

square, \$30; corner lots elsewhere, \$20; lots, not corner lots, \$20; back lots, \$10; out lots, \$15. It is probable that the sale of lots held as above, did not meet the expectations of the promoters of the city of great expectations, for another sale was ordered at a subsequent meeting of the Board, to take place on July 4, 1835.

No greater interest can attach to any part of the early history of the county than that which the average citizen will feel in the record of the first few sessions of the Circuit Court—then the only court in this State having a general common law, chancery and criminal jurisdiction.

For some years before 1835 the mother county, Vermilion, was within the Fourth Judicial Circuit. The act creating the county of Champaign was silent as to the relations judicially which it should sustain; but a law "regulating the terms of holding the Circuit Courts in this State," approved March 2, 1833, supplied the necessary provision. This law provided that, "when the counties of Iroquois and Champaign shall be organized under the provisions of the acts of this Legislature, then the Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit shall have power to change the time of holding courts in the county of Coles, so as to suit the time of holding courts in the said counties of Champaign and Iroquois."<sup>(1)</sup>

At that time there was no "Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit," properly so called, for by law the Judges of the Supreme Court (four in number), with one Circuit Judge, Richard M. Young of the Fifth Circuit—which included all that part of the State lying north and west of the Illinois River—held the Circuit Courts. By law Judge William Wilson of the Supreme Court was required to hold the courts in the Fourth Circuit, which he did not do. On January 19, 1835, Justice Harlan, of Clark County, was commissioned Judge of the Fourth Circuit, under a new law, and, presumably by previous notice, and under the statute above quoted, on April 6, 1835, opened the first term of the Circuit Court of Champaign County "at the house of Isaac H. Alexander."<sup>(2)</sup> With the Judge appeared Andrew Stevenson, Sheriff, who had been chosen to succeed John Salisbury, the first Sheriff. No

Clerk having previously been chosen—because no court had been held—the Court, under its constitutional authority, appointed Thomson R. Webber to the position, which office Mr. Webber held, under like appointment until the adoption of the Constitution of 1848, and after that by election by the people, continuing in said office until succeeded in 1857 by William H. Somers.

A Grand Jury was impanelled and sworn, consisting of Jacob Bartley, foreman, with Samuel Wilson, James Copeland, Jonathan Maxwell, William Jackson, James Osborn, John Bryan, Benjamin Dulemy, John Baily, Sr., John Jayne, Larkin Deer, George Bartley, Isaac Busey, Charles Busey, Charles Hapstonstall, Joshua Trickle, Matthew Busey and Joshua Taylor as members. No petit jury was called.

The official bonds of the Sheriff, Clerk and the Coroner, Adam Yeazel, were approved.

Only two cases—that of McDonald Osborn vs. William Phillips, action on the case for slander, and the same plaintiff vs. Nathaniel Hanline for the same offense, appear in the record. Both cases were continued for want of service.

On the same day of the convening of the court the Grand Jurors reported that they had no presentments to make, whereupon they were discharged and the court adjourned until court in course.

The second term was convened "at the house of Israel Knapp," which means the same place as before, Alexander having vacated the mercantile business in favor of Knapp, on October 10, 1835. Judge Alexander F. Grant, of Shawneetown, Judge of the Third Circuit, appeared and held this term, which occupied two days. Juries were called, Mijamin Byers being sworn as foreman of the grand jury.<sup>(3)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup>"The building now occupied by James Munhall, as a cabinet shop, was once used as a room for the Circuit Court. On account of its small dimensions it could not afford room enough for the Grand Jury. In lieu of a suitable room a small patch of hazel brush in close proximity was used as a grand jury room."  
—T. R. Webber, in an interview, 1854.

The early terms of the Circuit Court were held, in default of a court house, at private houses, as has been seen. No jails or other buildings for the detention of persons charged with crime were in existence. It is related that, on one occasion, a prisoner, having been tried and while awaiting the verdict of the jury then considering his case in a nearby thicket of hazel brush was detained by the Sheriff in this manner: "His hands were tied behind him and his feet were tied together; a small sapling

<sup>(1)</sup>Revised Laws of Illinois, 1833, page 165.

<sup>(2)</sup>Justin Harlan was an uncle of the late United States Senator James Harlan, of Iowa.

At this term the first jury trial of the county was held. It occurred on this date in the case of Osborn vs. Phillips, already noted. After the overruling of a demurrer, the first in the judicial history of the county, the trial proceeded, resulting in a verdict for the defendant.

The names appearing on the list of petit jurors were: Jacob Heater, John Jayne, Nelson Powell, William Corray, James Copeland, John Baily, Sr., Hiram Rankin, Frederick Bouse, Garret Moore, Isaac Burris, William Galliher and Hiram Johnson.

What would have been the next term in course—April, 1836—seems not to have been held.

Judge Harlan appeared at his post at the October term, 1836, and this term witnessed the first judgment by default in the history of the court. It was rendered against Isaiah Corray and in favor of one Chesnut, for \$265.

Col. M. W. Busey, then but a few months a resident of the county, for the first time appears on the court records as foreman of the Grand Jury. One indictment was returned into court at this term, the first in the criminal history of the county. This indictment was written by State's Attorney Aaron Shaw, and charged one John H. Busey with having disturbed the peace.

A *capias* was ordered by the court, the defendant brought in at a subsequent term and the cause "laid over until tomorrow morning," after which, at the April term, 1837, the indictment was quashed by order of the court.

The record shows the October term, 1836, and the April term, 1837, to have been held "at the court house in Urbana," whereas, all prior terms were held at private houses. This court house was the temporary court house ordered by the County Commissioners hereinafter referred to. It seems to have accommodated only two terms of the court, for the September term, 1837, is shown to have been convened at the house of Isaac Busey, which was the log house recently removed to Crystal Lake Park from Main Street, Urbana, long known as the "Wilkinson House."

The first attorney shown by these interest-

ing records to have participated in the doings of the court, was Samuel McRoberts,<sup>(1)</sup> who, at the October term, 1835 (the second term), made a motion to quash the recognizance of a client. The motion was sustained. Mr. McRoberts, with his partner, Cravens, brought the first suits, those of McDonald Osborn above noted.

Other early attorneys whose names appear as practitioners in the Circuit Court of this county were G. B. Shelledy, Aaron Shaw, of Clark County; O. B. Ficklin, of Charleston; John J. Brown, of Danville; Augustus C. French (afterwards Governor of the State), and Matthew Van Deveer.<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Samuel McRoberts was at this time a citizen of Danville and the Receiver of the Danville land office. He was afterwards, in 1841, elected to the Senate of the United States, where he served acceptably until his death in 1843. He served as one of the Circuit Judges of the State from 1825 until 1827. He then resided in Monroe County.

(2) The records of the Circuit Court of Champaign County, from which these bits of its early history have been gleaned, afford a most interesting study for the historian and antiquarian. The records were originally written, not in a book, but, as it would seem, upon loose sheets of paper such as was in use generally at that date. No ruling appears upon the sheets as manufactured, the lines followed having been made by a ruler and lead plummet. The paper is rough and coarse, and has apparently been since bound into book form, with subsequent records.

The record of the first term is in the hand writing of Judge Harlan briefly written, but generally in the approved forms of judicial records. The record of the second term is largely in the handwriting of Judge Grant. Subsequent records are partly in the handwriting of the Clerk, Mr. Webber, and partly the work of others, presumably of the judges or lawyers for some years, but finally wholly the work of the Clerk. Judge Treat wrote much of the record of terms held by him in his well known strong hand. With this Judge in 1841 came a bound book of a better quality of paper, ruled in the manufacture. There came also the use of forms in the record which more nearly conform to those in use in later years.

During the first twenty years of the life of the county a singular repetition of the same names in the juries called appears—they being mostly the names given in previous chapters of this sketch, as those who came early to the county. New names keep dropping in every year. Each day's record is duly signed by the presiding Judge, and as the terms usually lasted but two days, the record must have been actually written up as the business of the court proceeded.

The last work done by Judge Harlan in finishing up his long term of service in the county, was the writing of a decree of divorce of nine lines, whereby he forever divorced Robert Prather, the owner of "Prather's Ford," from his wife, Letitia. According to modern lights on the divorce question the merest tyro in law forms would hold that, for all of this decree, Robert and Letitia, long since dead, died in the bonds of holy wedlock.

Another feature of interest in the record is the small number of indictments found by the

was then bent down and fastened to his feet, which, being left free, raised the legs of the prisoner their length from the ground, in which position he was about as secure as if behind modern bolts and bars."—Haddock's Reminiscences, in the Champaign Times.

Judge Harlan continued to hold the courts of this county until 1841, when by a reorganization of the courts of the State by the General Assembly, which body under the Constitution of 1818 elected all of the Judges, Judge Samuel H. Treat was chosen one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, who, by the law then in force, also held the Circuit Courts. Judge Treat was assigned to hold the courts of this, the Eighth Circuit, which embraced all of the counties, fifteen in number, lying between the Illinois River and the Indiana line, and including Sangamon on the South and Livingston on the north. These courts he most satisfactorily held until the adoption of the Constitution of 1848.<sup>(1)</sup>

Judge David Davis, a resident of Bloomington and long a practicing attorney at this bar, was the first Judge for this Circuit under the Constitution of 1848. He came to his position at the May term, 1849, and held every term until the conclusion of the April term, 1861, when, by the division of the circuit, Champaign County was set off from the Eighth and became a part of the Twenty-seventh Circuit.<sup>(2)</sup>

Oliver L. Davis was chosen Judge of the Twenty-seventh Circuit at the first election held in March, 1861, at which time Joseph G. Cannon, then just commencing his professional career in the new county of Douglas,

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Grand Juries. Not until more than three years of the life of the county was the first indictment returned into court, and only twenty bills were found during the first ten years. These were for offenses most likely to occur in a new country. The offenses charged were: Disturbing the peace; obstructing a road; passing counterfeit money; assaults of various kinds; selling whisky without license; kidnaping; larceny, and carrying deadly weapons. Only two convictions followed.

<sup>(1)</sup>Under the Constitution of 1848 Judge Treat was chosen a Supreme Judge, where he served until his appointment in 1855 as Federal Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, in which capacity he served until his death in 1887.

<sup>(2)</sup>The last term held here by Judge Davis was a notable term for other reasons than the fact that it severed the strong ties which had bound the upright jurist to the people and the bar of the county for many years. At this term was heard the second murder trial in the history of the county, that of John Murphy, indicted for the murder of S. S. Rankin. It was the first criminal case prosecuted by the Hon. J. G. Cannon, then just elected prosecuting attorney for the circuit, and then entering upon the public career which has led him so near the head of the nation. While Mr. Cannon was making his closing address in that case, Beauregard opened fire upon Fort Sumter, and set in motion a force which only ended after four years of bloody war. This term ended with the call to arms, north and south.

was chosen Prosecuting Attorney. Judge Davis also served the people very acceptably. He resigned his office after five years and was succeeded by James Steele of Paris, who held but one term before the county was detached from the Twenty-seventh Circuit and added to the Seventeenth Circuit, over which that eminent "nisi prius" Judge, Charles Emmerson, then presided.

In 1867 Arthur J. Gallagher was chosen to succeed Judge Emmerson and served very acceptably until succeeded in 1873 by C. B. Smith, who was a great favorite with the people of the circuit, insomuch that he was twice re-elected, and rounded out the unprecedented term of eighteen years of judicial service, embracing the period of the greatest pressure of judicial business in the history of the county.

Judge Smith was succeeded by Francis M. Wright, whose second term had not been completed when he was called to a position on the Federal Court of Claims by appointment of the President.

Both of the last named Judges were chosen from the local bar and, during their long periods of service, gave great satisfaction to the bar and the people.

Solon Philbrick, another local attorney, has succeeded Judge Wright, being chosen to the position without a dissenting vote in the county which he is most to serve. It is expected that his judicial career will fully justify the confidence universally reposed in him.

A marked change in the manner of selecting Judges has taken place within a few years. Neither Judge David Davis, the first Judge to be elected by the people, nor any of his successors down to the last term of Judge Smith, which commenced in 1885, were chosen as the candidates of a political party. All were chosen solely with reference to personal fitness for the office in view. Indeed, to have suggested to Judge Emmerson or to either of the Judge Davises, the idea of being the nominee of a political party for the office held by them, would have been to invite an indignant refusal. Yet, when the Legislature elected Judges under the Constitution of 1818, none but those in harmony with the political views of the majority elected to that body, were considered eligible. A notable instance of a political judiciary under that system came about in the reorganization of the Supreme Court in 1841. Since the year 1885 the judi-

cial office has been held to be assets belonging to the political party holding the majority of votes. Locally it can not be claimed that the public service has materially suffered by reason of this fact, although sometimes the losing party to a controversy before the court, in summing up the causes of defeat, has reckoned the fact that he votes a different ticket from that voted by the Judge of the court, as the cause, rather than the fact that his cause was a weak one from a legal standpoint.

Soon after the holding of the first courts, the necessity of a building for court purposes was seen, as no place in which the courts could be held was in existence other than the few cabins used as private residences. To meet this want the County Commissioners, in January, 1836, ordered a temporary court house of hewn logs, twenty-four feet long and twenty feet wide, to be erected upon one of the county lots fronting on the public square. In compliance with the terms of this order the contract for the work was let to John Craig, the lowest bidder. This building was completed so far as to permit its use at the September term, 1836; for the record of that term, and of the succeeding term, shows that they were held "at the court house in Urbana." No further use for county purposes seems to have been made of this "temporary court house," as the next and several succeeding terms were held at private houses.<sup>(1)</sup>

(1)The lot upon which this temporary court house was erected, being lot No. 27 of the town of Urbana, as laid out by the County Commissioners in 1833, was, with the corner lot No. 25, sold to Asahel Bruer, March 1, 1841, who removed the building to the corner lot where it was clapped and became the hotel of Mr. Bruer, which he called the "Urbana House," and which hostelry was long the best the county-seat afforded. In it were sheltered and fed many times the Judges of the Court, Treat and afterwards Davis, the members of the bar who went from county to county with the Judge, among whom may be named the eccentric and brilliant U. F. Linder, Abraham Lincoln, Leonard Swett, J. W. Fell, Kirby Benedict, Josiah Lamborn, D. B. Campbell, J. A. McDougall (afterwards United States Senator from California), Josiah N. McRoberts, Asahel Gridley, Amzi Williams, O. L. Davis, John Pearson, afterwards Circuit Judge; and many other foreign attorneys in attendance upon the terms of the Court who attained great fame as jurists and statesmen. In it the writer found his first home and rest in Urbana, as did many who were, like him, here first as adventurers and afterwards as permanent citizens.

The building, as thus inaugurated, was from time to time added to as public demands increased, and its name changed, until it became the well known "Pennsylvania House," of the middle 'sixties, under the veteran caterer, Samuel Waters. Before him, besides Asahel Bruer—the first to open its doors to the public—were

Not until the May term, 1841, when the term is shown again to have been held at "the court house," did the Circuit Court have a home of its own.

The court house, so occupied, was a one-story building of wood, forty by twenty feet in size, and nine feet from floor to ceiling. It had a court room twenty by twenty-six feet in size, the residue of the interior space being divided into two jury rooms. Its cost was \$340.<sup>(1)</sup>

In this building Judge Treat held the terms of the Circuit Court during his period of service, and in it men of the bar, then of as humble life as any beginner of to-day, yet who later attained great fame, attended the court as attorneys.

The third court house was a very pretty building built of brick and wood, thirty by forty feet on the ground, two stories high with a bell-tower on the center of the roof, stone floor and window sills, and caps. It was built in 1848 by E. O. Smith, of Decatur, contractor, at a cost of \$2,744. In the lower story was a hall eight feet wide running from front to rear, with two offices on each side. In the upper story were the court room and two jury rooms.<sup>(2)</sup>

John H. Thomas, C. M. Vanderveer, and others whose names are not now remembered.

These lots have now again passed to the ownership of the county and are now occupied by the third jail built by the county.

(1)This building, after serving the double purpose of a school house and the county as a court house, became the first exclusive school house for Urbana. It was removed in 1848 to make room for its successor, to the lot now occupied by the First Methodist Episcopal Church. In it for several years Urbana's youngsters received the mental training which prepared them for greatness under such teachers as John Wilson, R. P. Carson, John Campbell, Samuel C. Crane, Noah Levering, William Sim, Joseph W. Sim and others.

Again the building was removed to a vacant lot at the corner of Elm and Vine streets, where after being used again as a school house, it was sold at auction to the highest bidder, February 19, 1859.—Our Constitution, February 12, 1859.

(2)In this building were delivered many of Mr. Lincoln's great speeches, which, with others, gave to him the reputation of being, before an audience of average people, one of the strongest men who ever appeared upon an American platform. One of these speeches he delivered here on the evening of the 24th of October, 1854, it being third in order of his speeches delivered against Mr. Douglas' celebrated "Squatter Sovereignty" doctrine. Major Whitney thus referred to this speech on page 215 of his "Life on the Circuit with Lincoln." "On the evening of October 24th, 1854, the writer hereof called at the old Pennsylvania House, on the east side of the public square, in Urbana, where he found Mr. Lincoln and Judge

Here for the first time were furnished by the county office-rooms for county officers. Until the completion of this building the Clerk, Mr. Webber, had kept all papers and books pertaining to the public service at his own house or at the store of Mr. Alexander, of which he had charge. True, until 1848, the accumulation of records and papers was small, and there was little need for public offices or repositories for records which had only begun to exist.

This building stood with the end to the north, occupying the center of the public square. When built, and for some years thereafter, the grounds about the court house were unfenced and contributed their share of pasturage to the support of the cows and pigs of the town.

This house gave place, in the autumn of 1859, at the close of the October term, to the third permanent house of the county, which most citizens of this day will remember, and so little need be said of its character. It was built of brick, stone and iron, by B. V. Enos, a contractor, of Indianapolis, at a cost of about \$30,000. It was so far completed as to receive the county officers into their respective apartments in the autumn of 1860, and to permit the holding of the August term (1861) of the Circuit Court in the court room. The building was not a success in its exterior appearance, but, barring the acoustical qualities of the court room, was well calculated to accommodate the courts and executive offices of the county at that time. This it did for forty years. When built it was exceeded in excellence by few in the State, but the growth

of the county from 1860 to 1900 was such as to expand all departments of the public service far beyond the capacity of the building, although many changes in the interior had been made from time to time to accommodate the growing demands.

It is reported that each of these four enterprises called forth denunciations upon the heads of the authorities which carried the enterprises through, on account of the alleged extravagant outlays of the money of the public. This opposition was particularly marked and bitter in the latter case. West Urbana—since called Champaign—had reached a position in population and influence equal to that of Urbana, and its ambitious citizens had aspirations after the county-seat. The authorities of the county were friendly to Urbana and probably thought, as did the citizens of Urbana, to set to rest at once and forever the county-seat question by the erection—even in advance of the wants of the county—of a court house so complete as to render another building unnecessary for many years to come, and so costly as to make it improbable that it should ever be discarded for another. This evident intention to forestall public needs and opinion for the benefit of Urbana met with fierce opposition in West Urbana, from which it radiated to other parts of the county and operated to overthrow the County Board, which was then made up of the County Judge and two associates, who had inaugurated the new court house movement, by the adoption of the system of township organization at the November election in 1859, followed by the choice of a Board of Supervisors.<sup>(1)</sup>

Davis in their plainly furnished bed-room, upon the hearth of which was a comfortable wood fire. It was my first interview with either of those distinguished men, but I was put at complete ease, at once, by the cordiality of my welcome by both. . . . I at once mentioned to Mr. Lincoln the fact, which had just appeared in the papers, that he and Douglas had had an encounter the previous week at Peoria, to which he answered, 'Yes, the Judge and I locked horns there.' After some further conversation and a few preliminary arrangements, the old court room opposite shone resplendent in the coruscation of eleven tallow candles, glued on the top of the nether sashes of the windows, to which place we adjourned, and where, with no preliminaries, Mr. Lincoln delivered to a full house, the following speech, never before published and it being the third speech he ever made on the mighty issue of slavery in our nation."

"On Tuesday evening Hon. A. Lincoln, of Springfield, addressed a large assembly at the court house, in opposition to the Nebraska Bill."  
—Urbana Union, October 26, 1854.

<sup>(1)</sup>Up to this epoch in the history of the county all its fiscal affairs were managed by a Board of three citizens chosen for the purpose. From the organization of the county to 1849, a board of three members, known as the "Court of County Commissioners," which was made up of the three County Commissioners, and was declared to be a "court of record," but having no real judicial authority among its legal powers, seems to have been somewhat of an anomaly.

At the adoption of the Constitution of 1848, this body was superseded in all of its powers by the County Court, made up of the County Judge and two Associate Justices. At the time above referred to, this court consisted of Edward Ater, of Urbana, County Judge; John P. Tenbrook, of Sadorus, and Lewis Jones of Salt Fork, Associate Justices. These gentlemen were old residents and were chosen with reference to the work which they did. At this time the germ of local emulation between the two towns had well developed and the county-seat was being contested for between the old and the new elements.

The passing away of the County Court as

The controversy caused by the order and contract of the County Court for the building of this court house was probably the warmest and most bitterly conducted ever carried on in the county. Two newspapers in West Urbana—both conducted by able editors who were masters of vituperation of the billingsgate brand—turned themselves loose upon the members of the County Board, as individuals, and for months gave them no rest. The effect was to stir public sentiment to its foundations, and even to move some to acts of lawless violence. On May 29, 1860, a member of the offending Board—an Associate Justice, who was a farmer—drove his carriage, containing his wife and other members of the family, to West Urbana. Upon entering the town he was, without warning, assailed by a party of zealous citizens with a shower of eggs, which spattered the carriage and the party. The sequel of this riotous act was the raw-hiding of the leader of the egging party by the official who was assaulted, and the infliction of heavy fines upon both.<sup>(1)</sup>

When the newly organized Board of Supervisors came together in obedience to the mandate of the people, a searching investigation was made into the acts of the late County Court, touching the contract for the building of the new court house, which occupied the three days of the session, with the result that all acts were unanimously approved, and the construction of the new building went on to completion without a ripple, and public sentiment was at rest.

The new century in this county was commenced with a new court-house, with which the younger readers of this sketch will probably long be familiar. The character of the structure and its high adaptability to meet the public wants, even of a much larger population, and consequent business to be pro-

vided for, renders it probable that another half-century will pass before the authorities will be called upon to meet the court-house question again.

Upon the site where was driven in the early morning of June 21, 1833, the first stake by the commissioners named in the organic act, charged with the duty of locating the county-seat, has at last arisen a Temple of Justice, the lineal successor of the little wooden building of 1840, for which the fabled blind Goddess—were she to unhoodwink herself for once—need never blush; nor need those guardians of the public welfare, the County Board of Supervisors, responsible for its existence, offer Her Highness any apologies. The public records are well and safely housed, and public business may be conducted with comfort and dignity.

The attention of the reader need hardly be called to the contrast between the first and the last structure; for contrast between the then and now confronts him at every turn in the story of his county. It is but the story of American life repeated for the thousandth time. One building cost \$34,000 and aroused a storm of complaint at the wanton extravagance of the Board; the other building cost \$150,000, and awoke no word of complaint from a constituency which commended the outlay.

On the fourth Monday of September, 1901, Hon. Francis M. Wright, a citizen of Champaign County, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court, opened the first term in the new court-house; as it happened, it was very near the fortieth anniversary of the opening of the August term, in 1861, by Hon. Oliver L. Davis (then Judge of the Twenty-seventh Circuit), in the public building which gave way to the present building.

The history of that other public building—the jail—is more briefly told than is the story of the various court-houses.

As has been seen, various were the expedients resorted to by the officers for the detention of persons charged with crime before the construction of a county jail. Fortunately, it seldom happened that a prisoner who was unable to give bail for his attendance to answer a charge of crime or of misdemeanor, came to the hands of the Sheriff. The records before 1840 show but few indictments, and those which were returned

the manager of the fiscal affairs of the county and the coming in its place of the Board of Supervisors, marked the passing of a system adopted by the early settlers of Illinois in vogue in Virginia and Kentucky, whence they originated, and the adoption in its place of the New England ideas and plan of county management. The former in public matters acted by counties, while the latter acted through the township, as the smallest unit of government. The County Court system was favored by the people of Southern Illinois, while the latter was brought here by the New Englanders of Northern Illinois.—See "Old Virginia and Her Neighbors," Vol. II., page 32.

<sup>(1)</sup>See Urbana Clarion, June 2, 1860.

The Probate Judges were: Moses Thomas, by two elections, from 1833 to 1837. He was succeeded by his son, John B. Thomas, for two years; M. W. Busey, in 1839; John Brownfield, 1841; Daniel T. Porter, 1843 to 1848; Archa Campbell, 1848, until superseded by the County Court.

The County Judges have been as follows: John B. Thomas, 1848 to 1853; Elisha Harkness, 1853 to 1857; Edward Ater, 1857 to 1861; J. O. Cunningham, 1861 to 1865; A. M. Ayers, 1865 to 1873; Joseph W. Sim, 1873 to 1877; James W. Langley, 1877 to 1890; Calvin C. Staley, 1890 to the present—still in office.

Moses Thomas was the first County Treasurer and served from 1833 to 1837. Those following were: Green Atwood to 1839; Jacob Bradshaw to 1843; M. W. Busey until 1851; Elisha Harkness until 1853; Dr. W. H. Pearce until 1855; Chalmers M. Sherfy until 1857; Rev. William Munhall until 1859; Pleasant M. Parks until 1861; Robert T. Miller until 1865; Maj. George W. Kennard until 1869; James M. Davies until 1871; John W. Hill until 1873; Thomas A. Lewis until 1886; James W. Davidson until 1890; Paul W. Woody until 1894; Dr. E. A. Kratz until 1898; Ellis M. Burr until 1902; Daniel P. McIntyre until 1906. John H. Savage has filled the office of chief deputy in this department since April, 1871, most acceptably to all.

The Sheriffs of the county have been: John Saulsbury, chosen in 1833; A. H. Stevenson, in 1834 and 1836; David Cox, 1838, 1840 and 1842; Wilson Lewis, 1844, 1846 and 1848; Edward Ater, in 1848 and 1850; Penrose Stidham, in 1852; Francis M. Owens, in 1854; Penrose Stidham, in 1856; N. M. Clark in 1858; Randolph C. Wright, in 1860; Nathan Towle, in 1862; John D. Johnson, 1864; Thomas J. Scott, in 1866; Peter Myers, in 1868; Henry C. Core, in 1870 and 1872; John D. Johnson, 1874 and 1876; James E. Oldham, 1878 to 1882; James C. Ware, chosen in 1882 for four years; P. B. Burke, 1886 to 1890; Samuel C. Fox, 1890 to 1894; Daniel D. Cannon, 1894 to 1898; Ernest Lorenz, 1898 to 1902; Cyrus S. Clark, 1902 to 1906.

The School Commissioners were: John Meade, elected 1838; Moses Thomas, 1840; John B. Thomas, 1846 and 1848; William Peters, 1850 to 1853; Paris Shepherd, 1853, re-

signed, and John B. Thomas served until 1857; Thomas R. Leal, 1857 to 1873; S. L. Wilson, 1873 to 1877; Calosta E. Larned, 1877 to 1881; George R. Shawhan, 1881 to 1902; Charles H. Watts, 1902 to 1906.

Thomson R. Webber served as Clerk of the County Commissioners' Court from the organization of the county to the change in the County Board in 1849, when he was elected County Clerk and served four years, to be succeeded by Thomas A. McLaurie, who served until 1857; Solomon J. Toy, 1857 to 1865; Capt. Nathan M. Clark, 1865 to 1869; John W. Shuck, 1869 to 1873; James S. McCullough, 1873 to 1896; Thomas A. Burt, 1896 to 1906.

Prosecuting Attorneys.—Until the adoption of the Constitution of 1848 the Attorney General was also Prosecuting Attorney for this circuit. Following this, and until his death, T. H. Campbell, of Springfield, filled the office. Succeeding him, by appointment, Amzi McWilliams, of Bloomington, acted in that capacity until the election of Ward H. Lamon, in 1856. Mr. Lamon, as Prosecuting Attorney for the Eighth Circuit, represented the people until 1861. After the creation of a new circuit, the Twenty-seventh, including Champaign County, Joseph G. Cannon was twice elected for the circuit, his term expiring with the year 1868. Martin B. Thompson was elected in 1868, and served until 1876. Before this time the law was so changed as to provide for the election of a people's attorney for each county. Under this law, Milton W. Mathews held the office from 1876 to 1884; Lewis A. Smyres, from 1884 to 1892; Randolph C. Wright, from 1892 to 1896; Andrew J. Miller, from 1896 to 1904; F. A. Coggeshall, 1904.

County Surveyors.—Garrett Moore, 1833; James S. Wright, 1838 to 1850; John L. Somers, 1850 to 1857; John Thrasher, 1857 to 1859; R. C. Wright, 1859 to 1861; L. T. Eads, 1861 to 1863; John Thrasher, 1865 to 1867; T. B. Kyle, 1869 to 1875; F. M. Price, 1875 to 1879; T. B. Kyle, 1879 to 1900; Joseph O'Brien is the present incumbent.

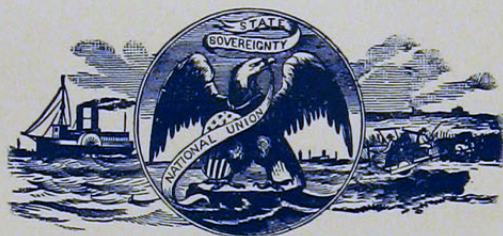
County Coroners.—James Myers, 1847 to 1854; A. M. Kerr, 1854 to 1856; B. Thrasher, 1858; W. S. Garman, 1860; A. M. Kerr, 1862; W. J. Foote, 1864; H. Miner, 1866; W. J. Foote, 1868; J. M. Tracy, 1870; S. K. Reed, 1872 to 1876; George W. Burr, 1876 to 1880;

HISTORICAL  
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PAUL SELBY, A.M.



AND HISTORY OF

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VOLUME II

**ILLUSTRATED.**

CHICAGO:  
MUNSELL PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
PUBLISHERS.  
1905.