

able promptness, ordered a new one to be erected at the same meeting of the report, and in March of the following year the building was ready for occupancy. This is a neat frame, two stories high, and about forty by eighteen feet, with a wing sixteen by twenty feet. In 1875 the old log stable, which had literally rotted down, was replaced by a frame structure, thirty-four by thirty-six feet, at a cost of \$375. In 1882 a neat cottage was erected for the tenant of the farm, and the building formerly occupied by the tenant given up to the inmates of the institution. The farm is let to the highest bidder, who pays an annual rental, and receives a weekly allowance for each pauper boarder maintained. The tenant keeps, clothes, and boards the pauper, stocks the farm at his own expense, and gives a bond in the sum of some \$2,000. The rental at first was \$2 per acre for cultivated land, and the allowance \$2 per week for each inmate. Since then, as the farm has improved, the rent has increased and the allowance, at times, decreased, so that the annual rental reaches \$200, and the weekly allowance is something less than \$2 per week. The county employs a medical attendant by the year, the services of the lowest responsible being retained. The farm is provided with a good apple orchard and good fences, and presents an attractive appearance to the visitor.

FIRST COURTS AND JURORS.

The first Circuit Court was held in the village of Greenup, and presided over by Hon. William Wilson, a man of eminent judicial ability, with Alfred Kitchell as State's Attorney, and James Ewart as Clerk. The Grand Jurors that served on this court were as follows: M. Ruffner, foreman, Matthias Roberts, William Hutton, James Carpenter, Elcana Bright, James Phipps, Samuel Owings, Samuel B. Fairbanks, Jorden Brown, Benj. Drummond, Stephen Wait, Chipman Webster, John D. Gardner, R. K. Boyd, Jas. Cissna, William E. Smith, John Feltner, David F. Smith, and David B. Frizzell. It is reported that this jury when convened in council presented a very grotesque and novel appearance. During the time they were transacting business they were as sanctimonious as a Presbyterian deacon, but as soon as an interval of leisure interposed they would straddle their oaken benches in pairs, *vis-a-vis*, and engage in the harmless but scientific game of "mumble peg," or make a practical demonstration of each other's capacity as a "high low jack in the game." To be skilled in this latter accomplishment was as fashionable and indispensable in those days as it was requisite for a swallow-tail coat of home-made jeans to be "covered all over with shining buttons." "Old Davy Wisner" seems to have been among the first

unfortunates that was introduced to this august body of jurymen as a malefactor and flagrant violator of law and order, and although indicted was discharged and acquitted on final trial, with the exception of one charge of nonfeasance of his office as Justice of the Peace, for which offence he was mulcted to the tune of five dollars.

At this time Cumberland was struck off from Coles County. The last assessment of taxes had not been collected, but, under a provision of the act forming the new county, Coles was authorized to collect it. The new county people looked upon this transaction as legal robbery, and felt that it should properly have been turned over to help the new organization bear some of the new burdens of independent government. However, the courts could not wait for the people to pay taxes again, nor indeed for a courthouse to be built, so an old log schoolhouse was converted into a temple of justice, and, in justice and respect to the officials and attorneys of that day, it must be said that suits were as hotly contested, law and equity as impartially dealt out, and the cause of the client as ably and earnestly advocated in the old schoolhouse, as though it had been a costly stone structure, erected at a cost of a million and a half of dollars. Some of the attorneys who attended court in this building have since attained great celebrity. Among others was Abraham Lincoln. One case in particular in which Mr. Lincoln participated was the notorious "Lustre Case," which was brought here on change of venue from Coles County. The charge against Lustre was an assault with a deadly weapon, with intent to murder. Lustre was ably and earnestly defended by Lincoln and O. B. Ficklin, and prosecuted by State's Attorney Kitchell. Lustre was convicted, but through the efforts of his counsel was afterward pardoned by the Governor on petition.

Judge Wilson held the first circuit court in this county. He was an able jurist, firm and unwavering in the discharge of the duties of his position, and yet full of sport, and enjoyed an hour of pastime or a good joke as well as anyone. He was a lover of good horses, and was frequently a witness of the horse races which were so common here in the early day, but while enjoying the excitement with the keenest zest he was never betrayed into backing his opinions with a bet.

The old log structure which served so excellent a purpose as schoolhouse and courtroom, stood for several years, serving in this double capacity. It subsequently served as a warehouse, but has long since passed away, and its site is almost forgotten.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The general administration of county affairs, in 1843, was in the hands of three Commissioners. In accordance with a provision of the organizing act the Commissioner receiving the highest number of votes was to serve for the full term of three years, the one receiving the next highest vote was to serve two years, and the remaining one to serve one year. The first, a special, election was held April 3, 1843, and in the following August the regular election occurred, in both of which the same choice was made for this office. The *Commissioners* of the county have been, therefore, in 1843—James Gill, for three years; David T. Wisner, for two years; Charles Chowning, for one year. In November, 1843, Amos G. Lacey was elected in place of Chowning, resigned; 1844—Isaac Hedges; 1845—David T. Wisner, re-elected; 1846—James Wright. In the same year Meredith Hazelwood was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hedges. In April, 1847, Jas. D. White was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Wright; 1847—Meredith Hazelwood, elected his own successor for full term; 1848—John Vandike for full term, and Wm. Helm in place of Hazelwood, deceased.

On April 13, 1849, the act of the legislature establishing a *County Court* in each county, went into effect. By this act the regular election, which had been in August, was deferred to the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The court organized by this act consisted of a County Judge and two Associate Justices, whose term of office was four years. The Judge alone had jurisdiction in matters pertaining to the probate practice and law, and the three together had charge of all county business hitherto devolving upon the Commissioners. The first court was elected November, 1849, and resulted as follows: James M. Ward, Judge; Thomas Brewer, and J. H. Williams, Associates. November, 1852—John S. Smith was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Brewer. 1853—W. E. Smith, Judge; Jas. Redfern and Jas. Gill, Associates. 1857—W. E. Smith, Judge; Jas. Gill and M. B. Ross, Associates.

In 1859 the county voted to adopt the township organization provided by law, and in April, 1861, elected a *Board of Supervisors*. The following is a list of those who have represented the various townships in this capacity: Sumpter Township—W. M. P. Rush, 1861 to 1865; W. L. Morton, 1866; Thomas Brewer, 1867 to 1868; D. D. Judson, 1869; C. Woods, 1870; M. D. Ross, 1871; D. B. Green,

office was an independent one, and Otis Perry was the first, and A. K. Bosworth the second to fill this office. Under the new constitution the Circuit Clerk was made *ex-officio* Recorder, and the independent office abolished. The Clerks have been James Ewart, from 1843 till 1852; Edward Talbott, from 1852 till 1856; S. D. Tossey, from 1856 till 1864; Edwin S. Norfolk, from 1864 till 1872; Andrew Carson, from 1872 till 1876; W. L. Bruster, from 1876, and is the present incumbent. The term of office is four years.

County Clerks.—In 1855, when the county-seat was removed from Greenup to Prairie City, A. K. Bosworth, who was then County Clerk, refused to move to the new county-seat as the law required, and was finally, upon an order of the court, removed from office, and A. G. Caldwell appointed in his place. The recalcitrant Clerk made an excellent officer, and was highly esteemed for his many good qualities as a man, but being determined to make his own village the county-seat, he could not endure defeat with equanimity. In this he had the sympathies of the community of Greenup, and in 1857 was re-elected, over Mr. Caldwell, to his old position. Legally, he was clearly in the wrong in his opposition to the removal of the records, and yielding to the inevitable, he went to the new county-seat, where he filled the office of Clerk for the ensuing four years. The County Clerks have been John F. Holley, from 1843 till 1847; A. K. Bosworth, from 1847 to 1856; A. G. Caldwell, appointed, from 1856 till 1857; A. K. Bosworth, from 1857 till 1861; M. B. Ross, from 1861 till 1865; M. R. Lee from 1865 till 1869; A. A. Lovins, from 1869 till 1873; W. R. Humphrey, from 1873 till 1877; L. B. Ross, from 1877 till 1882; G. M. Lemen, from 1882, and is the present incumbent. The term of office is four years.

County Judges.—This office was created under the Township Organization Act, but in 1843 an officer possessing similar powers was elected, and termed the Probate Justice of the Peace. E. H. Starkweather was first elected to this position in 1843. In the August election he was elected to the legislature, and J. M. Ward was elected to the Justice's position, which he continued to fill until the constitution of 1848 transferred the duties of this office to the County Court. He was then elected Judge, as before noted. As at present understood, the first County Judge was H. B. Decius, from 1861 till 1865; Reuben Bloomfield from 1865 till 1869; Wiley Ross, from 1869 till 1873; John W. Miller, from 1873 till 1882; L. L. Logan, from 1882, and is the present incumbent.

Treasurers.—Abram Trease, from 1843 till 1845; S. W. Huffcutt.

C O U N T I E S
O F
Cumberland, Jasper and Richland,
ILLINOIS.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL.

ILLUSTRATED.

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