

originated, and was by that body passed over the veto by a large majority, but it did not fare so well in the house, as it got by with but one majority over the necessary number to carry it over the veto. The legislature then met in joint session and completed its efforts in that direction by electing by a strict party vote the following named Democrats as supreme justices under the new law: Samuel H. Treat, Walter B. Scates, Sidney Breese, Stephen A. Douglas and Thomas Ford. Although these men were fairly good lawyers, yet only two of them remained on the bench long enough to become able jurists. They were elected February 15, 1841, and Ford resigned August 4, 1842, and Breese resigned December 19, 1842, having ten days previously been elected to the United States Senate by the legislature then in session. He had for his principal opponent Stephen A. Douglas, his associate on the bench. Douglas resigned the next year, June 28, 1843. Judge Treat remained on the bench until the new constitution of 1848 changed the entire system, and he was then elected as one of the supreme judges of the new court. He was one of the most distinguished jurists of the state and served on the bench as circuit judge, supreme judge and as a federal judge altogether forty-eight years, a longer period than any other judge in the history of Illinois.

By the law of January 11, 1841, nine judicial districts were created for the entire state, and the nine supreme judges were required to hold the circuit courts. This system prevailed until the judiciary was reorganized under the constitution of 1848.

Under the 1818 constitution the probate matters were conducted by a probate judge, for several years, and then by a probate justice of the peace. These were not constitutional offices, but were created by the legislature, under the grant of power given by the constitution. The county commissioners' court, so called by act of legislature, was not a part of the judicial system mentioned in the constitution, but was created by legislative act alone, and was for the purpose of managing the county business alone, and the court had no jurisdiction of any suits between litigants, civil or criminal, but there always has been some confusion about that court and its jurisdiction, occasioned by the fact that the constitution of 1848 created a county court, with a county judge to preside, and provision for two justices of the peace to sit with the

judge in the transaction of all business, and further, they were given charge and management of the county's business, taking the place of the county commissioners' court. This system prevailed until the constitution of 1870 went into effect.

JUDICIAL POWERS.

By the terms of the constitution of 1848 the judicial powers were vested in one Supreme court and in Circuit and County courts, and justices of the peace. The Supreme court consisted of three judges, and the state was divided into three grand divisions, and at least one term annually was to be held in each of the grand divisions. There were nine Circuit court divisions, with a circuit judge elected for each division, and they were required to hold at least two sessions of court annually in each county. A radical change and one of great importance was the manner of selecting the judges. They were to be elected by vote of the people in the several divisions, except that if the legislature saw fit to do so, it might provide for the election of the three supreme judges, or one every three years after the first election, by the vote of the entire state instead of by districts, thus taking the matter of the election of judges and of creating a court system, out of the hands of the legislature, placed the courts on a more permanent basis, and during the whole time of operation under the constitution of 1848, the courts were presided over by an able corps of judges, with no fear of being legislated out of office each change of the moon.

PRESENT JUDICIAL POWERS.

By the constitution of 1870, which is now in force and effect, the judicial powers were and are vested in one Supreme court to consist of seven judges, Circuit courts, County courts and justices of the peace. The County court is made a court of record, and wholly separated from the county civil business. The legislature was granted power to provide for other courts for cities and incorporated towns. An inferior Appellate court could be created by legislature, and such was created, and there are now four appellate court districts. The judges are by law taken from among the circuit court judges. The constitution further provides that Probate courts may be established in counties of over

50,000 inhabitants, and jurisdiction of all probate matters then transferred from the county courts to the probate courts. Several counties of the state have probate courts, but there should be no confusion. County courts are often spoken of as probate courts and the county judge is often called probate judge. This is incorrect. County courts and county judges are entirely distinct from probate courts and probate judges, having altogether a different jurisdiction, but it is true that county courts have jurisdiction of all probate matters unless a probate court is established.

When Cass County was organized, the state judicial system was operating under the law enacted in 1835, which system it will be remembered was that supreme court justices held sessions of Supreme court only, and there were a number of circuits with circuit judges elected for each circuit. The act creating Cass County provided that it should be a part of the First Judicial Circuit, the judge thereof to appoint a clerk for the Circuit court and hold court at such times as he should designate.

FIRST COURT HELD IN CASS COUNTY.

The first court held in Cass County was convened at Beardstown, November 13, 1837, in an upstairs room of a frame building on lot 5, in block 11, owned by Augustus Knapp. It was not only provided in the act creating the county that the county seat should be at Beardstown until the voters determined the permanent locality, but the voters had decided at the election held in May previous that Beardstown should be the county seat of the new county. The constitution of the state provided that the judges of the various courts should appoint a clerk of the respective courts, and when the court met Judge Jesse B. Thomas, who held the first term, appointed N. B. Thompson clerk of the Circuit court. Mr. Thompson had been elected recorder for the county at the election held the previous August. Jesse B. Thomas, Jr., was a nephew of Hon. Jesse B. Thomas, who was president of the first State Constitutional Convention, and one of the first two United States senators elected from Illinois. Judge Thomas was commissioned circuit judge of the First Judicial Circuit, July 20, 1837, and resigned in 1839. The court was formally opened by Lemon Plasters, sheriff-elect of the new county, but this session of the court only lasted two days. No

trials were had, owing to the fact that prior to the convening of court there was no sheriff or other officer qualified to summon a jury, either grand or petit, or traverse, as the petit jury was then called.

INTERESTING EARLY COURT DOCUMENTS.

The principal business of the court was the qualifying of the new county officers, approving their bonds, etc. The bond of the circuit clerk was in the sum of \$2,000, and was made to the governor of the state. The bond of the sheriff was for \$1,000, and run to the people. It is interesting, however, to note that one of the first written documents considered, and ordered of record, was the declaration of Herman Lippert, an alien born, seeking naturalization as a citizen of the United States of America. From this declaration, which is subscribed and sworn to by Herman Lippert, before the circuit clerk, we learn that Mr. Lippert was about forty-three years of age, having been born in the town of Eichelheim, on October 17, 1794 A. D.; that he belonged to the German nation, and owed allegiance to the government of Hesse-Darmstadt. He further stated that he emigrated from Bremen on March 3, 1834 A. D., and landed at the city of New Orleans about June 3 of the same year. On the same day Charles Coerper, a native of Messenheim, Hesse-Darmstadt, also filed a similar declaration. Although the name of the vessel in which these emigrants came is not mentioned in their declaration as is required under the present law of naturalizations, yet it is evident they both came in the same ship, for each states that he sailed from Bremen on March 14, 1834 A. D., and landed at New Orleans, La., about June 3, 1834. Charles Coerper was about thirty six years old, having been born in the town of Messenheim, above mentioned, on December 22, 1801. Fifteen other persons filed declarations for naturalization at the same term of court. They were as follows: Henrich Schmidt, Henry Menke, Augustus Theodore Menke, John Luechke, Henry Havekluff, Henry W. Lubben, Christian Frederick Krohe, August Edward Vogel, John Jeremiah Altman, John Adolph Krohe, John Henry Rohn, John B. Bueb, Pompeus Phillippi, and Alexander Phillipi.

The court evidently did not believe in wasting time as at the close of the first day, court was adjourned to seven o'clock next morning, a pretty early hour for the middle of November.

The record, however, shows nothing done on the second, which proved to be the last day of the term, except the entering on the records of applications for naturalizations as mentioned above, and the court adjourned, *sine die*. The second term of the Cass County Circuit Court convened at Beardstown, May 21, 1838. The clerk of the court entered on the record, "present, Hon. Jesse B. Thomas, Jr., judge," but while the "Jr." is added to Judge Thomas' name in several places by the clerk, yet in any of the signatures on the records of the judge himself, the "Jr." does not appear.

Twenty-nine cases were disposed of the first day of court; one of them being a trial by jury, and as this was the first jury trial in the county, may be rightly considered of some interest. The case was entitled "The people vs. James Berry," but was a civil case. It involved the matter of damages accruing by reason of opening a new road, appealed from a justice of the peace. The jury was composed of the following named persons: John Ayers, William Nelms, Robert Lindsey, Thomas Wiggins, Alexander Culberson, Jesse B. Pierce, Stephen D. Lee, Daniel Schaeffer, Reuben Hager, Lanus Carr, Isaac Plasters and Amos Dick. The jury assessed the damages at \$25.85, and the court gave judgment accordingly, and further adjudged that the county of Cass should pay the costs and the amount of the judgment to the claimant before proceeding to open the road.

FIRST GRAND JURY.

The first grand jury impaneled in Cass County was summoned for this term of court, and was composed of the following named persons: Thomas Wilbour, foreman; Isaac Spence, Augustus Knapp, William Shoopman, Benjamin Stribling, John Daniels, Phineus Underwood, James H. Blackman, Alexander Hoffman, Robert Gaines, Ephraim Mosely, John Robeson, Elijah Carver, John P. Dick, William McAuley, Marcus Chandler, Henry L. Ingalls, Jeremiah Bowen, Jeremiah Northern, Henry Hopkins, John McDonald and Amos Hager.

FIRST JURY TRIAL.

The grand jury had business at the first term also. They found thirty indictments, two for selling liquor illegally, one for murder, and twenty-seven for gaming and keeping a gaming

house. The jury was evidently no respecter of persons, for among those indicted for gaming was a high official of the court and county. Some few stood trial and were found guilty and paid a fine, others pleaded guilty and also paid a fine, with costs. The indictment for murder was against Nathan alias Nathaniel Graves, for the killing of a Mr. Fowle: A public sale was in progress near a small general store kept by Joseph McLane, about the present site of Philadelphia. Mr. Fowle and Alexander Beard, one of the very early settlers in that part of the county, were sitting outside the store on a log, engaged in a friendly conversation, when Graves rode up on horseback, and without speaking a word drew a pistol and shot Fowle dead. Most of the men at the gathering were at a little distance giving attention to the sale, and did not realize what had happened. Those who were near were so astonished that they made no move toward apprehending Graves, who, it appears, was well known in the county. He immediately dashed down the road. At the time Graves came up, Richard McDonald, also a well known citizen of the neighborhood rode up, but from an opposite direction, and witnessed the whole tragedy. He called to the men to arrest Graves, and rode after him. When Graves saw he was being rapidly overtaken, and could not escape without disposing of McDonald, he turned, dismounted and drew a knife. Mr. McDonald, however, was no coward, and he grappled with Graves, defending himself against the knife as well as he could, catching Graves by the throat, and struggled with him until severely wounded. Help arrived, Graves was overpowered and placed under arrest. He was taken to Beardstown and placed in the calaboose, as the county jail had not yet been erected. Precaution, however, was taken to have Graves guarded. After the indictment was returned into court, Graves moved for a change of venue, which was allowed, and the case was sent to Greene County. The principal witnesses, Alexander Beard, Joseph McLane, Richard McDonald and Zebedee Wood were placed under recognizance in the sum of \$1,000 to appear at the July term of the Greene County Circuit Court. The case never came to trial, as Graves, after he was taken to Greene County, broke jail and made his escape to Kentucky, his former home. He was lost sight of for years, but it was told that he died near his old home, of natural causes.

COUNTY SEAT MOVED TO VIRGINIA.

There is no record of any further Circuit court in Cass County until May, 1839. In the meantime the county seat had been moved to Virginia. The county commissioners claimed that under the failure of Beardstown to comply with the terms of the act locating the county seat at Beardstown, and having contracted with Dr. Hall for the erection of a courthouse and jail at Virginia, which buildings were reported as completed and ready for occupancy, the official records were ordered removed to that place. The removal was delayed until the act of legislature of March 2, 1839, mentioned in another chapter, fixed as a penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of the act, a forfeiture of office of any county officers so failing or refusing to remove the records, etc., to Virginia. The May term, 1839, was convened at Virginia and presided over by Judge William Thomas, who had succeeded Judge Jesse B. Thomas, who had resigned in February of that year.

Judge William Thomas, although bearing the same name as his predecessor, does not appear to be related to him. He resided at Jacksonville, at the time he was chosen judge of the First Judicial District, and afterwards became senator from the district composed of Cass and Morgan and other counties, and although he was a good lawyer and judge, yet he became most distinguished because of the services he rendered as a legislator from this district. The October term, 1839, was held by Judge Samuel H. Treat, and this was the only term of court in Cass County to be held by Judge Treat during his forty-eight years on the bench in Illinois. Judge William Thomas held the remaining terms until the change made by the law of 1841, legislating all circuit judges out of office and requiring the supreme judges to hold the circuit courts. Judge Samuel D. Lockwood, one of the ablest judges on the supreme bench, was assigned to the first district, and so held the Circuit court in Cass County until the change in the system introduced by the terms of the constitution of 1848. The last day of the Circuit court in Virginia, before another change in the county seat, was held October 8, 1844.

OPENING OF CIRCUIT COURT AT BEARDSTOWN.

The Circuit court was opened at Beardstown, which had again become the county seat, in the

new courthouse, in May, 1845, and Judge Lockwood continued to hold the court from term to term until the change of the system in 1848. The new constitution having been adopted by vote of the people, and having gone into effect April 1, 1848, the supreme judges ceased to hold the Circuit courts, but Cass County still belonged to the First Judicial Circuit, and Judge David Woodson was elected judge of that district. The election was held on the first Monday of December, 1848. The first term of the year had been changed from May to March, and was held by Judge William A. Minshall of the Fifth Circuit, at the request of Judge Woodson. The October term, 1849, and the May term, 1850, were held by the regular judge of the district, Hon. D. M. Woodson. In 1850, the legislature changed the October term to November, which term was again held by Judge Minshall, at the request of Judge Woodson, and he also held the May term, 1851. It appears that Judge Minshall had also been requested to hold the November term of 1852, for upon the records of that term is the following entry:

"November term, A. D. 1852. First day, judge did not appear."

"Second day. On Tuesday the second day of November, the second day of the term, the parties litigant, jurors, witnesses, and officers of the court waited the arrival of the judge until four o'clock P. M., and the said judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit not appearing the court stands adjourned by due course of law until the next term thereof."

The cases tried at the Circuit court during those days were the usual and ordinary cases of attachment, replevin, case and assumpsit, and chancery cases of foreclosure, partitions, and such other cases as pertain to the chancery side of the court, with now and then a criminal case of more or less interest, according to the nature of the crime and the standing of the defendants. At no time before or since then in the history of Cass County has there been a judicial execution of any person convicted of murder. There were a number of local lawyers at Virginia and Beardstown, but it was the day of traveling lawyers. They usually followed the court from county to county, traveling on horseback, or by stage coach or oftentimes in the old fashioned, high seated buggy drawn by a single horse. Every term of court in Cass County found some of the more noted lawyers of central Illinois in attendance, from Springfield, Quincy, Jackson-

ville, Peoria and Pekin. The first week of court was usually a busy time in the town where court was being held. There was no short cause calendar in those days, and no setting of the docket ahead of convening of court, so litigants, witnesses, jurors, grand and petit, lawyers, and the idle curious, gathered in great numbers, and made a rich harvest for the hotels and boarding houses.

JUDICIAL DIGNITY.

Many anecdotes are told of the characteristics and eccentricities of the early circuit judges. They exercised more of the powers and authorities conferred upon judges by the common law, and were not hampered so much in the exercise of judicial prerogatives as judges of the present day. When judges held court in those earlier days they assumed there should be some dignity about the court, and that all that came within its jurisdiction should conduct themselves accordingly. The records of the day show that the heavy hand of the court did not fall alone upon visitors to the courtroom, or upon litigants or their respective counsel. At the November term, A. D. 1854, of the Circuit Court of Cass County, Judge Pinkney H. Walker, of the Fifth circuit, who was called to hold the Cass County court, entered two fines the same day against the sheriff, William Pitner, for failure to keep order in the court. The presumption is that the levying of the aforesaid fines had the desired effect, and the judge relented, for the record discloses that upon the last day of the term, just before adjournment, the court entered a remittance of "the fines heretofore assessed against the sheriff." Nor did the judges of the court in those days hesitate to apply the penalties of the law in matters other than decorum. A glance through the records covering a period of twelve years of the early part of the courts' existence in Cass County, shows the judges would not tolerate the taking of appeals for mere delay. In many cases wherein the appellant defaulted in prosecuting his appeal the judge assessed damages in favor of the appellee for the delay.

In February, 1857, the General Assembly of Illinois, then in session, passed an act establishing the Twenty-first Judicial Circuit. The act was approved February 7, 1857, and the new district was composed of Tazewell, Mason, Menard, Woodford and Cass counties. The act further provided for an election in all the coun-

ties composing the district to be held the second Monday of March following, for the election of one circuit judge, and a state's attorney for the district. James H. Harriott was elected judge, and Hugh Fullerton was elected state's attorney.

A CELEBRATED TRIAL.

These two names are connected with a famous trial which occurred at Beardstown, at the Circuit court, the next year, although at the time no very great importance was attached to the case except by the parties directly interested. The case was entitled "The People vs. William Armstrong," and known in history as the famous "Duff Armstrong Trial." The notoriety was occasioned solely by the fact that Abraham Lincoln appeared for the defendant, Armstrong, and by his able management of the case and his eloquent argument to the jury succeeded in clearing his client. Much space is given to this case as it is a part of Cass County history and more or less extended mention is made of it in every published life of Mr. Lincoln. A recital of the facts which led up to the trial is as follows.

In August, 1857, a religious camp meeting was in progress in Mason County, Ill., in a grove six or seven miles southwest of Mason City, and northeast of the junction of Salt Creek and the Sangamon River. It would be useless to occupy space with a description of a camp meeting. All the readers are more or less familiar with such meetings, either from personal experience, or from having read of them many times. They were an annual affair in the religious circles of the early days. Many hucksters gathered at these meetings to sell their wares to those in attendance, so that all who came were not of a religious turn of mind. A number went out of idle curiosity, many in order to meet with and visit their neighbors, and some went to raise trouble if an opportunity offered. The meeting was to close on Sunday, August 30, 1857, and on Saturday afternoon, August 29, quite a crowd of lovers of one of the principal sports of the times, horse racing, gathered about the huckster wagons some little distance from the meeting tent, in the hope of getting up a horse race, knowing that William Armstrong, commonly called "Duff" was there with his running horse. Although it was unlawful to do so, intoxicating liquor was frequently sold by disreputable persons at such gatherings; and at

County circuit as judge of the Twenty-first Judicial Circuit until 1867, when he was succeeded by Hon. Charles Turner, who held the court until the change was made under the constitution of 1870. By act of legislature March 28, 1873, the General Assembly divided the state, exclusive of Cook County, into twenty-six judicial circuits, in which a judge for each circuit was elected, June 2, 1873, for a term of six years. Cass County was a part of the Eighteenth Circuit, and Hon. Cyrus Epler was elected judge. Cyrus Epler was a son of John and Sarah (Beggs) Epler. Mrs. Epler was the second daughter of Captain Charles Beggs, one of the early pioneers of Cass County. John Epler settled on a farm near Princeton, in what is now the southern part of Cass County, with his wife and four children, the oldest of whom was Cyrus, who was born in the Indiana home, November 12, 1823. Cyrus Epler had been a practicing lawyer for some years in the city of Jacksonville, when he was elected to the bench as judge of the Eighteenth circuit. He was continuously elected and served as judge of the Cass circuit as long as Cass County was associated with Morgan County in the various circuits which were formed in and under acts of legislature redistricting the state. The act of 1897 placed Morgan and Cass counties in separate districts and ended the successful career of Judge Epler of a quarter of a century as a circuit judge.

CIRCUIT JUDGES.

By act of 1877 thirteen circuits exclusive of Cook County, were formed and provision made for the election of three judges for each district. Cass County was a part of the Seventh circuit and we had as judges, Hon. Cyrus Epler, Hon. Lyman Lacy of Havana, and Hon. Albert C. Burr of Carrolton. Judge Burr died while in office and was succeeded by Hon. George W. Herdman of Jersyville. These judges served until 1897, when under the apportionment of that year Cass became a part of the Eighth circuit in which it has remained ever since. The three judges elected for this district or circuit at the regular election, June 18, 1897, were John C. Broady of Quincy, Harry Higbee of Pittsfield, and Thomas N. Mehan of Mason City. They served for a term of six years when Judge Broady was succeeded by Hon. Albert Akers of Quincy, the other two being re-

elected. Judge Mehan, however, survived only the half of his term. He held the October term, 1906, of the Cass County court, but retired to his home in Mason City, a very sick man, and his illness terminated in his death on November 8, 1906. At the special election held December 29, 1906, Guy R. Williams of Havana was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the decease of Judge Mehan. Judge Williams has the distinction of being the youngest circuit judge in the state, being but thirty-five years of age when elected. At the next regular election held in June, 1909, he was re-elected for a full term of six years together with Judge Higbee and Judge Akers, and they are the present incumbents. Judge Higbee has also served during the entire time for which he was elected judge of this circuit, as judge of the Appellate court of the Second and Fourth districts successively. Notwithstanding the various changes in the judicial system and the several re-apportionments, since Cass County's organization, we have been favored with excellent judges. They have been very capable men, honorable and upright, learned in their profession, and conscientious in the discharge of their duties.

When the permanent location of the county seat of Cass County was determined, the Circuit court once more convened at Virginia, in the present courthouse, the third Monday of August, or on August 16, 1875.

The county courts were, by the constitution of 1870, made courts of record, and entirely separated from the business affairs of the county. They have original jurisdiction of all matters in probate and the settlement of estates, appointment of guardians and conservators, and in matters relating to apprentices and for the collection of taxes and assessments, and such other jurisdiction as the legislature may provide. The legislature has seen fit to confer upon the County court, jurisdiction of many matters and subjects until the volume of business in those courts has equaled and often exceeded annually the business of the Circuit court.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

The County court has been presided over since 1873, when the first election for judge of the court was held, by the following persons: John W. Savage, 1873 to 1877; Jacob W. Rearick, 1877 to 1882; Darius N. Walker, 1882 to 1890; Henry Phillips, 1890 to 1898; John F. Robinson,

1898 to 1902; Darius N. Walker, 1902 to 1910; Charles Æ. Martin, 1910 to 1914. Judge Martin was re-elected November 3, 1914, for another term of four years.

BEARDSTOWN CITY COURT.

An election was held in the city of Beardstown, April 18, 1911, upon the question whether or not a city court should be established for that city. The proposition to establish the court was carried by a large majority, and on June 8, following, an election was held for judge and clerk. Hon. J. Joseph Cooke was elected judge and John Listman was elected clerk. The court was formally opened November 6, A. D. 1911. The regular sessions thereafter were established by order of the judge in accordance with the provisions of the law relating to city courts.

The names of attorneys who have resided in Cass County and practiced at the bar of the various courts, in so far as they can be ascertained, have been as follows: Henry E. Dummer, J. Henry Shaw, Garland Pollard, Sylvester Emmons, Henry Phillips, Thomas H. Carter, Richard S. Thomas, Mark W. Delaha, Charles E. Wyman, Richard W. Mills, James Norman Gridley, Cassius W. Whitney, Charles M. Tinney, Arthur A. Leeper, Linus C. Chandler, George L. Warlow, William H. Thacker, George W. Martin, Richard Wade, Benjamin F. Thacker, Reuben R. Hewitt, Charles Æ. Martin, Benjamin F. Scudder, Rollo I. Woods, Milton McClure, Charles A. Schaeffer, Charles A. Gridley, William Jones, J. Joseph Cooke, I. H. Stanley, A. T. Lucas, J. J. Nieger, William T. Gordley, William H. Dieterich, Lloyd M. McClure, Leonard W. Felker, Harry F. Downing, H. F. Kors, and J. Edward Clifford.

STATE'S ATTORNEYS.

The constitution of 1870 also abolished the district attorney and provided that at the election for members of the General Assembly in the year A. D. 1872, there should be elected in each county a state's attorney, whose term of office should be four years. Under that provision of the law, Cass County in 1872, elected Linus C. Chandler to the office of state's attorney, and he served one term of four years, when he was succeeded by Arthur A. Leeper, elected in November, 1876. He also served one term;

Reuben R. Hewitt, elected in November, 1880, succeeded and served for four successive terms, or a period of sixteen years. He declined further nomination, and was succeeded by Charles A. Schaeffer, elected in 1896, who served for one term. In November, 1900, Charles A. Gridley was elected to this office and served until 1908, a period of two terms, when he in turn was succeeded by A. T. Lucas, elected in 1908, and re-elected in 1912, who is the present incumbent, his term not expiring until 1916.

CHAPTER XII.

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION.

THE TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY—REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS FROM MORGAN COUNTY—DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC MEN—CREATION OF CASS COUNTY—SPECIAL ELECTION FOR REPRESENTATIVE—CAPTAIN THOMAS WILBOURN—SECOND SESSION TENTH ASSEMBLY—RETURNS OF BEARDSTOWN ELECTION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS — SHIELD'S REPORT — CHALLENGES ABRAHAM LINCOLN—WILBOURN REJECTED—ELECTION OF 1838—WHIGS IN CONTROL IN CASS COUNTY—DEMOCRATS ELECT CARLIN GOVERNOR—JOHN T. STUART BEATS STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS FOR CONGRESS—WILLIAM HOLMES ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE FROM CASS—CAMPAIGN OF 1840—CAPTAIN CHARLES BEGGS—BIOGRAPHY OF A USEFUL LEGISLATOR—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPT PRICE SCHEDULE—DEMOCRATS CARRY STATE FOR VAN BUREN—ELECTION OF 1842—COUNTY SEAT LOCATED—ELECTION OF 1844—A CASS COUNTY PATRIOT—CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION—MORMON TROUBLE—GOVERNOR FORD'S CALL FOR MILITIA—ABRAHAM LINCOLN DEFEATS PETER CARTWRIGHT FOR CONGRESS—CONSTITUTION OF 1848—BIOGRAPHY OF JUDGE HENRY E. DUMMER, ELECTED CASS COUNTY DELEGATE TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

THE TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Tenth General Assembly of the state of Illinois convened at Vandalia, the state capital at that time, in its first session December 25,

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HISTORICAL
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
ILLINOIS

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AND HISTORY OF

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