

mission, to be paid out of the treasuries of their respective counties, upon the order of their respective County Commissioners' Courts.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That on the first Monday of April next, an election shall be held at the house of Henry Utter, in said county, for one Sheriff, one Coroner and three County Commissioners, which election shall be conducted in all respects agreeably to the provisions of the law regulating elections; *Provided*, That any three Justices of the Peace in said county, may act as judges of election, taking to themselves two qualified voters as Clerks, and it shall be the duty of the Circuit Clerk of said County to give public notice agreeably to law, at least ten days previous to such elections, and in case there should be no clerk in said County, it shall be the duty of the Recorder to give such notice.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the Citizens of said County are hereby declared to be entitled to the same rights and privileges as are allowed in general to other Counties in this State.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That the said County shall vote in conjunction with Edwards County for Representatives and Senator of the General Assembly.

CENTREVILLE.—In compliance with the provisions of Section 1, of the foregoing act, John E. Morris, Cornelius DeLong and Thomas Mason, who were appointed as Commissioners for that purpose reported that they had located the County-Seat of the County of Wabash, at Centreville, the location of which was in Section 35, Town 1. North. and Section 2, Town 1 South, the site of which is now owned by Rufus Newkirk and J. M. Ramsey. Part of the logs of the Old Court House are now used in a barn on Mr. Ramsey's farm.

The share of the old Edwards County debt assessed against Wabash County was \$748.20½.

The first election was held at the home of Henry Utter, at which Levi Compton, Tarleton Boren and Moses Bedel were chosen County Commissioners, and Abner Armstrong, Sheriff.

MT. CARMEL, COUNTY-SEAT.—As a county-seat town, Centreville soon proved to be an utter failure and in 1829 the seat of government was removed to Mt. Carmel, its already prosperous rival, and lots 217 and 477 were selected as its permanent site, and where it has continued to remain.

The first court house built by Wabash County was erected at Centreville, by Moses Bedell, at a contract price of \$715, and was first occupied by the County Commissioners, June 5, 1826.

The second court house was erected by Scoby Stewart, in Mt. Carmel, in 1829; 1857 it was totally destroyed by fire and the county records consumed, a loss which entailed great confusion and expense to the county. The third court house was erected in the same year by Hiram Bell, as contractor, for the sum of \$6,770. This structure was demolished by the terrible cyclone which devastated the city of Mt. Carmel, at the hour of four o'clock P. M., June 4, 1877, and which destroyed eighteen lives, prostrated the business portion of the town in almost hopeless ruin and wrecked thousands upon thousands of dollars worth of property.

In the midst of its distress and suffering, the county importuned the State Legislature for assistance for the purpose of providing a new court house. To this timely appeal a generous response was made, \$15,000 being appropriated.

The present and fourth court house was completed and occupied in March, 1881, at a cost of about \$17,000, and it is hoped that, if it shall become necessary to supplant it with a new "Hall of Justice," the work will be intrusted to more competent and reliable hands than those which reared the present edifice.

CHAPTER VII.

BENCH AND BAR—COUNTY OFFICERS.

FIRST CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGES WHO HAVE PRESIDED OVER EDWARDS AND WABASH COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTS—CHANGES IN CIRCUITS AND COURT DISTRICTS—SOME OF THE MOST EMINENT JURISTS—WABASH COUNTY BAR—THE PLACE WHICH LAWYERS HAVE FILLED IN GENERAL HISTORY—EARLY AND PRESENT LAWYERS IN WABASH COUNTY—COUNTY OFFICERS. 1882 TO 1910.

CIRCUIT JUDGES.—The first Circuit Court held within the territory of what is now Edwards and Wabash Counties, was held at Old Palmyra, then the county seat of Edwards County, over which Judge Stanley Griswold presided. At the

term held in 1816, Thomas Towles was on the bench. From 1817 to 1818, Jephtha Hardin was on the bench; 1818 to 1819, Thomas C. Browne; William Wilson, from 1819 to 1825; James O. Wattles from 1825 to 1827, when Thomas C. Browne, as a Justice of the Supreme Court, was again on the circuit bench, serving one year, and being succeeded by William Wilson, also of the Supreme Court, from 1828 to 1835; Justin Harlan from 1835 to 1841, when by a change of the State law increasing the number of Supreme Judges, William Wilson again returned to the circuit bench, serving until 1849, and being succeeded by Justin Harlan, as Circuit Judge, from 1849 to 1851; Samuel S. Marshall was then elected, serving until 1854, when he resigned, and Downing Baugh served one year; Edwin Beecher served from 1855 to 1861; Samuel S. Marshall, from 1861 to 1865, when James M. Pollock succeeded him, serving until 1873.

By act of Legislature on March 28, 1873, the State was divided, exclusive of Cook County, into twenty-six Judicial Circuits, and at the election in June, 1873, one Judge was elected for each circuit, for the term of six years, Edwards and Wabash Counties then forming a part of the Twenty-fourth District. Tazewell B. Tanner was elected Judge of the Circuit, and Lawrence County forming a part of the Twenty-first District, James C. Allen was elected in that circuit.

In 1877, the Legislature, in order to increase the number of Circuit Judges, and to provide for the origination of the Appellate Courts, consolidated the Twenty-six Judicial Circuits into thirteen, thereby giving each circuit two judges, and provided for the election of one additional judge for each circuit in August, 1877, for two years, making three judges in each judicial circuit. In September following the Supreme Court appointed twelve of the circuit judges to appellate court duty, the remaining judges presiding over the Circuit Courts in their respective districts. By this change of the judiciary system the Twenty-fifth and the Twenty-fourth Districts were united, to be known as the Second Judicial Circuit.

In those districts Tazewell B. Tanner and James C. Allen, were already serving on the bench, and John H. Halley was elected to make the requisite number. Under the above act they presided until 1879, when Chauncey S. Conger, Thomas S. Casey and William C. Jones,

were elected. In 1885, Chauncey C. Conger, Carroll C. Boggs and William C. Jones were elected; in 1891, Judge Boggs was re-elected with Edward Youngblood and S. Z. Landes as his colleagues; in 1897, Judge Youngblood was re-elected with P. A. Pearce and E. E. Newlin as new incumbents; in 1903, Pearce and Newlin were re-elected with J. R. Creighton, and in 1909, Newlin and Creighton were re-elected with William H. Green, new incumbent. The present judges are capable and conscientious lawyers, as well as courageous and upright men.

Several of the judges mentioned attained distinction as learned, fearless and conscientious jurists and afterward became prominent and influential public men and eminent lawyers. In recalling their names we cannot refrain from mentioning those whom we esteem as especially deserving of honor, and we do so with no invidious intent. Prominent among those particularly eminent in public affairs and justly deserving of popular esteem, we recall William Wilson, Jephtha Hardin, Justin Harlan, S. S. Marshall, James C. Allen, Chauncey S. Conger, Carroll C. Boggs and Hon. S. Z. Landes.

WABASH COUNTY BAR.—Law is an ordination of omnipotent wisdom and is co-existent with all nature. It is as essential to the regulation and good order of society as it is to the supreme control of the infinite systems of the universe. Its growth and evolution is co-ordinate with man's long and painful development from savagery to civilization. The history of jurisprudence is the record of man's advancement from rapine, predatory warfare and barbaric vengeance, to order, justice and stability.

The administration of justice and the laws of property require the ripened wisdom and trained experience of those who have assiduously applied their talents and knowledge of human experience to the mastery of the science of law and the understanding of the complex, subtle and enigmatical causations of human conduct. An able and conscientious lawyer is one of the most influential factors in every county and community, his advice and direction are the earliest sought and the most faithfully relied upon.

The names of great lawyers in England and America, who were first to defy the despotism of tyrants, corrupted courts, repressive laws, and cruel persecutions, are among the world's most revered and venerated characters.

In the struggles for liberty, the lawyers have been among the first to lead and the last to retreat in the cause of freedom, and their splendid services for mankind illuminate the most resplendent pages of our common history. In no country have lawyers wielded so great an influence for good as in America, and especially is this true in relation to the growth of our judicial system and the practice of our Western States. So intimately are the beneficent results of the pioneer bar of our counties interwoven with their legal, political and domestic affairs, that it is impossible to write a clearly intelligible history of them without at least a brief sketch of the bar in the several counties.

Mr. Edward Mundy, a native of New Jersey, and who came to the county in 1820, was the first attorney to engage in regular practice in Wabash County. As was the custom for many years, he traveled the circuit and was ranked as a good lawyer. Samuel Mundy, a brother of Edward, was elected to the State Legislature from Wabash County in 1828. Edward Mundy moved to Michigan where he became the first Lieutenant Governor on the admission of that State into the Union.

An attorney by the name of Edward J. Elkins, came to the county in 1825, and practiced his profession for two years. Hon. Orlando B. Ficklin, whose parents lie buried in the Old Sand Hill Cemetery at Mt. Carmel, entered upon the practice of law in 1830. He was the most distinguished of all the pioneer lawyers and was elected to the Legislature from Wabash County. Afterward he moved to Charleston and was elected to Congress for four terms. After he had passed four-score years, he entered the lecture field. His lecture on "The Bench and Bar of the Wabash Valley for Fifty Years," covered the period from 1834 to 1884, during which he met at the bar, or on the hustings, nearly all the celebrated men of Illinois and Indiana and was very popular. Among his contemporary attorneys were a Mr. Pyle, James McDowell, Joseph Bowman, Joseph Orth, Robert Dougherty, Victor B. Bell, the elegant Charles H. Constable and the celebrated Usher F. Linder, who was for a short time Attorney General of the State, and for four terms a member of the lower branch of the General Assembly.

The last two were doubtless the most talented, eloquent and picturesque lawyers that ever thrilled a jury and entranced a wondering

audience in Southern Illinois, in those days of forensic eloquence.

Robert Bell practiced law in Wabash County nearly half a century, attained wide distinction as a popular orator, and no man's life is more intimately inwrought with the history of the county. He was a man of distinguished appearance, of gracious demeanor, generous and public spirited, and was known and honored throughout the State. He graduated from the Indiana State University in 1855, and practiced law two years at Fairfield, Ill. In 1864, he formed a partnership with Edward B. Green, which continued twenty-five years, and the firm became one of the most prominent in Southern Illinois.

Judge Bell was elected President of the Illinois Southern Railroad Company, in 1863, and in 1869, became President of the St. Louis, Mt. Carmel & New Albany Railroad Company. From these old lines have grown the present Southern and the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroads. He was twice elected County Judge and, in 1876, President Hayes appointed him special agent to investigate alleged Internal revenue frauds in California. Judge Bell held numerous other important positions, and was frequently mentioned as a Republican candidate for Governor. In 1881 he was appointed one of the U. S. Commissioners to examine the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad in New Mexico. He continued in the practice of his profession until his death in 1906. Judge Bell had a strong hold upon the affections of the people of Southern Illinois, and no man had a larger or more devoted personal acquaintance in this section of the State than he. At the time of his death he had arranged to write a history of Wabash County and, with his clear recollection of events gained from seventy-five years' residence among its people, together with his fine literary accomplishments, he would, had he lived to complete it, have produced a work fascinating in style and rich in historical facts.

Edward B. Green for nearly fifty years has been recognized as one of the most learned and eminent lawyers of Southern Illinois. He was admitted to the bar at Paris, Ill., in 1860, and immediately afterward located in Mt. Carmel. In 1864 he formed the partnership with Judge Bell which continued with great success for twenty-five years. He has been nominated by the Republican party as a candidate for Circuit Judge, Judge of the Supreme Court and for

WABASH COUNTY

Congress. He has also been President of the State Bar Association and, in 1890, was appointed by President Harrison as the first Chief Justice of Oklahoma, and as such edited the now noted first volume of the Oklahoma Reports. As a jurist he evinced rare learning and wisdom. He rendered opinions in many cases involving novel and perplexing legal questions, which have become precedents in the jurisprudence of that country, and which have raised him to general eminence as a jurist. In 1898 he returned to Mt. Carmel where he received Mr. Theodore G. Risley into partnership with him, under the firm name of Green & Risley, which still continues. Judge Green has probably taken more cases to the higher courts than any lawyer who has ever practiced in Southern Illinois, and has tried many important cases in other States. He is a man of prepossessing appearance, finely educated and gifted with eminent talent.

Hon. S. Z. Landes was admitted to the bar in 1864 and removed to Mt. Carmel where he was destined, by reason of his unflagging energy, capability and integrity, to become an eminent lawyer, prominent in public life and successful in business. He served as City Attorney three terms, as State's Attorney two terms, was Master in Chancery, County Judge, Circuit Judge and served two terms in Congress. Judge Landes was an earnest student, a tireless worker, a resourceful and vigorous lawyer and a man of propelling force in all the usual walks of life. In 1905, he retired from practice, but continued to take an active interest in public and business affairs. Even in his retirement his aid and counsel were constantly sought and he continued to exercise a great influence in many directions, but while this sketch was being prepared came the announcement of his death. He died enjoying the esteem and affections of the people of Wabash County, and his earnest, upright and influential life will long be a solace and source of encouragement to those who knew him.

Samuel R. Putman, M. F. Hoskins and Lyman Leeds were esteemed and able attorneys who have recently passed away.

The present bar is composed, in addition to those already mentioned, of Hon. M. H. Mundy, P. J. Kolb, George P. Ramsey, H. M. Phipps, Frank Fornoff, Judge John A. Lopp, Howard P. French, B. A. Harvey and Theodore G. Risley.

The bar of Wabash County has been excep-

tionally able and honorable, and has reflected deserved credit and honor upon its people.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.—The excellent and authentic history of Edwards, Lawrence and Wabash Counties published by J. L. McDonough & Co., in 1883, and written by an author of enviable literary repute, whose learning evinced a vast knowledge of history, and who possessed the rare gift of embellishing ordinary facts with fascinating charms, contains a complete list of all the officials of Edwards County up to 1824 and of Wabash County from that period down to 1882. For that reason we deem it advisable to commence the list with the year 1882, bringing it down to date.

Following is a list of the county officers, with the date of election, from 1882:

1882.

Office.	Name.	When Elected.
County Judge	Stephen C. Midgett.	Nov. 7, 1882
Sheriff	Francis M. Cowling.	Nov. 7, 1882
County Clerk	Isaac F. Price.	Nov. 7, 1882
Treasurer	Peter P. Keepes.	Nov. 7, 1882
Supt. Schools	Alfred P. Manley.	Nov. 7, 1882
Coroner	A. J. McIntosh.	Nov. 7, 1882

1884.

Circuit Clerk	John T. Burkett.	Nov. 4, 1884
State's Attorney	Mahlon H. Mundy.	Nov. 4, 1884
Surveyor	Geo. C. Harvey.	Nov. 4, 1884
Coroner	A. J. McIntosh.	Nov. 4, 1884

1886.

County Judge	Millard F. Hoskinson	Nov. 2, 1886
Sheriff	Alfred McNair	Nov. 2, 1886
County Clerk	Isaac F. Price.	Nov. 2, 1886
Treasurer	Andres Wirth	Nov. 2, 1886
Supt. Schools	Alfred P. Manley	Nov. 2, 1886

1888.

Circuit Clerk	Geo. C. Harvey.	Nov. 6, 1888
State's Attorney	Mahlon H. Mundy.	Nov. 6, 1888
Coroner	A. J. McIntosh	Nov. 6, 1888
Surveyor	Robert Buchanan	Nov. 6, 1888

1890.

County Judge	Stephen C. Midgett.	Nov. 4, 1890
Sheriff	Alex Compton	Nov. 4, 1890
County Clerk	Sebastian Weigand.	Nov. 4, 1890
Treasurer	James F. Selbert.	Nov. 4, 1890
Supt. Schools	Joseph E. Ramsey.	Nov. 4, 1890

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1892.

County Judge—Henry J. Henning...Nov. 8, 1892
 State's Attorney—Mahlon H. Mundy...Nov. 8, 1892
 Circuit Clerk—Geo. C. Harvey...Nov. 8, 1892
 Coroner—Jas. E. Inskeep...Nov. 8, 1892
 Surveyor—Carlton Hershey.....

1894.

County Judge—Robert Bell.....Nov. 6, 1894
 Sheriff—Alfred McNairNov. 6, 1894
 County Clerk—F. M. Baird.....Nov. 6, 1894
 Supt. Schools—J. Eli Ramsey.....Nov. 6, 1894
 Treasurer—E. B. Keneipp

1896.

Circuit Clerk—Geo. C. Harvey...Nov. 3, 1896
 State's Attorney—Geo. P. Ramsey...Nov. 3, 1896
 Coroner—Jas. E. Inskeep...Nov. 3, 1896
 Surveyor—Carlton HersheyNov. 3, 1896

1898.

County Judge—Lyman Leeds.....Nov. 8, 1898
 Sheriff—Alex ComptonNov. 8, 1898
 County Clerk—George A. King.....Nov. 8, 1898
 Treasurer—M. R. Jones.....Nov. 8, 1898

1900.

Circuit Clerk—Geo. C. Harvey...Nov. 6, 1900
 State's Attorney—Geo. P. Ramsey...Nov. 6, 1900
 Coroner—John C. Utter.....Nov. 6, 1900
 Surveyor—Carlton HersheyNov. 6, 1900

1902.

County Judge—Lyman LeedsNov. 4, 1902
 Sheriff—Thomas E. Barry.....Nov. 4, 1902
 County Clerk—George A. King.....Nov. 4, 1902
 Supt. Schools—A. E. Smith.....Nov. 4, 1902
 Treasurer—J. E. MoyerNov. 4, 1902

1903.

County Judge—S. Z. Landes.....Nov. 3, 1903
 Treasurer—William SteinNov. 3, 1903
 Surveyor—C. DenhamNov. 3, 1903

1904.

Circuit Clerk—Dan F. Seibert....Nov. 8, 1904
 State's Attorney—Peter J. Kolb....Nov. 8, 1904
 Surveyor—Clyde DenhamNov. 8, 1904
 Coroner—Jas. E. Inskeep.....Nov. 8, 1904

1906.

County Judge—J. A. Lopp.....Nov. 6, 1906
 Sheriff—Alex ComptonNov. 6, 1906
 County Clerk—James A. Carlton...Nov. 6, 1906
 Supt. Schools—S. A. Mayne.....Nov. 6, 1906
 Treasurer—Charles BuchananNov. 6, 1906
 Surveyor—Guy W. Courter.....Nov. 3, 1908

1907.

Sheriff—Benjamin F. Moore.....Jan. 29, 1907

1908.

Circuit Clerk—Geo. L. Hockgeiger...Nov. 3, 1908
 State's Attorney—H. M. Phipps.....Nov. 3, 1908
 Surveyor—Guy W. Courter.....Nov. 3, 1908
 Coroner—John J. McIntosh.....Nov. 3, 1908

CHAPTER VIII.

INDUSTRIAL—PUBLIC UTILITIES.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS—STREAMS AND WATER FACILITIES—ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE AND TILING—SOIL AND CEREAL CROPS—VEGETABLE AND FRUIT PRODUCTS—STOCK BREEDING—WABASH COUNTY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION—COUNTY FAIRS—TRANSPORTATION AND RAILWAY FACILITIES—THE BIG FOUR RAILROAD—THE GRAND RAPIDS DAM—FISHING INDUSTRY—DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSSEL-SHELL INDUSTRY—VALUABLE PEARL DISCOVERIES.

Wabash County, although in extent of territory one of the smallest counties in Illinois, is one of the most highly favored by nature and, as an agricultural district, is unexcelled in fertility and productiveness.

No county in the State is better watered. The Wabash River skirts the entire county on the south and east; the Bon Pas, a large stream flowing into the Wabash, forms the boundary on the west; the Raccoon, another stream of considerable size, forms the northern boundary from the Wabash westward, and three creeks of never falling water traverse the interior. The well water in Mt. Carmel, and in nearly every part of the county, is of exceptional purity, the wells in most instances penetrating sandstone before reaching veins of water.

The county is probably the best drained and tilled of any in the State, and there is not an acre of soil, under present improved conditions, that is not capable of producing abundant crops of almost any variety grown in a temperate or semi-tropical climate. The soil is especially well adapted to the growth of cereals. Wheat crops average from 20 to 45 bushels per acre.

ILLINOIS

HISTORICAL

Editors :

NEWTON BATEMAN, LL. D.
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WABASH COUNTY

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ILLUSTRATED

CHICAGO
MUNSELL PUBLISHING COMPANY
1911