

W. and Laura A. Since coming here, Mr. Stallings has been engaged in the wagon, wheelwright and carpenters' trade, although principally farming, and he has succeeded in placing himself in comfortable circumstances.

JOSEPH W. STROCKBINE, farmer, was born February 20, 1829, in Perry County, Ohio, is the son of Joseph and Frances Strockbine, who were natives of Virginia. His father died in 1846, aged sixty-four years. The subject of this sketch was brought up on their farm, living with his mother till her death, which occurred in 1849, aged sixty-one years. He then emigrated to Illinois and settled on this land. He entered 120 acres, now owns 100 acres improved. He was married March 23, 1851, to Harriet Nigh. She was born July 29, 1835, in Fairfield County, Ohio. They have six children, viz.: Mary F., wife of John Luke; Christian C., Emelia C., wife of Ellridge McMackin; Harriet A., wife of M. Rhue; Lewis F., Mattie E. Lewis F. has been a student at the Westfield College two years, and contemplates finishing his studies at this college. He is now in his eighteenth year. Peter Nigh, father of Mrs. Strockbine, died February 17, 1844. Her mother died October 30, 1874, aged eighty-seven years. The family are members of the United Brethren Church. This church is located on his farm, having been built in 1881. It cost \$1,200.

W. G. WALLING, farmer, was born April 9, 1815, in Ross County, Ohio, and is the son of James S. and Margaret Walling, he being a native of Virginia, and one of the earliest settlers of Ross County. The subject of this sketch assisted his father on their farm till his death, which occurred in 1837, in September of that year. He married Eliza A. Pennington, who was born July 29, 1820, in Pennsylvania. They had nine children, three living, four of whom died in infancy, viz.: William, died May 10, 1877, aged seventeen years; Uriah died October, 1878, aged twenty-two years. The surviving children are, James, David and Mary, wife of William Stanberry. His son James has been Township Clerk. He managed his father's farm two years. In 1840 Mr. Walling came to Union Township and entered 160 acres, then bought eighty acres. He afterward traded 160 acres, and bought 120 acres in Section 9, about 100 acres of which he has improved. He has just completed a very comfortable home which cost about \$400.

ISRAEL YANAWAY, farmer and live-stock, was born January 1, 1811, in Washington, Washington Co., Penn., and is the son of Henry and Regina Yanaway. His father carried on the trade of shoemaking, in Pennsylvania, and in Rushville, Fairfield Co., Ohio,

and was Postmaster at the latter place, where he died, aged sixty-three years. The subject of this sketch worked out by the month till the age of twenty-two, when he married Effie Sturgeon, March 20, 1833. She was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August, 1812. They have had nine children, four living, viz.: Mary E., wife of John Strockbine; Regina, wife of Lafayette Stultz; Jane, wife of Plumber Sidwell, and Samuel S. Three died in infancy; Henry died in 1867, aged twenty-three, from injury sustained by a horse falling on him; Lucinda, wife of Jacob Rhinebolt, died October 16, 1872, aged thirty-two years. In 1842, he came to Cumberland County, bought 160 acres of land where he now lives, and from time to time has bought other land, now owning about 1,000 acres, mostly under cultivation. When he first came here, the courts were held in Greenup, in a log schoolhouse. He opened the first drug store in the county, this being at Prairie City; continued the business about fifteen years. He then traded this store for land, and returned to his farm, where he has since remained. This farm is stocked with six horses, fifty head of cattle, he having had as high as ninety-seven head; also, about fifty hogs and seventy-five sheep, etc.

S. S. YANAWAY, farmer and live stock; born March 3, 1840, in Fairfield County, Ohio, is the son of Israel and Effie Yanaway. At the age of four years, his parents came to Cumberland County, and settled in Union Township; he was brought up on his father's farm. He was married April 14, 1863, to Mary E. Decker. Her parents emigrated to Cumberland County at an early day. They had seven children, five living, viz.: Israel W., Thomas R., Samuel B., William J., and Mary R. Harry A. and Charles W. died when two years old. After marriage, he settled on his present farm, at that time but forty acres. He has been adding to this as his means would allow, and now owns over 500 acres, mostly improved. He also had charge of his father's farm during his absence of about fifteen years in Prairie City, where he was engaged in the drug business. He attended to hiring and paying off hands, disposing of stock and produce, and had general supervision of the entire business. They are members of the United Brethren Church in Christ.

## WOODBURY TOWNSHIP.

BAZIL BROWN was born in Licking County, Ohio, on November 26, 1835. His father, B. Brown, was born in Pennsylvania, April 28, 1793, and moved to Kentucky, with his parents, and later, in 1812, to Ohio, and in 1848, to Illinois, settling in Cumberland County, where he engaged in farming. He died on May 20, 1854; his widow on March 9, 1878. They were both prominent members of the Baptist Church, he having been a minister of that denomination for several years. Basil received a good common school education, and taught school for ten years. He served as Justice of the Peace for sixteen years, and as Township Treasurer for six years. On October 6, 1859, he married Laura A., daughter of Levi and Mary Farmer, of Guilford County, N. C. She was born on February 22, 1843. They have had seven children born to them, viz.: Almira, Lafayette, Alva N., Sonora B., Otis L., Orrin L. and Joseph W. (twins). Mr. Brown is a member of the I. O. O. F., also of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a prosperous farmer and lumber dealer, and is highly esteemed in the community in which he resides.

MARTIN MOUDY, physician and surgeon, was born in Washington County, Md., on October 16, 1812. He remained in his native State until the age of twenty years, working on a farm and attending a common school. In 1833, he came to Greene County, Ohio, where he began the study of medicine. In 1836 and 1837, he attended the Fairfield Medical College, of New York, from which institution he graduated in 1838. Returning to Ohio, he began practicing medicine with Dr. Martin, of Xenia. In 1841, he came to Terre Haute, Ind., and followed his profession for three years. Removing then to Danville, Ill., he engaged for some time in milling and farming, then returned to Terre Haute, and resumed his old practice, which he continued for eleven years. He then removed to his present home, in Cumberland County, Ill., in 1870, where he is one of the prominent physicians of the county. In 1834, the Doctor married Margaret McClure, of Augusta County, Va. They have had ten children born to them, viz.: John (deceased), Joseph, Martin, Hiram S., Ellen J., Albert (deceased), George (deceased), Robert B., Daniel W., and Samuel H.

J. W. BOOTH was born in Orange County, Ind., in 1819. His father, Wade Booth, was born near Richmond, Va., and came to

Indiana as one of the first settlers, living first in Orange County, and then moving to Vigo County, at which place he lived for thirty-five years. From there he moved to Ogle County, Ill., where he died in 1856, his wife dying in Saint Mary's, Ind., in 1862. Our subject spent his early days on a farm, receiving only a common school education. At the age of sixteen, he was apprenticed to the carpenter and joiners' trade, and followed it until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in a detachment under McClellan, commanded by Major Barker, and afterwards became attached to the Twelfth Illinois Cavalry, in which he served his time, and was honorably discharged in August, 1864, at New Orleans, La. In 1857, he purchased an unimproved farm, six miles south of Vandalia, Ill., which, after improving, he disposed of, and engaged in the mercantile trade, at Auburn, Ill., for two years. During the past nine years, he has been engaged in the same business at Jewett, Ill., and is rated as one of the most successful and enterprising business men in this section. On October 14, 1844, he married Emma Heubest, a native of England. Seven children have been born to them, three of whom are living, viz.: Lyman W., Lavina, and Frances.

JOSEPH KING was born in Washington County, Ind., on October 19, 1823, and is the son of Jacob and Frances (Shelton) King, who were natives of Kentucky but came to Washington County, Ind., among the first settlers, where Mrs. King died. Soon after this event Mr. King moved to Morgan County, Ind., where he followed farming until his death. Our subject's grandfather was a soldier of the Revolution. In 1849 our subject came to Cumberland County, Ill., and located on a farm three miles from what is now called Toledo. In 1875 he engaged in the mercantile trade, at Toledo, which business he followed until 1880, since which time he has resided at Jewett. In 1846 he married Macy A., daughter of William and Tabitha (Edwards) Russell. She was born in Harrison County, Ind., on November 27, 1821. There were three children, now living, born to them, viz.: James T., Joseph S., and John W. For thirty-seven years Mr. King and wife have been members of the Christian Church. He has been a life-long Democrat in politics. Mr. King has a beautiful home, and is highly esteemed in the community in which he resides.

**SPRING POINT TOWNSHIP.**

**JOHN B. ADAMS** is a native of Germany, was born July 1, 1828, and was married, in his native land, in 1854, to Annie Cramer, who was born April 9, 1827. The year of their marriage the young couple came to America and located in Dane County, Wis.; in 1865 they came to Cumberland County, and here Mr. Adams purchased, at first, forty acres of land, which, by industry and good management, he has increased to 255 acres, the greater portion well improved. Mr. Adams has had born to him ten children—Maggie (deceased), Katie, John, Joseph, Peter, Vincennes, Mathias, Henry, Annie and Clement (the last named deceased). Mr. Adams and family are members of the Catholic Church, and in politics he is a Democrat.

**LEMAN FAUNCE**, farmer, was born in Wayne County, N. Y., July 30, 1822. He is the son of Noah M. and Lydia R. (Barton) Faunce. The former was born November 20, 1797, and spent his early life as a carpenter and millwright, and later as a farmer. He moved to Geauga County, Ohio, at an early day, and lived there some eight years. Disposing of his property there, he came to Cumberland County, Ill., in 1837, where he entered 300 acres of land, improving 160 acres of it. He also built the first mill in that part of the country, near Charleston, on the Amboy River. He was a strong believer in Mormonism, and a preacher of that denomination. He was with the Mormons at the time of their disbandment at Nauvoo, and then returned to Cumberland County. His wife, mother of our subject, was a native of Massachusetts, was born November 21, 1799, and died May 23, 1849. Our subject received a common education, and follows farming. About 1847 he married Julia D. Garrett, who was born September 11, 1829, and died November 24, 1874. To them were born six children, Noah M., Sarah E., Mary E. (deceased), Maria P., May C. and Maggie R. Mr. Faunce is a good farmer and highly respected. He has been a life-long Democrat, but liberal in his views. In 1880 he lost his eye-sight from illness. He—as was his father—is a strong advocate of the principles of Mormonism.

**LEWIS SCHOOLEY** was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, December 22, 1822. He is one of the seven children born to Henry and Rachel (Heston) Schooley. The former was a native of Virginia, but came to Ohio when a young man. He there engaged in farming

for a few years, and afterward moved to New Albany, at which place he died. The mother of our subject died when he was seven years of age. Our subject is a farmer by occupation, a calling which he followed in Ohio until 1838, at which time he moved to Martin County, Ind. On April 1, 1849, he came to Cumberland County Ill., and bought forty acres of land, on which he now resides, for which he paid \$1.25 per acre. He had the small sum of \$3 left after paying for his farm; this he paid out for provisions for his family. He then went to work for fifty cents per day. By hard labor and economy he has accumulated a fine farm consisting of 305 acres, with good buildings, and all well improved. Mr. Schooley has been twice married; the first wife was Elizabeth Walker, a native of Martin County, Ind., who died about 1847. His second wife was Jennette Watson, she also being a native of Martin County, Ind. To them were born Caleb, Rachel (deceased), Cynthiana, Sarah A. (deceased), John T., Emma, Mary E., Nora (deceased).



# PART III.

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## HISTORY OF JASPER COUNTY.

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BY J. H. BATTLE.

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### ORGANIZATION AND CONDITION.

#### ACT OF CREATION.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, one of the six counties organized in 1816, originally comprised the territory included between the Wabash and Kaskaskia rivers, and from the line of its present ~~southern~~ boundaries to the northern limit of the United States. In 1819, Clark County was formed, its limits extending along the whole line of the northern bounds of Crawford, curtailing its northern limit to its present line. Until 1821, the people of the vast territory thus described, transacted legal business at Palestine. In this year, Fayette County was formed, taking the territory west of the present boundary of Effingham, and in 1831, Effingham and Jasper counties were formed. There seems to have been no special effort put forth on the part of the residents of this section of Crawford County for an independent organization, but this followed naturally in the evolution of the Legislative plan. Palestine, then the county-seat of Crawford County, was the center of trade as well as of legal business, and the inconvenience of the distant location of the county-seat was not so seriously felt as when a community have a nearer trading point than the seat of justice. So far as the records of the parent county show, there was no agitation either pro or con in relation to a new county, though the act of the Legislature forming the county was undoubtedly received with satisfaction as furnishing the citizens greater opportunity of political distinction and a new impulse to the development of this section.

It was in the session of 1830-31, that the Legislature passed the following act, which was approved February 15, 1831:

“SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly:* That all that tract of country lying

within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the southeast corner of Section No. 22, of Township 5 north, in Range No. 14 west, of the second principal meridian, thence north with the sectional line to the northeast corner of Section No. 3, of Township No. 8 north, in Range No. 4 west; thence west with the line dividing Townships 8 and 9 north, to the northwest corner of Section No. 6, in Range No. 8 east; thence south with the line dividing Ranges Nos. 7 and 8 east, to the southwest corner of Section No. 19, in Township No. 5 north; thence east with the section line to the place of beginning, shall constitute a county hereafter to be organized on petition of a majority of the legal voters therein, which shall be called the county of Jasper; and the county-seat thereof, when selected and located, shall be called Newton.

“SEC. 2. (This relates to the boundaries and county-seat of Effingham County).

“SEC. 3. Nathan Moss, William Magill and Asahel Heath, are hereby appointed Commissioners to locate the seat of justice for the county of Jasper, and John Haley, James Galloway and John Hall, are hereby appointed Commissioners to locate the seat of justice for the county of Effingham. The said Commissioners, or a majority of them, are hereby required to proceed to examine the said counties respectively, at any time they may agree upon, previous to the first day of November next, and with an eye to the best interest of said counties, shall select a suitable place for the seat of justice for each of said counties. The Commissioners respectively are hereby empowered to receive from the owner of such lands as they may select for the purpose aforesaid, a donation of not less than twenty acres, or they may receive donations in money, which shall be applied to the purchase of lands for such purpose; and in either case they shall take good and sufficient deeds therefor, granting the land in fee simple for the use and benefit of said counties, as the case may be. The Commissioners if they shall select lands belonging to government, shall purchase a half quarter section in each of said counties, for the use and benefit of such county, provided they shall receive donations in money sufficient to make such purchase or purchases. When the Commissioners shall have made the selection of land for the permanent seat of justice for the respective counties, those for the county of Jasper shall report their proceedings to the Recorder of Crawford County, and those for the county of Effingham shall report their proceedings to the Recorder of Fayette County, who shall receive and keep the same in their respective offices until the said counties shall



be organized, when they shall transmit the same to the clerks of the aforesaid new counties respectively." The balance of the act provides that those locating shall receive for their services \$3 per day, to be paid out of the first monies arising from the sale of lots.

The Commissioners appointed for Jasper County made their report, it is probable, in due form, but it failed to find a record, or is so lost in the mass of early business as not now to be traced in the Crawford County archives. However, the Legislature became cognizant of their action, and in December, 1834, passed "An act to Organize the County of Jasper," as follows:

"SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly, That on the fourth Monday in January next, between the hours of eight o'clock in the morning and seven o'clock in the evening, an election shall be held in the town of Newton, in the county of Jasper, for three County Commissioners, one Sheriff and one Coroner for said County, who shall continue in office until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.*

"SEC. 2. David Phillips, W. M. Richards and William Price, or any two of them, shall be judges of election, and shall be authorized to appoint two clerks, and shall be qualified in the same manner as judges and clerks of elections are now required by law, and said election shall, in every respect, be conducted in conformity with the election laws of this State.

"SEC. 3. The location of the seat of justice made by Commissioners appointed by the act creating said county of Jasper, and all their acts properly appertaining to their duties as such, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

"SEC. 4. Said county of Jasper shall be attached to the Fourth Judicial Circuit, and shall vote with the county of Crawford in the election of Representatives to the State Legislature, and with the counties of Crawford and Lawrence in Senatorial elections." This act was approved December 19, 1834, and in accordance with its provisions an election was held at Newton, in the following month, which resulted in the election of W. M. Richards, George Mattingley and F. W. H. Claycomb, as Commissioners; Lewis W. Jourdan, Sheriff, and Richard Watson, Coroner.

#### ORIGIN OF NAME.

In the origin of the name of the county and seat of justice, the preference of the people does not seem to have been consulted. The whole nation seems to have been absorbed in the contemplation of

the history and memoirs of the Revolution heroes, and the publication which immortalized the fame of Marion's men, then being new, naturally furnished the names of Jasper and Newton. Weem's book was the early text book in the schools and the classic of its day. The name of Jasper is a tribute to that heroic devotion which Americans are glad to honor in the subordinate as well as in the chieftain. Among the garrison of Fort Moultrie, in Charleston, S. C., harbor, on the 28th of June, 1776, was a Sergeant by the name of Jasper. It was on this day that the British fleet, which had occupied the harbor, opened the attack upon the fort with such a heavy and well-directed fire, as to cause the observing patriots on the shore to tremble for the outcome of the conflict. Once during the day, as the smoke from a terrific cannonading cleared away, the flag of the fort was nowhere to be seen. The shot of the fleet had carried it away, and the anxious spectators, with sinking hearts, feared the fort had struck its flag to the foe. But the ensign had not fallen willingly nor unnoticed. In face of the storm of shot and shell that fell upon the garrison, Sergeant Jasper rescued the flag, and in a perfect hail storm of bullets, nailed it to the broken staff. At night the fleet quietly left the harbor with the fort unsubdued. Jasper was made the hero of the occasion, the delighted citizens of Charleston uniting to do him honor. The ladies presented him with a beautiful flag, which he pledged himself to defend with his life, and true to his word he was found later in the war dead upon the field of battle, clinging to his and his country's flag. Such is the hero which this county honors.

The county-seat is evidently indebted to the same source for its name. Sergeant Newton was a compatriot of Jasper, and the two were often united in deeds of daring. One of these occasions is represented as follows:

“Like many families of that time, Jasper's was divided on the great question. His older brother took the side of the English, and served in their army. Out of affection to his brother, and a wish to examine into the strength and condition of the enemy, he resolved, with another patriot soldier, Sergeant Newton, to pay the British a visit. His brother's position enabled him to receive his two friends without any suspicion of their being spies, and they were entertained for two or three days with great hospitality. While they were thus engaged, a small party of Americans were brought in prisoners, and, as they had deserted from the British, and enlisted in the American ranks, their doom would have been death. This, the brother of Jasper assured him was to be their fate. With them were the wife and

child of one of the prisoners. Her distress at her husband's approaching fate touched the heart of Jasper. Confiding his purpose to his friend Newton, they bade adieu to Jasper's brother, and took their leave. They had no sooner got out of sight of the camp, than they made a detour, and stretched across the country so as to elude all suspicion should they meet with any British soldiers. It was the custom of the English then to send all the prisoners taken in that quarter to Savannah for trial. At a little spring, two miles from Savannah, Jasper and Newton secreted themselves, awaiting the arrival of the British escort and their prisoners. It had occurred to Jasper that, as they must pass this spot, it was very probable they might rest here for a short time to refresh themselves, and the woody nature of the spot would favor a rescue. After some hours' anxious suspense, they saw the escort, with their prisoners, approach. The guard was ten in number, and armed. The corporal, with four men, conducted their captives to the water, and told them to rest themselves for an hour, at the same time giving them provisions. The guards then stacked their arms and seated themselves. The prisoners threw themselves upon the earth in hopeless despair. Near to the wretched man sat his wife and child. Two of the guards alone kept their arms as sentries. As the rest of the men were filling their canteens with water, Jasper and Newton came stealthily from their ambush, seized two of the muskets that were stacked, shot the two sentries, and, rushing upon the others, stunned them with the butt of their weapons. Deprived of their weapons, the others abandoned the conflict and fled."

It was such deeds as these that made each man in Marion's band a hero, and the names of Sergeants Jasper and Newton may be given a perpetual place in history as the names of the town and county that form the subject of these pages.

#### TOPOGRAPHY.

The county of Jasper, thus organized, lies in the northeast corner of what is arbitrarily called southern Illinois, and is bounded on the east by Crawford, on the north by Cumberland, on the west by Effingham and Clay, and on the south by Clay and Richland counties. It is almost square in shape, being twenty-two miles long from north to south, and twenty-one and three-fourths from east to west, and contains about 484 square miles. About one-third of the county was originally timbered land, and the remainder prairie, the latter occupying the broad areas of upland between the valleys of the

streams, and elevated from sixty to eighty feet above the water courses. From Robinson to Liberty, the country is rather low and comparatively level, seldom rising more than twenty or thirty feet above the beds of the small streams. The changes wrought by the habits and cultivation of the whites have somewhat altered the proportion of timbered land, so that timber land and prairie are about equal in extent, a strip of each in varying widths alternating through the county. The general trend of the water courses is southward. The Embarrass, the French pronunciation having degenerated into the local name of Ambrau, traverses the whole extent of the county from northwest to southeast. This stream rises three or four miles northeast of Tolono, in Champaign County, and enters Jasper about two and a half miles west of the center of the northern line. From this point, it bears a little east, until it reaches Newton, where with a short turn nearly due east, it again follows its general course and passes into Richland County, about two and a half miles west of the southeast corner of the county. The Embarrass drains nearly the whole surface of the county, except the southwest corner, which is drained by Muddy Creek, a tributary of the Little Wabash. The valley through which this river courses is a low, flat bottom, from three to five miles in width, with some swampy areas, though generally dry enough to admit of cultivation, but subject to overflow from the high water of the river. Other streams of some importance are: East Fork, heading in the southwest corner of Edgar County, entering Jasper near the northeast corner, extending south parallel with the east line of the county, varying only a mile or two from the east county line at any point, and emptying into the Embarrass River in Section 32, in Saint Marie Township; Crooked Creek, taking its source in Cumberland and Clark counties, near the northern line of Jasper, meandering southward near the line of Wade and Willow Hill townships, until it reaches a point nearly due east of Newton, where, bearing east, it finds the Embarrass River, in Section 2 of Willow Hill Township; Law's Creek, which heads in the prairie, about five miles northwest of Newton, and runs southward and a little west, and runs into Clay County, where it joins the Muddy Creek; Sandy Creek, a mile or two west of Law's, follows a parallel course with the last named, and finds the same destination; and Big Muddy, which heads in the edge of Effingham County, near the northwest corner of Jasper, and follows along the west line of the county, until it passes into Clay County and finds an outlet into the Little Wabash. Small prairie runs are noted on the map of the

county, such as the Wet Weather, a name that indicates its origin, in Smallwood Township; Fox Creek, which gave rise to the name of the township in which it is found; Grove Creek, Turkey, Slate and Mint creeks, are also named, but are of no significance, save the latter, in the origin of its name, which it acquired from the haunts of early counterfeiters along its banks.

#### GEOLOGY.\*

Rock exposures are but rarely to be met with in the county, owing, in part, to the soft and yielding character of the sandstones and shales that form the bed rock over the greater portion of the county, and in part to the wide valleys in which the streams have their courses, seldom impinging upon the bluffs sufficiently to expose the stratified rocks. The superficial deposits of this county consist mostly of brown, gravelly clays, and a bluish-gray hard-pan, the whole aggregating from twenty to forty feet in thickness. These beds thicken to the westward, and are considerably heavier in the western part of the county than in the eastern. Small boulders of metamorphic rock are frequently met with in the creek beds or on the hill-sides, weathered out of these deposits, associated with those derived from the sandstones and limestones of the coal measures. From the limited exposures, and the widely separated points where the bed rock can be seen in this county, it has been found impossible to construct a general section of the strata, but enough can be seen to indicate their general character, and to determine very nearly their relative position in the coal measures.

The lowest beds in the county are probably the shales and shaly sandstones outcropping on the lower courses of the North Fork and on the Embarrass, in the vicinity of Saint Marie, which probably belong to the heavy shale deposit passed in the boring at Greenup, and belong between coals Nos. 14 and 16 of the general section. The highest outcrops will be found in the northwest corner of the county, where the *Fusulina* limestone that outcrops at Churchill's place, near the county line in Cumberland County, may be seen.

At the crossing of North Fork, on the old Palestine and Vandalia road, a blue, sandy shale has been penetrated by a shaft to the depth of about thirty feet, in search of coal, but without success. The upper part of this shale bed outcrops in the bank of the stream at an old mill just below the bridge. About a mile further down the creek, a bed of brown, calcareous sandstone is found from eighteen

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\* Compiled from State Report.

to twenty inches thick. In the bank of the Embarrass, at Saint Marie, a thin bedded micaceous sandstone is quarried at low water, but it splits into thin layers on exposure, and is of little value as a building stone. A well was sunk here at the steam-mill, to the depth of ninety feet, through sandy shales and sandstones, without finding either coal or limestone.

Newton, the county-seat, is located on the bluff of the Embarrass, and the outcropping beds that form the lower portion of the bluff consists of twenty-five to thirty feet of soft micaceous shales and sandstones, extending below the river bed. About two miles southeast of town, on Brush Creek, a sandstone is found that furnishes most of the building stone used in this vicinity. The quarry rock is from eight to ten feet thick, in layers varying from six to twelve or more in thickness. The stone is rather soft when first quarried, but becomes harder on exposure, and makes a very durable rock for ordinary use. Locally it has a coarsely, concretionary structure, the concretions being harder than the surrounding rock, a character frequently observed in the heavy bedded sandstones of the coal measures. Below the sandstone there is a variable thickness of shale that becomes bituminous toward the bottom, and forms the roof of a coal seam that has been opened, and worked to some extent at this locality. The seam was covered up by the falling in of the roof at the time of the State survey, so that neither the quality of the coal, nor its exact thickness could be ascertained, but it is said to be from two and a half to three feet thick, and has a shale parting like the seam at the old Eaton Mines northwest of Robinson. This is probably coal No. 14 or 15 of the general section. This coal probably underlays the town of Newton, at a depth of eight to ten feet below the bed of the Embarrass River, and might be easily mined anywhere along the bluff, by driving an inclined tunnel into the base of the hill above high water mark, down to the level of the coal.

Three miles east of Newton, on the road to New Liberty, the same sandstone is met with on the east side of the Embarrass Valley, outcropping in the base of the low hills bordering the valley, and continuing in occasional outcrops to the coal bank, one mile west of New Liberty. This coal is probably the same as that on Brush Creek, a mile and a half southeast of Newton. The seam is divided by a bituminous shale, varying from six to eighteen inches in thickness, and only the lower division of the seam is mined here, the upper part being too soft and shaly to be of much value. A section of

the beds above this coal, as seen between Newton and this point, would be as follows:

	Feet.	Inches.
Micaceous sandstone, thin bedded at the top and more massive below .....	20 to 30	
Sandy shale, with local layers of thin sandstone .....	5 to 10	
Bituminous shale .....	1 to 3	
Coal, rather soft and poor .....	1 to 1	6
Shale, parting .....	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1	6
Coal, good .....	1	6

No fossils were found in the shale overlaying this coal on Brush Creek, but west of New Liberty imperfect examples of one or two carbonarius plants were found.

South of Newton, a prairie ridge extends for several miles in a southerly direction, along which sandstone is said to be found, and this ridge probably marks the trend of the sandstone formation in this county. On Limestone Creek, in the southwest corner of the county, there is an outcrop of light-gray limestone, that is quarried for building stone and for the manufacture of lime. In the northwest corner of the county, on Island Creek, an outcrop of heavy bedded sandstone and flagstone commences on Section 16, Township 8, Range 8, and may be traced northward to the county line. The sandstone is of brownish color and makes a fair building stone. On Mint Creek, Section 1, Township 7, Range 8, the following section was found:

	Feet.	Inches.
Silicious shale .....	20	
Gray pyritiferous shale, passing into limestone .....	2	
Jet black bituminous shale, with fish scales and spines .....		6
Coal, breaking into small cakes .....		6
Fire clay .....		3
Gray silicious shale and flagstone .....	3	8

This thin coal was sometimes found split by hard bituminous shale, leaving only about an inch of coal in each division.

The section of the Embarrass River, southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 7, Range 10, is as follows:

	Feet.	Inches.
1. Covered slope .....	10	
2. Bluish-brown argillaceous shale .....	10	
3. Brown and black bituminous shale .....	3	
4. Fire clay .....		3
5. Gray fossiliferous limestone .....		10
6. Blue argillaceous shale .....		4
7. Brownish-black impure limestone .....	3	
8. Blue shale .....	2	
9. Bluish shaly sandstones .....	10	

Two miles north of Saint Marie, on the west half of Section 7, Township 6, Range 11, a shaft was sunk twenty feet to the river level and some fragments of impure limestone were thrown out. About a hundred yards up the river this limestone is just at the water's edge. It is eight or ten inches thick, and is probably the equivalent of the limestone near Newton.

The second bluff or terrace is about forty feet above low water. About thirty feet above low water, in the face of the bluff, there are remains of an old furnace. It is about three feet in diameter, of a circular form and walled with rock. Around it are pieces of burnt limestone, charcoal and cinders. On the top of the bluff there are a number of Indian mounds, arranged in the form of an oblong square, inclosing a court. The peculiar arrangement of the mounds, and the presence of mica in the sandstone, and also in the drift bowlders found here, led to the belief that silver existed in the rocks and could be extracted from them, and the existence of the mounds and the furnace led to the sinking of the shaft in pursuit of the same precious metal.

On Crooked Creek, a half mile west of Brockville, the following section was found:

	Feet.	Inches.
Buff-colored limestone without fossils.....	4	
Blue argillaceous shale.....	3	
Rotten limestone with fossils.....		6
Black bituminous shale.....	4	
Blue argillaceous shale.....	2	

One mile and a half southwest of Harrisburg, on Lick Creek, the following beds were found:

	Feet.	Inches.
Bluish argillaceous shale.....	10	
Black bituminous shale.....	4	
Impure limestone with fragmentary fossils.....		6
Bluish argillaceous shale.....	2	

The water of the creek is slightly saline, and some prospecting for brine has been done in this vicinity.

All these outcrops belong to the Upper Coal Measures, and range about the horizon of coals No. 14 and 15 of the general section. From the general trend of the strata it may be inferred that the lowest beds that outcrop in the county are those along its eastern border, and the highest, those upon the western.

#### MATERIAL RESOURCES.

A limited supply of coal may be obtained from the beds outcropping near Newton and New Liberty, but neither the average



thickness of the seams, nor the quality of coal they afford, would justify an attempt to work them save in a limited way. The main coals are here from five to six hundred feet, or more, below the surface, and to reach the bottom of the coal measures, would require a shaft more than a thousand feet in depth. It will probably be many years before the demand for coal in this county will be such as to warrant the opening of mines at this depth.

Building stone, of good quality, is not abundant; the main supply being from the sandstone overlaying the coal at Newton and in this vicinity. At some points this bed affords a brown sandstone of fair quality; and at others it passes into silicious shales or shaly sandstones too soft and thin bedded to be used for building purposes. On Limestone Creek, in the southwestern portion of the county, there is a bed of compact, gray limestone, in layers of a foot to eighteen inches in thickness, that is quarried for foundation walls, etc., for the supply of the adjacent region. The only limestone found in the county, that seemed to be at all adapted for use in the lime kiln, was that on Limestone Creek, in the southwest corner of the county, and a fair quality of lime may be made there for the supply of such portions of the adjacent region as are remote from railroad transportation.

Sand and clay are abundant, and good brick and tile may be made at almost any point on the uplands, where they may be required. Sand for mortar and cement, occurs at many places along the bluffs of the Embarrass, and may be found in beds of most of the small streams, and in nearly every portion of the county.

The chief resource, however, of the county is its soil. The bottom lands of the Embarrass 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 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 varieties of timber found here are the common species of oak and hickory, black and white walnut, white and sugar maple, slippery and red elm, honey locust, hackberry, ash, etc.

## SWAMP LANDS.

Originally, a large part of the territory of this county came under this classification. By a general act, dated September 28, 1850, congress ceded to the several States of the Union, all the wet and overflowed lands within their borders, not otherwise disposed of, for drainage purposes. The legislature of this State 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 scrip," "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 land intended to be given in lieu of which was 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 have long since been entered, hence the county will only receive indemnity for such swamp land as has been entered since 1850 with cash.

The county has made several efforts to secure its rights under this provision, and of late has entered into contract with an attorney to collect the indemnity due from the general government. Some 10,000 acres have been claimed and the requisite proof filed. The county has sold a considerable amount of these lands originally selected, at such prices as they would bring, much of which has been reclaimed and is now under cultivation.

## AGRICULTURE.

Jasper 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, beyond such mills as the local necessity demanded, have found scanty encouragement. It is probably too early to judge of the future of manufacturing interests here, as the lack of railroad facilities, before 1876, prevented any successful attempts at manufacturing. Since the building of the Mattoon & Grayville Railroad, and the construction of

other lines, several rigorous manufacturing establishments have found place here, and with the construction of other roads which are promised at this date, the character of Jasper County's industries may be entirely revolutionized in the coming decades.

The prevailing system of agriculture practiced here may properly be termed mixed husbandry. Specialties find little favor with the farmers. The practice is to cultivate the various kinds of grain and grasses, and to raise, keep and fatten stock; the latter business rapidly growing in favor with a majority of the wealthier farmers. Though organized in 1834, the development of the county was slow, and until 1860 the larger part of the county was not entirely in the hands of actual settlers. The farmer, therefore, has not yet 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 but little more than this has been accomplished. Of late, there is more improvement noted, and, while the farming community may be said to be in limited financial circumstances, the character of later improvements are of the best kind. Houses and barns of improved architecture and the higher order of comfort and ornament, are going up everywhere, and a new era of prosperity is marked. The need of studying the principles of such branches of learning as relate to agriculture, will be felt, and a consequent improvement in the system of farming will naturally follow.

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. In 1881, a drouth occurred, no rain falling between the latter part of June and the last of August, a period of sixty-eight days. The wheat and corn crops were almost entirely destroyed, and business was almost at a stand-still. Such experiences are, however, very rare, the general complaint being too much rain. Most of the land in the county is low, and very much in need of drainage. This subject is now attracting considerable attention, and two extensive tile factories have this year been put in operation, with the prospect of ample patronage.

Fruit culture may safely be said to be in its infancy in Jasper 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 orchards. But little care was exercised, in a majority of cases, in the selection of varieties, or in the care of orchards after once well set, 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 farmers. The product is barely enough to supply home demands, but each year marks an increase in the acreage devoted to this fruit. Peaches rank next to apples in the number of acres devoted to their culture. The region is ordinarily favorable to their culture, and a good yield is generally had here. Pears, plums and cherries are found occasionally about the house enclosure, but are not cultivated to any great extent. There are one or two pear orchards recently set out. Small fruits are not yet grown to any great extent, save for private use. There is a growing market for all these products, right at home, and there will be an improvement in this direction as soon as this demand is recognized. There are no nurseries in the county, and dependence is had chiefly upon traveling agents, who find this a profitable field.

In the matter of stock, the interest of farmers is being generally attracted toward the profit of stock-raising. Grass never fails, save in such an exceptional year as 1881. The moist nature of the ground renders the crop a sure and luxuriant growth. For the cultivation of grain, it requires a large expenditure of time and labor, and the question is being seriously discussed whether a larger proportion of stock-raising would not yield greater returns. Cattle and hogs are already an important source of income to the farmers, and a considerable number are improving the grade of their stock by the use of thorough-bred animals. Short-horns, Jersey and Devon cattle are made a specialty by some half a dozen stockmen in the county, and their influence on the grade of stock to be found here is quite marked. In hogs, the Poland-China and Berkshire are represented by several stock-breeders. Sheep, though not so generally kept by farmers as the other mentioned stock, are still found in considerable aggregate numbers, though most of the flocks are small. Among the breeders, the Cotswold is the favorite, though the South-down and Merino breeds are represented. 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. Just now, this class of farm property has felt the impulse manifested in every county interest, and a number of fine horses are in use for breeding purposes. These are principally of the Norman and Clydesdale blood. Some interest is manifested in roadsters and speed animals, but the financial status of the farmers, the demands of the farm, and the condition of the roads, inclines the general favor towards such a cross with the heavy draft horses as will produce a substantial animal for all purposes. Mules are bred and used to a large extent, and they seem to be growing into greater favor rapidly. Besides the argument used in favor of their economical keeping and hardy characteristics, they are found to be more salable at good prices than horses. Horses are found to be subject, also, to some fatal disorder which causes serious losses. This subject has not been fully investigated, but the sudden unexplained death of a good horse is frequently reported. It is believed by many that the latitude is not favorable, and such losses are generally supplied by mules. Another reason for the increased attention to stock-raising is the fact that the average farm is quite large, perhaps 200 acres. This, it is found, is too large for successful cultivation in grains, and some stock is found necessary to utilize all the acreage. Then the question arises, whether it is not more profitable to feed the grain grown, and thus retain the offal to enrich the soil. The question is more and more being decided in the affirmative, and there are those who confidently predict that the future will find this a stock-growing rather than a grain-producing county. Dairying has not been attempted here, though there is some discussion as to the subject. With increased shipping facilities and a reasonably close market, there seems to be no reason why it should not be as profitable a source of revenue here as elsewhere in the State.

#### FAIR ASSOCIATIONS.

An effort to organize a Fair association was made about 1855. Improvement in stock had reached an advanced stage, and some of the more prominent stockmen and others, among whom were John Brooks, James Wagle, A. G. Colwell, Sr., and T. J. Martin, formed an association. Only two or three exhibitions were held, the O'Kean grounds being leased and enclosed for the purpose. After this, the interest failed and nothing more was done in the way of fairs until 1870. In this year, the County Agricultural Board formed an Association and held annual exhibitions until 1880. The plan of organization was not such as to give the highest financial results. The

State report for 1877, the only one to be obtained, speaks of the exhibition of that year as in every way a success. "Our premiums were large and hotly contested for in every department. The show of stock in the different departments was larger and finer than ever before, while Floral Hall was filled to overflowing with the choicest productions of needle-work, fine arts and staple productions of the soil. \* \* \* The display of agricultural implements was complete, and was within itself an exhibition which could be pointed to with pride by the exhibitors. Our system of financial returns in proportion to individual tickets, but under the depressed financial condition of affairs, gives better satisfaction.

"By economy in expenditures, we were enabled to pay twenty-five cents on the dollar awarded in premiums (which is twenty-five per cent. more than the society has ever paid). Our current expenses for the year also discharged a large part of our mortgaged indebtedness." The value of the grounds and improvements was put at \$2,000. It was found, notwithstanding the favorable character of the above report, that the association could not make a financial success, and on April 5, 1880, the "Jasper County Agricultural Joint Stock Company" was incorporated. The leading men in this movement were: Wm. E. Barrett, Jas. C. Ireland, Daniel O'Donnell and Wm. L. Heath. A large number of the citizens of the county took stock, which aggregated \$3,000, in shares of \$10 each. This organization has made a complete success of the fairs, and now own a finely improved ground west of Newton, valued at some \$6,000. In 1881, owing to the severe drouth, no exhibition was held. In 1882, the "Twelfth Annual Fair of the Jasper County Agricultural Board" was held under the auspices of this company, at which premiums were offered to the extent of some \$1,500, which were all paid in full.

#### THE EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The immigration to which this part of the State is indebted for its early settlement came principally from the Southern States by way of Palestine. The "Wabash country" began to attract settlers as early as 1811, a few families finding their way to the west side of the Wabash River, in the territory now covered by Crawford, Clark and Edgar counties. The war with Great Britain and the consequent unfriendly disposition of the Indians retarded the further increase of the settlements until the close of the war in 1815. A number of families, however, who had started for this region gath-

ered about Palestine, where the general government stationed a company of troops and built a palisade fort. On the pacification of the savages, the cooped-up whites rapidly spread over the country contiguous with the river, where many had made claims and built cabins before it was thought safe to remove their families from the fort. The country in this region offered every desired characteristic for pioneer settlements, and for some years absorbed the tide of incoming population, so that the outlying portions of Crawford, which are now Jasper, were little known save to the hunter and that class of persons who preferred a *terra incognita*. The result was that the first inhabitants of Jasper County territory were principally squatters; men who found it safer to leave the more settled parts of the older States and seek a refuge where the arm of the law could not reach. The "Dark Bend," a copse-like bottom of the Embarrass, in the southeast corner of Jasper County extending into Crawford County, was the principal spot occupied by these characters, though at an early date it was popularly supposed that "the woods was full of them." In the nature of the case, but little can be learned of these people. The earliest permanent settlers occasionally came in contact with them, and, in one way or another, learned something of their history. Soon after the settlement was formed at Saint Marie the families of that community were visited by half a dozen or so of the ladies of the "Dark Bend," whose attire and general appearance confirmed the colonists in all the worst opinions they had formed of the people in that benighted region. Mr. Joseph Picquet relates that soon after his settlement at Saint Marie, he learned of a destitute family living in this region, and, moved by his sympathy, three or four of them made a visit to the place. The man had murdered his brother and fled to this region to escape the just penalty of his deed. Here he was found, surrounded by several dirty, ill-kempt women and a dozen or more squalid, scrofulous looking children, living in a long, low shanty, like so many hogs. The man was well advanced in years, and all so ignorant and degraded as to exhibit no distaste for their surroundings, nor desire for any change to something better. The party from Saint Marie went armed, as they did not like the character of the neighborhood, and at first created considerable commotion in the conscience stricken household. This was the end of the association, however, and the family moved away sometime later unheeded. Counterfeiters and horse-thieves made this section their abode for many years later, and were a constant source of annoyance to this whole region. Counterfeit money was one of

the early trials of the pioneers of Jasper and vicinity. At home much of this coin passed undetected, but it often occurred that when a farmer went to purchase a season's supplies he would find his available funds greatly reduced by the counterfeit money he held. Martin Grove relates an incident, the memory of which is perpetuated by the name given to one of the streams of the county—Mint Creek.

Cornelius Taylor kept a ferry in Lawrence County, and was, or had been considered an honest man. He had for sometime been in the habit of loading his wagon with meat and other provisions, and starting off with the ostensible purpose of going to Saint Louis to market. After a time Mr. Taylor was suspected of being a little crooked, and after watching a little, his neighbors became convinced of the fact. It was observed that Taylor made some trips in a remarkably short time, and at other times he would be gone for several months, and that on his return from these trips a quantity of counterfeit silver and paper money would get into circulation in the county. These indications, with other circumstances, led to his being suspected of complicity with some gang of counterfeiters, and some of the best citizens secretly agreed to watch him. On his next trip to Saint Louis, his neighbors found that Taylor suspected their intentions, and so loaded up his wagon after night-fall. In that way his absence was not noticed until he had been gone several days; but they being determined not to be cheated in that manner, gathered up a crowd and followed the wagon tracks (it will be remembered that wagons were very scarce in those days), which soon left the Saint Louis road and struck out northwest. They followed the track then, with more zeal than ever, knowing there must be something wrong, until they came to a thicket or thick woods, almost impenetrable, about seven miles north, and a little west of where Newton now stands, near the mouth of a little creek that empties into the Embarrass River, known since that day by the name of "Mint" Creek, where they found, not the wagon, but a little cabin under the brush, in which they found a man by the name of Acre Williams, who, after being hung up by the neck two or three times until nearly dead, agreed to tell all he knew. He, after a few more threats from his tormenters, delivered up a lot of molds, dies and other materials for making counterfeit silver and paper money. The dies, etc., were taken to Lawrenceville and destroyed in the court house. He (Williams) claimed that he was only hired by the counterfeiters to keep house, hunt and cook for them. He said the principal man of



the counterfeiters was named Hornback. He gave other names also, but the principals all got away; but the men getting their tools and implements, it broke up their business at that place, but we have yet the creek (that took the name from the Mint that had been run there) to remember the circumstance by. This was about 1822 to 1824.

The earliest permanent settler in Jasper County, probably was Benjamin Shooks. But little is known of him. It is said that he was among those who occupied the fort at Palestine, and came immediately after the cessation of hostilities to this region. He built his cabin in 1816, on the North Fork, where Samuel Atkinson now has his farm. The exact location is not pointed out, but it was in the "bottoms" northeast of Yale and west of Bellaire, and here he lived and died a few years later. From Mr. Johnson's historical sketch, which is found to be unusually accurate, it is learned that,

"About the year 1820 or 1822, a doctor by the name of Sultzer, a son, and son-in-law by the name of Jack McCann, settled near where the county line now divides this county and Lawrence County, but they were suspected of belonging to the mint business, and they left the country very suddenly on that account.

"James Jordan (the father of Andrew, Joseph and William Jordan, who all live near Newton) settled on the farm now known as the Boos farm, early in the spring of 1826, started a farm, sold out there, moved up and commenced the farm now owned by Joseph Cardot, and a few years after sold it, entered the land and made the farm now owned by his son Joseph, and Joseph tells us that his father and mother have told him, that when they raised their house it took all the men in the county to raise it, and Joseph is living in the same house yet, with additions that he has built thereto. Mr. Jordan raised a large family, and he and his wife lived and died on the same farm. William Price settled about the same time, where Saint Marie now stands. He lived there for several years, and sold out to Mr. Joseph Picquet; Price Precinct was named for Mr. Price.

"William Lewis settled on the Evermond Mound, in Willow Hill Township, in the same year (1826), made some improvements, and sold it to William Evermond, who entered the land, since which time the mound has been known by his name.

"Job Catt (the father of Uncle John, Charles and Michael Catt, and Mrs. Fithian, the mother of our present State's Attorney, who all live yet, in Willow Hill Township) settled about two miles north of Saint Marie in 1827, and the family have lived in the county

ever since, except as they die at a good old age. About the same time, Lewis W. Jordan and Benjamin Reynolds (with their families) settled where Newton now stands. Mr. Jordan (who was no connection of James Jordan) built a cabin on the site known as the O'Kean property. Lewis W. Jordan left long since with his family; he was the first and only Sheriff of the county for some time after its organization, but had to run off for violations of the law. Of Mr. Reynolds' family, but two or three yet remain. Old Aunt Elizabeth Burford (daughter of Mr. Reynolds) lived in the county until the death of her last husband, a few years ago, when she moved to Coles County, to live with her daughter. Richard Eaton settled on the East Fork, in Willow Hill Township, in 1837, and two years after, built a mill on the creek to saw, and grind corn; the mill passed through many hands, but has gone down at last. Mr. Eaton went to Texas on horse-back, a few years after, and never came back. By this time, other settlers began to come in, notwithstanding there were at least three different tribes of Indians camping or living within the limits of the county. Uncle John Catt tells us of a little circumstance that occurred about this time, that he remembers well, and is worth repeating. A report came that a lot of Indians that were camping out on Big Muddy, near the county line, were dancing around their camp-fires with their war-paint on (which meant destruction to the pale faces). The settlers called a council of their wise and brave men, and appointed Lewis W. Jordan, Job Catt and two or three others, to slip out to the Indian camp and see if the reports were true; but before starting out, Mr. Catt had his family bury all their cooking utensils, kettles and all heavy valuables, and be prepared to flee the country on their return. But only think of their surprise, when they arrived in sight of the Indian camping ground, and peeping through the brush, to find that the Indians had pulled up stakes and "moved out West." After this scare was over, the county began to settle up very fast, and in ten years there was a little town in the brush, called Newton, where Newton now stands, and it was noted far and near as being a terrible hard place."

Among the earliest settlers of Jasper County was Michael Grove, who has left some life-like pictures of the early times that are well worth a place here. He writes to the editor of the *Press*, in 1876, as follows: "My father settled, January 14, 1817, in the north edge of Edwards County, two miles and a half southwest of where Lawrenceville now stands. There were but three families

living west of the Embarrass River in that section of the country at that time. Well, there we were in the woods in mid-winter, without any roads to any place, more than Indian traces; no mills nearer than fourteen miles, and a horse-mill at that. Our nearest trading place was Vincennes, but we did not visit that place often, as there was no such thing as going to the stores then to buy clothing. You could see a spinning-wheel in every cabin in the community, and a pair of cotton-cards. As soon as the farms were sufficiently ahead, you would see a flax-pack and a cotton-pack. Common domestic goods and prints were worth from thirty-seven and one-half to forty cents per yard. Coffee was seventy-five cents per pound, and other things in proportion. There was no such thing as young ladies wearing calico dresses to meeting in those days; they went dressed in spun cotton. Boys were not dressed in woolen drawers in winter, but were dressed in buckskin—got out of warm beds in a cold morning, and went to work in their cold breeches; and that is what made the boys of those days of such good constitution. But enough of this.

“ In 1818, Illinois became a State, and was admitted to the Union, and, in 1820, there was a call for a new county, and Lawrence was formed out of a part of Edwards and a part of Crawford. The county-seat was donated by the heirs of Dubois, and called Lawrenceville. Land at that time was entered under the old two-dollar law, in 160 acre lots. The land-office was at Vincennes. If a man paid \$80, it would hold his land for five years; if no more was paid, it then went back to the government, and if one payment of \$80 was made, in four years from the first payment, a purchaser then obtained a patent. There were some who entered several quarter-sections, with a view to speculation, but times were so hard they were unable to pay for what they had entered, and a great many were about to lose all they had, but congress about this time passed a law called the Relinquishing Act, which gave them a chance to withdraw a part or all if they wished, and get a certificate for the amount. Those certificates would go in payment on other land. Those who entered only one lot, and could not pay out, relinquished and sold the certificates to others who were trying to pay out. About the same time, congress reduced the price of public lands to \$1.25 per acre, and subdivided the quarters into forty acre lots. Then if a man could raise \$50, he could have a home, but that was very hard to get. After Jackson vetoed the United States Bank in 1832, nothing but silver and gold would be received at the Land-Office, and that was not to be had

here. A number one cow, with a young calf by her side, would bring but \$10; common cows brought from \$6 to \$7; a good pair of work cattle was worth from \$30 to \$40; a number one horse would sometimes bring \$50. I have seen pork sell in Lawrenceville, after the head and feet were cut off, at \$1.37 per hundred pounds, to pay a store bill. Those were times to try men's souls. Then, to make matters worse, there were scattered throughout the country counterfeiters and horse thieves, who were so well posted that the civil law could not reach them. If two or three good men came as evidence against them, they would have ten or a dozen persons to prove an *alibi*. They carried this on to such an extent that the citizens of Lawrenceville held a meeting and formed a company of regulators of eighty men, elected their officers, and then went with Lynch law, and notified them to leave the place in so many days or they would have to abide the consequences. Some left, and some took the black hickory before starting.

"We will now turn our attention to the first settling of Jasper County. At that time, it was called Crawford County, and there was a man by the name of Lewis, who settled on what is now known as the Evermond Mound. The next settler was a man by the name of Sulzer, who settled on what is now called Mattingly Point, below Saint Marie. Soon after, others, some in Dark Bend—the Eulows, Crabtrees, Wilkenses, Bayards, Jobs, Jordans, Garwoods, Lambs, Richards, and the Wades, were among the first settlers.

"In February of 1836, I came to Jasper County, and settled six miles north of Newton, on the Embarrass River. At that time, the county was very thinly settled; I don't think there were ten pieces of deeded land in the county. On the east side of the river, there were but three families living between Newton and Greenup. We had no roads, and for our groceries we had to go to Lawrenceville. There was a mill at Greenup, and another on North Fork, but no road to either. In the spring, it was so muddy that it was a hard task to get to either of the mills; in the summer, if we went, the trip had to be made in the night, on account of the horse-flies, and in the fall a good per cent. of us were shaking with the ague. So you may conclude that hand-mills, hominy-mortars and tin graters were very common. The first settlers of the county were mostly horse-men, and there was no place in the county where a man could work for a few dollars to buy groceries. His groceries had to come from the woods. Beeswax, venison hams, deer, coon and other hides would supply the wants, so the most skillful and industrious hunter

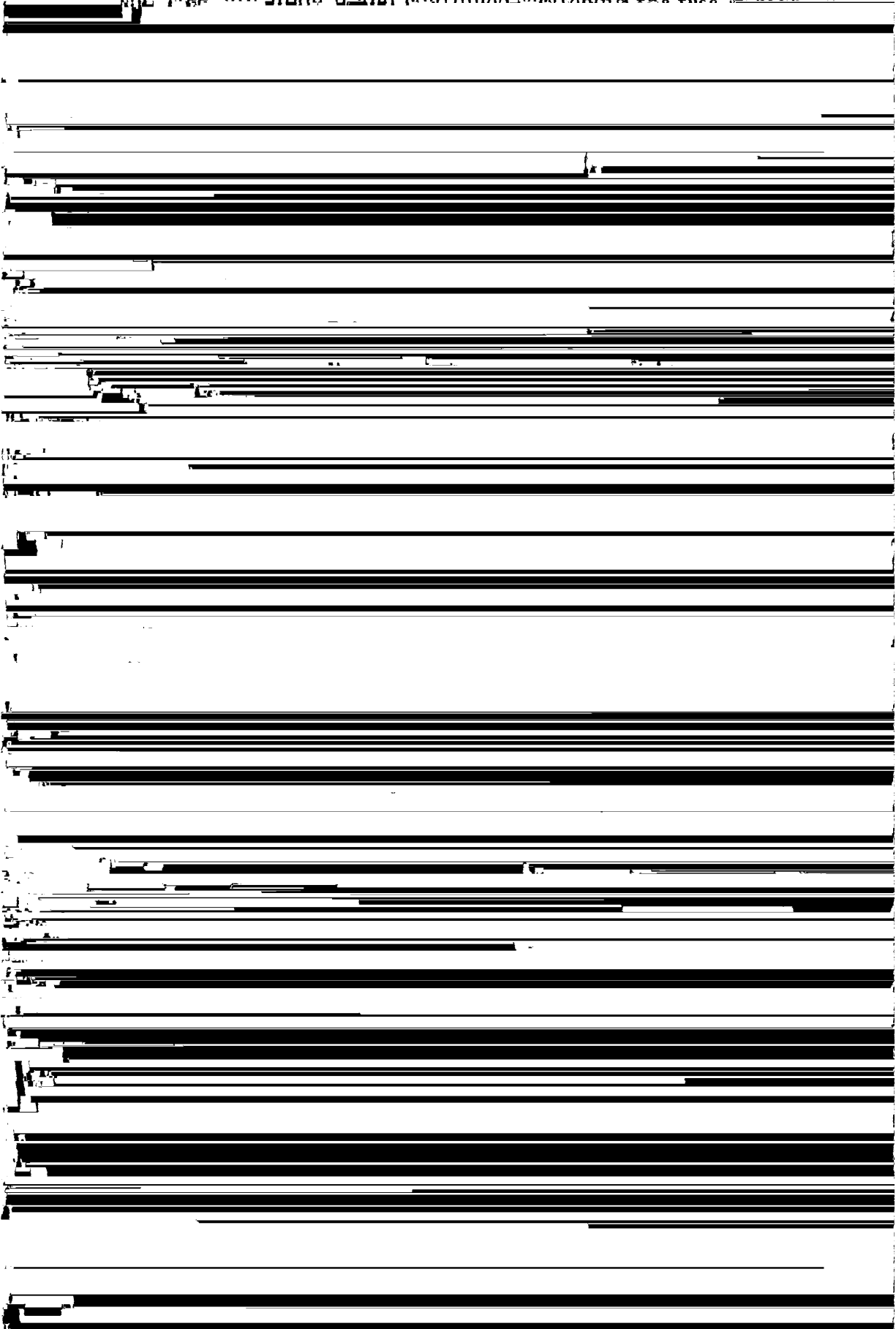
fared the best in that respect. When the Greenup road was first laid off in the direction of Greenup, to the county line, I was appointed supervisor to open the road. My district was the county line north to what is called the Narrows, two miles east of Newton, and I had seven hands in my district—so you will perceive the place was thinly settled.

“Of the first two or three courts which were held in Jasper, it took every man in the county to form the court. There were not men enough to change jurors, so they had to be reversed. Those who were grand jurors one term had to serve as traverse jurors the next term; thus it was the same men trying the same case each term. Although we were few and lived far apart, yet we were willing to help each other a great deal more than we do now. Men thought it no hardship to go seven or eight miles to a house-raising or log-rolling. All met friendly and parted the same way. On public days, some would drink too much whisky; then we would have two or three whisky fights, but soon all would be right again.

“When first I came to this county, game was quite plentiful. Bear, deer, wild turkey and wild bees were easily obtained, while the river and ponds were well filled with beavers and otters. Panthers, wolves and wild-cats roamed at large. The hogs we raised for sale were driven to the Wabash, and they were not worth much when we got them there. I drove thirty-seven head to Vincennes, and the best I could do then was to sell on ninety days time, at \$1.50 per hundred pounds, and did not get land-office money at that. Those who think they could have gotten rich if they had been here in the beginning, could not have supported a small family. Those who were not good hunters did leave. If a man brought gold and silver with him, he could get all the land he wanted, but if he thought to make it here, he missed the mark, for it was not to be had here.

“A little anecdote will illustrate the feelings of hunters in general, and the good-natured pranks that were played by all in the early times. Old Hiram Wade, two of his brothers and one brother-in-law, were out on a coon hunt, and by hunting the scratched trees they caught a good-sized coon. Old Hiram having grown somewhat tired, and getting off one side, thought of a plan to get some rest. He found a large water-oak tree with a large hole in the top. He took his knife and sharpened a hard stick so as to answer his purpose, and went to work making bear scratches on each side of the tree as high up as he could reach. He then got a forked pole, set it up against

the tree got upon it and continued scratching the tree until



it over, and instantly another one came up. Everything being ready and in order, I soon knocked the second one over. Shooting in such a hurry I only hurt it. By the time I was ready for the third shot, it was on in its feet, and I shot it again. All of the three shots were supposed to be within one minute by those that heard them. The first wolf I shot got up and walked a short distance. So I went home, got my dog, followed it up, and got it. The scalps were \$2 apiece, in the payment of State tax, and while I was skinning them the old ones attacked my dog, and I shot and killed one of them.

“ In the late fall of the same year, I started out one evening for a deer hunt. There was some snow on the ground, and I had not got more than a mile from home, when I saw two wolves coming towards me. When near enough for a shot, I raised my gun to my shoulder, but it missed fire and they ran off. I had not walked ten steps, however, when I saw two more, and I took a snap at them, and they too ran off, having a bad flint in my gun-lock that day. I had not walked more than a quarter of a mile, when I saw the last two, as I supposed, coming down the prairie some 200 yards from me. I concluded I would shoot at them anyhow, not expecting to hit one at that distance. So I drew high and cut away. At the crack of the gun I saw one of the wolves fall. I broke to run, and as I was coming up to it, I drew my tomahawk and struck it two or three licks. I thought I would not mash the head too bad as I wanted the scalp. Its mate had halted on the prairie, so I sat down, re-loaded my gun, laid my knife and tomahawk on the body of the one I had shot, and proceeded to ‘howl’ the other nearer. I failed, and the other left when I turned to scalp the one at hand. I observed at once that the animal was still alive, and so seizing my tomahawk gave the wolf a blow to finish it. This did not seem to accomplish the purpose, and taking my ax I proposed to sink the blade in a vital part. The wolf dodged the blade and was on its feet, and in an instant was running off. My gun failed me again, and I followed that ‘dead’ wolf from ten o’clock in the morning until four in the afternoon, and I never did get his scalp.

“ Hunting was largely a matter of necessity with the early settlers, some of the men making it a special business during the season. One man has been known to kill and market as many as a hundred deer in one season. But there were a few who had time to indulge in hunting purely as a sport. A hunting club was organized by Joseph Picquet, Benjamin Harris and others, and wolves were hunted very much as the English follow the fox. Each hunter was mounted,

some of them on horses of good Kentucky blood, and the company drawn out in single line would advance through the prairie. The fleetest horses were placed on either wing, and on the discovery of a wolf, it was the duty of the huntsman leading the nearest wing, to lead off and attempt to enclose the wolf, driving him toward the centre where the dogs were held in leash. The members of the club owned several greyhounds, among which was an Irish thoroughbred. When the wolf was near enough the dogs were set off, and the whole field rushed after the game. No firearms were allowed, and the stirrup only was used to finish the victim. This sport was indulged in to a considerable extent, and as many as thirty were killed in one year. Wolf scalps were quite a source of income, but the fur-bearing animals afforded a surer and larger revenue. Agents of the American Fur Company came to the settlers throughout this region, and paid good prices for all the settlers had to sell. Coon skins brought as much as seventy-five cents at times, and the successful trapper was able in this way, not only to pay his taxes, but also to provide his home with the limited supply of store goods needed. Without this adjunct of backwoods life, it is difficult to understand how the new country could have been so early settled. As it was, most of the pioneers brought to this country a love for, and skill in the sport, and thus united business and pleasure, and found an easy way to lessen the rigor of frontier privations."

