

Norman, 1855-65; J. W. Lewis, 1865-66; Jesse Bishop, 1866-69; James M. Spain, 1869-73; Jesse Bishop, 1873-77; George W. Young, 1877-82; James M. Washburn, 1882-86; W. W. Duncan, present incumbent, elected in 1886. The following is a list of the names of the associate justices who served as a part of the county court for the transaction of the county business from 1849 to 1873: Jacob Norris and R. L. Pulley, 1849-57; Thomas Scurlock and Thomas D. Davis, 1857-61; John Brown, 1861-62; Jonathan Norman, 1861-65; Thomas Scurlock, 1862-65; Addison Reese, 1865-69; Wm. M. Hindman, 1865-69; John H. Manier and Bazzel Holland, 1869-73. The following is a list of the names of the county commissioners who served from 1873 to the present writing.: M. S. Strike, 1873-76; C. M. Bidwell, 1873-78; R. H. Wise, 1873-77; James P. Roberts, 1876-79; John Scoby, 1877-83; Thos. J. Throgmorton, 1878-82; Hugh M. Richart, 1879-83; Griffin J. Baker, 1882-85; R. Borton, 1883-86; M. M. Chamness, 1883-85; J. F. Mayer, and H. H. Stanley, 1885, and B. F. Felts, 1886, present incumbents.

#### CIRCUIT COURT.

A list of the names of the judges and clerks of this court has been given in the preceding chapter. The early records thereof are missing; they were probably destroyed when the courthouse was burned. For further information concerning the courts, and the counties composing this judicial district, the reader is referred to the history of Franklin County:

#### BENCH, BAR AND NOTED CHARACTERS.

The first political leader in the territory composing Williamson County was Thomas Roberts, who was a member of the constitutional convention of 1818, and in 1838 Willis Allen and Allen Bainbridge were elected to the Legislature on the question of a division of Franklin County and the formation of Williamson.

Willis Allen came to this State from the State of Tennessee, and finally settled in what is now Williamson County, and soon after its formation "he moved to Marion and bought three acres of land from Benson. It had a log cabin on it, in which he lived for some time. He was a man of considerable talent, great shrewdness and unbounded energy. He lived respected by all, and idolized by his party. He went to Congress in 1852, again in 1854, served several terms in the Legislature, and died in 1859, while holding court as circuit judge in Saline County. Allen was a sparely built man, erect, graceful, and of uncommon strength, agility and endurance. \* \* \* He was frank, generous and confiding to a fault, and was more interested in doing a kindness to others, than serving himself. He was the father of Judge. W.J. Allen, and was the most powerful politician in southern Illinois in his day."

Concerning Judge W. J. Allen the *Morning Monitor* of Springfield, dated April 19, 1887, says: "Judge W. J. Allen received a telegram from Washington, D. C., yesterday afternoon announcing that President Cleveland had appointed him as United States district judge for the Southern District of Illinois, to fill the vacancy made by the death of Judge Samuel H. Treat. \* \* \* Judge Allen was born in Tennessee June 9, 1829, and with his father came to Williamson County in this State. \* \* \* He received his education, principally, at a boarding-school superintended by B. G. Root, near Tamaroa. At an early age he began reading law with his father, Willis Allen, and afterward attended law school at the University of Louisville, Ky. During the summer of 1850, he began the practice of law in Metropolis, and remained in that city until the spring of 1854 when he removed to Marion, and in November of that year was elected to represent the district in the Legislature. In 1855 he was appointed United States district attorney for the Southern District at the same time Judge Treat was appointed United

States district judge, and held that position till 1859, when he resigned and was elected circuit judge the following year. He was a member of the constitutional convention in 1862, and was elected to Congress to succeed Gen. Logan. Being re-elected to Congress in 1862, he served till March 4, 1865. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1870, serving as chairman of the committee on bill of rights and representing the present article of the constitution on that subject. Judge Allen has ever been regarded as an unswerving Democrat, and was a delegate to the national convention of 1860, at Charleston, S. C., as a strong supporter of Douglas. He was also a delegate to the national convention at New York in 1868, and at that of 1876 in St. Louis, being chairman of the Illinois delegation, and one of the strongest supporters of Tilden's nomination. He was an elector at large on the Tilden ticket in the same year, and was a delegate to the national convention at Chicago in 1884, at which time and place he warmly advocated the nomination of Cleveland, notwithstanding his cordial relation with and friendship for the late Vice-President Hendricks. When not holding public office Judge Allen has been actively engaged in the practice of law. He was several years the partner of Senator Logan, and was afterward the partner of Judge Mulkey, present member of the supreme bench of Illinois. At one time he was the law partner of Hon. S. P. Wheeler of Cairo. Judge Allen came to this city last June, and has since been associated with Messrs. C. C. and Stewart Brown." His partnership with Senator Logan was while he resided at Marion.

"Anderson P. Corder was known in Franklin County as a school teacher. He came to Marion in 1840, and commenced the practice of law. He figured in politics until 1874, and was the most singular politician ever in the county. Sometimes he would rise in public estimation until he could have been elected to any office, then again sink beneath public contempt. He was in the

State Senate one term, and held the position of master in chancery. He was not a profound thinker, but a witty, fluent speaker. From 1840 to 1850, he held almost despotic political influence. No man thought of running for office without his consent; but in later years he lived a hard, intemperate life, and not only lost his influence, but lost that respect which ought to attend a man of gray hairs. During the war he was an outspoken Southern sympathizer, but when invasion threatened this State, he drew his sword for defense." (Erwin's History.) He afterward moved to California where he was living at last accounts.

John T. Lowden was a very prominent member of the Marion Bar, and in 1848 was a delegate to the constitutional convention from this county. In politics he was a Whig, and was a man of ability, both as a lawyer and politician. The family of which Robert G. Ingersoll was a member, came to this county about the year 1853, and the next year Robert and his brother Clarke were admitted to the bar at Marion. In 1856 they moved to Peoria—before Robert G. had developed his talents, and established his great renown. John M. Cunningham, the father-in-law of Senator Logan, was a Democratic politician of considerable ability and was bitterly opposed to the Republican administration during the civil war. He was a prominent man during the organization of the county, and held several county offices thereafter. In 1869 he was appointed provost-marshal, in Utah Territory, where he died in 1874; and his remains were brought back to Marion by his daughter Mrs. Mary Logan. The present members of the Marion bar are W. W. Clemens, J. W. Hartwell, J. M. Washburn, Geo. W. Young, W. W. Duncan, L. D. Hartwell, Jerome B. Calvert, John W. Peebles, W. H. Warder, M. L. Baker, A. H. Billings and W. C. S. Rhea. The professional life of these honorable gentlemen is confined to the period of time elapsed since the late war. Some of them are well established in the practice, while the younger ones are striving with fair prospects to gain ascen-

dency. As a whole the bar averages well in ability, and compares favorably with that of other counties; and when the members composing it have made their mark, and passed from the stage of action, the future historian will write their biographies.

#### NOTED CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

The existence of the Williamson county courts and many of the officers connected therewith, as well as the courts and officers of the old county of which Williamson once formed a part, have already been recited, but the crimes, for the suppression and punishment of which these tribunals of justice have been created, are yet to be related. The task is an unpleasant one, but the historian, having "no friends to favor nor foes to punish," should endeavor to give the facts without prejudice and without unimportant details and unnecessary comments. In general the greater crimes and incidents will only be mentioned. The reader, however, will bear in mind that the taking of the life of one's fellow man is not always a crime, especially when the act of killing is an unavoidable accident or done in defense of one's own life or that of a near relative.

In 1813 Thomas Griffee shot and killed an Indian, while both he and the Indian were trying to shoot a bear out of a treetop that stood where the old courthouse burned down in Marion. The following year a man by the name of Elliott, partially colored, was working for Griffee, when a man by the name of John Hicks quarreled with, stabbed and killed him. Hicks then made his escape, and the next morning Griffee and John Phelps started in pursuit and captured him at the Odum Ford. They then took him to Kaskaskia, where the nearest justice of the peace resided, and he was there "whipped, cropped and branded," and then released. In 1818 the body of a man, supposed to have been murdered by the Indians, was found at the Stotlar place on Herzin's Prairie. In 1821 Henry Parsons, in Rock Creek Precinct, shot

# HISTORY

OF

Gallatin, Saline, Hamilton, Franklin  
and Williamson Counties.

ILLINOIS.

FROM THE EARLIEST TIME TO THE PRESENT; TOGETHER WITH SUNDRY AND  
INTERESTING BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, NOTES,  
REMINISCENCES, ETC., ETC.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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