

predicted that "sooner far could it be obtained for a railroad on the same ground, and we fully believe that one will be built before a plank one will be completed." Public sentiment showed that Mr. Colton was a prophet without honor in his own country; but time vindicated his claim to the gift of prophecy. No plank road was constructed, under the provisions of the charter. The thunder of the iron horse was heard in the distance; the day of the railroad was at hand.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

In pursuance of an act of the General Assembly, approved February 20, 1847, a constitutional convention assembled at Springfield, June 7th of the same year. The delegates from Winnebago County were Selden M. Church and Robert J. Cross. The delegates from the neighboring county of Boone were Dr. Daniel H. Whitney and Stephen A. Hurlbut, both of whom were well known in Rockford at an early date. The Journal of Proceedings indicate that all of these gentlemen took part in the discussions. Upon the organization of the convention, Mr. Church was appointed a member of the standing committee on the organization of departments and offices connected with the executive department; Mr. Cross, a member of the committee on the bill of rights; Mr. Hurlbut, on the judiciary department; and Dr. Whitney, on incorporations.

Early in the session Mr. Church introduced the following resolution: "*Resolved*, That the committee on the bill of rights be requested to inquire into the expediency of so amending the sixth article of the present constitution that it shall provide that 'there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in this state, otherwise than for the punishment of crimes whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted. Nor shall any person be deprived of liberty on account of color.'" Mr. Cross introduced the following resolution: "*Resolved*, That the committee on elections and the right of suffrage be instructed to inquire into the expediency of changing the time of holding elections from the first Monday in August to the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, and the manner of voting from *vive voce* to ballot." Mr. Cross also led in an effort to secure in the new constitution a provision for a state superintendent of schools, with a liberal salary.

NEW CONSTITUTION ADOPTED.

The convention continued in session until August 31, 1847, when the new constitution was adopted. It was ratified by the people March 6, 1848, and in force from April 1st next following. The adoption of this new constitution was a notable event in the transition of Illinois from a primitive, pioneer state to a great commonwealth. Many changes were made. A section, introduced by Mr. Hurlbut, of Boone, provided for township organization in the counties, whenever desired. The time of holding the general elections was changed from August to November; the method of voting changed from *vive voce* to ballot; the judiciary was made elective; and many improvements were made along other lines. This constitution remained in force until 1870.

CHAPTER XII.

COURTS, BENCH AND BAR.

EARLY COURT ELECTIONS—SIX JUDICIAL CIRCUITS IN 1835—EARLY COURTS CONVENE IN DWELLINGS—FIRST CIRCUIT COURT—FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGE—FIRST PETIT JURY—FIRST GRAND JURY—FIRST COURT BUILDINGS—JUDICIARY RE-ORGANIZED IN 1841—CIRCUIT JUDGES—SEVENTY-ONE YEARS COVERED—DISTRICT AND STATE'S ATTORNEYS—CIRCUIT CLERKS AND RECORDERS—PROBATE AND COUNTY JUDGES—CLERKS OF THE COUNTY COURT—BAR OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY, PAST AND PRESENT—SECOND WOMAN LAWYER IN STATE FROM WINNEBAGO—MASTERS IN CHANCERY.

EARLY COURT ELECTIONS.

Under the first constitution of Illinois, the justices of the Supreme court and the judges of the inferior courts were elected by joint ballot of the legislature. This made the courts in a sense the creatures of the legislature rather than a co-ordinate branch of the government. The legislature is always governed more or less by partisan expediency, and the reflex action

upon the judiciary compromised its independence.

The first judicial apportionment which affected Winnebago County was the act of the legislature of January 17, 1835, by which the state was divided into six judicial circuits. Under this first apportionment, what is now Winnebago County formed a part of the Sixth circuit. Thomas Ford was commissioned January 19, 1835, but he never presided over a court within the present limits of Winnebago County. Judge Ford resigned in March, 1837, and was elected governor in 1842. He was the author of "Ford's History of Illinois," an historical classic. Judge Ford was succeeded by Judge Stone, who was commissioned March 4, 1837. Judge Stone became a member of the Springfield bar in 1833. Upon his elevation to the bench, he was assigned to the northwestern part of the state, and removed to Galena. Judge Stone was legislated out of office in 1841. He removed a few years later from the state, and died in New Jersey.

The Seventh judicial circuit was created February 4, 1837, and February 23, 1839, the eighth and ninth circuits were created. Judges were appointed for these additional circuits.

The act establishing Winnebago county provided that until public buildings should be erected, the Circuit courts should be held at the house of Germanicus Kent or Daniel S. Haight, as the county commissioners should direct. At the first session of this court it was ordered that, pending the location of the county seat, the Circuit courts should be held at the house of Mr. Haight. An examination at the circuit clerk's office reveals the almost incredible fact that no records of this court previous to 1854, except the simple dockets of the judge, have been preserved. The conclusion must be drawn that this docket was the only record made at the time. Memoranda kept by individuals have given facts upon which the official records are silent.

FIRST CIRCUIT COURT.

The first Circuit court convened at the house of Daniel S. Haight, October 6, 1837. This was the frame building which stood on the northeast corner of Madison and State streets. The statute of 1835 provided that the General Assembly, on joint ballot, at that session, and every two years thereafter, should choose one state's attorney for each judicial circuit. At

this first court Hon. Dan. Stone, of Galena, was the presiding judge. Seth B. Farwell was appointed state's attorney pro tem; and James Mitchell, then of Jo Daviess county, clerk. Mr. Mitchell held this position until 1846, when he was chosen superintendent of the lead mines. He was succeeded as clerk by Jason Marsh, who was appointed by Judge Thomas C. Brown. The offices of circuit clerk and recorder were separate until the second constitution went into effect, when they were united, and this officer was made elective. The petit jurors on duty at the first term were: Edward Cating, James B. Martyn, Joel Pike, William Pepper, Richard Montague, Isaac N. Cunningham, Thatcher Blake, Henry Thurston, Charles I. Horsman, David Goodrich, James Jackson, and Cyrus C. Jenks. There were but two trials by jury, and these were of very little importance.

The sessions of May, 1838, and April 18, 1839, were also held at Mr. Haight's house; although, for convenience, a room in the Rockford House, on the corner west, was actually used when more room was required. The first grand jury was impaneled at the May term, 1838. The names of this jury were: Anson Barnum, Lyman Amsden, Isaac Johnson, James Sayre, H. M. Wattles, Asa Daggett, H. W. Gleason, Samuel Gregory, Asa Crosby, Daniel Beers, Walter Earle, Isaac Hance, Benjamin T. Lee, E. H. Potter, Paul D. Taylor, Lyman B. Carrier, Aaron Felts, Cyrus C. Jenks, James B. Martyn, Livingston Robbins, Henry Enoch, and Luman Pettibone. Anson Barnum was appointed foreman. At this term the usual order was reversed, in that the judge occupied one of the few chairs in the house, while the jury "sat on the bench."

FIRST COURT BUILDINGS.

The first building erected for the use of courts and religious meetings was built by Mr. Haight, in the summer of 1838, on the southeast corner of Madison and Market streets, on the site of the American House. It was a frame structure, about 16 by 32 feet, with one story. This house, with additions, was later the residence of William G. Conick. In this building were probably held the sessions of November, 1839, and April, 1840. Several of the lawyers who attended the courts in those days attained distinction in their profession. Among these

may be mentioned: Judge Drummond, then of Galena, who removed to Chicago and became a judge of a Federal court; Thompson Campbell, judge of a Federal court; Joel Wells, who canvassed the district for Congress; Norman B. Judd, of Chicago; and Seth B. Farwell and Martin F. Sweet, of Freeport. The famous John Wentworth, "Long John," made his maiden speech in Rockford, as attorney in a case that promised to bring him prominently before the public. Mr. Wentworth made frequent visits to Rockford in later years; and for several terms he represented the Belvidere district in Congress. On September 12, 1840, the county purchased the abandoned building on North First street, which had been commenced by the First Congregational church two years before. The consideration was \$600. The deed was executed by H. B. Potter, E. H. Potter and S. D. Preston. Since the building had been abandoned by the Congregationalist people it had been used as a carpenter's shop. When the county obtained possession the building was partially finished so that the courts could be held there. The session of September 10, 1840, and subsequent sessions were held at this place, until the transfer of the courthouse to the West side.

The judiciary of the state was reorganized in 1841 by a statute which repealed all former laws authorizing the election of circuit judges, who were legislated out of office. The state was divided into nine circuits. Additional justices of the Supreme court were appointed, who were required to do circuit duty. The judiciary, as thus organized, was continued until the entire system of an appointive judiciary was swept away by the new constitution of 1848. Under this new system the first judge assigned to circuit duty in Rockford was the Hon. Thomas C. Browne, who presided at the first term of court in the courthouse completed in 1844. Upon the adoption of the first constitution he was elevated to the Supreme bench, and served continuously thirty years, until the reorganization of the judiciary under the constitution of 1848.

Hon. Jesse B. Thomas succeeded Judge Browne in 1847, as presiding judge of Winnebago County, and served until the judiciary system was changed in 1848. Judge Thomas first held the position of circuit judge from 1837 to 1839. In 1843 he became associate justice of the Supreme court by appointment of the governor, as successor to Stephen A. Douglas, and

was subsequently elected by the legislature to the same office. He died in Chicago, February 21, 1850.

Hon. Hugh T. Dickey was the first judge to preside in Rockford after the adoption of the second constitution. In September, 1848, he was elected judge of the Seventh judicial circuit. He died in New York, his native city, June 2, 1892.

Hon. Hugh Henderson, of Joliet, succeeded Judge Dickey, and presided in 1848 and 1849. He died soon afterward, and little is known of him.

Judge Benjamin R. Sheldon succeeded Judge Henderson. Judge Sheldon was a native of Massachusetts. He came to Illinois at an early day, and resided first at Hennepin, and later at Galena. He was elected in 1848 judge of the Sixth circuit, which was afterward divided and he was assigned to the Fourteenth circuit. He remained on the Circuit bench until 1870, when he was elected a justice of the Supreme court, presiding as chief justice in 1877. He was re-elected in 1879, but retired in 1888. Judge Sheldon then became a resident of Rockford, where he died April 13, 1897. He left an estate valued at \$2,000,000. He bequeathed \$10,000 to the Young Men's Christian Association of Rockford, and \$10,000 to Rockford College.

Hon. William Brown was the first citizen of Rockford to be elected to the Circuit bench. He was chosen in 1870 to fill the vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Judge Sheldon to the Supreme bench. Under the judicial apportionment of March 28, 1873, Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties formed the First circuit. In the following June, Judge Brown was elected for the full term of six years. He was subsequently elected for two full terms, making a total period of over twenty years on the bench.

By the apportionment of 1873, the legislature divided the state, exclusive of Cook County, into twenty-six judicial circuits. In 1877 the legislature, in order to increase the number of circuit judges, and to provide for the organization of appellate courts, divided the state, outside of Cook County, into thirteen districts, and provided for the election of one additional judge in each district. In August, 1877, one additional judge for each circuit was elected for two years, making three judges in each district. Under

this act, in force July 1, 1877, the First judicial circuit, of which Winnebago County formed a part, was consolidated with the Third circuit, and made the Thirteenth. By this apportionment, Judge Heaton, formerly of the Third circuit, and Judge Bailey became judges of the Circuit court of Winnebago County, in addition to Judge Brown.

Hon. William W. Heaton was elected judge of the Twenty-second circuit in 1861, and occupied a seat upon the bench, through repeated re-elections, until his death, December 26, 1877, while serving as a member of the Appellate court for the First district.

Judge Joseph M. Bailey settled in Freeport, Ill., in 1856, and began the practice of law. His first election to the bench in 1877 was for two years, and he was re-elected in 1879 and 1885. He was several times assigned to duty on the Appellate bench, and in 1888 he was elected to the bench of the Supreme court. Judge Bailey died in office October 16, 1895.

Hon. John V. Eustace settled in Dixon in 1842, where he resided until his death. He was first elected circuit judge in 1857, and served one term. In March, 1878, he was again elevated to the bench, to succeed Judge Heaton. He was re-elected in 1879 and again in 1885. Judge Eustace died at Dixon in 1888.

Judge John D. Crabtree was a native of England, and emigrated to America in the early '40s. He went from Chicago to Pecatonica, in Winnebago County, where he worked on a farm for the late Ephraim Sumner. He then made his home in Lee County, where his entire subsequent life was spent. June 4, 1888, he was elected judge of the Thirteenth circuit, to succeed Judge Bailey. June 1, 1891, he was re-elected for the full term. Judge Crabtree died suddenly at Ottawa, May 22, 1902, while attending a session of the Appellate court.

Judge James H. Cartwright is a son of Rev. Barton H. Cartwright, a pioneer Methodist minister, and a kinsman of the famous Peter Cartwright. In 1888 he was elected circuit judge to succeed Judge Eustace, and in 1891 he was assigned to appellate duty. In 1895 he was elected justice of the Supreme court to succeed Judge Bailey, and re-elected in 1897, 1906 and 1915.

Hon. James Shaw was a native of Ireland. He served eight years in the Illinois house of representatives, and was speaker of that body in

1877. In 1891 he was elected judge for the Thirteenth circuit, and in 1897 he was re-elected for the Fifteenth circuit, under the apportionment of that year.

Hon. John C. Garver was a native of Winnebago County, and was born on a farm near Pecatonica, took a full collegiate course at Wittenburg College, Springfield, O., and studied law under the tutorship of Gen. Keifer, at one time speaker of the lower house of Congress. In 1871 Mr. Garver was admitted to the bar, and began the practice of his profession in Rockford. In 1872 he was elected state's attorney of Winnebago County, and re-elected in 1876. In 1896 Mr. Garver was elected to the Circuit bench, to succeed Judge James Cartwright, upon the elevation of the latter to the Supreme bench. Judge Garver was elected judge of the Seventeenth circuit, under the apportionment of 1897. He died November 27, 1901.

Under the apportionment of 1897, McHenry, Boone, Lake and Winnebago counties constituted the Seventeenth circuit. In June of that year Hon. Charles H. Donnelly of Waukegan and Hon. Charles E. Fuller were elected with Judge Garver, already noted.

Hon. Charles E. Fuller is a native of Boone County, where his entire life has been spent. He was born in Flora Township in 1849. After his admission to the bar in 1870 his rise to political prominence was rapid. In 1878 he was elected state senator after a bitter contest that has become historic. Judge Fuller's legislative experience covers eight years in the state senate, and six in the house. Judge Fuller retired from the bench in 1903 to take his seat in Congress.

Upon the death of Judge Garver, Hon. A. H. Frost was elected in 1902 to fill the unexpired term. Judge Frost was born in Vermont, May 12, 1856. In 1861 he came to Rockford, where he has since resided. Judge Frost read law in the office of the late Major N. C. Warner, and was admitted to the bar January 19, 1879. For some years thereafter he served Rockford as police magistrate. He was elected state's attorney of Winnebago County in 1892, and re-elected in 1896 and 1900. This office he resigned February 24, 1902.

Judge Charles H. Donnelly is a native of Woodstock, Ill., where he was born August 22, 1855. In 1890 he was elected county judge, and served until June, 1897, when he resigned.

HISTORY OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

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Hon. R. W. Wright, of Belvidere, was a candidate to succeed Judge Fuller at the election in 1903. A spirited contest was made by Charles H. Whitney, of Waukegan. The primaries in Winnebago County were held February 12, and resulted in the nomination of Mr. Wright, and he was elected. Judges Frost and Donnelly were re-elected. Judge Wright was the youngest judge who ever sat upon the Circuit bench in Rockford. He was the elder son of the late Hon. O. H. Wright of Belvidere, who once represented the Rockford district in the legislature. Judge Wright was born July 1, 1862. He read law in his father's office and was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-one. In 1884 he was elected state's attorney of Boone County, and was re-elected in 1888, 1892 and 1896, serving sixteen years.

At the election in 1909 the three judges were re-elected. Judge Wright died November 29, 1910. Mr. Whitney again aspired to the honor and was chosen without opposition at a special election. He was commissioned April 11, 1911. Judge Whitney dropped dead while conversing with a client in the courthouse chambers at Waukegan, July 18, 1914. Governor Dunne appointed Claire C. Edwards, of Waukegan, to complete the term; and in June, 1915, he was elected for a full term. Judges Frost and Donnelly were re-elected.

DISTRICT AND STATE'S ATTORNEYS.

Previous to 1870 a prosecuting attorney was chosen for each Circuit court district in the state. There is a break of six years in the early record. Shelton L. Hall was the first attorney, and served from 1836 to 1842. His successors under the district system were: James L. Loop, 1843 to 1845; Orrin Miller, Jr., 1851-1852; William Brown, 1852 to 1856; U. D. Meacham, 1856 to 1860; Smith D. Atkins, 1860 to 1864; F. C. Ingalls, 1868 to 1872. Mr. Atkins resigned soon after his election to enlist for service in the Civil war. The constitution of 1870 provided for the election of a state's attorney in each county. John C. Garver served from 1872 to 1880. He was succeeded by Charles A. Works, who held the office twelve years. Arthur H. Frost was elected in 1892, and re-elected in 1896 and 1900. He resigned in 1902, preceding his election to the circuit bench. Harry B. North was chosen to complete the term, and was re-

elected in 1904 and 1908. Gust E. Johnson, the present incumbent, was elected in 1912.

CIRCUIT CLERKS AND RECORDERS.

The clerks of the Circuit court have been: James Mitchell, 1836 to 1846; Jason Marsh, 1846 to 1847; Charles H. Spafford, 1847 to 1856; Morris B. Derrick, 1856 to 1860; O. A. Pennoyer, 1860 to 1864; William N. Capwell, 1864 to 1868; Evans Blake, 1868 to 1876; T. M. Butler, 1876 to 1888; Lewis F. Lake, 1888 to 1915, a period of 27 years. From 1836 to 1849 the offices of circuit clerk and recorder were separate. Daniel H. Whitney served 1836-1837; Harvey W. Bundy, 1837 to 1839; William E. Dunbar, 1839 to 1843; William Hulin, 1843 to 1849. In 1849 the recorder's office ceased as a separate department, and was united with that of the circuit clerk. In 1912 the offices were again separated, and John A. Bowman was elected recorder.

PROBATE AND COUNTY JUDGES.

Previous to 1837 a judge of probate was appointed for each county by the legislature. In 1837 the office was made elective, with the title of probate justice of the peace, to be filled by a vote of the people. The constitution of 1848 brought this court to an end, and transferred its powers to the judge of the County court.

Milton Kilburn was the first judge of probate, and served 1836-1837. He was succeeded by Charles I. Horsman, who held the office 1837-1838. Anson Barnum was the third judge of probate, and his term was from 1838 to 1841. John W. Taylor held the office from 1841 to 1843. Bela Shaw was probate justice of the peace from 1843 to 1849. Selden M. Church was the first county judge under the constitution, and served from 1849 to 1857. Anson S. Miller succeeded Judge Church, and retained the office until 1865. Abram S. Van Dyke, of Pecatonica, was elected in 1865, and served until 1873, when he resigned just before the expiration of his term.

Judge R. C. Bailey was first chosen in 1873 to fill the unexpired term of Judge Van Dyke. At the county election in that year he was elected, and held the office 33 years. This long service on the bench is without parallel in the history of Winnebago County, and, so far as known to

the writer, is without precedent in Illinois. Judge Bailey was born in Auburn, Me., July 28, 1833, and was graduated from the scientific department of Amherst College, Mass., in 1855. He came to Rockford and entered the profession of civil engineer which he followed until 1858, when he took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar August 18, 1860. He practiced in this city until he was elected to the probate bench. His pleasant bearing and judicial fairness made him an ideal official. He died October 27, 1910. Judge Bailey retired from office in 1906, and was succeeded by Lewis M. Reckhow, who was re-elected in 1910 and 1914.

CLERKS OF THE COUNTY COURT.

Under the first constitution this officer was clerk of the county commissioners' court. From 1849 to 1855 he was clerk of the County court and of the board of supervisors. In the latter year a separate clerk was appointed by the board, under a special act of the legislature. These offices were subsequently united. The following named citizens have served as county clerk: Don Alonzo Spaulding, 1836 to 1837; Nathaniel Loomis, 1837-1838; Anson Barnum, 1838 to 1840; Selden M. Church, 1840 to 1847; Benjamin A. Rose, 1847 to 1849; William Hulin, 1849 to April 2, 1855; Duncan Ferguson, 1855-1856; E. S. Gaylord, 1856 to 1867; I. S. Hyatt, 1867 to 1869; T. J. Lamont, 1869 to 1873; B. F. Lee, 1873 to 1877; Thomas Bell, 1877 to 1886; Marcus A. Norton, 1886 to 1915, a period of twenty-nine years. He has three years to serve.

BAR OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

Brief biographical sketches of a score of early day members of the Rockford bar have already been given in preceding chapters. They were representative citizens as were many others in a long and honorable list.

John C. Kemble, as previously stated, was the first lawyer who practiced in Winnebago County. Another early lawyer was Grant B. Udell.

James G. Manlove began the practice of law in Rockford in 1851. He held the office of police magistrate, justice of the peace, town clerk and alderman. Mr. Manlove was first elected town clerk in 1864, and served two years. In 1867 he was again elected and served until 1890, a

total period of twenty-five years. Mr. Manlove died in November, 1890.

Elijah W. Blaisdell began his residence in Rockford in 1853, and in January following purchased the Rockford Forum and changed the name to the Republican. Mr. Blaisdell attended the meeting at Bloomington in 1856, which resulted in the organization of the Republican party in Illinois. He was elected member of the legislature in 1858, and voted for Abraham Lincoln for United States senator, against Stephen A. Douglas. After his term had expired he was admitted to the bar and practiced for many years. Mr. Blaisdell died Jan. 14, 1901.

Christopher M. Brazee was one of the most aggressive advocates who ever practiced at the bar of Winnebago County. He first came to Rockford in 1855 from New York, his native state. He read law in the office of Cyrus F. Miller and H. W. Taylor, and was admitted to the bar about 1859. In 1862 he enlisted as first lieutenant in the Seventy-fourth regiment. In 1877 Mr. Brazee was elected colonel of the Third regiment Illinois National Guard, and served until his death. He led seventy-seven men of the Rifles to Braidwood to quell the riots at the mines. In 1880 Mr. Brazee was presidential elector, and cast his vote for Garfield and Arthur. Mr. Brazee died Sept. 6, 1886. His only civil office was that of city attorney, which he held from 1860 to 1872, with the exception of '63, and again in 1874.

H. D. Adams was city attorney in 1858, during the administration of Mayor Seely Perry.

Hosmer P. Holland came to Rockford with his father, John A. Holland, in 1845. He served his country as a soldier in the Seventy-fourth Illinois Infantry in the Civil war. He was for several years secretary of the Rockford Watch Company, and one of the founders of the abstract firm of Holland, Ferguson & Company.

John A. Phelps, a Rockford attorney, died July 28, 1854. The bar of the city adopted resolutions and attended his funeral in a body.

Melancthon Smith came to Rockford in 1854, studied law and was admitted to the bar. He resigned the position of postmaster to enter military service, and was killed at the storming of Vicksburg.

In the law library at the courthouse is a group picture of the Rockford bar of 1858. The practitioners of that time, not elsewhere men-

tioned in this article bore the names of Chapman, Danforth, Dunlap, Babcock, McKenney, and Hathaway.

James T. Leroy was a practitioner upon the outbreak of the Civil war. He raised a company of eighty-one cavalry men, of which he was chosen captain, but the state government then wanted only infantry, and their services were not accepted. There is a tradition that Leroy afterward joined the Confederate army, and was made a prisoner of war by Rockford boys.

William Marshall practiced in Rockford many years. At one time he was a member of the firm of Lathrop, Marshall & Taggart. Mr. Marshall removed to the South, where he died April 25, 1902.

Porter Sheldon, a brother of C. W. Sheldon, came to Rockford about 1857. He was city clerk in 1859, during the first administration of Mayor Charles Williams. In 1862 Mr. Sheldon was a member of the constitutional convention, and in 1864 he was assistant paymaster of the army under David T. Dixon. About 1868 Mr. Sheldon removed to Jamestown, N. Y., to look after the estate of a deceased brother, who was also a lawyer.

R. F. Crawford came to Rockford about 1866, soon after receiving his discharge as a soldier in the Civil war. From 1875 to 1877 he was a representative in the state legislature. He was also a member of the library board for several years. In 1888 Mr. Crawford removed to Santa Rosa, Cal., where he has served a term of six years as judge of the Superior court.

Norman C. Warner came from New York to Illinois and settled in Will County in 1849. He enlisted as a private in 1861 in the Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was advanced to the rank of major for meritorious conduct, and was dangerously wounded in 1864 at Strawberry Plains. Major Warner was admitted to the bar in Washington, D. C., in 1868, and in the following year he began the practice of law in Rockford. He served as corporation attorney from 1881 to 1884, inclusive, during the administrations of Mayors Crawford and Taggart.

A roster of attorneys, published in 1869, gives, in addition to those previously mentioned the following names: M. C. Brown, Jr., John M. Buell, J. G. Lyford, H. G. Clark, James Denison, Robert B. Archibald, B. F. McKenney.

Miss Alta M. Hulett was the first woman to apply for admission to the legal fraternity in

Winnebago County, and the second to seek such honor in the state of Illinois. Her only predecessor was Mrs. Myra Bradwell, of Chicago, Miss Hulett was the daughter of a farmer living a few miles north of the city, and a distant relative of Mrs. H. H. Waldo. She graduated from the East Side high school in 1870 and began the study of law. J. M. Wight, A. S. Miler and C. M. Brazee recommended to the Supreme court that she be admitted to the bar. That tribunal, however, refused to give her a license. The local attorneys actively espoused the cause of Miss Hulett, who delivered a lecture in old Brown's Hall Nov. 25, 1871, in which she scored the justices for their discrimination against her. Miss Hulett's friends promptly prepared an act enabling women to practice at the bar. It was submitted to the legislature and became a law. Thus a Rockford girl of eighteen years prepared the way for the women of Illinois to practice law in the courts of the state. Miss Hulett went to Chicago, where she practiced law. Her health failed, and she went to California, where she died.

Catharine Waugh McCulloch was the second woman of Rockford to be admitted to the practice of the law. She is a daughter of the late A. M. Waugh, and was born in Ransomville, N. Y., June 4, 1862. She graduated from Rockford Seminary in 1882; from the Union College of Law, Chicago, in 1886, and admitted to the bar in the same year. She was married to Frank H. McCulloch, May 30, 1890. Mrs. McCulloch has achieved distinction in Chicago by the advocacy of various reforms.

W. T. Hyde served Rockford as city attorney in 1873, during the administration of Gilbert Woodruff. J. Prynne Jones practiced law here in the later '70s. D. M. Kirton was a practitioner in the late '70s. A. E. Holt was city attorney of Rockford in 1887-'88. He subsequently removed to Chicago.

Charles A. Works was a native of Winnebago County, where his entire life was spent. From 1873 to 1875 he served as clerk of the Illinois Supreme court at Ottawa. He began the practice of law in Rockford in 1879, and the following year he was elected state's attorney of Winnebago County, and served three consecutive terms. In 1892 he was elected a member of the state board of equalization, and re-elected in 1896 and 1900. Mr. Works died in May, 1903.

Robert G. McEvoy completed his life work at

the age of 43 years. He was born in Prescott, Canada, in 1860, and came with his parents to Illinois when eleven years of age, and settled in New Milford. Mr. McEvoy studied law at Ann Arbor, and upon the completion of his course began practice in Rockford. In 1888 he formed a partnership with A. H. Frost, which was continued until the elevation of the latter to the circuit bench in 1902. This partnership was ideal, each seeming to supply those qualities in which the other was perhaps more deficient. Mr. McEvoy died July 20, 1904.

The list of members of the Rockford bar in 1887 contains, beside those previously mentioned, the following names: W. R. Weld, N. S. Aagesen, Chas. W. Allen, John Schwender, Jr., M. S. Douglas.

The present members of the Winnebago county bar are: Harry B. Andrews, W. W. Bennett, Boyd S. Beckington, Ralph E. Beckington; Roy H. Brown, R. J. Cannell, Fred E. Carpenter, Lyman Dexter, A. D. Early, B. B. Early, Byron E. Eastwood, E. W. Engstrom, Arthur H. Frost, C. W. Ferguson, A. E. Fisher, Raymond S. Frost, J. G. Filmore, James F. Finn, B. H. Garrett, J. E. Goembel, Marion E. Garmory, George P. Gallaher, Thomas E. Gill, Robert M. Gibboney, Arthur R. Haley, Roy F. Hall, Harry L. Heer, Stanton A. Hyer, Herbert S. Hicks, Walker F. Hull, Gust E. Johnson, William Johnson, B. A. Knight, B. J. Knight, William D. Knight, Frank J. C. Krahn, Edward P. Lathrop, Robert Lathrop, Richard F. Locke, A. B. Louison, Swan Lindskold, S. L. Large, O. G. Lawbaugh, Philip H. Lewis, Albin S. Lundvall, E. H. Marsh, Isaac J. Monahan, David D. Madden, F. E. Maynard, L. C. Miller, Nels. P. Nelson, Harry B. North, Burton W. Norton, Carl O. Nyman, Carrie Libby Rapp, Robert Rew, L. M. Reckhow, Frank S. Regan, Earl D. Reynolds, Frank M. Ryan, E. B. Sumner, Fred H. Smith, A. Philip Smith, John A. Smith, Shell R. Smith, E. M. St. John, Frank A. Ticknor, James G. Tetlow, R. K. Welsh, G. O. Williams, O. M. Williams.

MASTERS IN CHANCERY.

The masters in chancery of Winnebago County have been: John W. Taylor, Cyrus F. Miller, William Brown, William Lathrop, Edward H. Baker, Horace W. Taylor, Edward H. Marsh.

The services of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Marsh cover an even half century.

CHAPTER XIII.

WINNEBAGO IN POLITICS.

STATE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS—CRITICAL PERIOD FOR ILLINOIS—OPINION OF GOVERNOR FORD IN 1842—STATE DEBT REDUCED DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION—WINNEBAGO COUNTY NEVER FAVORED REPUDIATION—ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE LAWS—EARLY CONGRESSIONAL AND SENATORIAL DISTRICTS—FIRST LAW PARTNER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN—EARLY RECOGNIZED LINCOLN'S GENIUS—WINNEBAGO COUNTY FORGES TO THE FRONT—STABLE CITIZENS ELECTED TO OFFICE—CAMPAIGN OF 1840—WHIGS CARRY IN LOCAL ELECTIONS—INTERESTING SIDE LIGHTS—ABRAHAM LINCOLN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR—DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON—BITTER LOCAL FIGHT IN 1841—JOHN T. STUART REELECTED TO CONGRESS—THOMAS FORD ELECTED GOVERNOR—STATE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS—SEVEN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN 1843—WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN SIXTH DISTRICT—ELECTIONS THAT YEAR—FURTHER POLITICAL CHANGES—MORMONS MOVE FROM HANCOCK COUNTY—WHIG PARTY SUCCESSFUL IN COUNTY ELECTIONS—BIRTH OF REPUBLICAN PARTY—ROCKFORD'S CLAIM—CITIZENS REGISTER PROTEST AGAINST SLAVERY—TEXT OF CALL—HISTORIC MEETING AT ROCKFORD—ABRAHAM LINCOLN NOMINATED FOR SENATOR IN 1858—THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES—JUDGE DOUGLAS ELECTED SENATOR—CAMPAIGN OF 1860—WINNEBAGO COUNTY GAVE LINCOLN A LARGE VOTE—MR. LINCOLN'S ELECTION—MEMORIALS TO STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS—COUNTY REPUDIATES NEW CONSTITUTION—CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES IN 1862—POLITICAL ACTIVITIES—LINCOLN REELECTED IN 1864—ASSASSINATED IN 1865—THE AUTHOR'S TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN—WINNEBAGO COUNTY'S VOTE IN 1868—IN A VISIT TO ROCKFORD GENERAL GRANT MADE A PLEASING SPEECH—SECOND VISIT OF GENERAL GRANT—MEMORABLE POLITICAL GATHERINGS—PROFOUND IMPRESSION MADE BY ROBERT G. INGERSOLL—IN

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