

**HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

BY IRVING A. KECK.

[Continued from page 90.]

## TOWNS.

Washington County has had an abundance of towns of all sorts and sizes, kinds and characters. We give below a brief history of each, taking them in their order :

1837. Astoria, the first county seat. No record was ever made of the plat, and we are unable to learn but little of its history. It was situated near and south of Ainsworth. We can learn of but one house ever being erected in it, and that was a log Court House which was soon afterward abandoned.

1839. Washington, the present county seat and the business center of the county, is now a city of the second class. The original plat was surveyed on the 17th of July, 1839. Eighteen additions have been made to the town, including the dividing of out-lots. The city is somewhat irregular in its survey, owing to the number of additions; it is longest from east to west; the blocks are generally uniform in size, and the streets regularly laid out, crossing each other at right angles. On the 1st of July, 1839, the commissioners directed the clerk to advertise a sale of lots on Monday, August 19th, to continue two days, if necessary, upon the following conditions: one-eighth cash in hand, the balance in three equal payments, in six, twelve and eighteen months. The county commissioners first placed an estimate upon each and every lot offered for sale, which should be considered the bid of the county. The highest bidder shall be the purchaser, upon the conditions before mentioned, the commissioners giving a deed of general warranty. Twenty-four lots were sold, at an average price of a fraction less than \$38.15.

On the 6th of April, 1840, the commissioners authorized the clerk to sell lots in Washington at private sale, upon the following conditions: that the purchaser shall erect and establish a good and substantial frame of a house not less than sixteen feet square.

Another sale of lots was ordered on the 16th of June, 1840. At this sale twenty-eight lots were sold at an average price of \$30.75 each. The first lot sold for \$54, and is the lot on the south-west corner of the square, now occupied by the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, P. Wideman, Corbin & Hott, Wilson & Wallace, McFarland & Marbourg, and J. S. Morris & Co. The second lot sold was the one just north of the First National Bank, and occupied by the wooden range. The next one sold is the one now occupied by the large brick block on the west side of the square. The next lot sold, and the one which brought the highest price, \$72, was the one now occupied by the Bryson House.

On the 4th of April, 1843, the commissioners ordered that the Methodist Episcopal Church have lots five and six, block sixteen, sold for the sum of \$30, upon the usual terms. This is the lot just west of the 1st United Presbyterian Church.

From 1843 to 1852, Washington jogs along in a quiet monotonous way, with but little to disturb it or its inhabitants.

In 1855 the town attempted again to incorporate, when the following officers were elected: Mayor, A. J. Disney; Recorder, J. M. Ferguson; Marshal, John H. Bacon; Councilmen, 1st ward, Norman Chipman, Joseph Keck; 2d ward, Hiram Wallingford and W. Perry Organ. This incorporation was, however, imperfect, and was abandoned.

The legislature of 1857, passed an act incorporating the city of Washington. The following officers were elected under this charter: Mayor, S. P. Young; Recorder, A. R. Wickersham; Treasurer, S. M. Cox; Assessor, Jonathan H. Wilson; Marshal, James R. Easton; Councilmen, 1st ward, Andrew Kendall, Enoch Ross and M. C. Kilgore; 2d ward, Richard H. Marsh, George C. Anderson and W. Perry Organ; but all this came to naught, as it was decided by the District Court that the charter was null and void. The decision was rendered in the trial of a liquor case being appealed to the Supreme Court; the decision was there affirmed, the notice for election being held as insufficient and illegal. On the 17th of September, 1858, measures were again taken

toward incorporating the town of Washington under the law of the State for incorporating towns and cities. The limits were to be one and a half miles square, taking as a center the center of the original town plat. This project was strongly opposed by many of the citizens, and resulted in a failure as before. In the winter of 1863-4, another effort was made to incorporate the city, which, after due time resulted favorably, and on the 29th of September, 1864, one Mayor, one Recorder, and five Trustees were elected, to-wit: Mayor, Ralph Dewey; Recorder, L. F. Sherman; Trustees, A. W. Chilcote, V. W. Andrus, James Dawson, Joseph R. Lewis and Wm. Wilson, jr. We are still working under this charter, with a Mayor, Treasurer and eight Councilmen.

Brighton was platted April 30, 1840, by Orson O. Kinsman and Thompson Dray, and an addition made 17th October, 1848, by Guilbert W. Tuel, Israel H. Friend and Chas. Burnham. Brighton is situated in the township of the same name, in the south-west part of the county, and for several years after it was laid out enjoyed the reputation of being the most important town of the county. The business carried on here at one time was quite extensive. In addition to its regular trade, they had two or three packing houses where pork was prepared for market, and then wagoned to Burlington on the Mississippi River, a distance of nearly fifty miles. It is now, however, more modest in its pretensions. In the neighborhood is a tannery and wool-carding establishment, both of which do a good business. Near the town, on Skunk River, is a large flouring mill, which does a large business. Just above the mill is an iron bridge, just put up in the summer of 1867, which is a very substantial structure, and will, in all probability, accommodate all the travel for a great many years. Brighton has one of the best school-houses in the county. It was once noted for having seven churches and no school-house.

November 20, 1840, Richmond was laid out by Thomas B. Dawson; May 20, 1856, an addition by the same party; June 7, 1856, an addition by John Bull. Richmond is in the

northern part of the county, in English River township; it has perhaps eight or ten stores and groceries, with the usual number of mechanics. It is surrounded by a great number of Germans and Bohemians, the greater portion of whom are Catholics. They have just completed a fine church.

March 25, 1841, Winchester was platted by Jacob E. Gale. This town is among the things that were. May 5, 1841, Sandy Hook, by Jesse Hiatt and Thomas J. Gordon. This town was situated about two miles north-east of Brighton, on or near a peculiar sand ridge. The way in which the town got its name was as follows: The founders being great admirers of Martin Van Buren, decided to name it for the place of his residence, viz: Kinderhook, but could only remember the hook of the name; when some one said it was Sandy Hook, and it has ever since gone by that name.

August 23, 1841, Joseph Neil, Robert Neil, John W. Neil and David Patterson laid out the town of Crawfordsville, which is situated in the south-east corner of the county. It is the center of a flourishing farming community, and does a neat little trade with the surrounding country.

August 16, 1845, Sheffield, by Nathaniel McClure. This is now abandoned.

July 1, 1846, Paris by Eleazar Kinkade. It improves slowly.

March 17, 1848, Wassonville, by Wasson and Watters; August 4, 1848, an addition by James Wasson; February 16, 1850, an addition by James Watters. This is now almost overshadowed by Dayton, only three quarters of a mile distant, which has a very decided advantage over it in location.

October 24, 1854. Dayton was laid out by Lewis Longwell, and is now a place of perhaps two hundred inhabitants. November 5, 1857, an addition by Wesley B. Bolding; October 18, 1858, another by the same, and April, 1855, Lexington by M. D. Story; June 29, 1855, Harrisburg, by Nathan W. Burris; July 7, 1856, Yattón, by John F. Van Dyke and Nathaniel McClure; April 20, 1857, Eureka, by Jacob Z. Bowman; October 11, 1858, Ainsworth, by D. H. Ainsworth.

Thus it appears that sixteen towns have been platted and all on record, but one. Of these, but three, Washington, Brighton and Richmond, as yet contain populations of any moment. All these are, however, overshadowed by Washington, the county-seat. The towns of Winchester, Sandy Hook, Sheffield, Wassonville, Harrisburg, Lexington and Eureka, have either been totally abandoned or have but from three to five buildings each. Crawfordsville, Paris and Dayton aspire to the dignity of towns, and have sufficient improvements to entitle them to rank as such.

Harrisburg was one of the air castles of its founder, Mr. Burris, who also laid out a large town on the Mississippi River, in Louisa County, which he called Burris City. At Harrisburg, which is situated in the middle of a large prairie, void of any natural advantages for a town, except it be room, covering one hundred and sixty acres of land, nearly all of which is common, Mr. Burris attempted to erect a large stone seminary and steam grist mill—the first reaching the second story windows, and the latter having the walls completed, and perhaps the roof. In this condition they now stand, save what of the material has been taken by those living near and put to other uses.

Ainsworth is the first station east of Washington on the railroad. It is a thriving town, and with its railroad facilities bids fair to build up quite a trade.

#### RAILROADS.

The first railroad projected through this county, was the celebrated "Ram's Horn" of early days, which became the laughing-stock of the State, owing to its attempt to perform an impossibility. That this was true, we need but state that this company sought to connect every county-seat then in the State by rail, if not all prospective seats of justice, as well as every farmer's barn. The next railroad projected through the county was the Iowa Western Railroad, which began at Muscatine and ran through this county, near its northern boundary. This was in 1851, but nothing ever came of it.

The next was the Philadelphia, Ft. Wayne & Platte Valley Air Line road, connecting Burris City, at the mouth of the Iowa River, with the towns west of it, including Wapello, Crawfordsville and Washington. The company did some work in this county, but soon died out, and within a year or two has been revived as the American Central, and, if latest reports are true, has again gone under, having been swallowed in Illinois by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road. About the same time the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company was organized, and after some severe struggles succeeded in building its road as far as Washington. This is the road in which the county took stock and gave its bonds, which we afterwards repudiated, and which are now being ground through the courts with a fair prospect of us having to pay them at last. The Mississippi and Missouri Railroad was finally completed to Washington, and that was made the occasion of a celebration and festival. On Saturday, August 14, 1858, a large number of the citizens met to take steps to celebrate the opening of the road to Washington. They appointed an executive committee of thirteen to make the necessary arrangements for a free dinner to all invited guests. The committee was as follows: N. Chipman, chairman, Jas. Dawson, A. W. Chilcote, J. W. Wilson, J. J. Higgins, Chas. Foster, J. R. Lewis, A. T. Burris, E. H. Ludington, Thos. Blanchard, John Bryson, W. B. Carruthers and J. S. Beatty. On the Monday following (August 16th), the executive committee met and adopted the following programme: The dinner to be given on Wednesday the 1st of September, 1858. Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Phelps and Miss Mattie Dawson were appointed to select twenty-five other ladies, the whole number to act as a committee of thirty to set tables, superintend the provision of cakes, jellies, pastry, &c. Joseph McKee, Ozro Phelps and S. P. Young were appointed to devise a plan for shading the public square. One thousand tickets of invitation were issued to the various neighboring towns.

The day at last arrived; the sun arose bright and beauti-

ful, with only a few clouds skirting the horizon. At an early hour the crowds came pouring into town. At half-past eleven the crowd proceeded to about where the depot now stands, to receive the guests from Muscatine, Iowa City, Davenport and the East, who were to arrive on an excursion train. At a quarter past twelve a train of thirteen passenger cars came in, drawn by the splendid locomotive "Washington," gaily decorated. The guests were received by Hon. Samuel A. Russell, of Crawfordsville, with a few happy remarks, which were responded to in a like manner by Hon. A. O. Patterson, of Muscatine. Led by music and military, the crowd proceeded to the public square, where they partook of the bountiful repast spread for them. After dinner the Hon. Charles Foster, president of the day, called the company to order, when toasts were read and responses made as follows:

1st. Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company: Its officers and contractors, their skill, energy and perseverance, elicit our admiration, deserve and receive our warmest acknowledgments. Our celebration to-day commemorates their triumph and exhibits our gratification.

Responded to by Hon. Hiram Price, of Davenport.

2d. The Atlantic telegraph—a chain of intelligence uniting the two hemispheres, may it ever bear glad tidings of great joy, peace on earth and good will to men. Let us to-day unite with the cities of the old world and the new in commemoration of the triumph of human genius.

Responded to by the Rev. (since Hon.) J. B. Grinnell, of Poweshiek.

3d. Chicago, Queen City of the West, she grasps us with an iron hand but not to oppress us. May our new link prove a mutual blessing.

Responded to by Mr. Bross, of the Chicago Tribune, since Lieut. Governor of Illinois.

4th. Davenport—may our union, this day consummated, result in intimacy, and may our intimate relations prove the source of common prosperity.

Responded to by Hon. J. Thorington, of Davenport.

5th. <sup>✓</sup>Muscatine, bound to us by bonds of iron and of friendship, the passing of trains may weaken one, the passing of time but strengthen the other.

Responded to by J. Scott Richman, of Muscatine.

6th. <sup>✓</sup>Oskaloosa, our finest inland town, may she not have long to "wait for the wagon."

Responded to by J. R. Needham, of Oskaloosa.

7th. <sup>✓</sup>Sigourney, young, enterprising and progressive, she has our best wishes for future prosperity.

Responded to by R. S. Leak, of Sigourney.

8th. Newspaper Press.—Its freedom and independence, the necessity and the result of a republican government.

Responded to by Mr. Sanders, of the Davenport Gazette.

9th. <sup>✓</sup>Columbus City—a pleasant neighbor, may we always live in peace.

Hon. Francis Springer was called for, but was not in hearing.

10. <sup>✓</sup>Burlington, though opening a channel of trade in another direction, we shall remember with pleasure our former commercial relations with her citizens.

Fitz Henry Warren was called for, but was not in hearing.

11th. <sup>✓</sup>Iowa City, a capital town, 'twas our pleasure and pride to acknowledge her rule till we reached our majority, and though ceasing to rank among her tribute towns, we still leave her a switch to maintain her authority.

Responded to by Dr. Jesse Bowen, of Iowa City.

12th. <sup>✓</sup>Fairfield.—It is no discredit in a close race to come out a little behind.

Responded to by Charles Negus, of Fairfield.

13th. <sup>✓</sup>Rock Island, may the bridge that spans the Father of Waters long remain a bond of union between two States. What man's skill and energy have joined, let no courts put asunder.

Responded to by Mr. Mixer, of Rock Island.

14. The Ladies. Honor and love to our mothers, sisters and sweethearts, wives and daughters, kind and good.

Responded to by Judge Thayer, of Muscatine.



15th. Richland, our next door neighbor on the west, we extend the hand of good feeling and fellowship, may prosperity attend her.

To this there seems to have been no response.

We have given the toasts in full, as being the best index to be had of popular feeling at the time. At the conclusion of the toasts Judge Meuson, of Muscatine, on behalf of the citizens of that place, tendered to the citizens of Washington County an invitation to visit them and partake of their hospitality. Saturday, September 4, 1858, was fixed as the time. On which occasion about twelve hundred citizens of this county were present, and everything passed off pleasantly and harmoniously. On their return, coming up the grade just this side of Ainsworth, some one maliciously inclined had soaped the track for about half a mile. The train came very near sticking, but with the assistance of the passengers throwing sand on the track, finally managed to get over in safety. The town was known for several years afterward as Soapstown. On the occasion of the celebration at this place, (Washington) a procession from Dutch-creek township, bearing a banner with the picture of a locomotive on it, and the inscription, "The Iron Horse shall not rest till he goes farther." Notwithstanding this motto the "Iron Horse" has rested here ever since, but the prospects now are that he will move on in the spring of 1869, either via Richland to Ottumwa, or via Sigourney.

The Iowa Northern Central Railroad now in process of construction, completes the list of railroads. This road is about three-fourths graded through the county, and is designed to connect at Keokuk with roads running south, and thus giving us the benefit of a southern market.

#### MILITARY.

The military history of Washington County is not only a good one, but a proud and noble record. Among the enviable records of valor, Iowa stands unrivaled by her sister States, and the part which Washington County takes in making the record, is indeed a bright page. The first military

exploit of which we can learn anything, occurred in the year 1842, and was not so brilliant an achievement as it might have been, nor so sanguinary as was possible, and yet considerable daring and bravery was displayed.

In that year the Indians owned and occupied a portion of the north-west corner of the county, and were encamped at or near Wassonville. A Doct. Lee came down to Washington displaying much feeling and anxiety concerning a white woman, which he alleged, the Indians held as a prisoner, and who desired to leave them, but the Indians would not let her. The Indians were the Sacs and Foxes. Lee so worked upon the sympathies of the people of the town, that a company of about thirty men, pretty well armed, went up to Wassonville, some on horses and some in wagons. These commodities being very scarce in those days, every available horse and wagon was "pressed" into the service. Every preparation having been completed, the company started for the "seat of war," where they arrived without any incident, except that upon reaching English River, the enemy were perceived marching along in large numbers; whereat one of the valiant, Churchman by name, began to quake in the knees, and ere long deserted and fled homeward, reaching town the next day. Arriving at the camp of the Indians a council was held, and a parley had with the Indians. Some of the party were of the opinion that the woman was not a white woman at all, and others were of the opinion that she was white, and as a compromise it was agreed that the woman should be taken to one side entirely from the influence of the Indians and then left to choose which party she would go with; if she wished to go with the whites they would protect her, and if she wished to go with the Indians she should be left perfectly free to do so. This arrangement was carried into effect by an assault upon two of the Indian wigwams, one of which contained a quantity of arms belonging to the Indians, the other contained the white woman. When this assault was made, several of the Indians leveled their guns,

which were met promptly in the same manner by the whites. The woman was secured and taken to one side, where she was told that if she wished to go with the whites that they would protect her, but she chose to return to the Indians, and thus ended the first war in which Washington County took any active part. The only participants now residing in Washington are M. C. Kilgore, Jonathan H. Wilson, J. E. Malin and Joseph Keck. We cannot learn that any citizen of the county participated in the Missouri war under Gov. Lucas, and so far as can be ascertained but few were in the Mexican war.

On the 18th of August, 1858, a military company was organized in Washington, called the Washington Light Guards, with George W. Teas as Captain. This company under the Captaincy of Henry R. Cowles, was the first from the county to enter the army to suppress the rebellion of 1861, and to which the county furnished the following companies:

Co. H, 2d, Co. H, 7th, Co. C, 8th, Co. E, 10th, Co. F, 11th, Co. I, 13th, Co. K, 13th, Co. I, 18th, Co. C, 19th, Co. A, 25th, Co. I, 25th, Co. E, 30th, Co. K, 30th, Co. B, 45th.

In the summer of 1864, everything that could go, went to the South English war, the particulars of which are still fresh in the minds of many.

#### GATHERINGS.

Under this head we propose to give such matters as are not of sufficient interest or importance to justify a more extended notice.

The United States Express Company established an office in Washington in November, 1857, D. McMichael being agent. He was succeeded by Norman Everson, he by M. C. Parker, and he by C. F. Chester, the present incumbent. In October or November 1866, the Merchants Union Express Company established an office in Washington, Wm. H. Jenkins, being appointed agent, who was succeeded by George Magee, who was agent until the company withdrew from the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.

On Monday, 12th of May, 1856, the corner stone of the

Episcopal Church was laid with appropriate ceremonies, Bishop Lee officiating, but the building was never completed.

Washington College was dedicated on the 23d day of March, 1858, and was blown down on the 31st of July, 1864, and has never been rebuilt.

In April 1859, a society of Natural History was organized for the county with the following officers: President, T. H. Dinsmore, Vice Presidents, N. Chipman and N. Everson, Secretary, J. G. Couden, Treasurer and keeper of the Cabinet, N. P. Chipman. This society held one or two meetings subsequent to its organization, but its efforts being unappreciated it soon died out.

Pottsville was the name of the first Post Office established in the county, which was located on the farm of David Goble, Sr., who was the postmaster; the office was named after Mr. John B. Potts, who was most active in securing its location. The first six months the mail was carried once a week from Wapello in the carrier's hat.

January 6, 1840, licenses were granted at ten dollars each to Nathan Baker, Nathaniel Prime, Benj. Edwards and John Lewis, to sell goods, wares and merchandise.

On the 6th of April, 1841, R. P. Lowe, since Governor of Iowa, was allowed by the County Commissioners \$150 for services as prosecuting attorney of said county.

April 12, 1848, Wm. Churchman was allowed \$48 for services as prosecuting attorney to date; Caleb S. Cleaves \$70 for collecting and disbursing \$1,749.88, as County Treasurer, and N. P. Cooper, \$122 salary as School Fund Commissioner, which would be considered rather poor pay these days.

William H. Rosseau, M. D. of Washington, is the oldest resident practising physician in the county, having located here in 1844.

Hon. George H. Williams, who was once judge of the District Court, and who passed sentence of death upon J. C. Herriman for the murder of Miller, is now one of the members of the United States Senate from Oregon.

The first store-room built in the county was erected by Milo

Holcomb, the first sheriff, near Van Doren's mill. The same log cabin is now used as a stable on the farm lately owned by J. S. Reeves, on the Mt. Pleasant road.

The first building erected on the town site of Washington, was on the lot formerly owned by Dr. Rosseau, and now the property of Mrs. John Quinn, south of the square, being the south-east corner of Iowa and Jefferson streets.

In May, 1843, a storm passed over the town which unroofed the greater portion of the buildings then erected; also another storm, Thursday, May 13, 1858, did considerable damage, unroofing a portion of the old brick school-house.

The first board of supervisors held their first session in the Court House on Monday, January, 7, 1861.

On the 1st day of June, 1855, Hon. Norman Everson opened an Exchange and Deposit Bank in the little one story brick building which was removed to be replaced by his large three story brick block. He continued to "run" until the Branch of the State Bank was established. In March, 1857, Shaw, Rigdon & Co., established a similar bank called the Washington Deposit Bank, which occupied the frame building on the north-east corner of the square, just north of the drug store of J. S. Adair. The building then stood where the First National Bank now stands. These parties were succeeded in 1858 by Wm. H. Jenkins & Co., who continued business until the opening of the Branch Bank. This firm was composed of Wm. H. Jenkins, Antis H. Patterson, and Hiram Scofield.

On the 29th of July, 1858, notice was given as provided by law, that books would be opened for the subscription of stock to a Branch of the State Bank of Iowa, at the office of W. H. Jenkins & Co. on the 19th day of August, 1858. This application to the bank commissioners failed, but a subsequent trial proved successful, and on the 15th of March, 1859, books were again opened for the subscription of stock. This bank was merged into the First National in 1865, with the same stockholders and officers. Of the original stockholders but four remain, viz: Calvin Craven, Joseph Keck, James

Dawson and George Brokaw. The bank was organized by the election of Joseph A. Green, President, Geo. C. Stone, Cashier, and a board of five Directors.

Business was first commenced on the 19th of April, 1859. In the meantime Howard M. Holden had been elected Cashier, which office he held until February, 1861, when W. H. Hubbard succeeded him in that office, which he retained until February 1862, when Mr. Holden returned and held until the close of the bank's existence.

In August, 1861, Mr. Green was succeeded in the presidency of the bank by Joseph Keck, who held the position until the bank "wound up." This was succeeded by the First National Bank, with the same officers and stockholders as in the "Branch." It was organized in April, 1864, but did not do a general business until 1st of May, 1865.

In the spring of 1866, Mr. Holden was succeeded in the cashiership by S. G. Owen, who was succeeded the same spring by S. Farnsworth, who held until June, 1868, when he was succeeded by H. S. Clarke, who now retains the position. The presidency of the bank has been held by Joseph Keck from its organization until the present time.

Green, Richards & Co. commenced business October 1, 1866. This firm was composed of A. T. Green, J. R. Richards and L. C. Richards. This firm was succeeded by the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, organized July 1, 1867, under the general corporation act of the State; its officers are as follows: J. A. Henderson, President, J. R. Richards, Vice President, S. G. Owen, Cashier, L. C. Richards, Assistant Cashier.

The Home Insurance Company was organized in July, 1867, and has its office with the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank; its officers are, Jonathan H. Wilson, President, John Bryson, Vice President, C. H. Wilson, Secretary, S. G. Owen, Treasurer.

The first religious services held in the county were by the Rev. George Vincent. The first organization of a church was that of the Associate Presbyterian, whose house of wor-

ship is now owned and occupied by the Rev. F. A. Shearer as a residence. The third society was that of the Old School Presbyterian, which was organized by Rev. L. G. Bell in 1842, with some twelve members. The church has had the services of the following, as pastors, in the order in which they come; the first is Rev. L. G. Bell, then Revs. Thomas H. Dinsmore, Robert Dinsmore (who died in 1853), then again, Thomas H. Dinsmore, — Paterfield, D. R. Colmery. Rev. F. A. Shearer was installed in April, 1863, since which time he has been their pastor. The second church organized, was the Methodist Episcopal, which was done on the 20th of October, 1839, at the house of Wm. L. Harvey, one mile south-west of Washington on the farm now owned by the heirs of Dr. G. Stewart. It numbered about fifteen members. Its pastors were as follows, in the order in which they are named: J. L. Kirkpatrick, John Hayden, M. Reed, Rev. Roberts, acting as assistant during the last year; D. B. Nichols, E. W. Twining, acting assistant, T. Case, in 1847. Mr. Case was assisted by David Crawford in 1848. The society built the church since used as a school-house on Green street, between Jefferson and Washington. This house was dedicated by Rev. H. W. Reed, presiding elder. In the fall of this year, Rev. E. W. Twining was appointed to this work, succeeded in 1850 by G. H. Jennison, followed by Wm. Butt, G. W. Teas, and J. B. Hardy. During his ministration the present house of worship was built, being completed in 1857, and dedicated the 28th of June in that year, by Rev. L. W. Berry, D. D. Rev. Teas was succeeded by W. Dennett, John Harris, J. H. Lucas, B. Mark, H. W. Thomas, J. H. Powers, M. Miller, F. W. Evans and Wm. Reinick, who is their pastor at this time (December, 1868).

The Iowa annual conference held its session in this church in 1862, Bishop Baker, presiding. In the spring of 1849, a Sabbath-school was organized in connection with this church, with about twenty scholars and four teachers. R. H. Marsh was superintendent.

This is about all of the church history we can glean. There

are at this time two United Presbyterian Churches, a Methodist Episcopal, O. S. Presbyterian, Associate Presbyterian or Seceder, United Brethren, Congregationalist, Baptist, African Methodist, and Catholic.

The first company left for the war to suppress the rebellion the 23d of May, 1861.

Joseph Adams soon after the location of the town of Washington, built the first house and moved his family there. Henry Starry and brother, John Dougherty, Almon Moore, H. A. and George H. Stone and Thomas Baker, came soon afterwards. Joseph Adams has the honor of furnishing the first white male child. Henry Clay Adams and Margaret Adams were the first white children born in the town. Who was the first child born in the county we have been unable to learn. A Mr. Connor was the first person buried in the cemetery at Washington. One Reed brought the first buggy to the county; it used to be used for every extra occasion of any kind; if a man was going to be married he must first find if he could obtain Reed's buggy. Milo Holcomb built the first store-room in the county, near Van Doren's mill; also the first saw-mill on the site of Van Doren's mill. The first grist-mill was built on the present site of the Brighton mills. The first woolen factory was just across the river from the Brighton mills. An attempt was made to organize an Old Settlers' Association in the winter of 1866, but failed. We should be glad if something of the kind could be done. Mrs. E. M. Lewis has been in the same business the longest of any one now in Washington, she having come here about fourteen years ago.

#### OFFICERS.

County Commissioners: Joseph Neil, Joseph B. Davis, Simon P. Teeple, Richard Moore, Morgan Hart, David Bunker, James Dawson, John Wasson, John Hendee, N. P. Cooper, James Watters, Nathan Harner, Samuel Culbertson, Amos Hart, Michael Hayers, John B. Webster, William Robinson.



Clerk of County Commissioners, 1838, Thomas Baker; 1846, Richard H. Morse; 1842, Wm. Churchman; 1847, Clark Alexander; 1849, J. L. L. Terry.

## CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

George R. Stover, Thompson McElroy, Robert Kinkade, Albert Allen, Ralph Dewey, Christopher T. Jones.

## SHERIFFS.

Milo Holcomb, Hiram A. Stone, Jonathan H. Wilson, Joseph B. Davis, Wm. P. Organ, Hiram Wallingford, James R. Easton, Samuel E. Hawthorne, A. Bunker.

## RECORDERS.

Almon Moore, George Brokaw, John Hendee, W. R. Jeffrey, Wm. Rowan.

## TREASURERS.

Liston A. Houston, Nathan Baker, Jonathan H. Wilson, Caleb S. Cleaves, Wm. H. Jenkins, Samuel M. Cox, Samuel G. Owen, R. Glasgow.

## SURVEYORS.

John Jackson, J. B. Davis, Daniel McFarland, Macus Hull, Daniel Coryell, J. M. Houston, James H. Sayers, Enoch Ross, J. M. Paulk.

## JUDGES OF PROBATE.

Nathan Baker, Samuel Culbertson, George H. Stone, Caleb B. Campbell, Richard H. Morse.

## SCHOOL FUND COMMISSIONERS.

N. P. Cooper, Caleb S. Cleaves, Norman Chipman, Wm. H. Jenkins, Theodore E. Cowles.

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS.

David L. Parker, Antis H. Patterson, Joseph R. Lewis.

## COUNTY JUDGES.

Enoch Ross, John T. Burriss, Joseph R. Lewis, ex-officio, S. P. Young, J. F. Brown, Samuel Bigger.

## CORONERS.

Joseph Crill, Reuben Hiatt. From here to 1851 we find no

record. Then follows: Richard H. Marsh, Wesley B. Bolding, A. J. Disney, R. H. Marsh, S. M. Pollock, W. B. Carruthers, R. W. McElroy.

Boards of Supervisors we do not give, as they are of more recent date.

Drainage Commissioners: But two have ever been elected, John Watters in 1853, and Andrew Kendall in 1861. The office is now vacant.

In the Legislature of the State, Washington County figures as follows: Enoch Ross was the only member of the Territorial Legislature.

Senators—Norman Everson, Chas. Foster, Wm. B. Lewis, John F. McJunkin and G. G. Bennett.

Representatives—Thomas Baker, Nathan Baker, David Bunker, Stewart Goodsell. From 1846 to 1850 we can obtain no names. David Bunker, Horace H. Wilson.

5th General Assembly, Samuel A. Russell, James N. Young.

6th " " J. P. Moore, W. B. Lewis.

7th " " Samuel E. Rankin.

8th " " M. Morehead, R. Galsgow.

9th " " John W. Quinn, T. H. Stanton.

10th " " Nathan Littler, S. A. Russell.

11th " " H. M. Holden, G. G. Bennett.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.

1st Convention, 1844—Wm. R. Harrison, Caleb B. Campbell, Enoch Ross.

2d Convention, 1846—Stewart Goodsell.

3d Convention, 1857—David Bunker.

#### MASONIC.

There are in the county five lodges of Free and Accepted Masons. These are located in the towns of Washington, Crawfordsville, Brighton, Richmond and Dayton.

The first lodge is Washington Lodge, No. 26, chartered 3d of June, 1851.

The second lodge is Crawfordsville Lodge, No. 45, chartered 8th of June, 1854.

The third lodge is Brighton Lodge, No. 64, chartered 6th of June, 1855.

The fourth lodge is Richmond Lodge, No. 96, chartered 4th of June, 1857.

The fifth lodge is Dayton Lodge, No. 149, chartered 6th of June, 1860.

There is but one Chapter in the County, that is at Washington, and known as Cyrus Chapter No. 13, chartered 1st of June, 1856.

There is but one Council, located as above, and chartered 3d of June, 1857. Of the Grand officers of the State this county has furnished seven, as follows :

G. W. Teas, D. G. M. in 1855 ; L. B. Fleak, D. G. M. in 1857 ; N. Chipman, G. I. W. in 1853 ; L. B. Fleak, G. T. in 1853 ; W. Tribelcock, M. D. G. T. in 1856 and 1859 ; G. W. Teas, G. H. P. in 1859.

There is a lodge of Odd Fellows, but the date of their organization we have not learned. Also a lodge of Good Templars, organized in 1866 or 1867. A lodge of the Sons of Temperance, organized in 1855. We had a brass band, organized in about 1853 or 1854, which died out, and another one was organized in 1865, which bids fair to go as its predecessor went.

We give below the assessment of 1843, four years after the organization of the county :

No. of polls, 1,115. No. of acres of land, 44,674 ; value of land, \$148,791.50. No. of town lots, 276 ; value, \$16,234. Value of personal property, \$155,251. Total valuation, \$320,276.50. Territorial tax, \$80.06. Poll tax, \$557.50. Property tax, \$1,521.31. Total taxes, \$2,158.87.

We have not the valuation for 1868, but the taxes foot up as follows : State, 11,731.96 ; city (Washington), \$3,004.59 ; county, \$18,401.73 ; school, \$4,693.45 ; teachers' fund, \$23,617.12 ; school house fund, \$18,762.16 ; contingent, \$9,507.84 ; bridge fund, \$4,593.44—total tax, \$94,412.28, or almost 44 times the amount they were 25 years ago. The valuation of 1860 was \$4,118,872. With these statistics showing the enormous growth of the county within the last twenty-five years, we bring our brief sketch to a close.

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