

company — a company of horsemen attached to General Tupper's brigade.

William Jones was drafted in Ross county, Ohio, and started towards the front with his gun upon his shoulder, but hired a substitute on the way at \$20 per month, whereupon he returned home, as did also his substitute at the end of nine days thereafter.

Edgcome Slaughter was also in the war of 1812.

Ira B. Jobe was a private in Captain E. Duman's company (formerly commanded by Captain J. W. Stephenson), in a regiment of Illinois mounted riflemen, in the Blackhawk war. Mr. Jobe was badly wounded at the battle of Bad Axe, and at Wadam's Grove, Stephenson county, Illinois, and has drawn a pension since July 10, 1851.

George J. Smith, aged fifty-nine years, was a soldier in the Mexican war, and also in the war of the Great Rebellion. In the latter war he was a member of company H of the twenty-seventh Ohio infantry, and also a member of company D of the Veteran Reserve Corps.

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## NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

BY D. C. BLOOMER, COUNCIL BLUFFS.

No. 2.

(Continued from page 533.)

LONG before the Mormon rule in western Iowa had passed away, quite a number of "Gentiles" — a term applied to all persons who were not members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints — had been attracted to the locality for the purpose of trade with the people who made their temporary resting-place on either side of the Missouri. Mr. Donnell first opened a small store at Winter Quarters, on the west side of the Missouri, in the fall of 1847 or early part of 1848, and to that

place, in February of the latter year, came Mr. Jonathan B. Stutsman, to take charge of the business. He made the journey from St. Joseph on horseback, and he informs the writer that there was, at that time, but one house of any description between the south-west corner of the state and Winter Quarters. Mr. Stutsman remained at Winter Quarters, in charge of the business, until June, 1848, when the store was removed to the Iowa side of the river, at a point near the head of what was then known as Miller's Hollow. The business was here re-opened, under the well-known firm name of Stutsman & Donnell, in a small log building, and continued at the same place for a number of years. Just about the same time the Mormons also abandoned Winter Quarters, and generally took up their residence in the vicinity of Miller's Hollow, and also rapidly spread themselves over the surrounding country; but the point above named, afterwards known as Kaneshville, and finally as Council Bluffs, continued to be the center of operations. Mr. Stutsman was, in fact, the first Gentile who settled among them. He soon after married, and is a resident of the place at the present time, and is still engaged in mercantile business. He built the first frame store house, and also the first frame dwelling house, erected within the present limits of the city of Council Bluffs. Being of a genial and accommodating disposition, he has always had hosts of friends, and is known far and wide among the early settlers.

The next new Gentile settler was Mr. Cornelius Voorhis, also still living in Council Bluffs. He arrived at Miller's Hollow on the 17th of August, 1848, and, in partnership with Eddy, Jamison, & Co., of St. Louis, opened a small store near the corner around which the future city was to grow. The building first occupied by him was on the south side of the street or road, but he soon erected a large log building on the opposite side and a little farther east, into which he removed in the fall of 1848, and which continued to be his place of business for a number of years, having only been removed within a year or two. Mr. Voorhis describes his residence here during the fall of 1848 and succeeding winter as

dreary enough, and he says that if the opportunity had offered he should have left the place, but there was little communication with the outside world, and he therefore remained, with his wife, waiting for better times to turn up.

Of course the followers of Joseph Smith enjoyed the situation well enough. They were far away from their Gentile persecutors, and had no fear of Missouri regulators or Illinois mobs; but for Gentiles who did not subscribe to their faith the prospect was dreary. But still these remote people had votes, or were supposed to have, and in the fall of 1848 they were visited by political missionaries, under whose manipulations their votes were cast for a whig candidate for congress. This vote, however, did not help him to a seat, for the poll books were stolen on their way to the place where they were to be canvassed. For president, the vote of Pottawattamie county in 1848 is given in the *Tribune Almanac* as 527 for Taylor and 42 for Cass, but it is added in a note that "Pottawattamie, where the Mormons reside," was not counted. For the part Orson<sup>v</sup>Hyde and A. W.<sup>v</sup>Babbitt took in these and other elections, the former acting generally with the whigs and the latter being a democrat, both were summoned to answer before the church at Salt Lake City. They responded to the summons. Hyde confessed his misdoings and asked forgiveness, which was granted, and he was therefore re-baptized and taken back into the church in full fellowship, and remained in it until his death. Babbitt, on the other hand, refused to admit that he had done anything wrong, and was therefore cut off from the church and never re-admitted to full fellowship, but remained on the outskirts, holding offices in Utah territory from the general government, and finally lost his life, in 1856, at the hands of the Indians, while on his way from the Missouri river with a valuable train for Salt Lake.

The next Gentile who took up his residence in<sup>v</sup> Miller's Hollow was William B.<sup>v</sup>Ferguson, of St. Louis. He engaged in trade with a<sup>v</sup>Mormon named<sup>v</sup>Needham, who subsequently removed to Salt Lake, while Ferguson returned to his former place of residence.

William R. Powers, whose wife was a Mormon, claims to have built the first house in Miller's Hollow, in 1847, and he still resides on the same spot where it was erected.

The sons of Davis Hardin, the original agent of the Pottawattamie Indians, continued to reside on the high bottom land, at or near a place marked on the old maps as Council Point, and the lands they then farmed still produce abundant crops of corn and wheat, although in continuous cultivation for nearly thirty years. Generally, however, the Gentiles did not trouble the Mormon settlements in 1848 and 1849 to any considerable extent.

The name of the place was changed to Kaneshville, in honor of Thomas M. Kane, who had visited the place at an early day. During these years the church took cognizance of all offenses, and the severest punishment that could befall any one was to be cut off from fellowship. Life and property were secure, and no intoxicating drinks were sold or drunk at the settlements. The people spread themselves over the surrounding country, and quite a considerable settlement was located on Pigeon creek, in the northern part of the county, and another on the Nishnabotany, in the southeastern part of the county, where a mill was built by Peter Haas and — Weymeyer, and the place was afterwards known as Macedonia. In the northeastern part of the county another settlement was commenced, in and around Lewin's Grove. The first settlers here were Captain Joshua Headlee, William Henderson, and John Kritzing, the latter of whom built a mill. Henderson settled in the midst of the timber, and proceeded to clear off a farm in regular Indiana style. On being asked, subsequently, why in the world he should do this, when he was surrounded by such beautiful prairies, he replied that he had always been accustomed to live in a timber country, and, by the grace of God, he intended to die in the midst of timber.

Eastward about one and a half miles from the line of bluffs at Kaneshville quite a settlement was early made, along the valley of the Musketo, a stream crossing the county diagonally and entering the Missouri river near its southwestern corner.

Here Wick's old Indian mill was situated, and William Garner, Ezra Scofield, Simon Graybill, Alexander Follett, and Alexander Marshall preferred to remain, after the Church of Latter-Day Saints removed to the mountains. Others, from among the Gentiles, also settled in the same valley during the years 1852, 1853, and 1854, and it has been for many years one of the finest farming portions of the county. It is now traversed through its entire length by the Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific Railroad. Deer were formerly very abundant along the Musketo, and venison, during the winter season, was furnished to the inhabitants in large quantities and at low prices.

During the year 1849 the emigration to Oregon and California across the plains commenced. A large proportion of these moving caravans crossed the river at Kaneshville, and moved westward along the road so frequently followed by the Mormons on their way to and from Salt Lake City. The journey from the Mississippi to the banks of the Sacramento was a slow and toilsome one, and occupied from three to four months, but, urged on by the desire for gold and the prospect of rapidly acquiring wealth, the emigrants toiled on their way without complaint or murmuring. The journey was made in wagons of all sizes, drawn by horses, mules, and oxen, and the emigrants were composed almost entirely of young and adventurous men, drawn toward the Pacific by the famous gold mines just then opened on and near its shores. They stopped on their way in the Mormon city, and occasionally one of them tarried behind and made it his home. But the great emigration fairly began in 1850, when the whole country was covered with the vast caravans that moved slowly onward. Of course the facilities for trade and money-making multiplied, and the number of Gentiles began sensibly to increase on the streets of Kaneshville. Saloons and gambling houses were opened during that and the following year, and courts for the enforcement of the laws began to be talked about. This summer, 1850, Joseph Tootle came up from St. Joseph and established an outfitting house, which was con-

tinued for a number of years, and was known throughout the country as the "Elephant Store." J. A. Jackson, so well known by all business men in the early history of this region, took charge of the business in 1851 — first as clerk and afterwards as partner, and thus was formed the firm of Teotle & Jackson, long one of the most prompt and enterprising in the entire western country.

Just about the same time — that is, 1850 — W. D. Turner, afterward treasurer of the county in 1853, S. H. Riddle, and J. L. Forman came to the county and connected themselves with trade in some form in Kanessville. Two or three steamboats came up from below and remained during the summer to ferry the emigrants across the river, often charging as high as ten dollars for transferring a single wagon and team from one bank to the other.

Dr. B. Y. Shelly commenced practice as a physician in Kanessville in 1850, and in the fall of that year S. E. Williams then a medical student, first arrived in the place. He was followed in 1851 by Dr. P. J. McMahon, who, in connection with Dr. Williams, at once secured an extensive practice and opened a drug store, the first in the village. B. R. Pegram arrived here this summer and commenced selling goods, in connection with a firm in St. Louis. A. S. Bryant also first settled in the county this year.

Trading in claims was a business in which all more or less engaged, and some very valuable locations were purchased from the Mormons about leaving for Salt Lake. This year (1850) the county of Pottawattamie, which had heretofore formed a part of Monroe county, was organized — all the officers being Mormons, as stated in the previous number of these notes.

The Robinson brothers, four in number, arrived at Kanessville in 1851, and soon began to be heard of among the population, although all were Gentiles. G. A. Robinson was appointed prosecuting attorney in the spring of 1853, and was elected to the same office in the fall, and for a time acted as county judge, after Burdick had left.

In 1852, as stated in a previous article, the <sup>✓</sup>Mormons moved off to Salt Lake in large numbers, almost depopulating the county in so doing. The Gentiles came in rapidly to supply their place, and this year there was again an immense emigration. One fact may be given to illustrate its extent. W. <sup>✓</sup>W. Powers, J. B. <sup>✓</sup>Stutsman, and two others established a ferry over the Elkhorn and another over Loup Fork, and during the season they received over \$50,000, all in gold, for transferring the emigration across these rivers. When they came to divide the money, at the close of the season, instead of counting it out, the partners seated themselves around a big table, and, after producing their bags of gold, proceeded to make four piles of the gold "rolers" (double eagles), and after all had been thus distributed, each party took one pile as his share of the business. Powers invested his money principally in the purchase of valuable claims (farms) on the Musketo, just east of Kaneshville.

Early in the spring of this year, Mr. Samuel S. <sup>✓</sup>Bayliss, a native of Virginia, but who then resided in Illinois, after having spent some years in California, left St. Louis for Kaneshville on the steamer <sup>✓</sup>Saluda. Arriving at Lexington, he determined to leave the boat, as he was convinced that it was unsafe. He had scarcely been off the boat ten minutes when it blew up, instantly killing the captain and from one hundred and fifty to two hundred of its passengers. Mr. Bayliss pursued his way up the river, and arrived in the county early in April. After looking over the ground for a couple of weeks, he determined to purchase a tract of about four hundred acres, comprising the farm and claim of Mr. Henry <sup>✓</sup>Miller, a well-known Mormon, about emigrating to Salt Lake, and the same who had given his name to the valley of Indian creek, at the mouth of which the claim was located. Mr. Bayliss also purchased the bishop's house, or place where the tithings had been paid. The deed, which was signed by <sup>✓</sup>Hyde, commenced as follows: "Jesus Christ and the Church of Latter-Day Saints sell to Mr. Samuel S. Bayliss," &c., &c. Mr. B. says he thought that ought to be a good deed. That year

Mr. Bayliss, who was soon after joined by his brother, Mr. Joseph D. Bayliss, and their families, raised a large crop of wheat, corn, and vegetables on the claim purchased of Miller, all of which found a ready sale to the emigrants during the ensuing autumn.

The emigration through the place this year was again very large, and many additions were made to the Gentile population, who purchased the old Mormon claims, often at very low prices. Among others who came to the county this year, were John T. Baldwin, Stephen T. Carey, William C. James, A. J. Bump, J. J. Johnson, and D. B. Clark. The last three immediately engaged in farming; Baldwin commenced selling goods; Carey was soon elected clerk of the district court, and James turned his attention to the law.

This season a single team, with a small hack, made the round trip from Des Moines to Kaneshville, traveling during the day and laying over at night. The entire journey, out and back, occupied from a week to ten days, according to the condition of the roads. The first station out of Kaneshville was at Silver Creek, and the second at Wheeler's Grove. The latter was kept by Mr. Noah D. Wheeler, and was long a noted point on the road across the state. About twelve miles east of this station was Indiantown, just in the western part of Cass county, and one of the places where a small colony of Mormons settled when the emigrants from Nauvoo first crossed the state.

A building called Hyde's New Hall, situated in the eastern part of the place, then known as Hyde street, but since as Madison street, was purchased June 22, 1852, for the sum of \$200. It was used for five or six years as a court house and school house, and for various other purposes. Near it was located the Union House, a large log building, and for several years the principal hotel in the place. Just at the intersection of this street with Broadway was the principal business center of the town. Here were the stores of Voorhis, Stutsman, Tootle, Ferguson, Pegram, and others. Here also was the drug store of Dr. McMahan, and near to it a famous saloon



and gambling house, known as the "Ocean Wave." A little way down, or westward, on Broadway, were the City Hotel, Nebraska Hall, and several other large buildings, including the Robinson House, which was quite a large structure of hewn logs, over which G. A. Robinson, in that and for several succeeding years, presided as landlord.

In 1852 the county was divided into three townships, known respectively as Kane, Macedonia, and Rockford. Kane comprised the village of Kaneshville and the adjacent part of the county; Macedonia comprised all the eastern part of the county, and Rockford the northwestern part of the county. This latter region had been quite extensively settled by Mormons, and contained a number of fine farms along the Missouri bottom and on Honey and Pigeon creeks.

The first Mormon settler was Hiram Bostwich, who came into the township in 1846, and is still a resident, and cultivates the same field he first opened up in 1848. The name Rockford, was derived from a gravelly ford across the Boyer river, and which was also the place used by the disciples of Joseph Smith for baptising their converts. Near this point was also the Mormon church, of the locality of which a Mr. Wood was president. The first school, perhaps, in the county was opened here, in 1848. The first Gentile settlers within the limits of Rockford township were Joseph Hill, Joseph Kirby, Robert McGarven, Samuel Kirkland, and Sherman Goss, who settled there in 1850 and 1851.

In 1851 the vote of Pottawattamie county on superintendent of public instruction was 397 for Woodward and 51 for Benton. In 1852, for president, it stood: 111 for Scott and 182 for Pierce.

The name of the town of Kaneshville, in Pottawattamie county, was, on the 19th of January, 1853, changed to Council Bluffs, the change in the name of the post office having been made some time previous. On the 24th of February, 1853, an act was also passed to incorporate the city of Council Bluffs, which was thus made a body corporate and invested with all the power and attributes of a municipal corporation.

H. D. Johnson, in the senate, and A. S. Bryant, in the house, were mainly instrumental in procuring the passage of these laws. Their selection of a name for the new city was fortunate, as it is the only place in the United States to which it has been applied. Early in April an election of mayor and councilmen was held in the new city, when the following appear to have been chosen: C. Voorhis, mayor; S. S. Bayliss, G. G. Rice, S. T. Carey, L. O. Littlefield, L. M. Klein, J. E. Johnson, J. K. Cook, and J. B. Stutsman, councilmen. At the first meeting of the new council, held April 13, 1853, all were present except Cook and Stutsman, who were each fined five dollars for non-attendance. The other officers, either elected or appointed, were: W. H. Robinson, recorder; M. W. Robinson, city marshal; A. D. Jones, city surveyor; G. P. Stiles, city attorney; Isaac Beebe, city supervisor, and G. A. Robinson, captain of the fire company. Very little business appears to have been transacted this year by the corporation authorities. The revenue of the city was derived from licenses issued to gambling houses and saloons, and the city treasurer, August 11, 1853, reported cash on hand amounting to \$283.78. On the 2d of July it was ordered by the city council that no official notice should be taken of the firing of squibs, guns, &c., until the 5th of the same month; so that the "Glorious Fourth" did not pass by unnoticed in the new city. During the latter part of the summer Mayor Voorhis resigned, and from that time the city government appears to have been in abeyance until the spring of 1855, when a new election was held and new officers elected.

Early in the year 1853 Mr. Samuel S. Bayliss determined to lay out his farm into town lots, and the plat of his first addition to the city was filed June 13, 1853, and of his second addition soon after. This was a most fortunate event for the growth of the city, as it brought into market an area of about four hundred acres of high, beautiful prairie, finely located just at the edge of the bluffs and extending westward from them about half a mile. Other additions were soon after added, and lots in all of them soon after came into demand.

Mr. Bayliss from the first pursued a very liberal course in disposing of his property, giving many lots away and selling others, in that and the following year, at very low prices. In connection with his brother, Mr. J. D. Bayliss, he proceeded to open a brick yard, and to burn several kilns of very fine brick that season. With these brick, the first ever manufactured in western Iowa, several dwellings were erected that season. The first was built by William C. James, and others were erected by P. J. McMahon, S. E. Williams, and J. P. Wagstaff. A two-story brick building was also constructed by Messrs. Lowe & Babbitt for a land office. In the latter part of the season Mr. Bayliss commenced the erection, just at the foot of the valley of Indian creek, of a brick hotel. It was finished during the fall and opened on Christmas day by Mr. Bayliss, who was its first landlord. It was named the Pacific House, and has ever been a popular resort for travelers from its first completion. It has since been greatly enlarged and improved by its enterprising owner, and is now one of the most spacious and convenient hotels in the western country.

On the evening of the 13th of May, 1853, a brutal murder was committed in one of the small valleys on the south side of Indian creek, since known as Glendale and now filled with handsome private residences. The name of the murdered man was Samuels, and that of the murderer, as given by himself, was Muir. Both were emigrants, on their way to California. The deed was discovered next morning, and produced a great commotion among the immense crowd of emigrants in the place. Although first placed in the hands of the sheriff, it was decided not to wait for the slow forms of the law to secure his punishment. A jury was therefore empanelled and as fair a trial had, probably, as could be secured in any court of justice at that day. A. C. Ford defended the accused, but the jury had no hesitation in pronouncing him guilty. Muir was then taken to a tree about twenty paces from the spot where he had murdered his victim. Rev. M. F. Shinn was called upon to administer spiritual consolation, but Muir refused anything of the kind. A rope was therefore fastened around his neck,

placed over a limb of the tree, and, after some hesitation, a Californian was found who fastened the other end around his mule's neck, and just as the sun was setting the body was seen suspended between heaven and earth. The glen was filled to overflowing with the people, drawn together by the novel and terrible spectacle. This, as far as can be ascertained, was the first murder and the first instance of lynch law that occurred within the limits of the city of Council Bluffs.

At the annual election, held in the summer of this year, Frank Street was elected county judge; W. D. Turner, recorder, and G. A. Robinson, prosecuting attorney. Judge Street had taken up his residence in the county early in the spring of that year. At the judicial election, held in the spring of 1853, S. H. Riddle ran for district judge and received a clear majority of all the votes cast, but, for some reason, the canvassers refused him a certificate of election, and he acted until the next election (in 1854, when he was again a candidate and elected) under a commission from Governor Hempstead. His predecessors in the office were James Sloan and A. A. Bradford. Although Judge Riddle's acquaintance with the technicalities and practice of the law had been limited, yet, being possessed of a very fair share of good, sound, common sense, he made a very good judge, and very few of his decisions were reversed by the supreme court.

The *Frontier Guardian*, as stated in a previous number, was the first newspaper published in Pottawattamie county. It was commenced in 1848, and continued to be printed for about four years, mainly under the charge of Orson Hyde. Although chiefly devoted to advocating the doctrines of Mormonism, yet it took quite an active interest in politics, generally supporting the whig party and candidates. In 1850 A. W. Babbitt started a democratic paper and called it the *Bugle*. He printed it for about two years, when it passed into the hands of J. E. Johnson, by whom it was edited and published for about four years. When Hyde went to Salt Lake, in 1852, he took a part of the material on which the *Guardian* was printed with him, the remainder going into the *Bugle* office.

Johnson was an active, wide-awake man—merchant, farmer, and publisher, and postmaster from 1853 to 1856. He devoted a large space in the *Bugle* to the advocacy of the local interests of the county, and his “*Bugle* notes” were widely copied all over the country. He was a Mormon, both in faith and practice, and although he tarried behind the great body of the church on its removal to Salt Lake, yet he also finally took up his residence in the southern part of Utah, where he is still extensively engaged in business. Johnson early opened a farm about four miles north of Council Bluffs, which he called “Ellisdale,” and the columns of the *Bugle* were frequently redolent with praises, both in prose and poetry, of this suburban retreat.

On the 14th of November, 1853, the city of Council Bluffs was visited by a most destructive fire—the first and probably the most destructive that has occurred in its history. It broke out directly in the cluster of log and frame buildings situated at the head of Broadway, and in the very center of the business part of the town. Twenty-five buildings in all were destroyed, including nearly all the business houses. Among the sufferers were Stutsman & Donnell, Tootle & Jackson, B. R. Pegram, and a number of others. The office of the Council Bluffs *Bugle* lost a large quantity of type and other material. The total loss was estimated at \$18,000. Although occurring so late in the season, the work of rebuilding was at once vigorously commenced, and within a few months a large number of new and better buildings took the place of those destroyed; but, strangely enough, in just one year from the first fire, to-wit, on the 14th of November, 1854, a second fire occurred on the same spot, in which seventeen buildings were destroyed. In this fire the *Bugle* was again a heavy sufferer, losing two presses and receiving other very serious damage.

The public lands in Pottawattamie county were surveyed during the years 1851 and 1852. A land office was located in Council Bluffs (at first called Kaneshville) early in the spring of 1853. Joseph H. D. Street was the first register, and Dr. S. M. Ballard receiver. They opened their offices in a log

building, and the first entry was made under the pre-emption law by Joseph D. Lane, the second by Joseph Busha, and the third by Mrs. Maria Mynster. This lady, having then recently lost her husband, who had made a pre-emption settlement on the public lands, determined, on his death, not to lose her claim to the tract, but, with her then infant son, took up her residence upon it, in a rude cabin hastily constructed, in which she remained long enough to enable her to secure the title, which she still holds. Mrs. Mynster still resides in the city; she has a will and mind of her own on all subjects, and, by her judicious investments at that early day, has secured for herself and family a handsome competency, and has always been regarded as one of the most respected and enterprising of the early pioneers of the county. The receiver was then required to make his deposits of money collected (only gold and silver were receivable in payment for land) at Dubuque, and the journey to that place, across the country, was at the time a really serious, if not hazardous, undertaking, and occupied the time of the receiver for two or three weeks in making the trip. Subsequently, St. Louis was designated as the place of deposit, and thereafter, for several years, the gold and silver collected by the receiver was conveyed on board steamboats on the Missouri river. In the month of March, 1853, the number of acres of public lands entered was 3,810, in April 4,813, and in May 15,371 acres, all under the pre-emption law. The land district then comprised the entire western part of the state for a hundred miles east of the Missouri. Early in June the land officers were changed, Enos Lowe becoming receiver, and Lysander W. Babbitt register. Both had previously been residents of the eastern part of the state.

The first sale of government lands at this land office occurred on the 6th and 7th of June, 1853. It seems to have attracted very little attention, as only 1,300 acres in all were disposed of, and all at the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre. The speculators in the public lands had not yet turned their eyes so far westward, and consequently the rich and fertile

prairies of Western Iowa remained without buyers. Up to the first of January, 1854, 95,382 acres were sold. During the summer of 1853 Johnson & Casady opened a land office in Council Bluffs, the first to engage in that branch of business in the whole region west of Des Moines. J. D. Test was associated with them in the business early in the following year. These gentlemen each took a prominent part in the subsequent history of the county. Johnson, however, removed to Nebraska in 1854 or 1855, the business being continued by Casady & Test.

In the fall of 1853 about one hundred residents of Pottawattamie county crossed the Missouri river at Trader's Point, near the southwestern corner of the county, and, with a few Indian traders and others, held a convention at Bellevue, where an Indian mission had been established for several years among the Omaha Indians. At this convention it was resolved to petition congress for the organization of a new territory west of Iowa, to be called Nebraska. The meeting also appointed Hadley D. Johnson delegate to congress to urge the passage of the law. This, it is believed, was the first political convention ever held within the present limits of the state of Nebraska.

So far as can be learned, the first sermon preached in Pottawattamie county by an orthodox minister, was by Rev. Wm. Rector, of Fremont county, in the latter part of November, 1848. The Rev. Wm. Simpson, a Methodist clergyman, came to the county in 1850 in pursuit of horse thieves, and soon after was stationed at Kaneshville by the presiding bishop of the state. His field of labor extended over the entire territory now comprised within the limits of Fremont, Mills, and Pottawattamie counties. John Hayden was then presiding elder over the whole region west of Mouroe county, and he faithfully traveled over his entire field, meeting with many interesting incidents connected with frontier life and his labors among the early pioneers. The Mormons were but poorly pleased with the appearance of a Methodist minister among them, and his residence in their midst was far from

being pleasant. Simpson seems to have met their hostility with a good deal of spirit, and, in his sermons, dealt them some pretty severe blows. One of his discourses was known as the "frog sermon," in which he compared the Mormons to the frogs described in Revelations, that "come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet." The sermon greatly enraged Orson Hyde, and he sent Simpson a notice that he must leave within a very few hours, or his life would be in danger. The latter immediately called on the Mormon autocrat, and told him that he held him responsible for his life, and also for the protection of his property. The curse was thereupon immediately withdrawn, and Simpson continued his labors until the fall of 1852, acting during the last year also as presiding elder. He was then succeeded by Rev. Moses F. Shinn, who came from the eastern portion of the state, and was a man of great vigor and perseverance. He served in the double capacity of presiding elder and preacher in charge, for two years. He was assisted by the Rev. Mr. May a part of the first year, and by the Rev. Mr. Jennings a part of the second year. During the year 1863, the Rev. J. S. Rand also came into the county. Mr. Shinn's labors in 1853, and that of his assistant's, seem to have been crowned with a good deal of success, and quite a number of conversions occurred. In 1853, through the persistent labors of the minister, a frame building, of cottonwood lumber, was erected on the side of the hill, near the center of the town, which was used as a church for a number of years. In collecting funds to meet the expenses of its erection, Mr. Shinn was greatly aided by the ladies' aid society, of which Mrs. S. S. Bayless, Mrs. W. J. Coopes, Mrs. Frank Steel, and Mrs. M. F. Shinn were active laborers. They enjoyed the satisfaction of largely contributing to the erection of the first place of Christian worship in the county. All are still living, and all, with the exception of Mrs. Shinn, still residents of Council Bluffs.

In reference to the further religious history of the county, the Rev. G. G. Rice has kindly allowed me to make the fol-



lowing extract from a sermon preached by him in Council Bluffs on the 12th of September, 1869:—

“At the repeated request of the agent of the home missionary society, and under the patronage of that society, your speaker began his labors in this city on the 15th of November, 1851. It was then called Kanessville, and was a village of 2,500 or 3,000 inhabitants, but it resembled an encampment more than a regular settlement. No one thought of making this his home, but expected either to leave the following spring, or as soon afterward as they could get away. The houses were mere temporary shelters, without any other furniture than that of rude home manufacture. The people did not wish to have any thing to sell when they should break up to move, lest there should be no buyers. About four-fifths of the people were Mormons, and outside of the village they were in about the same proportion. The Mormons claimed to number about 15,000 in western Iowa, whilst those they classed as Gentiles were less than two thousand. The Gentiles living in the village were here, for the most part, for the sake of the spring trade, which the annual tide of emigration across here to California and Oregon afforded. The Sabbath was the day when there was more buying, selling, and general business transacted than any other day in the week.

“Our first services were held in the court house on Madison street, attended by the Mormon elders and many of their members; but, as that house was otherwise occupied, at the hours most suitable for public worship, we rented a log house eighteen feet square, on Broadway, where the Bryant House now stands. Here we had preaching every Sabbath morning and evening, a Sabbath School in the afternoon, and a weekly prayer meeting on Wednesday evening. There were in the place at that time only two families of orthodox Christians. One was that of a merchant belonging to the Presbyterian church, in St. Louis; the other that of a Methodist minister. We all labored together, the Methodist brother preaching every alternate Sabbath. About fifteen persons

steadily attended the prayer meeting and Sabbath services, and many more were occasional attendants on the Sabbath. Twenty-five or thirty children were instructed in the Sabbath School.

“In the spring of 1852 a large house was purchased on the north side of Middle Broadway, which we occupied jointly for over a year, and then sold, and formed separate congregations. Toward the last of March, emigrants for Oregon and California began to pour in by thousands. From that time until July, when the season for emigration was over, all was bustle and confusion. But little regard was paid to law, order, or the conventionalities of civil life. Gambling was as open as any other business, and their tables were sometimes set on the sidewalk and on the corners of the street. The first of July of this year, when the emigration had ceased, the town seemed desolate and dull, for scarcely five hundred people were left, and in the county were empty cabins and deserted farms. The cholera broke out, and a large number of persons died. But in the spring of 1853, the emigration brought us some strength, and on the twelfth day of June a Congregational church of eight members was organized. Five of them had previously been Congregationalists, two Presbyterians, and one a Free-will Baptist. In the autumn of 1853 the house which we owned with the Methodists was sold, and for the next year and a half, and until a new church was erected, your speaker held religious services in his own house on Middle Broadway.”

The end of the year 1853, in these notes, is now reached, and here we close our record until a subsequent number of the ANNALS.

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