fared alike, and with wholesome food the work of pioneer times could be and was accomplished with less repining than are the duties of more favored times. A very sore trial, and one keenly felt, was the regular attack of the ague or miasmatic fevers which haunted this country until recent years. This infliction visited the whole country impartially, and some entire communities were prostrated at the same time. Mr. Vandike relates that at Greenup he was the only well person in the village, and as he then had no family of his own to care for, he was pressed into the service of the beleaguered town, and found it difficult to answer the demands made upon him for assistance. Physicians were few, and located at distant points, but if this had not been the case, the settlers did not have the means to employ them for every recurrence of this familiar malady. Each family had a store of receipts and a stock of herbs, and these were made into decoctions which generally weakened the force of the recurring "shakes."

Of the social status, an exhaustive series of articles, contributed by an "Old Settler" to one of the papers of the county, may complete this branch of the subject. He writes as follows:

"It is a notable fact that in the early settlement of Cumberland County, her pioneer settlers, generally speaking, were rude and eccentric in manners, and their education in the important art of reading and writing sadly neglected. The educational status of the people in those palmy days of perilous adventures, was the result of unavoidable and adverse circumstances, over which the most ambitious aspirant for scholastic honors had no control, however ardent the disposition in that direction. This want of 'book larnin',' as the natives were pleased to term it, was not exclusively confined to

the borders of Cumberland County, but the unenviable legacy had been distributed with a lavish and prodigal hand throughout the wide expanse of the whole State. In reverting to this marked feature of the 'old settlers' there is nothing censurable to that noble class, as a different conclusion could not have been reasonably expected with a fair and just knowledge of their progenitors. They were the sons and daughters of those illustrious characters, who, while yet basking in the sunlight of joyous manhood and womanhood beyond the eastern slopes of the Alleghanies, had listened with wonder and astonishment to the marvelous stories of the pilgrim travelers, who pictured in 'rhapsody of words' the rich and the beautiful domain that stretched out in its native and original grandeur toward the setting sun. They were the descendants of those who, casting aside the endearments of their native heath, first erected the home of civilization upon the productive soil of Ohio and Kentucky. Here they were compelled to assist their parents in the toilsome task of clearing their newly-made settlement. Schools and institutions of learning which now dot the area of those once western wilds, were then slumbering in embryo. Without the advantages and facilities of acquiring an ordinary education, and with energies, incessantly engaged in the important object of averting dangers that environed them, and procuring raiment and subsistence for their families, it could not be supposed that they could progress very rapidly in educational matters. Under such disadvantages they arrived at the age of maturity, and having inherited the adventurous spirits of their progenitors began to glance significantly towards the vast prairies of the West. Collecting the scanty and available means at their disposal they journeyed hither, where they settled down and invested in Uncle Sam's 'celebrated s'il.' With the advantage of long experience, and the additional advantage of natural cleared farms, they soon began to prosper and rapidly accumulated in worldly possessions.

"In the midst of their thriftiness and prosperity they began to realize the importance of cultivating and developing the unpolished minds of their children, and placing them under the tutelage of some learned prodigy, that had performed the remarkable feat of 'going through' Webster's Elementary Spelling Book, and accomplished the then looked upon 'double-summersault-act' of advancing mathematically as far as 'vulgar fractional figures.' By consultation and discussion among each other, an interest was awakened in each neighborhood, and soon schoolhouses, though rude and unprepossessing in appearance, began to loom up

all over the country. The schoolmaster with his direful rod and terrible facial contour was not long in forthcoming. He soon introduced himself in the various communities or neighborhoods to the delight of parents and dismay of unruly urchins. He was viewed as a natural prodigy and sat upon his throne like a petty monarch of a limited principality. He was consulted upon matters that happened to arise either public or private, and his decision was then regarded with the same deference as those of the Supreme Court are now.

“Morally speaking, we would not offer the ‘old settler’ as an example and model, worthy of imitation if we cherished the least inclination to advance and improve the moral standard of the youth of the country. They were extremely pertinacious in manifesting marked disrespect for the author of the first commandment, and persistently adhered to the execrable fashion in those days of introducing ‘d—n’ in peaceful conversation. This despicable custom and habit arose not from any intended sacrilege, but was the result of want of acquaintance with the English descriptive adjectives. If profanity was a marked feature in the social and friendly *tete-a-tete* of the ‘original inhabitants,’ how uninviting to the sensitive and fastidious ear of morality must have been the immediate vicinity of warm and angry political discussions, over which the conscience exercises no restraint. Very frequently have we witnessed a meeting of two friends in days gone by, and listened to their exchange of words; and noted the observation ‘that d—dest,’ sometimes accompanied with its superlative addition, was a substitute for all and every adjective known to the English idiom. ‘He can beat any man swearing I ever heard,’ was the expression used in giving a graphic description of some celebrity of more than ordinary capacity and prominence. He was always adjudged by the hearer to be a ‘devil of a fellow.’

“Horse-racing, shooting-matches and amusements of similar character were indulged in to a considerable extent. These horse-races, in which the most speedy material was brought into requisition, approximated to what we now-a-days term a contest between ‘scrubs.’ These races were usually largely attended and seldom failed to convoke all the ‘old settlers.’ Those were the periodical *fetes* and gala days that amused the ‘old settlers’ and gave unlimited license and excuse for them to run riot and confusion. The termination or close of these entertainments, generally concluded with a series of engagements for pugilistic honors, in which the contestants figured and were *disfigured*. Morally speaking, the ‘old

settlers' had a failing that has been handed down unimpaired to the present generation. He couldn't forego the ecstatic pleasure to be derived from a stiff glass of old bourbon. It was his first love, and how consoling it must be to look back through a dark vista of years with the proud consciousness that he never 'went back' on his first love. Almost every individual had an acquired fondness for whisky, and was inconsolable when some unforeseen accident separated him from his liquid idol, and he was prevented from his regular devotions at the shrine of Bacchus.

"The most commendable feature that clusters around the memories of early days was the manifest sociability of the people. Although they possessed some inherent attributes that were obnoxious to refined ideas and culture, yet in their social intercourse with each other they displayed those exemplary traits of character which can only emanate from a warm and generous heart. If they deviated from the strict rules of morality and indulged themselves in habits and excesses that have been discarded by progressive civilization as enervating and ruinous, they still retained those estimable virtues which are inseparably allied with a generous and hospitable people. Unpretentious and unostentatious, they tendered whatever hospitality their houses afforded, and were assiduous in their efforts to provide for the comfort of those who, by chance, were cast within the purview of their domestic circles. There was not any affectation in their liberal entertainment of their visitors and guests, and selfishness and motives of interest cannot be rightfully adjudged as the prompting and incentive by which they were influenced in the bestowal of their benignity upon the hungry and shelterless. History may ascribe to the 'old settlers' of days gone by, ignorance, immorality, eccentricity and rudeness of manners, but it never can, without a manifest spirit of injustice, but speak in praise and commendation of their excellence as a hospitable people. No footsore traveler, seeking rest and shelter from his wearisome ploddings, was ever refused admittance to their homes. They manifested no distinction or partiality in opening their doors to the weary and hungry. The penniless wanderer, covered with the dust of his journey and clothed in the garments of destitution and poverty, was as kindly welcomed to their thresholds, as the arrogant nabob, drawn by his richly caparisoned steeds, and integumented in the gaudy trappings of wealth. It was sufficient for them to know that their hospitality was solicited, and the 'sissing hog' and 'steaming hominy' bespoke the stranger's welcome.

"In the way of repast, for the entertainment of their guest, the 'old settlers' supplied their festal board with porkling, hominy,

‘sassafrack tay,’ and ‘gobs’ of hoe-cake, which in the absence of modern luxuries were disposed of with remarkable relish. The adornments and convenience of the table were notable only by their absence. Ordinary table furniture was had only in a limited supply, but the fare was none the less enjoyed, nor the welcome less real.”

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

Cumberland County had its origin in the enterprise of the leading men of Greenup, rather than in the necessities of the situation, or in the general voice of the people. The National road, then the great thoroughfare of the West, seemed to open up to the ambitious village unlimited possibilities of growth. It was a thriving village in 1840, with mills patronized from far and near, and business attractions superior to any place within thirty miles about it. It was natural that the leading spirits of such a place should aspire to the additional prestige which the location of a county-seat located here would give it. E. H. Starkweather was then in the legislature, and was allied with the interests of this section of the original Coles County. It was easy therefore to enlist him in the project of the formation of a new county, and the preceding act was the result. To the most of the people the act came unsought, and it may be doubted whether, if submitted to a general vote in the light of the next year’s experience, the county would have been so early formed. However, there was no hesitancy on the part of the people in carrying out the act of formation. The preliminary election was held, and on the 8th of May, 1843, the Commissioners met at Greenup to complete the organization and put the new machinery of government in motion. It may be interesting to note the record of these early proceedings, and the first year’s proceedings are here substantially copied: “Commissioners’ Court, Special Term, May 8, 1843.—At the organization of the County Commissioners’ Court of Cumberland County and State of Illinois, begun and held in Greenup, in said county, commencing on Monday, the 8th day of May, 1843; whereupon James Gill, Charles G. Chowning and David T. Wisner, Esquires, appeared, presented their certificates of election, and were severally sworn into office as the law directs; and also J. F. Holley, Clerk of said Court, came and presented his certificate of election, and also his official bond, which said bond is approved by the court, and ordered to be spread upon the records of the court, which said bond is in the following words and figures, to-wit, etc.

“The said J. F. Holley also took and subscribed to the following oath, to wit: etc.

“Ordered,—That the county be laid off into road districts, with the following metes and bounds, to wit: [The description would prove too tedious and is omitted, but the Supervisors appointed are as follows: No. 1, Thoda Garrett; No. 2, M. B. Ross; No. 3, J. N. Hays; No. 4, Wm. Jones; No. 5, Wm. House; No. 6, Enos Stewart; No. 7, Andrew S. Freeman; No. 8, Sam'l Montgomery; No. 9, Thos. C. Tutewiler; No. 10, Milton Crainer; No. 11, Jno. Carpenter, No. 12, Abert B. Stull.]

“Ordered,—That the Supervisor in each district call upon each able-bodied male person between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years, to perform three days' labor on all roads in their respective districts.

“Ordered,—That the county be laid off into election and justice's precincts, with the following metes and bounds, to-wit: [These are omitted in this place.]

“May 9, 1843,—On petition of a number of citizens, Nathan S. Aleshire and Thomas Brewer were appointed Constables. Overseers of the Poor were appointed for the different precincts as follows: Woodbury, Levi Beals; Clear Creek, H. Williams; Cottonwood, Hyde Perrin; Greenup, A. S. Freeman; Hurricane, Ambrose Carner; Long Point, Thos. C. Tutewiler. Lewis H. Goodwin was appointed Assessor for the county, and Thos. Sconce, Collector, with a fee of 4 per cent. for his services.”

“Trustees of School Lands were appointed as follows: For Township 9 north, Range 8 east, Levi Beals, Jno. Gardner and Ellis McKay; Township 9 north, Range 7 east, Jno. W. Jones, Stephen Kingery and Thoda Garrett; Township 10 north, Range 10 east, Albert Cutright, Hugh Reed and William Davis. Court adjourned *sine die*.

“June 5, 1843,—A petition was presented praying the court to grant the viewing and locating of a road from the National road, at the half-mile stake, of Sections 34 and 27, Township 10 north, Range 10 east, thence north on the half-section-line, one mile; thence west one-half mile to the line dividing Sections 21 and 22, Township and Range aforesaid; thence north until it intersects the road running east and west, north of Cutright's.

“Ordered,—That the Treasurer pay Wm. Price the sum of \$40, with interest from date, bearing at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, for money loaned to purchase books and stationery for the different county officers of Cumberland County, out of the first money that comes into his hands.

“Ordered,—That a tax be levied at the rate of 15 per centum.



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to every 100 dollars, for the year of our Lord 1843, for a revenue for county purposes. [Then follows the names of Grand and Petit Jurors, omitted here.] Adjourned *sine die*.

“Special term. July 4, 1843. Petition was presented for the viewing and locating a road beginning on county-line at half mile corner of Section 28, Township 11 north, Range 10 east, thence south through middle of Section 28 and 33, Township and Range as aforesaid to the township-line, when it intersects a county road running on said township-line.

“Another, for a road commencing on State road leading from Shelbyville to Palestine, Illinois, at the line dividing Sections 11 and 12, in Township 9 north, Range 9 east, thence south on or near said line to the county-line. Adjourned.

“July 5th. Time employed by the court in examining and approving bonds for donations for the county-seat of Cumberland County. Adjourned *sine die*.

“Special term, August 18th, 1843. Ordered,—that an election be held on the 23d day of September, A. D. 1843, at the different precincts of Cumberland County, Ill., for the purpose of voting for a county-seat for said county, at which said election a poll to be opened in each precinct for two points, viz; Seonce' Bend and Greenup. Holley was allowed \$6 for official services, and the court adjourned *sine die*.

“Regular term. September 4th, 1843. [Newly elected Commissioners and Clerk took oath. Favorable report was made on the two roads petitioned for at June meeting.] D. T. Wisner, J. P., reported fines against Johnson Bright for assault and battery,—\$3; against Jesse Beals for same offence,—\$3. Daniel Needham, J. P., reported fines against D. T. Wisner, for assault and battery,—\$3; against John D. Smith and Chipman Webster, each for the same offense,—\$3. The latter gave notice of appeal. Against John D. Gardner, for failing to comply with law regarding estrays,—\$10. Execution in hands of Constable. Payment of sundry election expenses were ordered, and a bounty of \$1 for the scalp of wolves over six months old, and the court adjourned.

“October 25, 1843. James Housley, Jr., John Dow, and Lemuel Peterson, appointed trustees of school lands in Township 10 north, Range 8 east. Silas Anderson, appointed Constable for Cottonwood precinct on petition. Appropriations were made of ninety-four cents for paper and inks and \$3 to Wisner for services. Adjourned.

“December, 1843. Ordered, that the Treasurer pay James Ewart for candles and labor done, \$2.12. Formed Wabash precinct,

appropriated \$13.43 to James Ewart for labor performed, and sundry election expenses, and adjourned."

Thus ends the record of the first year's experience as an independent county. The record is but an imperfect echo, however, of the agitations that absorbed the citizens of the new county. By the act which formed the county the settlement of the county-seat was left to the people for decision, and a contest was at once begun which has not ceased even now. In the course of settlement the northern part of the county had developed nearly as rapidly as the more favored region along the National road, and it was doubtless something of a disappointment to the Greenup people to find the location of the county-seat so ably contested by this section. A high point on the Embarrass River within the present limits of Cottonwood Township, known as Sconce' Bend, but platted as DeKalb for the purposes of this contest, was offered in competition with Greenup. The rival points were canvassed and the two sections brought out their supporters to the last voter, and in the issue proved very evenly balanced. On the 23d of September the vote was had, and out of 431 votes polled, Sconce' Bend received 219, a bare majority of *seven* votes. The vote shows the nature of the settlement at that time; the precincts of Hurricane and Clear creeks gave 72 and 23 votes respectively for Sconce' Bend; Long Point, 51 for Greenup and 4 for the Bend; Cottonwood, 1 for Greenup and 74 for the Bend; Woodbury, 46 for Greenup and 17 for the Bend, and Greenup 114 for its own location, and 29 for its adversary. Although DeKalb was thus successful in the contest before the people, the seat of justice was never located there. James Gill and Thomas Sconce gave bond for the donation at DeKalb, but it was subsequently found that the title was encumbered, and the friends of the rival village made all the capital possible out of this circumstance. However, logs were drawn and preparations made for the erection of county buildings at DeKalb, until October 15, 1844, when the Commissioners ordered the work suspended. The question was by no means so easily decided. The proprietors of DeKalb insisted upon the sufficiency of their bond and plead the previous official sanction, but the Commissioners still hesitated. The bond was subsequently submitted to Judge Harlan, who decided that the bond was legally sufficient, and in April, 1848, the Commissioners reluctantly decided to take a deed of the property, and the same was recorded. In the following June, the court decided to advertise for bids for the construction of the public buildings, and on the 20th of July the contract was let. There was still a good deal of doubt whether the county had a good title, and it was decided to

once more submit the whole matter to the people. The site of DeKalb was reconveyed to James Gill, and in February, 1849, an act was passed by the legislature authorizing another election and confirming the action of the Commissioners. At this election there were several contestants—Greenup, Pleasantville, Jerome, Buck's Knoll, and even "Bill Dad," at the mouth of Muddy, besides the site of forty acres offered by Nelson Berry. The result of the election was in favor of the latter place.

The act under which this election was held, provided that the fact of the election and its result should be "certified to by the Speaker of the House of Representatives at the next session of the legislature, describing said point so agreed upon by the inhabitants of said county, by the Clerk of the County Court of said county; which certificate shall be full evidence of the fact, and which certificate shall be laid before the said House of Representatives, and the point so selected shall be established and be and remain the permanent county-seat for Cumberland County, in such manner as may be provided for by a law to be passed by the legislature at their next session, and not otherwise." It is difficult to understand the object of this provision from the context of the act, and it was shrewdly suspected by the opponents of Greenup that it was framed in favor of the latter town. At all events it resulted in this way. The certificate of the facts was, it is said, to be sent to the member of the house representing this county, but from design or accident it did not reach him, and so Greenup enjoyed its ill-gotten gains until 1855, when the issue was joined between Prairie City and Greenup, which resulted in favor of the former by 608 to 518 votes. In all this protracted struggle, covering the period from 1843 to 1855, Greenup was forced to take the defensive attitude, and while continually defeated still enjoyed the advantages of success. The principal opposition to Greenup was its location on the east side of the Embarrass River, which, in those days of no bridges or very poor ones, was a great disadvantage to the larger portion of the county. This fact proved sufficient to defeat the hopes of the village. It had, however, the advantage of possession, and by the first act was constituted a sort of residuary legatee, a position which its friends seemed to know well how use to its advantage. It was believed that the scruples against the site of DeKalb were founded more in a desire to aid Greenup than to secure the county against loss, and the failure to forward the certificate of the election of 1849, was freely charged to the desire of certain officials thwart the will of the people. However that may be, it was 1857 before the official records were removed to Prairie City, and

then the clerk of the county used every means to resist their removal, save force, and for a time, even force was threatened. The names most prominent in this feature of the county history were those of Thomas Sconce, James Gill, Ewart, Decius, Smith, John and Nelson Berry, Lewis Harvey, A. K. Bosworth, Beals, Rush, Ross Brothers, Redfen, *et al.*

MINOR DIVISIONS.

The records of Cumberland County do not furnish any data by which to determine the division of this region when joined to Coles County. The act of 1843, mentions five voting places, and then doubtless indicates the five precincts which then existed. At any rate, among the first acts of the new Commissioners' Court was to establish precincts as follows: "Commencing at the southwest corner of the county, thence east on the county-line, to the line dividing Ranges numbers 8 and 9 east; thence north with said line to the northeast corner of Section 36, Township 10 north, Range 8 east; thence west on said section-line to the county-line; thence south on said county-line to the place of beginning: said precinct to be known under the name and style of *Woodbury*. The place of holding election to be in the town of Woodbury; Elias Needham, Charles Bohn and Chipman Webster are hereby appointed judges of election in said precinct.

"Commencing at the northwest corner of the county, thence with the county-line to the southwest corner of Section 30, Township 10 north, Range 7 east; thence with said section-line to the southeast corner of Section 27, Township 10 north, Range 8 east; thence north with said section-line to the county-line; thence west on the county-line to the place of beginning; said precinct to be known under the name and style of *Clear Creek*. The place of holding elections to be at the house of William Shores, in said precinct. William Shores, Seelye Hays, Sr., and Jourdan Brown are hereby appointed judges of election in said precinct.

"Commencing at the northwest corner of Section 26, Township 11 north, Range 8 east, thence south with said section-line to the southwest corner of Section 26, Township 10 north, Range 8 east; thence east with said section-line to the Embarrass River; thence north with said river to the county-line; thence west with said line to the place of beginning; said precinct to be known under the name and style of *Cottonwood*. The place of holding elections to be at the house of Richard W. Easton, in said precinct. William Ryan, Beni White and Thomas True are hereby appointed judges of election in said precinct.