

## VILLAGE GROWTH.

*Newton.*—The earliest settlement centered about the villages of Newton and Saint Marie. The site of the former village by its geographical position and the natural advantages of the contour of the land made it the inevitable county-seat. But before the erection of the county its natural attractions had brought the situation to the favorable notice of the pioneer. In November, of 1826, James Jordan came here with his family and erected the first cabin on the territory now covered by the village. The site of the cabin was near the north gate of the court house yard, and here Mr. and Mrs. Jordan put up a log cabin unaided by others. After settling his family Mr. Jordan was called from home on some business, and Mrs. Jordan with two or three children was left here alone in the wilderness surrounded by howling wolves and strolling Indians. They brought a number of young cattle with them, and one night a young heifer attacked by the wolves, came rushing into the cabin, bounding through the doorway which was only protected by a suspended blanket, and startling the little family by its distressful cries of alarm. In the morning the animal's side was found to be so terribly torn that it had to be killed. Some three weeks after the coming of the Jordans, came the family of Abram Decker and settled about two and a half miles to the east of them. The Deckers stayed only about two years, when they left the county. The Jordans subsequently moved to the Decker cabin and lived there for years. In February, 1836, when Grove came to the county, he relates that "there was but one dwelling house in the place, and a little water-oak pole grocery. John V. Barnes was the dweller in, and part owner of the grocery, his partner being Tenny. The Indians had all left this part of the country. In the fall before I came here, an old Indian woman lived in Newton who claimed to be 130 years old. She said she had always lived here, and that she could recollect when the Embarrass River had no certain channel, but ran promiscuously through the bottom. She said that on the upland there was no big timber—"all little bushes."

A little later came L. W. Jordan and Benjamin Reynolds. The land on which the village was platted, was entered in 1831, in the name of L. W. Jordan, but it is probable that his father-in-law, Rey-

nolds, laid it out and subsequently donated the site for a county-seat. After the organization of the county, the village began to attract settlers, and improvements began to attract attention. Lawrence Hollenbeck and Thomas Garwood built a saw and grist-mill on the site now owned by B. Faller. Benjamin Harris, who had emigrated from Ohio, brought on a small stock of dry goods and opened the first store in Newton, but as farming was the more essential business, he closed out his store, located quite a body of land in the vicinity of Newton, and made large and valuable improvements in the immediate vicinity of the village. Joseph Picquet afterwards carried on a merchandising business in Newton, purchasing at the same time the mill property which he greatly improved.

In his reminiscences of Jasper County, W. H. Wade says: "From time immemorial in the history of Newton, there has been one of those sinks of perdition called saloons, kept on the corner of Jordan and Jackson streets. Before the improvement of the streets there was a small ravine in front of the place indicated, and as a general thing, if a fight occurred in that vicinity, the combatants would more than likely 'fetch up' in said ravine, and in consequence the place took the name of 'bloody run.'

"I could relate many amusing incidents that came under my notice during my boyhood in old Jasper, had I space and time, as there were many characters like that of Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill, Sut Loregood, *et al.*, in the country. In early days, under the old constitution, counties were divided into voting precincts, but it did not prohibit any citizen of the county from voting at the county-seat, if he so desired, and at general elections nearly all of the voters of the county would come to Newton to vote, and on election days, or at court, it was amusing to see the old pioneers coming into town. Often they were dressed in buckskin suits with coonskin caps, and generally carried that indispensable life-guard—the rifle. After indulging in a few drinks of sod-corn whisky, they would begin to get lively.

"Shooting, or rather target shooting, for whisky, was a great source of amusement. Horse racing, what we now call 'plug races,' was considered indispensable to make up the fun and amusement of those days. The distance run was generally 200 yards, or a quarter of a mile at farthest, and the stakes generally ranged in price and quantity from one quart to a half gallon of 'sod corn,' worth from fifteen to twenty-five cents, and it was a jolly time they had. As a matter of course, all understood and practiced the manly art of self-

defense, and it was considered unmanly for a man to take an insult without resenting it, and generally the day wound up with a great many peeled heads, bloody noses, black eyes, and perhaps a few eyes gouged out."

The picture thus drawn of the early society in Newton, while not flattering, seems to be borne out by all the traditions that have come down to this day. The village was in moral quarantine. Its reputation was known far and near. Settlers avoided it, and even travelers avoided it on their journeys so far as possible. Whisky was king, and there was a tacit organization among the leaders of the settlement to keep out any influence that would interfere with the customs of the place. Up to about 1840 this sort of thing continued without any efficient opposition. A jury, it is said, had been out a long time without coming to a decision, when one of their number was let out of a window. He soon returned with a few sandwiches and a large jug of whisky, and was hauled into the retiring room of the jury. All opposition of opinion vanished, and a verdict was agreed upon and accepted in short order.

An incident is related by Mr. Johnson, in his pamphlet, illustrative of the early customs of Newton, as follows:

"A stranger was riding along through the town, and some of the roughs, who were standing in front of a saloon, saw him, and they thought he must comply with their rules, etc.; so their leader (Lewis W. Jordan, who was the high Sheriff of the county at the time), stepped out in the road and asked the gentleman to get down, come in and treat the crowd. The stranger said he was not a drinking man, and would rather be excused. Mr. J. said it made no difference in this case; it was the custom of the town, that no stranger should pass through without treating. The stranger remarked that he had often heard of Newton, but had not thought it so bad as that. Mr. J. said it did not matter what he had heard (and taking the stranger's horse by the bridle), said it was the custom here, and 'now, sir, you have to treat or fight.' The stranger remarked that he was no fighter, and supposed he would have to treat, and getting off his horse, as Mr. Jordan supposed, to treat the crowd, he let go the bridle and started toward the door of the saloon, but as he passed, the stranger gave Mr. Jordan a 'sockdologer' behind the ear that sent him ten or fifteen feet in the street, and while the roughs were rubbing him, and trying to bring him to life, the stranger deliberately got on his horse and rode off, and remarked to the crowd, as he rode away, that he would pass through town again in a week or two; but the

above put a stop to the stopping of strangers, as they passed this way. But the roughs had to learn other lessons, that cost them very nearly their lives, while others (Mr. Jordan, for one) had to flee the country for their country's good, and their own safety."

What made the condition of affairs more unmanageable was that those who were in power, the officials of the county, were leaders of the gang. But the law abiding people finally became convinced that a heroic effort must be made. Benjamin Harris was finally elected Justice of the Peace, and crime began to suffer the just penalties of its deeds. It is related on one occasion, that a citizen of the village was cited to appear in the Justice's Court, at the complaint of one of these roughs, or to appear against him, and he requested permission of "his Honor" to bring his shot-gun as a means of self-protection. The request was granted, but during the trial the gun being placed in the corner of the room, was seized by one of the opposing party who was prevented from killing the owner of the gun only by a timely interference of the bystanders. By the order of the Court the miscreant was taken to jail. On being released the ruffian declared he would kill those who interfered with him. This threat only failed of execution by the nerve of one of the parties attacked, who, with a friend, served notice that if the offending party did not leave the county they would be waylaid and killed.

Up to this time Jasper County had made but very little progress. Up to 1845 but little of the lands in the county had been entered. A great many of the citizens of the county were what is generally termed squatters, living on government land without titles. But in the intermediate time between 1845-50-52 the public lands were principally taken up, some by actual settlers and a great portion by speculators. This had its effect upon the county-seat, but still the growth was very slow. In 1855 there were but a dozen families here, and in 1874 Newton was a town of 400 inhabitants, and all communication with the outside world was carried on by means of Joe Litzelmann's hack express, which made one trip daily between this place and Olney. There was but one store on the east side, Fuller Nigh's, three on the north side, Iredell Spoon, R. B. Wall and Joseph Gœppner's, one on the west side, Aloysius Boos, one on the south side, Dr. Andrews, David Max in the building now occupied by George Forseman, Dr. John Franke's drug store up at the old stand, and across the street Mr. S. Johnson's store. The court house, occupying the site of the present beautiful edifice, was an ancient,

square box affair, built with very red brick, and held together with great iron rods. A saloon on the south side and one on the east side, not forgetting Litzelmann's hotel and Miller's hotel, and you have a fair picture of Newton in 1874. With the *debut* of the G. & M. railroad, in 1876, its success became assured. New life, new vigor and new people took possession of Newton, and to-day as a result of the building of that road we have our own beautiful county-seat, filled with substantial, brick, business houses, as fine a court-house as there is in southern Illinois, a splendid school building, the best appointed opera house in this part of the State, mills, five factories, and an elegant and well kept class of dwelling houses.

April 20, 1835, Newton was surveyed by order of the County Commissioners, by Thomas M. Loy, deputy county surveyor of Effingham County. The lines were run at a variation of 6 degrees, the streets being sixty feet wide; the alleys twelve feet wide. The streets named on the original map are Jordan, Washington, Jackson and Van Buren, and the alleys, Richard, Claycomb, Mattingly, Barnes, Ewing and Reynolds. The plat is laid out on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 1, in Township 6 north, in Range 9 east. The lots are 80 feet in front and 100 feet deep, except fractional lots. The town thus laid out consisted of eight blocks of eight lots each beside the public square, and was bounded, north by Morgan Street, east by Clark, south by Decatur and west by Lafayette Street. In June 1841, the town was re-surveyed by William Bridges, when its size was doubled. Beginning at the north, the streets running west and east were, Water Street, 20 feet wide; Saint Marie, 40 feet wide; Marion, 60 feet wide; Morgan, 60 feet; Jordan, 60 feet; Washington, 60 feet; Decatur, 60 feet; Harris, 40 feet; and Reynolds, 20 feet wide. Beginning on the west, the north and south streets were Perry, 20 feet wide; Lafayette, 40 feet; Jackson, 60 feet; Van Buren, 60 feet, and Clark, 30 feet wide. Since then additions have been made on the east and south, so that the village has territory enough to build up into a very considerable town.

The land where the town is located belonged to Benjamin Reynolds, who donated every alternate lot to the county, except the public square, which he gave in exchange for the same amount of land, out of other lots that he had given. The town at that time had but four or five families in it, no public buildings except a little saw-mill that stood where the brick mill now stands. They soon got a post-office, which was a large addition to the place, as they received mail once a week, if the waters were not too high. The

mail was carried on horseback from Vincennes by here and on north, and came back the next week. Lewis W. Jordan was appointed postmaster, and for want of a building (as buildings were scarce then), he used his hat for a post-office.

There was little to induce the incorporation of the village early. The town was isolated and dependent upon other villages for markets and railroad facilities. In 1865, however, the village was incorporated under the general law of the State. The boundaries were marked by a line "beginning at the northeast corner of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 6 north, of Range 9 east, in the county of Jasper and State of Illinois; thence west with the line of the township to where the same strikes the south bank of the Embarrass River; thence with the meanderings of the said river to the mouth of the hollow or branch above where the bridge now stands; thence due south to the township line; thence west with the township line to the northwest corner of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 2, in said township; thence south 320 poles or rods; thence east 320 rods; thence north to the place of beginning." The center of the town was further located "on a line running due south, twenty rods from the bisection of Reynolds and Perry streets." The city ordinances were formulated in ninety-seven sections and established the usual regulations found in villages of the sort. In the matter of stock the public sentiment has been averse to as strict control as suggested by the Town Board. Cattle, horses and dogs are restrained, but hogs have the liberty of the town and are less controlled than any other "citizen" of the village. After the incorporation of Newton, attention was paid at once to the building of sidewalks, and, from that time forward, scarcely a meeting of the board has passed without some action in relation to this feature of the municipality. The plan has been to build them generally at the public expense, though in case of extra width one half of the expense has been directly assessed upon the property improved. The improvement of the streets was taken up later, and this work has generally been confined to ordinary dirt repairs. Some grading has been done, the necessary filling being accomplished by hauling river sand and dirt from some of the higher ridges. Mud is still a great inconvenience during some parts of the year, though there has been a marked improvement in recent years. It is told by one of the old merchants, that he has had to rescue his lady customers from the mud of the streets by carrying them into the store and then go out and rescue the shoes that had been pulled off.

Beyond these primary efforts the village authorities have not been able to attempt more advanced internal improvements. Some fifteen or twenty street lamps were procured in 1882, by private subscription, and these are now maintained by public expense. There is no organized protection against fire as yet. In May, 1880, the town was visited by its most serious conflagration, which cost the sufferers some \$1,600. The fire was discovered in the buildings occupied by H. M. Printz as an agricultural warehouse, and Lemay Bros' livery stable, which proved to be the most destructive one which has ever visited Newton. When discovered the fire had gained such headway that it was impossible to save anything out of the agricultural building, and the house and contents were therefore a total loss. The horses, buggies and harness belonging to J. C. & G. A. Lemay were saved from the livery stable, and their loss, therefore, was confined to the building and a small amount of hay and corn. From these buildings the fire spread to the small office room owned by D. H. Birt, and until recently, occupied as a shoe shop, but which had been vacant for several days. Next came John A. Brown's blacksmith shop, stable and out buildings together with their contents which were entirely destroyed. By an almost super-human effort on the part of the citizens who turned out to the rescue, the two-story frame dwelling house and brick store room belonging to Mr. Brown were saved from destruction, although both were damaged to a great extent by the heat and water. The gun shop and blacksmith shop above mentioned were situated between the dwelling and store room, in fact within a few feet of the latter, and the heat from the burning buildings were so intense that it burned and blistered the brick very badly causing the walls to crack and spring out two or three inches.

The fire is supposed to have been the accidental work of night strollers, and was discovered by Breneman and Mason, of this place, who arose early on that morning to take a buggy for Marshall. It was through their prompt work that Lemay's teams and buggies were saved. Since this fire there has been some talk of securing a more efficient protection against a repetition of such a disaster, but this talk had ended in nothing more material than talk.

The village of Newton, on the whole, has a promising future. Two railroads now pass through the central part, another has been located near their intersection, and two more are talked of. The country about is rapidly developing, and with its prosperity the county-seat will surely thrive. The early drawback to its prosperity

is removed. With the inauguration of the "Murphy" movement, the substantial portion of the community, irrespective of political affiliations, joined in the effort to root the liquor traffic out of the town, and after successive alternations of high and higher license and total prohibition, the latter has been the accepted principle, and no liquor is sold save by the drug-stores for medicinal purposes. The closing of business houses on Sunday has just begun, and step by step the village is taking rank with the most advanced position in municipal morals. This must have its natural effect upon the prosperity of Newton, and in the next decade it seems certain to far exceed its competitors in this section of the State.

*Saint Marie.*—The American Revolution, followed by that in France, the Napoleonic regime, the Bourbon return, and the establishment of the first Republic, served to direct the attention of the French people to America. Although something of liberty was enjoyed by the French, the middle class and peasantry looked to the American Republic with vague longings as the asylum for all oppressed people. This feeling was strong in the Province of Alsace, and it was a daily occurrence to see wagon after wagon conveying the household effects of such of the peasantry as were happy enough to be able to ship to the new country beyond the sea. Among others who shared this feeling were the families of James Picquet, Sr., and brothers, Schifferstine and Huffman. These families were well-to-do, but desiring that their families might be reared in a freer air, determined to send some one to spy out the land. Joseph Picquet, then a lad of nineteen years, was selected, and in September, 1835, he landed in New York. Ignorant of the language and customs of the country, he went to Philadelphia and engaged in a business house for some nine months, to gain this preliminary education. In the early part of the following year, Mr. Picquet set out on his journey of investigation. He visited the various land offices at Pittsburgh, Lima, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Ind., then following the Wabash & Erie Canal on horseback he came to Covington, and then struck across to Danville, Ill., from thence went to Chicago, thence to Michigan City, Indianapolis, and Vincennes. From this latter point he started for Vandalia through this region, but in attempting to cross the Embarrass River was nearly drowned, and finally got to his destination, attacked by a severe fever. Thence he went to Saint Louis, where he lay sick for some days. In October, 1836, he returned to France and made so favorable a report that in July, 1837, he came back with a colony of four families and twelve young people, about twenty-five persons



in all. A small farm was bought near Francisville, and here the colony rested to look about them. In October, 1837, Joseph Picquet bought some 12,000 acres of land in Jasper County, and about this time the colony pitched their tabernacle on the sight of Saint Marie. The name first adopted was *Colonie des Freres*,—Colony of Brothers,—which was subsequently changed to its present name. This colony, made up of Frenchmen and devout Catholics, took formal possession of their new home in the style of the early discoverers of their nation. Gathering on a knoll just across the railroad from the present residence of Mr. Joseph Picquet, the company fired a few volleys from their guns, sang appropriate songs and concluded with other appropriate ceremonies. The people who gathered here were largely of the farming class, but were little acquainted with the necessities of the frontier life that confronted them. None were woodsmen, and in building their cabins the young forgot what a useful labor-saving institution an ox-team was, and deliberately carried all their logs to the site of the cabin. Experience taught the necessary lessons, and being resolute, cheerful people, obstacles were overcome and a thriving settlement founded.

In 1838, Joseph Picquet started the first store, bringing the goods from Philadelphia *via* Evansville, and thence by wagon. Goods were purchased at Evansville or Louisville and wagoned across the country, save when the stage of water and the plying of steamboats allowed a shipment by river to Vincennes. The cost of freighting goods was one cent per mile on a hundred weight, amounting to about \$1.25 for land transportation. The early trade was principally barter, skins and honey being the principal articles the farmers had for exchange. Game was abundant, and the timber swarmed with the honey-bee. The latter was systematically hunted, and honey brought into the store by the wagon load. In 1839, Mr. Picquet put up the first steam saw-mill in the county, buying the machinery, second-hand, but little used, near Vincennes. A grist-mill was added at once, the machinery being purchased at Pittsburgh. This was the first steam grist-mill in all this region, and attracted patronage from an area of forty miles away. For years Saint Marie was the commercial metropolis of Jasper County, and in its early years bid fair to hold this position for all time. The founders were wealthy, the natural advantages good, and the early enterprise kept pace with the development of the country. The railroads, however, wrought unfavorable changes. These gave Newton an impetus, built up Willow Hill and Boos' Station, all of which compete with this village

The early business men who were the life of the place either retired or removed to other places, and Saint Marie has been surpassed by more favored places. The location of the village on the river, practically cut off from the east country by the poor road across the bottoms, is rather unfavorable for its present development, but it is hoped that with improved roadways the wheat-growing country beyond will find its market here and aid in building up the town.

The village was platted in June, 1847, by Joseph Picquet. The lots and streets are run from north to south four and a half degrees west of south, and from east to west they are run four degrees north of west. The lots vary in size from 34 to 50 feet front, and from 100 to 192 feet deep. The plat consisted of 220 lots, disposed in 14 blocks. The streets are designated by numerals; numbers 1 to 4 run east and west, and numbers 5 to 11 run east to west. Streets numbers 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are each 66 feet wide, numbers 3, 5 and 6 are 62 feet wide, and numbers 4 and 11 are 20 feet wide. One block 450 feet wide by 1,060 feet long is left vacant, but is now divided by the railroad. \*The village is located on the south bank of the Embarrass River, in Saint Marie Township, seven miles east and four miles south of Newton. It was settled by the French colonists, Picquets and others, who improved it slowly but surely. The progress of the place was seriously impeded by the destruction by fire of not one only, but the second flouring mill, yet the town grew slowly until 1881, when the Danville, Olney & Ohio River Railroad was built through the place, since which time it has taken new life. In 1851, a bridge was built across the river at the town; also a grade a mile long, to the hill on the north of the river, which connects it with Willow Hill Township, which is a great advantage to both townships. The town was incorporated under the village act in 1870. Its population is now 350—next in age and size to Newton. Its most striking buildings are a Catholic (brick) church, built in 1850, with parsonage, and an establishment of Sisters of Charity, who devote their time to the nursing of the sick, raising orphans and taking care of old people. The schoolhouse, one of the first, if not the first, free school buildings erected in Jasper County, has been for the last ten or eleven years under the able direction of Mr. George Hubert, who is a noted teacher of our county. Their church and schools are well attended. The principal business of the place is the saw-mill and stave factory, which furnish employment for 25 to 30 hands, two general stores, two grocery stores, one hardware store

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\* The following in relation to villages is copied from Johnson's historical sketch.

and tin-shop, one seed store, two blacksmith and wagon shops, three carpenters, three shoe makers, one cooper and vintner. The nearness of the dark bend to Saint Marie, with its vast quantities of white oak and other timber, will be a great source of wealth to Saint Marie for years to come.

*Mount Sidney.*—Laid out July, 1841, on Section 20, Township 8, Range 10, in Crooked Creek Township, but it soon went back, as it is not known as a town by many now living in the township.

*Grandville.*—(Or Yale, as the post-office is called), was laid out October, 1847, is located near the center of Grandville Township on a beautiful elevated place in the prairie, has about one hundred inhabitants, two hotels, two churches (almost new), one schoolhouse with good school six to eight months of the year, one blacksmith shop, post-office, etc., but the Danville, Olney & Ohio River Railroad missed them about half a mile, and as the township refused to issue the bonds previously voted, the railroad authorities refuse to stop their trains near the town.

*Brockville.*—Was laid out February, 1853—is in the northwest corner of Willow Hill Township, has a very nice frame church and frame schoolhouse, church and school well attended, and about forty inhabitants, but no post-office.

*Buena Vista.*—Laid out October, 1853, in Section 32, in Smallwood Township. Several lots were sold and one or two houses built, but the town went back. A. A. Hankins now cultivates the town as part of his farm.

*Centerville.*—Laid out January, 1854, on Section 21, Township 8, Range 10, Crooked Creek Township. The name, or something else, was too much for the town, and it died.

*Plainfield.*—One and one-half miles southwest of Centerville, was laid out in the next month, February, and was a little more successful, as it succeeded in getting two or three dwelling houses, one schoolhouse and church, but has stopped at that.

*Harrisburg.*—One mile west of Plainfield, was laid out the same day that Plainfield was. It was not quite as successful in the way of schoolhouses and churches as its rival, but more successful in some other respects, as it succeeded in getting more dwellings, one or two stores, a blacksmith shop, etc.

*Queenstown.*—Laid out in April, 1854, on Section 31, Township 6, Range 8, near the west line of South Muddy Township. The inhabitants can scarcely realize the fact now that there was once a town so near them.

*Franklin*.—Born May, 1854, on Section 16, Township 7, Range 8, on the same section that Wheeler is now located, but Franklin is long since dead and buried.

*Constantinople*.—Laid out July, 1854, on Section 5, Township 6, Range 8, in the southwest part of North Muddy Township. It soon went back. The name was too much for it.

*New Liberty*.—(Post-office Willow Hill), in Willow Hill Township, was laid out August, 1854, and is seven and one-half miles due east of Newton, and is next in size to Saint Marie. It is a lively town, as in the last eighteen months the S., E. & S.-E. R. R. and D., O. & O. R. R. R. have been built through the township, cross each other at the north edge of the town, which has given it new life. The town now has three stores keeping a good general stock of merchandise, one drug store, one grocery store, one hardware store, three restaurants, two blacksmith shops, three grain and flour dealers, one stock and grain dealer, two farming implement dealers, one butcher, one shoe maker, one milliner, one hotel, one good flouring mill, one carpenter and undertaker, one house carpenter, one police magistrate, two justices of the peace, a post-office, two depots and express offices, three physicians, and three hundred inhabitants, two churches, and one nice two-story brick schoolhouse. The town has doubled its inhabitants in two years, and they say all they want now is room, and to be let alone; and where will they be in two years more?

*Pleasant Hill*.—Laid out August, 1854, two miles east of New Liberty, in Section 4. It made a failure as a town, except two or three houses, a church and schoolhouse, and all together is called Pingtown.

*West Liberty*.—Laid out December, 1854, near the northeast corner of Section 22, in Fox Township, but never had much town except a church, and in October, 1877, Mr. D. B. Brown and others laid out a town in the south part of the same section, on the P., D. & E. R. R., where the D., O. & O. R. R. R. has since crossed the former road, and called it West Liberty, where they have fair prospects of a nice town. It is located on a beautiful prairie, nine and one-half miles south and four miles east of Newton, about half-way to Olney. West Liberty is in the advance, has 100 inhabitants, one dry goods store, where they keep a very good supply of general merchandise, one grocery and notion store, one drug store, one shoe shop, one wagon and carpenter shop, one warehouse and grain dealer, a post-office, telegraph and express offices, etc. They yet need a good mill

and a church in which to worship. With the railroad facilities that West Liberty has, there is no reason why it may not number its inhabitants by the hundreds in a very short time.

*Point Pleasant.*—In Section 10, or northeast part of Crooked Creek Township, was laid out October, 1855. It is in a fine neighborhood, has one store, two blacksmith and wagon shops, and eighteen or twenty inhabitants, but has so far failed as to being entitled to the name of a city.

*Haysville.*—Laid out February, 1858, on Section 21, in Grove Township. It might have made a town, had not Mr. A. G. Caldwell, Sr., bought the land and laid out his large farm over it. A man by the name of Hays once started a store and run it for awhile in the town.

*Embarrassville.*—Laid out October, 1858, in Section 20, Saint Marie Township, on the west bank of the Embarrass River. They once had a saw-mill and a few inhabitants, but is not doing much at present.

*Langdon.*—Laid out July, 1861, in Section 2, in Grove Township, near Island Creek. At one time they had a small store (peanuts and crackers and a few fire-crackers), a shoe shop and a blacksmith shop, and they all did some business in their line, and I am told the heaviest business done in the town was loafing.

*Rose Hill.*—Laid out 1878, on the P., D. & E. R. R., seven and three quarter miles north of Newton. The town took its name from a post-office that Mr. A. S. Harris got established about 1839, when Mr. H. lived on a little hill in the Embarrass River bottom, west of Harrisburg. Mr. H. moved to Harrisburg in 1840, and took the office with him. Some years after, he moved to Newton, after which the post-office was knocked around the country for a mile or two, until the town (Rose Hill) was located as above. The town, including Harrisburg, has 128 inhabitants, three stores keeping a general stock of merchandise, and one or two of which are quite a credit to any country village, one hotel and boarding-house, a nice depot and express office, two or three grain dealers, drug store, stave factory, blacksmith shop, and all other things necessary to make up quite a lively little town. They have a new frame church that is well attended, with its Sabbath-school, that is a great credit to the community. There are a great many staves, railroad ties, grain, etc., shipped from the place, and should nothing happen the town, they expect to catch up with some of its older rivals soon.

The following towns have never been regularly laid out, or plats

filed for record, yet some of them think they are entitled to the name of a town.

*Hunt City*.—(Now in Willow Hill Township) was first started in Grandville Township, in the year 1872, John A. Hunt owner of what is now known as the Hunt City farm, erected a storeroom on his premises, put in a general stock of merchandise, and petitioned for a post-office. Said office was granted and called Hunt City. In February, 1876, J. A. Hunt sold his store to S. B. Bowman & Co. In July, 1878, S. B. Bowman & Co. sold the store to E. W. Parks, who continued the business till November, 1881, when the store and post-office were destroyed by fire. In the fall of 1881, J. N. Huston, owner of the Hunt City farm, had a town laid out in Willow Hill Township, bordering on the north line of the same, four miles north of Willow Hill, and on the D., O. & O. R. R. R., and known as Hunt City.

Immediately after the town was laid out, several parties commenced the erection of good, substantial business and dwelling houses. It now numbers 150 inhabitants, two stores, both doing a good business, one good flouring-mill doing a large business, one hotel, one grain house, one blacksmith and wagon shop, a depot, telegraph office and express office. Parties now in business, are T. H. Week, merchant; Stewart Brothers, merchants; W. C. Parks, proprietor of hotel; Jones & Debow, proprietors of mill and dealers in grain; E. W. Parks, dealer in grain; M. L. Gettinger, M. Bilby, physicians; George Beeman, G. F. Merritt and C. L. Burk, carpenters; Fred Byerly, blacksmith; William Byerly, wagon maker; Isaiah Stewart, postmaster; E. W. Parks, freight and ticket agent for D., O. & O. R. R. R. and Adams Express agent; Jesse E. Parks, telegraph operator for Western Union; Bates & Buchanan, breeders of Norman horses, short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs.

Hunt City is situated on a beautiful rolling prairie, surrounded by as good farming land as can be found in southern Illinois, and inhabited by well-to-do farmers. It ships more grain over the D., O. & O. R. R. R. than any other point on the line, and is destined in the near future to become a place of considerable importance.

*Hidalgo*.—Three and one-quarter miles north of Rose Hill, was started in 1878, by G. D. Briggs, on the P., D. & E. R. R.; has two stores, keeping a general stock of merchandise, two blacksmith shops, post-office, depot, express office, etc., and has about thirty-five inhabitants. There are a great many railroad ties shipped from the place, and of a good season, considerable grain also.

*Falmouth.*—Four miles north, and one mile east of Newton, on the P., D. & E. R. R., was laid out in 1881, by Hunt & Brooks, on a small prairie, has one store in which they keep a general stock of merchandise, two blacksmith shops, one boarding-house, post-office, express office, depot and grain house, has about forty-two inhabitants, and considerable business is done (for a small town) in ties and grain.

*Latona.*—Eight and one-half miles west, and three-fourths of a mile south of Newton, in North Muddy Township. The first improvement was made by S. Trexler, in 1869. They have one store, keeping a good stock of general merchandise, one boot and shoe shop, one blacksmith and wagon shop, one drug store, two saw-mills, and one nice frame church. They have forty-four inhabitants. They also have post-office with daily mail.

*Wheeler.*—(First platted as Mason), eight and one-half miles west, and three and one-half miles north of Newton, in North Muddy Township, on the S., E. & S. E. R. R., was laid out about a year ago, by Mrs. Nancy J. Carter (the town was named in honor of Mrs. Carter's first husband, who first improved the land on which the town is located, but who died while in the army, in the fall of 1861). They have now sixty-nine inhabitants, two large two-story store houses, where is kept a large stock of merchandise, one drug store, one agricultural implement house, one blacksmith shop, one silversmith shop, one boarding-house, one brick kiln and large flouring-mill to be put up this season. The town is surrounded by as rich a soil as we have in the county, and if nothing happens the town, it will be quite a little city in a short time.

*List.*—Is not a town, but a post-office on the S., E. & S. E. R. R., six miles northwest of Newton. No town laid out and no houses to put on the lots if there were any lots.

*Boos Station.*—Five miles southeast of Newton, in Fox Township, on P., D. & E. R. R., has a large store and well-assorted stock of goods, blacksmith shop, post-office, depot, etc., in a good section of the county, and ought to do considerable business.

*Bogota.*—At the cross-roads in Smallwood Township, at what is called Honey's Church, is promising fair to make a town if nothing happens it. They have about thirty inhabitants, four grocery stores, one store keeping general stock, one blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, two churches and one mill that grinds corn.

*Advance.*—Post-office and town started on the D., O. & O. R. R. R., near the north line of Grandville Township, just starting in a good country, and may surprise us yet.