

# History Of Harrison County

## Early Inhabitants

Harrison County was carved by political subdivision from the great Midwest area of the United States dominated by the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. The pre-historic residents were the half-civilized Mound-Builders who left remains along the Mississippi Valley near St. Louis, originally known as the "Mound City," and in the New Madrid area.

Although there are no remains of Mound-Builders in Harrison County, many artifacts of the later inhabitants, the Indians, have been found and are still being found in the area. The first settlers in Missouri came in contact with the Iowas, the Sacs, the Foxes, and the Kickapoos.

## Early History

Harrison County is a part of the territory obtained by the United States through the Louisiana Purchase which was completed March 10, 1804, when the French flag was lowered at St. Louis. On March 26, 1804, Congress passed the Act separating the province into two parts. The Northern District of Louisiana included the present states of Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa and a vast area extending westward to the Pacific Ocean.

The District of Louisiana was placed under the executive power of government in the Territory of Indiana. Gen. William Henry Harrison was then the governor of Indiana. On March 3, 1805, Congress regularly organized the Territory of Louisiana. Gen. James Wilkinson was the appointed governor.

## Missouri Organized

The Territory of Missouri was organized by Congress, June 4, 1812, to consist of four districts. St. Charles District comprised the settled country between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. After Missouri was formally admitted to the Union in 1821, members of the

General Assembly who were elected Aug. 28, 1820, took their seats in December, 1821. Ten more counties were organized in northern Missouri, including Ray County which embraced all of Missouri west of Grand River and north of the Missouri River. The west line of the state was then what is now the west line of Gentry County.

## Harrison County Organized

Twelve counties were later organized from Ray County. On Dec. 29, 1836, Ray County and Caldwell counties were organized with their present boundaries and Daviess County was created to occupy the territory north to the Iowa state line, including the area organized in 1845 as Harrison County by an Act of the state legislature. Prior to that date, it had been attached to Daviess County for general purposes. Harrison County was named after a deceased member of Congress, Albert G. Harrison. The county was 23 miles from north to south and 24 miles from east to west. An additional seven miles were added above the north line when the disputed Iowa-Missouri state line was settled. Land was opened for entry about 1842 in Township 62 and in 1845 in Townships 63, 64, 65 and the land was surveyed into townships six miles square and afterwards subdivided into sections. Government surveyors ran only the section lines and marked the section corners and the half-mile points.

## County Seat Site

After the organization of Harrison County, commissioners from DeKalb and Gentry counties were appointed to select a site for the county seat. They selected an area south of the East Fork of Big Creek just before it joined with West Big Creek. At the May term of County Court in 1845, John S. Allen was appointed county seat commissioner to have the brush cleared off and lots laid out around a courthouse square. John Plaster, county surveyor of Gentry County, was hired to lay off the town of 15 blocks—five blocks east and west and three blocks

north and south, with the courthouse block in the center. Each block was 12 rods square. The streets running north and south were four rods wide. The plat of the first survey was reported at the June term of County Court in 1845. It was approved and John S. Allen was directed to sell lots. The town was first called Dallas. However in the November term of Court in 1845 a vote was taken to change the name to Bethany. The first county officers were elected the first Monday in August, 1846. Voting was done by voice with each voter calling out the candidate he wanted to be elected.

## Early Settlers

Prior to the first settlement of Harrison County, hunters, trappers and bee hunters traversed the prairies and timbered land. Bees were found in nearly every hollow tree. Large amounts of honey and beeswax were obtained which brought in much income. Game was plentiful such as deer, turkeys, prairie chicken, elk, wolves, coons, squirrels and a few panthers. Wild plums, grapes, cherries, blackberries, strawberries and gooseberries were abundant in the timber. Hickory nuts, walnuts, hazel nuts were plentiful, and acorns from the oak trees provided mast which the farmers made from nuts to fatten their hogs. The first settlers found some wild hogs in the woods which provided good meat although the old boars had very tough meat. Honey, beeswax and venison were accumulated by the settlers who would load a wagon with it to send to Liberty to trade or sell for coffee, tea, salt, calico, ammunition, and other necessities.

## First Settlements

Joseph Arnold, one of the first to settle in the county, said his father and Levi Hunt settled in the county in the spring of 1838 on the west bank of Big Creek, about five miles south of Bethany. They found John Fields already living farther down Big Creek. William Mitchell and Jacob Mitchell settled on Sugar Creek in 1838. Settlers in 1840 included Asaph M. Butler, who is credited as the first man in the county to use window glass in his house. He settled in the south part of the county. John Foster settled near Antioch Church; Thomas Flint near John Fosters; and David and William A. Travis, northeast of Bethany. At this time any man could have all the land he wanted.

## Early Mills

The first settlers went to Grand River near Trenton or Gallatin to get their corn ground into meal. In 1840, Phillip Harris settled on Big Creek, two miles southwest of Bethany and erected a mill. Other mills erected on streams were unable to operate when the water got low or froze in the winter. Isaac Hammers set up a horse-power gristmill at Taylor Grove in 1844. John Gibson, in 1840, had set up a hand mill for grinding meal and later attached horse power to it. Dr. E. Bush built a mill on Big Creek above the mill built by Noah Snell where Brooklyn is located today. The Bush mill ground corn and sawed lumber.

The first steam mill at Bethany was started about 1851 by C. L. and E. M. Jennings. It ground corn and sawed lumber. After 15 years it was sold to Henry S. Laney who added wheat burrs and carding and spinning machinery. The mill was later destroyed by fire. The first modern mill in Harrison County was opened by the McClure Brothers at Bethany in 1879. In 1887, a roller process was installed which had a capacity of fifty barrels of flour per day. They also operated a carding and spinning mill and manufactured woolen goods.

## Townships Organized

One of the first acts of the County Court was to divide Harrison County into municipal townships. The first division was into Madison, Butler and Dallas townships.

Roughly, Madison Township encompassed the eastern part of the county; Butler, the southwestern part; and Dallas (later changed to Bethany township) the northwestern part. Sugar Creek was created in 1845 to contain the southeastern part of the county.

Townships were subdivided during the next 26 years until a petition was received by the County Court which resulted in an order in June, 1872, that the question of township organization be submitted to a vote of the people at the general election in November, 1872. Township

*"The legitimate object of government is to do for the community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot do so well, for themselves in separate and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere."*

Abraham Lincoln

organization was favored by a majority of 1,352. Immediately after the election, the County Court divided the county into 20 municipal townships which still exist today: Fox Creek, Trail Creek, Madison, Clay, Colfax, Marion, Grant, Sherman, Adams, Cypress, Bethany, Jefferson, Union, Hamilton, Lincoln, Washington, Dallas, White Oak, and Butler.

The township organization law of 1872 provided the County Court should consist of supervisors of the townships, one from each township. However, an act of the 27th General Assembly, approved March 24, 1873, amended the township organization law to require the county court to consist of five judges, one, a presiding judge at large, and four, one from each of the four districts into which the county was divided. There is no record that Harrison County ever organized a 20-man county court of supervisors.

The township organization law was repealed by an act of the General Assembly March 5, 1877, and the government of the county then fell back under the general law. However, the township organization law was re-enacted in 1899. An election was held in Harrison County Nov. 5, 1906 on the question of township organization. It was approved by a vote of 2,800 to 202 that township organization be adopted.

## Boundary Disputes

When Harrison County was organized in 1845, the state line between Missouri and Iowa had not been definitely settled. A strip of about 24 miles was in dispute. Harrison County residents expected there would be another county 24 miles square organized above the county which was about one mile north of Eagleville.

The dispute was settled in 1850. Iron stakes six inches square and six feet long were planted along the line every 10 miles. On March 1, 1851, the territory between the old county limits and the state line was added to Harrison County. The strip six miles in width and 24 miles in length made the county a little over 30 miles long and 24 miles wide.

The state line does not run exactly with the section lines but drops a little to the south as it runs to the west, making the true area of the county about 456,000 acres. The four townships on the north are the only ones in the county to bear two township numbers, 66N and 67N. Clay, Colfax, Hamilton and Lincoln townships to have, because of the added land, Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 on both the north and south sides of the townships, or 42 sections instead of the usual 36 sections. In addition, Clay, Colfax and a small portion of Hamilton have a few acres north of the extra sections.

The south line of Harrison County also was altered at the time the county was created. Benjamin Salmon was the representative in the state legislature from Daviess County. Since he lived on the south side of Township 62, which was included in Harrison County, he had the bill framed to have Daviess County retain a strip one mile long across the entire width of the south edge of Harrison County. He had been living in this strip so the retention of the one mile zone enabled him to retain his residence in Daviess County. The result is Butler, Cypress, Adams and Sugar Creek townships have only 30 sections in them.

## Transportation

The arduous task the early pioneers faced in getting their families, household goods, and livestock from the eastern states to Missouri made transportation a top priority in their establishment of homes in the wilderness. With horse or ox-drawn vehicles, they covered many miles of the westward trek over uncharted roads with mud an ever-present threat. Streams and rivers had to be crossed. If they could not be forded, then ferries had to be used for there were no bridges over the mighty Mississippi at that time.

As the result, the early pages of County Court records are filled with petitions from early settlers requesting the court to lay out roads and build bridges. Often the petitioners accompanied their requests with subscription of money to help pay the cost of construction.

Most of the streams in Harrison County could be forded, but Thompson Fork of Grand River on the east side of the county was an obstacle. Court records shown in 1856 that a license was issued to James E. Coats to keep a ferry on Thompson Fork at the Morgan Ferry. He paid a tax of \$5.00 and had to maintain the following rates set forth by the court: Footman, 5 cents; one-horse wagon, 10 cents; two-horse wagon, 25 cents; four-horse wagon, 35 cents; loose horses and mules, 5 cents each; loose cattle and other stock, 2½ cents each. A license also was issued to J. T. Chambers to keep a ferry across Thompson Fork.

The County Court maintained a Road and Canal Fund to help build roads and bridges. Records are full of reports from road overseers and road commissioners. Poll Taxes were levied in each township to help maintain roads. The tax could either be paid with cash or by each adult working out his taxes. Dirt roads were maintained after each rain with road drags pulled by horses or mules. The drags were constructed from heavy boards and weighed down to move dirt from the road to fill the deep ruts.

Harrison Countians shared the dream of all pioneers that a railroad would solve many of their transportation problems. The County Court took action in the September term in 1859 as indicated by an entry on page 180 of county records. Believing it to be in the interest of said county in the great and all important improvement, it is "ordered by the Court that the county take stock to the amount of \$200,000 in said road (Galveston, Kansas City, Fort Des Moines and Lake Superior Railroad). The bonds to be issued and the same to be approved in said county of Harrison where the said railroad will advance to either the north or south line of said county on such consideration as the court may think proper for the advancement of the said enterprise."

A preliminary survey was made between Des Moines and Kansas City in 1860. Voters of Harrison County authorized the County Court to subscribe \$150,000 to aid the enterprise. The Civil War resulted in the abandonment of work on the project. The project was revived in 1866 and \$5,000 in grading was done in Harrison County before work stopped. Again in 1868, the County Court was authorized to vote \$150,000 for proposed construction of the Leavenworth and Des Moines Railroad. The survey was made in the county but the route was changed. In 1869 a third project was approved by county voters to appropriate \$250,000 to aid the Quincy, Missouri & Pacific Road. The line was surveyed but lack of construction caused the appropriation to be rescinded by the court at the October term, 1872.

The first fruitful results began in 1879 when a survey was conducted through Harrison County by the Leon, Mount Ayr & Western, a branch of the C. B. & Q. A subscription of \$40,000 was made and a right of way granted through the county from Bethany to the Iowa line. Work started in the summer of 1880. The first train came to Bethany October 28, 1880. The line was extended to Albany in 1881. The immediate result of the railroad was the platting and building of new towns in the county—Andover, Blythedale, Ridgeway, and New Hampton.

In 1884, the Des Moines & Osceola narrow gauge railroad was extended from Leon, Iowa, to Cainsville where it enabled the coal mine there to become a major industry.

The third railroad to enter Harrison County was the Quincy, Omaha & Kansas City Railway which served Gilman City and Melbourne. Railroads flourished in the county for many years. However, the development of hard-surfaced roads began to reduce rail shipments because trucks began to haul livestock and grain directly from farmers to markets. Service began to be reduced on rail lines and was finally abandoned on the Cainsville line prior to 1938 and at Gilman City in 1939. Daily trains on the C. B. & Q. through Bethany began to grow fewer in number until all passenger service was abandoned and the last passenger-mail train ran in 1951. Now freight service is offered only to the north on Monday and Thursday and to the south on Tuesday and Friday. The

*After years of misunderstandings about material "things," man has finally come to realize that it is the inner, intangible state of mind that is important. Life, health, and happiness are not to be found in "things," but in how we think about them. Not only that, but we now know that every condition we see may be changed by altering a state of mind. In other words, in back of every "thing" there is the power of mind. The talk about "reshaping our destinies" isn't idle; it depends on our constructive use of mind based on love.*

Bethany station is open five days a week and the only section crew in the county is based here. Three men do the maintenance of tracks which formerly employed crews at all the towns on the line. The stations at Andover, Blythedale, Ridgeway, and New Hampton have been abandoned, with the New Hampton station recently removed.

Livestock was the life-blood for the early railroads. There were large shipping and receiving yards at Ridgeway and New Hampton and at Gardner Station just north of Bethany. Another whistle-stop was Bowman station west of Bethany. Today, grain shipments constitute the principal business for the Burlington Northern Line in the county.

## County Seat Rivalry

The choice of Bethany as the county seat did not arouse any opposition during the early years of the county because of the sparse population. In 1850, there was only 2,447 people in the county; in 1860, 10,626; but by 1870 there were 14,635 people in the county. However, the question of the geographical center of the county as a location for the county seat began to surface about 1860 when the population increased sharply in the north part of the county. No definite action was taken until 1870 when a petition was presented to the county court by many citizens in the central and northern parts of the county requesting a vote of the people on a new courthouse site.

At the November, 1870, election, the removal proposition failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority. The destruction of the courthouse by fire in 1874, revived the controversy. A large meeting was held at Eagleville. A committee was appointed to circulate petitions asking the county court to call for another vote upon the removal proposition. Subscriptions to a total of \$3,000 were raised to pay part of the cost of a new courthouse and a site was selected—a new town of

Lorraine which was surveyed into lots which were offered free to anyone who would erect a building at a cost of at least \$250. Bethany citizens reacted by raising \$10,000 to rebuild the courthouse at Bethany. The necessary two-thirds majority was not obtained at the election on Nov. 3, 1874, although the vote for removal was 1,508 and against removal 1,159.

The third attempt to move the courthouse site was defeated in 1880. The vote for removal to Lorraine was 1,310 and against removal 2,347. Again in 1892, another election was held on a proposal to move the county seat to Ridgeway. The effort failed, with 1,480 for removal and 2,472 votes against. A fifth attempt to move the county seat was made in 1912 when a petition to move the county seat to Ridgeway failed by a vote of 2,304 votes for removal and 2,708 votes against.

The courthouse issue did not die because on July 9, 1912, a special election was held on a proposition to issue \$100,000 in bonds to build a new courthouse at Bethany. The vote was 1,119 for the bonds and 2,812 against the bonds. It was not until 1938 that agitation arose to build a new courthouse. A petition was presented to the County Court June 16, 1938 asking for an election to get approval for the project. In an effort to get federal funds, the court submitted on June 20, 1938 a project to PWA asking for \$125,000 to help build a courthouse and county jail. The petition was then amended to ask for \$200,000.

An election was set for Aug. 2, 1938 asking for approval of \$110,000 in bonds to construct the courthouse. The proposition failed to get a two-thirds majority, with 2,671 yes votes and 1,797 no votes.

Another election was held Sept. 6 on the same proposition. Approval was denied again, with 3,822 yes votes and 2,004 no votes. The proposition finally carried at the third election on Sept. 29, 1938, when there were 5,002 yes votes and 1,544 no votes cast.

The new courthouse was assured when the County Court received word on Oct. 3, 1938, the PWA had agreed to fund 45 per cent of the cost of the new courthouse not to exceed \$90,000. Chas. and C. E. (Cappy) Bowen were given a contract on Oct. 8 to wreck the courthouse for \$350.00. On bids opened Nov. 14, 1938 the bonds were sold to Prescott, Wright & Snyder Co., Kansas City at a 2¼ per cent interest rate.

On the same date, L. W. Hayes, Bethany, was awarded the contract to do the general excavating for \$840.00. He was later given \$400.00 to remove the dirt. Construction contracts were awarded Feb. 1, 1939. Thomas L. Dawson Co. was awarded the general construction contract on a bid of \$104,000; Pauly Jail Co., prison equipment for \$2,050; Modern Plumbing & Heating Co., the plumbing for \$6,018; Thomas & Dawson, the heating and ventilation for \$8,200; the conduit and wiring contract for \$3,725. Later contracts were awarded for the sprinkler system, flood lights, and the furnishings.

## The Four Courthouses

At the June term of County Court in 1845, John S. Allen was appointed commissioner to contract for the building of the first courthouse. It was a frame building 24 by 20 feet and 14 feet high to make a one and one-half story building. Eliannah Grover agreed to erect the building for \$194 on Lot 4, Block 2, at the northeast corner of the public square where a self-service gas station stands in 1975. The old courthouse was sold in 1858 to Dr. Charles J. Blackburn for \$500.40. It was finally torn down in 1881.

The second courthouse was ordered at the August term, 1856 when \$8,000 was appropriated for its construction. Asbury Allen and Allen S. Meek agreed to build the structure for \$9,732. They made the brick in 1856 and began construction in 1858. The building was completed in 1858. It was 65 by 40 feet and was two stories high. On January 7, 1874, it was destroyed by fire with the loss of some records including tax books.

The third courthouse was ordered erected at the February term, 1874, with the County Court appropriating \$9,000 and the citizens of Bethany subscribing \$12,672. Benton Edwards and Isaac Hays began work on the building in May, 1874. By the following September circuit court was held in the new building although it was not plastered and completed until Nov. 15, 1874. The 80 by 45 feet brick building was two stories high. It was a handsome structure and reflected the period architecture. When its razing was proposed in 1938 to replace it with a modern building, opposition was based on preserving the historic building, on resistance to higher taxes, and some



1874 Courthouse

remaining antagonism from former attempts to move the courthouse to other sites in the county.

The fourth, and present courthouse, erected in 1939 is rated as one of the finest buildings in north Missouri. The limestone building with marble corridors contains a

basement which houses the Extension and Red Cross offices, the heating plant, public rest rooms and storage for records. A large public assembly room and offices for county officers are on the first floor. The second floor has offices for the sheriff, the highway patrol, the prosecuting attorney, license bureau, and a large circuit court room. The top floor contains the jail and quarters for the jailer.



1939 Courthouse

## County Jails

At the February term, 1847, the County Court let a contract to build a jail on the northwest corner of the square. It was used until 1860 when a more secure prison was built. The first jail was built by John and Clem Oatman. The building was two stories high, sixteen feet square, and the walls consisted of two thicknesses of hewn solid oak logs, 12 inches square. Each story was eight feet high. It was placed into service Sept. 1, 1847.

The second jail was a substantial structure which still stands today one block south of the square on 15th street. Work was begun in 1861 on the \$8,000 contract, but due to the Civil War was not completed until 1864. The jail was 22 feet square, two stories high, and was built from large dressed stone weighing from one to two tons each. In 1875, strong iron cells were put in at a cost of \$2,400 to prevent the prisoners from loosening the stones. The jailer's residence adjoined the jail on the south. It was 15 by 30 feet in size and was built of brick.

The present jail on the third floor of the courthouse is considered one of the most secure jails in the area.



## Indians —By Wilhelmina Ward

Indian trails became the first roads in Missouri. The Platte Purchase of 1837 added the extreme northwest part to our state of Missouri and was the end of Indian claims here. The nearest town, to New Hampton, to bear an Indian name is Chillicothe. The French named the territory, Missouri, after the Missouri Tribe of Indians who lived along the west bank of the Missouri River. State parks that bear Indian names are, Arrow Rock, Montauk, and Lake Wappapello.

There is evidence that Indians of Missouri migrated here from some other part of North America. They may have descended from the Mound Builders or the Indians may have conquered the Mound Builders. The tools discovered in mounds suggest a culture distinct from and



1976 Bicentennial Bells L-R Marianne Gehrke, Lois Butler, Deva Bauer.

## Indian Trails

superior to that of the Indians and comparable to relics found in the Egyptian pyramids. Evidence shows that the Indians were using and constructing mounds in Missouri in 1540, when DeSoto passed through the territory.

A site on land owned by Mrs. Lee Daily, of New Hampton, known as the Owl Hoot, is a huge mound and Indian beads and tools have been found there. A stone hammer was found on the Frank Ward farm, several miles from the Owl Hoot. Many migratory Indian tribes passed through, giving places names and leaving half remembered tales. Such a tale is one told by Amanda Linch Ward, about an Indian camp on White Oak Creek. Two Indian men came to her fathers' home about dusk one evening to barter for vegetables and tobacco. The Indians also wanted to trade for their small golden haired girl. They asked repeatedly to buy her and carefully felt her hair. The Linches were frightened and the tale goes that they followed the two Indians and did away with them.

Legend also says that John Virden, a pioneer settler near New Hampton, was called the "good white man, no shoot", because he brought no gun. Indians supplied the Virden family with venison. Later the Virdens built the first two story cabin for miles around, and it became a landmark.

By 1700, Indians had moved as far up the Missouri River as the mouth of the Grand River. They lived and hunted in that region for almost one hundred years, until they were destroyed by other Indians, the Sacs and Foxes, who came from Wisconsin armed with guns. The Missouri Indians, living near the mouth of the Grand River in the eighteenth century joined the Osage Tribe, the Kansas and Oto Indians. Today they are grouped with the Otoes.

The Osage were changed very little by their association with the white man. They lived in villages containing both wigwams and structures made of poles covered with matting of rushes. Chief Big Soldier said to a white friend, "You are surrounded by slaves, everything about you is in chains and you are in chains, yourself. I fear if I should change my pursuit for yours, I, too, should become a slave."

The move of the Cherokee Indian Nation, west, to Oklahoma, became known as the Trail of Tears. More than 4,000 of the 16,000 died on the trail. At Northwestern College in Tahlequah, Oklahoma a group of students presents an outdoor pageant each year. That is their way of remembering the Trail of Tears. The play is historically authentic and quite moving. It is presented as an attraction for a restored Indian village where Five Indian Nations present arts and crafts from their heritage.

Lewis Rodgers, a white prisoner in his childhood, was chief of Shawnee tribes in Missouri. He offered a huge sum of money to the man who would marry his daughter. Later, he deferred payment, saying he would wait and see if the man made a good husband.

The chief trail of the Indians in Harrison County was called the Grand Trace or Nema Colin's path. In eastern Missouri it started near St. Louis and traversed St. Charles, Lincoln, Audrain, Monroe, Macon, Linn, Sullivan, Grundy and Mercer Counties before entering Harrison County about 1½ miles north of the southeast corner thence northwest to Bethany, crossing at the Bethany Falls, thence west to the Gentry County line about 2 miles south of the Worth County line. It then run northwest into Worth County about 2 miles west of the east lines of Worth and Gentry Counties and continued northwest through Worth County through the Iowa State Line.

Approximately halfway through Worth County it joined another Indian trail coming up from the Missouri River almost straight south of this junction.

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Indian Mounds in Harrison Co.

Sec. 19, Twp. 69 R 27 Grant Twp. "Several acres 20 ft. high."

Sec. 18, Twp. 62 R 27 Adams Twp. "Four mounds four feet high."

Sec. 10, Twp. 63 R 28 in Bethany "Six feet high 30 feet in diameter."

Sec. 27, Twp. 66 R 28 Leo Cox Land "Three mounds ten feet across, bulldozed summer 1971."

Sec. 24, Twp. 66 R 26 "One hundred feet long 30 feet wide."

Sect. 10, Twp. 66 R 27

These mounds were made by an agricultural people, not mainly hunters, according to Mo. Archeologists. "The larger mounds contained thousands of cubic feet of earth, each cubic foot weighs 64 lbs. This means a very large population of people working years to make these."

The camp sites in Harrison County were scattered along the second bottoms and ridges close to the main streams. Trails connected these camp sites and lead to the grand trail.

## The 1909 Flood

The worst flood in the history of Harrison County occurred in July, 1909. Nearly twelve inches of rain fell from Sunday, July 5, to Friday, July 9. Over six inches of rain fell on the night of July 5 and the morning of the 6th. Both East and West Big Creeks were higher than ever

recorded before or after that famous flood. Many families in the bottoms were compelled to leave their homes and many houses and barns were swept away, some of which lodged at the railroad bridge trestle west of Bethany. Twenty steel bridges and scores of smaller bridges were swept away to present a costly bridge rebuilding program for the county.

For more than two weeks the City of Bethany was without electric lights. Fifty candles were used to light the First M. E. Church for the following Sunday night ser-



Debris at the Trestle



Canning Factory Bridge

vices. Flood waters stood two feet in the dynamo room of the boiler plant at the powerhouse located across the Canning Factory Bridge and the pump for the water works was ten feet under water. The channel of East Big Creek changed temporarily during the crest of the flow. Instead of curving in back of the County Farm, it surged across the lowland to the east of the Bethany Mill. The most venturesome of the local youth stepped onto floating logs to the bridge trestle before coming ashore. A

news story read, "Big Creek south of the railroad bridge, near the Sanitorium, has the appearance of a young river. Many feet of banks have been cut away and large trees along the creek are entirely washed away. It has made an ideal place for fishing."

The Clipper, which carried an account of the flood, sold every copy for the week. Many Bethany residents were marooned while away from home by the flood. J. B. Rhodus was water bound at Darlington, but used a boat to come as close as he could and then traveled the rest of the route into Bethany by a hand car on the Burlington. Prof. A. E. Wickizer had been to south Missouri. He also used a boat and then walked the rest of the distance to reach his home. Horace Dunn and his sister, Miss Helen and Miss Fay Sutton had driven to Albany in his automobile. They finally reached home, but left the car at Albany. Edgar Coleman and R. F. D. carrier Cooper came from New Hampton the following Tuesday to pick up 33 bags of mail for New Hampton. In addition to property damage, there was huge damage to crops inundated by the flood and by the erosion of soil in the upland areas.

Many more floods have occurred in following years, but in recent years floods have been reduced by watersheds, smaller dams, and terracing in the county. However, the "old-timers" still refer to the 1909 flood as Harrison County's answer to Noah and the Ark.

## Bethany Limestone-Roads

Harrison County's greatest natural resource, in addition to its productive prairie and fertile bottom land, is the ledge of Bethany Falls limestone which underlies the county. The paving-quality stone lies in thick ledges which are accessible to open-pit mining in many locations in the county. Quarries are located in the Bethany, Ridgeway and Mt. Moriah areas where limestone can be quarried without removing a great amount of soil or overburden. Quarries prospered through the years, first by supplying building stone for foundations of large buildings. With the advent of road construction with gravel and concrete in the second and third decades of the 20th Century, crushed rock was produced in large quantities for the first paving of Bethany streets, township paving of U. S. 69 Highway in 1922 and completing the final lane of Highway 69 in 1926. Untold tons of crushed rock were used to gravel county roads under the King and CART road resurfacing programs. In recent years, the County Court has let contracts to area quarries to supply rock for almost 600 miles of CART roads. Expenditures now exceed \$100,000.00 a year, with the state furnishing one-half the cost from funds obtained from the state gasoline tax. Individuals and/or townships pay the other half of the cost to renew the roads each year to keep



vehicles out of the mud which almost paralyzed transportation in the 19th Century.

Interest in organizing good roads clubs was shown at an early date. One of the early efforts was made in east Jefferson Township when a meeting was called April 5, 1912 to organize a co-operative good road organization. J. A. Cruzan was elected chairman; W. L. Hefner, secretary; and N. Homan, Ira McCoy, and Buren Bell, committeemen on I. T. (Inter-State Trail), apparently the early name for the Jefferson Highway. A committeeman was named for each of the many roads in the township. Among the committeemen were: Newton Hillyard, John Gay, Allen Hatten, Percy Selby, Bob Leonard, Lewis Hillyard, Fred Hillyard, Roy Miller, Carl Morris, Alf Hogan, Jeff Kemp, John Frame, Walter Murray, Tom Arkle, Joe Polley, and Arthur Buntin. J. A. Cruzan immediately called a meeting of all committeemen at Morris Chapel on April 17 to perfect plans for effective road work and to confer with the township board.

During the same decade Bethany was engaged in a paving program. The May 11, 1916 issue of the Bethany Clipper carried official public notices from Mayor William Roleke and the Board of Aldermen of Paving Resolution No. 12 and 13 to pave two portions of Alder Street with concrete, and to assess the costs and issue tax bills against the adjoining property owners.

Great interest was shown in obtaining better all-weather roads in the 1920's. Organizations were formed to lobby for improved roads. One group was especially active to promote the old Jefferson Highway from the pines of Minnesota to the palms at Galveston, Tex. The Jefferson Highway entered the county almost directly north of Bethany and then turned west toward New Hampton, Albany, Union Star and St. Joseph. Later, the highway was constructed towards Pattonsburg to cross the county completely from north to south. The Corn

Belt Trail was the best known of the east-west highways in the county. Later State Highway No. 4 replaced it to run east and west across the state to Keokuk. Although hilly and curved, the graveled highway was a vast improvement. Now it is designated as Highway 136 and has been blacktopped and bridged with good bridges along its entire length. Another major highway which makes Bethany a highway center is Highway 13 which goes through Coffey, Gallatin and Lexington to connect with Interstate 70.

The major highway at Bethany now parallels U. S. 69 and Highway 13 to make Bethany an important highway center. Interstate 35 is now almost complete through Harrison County. In fact, the four-lane highway was opened for traffic in 1976 except for the large bridge crossing at Pattonsburg which will not be completed before 1977 although work is well underway on the bridge which crosses the Grand River bottom at Pattonsburg. Bethany anticipates a building and business boom from I-35 which already had led to a tremendous expansion on the access roads where new filling stations and businesses are already in operation and where a motel expansion is expected once the Interstate is fully completed.

Route 146 has been improved and resurfaced in recent years to improve travel toward Gilman City and the eastern part of the county. Route A has been completed from I-35 to Ridgeway during the last year to facilitate traffic and to replace old bridges with two modern bridges in the East Big Creek bottom. Treacherous Witt Hill will no longer test the power and skill of drivers as it did for almost half a century.

## Population-Valuation

The growth in assessed property valuation and taxes collected has been constant since the first year of Harrison County. At the October term of court in 1845, John W. Brown, sheriff and ex-officio collector, settled with the court for the 1845 tax books. Out of the amount on the tax books for the year totaling \$296.76, he remitted \$249.38 to the county treasurer. Delinquent taxes and commissions accounted for the remaining \$47.38.

By 1888, the population of the county had increased from 2,447 in 1850 to 20,304. The assessed valuation of real and personal property had increased to \$4,032,921.00. By 1887, the assessed value had increased to \$5,234,742.00. In 1975, the assessed valuation reached \$38,192,386.00.

By 1887, the county had 12, 283 horses, 1,331 mules, 51 asses and jennets, 39,158 cattle, 41,369 hogs and 25,862 sheep. By 1975, the cattle population had risen to



1976 Bicentennial Clown, Louie Beaver

98,500 and the number of hogs had reached 63,000. Harrison County is among the top counties in Northwest Missouri although far behind Nodaway County which has 136,000 hogs to rank first in the state.

The county also ranks high among area counties in grain and hay production. The most recent statistics show the county harvested 48,200 acres of corn which averaged 55 bushels per acre; 3,400 acres of wheat which produced 27.8 bushels per acre; 37,400 acres of soybeans which averaged 45 bushels per acre; and 59,600 acres of hay with a 1.8 tons yield per acre.

The income for the farm community of the county reached \$38,898,000.00 last year, which exceeded the previous year's income by over \$6,000,000.00 The income included cash returns from the sale of crops, livestock and other commodities, government payments, and the value of products consumed on the farm.

The population of the county reached a peak of 24,398 in 1900. A steady decline since that year has brought the current population to 10,257. The decline has been due to the reduction in the number of farms, which also grew in size, the migration of youth to industrial centers where more job opportunities are available, and the trend toward small families. Since the post-Vietnam depression, there has been a noticeable migration back to smaller towns, although many of the workers still drive to jobs in urban centers.

## Heilbron Sanitorium

For more than 30 years one of the most noted landmarks at Bethany was the Heilbron Sanitorium which was developed into a health spa that attracted hundreds of people in search of improved health to Bethany.

The enterprise was the result of an unexpected discovery during a search for coal in the spring of 1885 sponsored by interested citizens of Bethany who thought mineral wealth rested below the surface just west of the Bethany city limits. A hole was sunk to a depth of 645 feet, passing through several layers of coal, but the thickest vein of 15 inches did not justify a mining operation. However, a vein of water was struck which flowed like an artesian well to the surface. The water did not cause any enthusiasm until it was noted it had a taste of salt and soda and that stock eagerly consumed it. The water was clear as crystal and bubbled slightly from gas in the well. It was not long before some ailing persons claimed they had received remarkable medicinal relief after drinking the water.

Thomas Monson, owner of the land, was urged to erect buildings at the springs so the healing water might become an asset to the community. The Bethany Im-



Hotel Heilbron

provement Company was organized to develop the facility and Hotel Heilbron was opened in 1896. The 45-room building was 80 by 35 feet in size and was four stories high. The frame building had a broad veranda around it which offered a picturesque view from the high bluff surrounded by majestic oak trees with a small lake and a flowing stream adding to the charm of the site.

The original stockholders included Thomas Monson, D. S. Alvord, D. J. Heaston, G. W. Barlow, G. W. Wanamaker, A. F. Woodruff, A. H. Vandivert, A. D. Shipley, W. V. Dunn, R. H. Wren, E. N. Cuddy, M. McCollum and Veasy Price, all men of record as progressive citizens. Dr. J. A. Kintner, a noted hydrophathist, was secured to manage the bath department and to promote his electric medicated and vapor bath treatments. The hostlery and cuisine were under the supervision of Sam Nelson. A first class livery was set up with carriages to meet all the trains to bring in incoming patients and for the convenience of patients and guests.

Business flourished during the early years of operation, but had declined somewhat when the facility was destroyed by fire the evening of Dec. 2, 1928. Mrs. Kittie Nickerson, wife of the late Bert Nickerson, gave a graphic description of the huge fire which she said brought her heart into her throat when distant flames illuminated the sky as they drove from New Hampton toward Bethany after leaving their son, T. R. Nickerson, at Stanberry where he had taken a train to attend college at Maryville. Mrs. Nickerson was highly affected by the flames because she and her husband were in charge of the old County Farm Home and they feared the fire was there.

The Bethany fire department was helpless because the sanitorium was 1900 feet beyond the nearest fireplug at the old Webster School. Little was saved from the building except the operating room equipment of Dr. W. J. Harned, who was using a portion of the building. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tucker had been resident managers of Heilbron since the death of Dr. Kintner in March, 1928 who had operated the facility for 32 years.

The sanitorium had been redecorated four years previously at a cost of \$3,000. The original stockholders of the Bethany Improvement Co. had dwindled to Mrs. G. W. Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Kautz and Gilbert Barlow at the time of the fire. Insurance of \$7,200 was carried on the building and equipment, but no effort was made to rebuild the sanitorium which no longer had the appeal which existed when it was first built.

## Early Telephone Service —By Lewis Israel

A telephone system was introduced to Bethany residents in 1895 by the Harrison County Telephone Co., according to the somewhat obscure sources of information which are now available. Owners of the first company were said to include E. H. Frisby, A. J. Fuller, S. F. Church, Dr. Vandivert, Dr. Charles Robinson, and J. W. Moore.

The Farmers Telephone Company was organized in 1901. It was often called the Neff Company because the stockholders included J. S. Neff, C. H. Neff, M. E. Neff, E. O. Neff, F. E. Neff, and John C. Ray, among several others. The company was capitalized at \$2,500, but during the years increased the capital stock to \$10,000, and finally to \$50,000. Most of the earnings were plowed back into improvements.

Two companies had separate systems for a while, the other company apparently was known as the Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. Farmers Mutual ran into financial difficulties and Loyd N. Brown was appointed to act as receiver for the company in 1908. Telephone companies apparently had difficulties in surviving because court records between 1912 and 1924 list several suits by the telephone company and suits against it to collect notes due or to collect service fees assessed by the cities served.

Farmers Telephone Company was the sole survivor. The Bethany Exchange had an appraised value of \$102,318 in April, 1926 while bargaining was in progress for the sale of the system which was actually completed when options for the purchase were closed in May, 1926 by Middle States Utilities Co. Middle States actually assumed 24-hour operations on June 7, 1926. At the time of the sale, Jesse Neff was president. J. C. Ray was secretary and treasurer, positions he had filled for more than 15 years.

The old telephone systems were a far cry from the present electronic dial systems which function almost automatically under the supervision of skilled operators and technicians. Most early communities in the county

*And however dark the skies may appear,  
And however our souls may blunder,  
I tell you it all will come out clear,  
For good lies over and under.*

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

had "central offices" where operators answered the rings and plugged in the switchboard to connect with the party wanted. At first there were no telephone books. The person placing the call would tell the operator whom they wished to speak to and she would make the proper connection.

The old wall-type telephones were activated by turning a crank on the side which would cause a bell to ring. A system of signals was used which consisted of a series of "long" and "short" rings. Each particular combination would alert the patron that he was wanted on the telephone. A lot of innocent eavesdropping occurred on the early lines because curious neighbors would listen in to hear the latest news.

Mrs. Hazel Linch of Bethany was an early office employee at Bethany from 1911 to 1920 in the system headed by John Ray. She said four operators were on duty to provide services for all 24 hours of the day and night. It required 15 or 20 employees to take the calls. The operators worked 10-hour days and received about \$20.00 a month. Mrs. Linch recalls other early operators were Jessie Burns, Effie Shepard, Jessie Zimmerlee, Bertha Layson, Rilla Neal Buck and Alice Stratton. Servicemen at that time included Jake Jennings, Orley Buck and John York. She said the telephone office was located in the building on 16th street now owned by the Eagles Lodge. The first telephone office in Bethany is believed to have been north of the City Hall. Another office is reported to have been in the old building which stood where the present Professional building now stands.

Until April 1, 1923 the telephone company sent a collector around to collect telephone service bills, but on that date statements were mailed out and collections began to be made by mail. P. G. Wightman printed the telephone directories after they came into use. Bertha Gale, still an employee of Grand River Mutual Telephone Co., said she and Gladys Flint used to type out the complete list of patrons for the directory.

After the purchase of Middle States Utilities by Grand River Mutual, a large improvement program was instituted. By Dec. 2, 1956, the dial system was put into operation at Bethany, and the thirteen employees in the office were reduced to two—Mrs. Gale and Mrs. Flint, who has since retired.

Perhaps the modern office with its automation might not be affected as was the old office in Bethany on Armistice Day in 1918. Mrs. Linch recalls on that day, which brought an end to the tragic World War I, that all the office employees locked the door and left the

telephones unanswered while the operators went to the city park to celebrate the joyous occasion.

## Grand River Mutual Telephone

In the late 1920's John Reed of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, assembled substantial utility holdings through various holding companies — gas, water, electric and telephone. Telephone companies were acquired by the Middle States Utilities Company. Practically all of these holdings were in Southern Iowa and North Missouri. Companies totally owned were incorporated in Middle States Utilities Company of Missouri or Middle States Utilities Company of Iowa. Upon acquisition of control of The Clinton County Telephone Company, Mr. Reed had the general offices of this telephone operation moved to Plattsburg, Missouri, from Leon, Iowa, about 1929. From there the operation of 56 telephone exchanges in the three above named companies and Andrew County Mutual Telephone Company was directed.

During this acquisition period the following exchanges in Harrison County were bought: Bethany, Blythedale, Cainsville, Ridgeway, Mt. Moriah and Gilman City. Bethany was a common battery office and the others magneto or local battery. In all, the rural service was over grounded lines.

Ex-Senator James A. Reed and a sister inherited the interests of John Reed upon his death. The Middle States Companies made it through the depression under the management of Elmer Weakley.

A Preferred Stockholders Protective Committee gained control of the company in 1940 or 1941. Attempting to salvage something, they placed the company in voluntary bankruptcy in 1943 with Edgar Shook as receiver. In 1945 the Gary Telephone Group presented a plan of re-organization to the court which was accepted and assumed ownership.

The end of WW II made needed material available but lack of capitol prevented rapid improvement of service.

The Rural Telephone Act of 1949 brought about the formation of The Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation.

Two Harrison countians, Harley Leazenby and Harry John, were very active in formation of this company and were on its first board of directors.

Grand River, in 1953, purchased 10 Iowa and nine Missouri exchanges from Middle States. Included were the six Harrison County exchanges. Subsequently added were: Eagleville, Hatfield, Brooklyn and Martinsville.

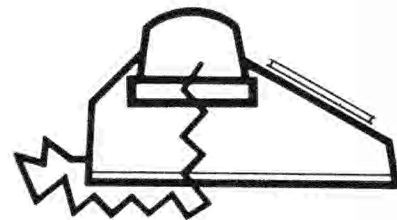
By 1957 these exchanges were all converted to dial service, with new pole lines, new wire and cables, new central office equipment, new central office buildings and new telephones.

In 1961 New Hampton was added. In this case the cables and wires were buried.

Since then numerous additions and improvements have been made. Too, the major portion of the aerial rural plant has been replaced with buried and all exchanges, except New Hampton, have been upgraded to a maximum of four parties on a line. The remaining rural aerial plant will be replaced in 1976. New Hampton should be upgraded by 1980.

Telephones in service have greatly increased in 20 years.

EXCHANGE	1-1-55	1-1-75
Bethany	1,230	2,797
Eagleville	273	639
Blythedale	85	
Brooklyn	40	
Martinsville	119	
Hatfield (est)	100	
Washington Center	-0-	246
Cainsville	184	414
Gilman City	240	424
Mt. Moriah	48	182
Ridgeway	220	480
New Hampton (10-59)	331	402



### Historical Marker

A handsome marker outlining the highlights of Harrison County history was erected in 1959 at the four-way junction of Highways 69 and 136 southwest of Bethany by the State Historical Society of Missouri and the State Highway Commission. The marker is set near the spot where the first County Court of the county held its first session under a big tree on the west bank of Big Creek near Harris Mill.

The historical marker describes Harrison County as the second largest border county of the state and the 26th largest county among the 114 counties of Missouri. The brief history mentions the U. S. Supreme Court decision which established the Missouri-Iowa boundary in 1851 and increased the area of the county to 720 square miles.

# Courts, Bar, County And Township Officials

## Original Minutes of First Court Session

Be it remembered that at a County Court began and Harris's Mill within and for said County on the 5th day of May, 1845 were present the Hon. Samuel Edmiston, Asaph M. Butler and Lewis Charlton, Justices of said Court. John W. Brown, Sheriff, and Thomas Flint, Clerk.

John W. Brown presents the account of Ebenezer Wood against the County for eight days services locating the County seat of Harrison County at two dollars per day. Ordered by the Court that the account be allowed and warrant issue on the treasurer for same, No. 1.

John W. Brown presents the account of Edward Smith against the County for nine days service locating the County seat of Harrison County at two dollars per day. Ordered by the Court that the account be allowed and a warrant issue on the treasurer for the same, No. 2.

John W. Brown presents the account of John Gipson against the County for nine days services locating the County seat of Harrison County at two dollars per day. Ordered by the Court that the account be allowed and a warrant issue on the treasurer for the same, No. 3.

## Early Circuit Courts And Grand Juries

On April 23, 1846, Honorable Austin A. King, judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Missouri, at the town of Bethany, organized and held the first Circuit Court in Harrison County. There were present on that occasion besides his Honor, the judge, the following officials: George W. Dunn, circuit attorney; John W. Brown, sheriff, and John S. Allen, clerk.

On motion of George W. Dunn, Philip L. Edwards, Charles E. Bowman, George W. Poage and Moses Simonds, all being duly licensed according to law, were admitted to practice as counselors and attorneys-at-law and solicitors in chancery.

The first business was the return of a state writ of venire facias by the sheriff executed upon Eli McDaniel, James Mitchell, Jacob A. Brown, Samuel Alley, Lorenzo D. Thompson, William Hamblin, Henry Fuller, Thomas Hutchins, Edward L. Ellis, Elkanah Glover, James A. Dale and Charles L. Jennings, "fifteen good and lawful men of the County of Harrison aforesaid, as a grand jury and the said Eli McDaniel as foreman, and his fellow jurors aforesaid being duly empowered, sworn and charged as a grand jury of the State of Missouri for the County of Harrison aforesaid, retired to consider their presentments."

The first suit filed was a case on appeal from Justice Court in what was then North Township. William Lauderback, plaintiff, vs. George Williams, defendant. Briefly stated the history of the case as tried before Henry Fuller, Justice of the Peace, is as follows: It appears that the said George Williams from some cause committed the flagrant act of killing a canine belonging to the said Lauderback, whereupon the latter brought suit for damages, trespass, etc., as shown by the following bill of complaint. "George Williams to William Lauderback debt and damages \$25.00; ten dollars for killing one dog, and ten dollars damage for killing one dog and wounding another dog, and for trespassing on my property. William Lauderback."

The above bill of charges was filed April 30, 1845, and on the 13th day of the succeeding month, the trial took place before a jury composed of the following yeomen, to-wit: Abraham Endsley, Elkanah Glover, Allen Hubbard, James Ramey and Shephard Hunter. The trial excited no little interest in the community and nearly all the citizens of the neighborhood were subpoenaed as witnesses.

The defense was ably conducted by Elder John S. Allen, but despite all his efforts in behalf of his client the plaintiff by solemn oath as well as by the testimony of several reputable witnesses established beyond a reasonable doubt the "good character" of the murdered canine, besides proving the killing to have "been done without just cause or provocation." The jury after carefully weighing all the evidence of the case agreed upon the following verdict:

"We, as jurors, dew fine verdick in favor of the plan-  
tif five dollars damage, and costs. A. B. Endsley,  
Foreman."

The defendant feeling aggrieved by this verdict and thinking justice had not been accorded to him in the trial, filed the following appeal to the Circuit Court:

"You will take notice that I have taken an appeal from the judgment of Henry Fuller, Esq., obtained against me in your favor in an action of debt damage and trespass on the 13th day of May, 1845, to the Circuit Court of Harrison County, to be held on Thursday after the third Monday in April, 1845, it being the 23rd day of the month. "George Williams, Defendant. "Charles M. Scott, Security."

In the Circuit Court the plaintiff filed his motion to dismiss the appeal on account of the insufficiency of the security for the appeal which was overruled by the judge: "The defendant files his motion to dismiss the plaintiff's suit which motion being heard by the court is sustained." "It is therefore ordered by the court that the suit be dismissed and that said defendant recover of the said plaintiff his costs as well in this court as in the Justice's court below in his behalf expended and that he have execution therefor."

The next cases on the docket were Ansel Terry vs Samson Alley in "assemblesit" and James R. Timmons and John D. Timmons vs. Nathan Spencer, ejectment, the former continued and the latter dismissed at the cost of plaintiff.

The grand jury returned into court the following indictments endorsed true bills and signed by the foreman, to-wit: Against John Murphey, Jonas Casner, Benjamin Casner, Charles Hauk, John Taylor and Harvey Taylor, for a rout, also State against Francis Burrell for larceny.

John W. Brown presented his account as sheriff for \$5.50, after which there being no further business, the court adjourned "until court in course."

The record of the one day's proceedings including the opening and adjourning orders and impaneling the grand jury occupy only a little over three pages of the record.

The grand jury for the October term, 1846, was composed of the following men: Samuel Edmiston, Marshall Howell, Robert Ford, Thomas Daniel, William R. Allen, William Long, Andrew M. Cox, Thomas Jennings, Willis Harper, Abel W. Allen, Robert Young, Lewis Charlton, Edward Winkle, Hampton Cox, and James C. Brown. Samuel Edmiston was foreman. The first trial by jury at this term was the State of Missouri against Charles Hauk, indicted at the previous term for instigating and participating in a "rout" at the town of Bethany. The following are the names of the jurors: Thomas Mitchell, Samuel Cox, George Williams, Joseph Young, George Hamblin, Stephen C. Allen, John Casebolt, Howell Blaketer, Joseph J. Arnold, Thomas Prewett and William Moler. Through their foreman, S. C. Allen, reported the following verdict: "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty as charged and assess his fine at \$5.00." "It is therefore ordered that the plaintiff recover the fine of \$5.00

aforsaid as also the costs in this behalf expended and that she have execution therefor, and also that the said defendant stand committed until said fine and costs are paid, being in court he is put in custody of the sheriff."

The second jury trial was the State against Francis Burill, indicted for larceny at the previous term of the court. The following gentlemen composed this jury: Stephen C. Allen, James Fuller, A. Thompson, Samson Alley, Michael Fleenor, Thomas Tucker, William N. Ford, Joseph Young, Richard Young and Jesse Vail. The verdict was: "We, the jury, find in favor of the defendant."

The grand jury at this term returned indictments against the following persons: Simon Burgin, for peddling clocks without license; Joseph Hall, for assault with intent to commit manslaughter, John Vail, for selling liquor without license; Francis B. Miller, John A. Scott and Allen Scott, for trading with the Indians.

The case of Ansel Terry vs. Samson Alley continued from the first term was disposed of by the court in favor of the plaintiff and damages assessed at \$181.00.

At the March term, 1847, the following attorneys and counselors were admitted to practice in the courts of Harrison County: Philip L. Edwards, Volney E. Bragg and Thomas L. Frame.

The following served as grand jurors during the term: Asaph M. Butler, foreman; Reuben D. Tilley, Thomas Taylor, William Oxford, John Oatman, George Noah, Jeremiah S. Young, William M. Selby, Elijah Fleming, Matthew Franklin, Joseph Young, Norvell Allcock, Isaac Hamer, Eli Salmon, Major Daniel and William C. Atkinson.

They returned indictments for "killing" against Hill Wortman and Lewis Hunt, and against Josiah Spurgin for "murder." The latter case occasioned a great deal of interest, being the first event of a sanguinary nature that took place in the county. Spurgin was tried by jury, the charge being the killing of Jacob Mitchel. The trial was at the March term, 1847. He was convicted of manslaughter. Both were intoxicated when the killing occurred.

Simon Burgin was tried at this term for peddling clocks without a license and fined \$50, which was subsequently commuted to one day's imprisonment on payment of costs. Several other cases of a minor nature were disposed of at this term and the record shows that Nathan Spencer and Cornelius Murphy were each fined \$5.00 for contempt of court.

The grand jury at the September term, 1847, was made up of the following citizens: Charles L. Jennings, David Gaston, Andrew J. Smith, Thomas Tucker, Christopher Blessing, Robert Bullington, John Jones, Jonathan Booth, William W. Harper, James Ramey, Kader Madden, George Williams, William H. Bender, Thomas M. Geer, William Hunter and Benjamin Ashley.

There were quite a number of indictments at this term, among which were the following: against Richard Wells, James Johnson, Travis Johnson, William Johnson and Jeremiah Spurgeon, "for the disturbing the peace of a family in the night"; against Richard Wells for "felonious assault," and against William Cummins "for aiding the escape of a prisoner," and against James Johnson and Travis Johnson for "an assault."

At the May term, 1848, the following grand jurors were impaneled: J. C. Brown, David Buck, Samuel Alley, William C. Allen, Aaron England, George W. Noah, Shepherd Hulse, L. W. H. Cox, Eli McDaniel, Matthew L. Franklin, William Mitchell, Thomas Brown, E. L. Ellis, James Mitchell, and Samuel O. Jennings. Indictments were returned by them against Elijah Williams for trespassing on school land; Elisha Meeker for unlawfully taking up strays; Lewis Hunt, Armstead Pait, Francis Bunill and John W. Casebolt, each for betting.

The first suit for divorce was tried at the March term, 1850, at which time a divorce was granted to Benjamin Mitchell. The next divorce case was Joel H. Worthington against Sarah Worthington, tried at the March term, 1854, and at the same time there was another divorce case of Harper vs. Harper.

The first foreigner naturalized in Harrison County was William Hall, a native of England, who came to the United States in 1848 and to Missouri in 1851. He renounced his allegiance to his native country and became a citizen of the American Republic at the March term, 1853, of the Harrison Circuit Court.

## Probate Court

The Probate Court of Harrison County was established November 7, 1853. Honorable William G. Lewis was the judge. Prior to that time all probate business was disposed of in the County Court which by statute had that jurisdiction.

The first proceedings of the court after its organization were in the case of Anna Endsley vs. Gibson Endsley, administrator of estate of Samuel Endsley, deceased. These proceedings as shown by the record were as follows:

"Now at this day comes the parties by their attorneys and the said plaintiff makes application to the court as the widow of Samuel Endsley, deceased, for an order compelling said administrator to pay her as such widow, the money allowed by law in lieu of personal property allowed to her at the appraised value of \$200.00. Whereupon the court after hearing the allegations and proofs of the said parties, orders that Gibson Endsley,

administrator of the estate of Samuel Endsley, deceased, pay to Anna Endsley, widow of said deceased, the sum of \$89.95 when collected that being the amount of said sale of the personal property of deceased."

Following the above upon the record appears an application of Jacob Oxford, administrator of the estate of William Oxford, deceased, for permission to sell personal property, etc., at private sale "and the court being satisfied that such sale will not be prejudicial to persons interested in said estate orders the administrator to sell at private sale all property of said estate as such time as he may see fit and proper."

The next business was the allowing of a note of \$45.21 against the estate of Aaron England in favor of Benjamin C. Powell and Jonathan Levy, together with all interest upon the same and costs of allowance.

William G. Lewis served as Probate Judge until 1857 at which time John H. Phillebaum was elected to the position. His successor was D. J. Heaston, whose term of service expired in 1862.

## County Lawyers

When Harrison County was organized and the courts instituted there were no resident lawyers here as was generally the case in pioneer communities. However, it was not long until members of the legal profession settled here and engaged in the practice of the law. It was the custom in the early days for lawyers to travel from county to county, or from one district to another to attend court to try cases and in this way leading lawyers of these pioneer times covered a large scope of territory in their professional capacity. These lawyers were sometimes known as "circuit riders." All of the prominent lawyers of the early days thus practiced in many counties of the state.

William G. Lewis, a pioneer lawyer of this county was the first resident lawyer of Bethany. He was a native of Greenbrier County, Virginia, and came here in 1847. He practiced here until the time of his death in 1869.

The bar of Harrison County has always maintained a high standard and some of the ablest lawyers of the state are enrolled among its members. Little is known of some of the early attorneys. Among those of whom we have a record are: John R. Moreledge, H. P. Edminston, John H. Phillebaum, Orrin Lee Abbott, Thomas J. Brady, William F. Miller, John Wyatt, George W. Elwell, T. D. Neal, James McCollum, Andrew Fawcett, J. Frank Ward, Oscar Butler, S. W. Leslie, G. W. Cooper, J. W. Vandivert, Samuel W. Vandevort, W. S. McCray, A. R. Brown, and J. W. Boyle. The members of the Harrison County bar since 1888 to the present time are: D. J.

Heaston, D. S. Alvord, William C. Heaston, F. R. Ramer, Joseph F. Bryant, Sr., John M. Sallee, William H. Skinner, George W. Wanamaker, A. F. Woodruff, James C. Wilson, George W. Barlow, Ezra H. Frisby, General B. M. Prentiss, J. R. Kirk, Gilbert Barlow, J. Q. Brown, J. F. Bryant, Jr., A. S. Cummings, S. P. Davisson, Frank M. Frisby, W. H. Leasenby, B. P. Sigler, Edgar Skinner, Garland Wilson, Dockery Wilson, Randall Wilson, C. S. Winslow, Earle G. Spragg, Rufus Hopkins,

A. L. Hughes, Oscar W. Curry, A. L. Clabaugh, Roscoe, E. Kavanaugh, M. F. Oxford, Forest D. Lawhead, B. W. Hurst, W. E. Land, O. N. Gibson, W. C. Humphrey, L. R. Kautz, Charles A. Miller, George R. Miller, C. C. Ross, C. A. Stoner, E. S. Miner, Clarence L. Bush, Geo. Kautz, Robert B. Loman, W. V. Mayse, Larry Ottley, R. E. Moulthrop, William J. Esely, Bill Warren Taggart, Hawley M. Kilpatrick, Jack C. Bauer, Gary L. Busker.

## County Officers Circuit Judges

Austin King (1846-1848)  
James McFerran (1859-1862)  
S. A. Richardson (1872-1880)  
Charles S. Goodman (1882-1892)  
G. W. Wanamaker (1904-1916)  
Gulley Knight (1928-1938)  
J. Morgan Donelson (1959-

George W. Dunn (1848-1859)  
Jonas J. Clark (1863-1872)  
John C. Howell (1880-1882)  
Paris C. Stepp (1892-1904)  
L. B. Woods (1916-1928)  
Virgil (Casey) Rose (1938-1958)

## State Representatives

L. D. Thompson (1846-1850)  
Elijah Hubbard (1852-1854)  
Stephen C. Allen (1860-1862)  
Thomas O. Neal (1868-1872)  
James B. Brower (1874-1878)  
James M. Nevill (1880-1882)  
A. W. Allen (1884-1886)  
S. P. Davisson (1890-1894)  
Jesse Taylor (1896-1898)  
J. D. Officer (1900-1904)  
F. J. Hesseltine (1906-1912)  
W. E. Land (1914-1919)  
F. J. Hesseltine (1920-1922)  
Frank Sobotka (1928-1932)  
Tom Brown (1934-1944)  
R. A. Chambers (1946-1948)  
Stephen Lincoln (1950-1964)  
H. N. Sutherland (1974-1976)

Stephen C. Allen (1850-1852)  
Henry O. Nevill (1854-1856)  
Samuel Downey (1862-1868)  
W. H. Hillman (1872-1874)  
Charles D. Knight (1878-1880)  
George Burriss (1882-1884)  
Nelson Church (1886-1890)  
J. W. Leazenby (1894-1896)  
Rufus Hopkins (1898-1900)  
J. R. Williamson (1904-1906)  
J. W. Leazenby (1912-1914)  
Brown (1919-1920)  
Alex Reid (1922-1928)  
Lloyd Spragg (1932-1934)  
Stephen Lincoln (1944-1946)  
Tom Brown (1948-1950)  
M. C. Bauer (1964-1974)

## Circuit and County Clerks

Thomas Flint (1845-1846)  
John W. Brown (1846-1864)

John S. Allen (six months)  
Offices separated in 1864.



## Circuit Clerks

John W. Brown (1864-1866)  
James C. Baker (1869-1870)  
A. D. Shibly (1882-1890)  
B. P. Sigler (1898-1906)  
G. W. Bolar (1914-1922)  
W. P. Chambers (1934-1942)  
H. K. Barlow (1946-1954)  
Fyrma Bowen (1970- )

G. W. Bradshaw (1866-1869)  
H. J. Skinner (1870-1882)  
Z. T. Rose (1890-1898)  
C. J. Carter (1907-1914)  
Willard Bolar (1922-1934)  
Gilbert Barlow (1942-1946)  
Earl B. Hacker (1954-1970)

## County Clerks

Henry O. Bryant (1864-1866)  
W. C. Heaston (1872-1874)  
W. C. Heaston (1877-1879)  
V. J. Nally (1890-1898)  
C. A. Tull (1899-1901)  
W. F. Towns (1906-1914)  
C. T. Bridges (1916-1926)  
Clarence Moulton (1934-1942)  
Luther Youngs (1954-1970)

John Slinger (1866-1872)  
J. W. Kenyon (1874-1877)  
W. P. Robinson (1879-1890)  
W. F. Towns (1898-1899)  
J. M. Kinkade (1902-1906)  
L. N. Brown (1915-1916)  
John Selby (1926-1934)  
G. C. Montgomery (1942-1954)  
Robert McIntosh (1970- )

## Probate Judges

William G. Lewis (1853-1857)  
David J. Heaston (1861-1862)  
Thomas D. Neal (1866-1868)  
W. P. Robinson (1872-1878)  
J. F. Bryant (1878-1880)  
W. H. Skinner (1890-1898)  
Edgar Skinner (1906-1914)  
H. G. Bloomfield (1922-1934)  
G. Ray Miller (1959-1970)

J. H. Phillibaum (1857-1861)  
T. H. Templeman (1862-1866)  
John Wion (1868-1872)  
John T. Hendren (1878)  
J. R. Cunningham (1880-1890)  
Alex Reid (1898-1906)  
Henry N. Burgin (1914-1922)  
Fred Selby (1934-1958)  
Robert Loman (1970- )

## County Treasurers

Henry Fuller (1845)  
J. S. Allen (1848-1856)  
M. P. Wills (1856-1860)  
James Price (1862-1866)  
G. W. Myers (1868-1872)  
Alfred N. Cave (1876-1880)  
O. C. Macey (1884-1888)  
W. L. Huffman (1892-1896)  
A. N. Cave (1900-1904)  
J. H. Carpenter (1909-1912)  
Joe McClure (1916-1922)  
Walter Bartlett (1932-1936)  
Jake Caster (1938-1948)  
Melvin Smith (1960-1968)

David Buck (1845-1848)  
C. M. Scott (1856)  
B. T. Whedbe (1860-1862)  
Veazey Price (1866-1868)  
E. T. Baldwin (1872)  
Simon P. King (1880-1884)  
A. M. Morgan (1888-1892)  
J. P. Selby (1896-1900)  
W. W. Meyers (1904-1908)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1912-1916)  
J. W. Shumard (1922-1932)  
R. L. Renfro (1936-1938)  
Gara Caster (1948-1960)  
Robert Stewart (1968-)

# County Sheriffs

John W. Brown (1845-1846)  
W. R. Allen (1848-1852)  
J. P. Devers (1856-1860)  
W. H. Hillman (1862-1866)  
J. C. Baker (1870-1872)  
T. J. Garrison (1876-1878)  
M. C. Gillidett (1882-1886)  
J. M. Nevill (1890-1894)  
J. W. Severe (1898-1902)  
R. B. Tedlock (1916-1920)  
J. B. Manifold (1924-1928)  
Harry Webb (1932-1936)  
Fred Daily (1940-1944)  
Fred Daily (1948-1952)  
Don Stockwell (1960-1972)

Henry Fuller (1846-1848)  
M. K. Howell (1852-1856)  
Thomas Monson (1860-1862)  
W. R. Simms (1866-1870)  
George Graham (1872-1876)  
T. J. Barker (1878-1882)  
W. H. Gillespie (1886-1890)  
J. A. Walker (1894-1898)  
A. H. Flint (1902-1906)  
Fred Tucker (1920-1924)  
Bert Hogan (1928-1932)  
H. L. McCollum (1936-1940)  
Chris Tripp (1944-1948)  
Melvin Smith (1952-1960)  
Melvin Smith (1972-)

# County Prosecuting Attorneys

(From 1845 to 1872 the Circuit Attorney prosecuted cases)

D. S. Alvord (1872-1876)  
J. H. Phillibaum (1881-1882)  
Oscar Butler (1884-1886)  
G. W. Barlow (1888-1892)  
E. H. Frisby (1894-1898)  
S. P. Davisson (1902-1906)  
S. P. Davisson (1908-1910)  
Garland Wilson (1912-1914)  
F. M. Frisby (1918-1920)  
Clifford Hix (1924-1926)  
G. Ray Miller (1928-1932)  
Gilbert Barlow (1934-1936)  
R. E. Moulthrop (1942-1944)  
R. E. Moulthrop (1946-1948)  
R. E. Moulthrop (1950-1954)  
Robert Loman (1956-1960)  
H. M. Kilpatrick (1970-1974)

T. D. Neal (1876-1881)  
J. C. Wilson (1882-1884)  
W. H. Skinner (1886-1888)  
S. C. Price (1892-1894)  
Warren Walton (1898-1902)  
W. H. Leazenby (1906-1908)  
Forest D. Lawhead (1910-1912)  
Gilbert Barlow (1914-1918)  
Charles A. Miller (1920-1924)  
Leslie Kautz (1926-1928)  
Dockery Wilson (1932-1934)  
George Kautz (1936-1942)  
Varner Mayse (1944-1946)  
Varner Mayse (1948-1950)  
Varner Mayse (1954-1956)  
W. J. Esely (1960-1970)  
Jack Bauer (1974-)

# Judges of the County Court

Samuel Edmiston (1845-1846)  
Lewis Charlton  
S. C. Allen  
John W. Casebolt (1850-1854)  
E. L. Ellis  
J. M. Nevill  
J. E. Roberts (1858-1860)  
E. L. Ellis  
A. W. Allen  
U. R. Allen  
S. S. Vandivert (1865-1866)  
William Canady

Asaph M. Butler  
Thomas Dunerson (1846-1850)  
Elkanah Glover  
Thomas M. Geer  
J. M. Edmiston (1856-1858)  
E. L. Ellis  
A. W. Allen  
J. W. Brown (1860-1862)  
E. L. Ellis (1863-1865)  
William Canady  
A. Carpenter  
A. Carpenter (1866-1869)

W. C. Chapman  
William Officer  
J. C. Frisby  
D. D. Boyce  
J. F. Bryant  
F. R. Guigley  
J. R. Bailey  
George Burris  
J. A. Gutridge  
J. W. Moore  
Arthur Graham  
Albert Reeves  
B. H. Parnell  
J. F. Selby  
John Barer  
I. M. Curry  
W. H. Springer  
O. F. Weed  
J. M. Kelley  
J. B. Bryant  
Olin Kies  
W. C. Baldwin

J. C. Frisby  
A. Carpenter (1869)  
W. C. Champman  
William Chandler  
Milton Burris  
J. B. Brower  
W. L. Magee  
G. W. Young  
G. B. Jeffries  
George Reid  
J. H. Baker  
Jerry Hefner  
J. A. DeLong  
Samuel Seymour  
David Goucher  
J. C. Howe  
C. C. Miller  
D. B. Alley  
U. G. Tucker  
Wesley Bowman  
J. W. Maple  
John Ballard

## Presiding Judges

W. C. Baldwin (1918-1926)  
Olin Kies (1930-1938)  
Lee Daily (1950-1954)  
Florene Miller (1970-)

John Green (1926-1930)  
Carl Glaze (1938-1950)  
Walter Wilson (1954-1970)

## Judge North District

J. D. Hart (1919-1924)  
Carl Glaze (1930-1932)  
F. T. Rinehart (1934-1948)  
Sam Rankin (1950-1954)  
Alvin Woods (1962-1966)  
\*Frank Hallock

Wm. Bridges (1924-1930)  
J. F. Hefner (1932-1934)  
Ora Elliot (1948-1950)  
Merrill Grant (1954-1962)  
Floyd Eckard (1966-)

## Judge South District

John Ballard (1918-1922)  
W. G. Davidson (1924-1932)  
W. G. Davidson (1934-1936)  
Lee Daily (1946-1950)  
Otis Butler (1954-1966)  
\*John Ramey  
E. B. Hacker (1970-1972)

Vodra Blessing (1922-1924)  
Robert Easton (1932-1934)  
A. M. Justice (1936-1946)  
Walter Wilson (1950-1954)  
Florene Miller (1966-1970)  
Wilbur Cole (1972-)  
\*Appointed to complete terms

## County Surveyors

H. B. Dearing (1920-1928)  
Earl King (1930-1932)  
O. R. Israel (1936-1948)  
Lee Reynolds (1960-1974)

W. T. Dearing (1928-1930)  
Grover DePriest (1932-1936)  
Earl King (1948-1960)

## Public Administrators

W. P. Bryant (1920-1924)  
Ed Skinner (1926-1948)  
J. E. Hatten (1952-1960)  
George Noble (1964-1968)  
John R. Linch (1972-)

V. D. Miller (1924-1926)  
M. H. Moulton (1949-1952)  
Lee Daily (1960-1964)  
John Nally (1968-1972)

## Coroners

Dr. E. F. Harding (1920-1928)  
J. P. Ragan (1932-1936)  
R. H. Beets (1940-1944)  
J. I. Marshall (1952-1956)  
G. H. Kroeger (1968-)

Dr. R. H. Beets (1929-1932)  
Joe Wheeler (1936-1940)  
Joe Wheeler (1944-1952)  
E. L. Wood (1956-1968)

## Township Officers For Harrison County, Missouri, For 1975-1976

### Township

Sugar Creek, 62-26  
Fox Creek, 63-26  
Trail Creek, 64-26  
Madison, 65-26  
Clay, 66-26  
Adams, 62-27  
Sherman, 63-27  
Grant, 64-27  
Marion, 65-27  
Colfax, 66-27  
Cypress, 62-28  
Bethany, 63-28  
Jefferson, 64-28  
Union, 65-28  
Hamilton, 66-28  
Butler, 62-29  
White Oak, 62-29  
Washington, 65-29  
Dallas, 64-29  
Lincoln, 66-29

### Trustee

Garland King  
Norman Gibson  
Jimmie J. Osborn  
Leonard Francis  
Archie Claycomb  
Lowell Beals  
Richard Fish  
Donald Gibson  
James Hendren  
Robert W. Richardson  
Benton Crabtree  
Worth Vandivert  
Frank Israel  
Gale Fletchall  
Ned McLain  
Stanley R. Watson  
Clarence Dannar  
Hobert Fish  
Keith Hurt  
Robert Parsons

### Collector

Ferris Keown  
Hannah Harrison  
Janice Overton  
Avis Stoklasa  
Karen Hamilton  
Jim V. Watts  
Goldie Hill  
Nina Hogan  
Letha LaFollette  
Pearl VanHoozer  
Colleen Crabtree  
Helen Youngman  
Thelma Gibson  
Joy Ragan  
Reva M. Stevens  
Sharon Fenimore  
Betty Magee  
Fontella Sherrill  
Carol Runyon  
Pat Weddle

## Township

Washington, 65-29  
Dallas, 64-29  
Lincoln, 66-29  
Sugar Creek, 62-26  
Fox Creek, 63-26  
Trail Creek, 64-26  
Madison, 65-26  
Clay, 66-26  
Adams, 62-27  
Sherman, 63-27  
Grant, 64-27  
Marion, 65-27  
Colfax, 66-27  
Cypress, 62-28  
Bethany 63-28  
Jefferson, 64-28  
Union, 65-28  
Hamilton, 66-28  
Butler, 62-29  
White Oak, 63-29

## Clerk & Assessor

Wilmer Pyle  
Jeanie Nichols  
Bill Weddle  
Leona Hughes  
John R. Miller  
Gary D. Simpson  
Rollin Wooden  
Geo. Hamilton, Jr.  
George B. Flint  
Wayne Hill  
Kenneth Nible  
S. K. LaFollette  
Peggy Young  
Muriel Osborne  
Patsy Hall  
Harold Reeves  
Larry Ragan  
Ronnie R. Stevens  
Curtis Goble  
Virgil Plymell

## Member Twp. Board

Lewis Nichols  
Richard Watt  
Cecil Poteet  
Bob Sherrill  
E. M. Sutherland  
Forrest Weddle  
Dale Ratliff  
Roy Frazier  
Clell Wooderson  
Harold Jones  
Marvin Scott  
Billy M. Dinsmore  
Russell Meinecke  
Gordon Bennett  
Leonard Hamilton  
Wallace Lane  
George Bowles  
Clyde Hall  
Garland Hendren  
Bill Linthacum  
Gilbert Taraba  
Billy R. Henry  
Paul Tripp  
Kenneth Gilpatrick  
John Bergman  
Phillip Hopkins  
Kenneth Plymell  
Earl Osborne  
Garland Coots  
Kenneth Youngman  
Hadley Calloway  
Lloyd Lawson  
L. C. Todd  
Robert Cummins  
Harold McChesney  
Cleo Richardson  
Max Clark  
Leo Craig  
Ival Green  
Charles B. Yates



# Bethany Republican Extra of 1874 Describes Burning of Courthouse; Edition Found Among Old Papers

Note: In papers which were those of Mrs. William Lewis, who died here in 1919, was a copy of an extra edition of the Bethany Republican of Jan. 8, 1874, which told of fire the night before that destroyed the Harrison county courthouse. This was the courthouse which preceded the one torn down when the present one was built.

The extra has been found by Mrs. Edith (Ellis) Swigart, granddaughter of Mrs. Lewis.

The extra edition was a single sheet a little more than 10 inches long, 6 3/4 inches wide in three columns. It is of historical value, and possibly has not been preserved elsewhere. Mrs. Swigart has had some copies made, and will submit one of them to the Missouri Historical society.

Thomas D. Neal was publisher and editor of the Bethany Republican at that time. The Union officer of the Civil war established the newspaper in 1873. Presumably he wrote the article.

The headlines were in six decks. They read:  
"Fire Fiend!"  
"The Bethany, Mo., Court House Burned."  
"The Tax Books Destroyed."  
"The Land and Probate Records Saved."  
"Also a Part of those of the County Court and Treasurer."  
"The Work of an Incendiary."  
The news article follows:

The Bethany court house is in ruins, and with it perish many happy associations, many sorrowful memories. For nearly twenty years it has stood in stately pride in the center of the public square, to fall at last at the hand of an incendiary.

Discovery of the Fire  
About 11 o'clock last night, January 7th, the alarm of "Fire!" was heard along the streets, followed by a ringing of bells and general panic. The night was bright with moonlight, the

ground partly covered with snow, and a moderate breeze was blowing from the south. The fire was discovered by the Bryant boys, Scott and Luther, who came out of a room on the northeast corner of the square. They observed a brilliant light in the

Collector's Office  
on the north side of the court house. As the light increased, they gave the alarm and rushed down to the court house, where they found the floor and papers under a desk in Mr. Baker's of-

face, all on fire, and the desk burning, and also saw that the

Window of the Office  
was raised about two feet. Other citizens from every part of the town, soon appeared, but as few comparatively brought buckets of water, and water being scarce in town at this time, the fire soon gained such headway that little could be done to save the building. The desk being of considerable height and having a pigeon-hole case standing on top of it full of papers, the fire reached the ceiling easily, which was soon in flames. The square and streets were by this time thronged with a multitude of men, women and children, who stood shivering in the bleak night wind, powerless to render much aid in saving the court house, but organized into amateur fire companies to protect the row of buildings on the north side of the square. Water and snow were thrown on the roof and sides of the buildings, and the shower of sparks eagerly watched. When the roof of the court house caught fire, the heat was so great on the walk in front of the Ohio House, and the falling cinders so thick, that many fled in terror.

It was soon seen by the most thoughtful that the court house could not be saved, and the cry was given:

"Save the Land Records!"  
A rush was made for Mr. Baker's office.

(See No. 6 on back page)

## NUMBER 6

Continued from page 1

Skinner's office, the door was broken down, and in a few minutes the land books and court books and papers were taken to a safe distance. Next the Probate court and county clerk's office were emptied of their records.

### What Was Saved and What Lost.

All of the Probate records were saved, and most of the county records, probably all except some papers in the large desk on the west side of the County Clerk's office. Some of the latter were destroyed, including the settlements with township clerks and the estimates for school expenses. The school fund notes were saved. The tax books, all of the road receipts that had been received on taxes, and other papers connected with the Collector's office, were destroyed.

Phillebaum & Ramer succeeded in saving all the valuable books, papers, abstracts, &c. in their land agency office.

There is but little doubt that the fire was the

### Work of an Incendiary.

for these reasons:  
The fire started near the desk of the Collector. When the parties first on the ground, appeared, there was no fire about the stove. As we have said, the window of the office was found raised. A bunch of shavings, partly burned, was found in the hall of the court house, in front of the Sheriff's office door.

Just after the alarm was given by the Bryant boys, John Devers, of the REPUBLICAN office, rushed out to the southwest corner of the square to see the locality of the fire. He went as far as the brick occupied by McGeorge & Dunn, thinking the trouble was in the west part of town. Then he saw the light at the court house and at once turned for that place. On his way

asked a fire was given. The southwest court house yard.

Jumped on and fled, but Mr. Baker saw whether he west road or on the Overcoat and wool

Again, Mr. Baker had had no fire for several hours burning. He and been at work in t

above making of delinquent list, about eleven Th and Mr. Baker's fire and made out and went out. A the hall, seeing t ing there who h some of those that ing him, he rem that it was time bed. Still thinki he again remark ing to play it fir not make a rep walked away fro paying no furthe them, went to h an hour afterwar on fire.

This morning Rogers, of White, while walking on of the stables ju old Bohannon & discovered a nuu lying on the groo amining them, th to be tax receipt been made out bu They belonged to A. Officer, Th Eleana Plymell, J others. They h the pigeon-hole c lector's desk. E wrote taken to th known.

The Collecto J. C. Baker, t the heaviest suf fire. The loss

## HARRISON COUNTY

Here in the undulating glacial plains of north central Missouri, Harrison is one of 9 counties forming the State's border with Iowa. Twenty-sixth in size of Missouri's 114 counties, and second largest on the border, it was organized 1845, and named for Mo. Congressman Albert C. Harrison. Now 720 sq. miles, it did not achieve its present size until the U.S. Supreme Court established the Missouri-Iowa boundary in 1851.

Bethany, the seat of justice, first called Dallas, was laid out 1845, at direction of John Allen, county seat commissioner, later member 1861 State Convention. Bethany is prototype of the town in the famed 1883 novel "The Story of a Country Town" by Edgar (Ed) W. Howe (1853-1937), founder of the Atchison, Kansas, Globe. His father Henry Howe, was minister and editor in Bethany when Ed was a boy.

Union county in War Between the States, Harrison sent a number of Federal troops. The first railroad, a branch of the C. B. & Q., reached Bethany in 1880. The town grew as trading and shipping point. Handsome fairgrounds there date from early 1900's.

(See other side)

Erected by State Historical Society of Missouri and State Highway Commission, 1959

## HARRISON COUNTY

(Continued from other side)

A county of fertile Grand River basin, Harrison is a grain and livestock farming area. In region ceded by Iowa, Sac, and Fox tribes, 1824, the county was roamed by Indians into the 1840's. The Great Indian Trail ran east to northwest in the county. Surveyed land was entered for sale, 1842.

Early settlers from Ohio, Ill., other parts of Mo., and the East, came in the late 1830's. Later a number of Bohemians settled in the county. Among county towns are Eagleville and Ridgeway, once contestants for county seat; Cainsville, once a coal mining town; Mt. Moriah; New Hampton; Martinsville; Gilman City; Blythedale; and Melbourne.

Union Gen. Benjamin N. Prentiss practiced law in Bethany and there educator John R. Kirk (1851-1937) lived as a boy. He and progressive education leader Eugene Fair (1877-1937), born in Gilman City, were both presidents of Northeast Mo. State Teachers College. Joseph H. Burrows (1840-1918), who introduced first bill (1891) to cut postage from 3¢ to 2¢ and named John J. Pershing for West Point appointment, was business man and minister in Cainsville.

Erected by State Historical Society of Missouri and State Highway Commission, 1959