

The capital was removed to Springfield in 1839, as provided by the act of 1833. Vandalia rapidly declined in population, and for a number of years it seemed destined to disappear. It recuperated, however, and is now a thriving and important city with a population larger than ever before. The opening of two trunk lines of railroad which intersect at this point, and the steady growth of the country in population and wealth, have all conspired to aid in its prosperity.

The increase in population for the twenty years ending in 1870, was as follows:—

1850 . . . . .	8,075
1860 . . . . .	11,189
1865 . . . . .	15,967
1870 . . . . .	19,637
and is now 1878, estimated at . . . . .	25,000.

FAIR GROUND RAID.

During the late civil war, public sentiment in Fayette County, was divided as to the policy of the government during the prosecution of the war. A series of unfortunate circumstances occurred, which served to increase sectional animosities. In 1863 the Prov. Marshall, Jas. F. Han, with thirteen soldiers commanded by Capt. Somerville, went down to Seminary township to arrest some deserters. One of the soldiers was shot from the road-side, supposed to have been done by one of the deserters. No deserters were found. The command however arrested three citizens, to be held as kind of hostages, until the deserters should be surrendered; as they were returning to Vandalia, and in passing a school-house on the road near Robert Mitchell's place, they were fired upon by parties in ambush, and Capt. Somerville was wounded in the arm. A short time thereafter the arm was amputated, from the effects of which he died. Marshall Han brought the three men to Vandalia. They were taken thence to Olney, Ill., the headquarters of Col. O'Kane, Marshall of the district.

At this time there was an organization in the County which claimed for its object the protection of the citizens, from what they termed arbitrary arrests. They assembled at the fair ground in numbers variously estimated at from three to five hundred men, officered and equipped with shot-guns, rifles, revolvers, etc., ready to defend what they misconceived to be their rights. These men were congregated principally from Fayette and Bond Counties, with the avowed purpose of rescuing the three citizens who were taken to Olney by the marshall. After being stationed at the fair ground for a short time, they were removed some distance west of Vandalia, where they went into camp. Fresh arrivals increased the number to about seven hundred.

A public meeting was called in Vandalia, and a committee appointed, consisting of Mathias Febren, Col. Fred Reaman, Michael Lynch, Jacob Fouke and C. W. Higinbottom, were sent down to Olney to secure if possible the release of the three men. The committee had an interview with Col. O'Kane, who afterwards sent a small detachment of soldiers to Vandalia.

The crowd on learning that they were likely to come in contact with United States troops, speedily abandoned their warlike attitude and dispersed on the evening of Aug. 27, 1863.

The above combination we are informed had no connection with the Klingman gang, who committed several depredations in the County.

CHAPTER X.

BENCH AND BAR. RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY BAR BY COL. FERRIS FOREMAN.

**N**o state in the Union can boast of greater legal talents than Illinois. In the past her sons have occupied the foremost rank in a profession the most noble engaging the attention of man. And in the present she is assuredly not behind the standard as established by such men as Douglass and Lincoln. The following interesting memoir of Col. Foreman will prove entertaining and instructive.

In the spring of 1836, I arrived at Vandalia and found Alexander P. Field, Levi Davis and W. L. D. Ewing practicing law at that place. Col. Field was then and some years thereafter secretary of state, and Davis was auditor of state. Davis and Foreman became associated as partners in the practice of the law until the year 1838, when the seat of government was removed to Springfield, at which time Davis and Field both left with the seat of government, though both of them kept up their practice in Fayette County for some years thereafter. Ewing was more of a politician than lawyer. Foreman continued in the practice until the war with Mexico, in which having served twelve months he remained in Vandalia up to the spring of 1849, when he went to California, where he remained some sixteen years. As early as 1836 practicing lawyers were in the habit of traveling upon the circuit, many of the Counties in those days having no resident lawyers. Field was a successful advocate. His oratorical powers were of no common order. His reputation as an advocate and criminal lawyer was known and appreciated beyond the limits of his own state.

In the year — an affray took place between two members of the Legislature of Wisconsin, in which one of them was killed in the hall of

legislation. Col. Field was sent for, and after a long and serious litigation he was successful in acquitting the assailant in the fight. The accused, James Vineyard and his attorney, have both gone to render their account and to receive the judgment of a higher than an earthly tribunal. Field, after practicing some time in St. Louis, Mo., removed to New Orleans, La., where he died within the last two years while attorney-general.

Genl. Ewing, after the removal of the seat of government from Vandalia, was elected to the legislature and speaker of the house of representatives in the year 18—, was afterwards, in the year 18—, elected auditor of public accounts, and while holding said office expired at Springfield, the 18—

Levi Davis, soon after his term of office expired, removed to Alton, Ill., at which place he has since remained, enjoying a lucrative practice up to the present time. Davis is a native of Maryland, and is remotely related to David Davis, present U. S. senator.

Genl. Shields, from the year 1836 to the close of the Mexican war and even later, was a regular attendant upon the Fayette County Circuit Court. His military as well as political history is too well known to the country at large to need a recapitulation here. He is still enjoying a green old age on his farm in Missouri, with the plaudits of his adopted countrymen.

The history of the bar would be incomplete were the name of James W. Berry omitted. Mr. Berry occupied the post of clerk of the circuit court for full a quarter of a century, with honor to himself and to the benefit of the public. Col Berry occupied a position as ex-secretary, that but few are able fully to fill. His hospitality, kindness and genial disposition rendered him a favorite with all classes of community. The poorest man received his kindness and attention equally with the wealthy. As a humorist he had few equals, and was the life of any company in which he might find himself. Honorable and chivalrous to a fault, his word was never doubted.

Usher F. Linder, Attorney-General, elected 1836. Before the removal of the seat of government from Vandalia, Mr. Linder was frequently in attendance upon the circuit court—then presided over by Sydney Breese, now and for years a judge of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

As an orator, Linder was surpassed by few, in our state. Besides as a legislator his record is of a respectable character. He was a member of the legislature when the first internal improvement bill was passed, and was one of its warmest supporters, claiming credit therefor as many others did, until it broke down of its own weight.

During the session of the legislature in those days, the lobby, or as it was then called the third house, held its sessions almost every evening, presided over by an old lawyer named James Whitney, better known as My Lord Coke.

The proceedings of the third house were at times characterized by mirth and humor; at others, questions of the most grave character, such as never occupied the attention of the legislature then in session.

In fact the writer of this gives it as his decided opinion, that the debates in the third house (which were open to all), and its influence caused the passage of the Internal Improvement Bill which involved the state in millions and for years hung like an incumbrance upon the body politic. After the state had expended millions upon the system without having a mile of railroad in successful operation, and taxes began to tell fearfully, the Fathers of the system as is usual in cases when the plans prove abortive, were making excuses for their actions, or in the language "went to crawfishing," alleging that they were in favor of a particular railroad, but that they were compelled to support the system as a whole or lose their own particular measure.

When the system had become unpopular, one evening the question was revived in the third house, and Linder being called upon to speak said that he did vote for the whole system reluctantly, but was compelled so to do to secure his own railroad. Governor Kinney, than whom no state ever produced an abler natural man, arose and said Mr. Speaker, the remarks of the gentleman remind me of an incident that occurred on my farm.

Mr. S. I am a farmer living in St. Clair Co. A few years back the farmers in my neighborhood concluded to try their hand at raising mules; mules at that time bringing a high price. Having a pride of feeling as a farmer, I determined that I would try and raise a better mule than my neighbors. Having a large fine blooded mare, after debating with myself for a long time whether I would degrade the old mare by putting her to the long-eared brute, my pride of feeling as a farmer overcame my scruples and I put the old mare to the jack.

In due course of time the old mare dropped the colt, but when the old beast turned and saw its ears, she threw up her head and tail, snorted and ran from it across a ten acre field. Maternal instinct prompted the mare to return to the colt, but when she again saw its ears she again snorted and ran from it, and if you believe me, Mr. Speaker, the old beast would never thereafter own her own offspring.

In the session of the Legislature of 1836, the Judges, there being but four members of the Supreme Court, complained to the Legislature that the business of the Court occupied but a small portion of their time.

The third House or Lobby sympathizing with the Judges took up the question, and referred it to a select Committee. A young lawyer, named G. W. Olney, made an elaborate report. The State at that time was largely infested with wolves for the destruction of which the State was paying a bounty, and in addition thereto, the Counties were paying fees to the County Clerks for taking proper proofs under the law. To relieve the State and counties of part of the expenses, the Committee recommended that the State should be divided into four districts equal to the number of Judges; that

each Judge should receive the carcasses in his district, and preserve them until the end of each month, at which time the Judges were to meet at the residence of the Chief Justice, when and where they should proceed to count and skin the carcasses, the Justices holding the legs, the Chief Justice to do the skinning. This was to be done by the Judges without any fee or reward, thus relieving the State and counties of a portion of the taxation imposed by the Wolf-Scalp-Law.

Orlando B. Ficklin, of Coles County, was frequently an attendant upon the Fayette Circuit Court as also the Supreme Court before the removal of the seat of Government from Vandalia.

Ficklin was a successful practitioner for many years, was elected to Congress in the year —, and served in the House of Representatives for — Terms, and returned to the practice of his profession, in which he at the present time occupies a conspicuous position. Mr. F. was born in Kentucky, removed early to Charleston, Coles county, Illinois, where he has always held a conspicuous position as a lawyer.

Perhaps here it may not be inappropriate to introduce an incident that occurred in my presence. During the session of the Supreme Court in 1836 then held in the room now occupied by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the writer hereof was seated at a table, with Pirth's Digest lying before him. This was in the morning before the meeting of the Court. Ficklin entered the room, cast his eyes upon the Digest, inquired of its ownership and requested to borrow it. Was informed that it belonged to Mr. Butterfield. (Justin Butterfield), who was sitting across the room immediately opposite. F. took the book, crossed to Butterfield accosted him, "Is this your book? I should like to borrow it." B. looking over his spectacles examined the book, and upon reading its title, replied: "No, D—n the book, if there were a common hangman I would get an order of this Court to have it carried out of the Court-room and be publicly burned upon the public square." Ficklin being at that time just fresh from Kentucky, revered everything bearing the name of Kentucky, whilst B. being a New Yorker, revered everything from New York, and hated everything from Kentucky.

The profession is ably represented in the county at the present time by such men as Hon. B. W. Henry, who was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1870; Judge J. P. Van Dorsten, Ex. U. S. District Attorney; Judge Jacob Fouke, now serving his second term as County Judge; Hon. E. M. Ashcraft, Ex. State Attorney; Robt. A. Campbell, Judge J. W. Ross, A. B. McDonald and S. H. Pettibone. W. M. Farmer, Geo. B. Chapin and B. H. Chapman are young practitioners, graduates of the Chicago University, and are young men of ability and integrity.

CHAPTER XI.

MEXICAN WAR. CAPT. FOREMAN RAISES A COMPANY. RENDEZVOUS AT ALTON.

**I**N 1845, in consequence of the annexation of Texas to the United States, war was commenced by Mexico. The brilliant success of the American arms is familiar to all. Immediately on the declaration of war Ferris Foreman, who was a colonel of militia, proceeded to raise a company in Fayette County, which he accomplished in a single day, and of which he was elected captain.

Shortly after their organization they were ordered to rendezvous at Alton, where they at once repaired. Here Capt. Foreman was, on the 4th of July, 1846, elected colonel of a regiment of Illinois Volunteers. This company was the largest in the regiment, and numbered ninety men rank and file, and was composed exclusively of Fayette County men. After the promotion of Col. Foreman, Phillip Stout was elected captain; James W. Booth (afterwards colonel of a Union regiment during the civil war) 1st lieutenant; Richard Hawkins, 2d lieutenant; ——— Everett, 3d lieutenant; (a rank since abolished) and William Terry orderly sergeant. Lieut. ——— was elected adjutant of the regiment. The regiment was a part of Shields' brigade, and was immediately mustered in and transported by steamer to New Orleans, where they disembarked and camped on the historic battleground of 1812. After a stay of three weeks they were again embarked and taken in transport to Brazos. After remaining a few days, they marched about twelve miles above the mouth of the Rio Grande, and went into quarters at a place called Camp Patterson, where almost the entire regiment was attacked with the measles. Those fit for duty were ordered to proceed to Camargo, where they performed garrison duty for some months.

During their stay at Camargo an armistice was concluded between the two governments for six weeks. Negotiations for peace proving futile, at the expiration of that time, two regiments of Foreman's 3d and Baker's 4th, of Shields' Brigade, were ordered to meet at or near Matamoras, and concentrate with other brigades preparatory to a march through the country to Tampico, a distance of over three hundred miles. They commenced their march in November, 1846, and passed both Christmas and New Year's on the desolate route. They were constantly harassed by guerillas who infested the country. General Taylor had ordered the regiments on the Rio Grande to push on to Vileria, while he with his command followed the base of the San Nevada mountains. Taylor's intention was to go by way of Barbara Pass, thence south to San Louis Potosi, and strike for the heart

of the enemy's country. General Scott, however, countermanded the orders and changed the plan of the campaign. Taylor was ordered back to Monterey, and Shields' Brigade to Tampico, when they embarked for Vera Cruz, in the siege and capture of which they participated. They then proceeded to Cerro Gordo, a distance of about forty miles, driving the enemy before them, and when, after a severe engagement, they defeated them, pursued them some distance, and encamped in General Santa Anna's ranch. During the engagement the 3d and 4th regiments distinguished themselves for bravery and valiant conduct. Their term of service expiring, they were ordered back to New Orleans, where they were honorably discharged. Their ranks were so depleted that hardly more than half of their company returned to their homes in Fayette County.

CHAPTER XII.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF THE VALUE OF PROPERTY. ROSTER OF OFFICERS. VOTE AT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1876.



HE following tables will show the assessed value of all real estate and personal property of Fayette County, by Townships, for the years 1860 and 1877:

THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN FAYETTE COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1860, BY TOWNSHIPS.

Names of Townships.	Real Estate.	Personal Prop'ty.	Total.
Seminary . . . . .	\$ 70,945	\$ 38,085	\$ 109,030
Sharon . . . . .	100,280	58,929	159,209
Loudon . . . . .	87,482	38,944	126,426
Wheatland . . . . .	60,917	40,199	101,116
La Clede . . . . .	74,400	27,275	101,675
Wilberton . . . . .	78,981	28,471	107,452
Otego . . . . .	70,636	55,715	126,351
Avena . . . . .	56,203	25,312	81,515
Bowling Green . . . . .	67,722	25,023	92,745
Hurricane . . . . .	88,769	45,174	133,943
Ramsey . . . . .	96,108	37,955	134,063
Vandalia . . . . .	105,185	119,627	224,812
Kaskaskia . . . . .	97,469	29,610	127,079
	\$1,055,097	\$570,319	\$1,625,416

THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN FAYETTE COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1877, BY TOWNSHIPS.

Names of Townships.	Real Estate.	Personal Prop'ty.	Total.
Seminary . . . . .	\$ 93,922	\$ 22,762	\$126,684
Sharon . . . . .	164,676	74,631	239,307
Loudon . . . . .	94,896	49,480	144,376
Wheatland . . . . .	95,517	40,277	135,794
La Clede . . . . .	187,995	70,655	258,650
Wilberton . . . . .	162,743	44,804	207,547
Otego . . . . .	180,817	67,585	248,402
Avena . . . . .	155,746	63,070	218,816
Bowling Green . . . . .	119,582	35,683	155,265
Hurricane . . . . .	206,436	57,333	263,769
Ramsey . . . . .	115,037	70,297	185,334
Vandalia . . . . .	358,936	350,895	709,831
Lone Grove . . . . .	133,595	43,064	176,659
Bear Grove . . . . .	189,818	54,822	244,640
Sefton . . . . .	221,964	68,647	290,611
Kaskaskia * . . . . .	194,933	57,976	252,909
	\$2,676,602	\$1,077,051	\$3,755,653

A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES from Fayette, or from the District in which said County was included, from 1822 to 1877. (County Incorporated 1821).

SENATORS.	
Martin Jones, . . . . .	in 1822
Francis Kirkpatrick, . . . . .	in 1824 & 26
R. K. McLaughlin, . . . . .	in 1828 & 30
Wm. L. D. Ewing, . . . . .	in 1832 & 34
R. K. McLaughlin, . . . . .	in 1836
R. Blackwell, . . . . .	in 1838

\* Including the present Township of Pope.

HISTORY  
OF  
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With Illustrations

DESCRIPTIVE OF ITS SCENERY,

AND

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