

mittee was appointed to select a location and contract for its purchase, and in due time reported in favor of the west half of the north-west quarter, and the north-east quarter of the north-west quarter of section 14; and the west half of the south-west quarter of the north-west quarter of section 10, 120 acres, all in town 75, range 20, belonging to Elisha^v Elliot, and situated about two and a half miles south-west of the city of Knoxville. Cost \$1,200.

The purchase of this land was made on the 15th of Dec., 1865; and, in the spring and summer following, the whole of it was fenced and forty acres broke, part of it planted in corn and wheat, all at a cost of about \$800.

The contract for building the house was let to the lowest bidder, and was awarded to Jacob^v Reichard, in July, 1866, at \$4,450. It is a large three story frame building, the basement story being fitted for a kitchen. The second and third are each traversed by a hall between two rows of rooms. Stables and other out buildings were added to the place some time after.

The contract for overseer and physician were awarded to^v John Robinson and Dr. Wetherell, under whose care the County poor were comfortably provided for in their new home.

The experiment proved quite a success. The number of paupers was greatly reduced, and the support of the remainder so systematized as to make it much less expensive.

FINIS.

"THE BIG BOTTOM," OR "NORTH BEND" OF THE IOWA RIVER.^v

BY N. ZELLER,^v PENN TOWNSHIP, JOHNSON COUNTY.

John^v Gaylor and Alonzo C.^v Denison were the first men who made claims with the intention of settling in what is now known as Penn and Madison Townships, Johnson County. Both were from Bureau County, Ills. Gaylor arrived late in

the summer of 1838, with his family, and made his claim where the farm of John Wilson now is, who bought Gaylor's claim and entered the first land in the settlement.

Alonzo C. Denison in a few weeks followed Gaylor, and made his claim near by and returned to Illinois, and the following spring returned with his family and brothers, Joseph and George Denison, who all made their claims on the edge of the prairie and timber. Gaylor erected a cabin about twelve feet square in the timber to winter in the first winter, where was born the first white child in the settlement, no white settlers being nearer than Iowa City, ten miles distant. Medical assistance was had from the neighboring squaws. Gordon A. Denison, then about three months old, was the first white child brought to the settlement. This was in the spring of 1839. Gaylor was an athletic man, about six feet two inches in height, kind and affectionate, but able and willing to defend himself in any emergency, and is supposed to be still living in Illinois.

The three Denisons are still residents of the county, and two of them have seen their second generation. Joseph still resides on the claim he first made, and is now the oldest "settler" in the vicinity. These were soon followed by others, and in June, 1840, the following additional persons were residents by *claim law*, as the land had not been surveyed, viz.: David Wray, Carson B. Wray, Geo. Wein, John W. Alt, Jacob H. Alt, Joseph A. Alt, Adam Alt, Jackson Purdoo, Ira Purdoo, Evan Dollarhide, Rev. Isreal Clark, Martin Harless, Robert Waterson, John Aslan, Hugh Napier, David Crozier, Gilbert and Frank Herington, and James Chamberlin. About this time emigration commenced again to travel toward the setting sun.

William Dupont was the first white man who moved through the settlement, "westward bound." These pioneer families were all "mettle of the true ring," and began to think about founding a school; and in 1841 Benjamin Horner taught the first school in a cabin erected by David Crozier,

and vacated by him. It took fire and burned down during school time, but not discouraged, in 1843 a pretty good and respectable hewed log house was built, where North Liberty is now located. In 1849 the house was remodeled and improved; in 1860 a new frame house was erected, and in 1865 a two story good frame house was erected, and the school graded. The first graded school was taught by Miss Martha J. Bowman. The house built in 1843 answered for school and all public business, and religious worship.

Elder Lineback preached the first sermon in the settlement in the shade of the grove where the first claim was made by Gaylor, John Horner and Isreal Clark. The next, A. C. Denison, was the first man to erect the "family altar" in the settlement; now those families number several scores.

The settlement increased rapidly, and when the township was organized, on motion of Francis Bowman, it was named *Penn Township*, in honor of the renowned William Penn, which was since under the county judgeship of Hon. Geo. W. McCleary divided into Penn and Madison Townships.

NAMES OF STREAMS.

There are four small streams entirely within the "Big Bottom," as it was originally called, now known as *North Bend*. 1st, Purdoo Creek, Jackson and Ira Purdoo settling near the mouth of said creek. One of the Purdoos exploring the creek to its head saw a cabin near the source, to which he went, and as he was a stranger and somewhat jocular, enquired of the lady of the cabin where Purdoo River was. The lady could think of no such river, and the stranger (Purdoo) got no information of Purdoo River. Afterward the joke was discovered, and the creek was called Purdoo Creek. This was the original name, and should now characterize the little stream. Afterwards it bore several names, viz.: Buffalo, Dollarhide, and Dirty Face Creek;—the name Dirty Face originated thus: In those early days citizens did not always settle disputes by feeing lawyers, and passing through the

routine of law, but sometimes settled them with the stout arm of their own law, without lawyers or Justice's Court. A settlement or suit of this kind came off in Iowa City, then a small village, between the before named Harless and one Aslin. Both parties being in town, and it being a very dry time, the streets were several inches deep with dust (street sprinkling being then unknown in Iowa). The trial took place in the street without lawyers or justice, and whoever was willing pitched in, and before it was over some half dozen were at it. Both parties claimed the victory, and it was unsettled, both parties coming out of the battle with their *faces* covered with *dust* (and of course no credit) so as to be hardly recognizable. Harless, to give vent to his feelings and outflank Aslin, called the creek "dirty face," as it was then called Dollarhide Creek.

Spring Run was so named twenty years ago by the writer, from its being less liable to freeze than ordinary streams emptying into Purdoo creek.

Spring Creek was so named for similar reasons as Spring Run, and its neighborhood was first settled by Adolph Roberts.

Dry Run, so named from its liability to raise very high during a thaw in winter, freeze over, and the water leave the ice sometimes ten or twelve feet, was first settled upon by O. G. Babcock and Henry S. Gould.

NAME OF SETTLEMENT.

Big Bottom was the name known to frontier men before settlement; after settlement it named itself, *the Bend* or *North Bend*, the Iowa River bearing nearly due north and then nearly due west, making the name—North Bend of the Iowa River.

A scarcity of mills for grinding was among the privations to endure by those pioneer families. Before any mills were in the county not an unusual mode of grinding corn was by a

grate made of a piece of tin eight by ten or twelve inches, punched full of holes, and nailed, with the rough side up, on a piece of hewed wood, and raised in the middle by sticking a cob under it. The corn was boiled, then half dried, and it would grate easily. One of those primitive grates or mills is still in existence, and ought to be preserved. The Switzer Mills, near Iowa City, the first in the County, afforded some relief. Next Mr. Chaney commenced building a mill near the mouth of Purdoo Creek, the burrs of which he manufactured out of our prairie boulders. This was some help, but in low water Mr. Chaney had to sometimes help the water-wheel to start, and if it ceased to move help was applied, and it would grind and bolt some. At present the nearest mill on the Iowa River claims over two hundred horse-power, and there is another of considerable capacity, and a number of steam flouring mills, and the Iowa River water-power is still not yet half improved. Imagination may well be stretched to measure the next thirty years by the past thirty, or by looking at the little corn grate and then at our present merchant mills. It would be worth a little boat ride on the Iowa River to the millers of the present day, to see the little corn grate of 1839 and 1840.

ANECDOTES.

In those early days Mr. Geo. Wein procured a Durham bull calf from Ohio, which grew to be a gigantic animal, and was known by the name Santa Anna, not being handled much, and wild. Isreal Clark became the owner of him, and his son, Daniel, a young man in the prime of life, undertook to bring him home from the prairies, he being on foot, with a bridle in his hand. The bull refused to be driven, and he could not drive him, so he concluded to mount him and drive him with the bridle. He succeeded in mounting him; the bull bellowing and making all manner of lunges, finally threw him, the bull being the worst worried; and Clark, an exceedingly active and light man, sprang upon his back again, bridle in hand,

and this time succeeded in conquering him, and rode him home. Afterward it was *said* he could ride a buffalo home if he desired, but I think he never succeeded.

While one of those pioneer men was building his cabin, a number of Indians were encamped on the river. A hearty young Indian came up and addressed himself as politely as he knew how, and desired to *swap squaws*. The man, somewhat amused, enquired of him where his squaw was. He said she had gone up the river. He was then told *no swap*.

TRAITS OF CHARACTER.

Notwithstanding the errors which have characterized some of the settlers, as is common since the days of Adam and Eve, three things have been foremost among the virtues of the people of this section, viz.: 1st, The fear of God. 2d, Industry. 3d, Education. These three are common to the State. This "Big Bottom" now contains about a dozen school houses, and four meeting houses or churches.

COL. JOHN A. GARRETT.

(See portrait at the beginning of this number.)

BY A. K. CAMPBELL.

One of the great results of our late civil war was the development of so much that was worthy and heroic in the American people which times of Peace never could have made manifest. No country ever had braver, truer, more self-sacrificing defenders. Let no pains be spared to perpetuate their memory.

JOHN ALEXANDER GARRETT, the subject of this sketch, has answered every call of his country since the days of his ma-

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