

PART IV.

HISTORY OF RICHLAND COUNTY.

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ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

ORIGIN OF THE COUNTY.

ON November 28, 1814, the Territorial Legislature organized the county of Edwards. White County was formed at the same session, and the line between them has remained unchanged. This line, extending from the Wabash to the Third Principal Meridian, was the southern boundary of a county, the limits of which extended northward to the international boundary. In 1816, Crawford was formed from the northern territory of Edwards, leaving within the limits of the latter a magnificent territory, from which eight counties, entire, or in part, have been formed. In 1819, the counties of Jefferson and Wayne were formed; in 1821, Lawrence County; in 1823, Marion, and in 1824, Clay and Wabash, leaving Edwards with its present restricted area. The Little and Big Wabash rivers naturally attracted the greater part of immigration and the early seats of justice were founded at an inconvenient distance from the interior settlements, which, from 1818 to 1835, began to be quite numerous. The precedent set of forming small counties in the case of Wabash and Edwards, was not lost upon the people of this interior region, and an agitation for the erection of an independent county of the outlying portions of Clay and Lawrence, was begun as early as 1838. The first vote was unsuccessful, but in 1841, the effort culminated in an act of the Legislature which resulted in the provisional erection of Richland County, as follows:

“Beginning on the south line of Crawford County, where the range line, between Ranges 13 and 14 west, strikes the same; thence south, with said range line, to the south line of Lawrence County; thence west, with said county line, to the line dividing Lawrence and Edwards counties; thence north, with the last mentioned

line, to the south line of Clay County; thence west, with said line, to the center of the Little Wabash River; thence up the middle of said stream, to the mouth of Muddy Fork thereof; thence up the center of the Muddy Fork, to the line dividing townships Nos. 3 and 4; thence east with said line to the range line between ranges 8 and 9; thence north, with said range line, to the south line of Jasper County; and thence east, with said line, to the place of beginning, shall constitute a new county, to be called the county of Richland.

“SEC. 2. The county aforesaid is constituted upon the following conditions: The people of the counties of Lawrence and Clay, as they are now organized, shall meet at the several places of holding elections for senator and representatives to the General Assembly, in said counties on the first Monday in June next, and proceed to vote in the same manner of voting for senator and representatives to the General Assembly whether said county shall be constituted or not. The judges of elections in said counties, shall give twenty days’ notice of the time and place of holding said elections, by posting up notices thereof, at six of the most public places in each of said counties; and on said day shall open a poll book at each election precinct in said counties, in which they shall cause to be ruled two columns, in one of which they shall set down the votes given for the formation of said new county; and in the other column, the votes given against the same, and said judges shall conduct said election, and make returns thereof, to the clerks of the county commissioners’ courts of Lawrence and Clay counties, as is now provided by law in the case of elections for senator and representatives to the General Assembly; and said returns shall be opened and counted in the same manner as required in such elections, and if a majority of all the votes given in each of said counties at said election shall be in favor of the formation of said new county, a certificate thereof shall be made by the clerks of the county commissioners’ courts of said counties of Lawrence and Clay, under the seals of said courts, and transmitted by them to the office of the Secretary of State of Illinois, to be filed in his office as evidence of the formation of said county of Richland, and said clerk shall make a like certificate to be filed in their respective offices, which shall be made a matter of record at the next succeeding term of the county commissioners’ court of each of said counties, which certificate shall be sufficient to prove the fact therein stated, after which said county shall be one of the counties of the State of Illinois.

“SEC. 3. If said county of Richland shall be constituted as



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aforesaid, the legal voters of said county shall meet on the third Monday of June next, at the several places of holding elections in said new county, and vote for the place where the county-seat of said county shall be located, on which day persons proposing to make donations for the several places proposed to be voted for, shall file with the judges of election of the several election precincts in said new county, their written propositions, which shall not be for less than ten acres of land at the place the seat of justice shall be located, and upon the person or persons offering the donation at the place receiving the greatest number of votes, making to the said county of Richland a good and sufficient conveyance for the donation proposed to be given, such place shall be the permanent seat of justice for said county, and said donation shall be disposed of by the county commissioners of said county, in such manner as they may think proper, reserving necessary public grounds; and the proceeds arising from said donation, shall be exclusively used [and] for the erection of public buildings in said county.

“SEC. 4. Should said county of Richland be constituted according to the provisions of this act, said county shall, on the first Monday of August next, elect all county officers for said county, to be commissioned and qualified as in other cases.

“SEC. 5. Said county of Richland shall make a part of the fourth judicial circuit, and so soon as said county shall be organized, the clerk of the county commissioners' court of said county shall notify the judge of the said circuit, and it shall be his duty to appoint a clerk, and hold courts in said county, at such times as said judge shall appoint, or shall be provided by law; said courts to be held at such place as the county commissioners of said county shall provide, until public buildings shall be erected.

“SEC. 6. The school funds belonging to the several townships in said county, and all notes and mortgages pertaining to the same, shall be paid and delivered over to the school commissioner of the county of Richland, by the commissioners of the counties of Lawrence and Clay, so soon as the said county of Richland shall be organized, and the commissioner of school lands shall be appointed and qualified according to law; together with all interests arising out of said money that may not have been expended.

“SEC. 7. That, until otherwise provided by law, that portion of Richland County taken off Lawrence, and that portion taken off Clay shall continue to vote with the counties they were taken off of, for senator and representatives to the General Assembly.

“SEC. 8. That the passage of this act shall in no wise alter or affect the assessment of property, or the collection of taxes in the counties of Lawrence and Clay, as the same are now organized for the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-one. But should the said county of Richland be organized in pursuance to the provisions of this act, the county commissioners’ courts of the counties of Lawrence and Clay shall immediately, after the settlement of the collectors of their respective counties, order that portion of taxes collected from citizens residing in that portion of Richland County taken off their respective counties after deducting a proportionate amount for the assessment and collection of the same, to be paid into the county treasury of Richland County.

“SEC. 9. The returns of the election for county officers to be held on the first Monday in August next, and the returns of the election for the purpose of fixing the permanent seat of justice of said county, shall be made to Samuel R. Lowry, James Laws and Joshua L. Johnston, who are hereby authorized and required to open the same and make returns thereof, in the same manner as Clerks of county commissioners’ courts and justices of the peace, called to their assistance in ordinary cases, are required to do.”

The only opposition to the formation of a new county was based upon the natural hesitation to curtail the extent of the old county’s area, but so determined were the people to be benefited by this change that the project received its most material aid from those about Lawrenceville. It was feared in this region that if the project failed the county-seat would be moved to a more central point, and hence their support to the new county. In Clay County there was but little or no opposition, and the vote under the provisions of this act was in favor of the division by a good majority. The name is due to the influence of Rev. Joseph H. Reed, who was a Methodist minister, a resident of the county, prominent in the agitation for a new county, and subsequently a member of the State Legislature. He wished to call the county-seat Calhoun, but in deference to his efforts, and as a compromise, the county was named after Richland County, in Ohio, from whence Reed had emigrated.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The county thus formed and named is in the eastern part of southern Illinois, and embraces a superficial area of about 350 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Jasper and Crawford counties, on the east by Lawrence, on the south by Wabash, Edwards and

Wayne, and on the west by Wayne and Clay counties. This county forms a part of the upper valley of the Little Wabash, though a rise of ground extending north and south, contributes a portion of its drainage through the Embarrass, and Bonpas. The Embarrass, in one of its eccentric bends, cuts the northern line of German Township, and receives some small tributaries, known as Elk Horn, Calf Killer, Elm Slough, Muddy Creek and Bugaboo. Bonpas takes its origin in Claremont Township, and flows in a nearly due south course in two branches, which unite in the township of Bonpas, and joins the larger Wabash at Grayville. It has no important affluents in this county, Sugar Creek being the only one reaching the dignity of a name. The Little Wabash, taking its rise in Shelby and Coles counties, flows a southeasterly course and enters the larger Wabash on the southern line of White County. In its course, it forms the boundary of the southwest corner of Richland County, and receives its main affluent, Big Muddy, at this point. The latter stream receives Harrison and Sugar creeks from Denver Township, and forms a part of the western boundary of the county. Fox River, rising in Jasper County, flows southerly, dividing the western half of Richland County, and joins the Little Wabash in Edwards County. The Fox receives a number of unimportant streams from either side, among which are found the names of Sugar, Big, Little Fox and Gentry creeks. The surface of the county is generally rolling, and its area is nearly equally divided into prairie and timbered land, the latter forming belts along the courses of the streams from one to three miles in width, and the prairies occupying the higher or table lands between the main water courses. The elevation of the prairies above the beds of the principal streams ranges from fifty to about a hundred feet. The southeastern portion of the county, on the headwaters of the Bonpas, is quite broken, and is underlaid by the heavy beds of sandstone and sandy shale, intervening between coals twelve and thirteen, which attain here a thickness of seventy to eighty feet, or more. In the central or western portion the surface is seldom so broken as to render it unfit for cultivation.

*GEOLOGY.

The geological formations of this county comprise a moderate thickness of drift clay, sand and gravel, that is everywhere found immediately beneath the soil, except in the creek valleys, where this superficial material has been removed by corroding agencies; and a

* Taken from the State Report.

series of sandstones, shales, etc., embracing an aggregate thickness of 250 to 300 feet, which belongs to the upper coal measures, and include the horizon of three or four thin seams of coal. The drift clays are somewhat thicker in this county than in Lawrence, and the bowlders are more numerous and of larger size. Below the brown, gravelly clays that usually form the subsoil on the uplands, and range from ten to twenty feet in thickness, there is in many places a bed of hard, bluish-gray, gravelly clay, or "hard pan," as it is frequently termed, and below this at some points there is an old soil or muck bed, underlaid by from one to five feet or more of quicksand. Limbs and trunks of trees are frequently found imbedded in this old soil, in which they probably grew, or in the bluish-gray hard pan immediately above it, but to the present time no authentic specimens of animal remains have been found in them in this State sufficiently preserved for identification. Some small fresh water and land shells have been found in the quicksands in other portions of the State, but they did not prove to be specifically distinct from those now living.

From the meagre outcrops to be seen on the small streams in this county, it would not be possible to construct a continuous section of all the beds that should be found here, but fortunately a boring has been made at Olney which renders material assistance in ascertaining the general character of the formations that underlay the southern and eastern portions of the county to the depth penetrated by the drill. This boring was made for coal, and from the report of the boring the following section is compiled:

	feet.	ins.		feet.	ins.
1. Soil and drift clay	13		10. Hard rock(probably sandstone)	36	
2. Yellow sandstone	28		11. Clay shale	22	
3. Gray sandstone	2	6	12. Black shale and coal (No. 12) ..	2	
4. Black shale(horizon of coal No13)	4		13. Clay shale.....	31	
5. Clay shale	29		14. Limestone	4	
6. Hard rock (probably sandstone)	48		15. Shale, partly calcareous	23	
7. Clay shale, with black slate ...	25		16. Limestone	3	
8. Hard sand rock	3		17. Hard rock (probably sandstone)	36	
9. Clay shale.....	28			—	—
Total.....				337	6

Two and a half miles south of Olney, in the vicinity of Boden's mill, located on the southeast quarter of Section 15, Township 3, Range 10 east, there is an outcrop of a thin coal in the creek bed, overlaid by the following strata:

	feet.		feet. ins.
Brown sandstone	10 to 12	Hard silicious limestone, with broken	
Black shale, with concretions of		plants	2
blue septaria	4 to 6	Clay shale, with concretions of lime-	
Blue clay shale	5	stone	3
Coal (No. 13 of general section)			6

The black shale in this section is probably identical with No. 4 of the Olney boring, and the thin coal below was wanting there, or else was passed without observation. The band of hard silicious limestone found at this locality is a very durable stone, and has been quarried for building purposes. It is a refractory stone to work, but may be relied on for culverts and bridge abutments, where an ordinary sandstone would yield to atmospheric influences. One and a half miles south of Claremont, there is an outcrop of the following beds, probably representing the same strata seen at Boden's mill, south of Olney.

	feet.
1. Shale	1 to 2
2. Hard calcareous sandstone	4 to 8
3. Blue shale, with calcareous nodules	3 to 4
4. Black laminated shale, extending to creek level	4

The quarry here belongs to the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad, and an immense amount of stone has been quarried from the calcareous sandstone No. 2 of the above section, to be used in the construction of culverts and bridges on that road. This quarry is near the center of Section 16, Township 3, Range 14 east. On Mr. P. Berry's place, on the southeast quarter of Section 11, Township 2, Range 14 east, coal has been mined for several years, in a limited way, by stripping the seam along its outcrop in the valley of a small stream, a tributary of the Bonpas. The coal is about eighteen inches thick, and of good quality, and is overlaid by a few inches of soft bituminous shale, and an argillaceous shelly limestone. This coal is also mined on the northeast quarter of the same section. This is probably coal No. 12 of the general section, and must have been passed through in the boring at Olney, and may be represented by No. 12 of the boring at that point.

About five miles northeast of Olney coal has been found on the open prairie, at a depth of about twenty-two feet below the general surface level. It was first discovered in digging a stock well, and subsequently an inclined tunnel has been driven down to the coal and preparations made to work it in a systematic way. The roof of this seam consists of clay shale with some limestone, in boulder-like masses, though it is possible the limestone masses thrown out in

opening the tunnel may belong to the drift clays and not to the roof shales of the coal. This coal is found on the adjoining farm, and on a farm a little farther to the west, on Section 18, Township 4 north, Range 10 east, a double seam is reported to have been passed through in a bore but a short distance below the surface, the upper one two feet and the lower one three feet in thickness, with a space of about fifteen feet between them. These coals, if there are really two distinct seams here, must be about the horizon of No. 15 of the general section, and this is probably about the southern line of outcrop for these coals, as no indications of their presence was found in the boring at Olney or in sinking wells about the city, and from the topography of the surface it is believed the surface level where these coals have been found is at least forty or fifty feet above the level at Olney. A previous survey notes the following section at the quarry on Section 34, Township 4, Range 10 east. 1. Soil and drift, eight feet. 2. Soft buff sandstone, three feet. 3. Hard gray building-stone, four feet. The gray sandstone is very hard and takes a good finish, stands well but is somewhat marred by carbonaceous spots. At the quarry two miles west of Olney, the quarry rock is overlaid by eight feet of buff silicious shale, beneath which is a heavy bedded buff sandstone that was quarried for the masonry on the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad at the time of its construction.

On Section 18, Township 3, Range 10, on Big Creek, occurs the following section: 1. Covered slope, twenty-five feet. 2. Shaly sandstone, five feet. 3. Heavy bedded sandstone, ten feet. 4. Black bituminous shale, three feet. A quarter of a mile down the creek a soft buff sandstone in heavy beds from four to ten feet thick alternate with thinner beds of hard bluish sandstone. On Section 34, Township 3, Range 14, in a well near the Higgins mill, sixteen feet of sandstone was passed through and a coal seam below it reported to be twenty inches thick. Shaly sandstone and clay shale were seen, overlaying the heavy bedded sandstone a few hundred yards above the mill. The hills along the Bonpas are from twenty to sixty feet high, composed of drift deposits consisting of yellowish clay with gravel and small boulders, the latter seldom exceeding five or six inches in diameter. At the coal bank on Section 16, Township 2, Range 14, the section is as follows: 1. Soil and drift, ten feet. 2. Buff sandstone and shale, five feet. 3. Bluish gray limestone, two feet. 4. Shale, two inches. 5. Coal, one foot eight inches. The shale over the coal was filled with fossil shells, corals, etc. The limestone over this coal was also seen three miles northwest of the coal bank

where it was formerly quarried and burned for lime. A quarter of a mile below the Big Creek bridge, south of Olney, is found the following section: 1. Soil and drift, fifteen feet. 2. Coarse irregular bedded sandstone, fifteen feet. 3. Black marly shale, thirteen feet. The lower part of the black shale was slaty and contained numerous fossils. Four and a half miles southwest of Olney a black shale outcrops in the banks of Sugar Creek, about five feet thick, underlaid by a thin coal. A quarter of a mile below, at the bridge, is seen the same conglomerate sandstone that occurs on Big Creek, underlaid by the same black shale, which is sometimes marly and contains numerous fossils. It also contains large nodules of impure limestone. This bituminous shale and thin coal represent coal No. 13 of the general section, and the same group of fossils is found in Montgomery County.

MATERIAL RESOURCES.

Sandstone of a fair quality for ordinary use is quite abundant, and there is probably not a township in the county where good quarries could not be opened at a moderate expense. Many of these localities have been indicated in the foregoing lines. The quarries south of Claremont, belonging to the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad, afford a very hard and durable rock, and although the bed is only about six feet in average thickness, it is, fortunately, so situated as to require no great expenditure in stripping, and the rock has been removed over a considerable surface. The rock is a very hard, gray, micaceous sandstone, and seems to be but little affected by long exposure, and hence affords a desirable material for culverts, bridge abutments, etc. The sandstones in the northern and western portions of the county are for the most part rather soft, but locally they afford some very good building stone, as at the quarry northeast of Olney, and at the quarry two miles west of the town. The stratum of hard, silicious limestone outcropping on Big Creek, two miles and a half south of Olney, is a durable stone but is not to be obtained in sufficient quantity to be of much importance as a building stone.

There are two coal seams cropping out in this county that promise to be of some value in supplying the local demand for fuel, and the upper one, if the thickness had been found persistent over any considerable area, would have furnished all needed supplies for the county for many years to come. The lower seam, which outcrops on the headwaters of the Bonpas, in the southeastern portion of the county, and has been referred to as No. 12 of the general section,

ranges from sixteen to twenty inches in thickness, and has only been worked by stripping in the creek valleys where it outcrops. It affords a coal of good quality, but unfortunately is generally too thin to be mined profitably in a systematic way. The other seam, five miles northwest of Olney, is about three feet in thickness, and an inclined tunnel has been carried down to it, but the preparations which were made for carrying on the work systematically for the supply of the home market have not resulted advantageously to the projectors, as yet. This is probably the Shelbyville seam, No. 15, of the general section, which is the thickest seam in the upper coal measures and usually quite persistent in its development. In Shelby County this seam affords a semi-block coal, of fair quality, hard enough to be handled without much waste and tolerably free from sulphuret of iron, but showing thin partings of selenite on the transverse cleavage. The thickness of the sandstones, shales, etc., intervening between coals twelve and fifteen in the valley of the Okaw, is about 235 feet, but in this county it is probably somewhat less, though this point could only be determined approximately, from the lack of continuous outcrops of the intervening strata. The main coals of the lower coal measures are probably from 600 to 1,000 feet below the surface at Olney, and it would require an expenditure of capital to open and work them that the present demand for coal would not justify. If the seam northeast of Olney should be found to retain an average thickness of three feet over any considerable area, it could be worked profitably and supply the home market. At present the chief supply is derived from the coal-fields of Indiana.

No limestone is found especially adapted for use in the lime-kiln, though some attempts have been made to use the rock overlying coal No. 12, on the Bonpas, for that purpose. It is usually too argillaceous to slack freely when burned, and at best, would only produce a very inferior quality of lime.

The soil is, however, the chief resource of the county. The prairies are generally small and possess a rich, productive clay-loam soil that seems practically inexhaustable, and will seldom need fertilizing if properly cultivated with a judicious system of rotation in crops. On the timbered lands the soil is less uniform in quality, and its character is generally well indicated by the various growth of timber. Where this is mainly composed of two or three varieties of oak and hickory the soil is thin and poor, and requires frequent applications of fertilizers to keep it up to the ordinary standard of



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productiveness for western lands. But where the timber growth is largely interspersed with elm, black-walnut, linden, wild cherry, persimmon, honey-locust, etc., the soil is good and will rank favorably with the best prairie land in its productive qualities. A large portion of the timbered land in the county is of this quality, and when cleared and brought under cultivation it produces nearly or quite as well as the best prairie land.

AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural facilities, methods and progress of Richland County are not dissimilar to those of the other counties reviewed in this volume. The pioneer farmer found enough to engage his attention in securing a plain subsistence for his family, but with the rude, careless cultivation which he expended upon it, the land yielded considerably in excess of his demands, and in the absence of profitable markets, there was little inducement to raise more. When one piece of ground was conceived to be exhausted a freshly cleared piece was brought in subjection to the plow, and the older plat temporarily abandoned. There was little, if any, systematic farming until about 1855. At this time the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad was constructed from Vincennes to Saint Louis and opened up a market for the surplus products of this region, and with this incentive the farmer brought more care and thought to the production of a crop. Until recently the subject of fertilizers has received but little attention. The virgin soil was so productive, and the stabling of stock so little practiced, that the value or necessity for the enrichment of the ground did not press itself upon the attention. Of late years the barnyard accumulations have generally been utilized upon the wheat crop, the manure being spread upon the sown crop. But little of commercial fertilizers have been used. Occasionally a little plaster or phosphate has been used as an experiment, but the richness of the soil has obviated the necessity of its use. This fertility has led to the practice of cropping the ground for a series of years with the same grain. Certain pieces of "willow land" and river bottoms have produced good yields of wheat for twelve or fifteen years in succession without manuring. There is practically no rotation of crops observed in the county. The first crop on sod ground is generally wheat, and this may be kept in wheat for a succession of from five to ten years, and when found to be exhausted is turned out to recuperate in growing weeds. There is more of systematic rotation of late years, though the range of crops is limited; on flat ground, corn is

generally planted on sod, and this followed by a second crop, or wheat. The plan of cultivation adheres to shallow plowing, about eight inches being the average depth. Deep plowing and subsoiling have been experimented with, but the advantages are so remote and the surface soil so little impaired in its productiveness, that the practice has never gained a foothold in Richland. In the matter of drainage the county is still in the happy freedom from any stern necessity. Most of the farming lands have so good a natural drainage, that the majority of cultivated lands are dependent upon the plow only for surface drainage. A theory is maintained as to the advantage of tile draining, but the judgment of the community upon this topic has evaporated in talk. A tile factory has been established about a mile south of Olney, and tile will probably be used to a considerable extent, but thus far no regular attempts at permanent drains have been made.

The grass crop is not an important one here. Stock is not grown or fed extensively, and grain seems to have absorbed the principal attention. Timothy and redtop are sown separately or mixed for hay, and considerable quantities are shipped to foreign markets. Meadows are not prepared with special care before seeding, but form a convenient way of resting the soil while the farmer still retains its use. The average life of a meadow is about three years, though some advanced farmers by manuring it extend its productiveness to five years. At this age the weeds become so numerous as to damage the value of the hay, and the land is turned over for wheat or corn, and sometimes turned out for pasture. Clover is sown only for seed, which commands a good price in the home markets, ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$8 per bushel. Until very recently this could not be successfully grown on the prairie land, though the present year has exceptionally spread the growth of white clover all over the country. But little is sown for the purpose of plowing under, and the hay is so difficult to handle properly, that the majority of farmers do not value it save for seed. The principal crop of the county is wheat, though at first it was supposed that it would not grow here. A very serious difficulty in its early culture here was the unfavorable character of the season, and this unchanged, the best of cultivation would have probably failed to secure a crop. The early farmers, however, brought with them certain methods of successful culture in the east and found it difficult to modify them to suit the new circumstances found here. The consequence was that after repeated efforts with careful cultivation scarcely a straw was

gleaned and the crop pronounced a failure in this region. Some wheat was grown during the years preceding 1855, but from this date to 1860, more intelligent effort was put forth to master the situation. The blue stem was an early variety that succeeded, and the Mediterranean. Of late years the Fultz wheat has been the favorite grain, but the tendency now seems to trend toward the Lancaster and the old Mediterranean. From 1860 to 1881, the crop has been reasonably sure, producing an average of from twelve to fifteen bushels per acre. In the latter year there was a drouth which resulted in absolute failure of all crops. In the following year the wheat yield was very large, the crop being estimated at an average of eighteen bushels to the acre. The cultivation of this crop is not carried on with the care and judgment to be expected in the case of so important a crop. The ground is generally prepared by plowing in July or August, unless the season be wet, when the plowing is sometimes deferred to avoid the growth of weeds that inevitably spring up in such case. After slight harrowing, the wheat is drilled in and occasionally top-dressed and rolled. The grain is threshed in the field and marketed at home. There are three grist-mills that buy considerable wheat for manufacture, but the larger part of the product finds its way through the elevator at Olney to Baltimore and other eastern points. Rye and barley scarcely figure in the agriculture of the county. A limited acreage is sown annually for feed, there being but little or no sale for the grains. Oats are never the successful crop here that they are in the north. The climate is found too hot for its best success. A considerable acreage is grown but the product is intended for home use, and no more is grown than is used here. An occasional crop will yield a grain that weighs thirty-three pounds to the bushel.

Corn is only second to wheat as a source of revenue to the farmer. It has always been a reliable crop, and that without the careful cultivation which elsewhere proves so remunerative. The white variety was the early variety planted, but the change in seasons scarcely gave it time to mature in seasons affected by dry weather. In recent years many have planted corn secured in Ohio, and this while not bearing so large an ear, was found to mature better and quite as good for all purposes. This variety matures in ninety days from the planting, and gets to a point in its growth where it is little effected by the dry weather which seldom fails to be experienced in the latter part of the summer or fall in this region. The ground is not as carefully prepared for this crop as it should be. The better

farmers contend that the ground should be plowed in the late fall or in the open period of the winter. In the spring when the ground is ready to plow the prepared ground may be thoroughly harrowed and planted before the spring plowing can be accomplished. But few follow this practice, however, and spring plowing is the rule. In the care of the growing crops the same diversity of method occurs. The old rule of going through the field a certain number of times before "laying by" the crop, is still too generally followed. There are those, however, who cultivate the corn until it becomes too tall for further cultivation, and the increased yield under this culture is in marked contrast to the less careful method. The corn is generally husked from the standing stalk, which is sometimes "stripped" and "topped," but generally is left to stand entire and stock turned in on it after the frost of winter has rendered the ground hard. It is sometimes cut and shocked and wheat sown between the rows of shocks. The larger part of the product is sold, though it is becoming the general opinion that it could be more profitably fed to stock. The yield ranges from twenty-five to forty-five bushels per acre, though there are exceptional cases where a higher yield is obtained. Sorghum and broom-corn are found in little patches, but the extensive culture of either is not observed here. Fruit is becoming a prominent source of agricultural revenue in Richland County. Apples are the leading variety and almost the exclusive variety cultivated for market purposes. This fruit is hardy in this locality, and receives the most intelligent care. Some of the orchards are quite extensive, one covering an area of 160 acres and numbers of them from twenty to forty acres, each. The market is good, large quantities being shipped from the county-seat. Peaches were extensively cultivated, a few years since, but the uncertainty of the crop, the severity of the winters and their disastrous effect upon the life of the trees, have had a tendency to discourage the culture. The difficulty of reaching a profitable market in good season is another very serious discouragement, and peaches may be said to be rather less than more than enough for the home demand. Pears are grown in orchards with fair success, but the product barely suffices for home use. Cherries and plums are found only in the gardens and are subject to the usual hindrances found elsewhere. Small fruit culture is yet in its infancy. Of blackberries there is an abundant wild growth, which in favorable years brings into the county a considerable revenue. The same is true of nuts, the product of the hickory occasionally reaching a remarkable

feature in the exports of the county. Strawberries and other fruits of this class are found to grow well here, and the facilities afforded by the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad are leading many to add this branch of horticulture to the ordinary culture of the farm.

The improvements in stock date principally within the last ten years. The class of horses here were merely scrubs, until about 1867 or 1868. In this year Ellingsworth, of Effingham County, exhibited a Norman stallion at the fair, that was very much admired, and the following spring was stood in the county. The rage for Norman colts became almost universal and a marked improvement in the class of horses in the county was observed. This has continued until the present with but little abatement. The "all-purpose" horse is the one chiefly needed, and is the class to which most of the horses are to be referred. Mr. Arch. Spring has several horses of this strain and pays considerable attention to breeding them. In the summer of 1883, E. S. Wilson and Thomas Tippitt received from the Clydesdale Horse-Breeding Company, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Glasgow, Scotland, three full-blooded two-year old Clydesdale fillies. Mr. Wilson received "Bonnie Lass" and "Ida May," and Mr. Tippitt, "Rosa." These animals are claimed to have more muscle per pound of weight than the Norman, and are therefore less slovenly in gait, and make a more sprightly animal. Mr. Wilson has embarked pretty extensively in this grade of horses, and their exhibition at the fair drew forth many marks of approval. While this class of horses seems to meet more fully the public demand, roadsters and speed horses are not neglected by breeders. Mr. Sand leads in this variety, and has some of the finest bred animals in the State. Mules are not so much bred here as in Jasper or Cumberland counties. The taste seems to have been educated in favor of draft horses, and hence they have not taken the prominent position they probably otherwise would. There are, however, some good mules in the county, and are always found among the teams that come to the county-seat on special occasions. The same spirit of improvements is manifested among cattle. The short horn Durham takes the lead, and good herds are owned by P. Heltman and H. B. Miller. Jerseys are represented in the county by G. D. Slanker. Some Ayrshires were exhibited at the fair this year, and attracted considerable attention by their peculiarities. Hogs are more generally marked in their improvement from the original breeds than any other kind of stock. The old "hazel splitters" have become long ago extinct. The first improvement was the introduction of the Irish Grazers, which have been succeeded by the

Berkshire, Poland-China and Chester White. Among the leading stock men interested in these breeds are E. S. Wilson, P. Heltman, A. G. Basden and Bowlsby Bros. Sheep are beginning to be found in the county in considerable numbers. William McWilliams is the leading sheep grazer in Richland County, and is instrumental in introducing this animal considerably in the county. The Merinos are principally represented in his flocks, though coarse wools are found here also. P. Heltman is chiefly engaged in breeding Southdowns among sheep. The farmers are to a large extent taking sheep "on shares," and in this way the county will be pretty well supplied with this useful class of animal. But a single attempt, so far as learned, has been made in dairying on a large scale. A factory was started at Parkersburg about 1878, but the experiment proved a failure, the enterprise ending in some sort of litigation.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

"The Richland County Agricultural Society," was organized on June 7, 1856. For two years the Society held its fairs on land belong to Judge Kitchell, just south of the depot of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad in Olney. In 1858, ten acres, a mile east of the court house, were rented of Mr. Baldwin, and bought in 1860 by the Society. Here the fairs were held with varying success until 1878. The history of the Society is one of struggle against failure. In 1870, the records show that the business men were solicited to close their stores and attend the fair, at least during two days, and special premiums sought to eke out the meagre "attractions" offered by the Society. In 1872, the name of the Society was changed under the Act of 1871, to the "Richland County Agricultural Board," and at the same time it was suggested that the ground be sold or traded for a new one. The Society's resources were exhausted, and no more fairs were held until 1878, when the Board made overtures to the Driving Park Association to take charge of the fairs. The first movement was to secure the use of the grounds for the purposes of a fair, but it eventually took the other shape. Under this arrangement, the Board assigned to the Association their State Aid Fund of \$100, the old Floral Hall building, and loose lumber, and in this fall the sixteenth exhibition was held. In 1879, the Board sold their ground to the Park Association for twenty-five paid-up shares in the latter organization, and fairs were held regularly under this joint arrangement until 1881. The drouth of this year, which destroyed the entire agricultural product of the county, made the failure of the

fair a foregone conclusion and none was held. Since then the fairs have been regularly held under the auspices of the Driving Park Association. In 1883, the Twenty-Sixth exhibition of the Agricultural Board was held. This number includes the years from 1872 to 1878, when no fairs were held and omits the year of 1881, and was the Twentieth actual exhibition. The season was in some respects unfavorable to a successful exhibition. The long continuance of dry weather made the dust a great barrier to comfort, and kept away a large number who would probably have been in attendance. The show of stock was good, and other features were attractive, but the organization did not realize any margin of profit.

The Olney Driving Park Association was incorporated as a stock company on May 16, 1878, with a capital stock of \$5,000 in shares of \$25 each. Some two hundred and twelve shares were subscribed when the books were opened, and in April the stock was assessed 20 per cent., and the work on the grounds begun. Thirty acres in the western part of Olney were rented of M. M. St. John, an amphitheater, 100 feet long and thirteen seats high, a Floral Hall, 100x24 feet and 16 feet high, with 30 box stalls, 100 open stalls and 50 pens constructed, beside judges' stand, ticket office, fencing, etc. All this was accomplished at an expense of some \$5,000, and the Association is now in possession of one of the finest grounds for the purpose in the State. The ground is about equally divided between grove and clearing. The track is well formed and fenced on both inside and outside. There is but one display had at present, a tent being used for floral exhibits this year. A July meeting is held each year and the fair in the latter part of September.

STATISTICS.

The assessor reports for 1883, show that there is no one in the county owning any bonds or stocks, gold or silver plated ware; that there is only \$50 worth of diamonds, and they were accidentally found in Olney Township; that there is not a piano in German, Denver, Decker or Bonpas townships; that there are ten billiard tables in the county, and they are in Olney; that 1,522 dogs were discovered by the assessors, and that the total value of all property as assessed is \$2,098,277.

The summary of personal property is as follows:

	No.	Av. Val.	Ass'd Val.
Horses of all ages.....	3,664	\$ 24 28	\$88,963
Cattle of all ages.....	7,190	7 72	55,537

Mules and asses of all ages.....	574	27 70	16,009
Sheep of all ages.....	10,591	99	10,585
Hogs of all ages.....	8,983	1 60	14,329
Steam engines and boilers.....	38	154 26	5,862
Fire or burglar proof safes.....	50	32 14	1,607
Billiard, pigeon hole, bagatelle or other similar tables.....	10	47 50	475
Carriages and wagons of whatever kind	1,742	14 05	24,491
Watches and clocks.....	2,350	1 10	2,557
Sewing or knitting machines.....	1,251	6 16	7,709
Piano fortes.....	72	48 50	3,495
Melodeons and organs.....	174	23 75	4,127
Merchandise on hand.....			45,530
Material and manufactured articles on hand..			950
Manufacturers' tools, implements and machinery (other than engines and boilers which are to be listed as such).....			3,963
Agricultural tools, implements and machinery.....			18,278
Diamonds and jewelry.....			50
Moneys of bank, banker, broker or stock-jobber.....			4,540
Moneys of other than bank, banker, broker or stock jobber,			12,102
Credits of other than bank, banker, broker or stock-jobber,			45,084
Property of companies and corporations other than here- inbefore enumerated.....			1,961
Property of saloons and eating houses.....			2,250
Household or office furniture and property.....			42,995
Grain on hand.....			4,409
All other personal property required to be listed.....			1,743
Shares of stock of State or National banks.....			31,000
Total value of personal property.....			\$450,601

The following table exhibits the real estate values of the county:

TOWNS.	Improved lands.		Unimproved lands.		Total lands.		Improved lots.		Unimpr'ed lots.		Total lots.	
	Acres	Value	Ac's	Value	Acres	Value	lots	Value	lots	Value	lots	Value
German.....	17715	\$101982	5588	\$ 13113	23303	\$ 120095						
Preston.....	17416	94100	8470	32340	25886	126440	65	\$ 3770	35	\$ 498	100	\$ 4268
Denver.....	17210	93965	5353	15823	22563	109788						
Noble.....	19322	105989	65.9	24657	25901	130646	150	15214	150	1425	300	16639
Decker.....	13515	67388	8765	30026	22280	97414						
Madison.....	17397	104859	8224	22786	25621	129645	120	5245	68	332	188	5577
Bonpas.....	12893	62772	10457	35459	23350	98231						
Claremont.....	18817	105201	7868	28224	26685	133425	57	5442	159	782	216	6224
Olney.....	22453	181263	7557	27621	30015	208884	892	219047	902	16690	1794	235737
Total.....	156743	\$917519	68861	\$235049	225604	\$1152568	1284	\$248718	1314	\$19727	2598	\$ 268445



William Elliott.

The following is a true and correct statement of the agricultural statistics hereafter named, in the county of Richland, for the year ending December 31, 1882, and the acreage for 1883, as appears from the Assessors' returns filed in the office of the County Clerk:

	No. Acres 1883	No. bu. pro- duced 1882.
Corn	25,102	585,025
Winter wheat.....	41,948	576,661
Oats.....	10,613	307,582
Apple orchard.....	2,493	124,812
Peach orchard.....	17	1,220
Pear orchard.....	1	12
Vineyards.....	6	258 gal
Timothy meadow.....	15,179	10,596 ton
Clover meadow.....	1,662	830 ton
Prairie meadow.....	1,172	867 ton
Hungarian and millet.....	85	92 ton
Rye.....	698	5,719 bu.
Buckwheat.....	30	126 bu.
Beans.....	4	152 bu.
Peas.....	6	47 bu.
Irish potatoes.....	575	36,322 bu.
Sweet potatoes.....	8	1,486 bu.
Tobacco.....	3	3,548 lbs.
Broom corn.....	19	2,000 lbs.
Cotton (lint).....		10 lbs.
Flax (fibre).....	15	155 lbs.
Sorgo.....	317	11,412 gal
Turnip and other root crops.....	7	\$120,656
Other fruits and berries.....	1	65
Other crops not named above.....	611	
Pasture.....	19,689	
Woodland.....	39,544	
Uncultivated land.....	15,322	
Total number acres in county.....	174,839	
Number of horses and colts, 1883.....		3,935
Number of colts foaled in 1882.....		253
Number of horses and colts died in 1882.....		170
Total value of horses and colts died in 1882.....		\$9,460
Number cattle, all ages, 1883.....		8,487
Number fat cattle sold, 1882.....		990

Total gross weight fat cattle sold, 1882, lbs	761,778
Number cattle, any age, died of disease, 1882	104
Total value cattle died of disease, 1882	\$2,872
Cows, number kept, 1883	73,371
Pounds butter sold, 1882	72,609
Pounds of cheese sold, 1882	2,115
Gallons cream sold, 1882	100
Gallons milk sold, 1882	3,775
Number sheep and lambs, 1883	13,854
Number sheep, any age, killed by dogs, 1882	285
Total value sheep killed by dogs, 1882	\$908
Number of sheep, any age, died of disease, 1882	337
Total value sheep died of disease, 1882	\$1,094
Number pounds wool shorn, 1882	36,018
Number fat sheep sold, 1882	920
Total gross weight fat sheep sold, 1882	80,670
Number hogs and pigs, 1883	12,227
Number fat hogs sold, 1882	2,024
Total gross weight fat hogs sold, 1882, lbs	432,493
Number of hogs and pigs died of cholera, 1882	902
Total gross weight swine died of cholera, 1882	67,050
Number of hogs died of disease other than cholera, 1882	310
Total gross weight hogs died of disease other than cholera, 1882, lbs	22,805
Number of hives of bees, 1883	1,244
Number pounds honey produced, 1882	10,403
Number bushels timothy seed produced, 1882	6,987
Number bushels clover seed produced, 1882	375
Number bushels hungarian and millet seed produced, 1882	307
Number bushels flax seed produced, 1882	1,616
Number pounds grapes produced, 1882	4,386
Number feet drain tile laid, 1882	1,900

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The immigration of southeastern Illinois pressed close upon the retreating savages. Under the treaty by which this region was ceded to the whites, the Indians held it as their hunting grounds until it was opened for settlement by the general government. Before this could be done the land must be surveyed, and although this was begun as early as 1814, it was four years later before the territory of Richland County was staked out. The natives had no villages within the

territory under consideration, but the game that found food and shelter here for years, attracted the native hunters. The Winnebagos, the Miamis, the Pottawatomies, and the Shawnees, were represented by roaming bands until the early part of 1818, when they departed never to return in any considerable numbers. The country within the present boundaries of Richland County, was well calculated to attract a people accustomed to frontier life, and no sooner was it open for pre-emption, than considerable numbers gathered here from the surrounding country. In the absence of well-established lines of travel, the rivers formed the easiest means of transportation, and it was along these, that the early population gathered. The "Wabash country," which included the margin of that stream both in Indiana and Illinois, was noted far and near. The volunteers who had taken part in Clarke's campaigns, spread the reports of its fertility and beauty far and near, and caused a large inflow of population from the south, as rapidly as the Indian title could be extinguished. The war of 1812 checked this flow of immigration for a short time, but even the dangers to which pioneers at that time were exposed, did not prevent their coming on to this debatable ground. Thus it was, that in 1814, the Lower Wabash was found so generally in possession of the whites, that the counties of White and Edwards were formed and organized. In the same year, Palmyra was laid out, and the seat of justice for all this region of the State extending to the Lake, established there. The projectors of this village were enterprising men, and so stimulated and attracted immigration, that the town took on a rapid growth. In 1820, the town was one of the most noted places in the West. It had stores, shops, a bank, and a jail, beside a number of professional men. All these evidences of thrift attracted settlers to this region of country. Up to about 1816 the principal settlements in Edwards County were the Compton settlement, composed of six or eight families, located in the heavy timber about three miles above Palmyra, the French settlement at Saint Francisville, on the Wabash, some families at Bowman's Hill, on the west bank of the Wabash, opposite to Vincennes, some seventy-five persons on La Motte Prairie, a half dozen families near York, a few at McAuley's on the Little Wabash, fourteen miles west of Olney, and others at Mount Carmel, Fort Barney, Decker's Prairie, Round Prairie, at McClary's Bluff and Coffee Island. These settlements, it will be observed, were in the territory now embraced by the limits of Wabash, Lawrence, Crawford, Clark, Clay and Edwards counties, and along the Wabash River, principally, or on some stream then navigable for flat-

boats, or hoped to be so. Richland County was thus left untouched, because it presented less attractions, rather than any respect for the rights the Indians might claim under their treaties. Many of these settlements were made as early as 1810 or 1812, but there was no disposition to venture into the interior until the pacification of the Indians after the war of 1812-14.

The Pioneers of Richland County.—With all this vigorous development to the south and east of the territory of Richland County, it was not to be expected that the tide of immigration setting toward the West, would long be restricted to such narrow bounds. Many of the first comers were already feeling crowded, and the hunters were beginning to make longer and longer excursions to the interior, and the reports of the numerous streams, the fine timber, the small prairies and rolling character of the land, began to create a desire to take possession of the land. This territory was pleasantly divided between prairie and timber land in nearly equal proportions, the larger part, perhaps, being in timber. The prairies were generally small, the timber skirting the streams sent out spurs in such a way as to completely encircle them, and afforded the most desirable location for a home that could be imagined in the mind of a pioneer. Fox Prairie, extending through the county between the Big Muddy and the Fox River timbers, was the largest one in the county, and was circumscribed on either end in adjoining counties. In the northeast corner of Preston Township, was a spur of the Grand Prairie, from which a line of open country extended to the Lake. Stringtown Prairie was found in the northeast corner of German Township and the adjoining county of Lawrence, and had an area of some thirty square miles. In Claremont Township a strip of prairie is formed by the Bugaboo Creek, the head waters of the Bonpas and Fox rivers, which extends in an irregular direction southwesterly through Claremont and Madison townships, and is essentially one, though sufficiently divided by sparse timber to acquire three names, Christy, Calhoun and Sugar Creek, beginning with its northern terminus. It was on the edge of these several prairies that the first settlements gathered.

It is difficult to learn who was the first permanent settler in Richland County. It is the belief of some, that Thaddeus Morehouse came in 1815, and William Dummet about 1816, and they may have been the first, but it is probable that if the date of each family's coming was accurately known, so closely did they come in about this time, that several would be in the front rank. Lloyd Rawlings came when a lad of thirteen to Lawrence County, in 1815, but his residence in

what is now Richland, does not date earlier than 1828. He was longer in this region than any man now living in the county, but at this writing he has just passed away, and it may not be inappropriate to add a short sketch of his career as it appears in the papers.

Mr. Rawlings was born in the State of Ohio, in Geauga County, in the year 1802. He emigrated to Lawrence County, Ill., which at that time comprehended the eastern half of Richland County. He was married to Matilda Ruark, in 1828. In April, 1849, he, with eleven others from Richland County, went the overland route to California, and there, whilst with one O. Hayes, deer hunting, was attacked by a grizzly bear. He and Hayes had separated at the head of a small chapperal, to meet at the other extremity. The bear retreating from Hayes encountered Mr. Rawlings. So close were they, that before Mr. Rawlings could bring his gun to his shoulder to fire, the bear, rearing on his hind feet, struck Mr. Rawlings' gun from his shoulder with a blow of his paw, at the same time prostrating Mr. Rawlings, who only had time to say, "Oh! Hayes!" when the bear, placing one foot on his breast, took his whole face within his extended jaws, the upper teeth closing on the top of the skull, and the lower teeth beneath the lower jaw, but being old and the teeth blunt, whilst Mr. Rawlings' lower jaw and cheek bone were broken, the blunt upper tusks slipped over the skull down his forehead and face, scraping the bone. Hayes had heard the cry, and rushing up, the noise of his approach caused the bear to raise his head and turn towards Hayes, who fired on the bear, shooting him through the neck. The bear fell, as Hayes supposed, dead. Mr. Rawlings raised his gory face, with one protruding eyeball, and remarked to Hayes, "You have killed the bear, but the bear has killed me." Hayes placed his friend on one of their mules, and escorted him to camp, where, after careful treatment, he recovered, to outlive by twenty years, his rescuer. The bear was an enormous brute, weighing upwards of 1,000 pounds. He bore the marks of this accident to the day of his death.

While a few may have reached Richland County in 1816 or 1817, the larger number of the earlier families came in 1818. It appears that the Indian right to this territory expired at this time, though there is no reason to believe that it was any consideration of this sort that restrained the pioneers from settling here. At this time the Evans family, consisting of several boys and a widowed mother, settled on the east side of Fox Prairie. This family was from Kentucky originally, and had located on Allison Prairie opposite Vincennes, some years before. Here the father died, and the family consisting

of several boys began to feel that they must have more room, where each could make a farm for himself. The land had not then been surveyed, but they chose a site on the old trace near Sugar Creek, a branch of the Fox River, and began their improvements. A striking incident illustrative of the close succession of the whites to the rights of the savage, was the first home of the Evans family. They followed the old trail from Vincennes to Saint Louis, till it merged in the old trace from Louisville, with no clear idea of where they would permanently locate, but at this point they found an Indian wigwam so recently abandoned that the fire had not yet died out, and, rekindling the expiring blaze, they took possession of the camp and prepared to fix a permanent home. In the following winter, the surveyors reached this point, and established the southwest corner of Section 1, Township 3, Range 9, east of the third meridian, right in the midst of their improvements. The lines thus established did not suit their plans, and in the following year the boys separated, taking other lands within the limits of Noble Township.

The general survey of the county seems to have been the signal for a considerable immigration of the unsettled portions of surrounding communities. There was a natural hesitation before, to begin improvements which cost a good deal of labor, when there was a risk that the survey would show that the results of their labor could only be secured by a larger purchase than they were able to make, and hence when this doubt was removed by fixed lines, there was a general movement on the part of those who had been waiting only for this consummation. It is difficult to definitely fix upon the date when the various settlements were begun at the different points, but most of them were begun in 1818 or 1819. The old trace road was largely instrumental in determining the location of many. Money was a difficult thing to get, and the pioneer took advantage of every circumstance that promised to bring it within his reach. To the earliest settlers, the entertainment of travelers was the surest resource, and at the same time the most profitable method. Coon hunting and trapping brought reasonably sure returns, but involved an expenditure of time which was needed upon the farm. The tavern made demands only upon such supplies as the frontier farm abundantly furnished, and was conducted at an early day largely by the women. It was such considerations that brought the early settlement along the trace road. Others were drawn here from the fact that land thus placed was more valuable from its nearness to an outlet to market. Among the earliest to settle on the line of the "trace road" was Thad-

deus Morehouse. He was a native of Vermont, from whence he emigrated to Ohio, and thence to Indiana, finally reaching this section about 1818, and settling on Section 36, in Olney Township, where he kept tavern for a number of years. Benjamin Bogart was another early settler; a native of East Tennessee, who fixed his residence just west of Morehouse about the same time. Bryant Bullard, a native of North Carolina, settled on Section 6, in Claremont, on this road, with John and Amos. The latter was the second blacksmith in the county, purchasing the tools of Thomas Gardner, who opened the first shop in the county. James Elliot, a native of the same State, settled east of Claremont village, but subsequently came to the site of Olney, and entered land, where he lived and died. Lot Basden was another pioneer from North Carolina, and located on Section 2, in Claremont Township.

On Sugar Creek Prairie, Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, Robert and Neal Carpenter, James and Charles Hensley, Daniel Williams, John Clark, William Hughs, George Cross, John Crawford and Marcus Wilson settled in 1818, and in the following year this settlement was increased by the addition of James Parker and Abraham Morrell, and in 1820 by Thomas Mason, William Nash and his brother. East of this settlement, was another in the timber of Bonpas Township, about two miles and a half southeast of Spencer's old mill. This consisted of the families of William and George Higgins, of New England, Reason Ruark, of Ohio, and Spencer. James Richards, of Virginia, settled on Calhoun Prairie. When a lad of sixteen years he ran away from home, and joined General Wayne's army in 1794. While with the army, he cut the first tree for the block-house built on the site of Cincinnati. He subsequently came to Edwards County and settled here, where he died a short time after 1840. On Calhoun Prairie, in the southwest corner of Claremont Township, a settlement was formed about 1818 by Hugh Calhoun, Sr., and H. Calhoun, Jr., Thomas Gardner, George Cunningham and Joshua Johnson, sons-in-law of Calhoun. The Calhouns were natives of South Carolina, and neighbors and relatives of the famous statesman, John C. Calhoun. Gardner was a native of Georgia, and the first blacksmith in the county. John and Richard Philips, from Indiana, were in the settlement, and some years later the influential family of Reeds, from Ohio, were residents here. Stringtown Prairie numbered among the early settlements of this county, as well as that of Jasper. Here were the Crabtrees and Mattinglys, Samuel Butler and Charles Sturderville. On the west side of Fox River, in Section 5 of Olney

Township, William Dummet was an early settler, and in 1820, Elijah Nelson. The latter was a native of South Carolina, but came with his father to Tennessee, and thence to Indiana. He was quite a bee hunter, and made one or two trips into this region in quest of his special game. In the fall of 1819, with his father and some neighbors, he made a trip and fixed on the site of Sailor's springs, in Clay County, for a new home. In the following year the family, consisting of Elijah, his sister, and father and mother, started for the site chosen, but the river being up they were forced to stop short of their destination, and with that adaptability to circumstances so characteristic of the pioneer, he decided to settle near the old "trace road" on Section 5. Here, in 1821, he built his home, which was one of the most pretentious in the county at the time. He found the frame standing; this he covered on three sides with split clapboards, jointed and smoothed like modern siding; on the remaining side he sawed out plank with a whip saw, and finished it in the highest style of the art. Here for years he kept a tavern, which, with that of Morehouse, did a thriving business. For a long time this was the end of a division of the stage line from Vincennes to Saint Louis, and every night, save two, in the week, two stages with their passengers found lodging here. In addition to these names should be added those of Cornelius Delong, James Gilmore and Willis Blanchard, who settled on the "trace road," west of the village of Claremont; John Jeffers and John Mathis, early settlers near the Watertown settlement; William Walls, John Rogers and Matthew Duckery, on the Sugar Creek Prairie.

With all the information which may be gathered of the early settlement, it is impossible to accurately locate the place and time of all the early pioneers. In 1820, there were some thirty families in the territory now known as Richland County, all of whom, with few exceptions, had come in from 1818 to 1820. But with all these accessions, the country was by no means densely settled. From the Sugar Creek Prairie settlement to Albion, the present county-seat of Edwards County, there was in 1820 no house to be seen, and northward to the house of Willis Blanchard, there were only the cabins of the two Calhouns and Johnson. With so vigorous a beginning, however, accessions were certain and rapid for a new country. James Laws, a native of North Carolina, was an early accession. He lived some time in Lawrence County, on or near the county line east of Claremont village. Lewis and William Laws lived in the same neighborhood, and John near Bugaboo Creek. The Stewarts, of South Carolina, and Cheeks, of Georgia, were early families in

*A. Shadrack Ruark
appears in earliest
Tabor Co. records.*

this vicinity. The Snyders, of Kentucky, settled at Hickory Point, in Claremont Township, about 1825, and the Lowrys, from the same place, settled here about the same time. On Grand Prairie, were the families of John Bush, the Glenns and HARRISES, and in 1829 Elijah Utterback and Joshua Cotterel, both natives of Kentucky. Shadrack Ruark was one of the advance of the second immigration. He was an itinerant Methodist minister in Ohio. About 1836 or 1837, he made a visit to his brother, settled in Bonpas, and became enamored with the country here. On his return to Ohio, he spread the fame of this fair territory far and near as he traveled his circuit, and many were induced to come here about 1840. About this time also came a large number of German families, who settled principally in the northern range of townships. Among them were the Ginders, the Schneiders, the Cleffers, the Kusters, the Spitts, the Weilers, the Eyers, the Sterchies, the Swallens and the Balmers, most of whom were from Stark County, Ohio. Up to this second immigration, the larger proportion of the county was open to pre-emption, and even in 1850 there was a considerable area of public land. From this date to 1853, there was a keen demand for government lands, and the last acre was taken in this latter year. The final location of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad made the location an especially desirable one, and a large number of actual settlers and speculators took advantage of the opportunity offered. There has been little change in the character of the population since. It has grown denser, and since 1860 a large portion of the lands held by speculators has passed into the hands of actual residents, but the main increase is made up of the descendants of the early settlement, and few family names familiar to the early record, are lost entirely now.

The first families were marked by an unusual amount of enterprise and culture. There were two good frame houses in the county as early as 1821, and brick houses followed with scarcely an interval. James Laws and Lot Basden united and put up a brick-kiln, and each built a one-story brick house from it. Laws erected his soonest, but Basden's still remains a specimen of pioneer luxury. The great mass of the houses, however, were the usual round log cabins, many of them giving up the whole side to the fire-place. The earliest stores were at Vincennes, though the settlers of Richland found trading places at Lawrenceville and Evansville. The latter point was the great trading point for the early merchant, from whence the goods were brought over tedious roads by wagon. The earliest store in this county was one opened by Jacob May at Stringtown

about 1825. Somewhat later, Alfred Gross and Willis Snyder had a small store on the "trace road," about a mile west of the village of Claremont. Some goods were kept also at Prairieton, just over the line in Lawrence County. These stores were simply log cabins, where the owner, with a view to making an odd shilling, bought a few pieces of dry goods, a small stock of groceries and whisky, and offered them for sale. Their custom was chiefly derived from the community in which they were situated. Most of the settlers had no money to buy with, and these storekeepers could profitably handle nothing but coon skins in exchange for their wares. Saint Louis was the great market for the surplus product of this region, and hundreds of teams were to be seen on the "trace road," bound for the western terminus of the road. These, with the regular emigrants and travelers, furnished the patronage of the taverns that were found about every ten miles along the road. This afforded also a good sale for the surplus corn along the thoroughfare. The chief export of this county in the early day was stock and skins. The country abounded in game, and wagon loads of venison hams were hauled to Saint Louis or Vincennes, and disposed of at 25 cents apiece. Deer skins, well cured, brought no more. Hogs, fattened on mast, and sometimes fed a little corn, were slaughtered and sold at Vincennes for \$1.50 per hundred. Live hogs were driven to York and Darwin, in Clark County, or Vincennes, and were there slaughtered for the New Orleans market. Grain was not shipped much. The aggregate growth was not large, and it was found more profitable to sell it to new settlers and travelers, or feed it. The usual substitutes for mills were found here as elsewhere. The first mill was Beadle's mill, on the Wabash, about three miles above Palmyra. This was too far for many to go, and if this had not been true its capacity would not have accommodated one-third of its patrons. The hominy block was found at every cabin, while a few had a hand mill or a large coffee mill, which was pressed into the service. The first mill within the limits of the county was a "horse mill," established by Wm. Walls on the edge of Sugar Creek prairie, eight miles south of Olney. This was started as early as 1824. Ten years later, Jarvis Dale started another "horse mill" on the "trace road," near the "Antioch" Church, east of Olney. This subsequently passed into the hands of Samuel Lowry, and then to Malone, who run it on his farm south of Olney. The first water-mill was built on the Bonpas River, a little below Kimmel's mill in that township. A second was built by Matthews at Fransonia, on the Fox River. The Harman mill was another

early mill, built on the same river, but further up its course, near the site of old Waterton. After the organization of the county, the records show frequent juries to assess *ad quod damnum* the dams of various milling enterprises could be carried on. The substitutes for the saw-mills involved more labor, and were generally unused, as the comfort of the hardy pioneer did not demand them. Punch-ions, shakes and clapboards were riven or hewed out of the timber. A few, as in the case of Elijah Nelson and Thaddeus Morehouse, were willing to give the necessary exertion to secure a fine appearing as well as comfortable home. This was accomplished with the whip saw. The timber was squared with an ax, and drawn near a shallow pit dug in the ground. The timber was then placed upon forked stakes, which extended it over the pit, and after lining it on both sides, the sawyers went to work. The under sawyer, with his eyes protected from the dust by a veil, took his place in the pit, and with his companion on the timber they plied the saw somewhat after the laborious fashion of the modern "cross-cut." In this way two men would saw out some 200 feet in a day, and there were some who did not count the superior elegance of their homes expensive even at this cost of labor. The first water mill combined both saw and grist machinery, and were both in demand.

‡ The first cabins were all built in the edge of the timber, and it is probable that Lemuel Truitt was the first to venture out into the open prairie near the site of the village of Noble. At first thought, this clinging to the timber where the labor of securing a crop would seem greatly increased in comparison with the open country, was a great mistake on the part of the early settler, but there are considerations which are overlooked in such a view of the matter. The farmers generally came from a wooded country and were not prepared for the problem presented by the prairie, while the open country in this county was generally rolling, and thus free from the excessive moisture found in many places; the sod, when dry enough to plow, presented a solid mass of tough roots which defied the team power possessed by the pioneers. Beside when it was worked it was found that two or more years were required to tame it and produce all crops. The timber soil was found much easier to cultivate, and one team with a Cary plow did excellent service. It so happened that the smaller prairies were surrounded by settlements, the character of the clearings giving the expressive name of Stringtown to the community and prairie in the northeastern corner of the county. It was not until about 1840 that the prairie began to be invaded.

Farmers had then secured a farm that would support the family, and had provided themselves with teams and tools for the undertaking. The plow used was a heavy machine which every farmer manufactured a greater or less portion himself. The mold board was so arranged that a large wooden mold board was attached, and to this formidable engine of agriculture from two to eight yoke of cattle were attached. The furrow was cut about fourteen inches wide, and the unskillful plowman occasionally had the misfortune to have rods of this leathery sod turn back to its original position. There was no other way but to turn it back by hand, and so tenacious was the soil that it was a laborious undertaking. When once subdued the prairie became the favorite resort for farming, though it has not been until recent years that good wheat or clover could be grown here. The cultivation of the prairie was productive of considerable sickness. The decaying of so much vegetation gave rise to a miasma, that showed itself in the general prevalence of the ague. It was a common phrase to indicate an early settler by saying that he came before the "shakes." Another disease prevalent in a new country had its rage here, and was known as milk-sickness. Its characteristics vary in different localities, being most prevalent in some communities during the wet seasons, and in others quite the reverse. Cattle, and even game are affected by the plague, the carcasses of animals dying with it spreading the infection. The people were supposed to contract the disease by the use of the milk from cows in the early stages of the trouble. It is not altogether unknown now in the county, and is especially dreaded, as there seems to be no effectual remedy.

*THE EARLY SOCIAL CUSTOMS.

The early settlements were made in the woods or on the borders of the prairie groves. The first dwellings were the log cabins, constructed of small trees from six to ten inches in diameter, the building from twelve to eighteen feet in width and eighteen or twenty-four feet in length, the foundation being a block of wood, or big stone if convenient, on which were laid the sills lengthwise of the building, flattened with the chopping ax; on the upper side of these were laid the sleepers, also leveled on top to receive and support the puncheon floor. The puncheons were split timber five feet in length, a foot or eighteen inches in width and two or three inches in thickness, one side hewed as smooth as possible to constitute the floor. These were laid as close as possible, making a

*Written by J. M. Wilson, Esq.

very uneven and open floor. The raising of a cabin was a great event. For a dozen miles around the squatters assembled, selected four experienced men to carry up the corners—that is to cut a notch in the end of the log to put on the sloping saddle cut on the log beneath it. There was always a jug of whisky on hand to cheer the laborers. At about six and one-half feet above the puncheon floor joists were inserted, being simply counterparts of the sleepers, but of lighter timber. From the joists the end logs were shortened at each end to form the roof, the poles or ribs supporting the roof, being about two feet apart. The roof was composed of clapboards, made of a large three or four feet in diameter white or black oak tree. The boards were made by sawing the log into four foot lengths, then splitting into blocks and riving them into clapboards six or seven inches wide and one-half or three-fourths inch thick. The top log of each end of the building projected eighteen inches on each side to support the butting pole—a piece of hewed timber against which the first course of boards placed on the ribs butted or rested to prevent their slipping off. The boards were laid close together on the ribs, and the joints broken by another board, making a double roof. After the first course was laid, a weight pole was used to keep the boards in proper place, sustained in its place by a piece of timber about two-thirds the length of the boards at each end, this weight pole serving as a butting pole to the next course of boards. The chimney was made by cutting out of the middle of one end of the house a part of the end logs, about six feet in length and four or five feet in height, and building a projection about four feet in depth, notched into the sawed ends of the building logs. The sides and ends of the chimney were built up with clay or stone a foot in thickness. This was the fireplace. The chimney was built of cat and clay, or split timber, filled in between and covered inside and out with clay mortar, tapering from the fireplace upward until it was reduced to a diameter of about eighteen inches, when it was run straight up until about two feet above the roof, and being built straight on the outer side it left a space of two feet between the roof and the chimney as a safeguard from fire. Clapboards were laid on the joists to form the loft floor, reached by a ladder. Clapboards formed the door; they were pinned to long wooden hinges and hung on wooden supports, and this door was the only opening inlet or outlet to the building. There were no windows; all the light came down the wide chimneys or through the door, which was generally open winter or summer. A big fire of logs kept one from freezing

in the winter. The interstices between the logs of the building were filled with pieces of split timber and clay mortar. The furniture consisted generally of a bedstead for the heads of the family, made by two pieces of a sapling sharpened at one end and driven in between the logs of the wall, the other end supported by forks driven into the ground between the puncheons. On this frame were laid clapboards, covered with deer or bear skins, on which was placed the bedding. Wooden stools and benches were used to sit on, and the table was fashioned like the bed. At night the young folk spread skins on the floor before the fire and placed their bedding on them. Such an house would be put up in one day by a dozen men, and the family take possession the next. The cooking utensils were generally an iron oven or a skillet with a long handle and a coffee-pot. Corn meal pounded in a wooden mortar made the bread. Venison, bear meat, pork and turkeys constituted the eatables. To get a meal, first some corn meal was browned or scorched in the skillet to make the coffee. Then the meal was mixed into dough in a wooden tray and placed into the oven or skillet, on which an iron lid was put and covered with coals. In half an hour the corn pone or dodgers were cooked, taken out and set before the fire, and the pork or venison cooked in the skillet. This, when cooked, with generally a plentiful supply of milk, and often wild honey, constituted the eatables; and in one of those cabins a family of half a dozen children or more and their parents lived and slept, with room besides for sometimes two or three strangers, always welcome.

The settlements were made in the timber for several reasons. Backwoodsmen seldom had more than one horse. He neither had team nor plows qualified to break the thick prairie sod. By cutting and grubbing out the brush and deadening the bigger timber he could, in a short time, prepare four or five acres for corn. An iron shear or point, with a wooden mold board, with one horse, would enable him to so scratch the surface of the earth as to produce plenty of corn for bread; whilst the hogs fattened and wintered on the abundant mast, *i. e.*, acorns, hickory nuts, etc., whilst the corn fodder kept his horse and two or the cows with the grazing in the woods. When a winter was unusually hard he could cut down in the early spring maple and other trees for browse. The man's work was comparatively easy. His corn patch did not require more than three months' attention. He raised but few or no vegetables; hunting was his principal vocation and amusement. Deer and turkeys by hundreds filled the woods; deer hams and skins and coon skins

formed his source of income to buy his ammunition and, when to be had, the indispensable coffee. The sugar maple furnished sugar and molasses, and the spice brush and sassafras the tea. Dressed buckskin made him crackers and hunting shirt, a substitute for pantaloons and coat, whilst his cap or hat was made of coon skin; this, with a cotton shirt raised, picked, spun and wove by his wife and daughters, clothed him. After the little farming was done and the corn crop laid by, the horse was used to bring in the game and carry his owner to log rollings, house raisings and to the county-seat where whisky drinking (plenty at twenty-five cents a gallon; every store kept it), carousing and fighting, were his amusements.

The women led hard lives. Their clothing was made of the cotton raised on their little clearing. At night, after gathering, it was spread before the fire, heated, and the seed picked out by hand, then carded in a pair of cards, spun on a big wheel, colored with copperas, or indigo, or walnut bark, and woven on an home-made loom, and cut and made up by her into clothing for herself and children. She did all the cooking and washing, and for weeks, and often months, would see the face of no living soul except the members of her own family. A log rolling or quilting brought the boys and girls together, where, after the logs were all piled up and the quilt finished, supper over and the floor cleared, the young folk would dance or play at different games. Fifty years ago common calico, coarse prints, sold for thirty and forty cents a yard; six yards of three-fourths wide made a dress, and the owner was as proud of it as a fashionable lady now is of her silks and satins. The every-day garb of females was striped cotton; feet shod in buckskin moccasins. And yet it was a joyous life; no jealousies, no striving for wealth, generous and liberal. The traveler was always welcome, and no one thought of charging for food or lodging. Ignorant and coarse as many were, there was less licentiousness than now. Preaching was rare; now and then, about once in two months, an itinerant would preach, when all the settlement would assemble. A baptizing was a great event; for twenty miles the people assembled, when the old preacher, clad in homespun and leather, with pantaloons rolled above his knees and a long stick in hand, waded and felt about in the pond or creek until he found sufficient depth of water to immerse the neophyte, or generally two or three of them. These old preachers of the Baptist persuasion were generally farmers, and received no pay or compensation for their services. Frequently illiterate, they were earnest and sincere.