

THE
HISTORY

OF
COLES COUNTY

ILLINOIS.

CONTAINING

A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c.; a Directory of
its Officers; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent
Persons; General and Local Statistics; Map of Coles
County; History of Illinois, Illustrated;
History of the Northwest, Illustrated;
Constitution of the United States,
Miscellaneous Matters,
&c., &c.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:

WM. LE BARON, JR. & CO., 136 DEARBORN STREET.

1879.

of execution came, and though in midwinter (the 14th of February, 1856), and the ground white with snow, a great multitude gathered at the county's capital to witness the fulfillment of the law. The heavens were dark, as if draped in the "gloom of earthquake and eclipse," and the elements seemed poisoned with the spirit of vengeance, as manifested by the immense crowd which had assembled, not only from this, but from adjoining counties. In the meantime, a respite of thirty days was granted by the Governor to the doomed man. This produced a terrible commotion in the multitude, now changed into a howling mob, and threw it into the most insane excitement. It awayed back and forth from the Court House to the prisoner's cell, and resolved and re-resolved. The death of the fated man, in violation of law, was determined upon. His prison was assaulted by the mob, the officers of the law intimidated and overcome, and Monroe taken out of jail by ruthless hands. He was dragged to the valley west of town by the infuriated people, where a gallows was speedily erected, the doomed wretch lifted into a wagon, the rope adjusted, his limbs pinioned, the wagon moved from under him, and, without shrift, hurled into eternity. Monroe said to one man at the gallows: "I die, and if I go to hell, you will go to the same place, for you it was that sold me the whisky that has brought me to this terrible fate." What a haunting memory to cling to one through life! It is scarce necessary to add that all the best people were universal in their condemnation of the disgraceful affair.

Another dark page in the history of Coles County was the riot which took place in Charleston during the stormy scenes occasioned by the late war, and the diversity of opinion with which the people regarded it. It is a fact much to be regretted that, with a record for patriotism second to no county in the State (as reckoned by the number of soldiers furnished), that such an event should have occurred to tarnish that glorious record. Doubtless both parties, the citizens and soldiers, were more or less to blame for the collision which took place between them, and in like manner responsible for the melancholy result. Of all the wars that have scourged the earth, a civil war is the most deplorable. In England's war of the roses, we have an illustration of the direful results of such a strife, and in our own internecine war we equaled, if we did not excel, the rival houses of York and Lancaster. It may be that the high-wrought excitement of the times presented an eligible excuse for the scene enacted in Charleston on the 29th of March, 1864, between the same people (brothers as it were) who saw the cause and object of the war through different glasses. The death of several persons in the streets of Charleston was the sad consequence of that difference of opinion. The feelings engendered by the war, which culminated in bloodshed, have long since toned down, and the participators in the deplorable affair (to call it by its mildest name) doubtless regret the part they acted in it. So, in no spirit of censure beyond a condemnation of mob violence on general principles, we will pass from the subject, flinging over the sad occurrence the anapaeus robe of charity.

In his Centennial Address, Capt. Adams narrates a melancholy occurrence in the township of Hickory, at or near Hickory Grove. In the year of 1830-31, which is characterized in the history of Illinois as unusual severity, three men froze to death near this grove. They had taken to cross the prairie on horse-back; the ground was covered with ice to a considerable depth, and the air piercingly cold. In their last exertions they killed their horses, and, taking out their entrails, crawled into the carcasses, but before relief reached them they succumbed to the "Icy Terrors." The following is from the same source of information: "In the year of 1830-31, three men of the name of Ellis were killed by lightning, in the southwest corner of the county. The accident occurred on Wednesday, and they were not discovered until the Saturday following. When discovered, their bodies were as livid as that of a living person, and never stiffened like a body that meets death from natural causes. It was supposed that the lightning had broken the skin without rupturing the skin."

Passing from the grave to the gay, from the sad to the ludicrous, it is our duty, as a faithful historian, to chronicle an event that took place in Coles County in 1884, which, while it had a somewhat ludicrous termination, was begun in earnest, by one of the parties engaged in it, at least. The instance referred to, was a duel fought in Charleston, by Peter Glassco and Gately. A difficulty had arisen between them, which blood alone could settle, and, accordingly, they resorted to the code of honor to avenge wounded dignity. A challenge was sent and accepted, seconds were named, and the weapons (big "hoss" pistols) were chosen. The hostile parties, with ten paces between them, and proceeded to wipe out their wrongs in the approved style. The seconds loaded the pistols with blank cartridges, to the knowledge, however, who, it seems, was the most belligerent of the two, and the most deeply grieved. Finally, when all was ready, the parties were placed by the seconds, one, two, three, were called, and both parties fired. Gately fell, and his second, who had provided a bottle of pokeberry-juice for the purpose, ran to him and dexterously saturated his clothes with the contents of the bottle, thus giving him a most ghastly appearance. Glassco, with terror, gazed at his bleeding victim, and, horrified at the "ruin wrought," exclaimed, "My God, I have killed him," threw away his pistol, and fled. About a year afterward, he was apprised of the fact that the duel was a "put-up job," and that Gately still lived, when, with the homicide removed from his soul, he returned to the county. He never fought another duel.

That scourge of the human race, the Asiatic cholera, one of the gifts of the Old World to the new, made a visit, in 1851, to Coles County. For "it made itself exceedingly odious and repulsive," says one, "and the young alike were the victims of the fell disease." As is usually the case, it confined its ravages to certain localities only. Charleston and Pleasant Grove Townships being the most afflicted.

Jasper Co., as deputy in the office of the County Treasurer, continuing his law studies under the direction of Col. John H. Halley, a prominent attorney of that city; in November, 1872, he was elected State's Attorney for Jasper Co., although he was not admitted to the bar until October, 1873, owing to a rule of the Supreme Court of the State requiring candidates for admission to spend two years in an attorney's office; he continued to hold the office of State's Attorney until 1876; he also served one term as City Attorney; he was appointed a Justice of the Peace in December, 1876, by Gov. Cullom; in 1877, he came to Charleston and has since been engaged in the practice of law in this city. He was married Jan. 8, 1873, to Miss Emma L. Gill, a daughter of Thomas Gill, of Cumberland Co., Ill.; she died Oct. 6, 1878, leaving two children—Edith A. and Hattie A.

ELI HURON, dealer in books, stationery, musical instruments, toys, etc., Charleston; was born in Hendricks Co., Ind., Oct. 14, 1836; up to the breaking-out of the rebellion he remained on his father's farm. In February, 1862, he entered the Union army as a member of Co. A, 53d Ind. V. I., serving in the Army of the Cumberland; he participated in the siege of Corinth, and was wounded at the second battle of Corinth, on the 6th of October, 1862, from which he lost his right arm. He spent the spring and summer of 1864 as a student in Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Indianapolis, after which he went to Washington, D. C., and entered the office of the Indiana State Military Agency as a clerk under Gen. Hannaman; here he remained several months and then obtained an appointment in the War Department as a clerk in the Quartermaster General's office, where he remained till 1869, when he resigned his position and came to Charleston; he entered upon his present business, starting at first with a small stock; his business has continued to increase until he now has the largest business in his line in the city. He was married July 1, 1869, to Miss Annie Harding, of Charleston, and has one son—Rolph E.

RICE P. HACKETT, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Charleston; was born in Coles Co., Ill., Nov. 28, 1838; he is a son of Levi Hackett, who came from Scott

Co., Ky., and settled in Coles Co. in 1835, and now lives in Douglas Co., to which he removed in 1861. Mr. Hackett is the second of a family of eight children, five of whom are living. He was married Feb. 25, 1857, to Miss Ann M. Waltrip, of Hutton Tp., also a native of the county, and a daughter of John Waltrip, one of the early settlers of the county. They have nine children—William J., Eliza E., Noah M., Legrand A., Henry M., Ida J., Lula E., Eva R. and Reason A. In August, 1862, Mr. Hackett enlisted in Co. K, 123d I. V. I., and served three years, participating in all the principal engagements of that regiment; he was severely wounded at the battle of Milton, Tenn., and carries to this day a bullet in his hip as a memento of that engagement; he was again slightly wounded during a skirmish while on a foraging expedition below Murfreesboro; he settled on his present farm in 1872, where he owns 205 acres of land, well improved. Mr. Hackett and family are members of the Church of God, of which he is a Trustee and Deacon; he took an active part in the erection of their house of worship in 1876, donating a lot for that purpose from the corner of his farm.

ISAIAH H. JOHNSTON, President of the Second National Bank, Charleston; was born in Russell Co., Va., April 24, 1827; his father, Abner Johnston, came to this county in 1830, and settled in what is now Pleasant Grove Tp., and lived there until his death, which occurred in 1848. Mr. Johnston followed farming until he was 27 years old, and then engaged in merchandising, and, in 1857, removed to Mattoon, and continued in business there till 1860; he was then elected Sheriff, of Coles Co., and removed to Charleston; he served as Sheriff two years, and afterward served out the unexpired term of John H. O'Hair. He afterward followed the dry goods trade one year, and during this time was engaged also in farming and dealing in stock. In 1869, he built the first pork-packing house in the city, and the same year, in company with T. A. Marshall and John W. True, he established the banking house of T. A. Marshall & Co., which was superseded by the Second National Bank two years later. In 1871, he, with John B. Hill and Thomas Stoddert, erected the Charleston

Pork-Packing Houses, and he continued in the packing business until 1873, when he became President of the Second National Bank; he has served two terms as member of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Johnston was first married Feb. 10, 1848, to Miss Harriet Jeffries, daughter of the late Thomas Jeffries, one of the early settlers of Coles Co.; she died April 14, 1853, leaving two children—Felix, now in the Second National Bank, and Emily, now wife of Charles E. Wilson, of Charleston; Mr. Johnston was married again Aug. 10, 1855, to Miss Sarah A. Gray, of this county; they have three children living—Mattie E., Bertha and Hugh.

JACOB LINDER, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Charleston. Among the pioneers of Coles Co. who settled here prior to the year 1830, was Jonathan Linder, who was born in West Virginia Aug. 8, 1808. He was the son of a farmer, and on becoming of age he came West, accompanied by his father's family; they made the journey in wagons, and on arriving in Coles Co., they took up some land and purchased other land, and engaged in farming. After a few years, he revisited his native State, performing the journey there and back on horse-back. In 1834 or 1835, he married Miss Margaret Cossell, a daughter of Michael Cossell, another of the pioneer settlers; she was born in West Virginia, and came to the county with her parents in 1830. They continued to reside in Charleston Tp. till their death. Mr. Linder died in April, 1877, his wife having died in 1872. They left one son, Jacob Linder, who was born in Charleston Tp., Jan. 6, 1836, and who now owns and occupies the old homestead on Sec. 4, consisting of 207 acres of land. He also owns sixty-five acres nearer town. He was married May 31, 1860, to Miss Rachel A. McIntire, of Seven Hickory Tp., and has one child living—Minnie E.

GEN. G. M. MITCHELL, Postmaster, Charleston, was born in Warren Co., Ky., Oct. 5, 1835. His father, Bedford Mitchell, came to Coles Co. in 1851 and settled in Paradise Township, where he died in 1856. In 1852, the subject of this sketch, then a lad of 17, entered a store in Paradise, as clerk for Cunningham & Son, where he remained six years. He then followed merchandising for himself until

1859, when he was appointed Deputy Sheriff under Malden Jones, and served until May, 1860. On the 1st of May, 1860, he married Miss Kate Miles, daughter of John Miles, of Charleston, and has seven children. Removing to Mattoon, he formed a partnership with John Cunningham, under the firm name of Mitchell & Cunningham, and continued in general merchandise business until the breaking-out of the rebellion. In June, 1861, he entered the army as Captain of Co. C 1st I. V. C.—the first three-years regiment to leave the State. He served with that regiment till February, 1862, when he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 54th I. V. I. In October, 1863, was promoted to Colonel. In 1864, he re-enlisted with his regiment as a veteran, and in the fall of the same year was brevetted Brigadier General, and was mustered out of the service Nov. 3, 1865, having served actively and continuously for nearly five years; he participated in the siege of Vicksburg, the battle of Parker's Cross Roads, Tenn., and was with Gen. Steel in all his campaigns in Arkansas. Returning from the war, he was elected Sheriff of Coles Co., holding the office two years. He was appointed Postmaster at Charleston in April, 1877.

JAMES A. MITCHELL (deceased); one of the early pioneers of Coles Co., was born in Washington Co., E. Tenn., Aug. 27, 1797; he was a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Allison) Mitchell; his father was a native of North Carolina and emigrated to Tennessee in an early day. He passed his early life on his father's farm near Jonesboro, Tenn., and after obtaining a thorough preparatory education entered Washington College, in his native State, but, after a time, left college and engaged in merchandising. He was married May 12, 1818, to Miss Esther Collow, of his native county; she was born Oct. 28, 1799. He came to Coles Co. in 1833, and entered a large quantity of Government land, and engaged in farming, dealing in stock, etc. For a number of years, he resided in Charleston, but afterward retired to a farm near town, on which he resided till his death. He was a prominent citizen and a prosperous business man. He was for several years School Commissioner of Coles Co. He died Oct. 14,

1843, while on a visit to his old home in Tennessee, leaving a wife and nine children—Robert A., for twenty years Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Charleston, and now of Kansas, Ill.; Jonathan C., now a farmer in Missouri; John D., a physician of Terre Haute, Ind.; Sarah E., wife of Thomas Cheeseman, of Missouri; Samuel, who died in 1873; Luther and James A., farmers in Coles Co., Alexander C. and Isaac B., merchants in Charleston. His widow, now Mrs. Lumbrick, still resides in Charleston.

LUTHER C. MITCHELL, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Charleston; a son of James A. and Esther (Collom) Mitchell; was born in Washington Co., Tenn., June 2, 1830; in 1833, his father's family removed to Charleston; he was raised on the farm, and at 19, started for himself; after farming two years, he made the trip to California, where he spent eight months in mining; going thence to Australia; there he remained seven years, and, returning in 1860, he resumed farming and dairying; he removed in 1871 to his present farm on Sec. 19, where he owns eighty acres of land. He was married March 5, 1861, to Miss H. A. Waddle, of Coles Co.; they have seven children living—Kittie B., William A., Rhoda H., Ella, Alice, James and Emily E. Mr. Mitchell has served six years as School Director.

ALEXANDER C. MITCHELL, dealer in books, stationery, toys, etc., Charleston; is a native of Coles Co., being a son of James M. and Esther (Collom) Mitchell, a sketch of whom is given above; he was born in Charleston Dec. 6, 1836; until 1860, he remained on the farm, receiving a common school education. He was married Dec. 27, 1859, to Mrs. Carrie Roberts, of Charleston. In 1860, he engaged in the boot and shoe business in Charleston, and continued in that two years; the next two years were spent in farming, after which he followed the grocery business until 1876; he was engaged for a short time in the drug business, after which he entered upon his present business; he has two sons—Walter G. and Wirt A.

ISAAC B. MITCHELL, dealer in groceries and provisions, Charleston; is

Mitchell; he was born in Charleston, Ill., Jan. 6, 1841; he remained on the farm until the age of 15 years; the next four years he spent in the Charleston Academy, where he prepared for the Sophomore class in college, intending to pursue a college course; but, in 1861, owing to circumstances, he abandoned the idea and engaged in farming. In April, 1862, he enlisted in Co. A, 68th I. V. I., for three months. He continued farming until 1865, teaching school during the winters; in 1865, he engaged in mercantile business in Charleston. He was married Dec. 11, 1866, to Miss Florida A. Miles, a daughter of John A. Miles, of Charleston, and has four children—John M., Charles B., Richard R. and Paul. He continued merchandising until 1867, and then farmed for one year, starting in his present business in 1868.

ALLISON M. MITCHELL, of the firm of Ashmore & Mitchell, dealers in boots and shoes, Charleston; is a native of Coles Co.; he was born in Charleston Dec. 29, 1852, being the son of Rev. Robert A. and Ann E. Mitchell; his father was born in Washington Co., Tenn., and came to Coles Co. with his parents in 1833; he received a collegiate education, and after pursuing a theological course, located in Charleston as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, of which he remained in charge for twenty years. Allison M. Mitchell, the son, was raised on a farm until he was 19 years old, and then entered the grocery store of his uncle, I. B. Mitchell, where he remained for three years, after which he spent about two years in the employ of W. M. & E. A. Jenkins; on the 1st of January, 1878, in company with W. J. Ashmore, he purchased the boot and shoe business of B. M. Payne, in which he has since continued.

JOHN A. MCCONNELL, editor of the Charleston *Plaindealer*, Charleston; was born in Cadiz, Ohio, Dec. 26, 1826; he began, at 12 years of age, to learn his father's business of chairmaking; his inclinations were, however, toward literary or professional pursuits, but he was prevented from carrying out his intentions in that direction by a weakness of the eyes; at the age of 17, he began teaching school

years; in 1859, he engaged in the grocery business in Cadiz, in which he continued until 1871, when he embarked in the tanning business, and followed this until the spring of 1878; he then came to Charleston and assumed editorial charge of the Charleston *Plaindealer*, a Republican newspaper, the oldest in the county. He was married Jan. 3, 1861, to Miss Mary Quest, of Cadiz, Ohio, a native of Indiana Co., Penn.

WM. M. MCCONNELL, Charleston, of the firm of M. A. McConnell & Co., publishers of the Charleston *Plaindealer*, was born on the 28th of August, 1855, in Cadiz, Harrison Co., Ohio; he is a son of James McConnell, of that city; he attended the public schools of his native town, graduating from the high school in 1872; he at once entered the office of the Cadiz *Republican*, to learn the printer's trade, and, after completing his apprenticeship, remained in the office as a journeyman until he came to Charleston, in the spring of 1878, as one of the proprietors of the *Plaindealer*.

WM. E. MCCRORY, Cashier of the First National Bank, Charleston, is a son of James McCrory, who came from Harrison Co., Ky., to Coles Co. in 1837; was for two years engaged in business in Charleston, and was for a time Postmaster of this city; he returned to Kentucky in 1839, and remained there until 1850, when he removed permanently, with his family, to this county; he was for eight years County Clerk, and is now a prominent farmer in La Fayette Tp. William E. was born in Cynthia, Harrison Co., Ky., March 20, 1839; after spending a year as a clerk in the County Clerk's office, under his father, he became Cashier, at the age of about 17 years, of the Farmers' and Traders' Bank, where he remained until 1860, when that bank, in common with the other State banks—being based upon Southern bonds, went down, after which, Marshall & McCrory continued the banking business for about a year; he then served for a time as Deputy County Clerk, under Jacob I. Brown; then clerked for a while for R. M. & H. S. Parcells, after which he resumed the banking business, as Cashier for the Coles County Bank

National Bank, in 1868, he became Cashier of the latter institution, which position he still retains; he served one year as Town Clerk. He was married March 20, 1860 to Miss Kate Parcells, a daughter of the late John F. Parcells, an early and highly respected citizen of Charleston; they have one son living—Walter P.

T. J. MARCH, Sr., dealer in furniture, Charleston; was born in Baltimore Md., March 22, 1807; he is the only son of John and Eliza March; losing his father in early childhood, he was very early in life thrown upon his own resources; at the age of 8 years, he was placed in a tailor shop, where he was put to ripping up old clothes, after which he worked successively for a tobacconist in stripping tobacco, in a chair-factory, learning to bottom chairs, and in a sieve-factory. In his 15th year, he began learning the house-joiner's trade, and on becoming of age, went to Philadelphia, where he followed his trade up to 1835, two years of which time he spent in the employ of Stephen Girard, and helped to build the large and elegant structures composing Girard's Square. He was married March 22, 1831, to Miss Rosina D. Creighton, a daughter of John and Margaret Creighton, of Philadelphia; she was born in that city November 1, 1810; they have had nine children, five of whom are living—Thomas J. (of Charleston), Lizzie I. (wife of J. M. Ashmore, of Charleston), George A. (of Downey, Los Angeles Co., Cal.), Robert A. (of Charleston) and Rosina D. (now Mrs. H. E. Brooks, of Charleston). On the 4th of July, 1835, Mr. March left Philadelphia and removed to Louisville, Ky., and in March, 1836, came to Coles Co.; he put up a rail cabin ten feet square in what is now Morgan Tp., and there lived with his family for three months, when they removed to Charleston; after following his trade of a house-joiner for a number of years; he engaged in cabinet-making and the undertaking business, and for the past fifteen years or more, has been in the furniture business. Mr. March built the first iron front store in Charleston on the east side of the square, in 1858; besides this, he has erected two other substantial brick buildings and three dwellings, not to men-

PREFACE

IN presenting our History of Coles County, we deem a few prefatory words necessary. We have spared neither pains nor expense to fulfill our engagement with our patrons and make the work as complete as possible. We have acted upon the principle that justice to those who have subscribed, be they few or many, requires that the work should be as well done as if it was patronized by every citizen in the county. We do not claim that our work is entirely free from errors; such a result could not be attained by the utmost care and foresight of ordinary mortals. The County History was compiled by our historians, W. H. Perrin, A. A. Graham and D. M. Blair, and received much material and assistance from Judge William E. Adams. Some of the Township Histories are indeed longer than others, as the townships are older, containing larger cities and towns, and have been the scenes of more important and interesting events. While fully recognizing this important difference, the historians have sought to write up each township with equal fidelity to the facts and information within their reach. We take this occasion to present our thanks to all our numerous subscribers for their patronage and encouragement in the publication of the work. In this confident belief, we submit it to the enlightened judgment of those for whose benefit it has been prepared, believing that it will be received as a most valuable and complete work.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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The publisher gratefully acknowledges
the generosity of

Mrs. Helen Rose Pegelow

in allowing the use of her copy of the
History of Coles County, Illinois to
make possible this reproduction.

L. B. Warren, President
Unigraphic, Inc.