

after the sale and protection of school lands; loan school funds, and apply the income upon township funds for the support of schools; and to appoint three township trustees. He had nothing to do with the supervision of schools. In 1845, a law was passed providing for the election of a County School Commissioner whose duties were to supervise the schools; to examine persons desiring to teach a common school, and the granting of certificates to those found to be competent. Alfred Edson was elected School Commissioner in 1849 and served until 1853. The law was subsequently changed, and the first County Superintendent of Schools, John R. Marshall, was elected in 1869, and served until 1877. Christopher C. Duffy succeeded him and remained in office until 1889, when he resigned, and Amos D. Curran was appointed by the County Board to take his place, and received election to the office in 1890, since which time he has been re-elected at the expiration of each term, so that there have only been three County Superintendents in Kendall County covering a period of forty-four years. It is interesting to note that each of these men wears "the little bronze button on his coat."

CHAPTER XV

COURTS, BENCH AND BAR

FIRST JUDICIAL ELECTION—CIRCUIT JUDGES—
COUNTY JUDGES—MEMBERS OF THE BAR—INTER-
ESTING BIOGRAPHIES—OFFICIAL RECORD.

(By C. A. Darnell.)

FIRST JUDICIAL ELECTION

With the formation of Kendall County and its placing in the Ninth Judicial District, came the election in April of the following year of its first Judge, who was Thomas Ford, afterwards Governor of the State of Illinois. He was born at Uniontown, Pa., December 5, 1800, and died at Peoria, Ill., November 3, 1850.

Other jurists of note who have presided over the Circuit Court of the Districts in which Kendall County is located, are as follows:

Judge Giles Spring was born in Mass., in 1807, came to Illinois at an early date and engaged in the practice of law. He was one of the ablest of the young judges, but his health failed, perhaps on account of too close application, and he died in Chicago, May, 1851, when only forty-three years old.

Judge John Dean Caton, a lawyer and jurist, whose talent and ability is said to have been above the average, was born in Monroe County, New York, March 19, 1812. He served as judge of the Ninth Judicial District for four years from 1844 to the adoption of the Constitution in 1848. He died in Chicago, July 30, 1895.

Judge E. S. Leland was born in Dennysville, Maine, August 28, 1812. He was first commissioned Judge of the Ninth District August 11, 1852, and afterwards, having retired at the end of his term, was re-commissioned December 4, 1866, upon the resignation of M. E. Hollister. He resigned June 27, 1867. He died some years later at Ottawa, Illinois.

Judge Theophilus Lyle Dickey was born at Bourbon, Kentucky, November 12, 1812. He served in various official capacities, among which was Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, from 1848 to 1852. He died at the age of seventy-three years, while at Atlantic City, New Jersey, July 25, 1885.

Judge Sylvanus Wilcox was born in Glen Township, Montgomery County, New York, September 30, 1818. He was a Judge of sterling qualities and was greatly beloved by those who came into business or social relations with him. He died in Kane County, Illinois, June 15, 1902.

Judge Hiram Hitchcock Cody was a sturdy pioneer of whom it is said that at the age of sixty he had not been confined to his bed for a single day on account of sickness. He was born in Oneida County, New York, June 11, 1824. He went to California some few years ago and the latest information obtainable, as to his last residence was in 1896. At that time he was living at Pasadena, California.

Judge Madison E. Hollister was a lawyer, jurist and politician. He was Presiding Judge in Bureau County, Illinois from 1855 to 1860; Presidential Elector in 1848; commissioned Judge of the Ninth Judicial District of Illinois July 25, 1855, and again July 1, 1861. He re-

signed December 4, 1866, and his place was filled as hereinbefore stated by the late E. S. Leland.

Other members of the Bench of this District who have become, or are now, distinguished jurists are: Charles Kellum, S. W. Upton, Theodore D. Murphy, George W. Brown, Charles A. Bishop, Henry B. Willis and L. C. Routh.

Those now on the Bench of the Sixteenth Judicial District are: D. J. Carnes, Sycamore, also on the Appellate Bench, Second District of Illinois: Mazzini Slusser, Wheaton, Illinois, a man of unusual attainments and ability; and Clarence S. Erwin of Elgin, recently elected to fill the unexpired term of the much lamented Henry B. Willis.

COUNTY JUDGES

The County Judges of Kendall County have been men of unusual natural ability, and noted for their wise and humane decisions. If the story of the County Judges could be told by simply writing down the names of those whom this county has honored with this position, the task would be simple indeed, for while the first County Judge, Joseph W. Helme, was elected away back in 1849, he has had but five successors. Judge Helme served his county faithfully in that capacity until 1853 when he was succeeded by Benjamin Reckelson who was elected three times in succession, serving as County Judge from 1853 to 1865.

Judge Henry S. Hudson, an able lawyer and a Judge well capable for service on any Bench under any jurisdiction, served from 1865 to 1902, covering a period of thirty-seven years. He was a credit to himself, an honor to Kendall County, and helped to dignify the office of County Judge. He was succeeded by Wm. Hill, who for many years had been his clerk.

Judge Hill entered upon the duties of the office ripe in experience and well fitted for the duties which that office imposed. He was the oldest child of Thomas P. and Emma M. Hill, and was born November 9, 1851, in the town of Kendall, Kendall County, Ill.; moved to the village of Bristol in 1858 and lived there until the time of his death. He learned the printer's trade in the office of the Kendall County Record from 1865 to 1886; was County Treasurer from 1882 to 1886 and County Clerk from 1886 to 1902. He was elected County Judge in 1902 and re-elected four years later. He died in

office May 9, 1909. A special election was called to elect his successor.

Judge George Mewhirter, a lawyer and Democrat, was elected to the short term by a large majority in a county where seventy-five per cent of the voting population were Republicans. He served with dignity until the next election, when the present incumbent, C. S. Williams was elected, 1910.

Clarence S. Williams is a gentleman, scholar, business man and politician of the very best type. He is a gentleman in its true sense everywhere, a self made man, a trustworthy business man whose advice is sought by many, and as a politician knows his friends and stays with them, never allowing, however, his friendship to swerve or influence him in the discharge of his official duties. He is a young man with a family of four fine children, and has before him a future of useful service.

MEMBERS OF THE BAR

The first resident attorney to practice in Kendall County was Robert N. Mathews, who for many years conducted an office at the corner of Oregon Avenue and Vinegar Street in the village of Little Rock. He was a man of good personal appearance, somewhat fond of dress and an attorney who was interested in those early days in many a quaint and unimportant, as well as many important, matters of litigation. The writer is indebted to A. J. Hunter of Plano, a man now upward of eighty-five years, and who was well acquainted with Mr. Mathews, for the few fragments of history in reference to this once conspicuous lawyer. Mr. Hunter amusingly relates that Mr. Mathews at one time made complaint against two of his neighbors for killing and eating a pig which belonged to the Hunter family. The offenders were indicted and bound over to appear before the grand jury. Mr. Mathews then took the part of the defendants and went before the court and had his neighbors cleared, receiving as his fee forty acres of land. It is said that Mr. Mathews became very wealthy and once owned a large area of real estate in and around the present village of Little Rock. One of his last efforts as attorney at law was the trial of a case in the schoolhouse at Little Rock, in the trial of which he was opposed by a very young but very able member of the bar in the

person of A. J. Hopkins, later U. S. Senator. Attorney Mathews was quite a politician in his time and served one term in the Lower House of the Illinois Legislature.

Among attorneys who lived and practiced in the county since Mr. Mathews began at Little Rock about 1833, were: Cyrus Coy, Geo. Watson, Chas. Lewis, and Albert Cook of Newark, Paul Hawley of Oswego, and Colonel Wilson of Yorkville. Attorneys now living, who for a time resided and practiced in Kendall County are Geo. Neterer and Geo. Hay.

PRESENT PRACTICING ATTORNEYS

Attorneys now practicing in Kendall County are men worthy of extended notice. John Fitzgerald was born in New York in 1849, came to Joliet, Illinois, when very young. He settled in Kendall County when he was but ten years old and this county has since been his home. Using Mr. Fitzgerald's own words, "I was born of poor but honest Irish parents. Very poor, very honest, and very Irish. I am now the only survivor of a large family of children. Married Miss Nora L. Shaver of Oswego, Ill., in 1882. She died in 1903. Have one son, Herbert S., now serving in the Marine Corps of the United States Navy. I enlisted in the Fifty-third Regiment in Illinois Volunteer Infantry in 1864 when between fourteen years and fifteen years of age and except for a few weeks while in the hospitals at Chattanooga and Nashville, Tenn., carried a musket in the ranks until mustered out with regiment at Chicago, July 22, 1865. I attended the common schools of Kendall County, both before and after my term of military service, completing my general education at Fowler Institute, Newark, Ill., and then followed farming and teaching, reading law as I had opportunity, until I was admitted to the bar in 1882. I took one year in the Law Department of Michigan University at Ann Arbor, and since my admission I have practiced law continuously in Kendall County with my residence at Yorkville, the county seat." The above is given in Mr. Fitzgerald's own words because of their simplicity, honesty and modesty, and because no other words can better be used than his. Mr. Fitzgerald served his county as Prosecuting Attorney from 1884 to 1888. S. P. Barnard, present Master-in-Chancery, was born in LaSalle County, Illinois, in 1847,

was educated at Fowler Institute, Newark, Ill. He served in the Civil War, enlisting while young, served his country faithfully and was honorably discharged. He was admitted to the bar in 1891. He has always been a politician and has held almost every office in the gift of his town and village.

Geo. Mewhirter and his son, Clifford, are practicing law at Yorkville, the county seat. Geo. Mewhirter was born in the village of Bristol, April 8, 1860, and was admitted to the bar in 1883. The younger member of the firm is fresh from law school and is throwing into his work the enthusiasm of youth.

He was born March 11, 1889, and graduated from the law department of the Northwestern University when he was but nineteen years of age and was admitted to the bar as soon as he had an opportunity to take an examination after becoming twenty-one years of age.

R. O. Leitch, practicing law at Plano, Ill., was born August 30, 1872, near Plano. He was graduated from the Plano High School, June 13, 1890; was a graduate from the Lake Forest, Illinois, Law School and was admitted to the bar June 13, 1894. Walter Clyde Jones and Keen H. Addington, editors of "Starr & Curtis Annotated Statutes," also Frank R. Morrison and Sydney S. Goram were members of the same class with Mr. Leitch. Mr. Leitch has been quite prominent politically in Kendall County, having come within one vote in the County Convention of being nominated for County Judge; and so close was his election to the office of States Attorney that he prosecuted a contest. He has been City Attorney of the City of Plano. He is generally trusted and respected by those who know him.

Oliver A. Burkhart was born at Oswego, Kendall County, April 5, 1882, attended the Oswego Public Schools, entered Kent College of Law, Lake Forest University, graduating with degree of LL. B. He was admitted to the bar in October, 1903, by examination. He was married June 3, 1908, to Carrie J. Gabel, the daughter of a wealthy Kendall County farmer. Mr. Burkhart first practiced law in Aurora for two years, afterwards operated a bank at Oswego for two years, and was corporation council for the village of Oswego. In 1908 he was elected to the office of States Attorney for Kendall County, which office he has continued to hold until the present time (1913). Mr. Burkhart

HISTORY OF KENDALL COUNTY.

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is also a member of B. P. O. E. of Aurora. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, and the M. W. A.

B. F. Herrington was born in Lincoln County, Canada West, now known as Ontario, October 15, 1848. He was educated in the common schools of Canada and at Detroit, Michigan. At the age of thirteen he enlisted as a drummer boy in the Civil War and in 1864 was mustered in as a soldier and became a corporal in Company D, Eleventh Michigan Infantry, and served until the end of the war, having been mustered out July 24, 1865. It is needless to say that he was a good soldier, otherwise he would not have spent four years, during the time he should have been in school, in the service of his country. After the war he became a telegraph operator and railroad agent, and for a time was train dispatcher. During his railroad experience he was employed by the Chicago & Northwestern at Rochelle and at DeKalb, and by the Illinois Central in various places, principally at Memphis, Tenn. He was at one time assigned to duties as a Western Union dispatcher. He was married October 15, 1874, to Georgia A. Squires of the town of Oswego, Kendall County, Ill. Mr. Herrington was admitted to the bar on July 4, 1876, the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, on an examination before the Supreme Court of Illinois at Mt. Vernon, Ill., where his grade was 100. Mr. Herrington has the reputation of being the best technical lawyer, not only in Kendall County, but this part of the State and it is well known that when he is retained on either side of a matter in court that there is going to be a lawsuit unless his opponent brings forward a flag of truce. The late Judge Bishop at one time said of Mr. Herrington, that he was the best constitutional lawyer in Northern Illinois.

Bert Sweetland is the oldest practicing attorney in the county. He was first elected to the office of Prosecuting Attorney for Kendall County in 1872, and served continuously until 1908 with the exception of four years, from 1884 to 1888. His home is at Newark, Ill. Mr. Sweetland was a soldier during the Civil War and he is a man who has a military record of which no person need be ashamed, and of which his county is justly proud.

G. S. Steward is a son of Congressman Lewis Steward, now deceased. He was admitted to

the bar and practiced for a few years in the City of Chicago. He is inclined to literature and, being a man of wealth, has abandoned the law as an active practitioner, giving to it only such time as he feels inclined. His office is at Plano, Ill. Mr. Steward is the possessor of a liberal education, being able to converse in both Spanish and French, has written a number of books, and has polished his learning by considerable travel and experience.

C. A. Darnell was born near Hinckley, Ill., 1866; was educated in the common schools, at Jennings's Seminary, Aurora, and Union College at Merom, Ind. He taught school for a number of years, during which time he prepared for the law, has been in active practice at Plano, Ill., for about fifteen years. He was married to Alice M. Hiscock, June 15, 1898. They have one daughter, Lucille, thirteen years of age.

OFFICIAL RECORD

COUNTY JUDGES.—Joseph W. Helme, 1849-1853; Benjamin Rickelson, 1853-1867; Henry S. Hudson, 1865-1902; William Hill, 1902-1910, died May 9th, 1909; George Mewhirter, 1909-1910; Clarence S. Williams, 1910-1914.

CIRCUIT CLERKS.—A. B. Smith, 1841-1848; John M. Crothers, 1848-1856; George M. Hollenback, 1856-1864; Albert M. Hobbs, 1864-1872, died Jan. 4, 1872; Lyman G. Bennett, 1872, unexpired term of A. M. Hobbs, to 1880; James A. Goddard, 1880-1884; Avery N. Beebe, 1884-1912.

STATE'S ATTORNEYS.—Albert Sweetland, 1872-1884; John Fitzgerald, 1884-1888; Albert M. Sweetland, 1888-1908; Oliver A. Burkhart, 1908-1912.

COUNTY CLERKS.—M. A. Fenton, 1841-1849; George W. Hartwell, 1849-1853; Jeremiah J. Cole, 1853-1864, died April 19, 1864; Oliver S. Westcott, 1864, appointed to fill vacancy; Jeremiah Evarts, 1864, elected to fill vacancy; Jeremiah Evarts, 1865-1886; William Hill, 1886-1902; Clarence S. Williams, 1902-1910; Edward Budd, Jr., 1910-1914.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.—Ambler Judson, 1849-1851; Ephriam Moulton, 1853-1855; John Van Antwerp, 1855-1857; John McKinley, 1857-1858; I. W. Barnes, 1858-1863; W. S. Coy, 1863-1865.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.—W. S. Coy, 1865-1869; J. R. Marshall, 1869-1877; Christ-

opher C. Duffy, 1877-1890, resigned July 8, 1889; A. D. Curran, 1889-1914.

SHERIFFS.—W. M. Fowler, 1848; R. D. Miller, 1850; Charles D. Townsend, 1851-1852; M. Beaupre, 1852-1854; H. M. Day, 1854-1856; Jonathan Raymond, 1856-1858; Wright Murphy, 1858-1860; Dwight Ladd, 1860-1862; Ami D. Newton, 1862-1864; John A. Newell, 1864-1866; Jonas Seely, 1866-1868; Joseph D. Kern, 1868-1872; Ami D. Newton, 1872-1886; Geo. E. Ackerman, 1886-1890; Morgan A. Skinner, 1890-1894; Geo. E. Ackerman, 1894-1898; Samuel Normandin, 1896-1902; Gus H. Voss, 1902-1906; Samuel Normandin, 1906-1910; J. R. Henderson, 1910-1914.

COUNTY TREASURERS.—Jeremiah J. Cole, 1849-1853; Asahel Newton, 1853-1857; H. S. Humphrey, 1857-1863; R. W. Casus, 1863-1865; John C. Taylor, 1865-1869; Milton E. Cornell, 1869-1873; Tunis S. Serrine, 1873-1877; Milton E. Cornell, 1877-1881; William Hill, 1882-1886; Geo. Elliott, 1886-1890; David C. Jenson, 1890-1894, died July 13, 1891; R. N. Newton, 1891-1894; Geo. Ammerman, 1894-1896, died Oct. 10, 1896; Walter Foster, 1896-1898; Clarence S. Williams, 1898-1902; Samuel Naden, 1902-1906; Edward Budd, Jr., 1906-1910; Arthur P. Hill, 1910-1914.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.—Lyman G. Bennett, 1869-1871; Joel H. Jenks, 1871-1879; Carson Philips, 1879-1884; Newton Young, 1884-1886; Orson Dolph, 1886-1904; Ivan L. Smith, 1904-1912.

CORONERS.—Orris W. Grant, 1874-1878; I. E. Bennett, 1878-1882; R. A. McClellan, 1882-1892; Frank H. Lord, 1892-1900; Amosa E. Field, 1900-1904; T. B. Drew, 1904-1912.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL PROFESSION

THE FAMILY DOCTOR—THE MODERN COMPARED WITH THE PIONEER SUMMONS—A HARD LIFE IN EARLY DAYS—THE PIONEER PHYSICIANS OF KENDALL COUNTY—ORGANIZATION OF THE KENDALL

COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY—FIRST OFFICERS—AN IMPORTANT BODY—PRESENT OFFICERS.

(By R. A. McClelland.)

The kind face of the family doctor is one of the first which greets us as, with wondering eyes, we gain our first glimpse of this life, and it is often one of the last to bid us farewell as we close those same eyes, and fall to sleep for the long journey to the shadowy beyond. In all life's physical ills, the doctor is generally the confidant and friend. In these days of modern progress, a physician can be summoned by telephone and his aid and advice secured in a few moments, as he probably comes in his motor car, but conditions were very different when Kendall County was in its pioneer days. Then there were not only no easy methods of communicating with the physician, but trained nurses and modern appliances were unknown. The early practitioner, called to the bedside of suffering by one of the men who had ridden many miles, possibly, on horseback, after the day's rounds had been completed, and the horses had been taken from the wagon, in responding had to bear with him his entire equipment in a pair of saddle bags. Riding horseback over the pathless prairie, or through the forest, fording streams, toiling through the deep mud, he would arrive at the distant cabin of the settler, where the anxious faces of those who had awaited him through the long hours brightened, and he was given a welcome equal to that which would have been accorded some supernal being. No white capped nurse stood ready to help him, but efficient service was rendered by the mother or other members of the family, and it is doubtful if those early physicians would have known how to get through a serious spell of illness without the dependable middle-aged woman, either of the family or neighborhood, who always stood ready to "nurse." Hard was the life of the early practitioner, and brave was the fight he made against disease and death, with crude equipment and methods which now seem impossible. Still, from his work and study, have come the remarkable achievements of modern practice and all honor must be paid these men, both in Kendall County or elsewhere for the sacrifices which they so gladly made even to giving up their lives, and always without commensurate compensation.

BATEMAN
& SELBY

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