

In the year A. D. 1869 the Farmers and Fruit Growers Association was organized in Belleville, April 3d, George C. Eisenmeyer, calling the meeting to order, and on motion David Miley was chosen temporary president and in the following month, Col. Adolphus Engelmann was elected president, G. C. Eisenmeyer and Isaac L. Terrell vice-presidents, Augustus Chenot secretary and Nicholas Boul treasurer. In August I became a member and was chosen corresponding secretary, which office I filled consecutively until 1876. For upwards of fourteen years, the history of the transactions of the society form a prominent part of the history of the county. While the object of the association was the advancement of agriculture and horticulture, it ultimately embraced every subject connected with the interest of the farm and the welfare of the county. I soon placed myself in communication with other prominent agriculturists, and invited them to attend our meetings and address us on the subjects of their own choosing; and able discourses were for several years afterwards delivered by Col. Colman, Wm. Murtfelt, Mr. Muir, Hon. W. C. Flagg, and Genl. Marmaduke besides essays from members of the society. Through the efforts of our Congressmen Col. Wm. R. Morrison, Jehu Baker and John B. Hay, and private contributions, a valuable library was formed, accessible to every member, and by the yearly distribution of seeds furnished liberally by the department at Washington, sorghum seed, and many excellent varieties of grains, fruits and flowers were introduced. Amongst the successful labors of the association, may be mentioned were appeals to the legislature that secured the present efficient collection of the taxes of the state, an improvement in the public roads, the enforcement of the stock law, throughout the county, and the doing away of all fences which has saved tens of thousands of dollars to the farmers, and the breaking up of what was known as the court house ring, exposing the corruption, that had grown into practice by many of the officers of the county, that met the ap-

proval of the mass of her citizens, by the retirement from office, those who had overcharged for their services, or betrayed their trusts. During my connection with the society I was often honored by being chosen president, secretary and librarian, and today it is a source of gratification to me that I was associated with such men as Samuel Barbour Chandler, Samuel Winn, Conrad Bornman, Joseph Ogle, Tom Winstanley, Fred Glaser, Dr. Schott, Joseph Penn, F. H. Pieper, James H. Scott, and many other honorable members of the St. Clair County Agricultural and Mechanical Society; and George C. Eisenmeyer, Isaac L. Terrell, Col. Adolphus Engelman, David Miley, Risdon A. Moore, Felix Scott, Col. John Thomas, Exter, Chanot, Miller, Helms, Joseph Smith Vellinger, and many others. It is with feelings of profound respect I record their names, most of them having already passed over the stream of death, but I treasure their memory sacredly, for many of them were noble and honorable men.

Another incident in my life I may mention, that is in the year A. D. 1875 I was chosen to serve on the United States grand jury; the Hon. Judge Samuel Treat presiding over the court; and when the members of the jury were summoned to appear and answer to their names, in looking over the body of men selected from most of the counties in Southern Illinois, and chosen for their general intelligence, firmness and excellence of character, what was my surprise when the judge appointed me foreman, and the accustomed oath administered to me, and then to the other members. When we reached the room assigned us, I expressed my regret, that the Judge should have appointed one whose ability and experience could not compare with that of many who were far more competent. When Mr. Hammond from Carthage remarked that he was satisfied with the choice, for he felt that he had already formed my acquaintance, having read Brother West's article in regard to the history of the introduction of the fruits in his county and which he had published in the records of the State Horticultural Society. Our sessions lasted about six weeks, it was a very clever body of men, we worked hard and faith-

fully; amongst the most important indictments found, was that against Driggs, the famous counterfeiter, and his accomplices; and several distillers who had violated the United States law. Our personal intercourse was uniformly pleasant, our actions harmonious, we met as strangers, but parted regretfully as friends and before adjournment every member sat in a group for their photographs. We were complimented by the Judge and the prosecuting attorney, Mr. Roe, for our assiduous labors and the rapid dispatch of business. While absence from home was always unpleasant to me, I passed many delightful hours in social visits to the hospitable homes of my old friend, B. S. Edwards, my relative, Mr. A. M. Garland, and the family of my uncle, Edward Mitchell, who was the first postmaster of Springfield, besides meeting many Christian friends at the receptions at the 2nd Presbyterian Church. During that time I was delighted with a visit from my wife and daughter, Emma, when we visited Lincoln's monument, the State house that was just completed, and rode around viewing the beauties of the city.