

vided for the election of one Circuit Judge in each judicial district.

The counties of Edwards, Lawrence and Wabash have been included within the same judicial district, except from 1851 to 1873. Edwards county was erected in 1814; Lawrence in 1821, and Wabash in 1824. A reference to these dates will show a complete list of the

CIRCUIT JUDGES

doing duty in each of the counties in their respective order.

The earliest courts within the Territory of these three counties were held at old Palmyra, then the county seat of Edwards. The first session was held July 11, 1815, with Judge Stanley Griswold on the bench.

In 1816, Thomas Towles presiding. 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, was again on the bench serving one year; William Wilson again appears, serving from 1828 to 1835; Justin Harlan from 1835 to 1841, when William Wilson again returns to the bench, serving until 1849, being succeeded by his predecessor, Justin Harlan, 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 to the bench, serving until 1873. By act of Legislature, 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 formed a part of the twenty-fourth district. Tazewell B. Tanner was elected judge of the circuit, and Lawrence county formed a part of the twenty-first district and elected James C. Allen, in that circuit. In 1877, the Legislature, in order to increase the number of Circuit Judges, and to provide for the organization 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 in each circuit, in August, 1877, for two years, making three judges in each judicial circuit. The September following the Supreme Court appointed twelve of the Circuit Judges to appellate duty, the remaining judges held the Circuit Courts in their respective districts. In this change of the judiciary system the twenty-fifth and the twenty-fourth districts were thrown together 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. They presided, as required by the above act, until 1879, when Chauncey S. Conger, Thomas S. Casey and William C. Jones, were elected, and are still on the bench.

The judges serving on the bench, in Lawrence county, while that county was not included within the same

judicial circuits, were: Justin Harlan, who served until 1859, when Edwin Beecher held two terms; Alfred Kitchell served nearly two years; James C. Allen, was commissioned July 1, 1861, and resigned December 31, 1862, and was succeeded by Aaron Shaw, March 2, 1863, who continued on the bench until 1867, being succeeded by Richard S. Canby, and he by James C. Allen.

Some of the above named judges were, during their day very prominent and influential in shaping the affairs of state.

WILLIAM WILSON, a Virginian, one of the earliest judges in the State, and the first to hold court in Wabash and Lawrence counties, was for many years one of the leading jurists of the State. He served on the supreme bench for a period of almost thirty years. As already mentioned he was first appointed July 7, 1819, nine months after Illinois was admitted into the Union. January 19, 1825, he was made chief justice and occupied that honorable position until December 4, 1848. He left behind him a most excellent record, and his memory is dear to his many friends and associates. He was a man of fine personal appearance and presided over his court with great dignity. On leaving the bench he retired to a farm in White county, where he resided until his death. THOMAS C. BROWNE was also on the Supreme bench from October 9, 1818, to December 4, 1849. He was a conscientious judge.

JEPHTHA HARDIN, was a native of Kentucky, and belonged to the celebrated Hardin family of that State. He was a half brother of the distinguished Benjamin Hardin, but not his equal, although an excellent judge and a fine lawyer.

JUSTIN HARLAN, was a man of the highest order of talents and although his learning was not what is called liberal, yet he was a profound, well-read and able lawyer, and honest and impartial in the discharge of his judicial functions. He was eminently social, and gained many friends.

SAMUEL S. MARSHALL, another able lawyer, represented his district in congress in 1855, and again re-elected in 1857, '65, '67, '69 and '71, and is still figuring prominently in state and national politics.

JAMES C. ALLEN, was one of the Appellate Judges in the fourth district, and for several years a member of Congress. He is an able and sound lawyer, and while on the bench his fairness and impartiality and the correctness of his decisions won him much credit. He is a fluent and pleasing speaker and a genial, affable gentleman.

NON-RESIDENT LAWYERS.

These counties being in the same judicial circuit in the early time, they were consequently visited by nearly the same traveling attorneys. Many were the privations and hardships that surrounded the early bar of Illinois. At that time, owing to the small amount of litigation, attorneys, in order to gain a livelihood from the practice of their profession, found it necessary to fol-

low the courts from county to county. Nevertheless, some of the most illustrious legal lights that the State has produced lived in those days.

Among the distinguished men that came to practice at Edwards, Lawrence and Wabash courts in that early day were: Edwin B. Webb, for many years in the Illinois legislature; Col. William H. Davidson, who was a fair lawyer and for many years a leader in the State Senate; Gen. John M. Robinson, who was prosecuting attorney in 1821, and afterward represented the State for years in the U. S. Senate; John McLean, already mentioned, a native of Kentucky, and a good and popular lawyer; Henry Eddy, long the editor of the *Shawneetown Gazette*, and a man of fine legal ability; Thomas C. Browne, who was the prosecuting attorney at the first courts of Edwards county, and afterward Judge of the circuit; John McIntire, the prosecutor in 1816, and who for many years rode the circuit; U. F. Linder, witty and eloquent, eminent as a criminal lawyer and adroit politician; O. B. Ficklin, a profound lawyer, and leader in the national congress, who for several years was a resident of Mt. Carmel; the handsome and gifted Charles H. Constable; Samuel S. Hayes, a scholarly lawyer and preëminently a self-made man; Col. J. E. Whiting, George Webb, father of Edwin B. Webb, John Pearsons, Samuel McRoberts, Col. A. P. Field, who ranked among the ablest members of the bar of Illinois, and subsequently moved to Louisiana, and became Attorney General of that State, William J. Gatewood, an eminent lawyer, and for many years in the State Senate; August C. French, twice governor of Illinois; J. M. Krebs, John McElvain, and probably others whose names might be mentioned, but they have passed from the recollection of the oldest citizens.

EDWARDS COUNTY.

FORMER RESIDENT LAWYERS.

In early times lawyers were few in number, and resided mostly in the larger towns of the State. This being a small county, there have been but few resident attorneys, and they mostly remaining but a short time. At the first term of the Circuit court held in the county, on the 12th day of July, 1815, the following gentlemen were admitted to the practice of law: Adolphus T. Hubbard, Elias Kent Kane, Thomas H. Blake, John McLean, Russel E. Heacock, Jephtha Hardin, and John McIntire. We simply mention the fact that these gentlemen were admitted at this term of court. They however were not residents of the county. The above named, afterward became prominent and conspicuous men in Illinois. Elias Kent Kane and John McLean, having represented the state in the United States senate.

The first resident attorney at Albion was JAMES O. WATTLES. He came in 1820. He resided there for a number of years and practiced in the courts of Edwards and adjoining counties. He was elected judge of the

Fifth judicial district in 1825, and served on the bench until 1827.

AUGUST O. FRENCH, came to Albion soon after 1820, then a young man fresh from some eastern college, and engaged in teaching a select school of small children at two dollars a quarter. He also employed a portion of his time writing in the clerk's office, at the same time reading law, and it was not long afterward that he was seen in the saddle, riding the circuit with the lawyers. He afterward removed to Palestine, Crawford county, was in the legislature in 1836 and was elected Governor of Illinois in 1846, and re-elected in 1849.

JAMES B. HINDE, who was subsequently elected circuit clerk of White county, was a very early lawyer in Albion, and practiced his profession there for a period of about six years. Soon after Mr. Hinde, came SAMUEL BOOKER, a bright and talented man, who made Albion his residence until 1849, when he emigrated to California, where he afterward became a man of some prominence.

WILLIAM HARROW, was a resident attorney for a number of years. He was considered a good lawyer. Early in the late rebellion, he enlisted in an Indiana regiment, and became colonel, and served his country with credit and distinction. He was killed a few years ago by a railroad accident, while on a trip to make a political speech.

O. S. CANBY, a single man, practiced here a few years and died in Grayville, in 1868. It is said he was a studious, careful lawyer and a man of ability.

AMOS B. MATHEWS, a lawyer of ability, located here in 1867 and remained in practice until July, 1882, when he removed to Minnesota.

R. G. BROWN, located here in 1870 remaining only a few months, when he moved to Kaskaskia, Illinois.

PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

JOSEPH M. CAMPBELL, a native of Illinois, is the oldest resident member of the Edwards county bar. He received his education in the common schools of Wayne county, and began the study of law in the office of William H. Robinson, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1865. In 1866 he came to Albion and opened a law office in partnership with his preceptor, W. H. Robinson, which relation continued until 1870. Since that date, with the exception of a short period in partnership with H. J. Strawn, Mr. Campbell has practiced by himself. In 1873 he was elected judge of Edwards county, and by re-election still continues to hold that office. Mr. Campbell is a good judge of law, and a painstaking, careful lawyer.

HALBERT J. STRAWN is a native of Pennsylvania. He came west, and in 1870 was admitted to the bar at Princeton, Indiana. In a short time afterward he came to Illinois, and in September, 1872, prior to his admittance to the bar in this State, he had formed a law partnership with Judge J. M. Campbell, which continued until 1873, when he opened an office by himself. In

March, 1879, he was appointed master in chancery for a term of two years, and in 1882 he was elected prosecuting attorney. Mr. Strawn has confined himself to a general practice in which he has been very successful.

WILLIAM F. FOSTER, although a native of Indiana, has been a resident of Edwards county since he was four years of age. His education was acquired by hard, studious application to his books, having attended school only nine months in his life. In January, 1876, he began reading law in the office of F. A. Sampson, at Sedalia, Missouri, and was admitted to the bar in that State May 8, 1876, having acquired the knowledge of law necessary for admission within the short space of four months. He was admitted to practice in Illinois January 22, 1879, and located at Albion, since which he has had a good practice. In November, 1880, he was appointed master in chancery and served in that capacity for a term of two years.

LAWRENCE COUNTY.

FORMER RESIDENT LAWYERS.

Many lawyers at various times have made Lawrence county their residence, some for a very short period and others remaining for several years. It is impossible to gather the names of all those who resided at Lawrenceville in the earlier part of its history, as they have passed from the recollection of the oldest citizens.

JUDGE AARON SHAW was the earliest resident attorney that became in any way prominent. He was admitted to the bar at Lawrenceville in 1835, and remained there for several years. In 1850 he was elected to the Legislature, and in 1857 to Congress. He subsequently moved to Olney. March 2, 1863, he was commissioned circuit judge in the twenty-fourth circuit, vice James C. Allen, resigned. In 1882 he was again elected to Congress, and still resides in Olney.

JOSEPH G. BOWMAN located here about 1835. He is a fine judge of law and a successful attorney. He moved to Vincennes and from thence to Olney, where he now resides.

FREDERICK A. THOMAS, a young attorney, came about 1840, was elected circuit clerk and died while in office.

Two brothers, LOUIS and D. B. ABERNATHY, located here about 1860. The former held the office of school commissioner, and the latter was master in chancery for several years. They were promising young lawyers, and both died in Lawrenceville.

T. P. LOWERY became a resident practitioner about the same time as the above named, and remained for seven years. He held the office of county surveyor for two terms, and served in the capacity of school superintendent and justice of the peace. He moved to Texas.

WM. LINDSEY was here for a few years, leaving about 1864 or '65. He was politically inclined, a fair stump speaker, and receiving an office under the government he departed.

JOHN FIELDS, a lawyer of considerable ability, came to the bar in 1867. He graduated in the law department of the State University of Indiana. In 1870, he was a partner of E. B. Green of Mt. Carmel; was appointed master in chancery in 1871, performing the duties of that office until 1878. Failing health caused him to give up his lucrative practice here and he is now a resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

D. L. BREWER, a well known attorney, resided in Lawrenceville for a number of years.

HARRY BRISCOE, with the story of whose horrible death the citizens are so familiar, was a good young lawyer, and was for a time prosecuting attorney of the county.

T. A. STEWART, and I. N. FARNSWORTH were among those of the more recent years.

PRESENT RESIDENT LAWYERS.

The oldest resident lawyer of Lawrence county is the Hon. Wm. J. Chews. He was born in Crawford county, Illinois, in 1824, and five years later his father moved his family to this county, locating on Allison prairie. Here he grew to manhood, attending the common schools of his neighborhood, and laboring at home on the farm. At the age of twenty-one his father gave him forty acres of land, and he engaged in farming for himself. A few years later he moved to Lawrenceville, and embarked in the milling business, with which he soon became dissatisfied and returned to farm life. In 1843, he began the study of law under the directions of J. G. Bowman, being admitted to practice in 1846. It was now, for the first time, that he had an opportunity of displaying his powerful intellect. His knowledge was acquired almost entirely by self-culture, and had he devoted his entire attention to law, he would doubtless have shed lustre on the bar of southern Illinois. He is a man possessed of extraordinary judgment, a good speaker and a sound, careful lawyer. In 1869 he was elected to the office of county judge, but resigned his position in 1872, when his fellow-citizens chose him to represent them in the State Senate, where he served with distinction for two years. The Judge is still living, on his farm, near where his father settled on coming to the county.

T. B. HUFFMAN, a native of Indiana, received his rudimentary education in the common schools of his native State, completing his literary education at the Vincennes University, and at Lincoln University at Lincoln, Illinois. Commenced the reading of law in the office of Judge William B. Jones, of Lincoln, and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1869. In May of the same year he located in Lawrenceville, where he has since continued to practice his profession. In 1873, was appointed by the governor to the office of county judge, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of William J. Crews. About the close of the term of county judge, Harry Briscoe, the prosecuting attorney, died, and Mr. Huffman was chosen to fill the vacancy, and in 1875 was elected to the same for the term of four years. In 1869, he formed a partnership with

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COMBINED HISTORY

OF

EDWARDS, LAWRENCE AND WABASH

COUNTIES, ILLINOIS.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

DESCRIPTIVE OF THEIR SCENERY

AND

Biographical Sketches of some of their Prominent Men and Pioneers.

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