

The February 2022 HCGS Newsletter contains the conclusion of the excerpt from R.S. Walton's contribution to "History of Northeast Missouri, edited by Walter Williams, Volume I, Lewis Publishing Company, 1913". Mr. Walton was the long time editor and publisher of the Armstrong Herald.

Old Franklin

About the year 1820 John Hardeman, of German extraction, came to Old Franklin and purchased land five miles above the town nearly opposite the mouth of the LaMine creek and planted a garden and filled it with every known species and variety of plants. He was a man of wealth, and he spared neither expense nor labor in beautifying the garden and making it attractive to the eye. It has been claimed by some that it equaled the celebrated garden of Henry Shaw of St. Louis. This beautiful garden was finally engulfed by an overflow of the Missouri river in the year 1826. Old Franklin was made the county seat in 1817 and the land office was also located there. The town was the most promising and prominent west of St. Louis and its population was rapidly on the increase year by year. Some of the best blood of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee and other states flowed in the veins of its citizens. The town was noted for the intelligence, hospitality and enterprise of its people.

Among the illustrious citizens whose names sparkle upon the historic page with a fadeless luster were:

L. W. Boggs, John Miller, Hamilton R. Gamble, C. F. Jackson, all of whom were afterwards governors of the state; J. F. Ryland and Abiel Leonard, later on judges of the Supreme Court of Missouri, Gen. Robert C. Clark and Cyrus Edwards, both distinguished lawyers, Judge David Todd, David Barton, H. V. Bingham, the father of the great artist whose pencil made famous the General Order No. 11 of General Ewing of Civil war fame. The Baptists organized a church in the town in 1819 and the Methodists one year later on but no house of worship was erected.

Franklin continued to be the county seat until 1823, when the county seat was located at Fayette, the latter town being about the geographical center of the county. Many of Franklin's citizens moved to Fayette, especially the lawyers. The Masonic lodge was organized at Old Franklin in 1820.

It was removed to New Franklin in 1852 and reorganized and known as Howard lodge No. 4, being the fourth Masonic lodge instituted in the state.

The first post office was established at Old Franklin on April 20, 1821, and Augustus Stores appointed postmaster. With the flood of 1826, the town of New Franklin owes its existence. With the advent of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad to New Franklin it soon increased in population from 250 people to 1,500, but of late years the railroad company has removed the round house and repair shops from the town and since their removal the town has gradually decreased in population until at present it has not more than 600 inhabitants.

Estill

Estill station is a small country village with one store and blacksmith shop and post office. It is situated in the richest part of Howard County and is named in honor of Col. J. R. Estill who gave the site for a depot.

Fayette

Fayette, the county seat of Howard County, was named in honor of General LaFayette when he was about to revisit the United States; The town was laid out in 1823. The following citizens located the present site of the county seat: Jonathan Crawley, William Head, Samuel Wallace, Glenn Owens, and Samuel Hardin. Hiram Fugate and Hick Burnham each donated twenty-five acres for the county seat. Elisha Witt built the first house of logs. The first merchant was named O'Neal. Dr. Wm. McLain was the first physician and Mathew Semmons the first blacksmith. Lawrence J. Daly was the first school teacher, as well as the first postmaster of Fayette. He was a native of Ireland and died in Fayette. In 1838 a bank, a branch of the Missouri State Bank, was established in Fayette with Dr. J. J. Lowery as president and C. F. Jackson as cashier. In 1865 A. Hendrix established a private bank which later on became the Merchants and Mechanics Bank of Fayette.

The Fayette bank was established in 1871. The Commercial Bank has recently been opened for business in Fayette. There have been three court houses in Fayette since it became the county seat. The first was built in 1824, the second in 1859, and the third in 1879. The cholera visited Fayette first in 1832 and again in 1873. The latter visit resulted in nearly 100 deaths.

Central College, under the management of the Methodist Church South is located at Fayette and is in a prosperous condition. Howard-Payne College at Fayette is a school for the education of girls and is also under the direction of the Methodist Church South. Both schools are well patronized.



Science Hall, Central Collage, Fayette

Glasgow

The town of Glasgow was laid out in the fall of 1836. It was named in honor of James Glasgow, one of the early settlers of the township. As Glasgow was located on the Missouri river with the advantages of river transportation, it was not long until the town was of much importance in a commercial sense. Glasgow has four flouring banks in active and successful operation. The Chicago & Alton Railroad has a railroad bridge over the Missouri at Glasgow for the main line of its road from Chicago to Kansas City.

Pritchett College at Glasgow, an educational institution of high repute, is in a flourishing condition under the presidency of Hon. U. S. Hall, assisted by a corps of able teachers. The Morrison Observatory, donated to the use of Pritchett College by the will of Mrs. Berenice Morrison-Fuller in the year of 1874, is at Glasgow.

Lewis College is also located in the city of Glasgow. This is an educational school under the charge of the Methodist Church North and was made possible by the generous donations of B. W. Lewis.

Armstrong

Armstrong, a small town located in Prairie Township on the Chicago & Alton Railroad ten miles from Fayette, was laid out in 1878. It was incorporated as a village in 1879 and remained under the village act until 1894 when it was incorporated as a city of the fourth class. Armstrong has four neat churches: Christian, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian.

Roanoke

The town of Roanoke was laid out in 1834 and named "Roanoke" in honor of the country home of John Randolph, the great Virginia statesman. Roanoke was for many years a town of considerable business importance and remained so until the building of the Chicago & Alton Railroad three miles south of the town and the location of the town of Armstrong, which has grown rapidly until it has virtually killed the trade of its sister town, Roanoke, until at present only one store and a few old houses remain to tell of the departed glory of the grand old town of antebellum days.

Sebree

Sebree is a small town located in the southeastern part of the county in Moniteau Township.

Burton

Burton in Burton Township on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad was made possible by the construction of the railroad through the county in the year 1880.

It has a depot, post office and one store. At one time in its history it had a large trade in the shipment of railroad ties and leaf tobacco.

The first newspaper issued in Howard County was on April 25, 1819, by Nathaniel Patten and Benjamin Holliday at Old Franklin and was known as the *Missouri Intelligencer*. In 1826 the Intelligencer was moved to Fayette, the county seat, where it was issued until April 9, 1830, when it was purchased by Columbia citizens and moved to that city. It was the first newspaper published west of St. Louis.

The next newspaper published in Howard County was the *Western Monitor* at Fayette in August, 1827, by Western F. Birch, who was the editor until 1837, when it passed under the control of James H. Birch, a brother of the retiring editor, who changed its name to the *Missourian*. In a few years the *Missourian* passed into the hands of C. H. Green, who changed the name of the paper to the *Boon's Lick Times*. About the time of the publication of the Times by Green, Judge William B. Napton established the *Boon's Lick Democrat*. The Democrat was published until 1844, when it ceased publication and the Times was moved to Glasgow and was published until 1861.

The next newspaper was the *Howard County Banner*, started in 1853 by R. C. Hancock. This paper was sold to Randall and Jackson, who in a couple of years sold the paper to I. N. Houck, who changed its name to the *Howard County Advertiser*. The Advertiser under different management is still in existence at the present time.

The *Glasgow Journal*, *Glasgow Times*, and *News* were short lived publications of only a few years. Since the Civil war the *Central Missourian* at Glasgow, the *Democrat-Leader* at Fayette, the *New Franklin News* and the *Armstrong Herald* are the representatives of the press in Howard County.

War History

In all the wars, including the Mexican war of 1846, the Mormon and Civil wars, Howard County has always furnished her full quota of soldiers.

In the war of 1846, Capt. J. W. Hughes, at the call of Governor Edwards of Missouri, raised a company of Howard County boys and joined Gen. A. W. Doniphan in his march to the land of the Montezumas.

In the Black Hawk and Florida wars the sons of old Howard were among the first to respond to duty's call. To attempt to write a full and complete history of Howard County just preceding the great Civil war, which swept over our country like a besom of destruction, would fill a book of many volumes. With a very few exceptions, most citizens of Howard County at the beginning of the war between the states were born in Kentucky, Tennessee or Virginia and were strong believers in the doctrine of states' rights, as advocated by J. C. Calhoun and other southern statesmen. They were also strong advocates of slavery. Most of the wealthy citizens were owners of large numbers of slaves. As a matter of fact they could not help espousing the cause of their brethren in the South when war was declared between the states.

After the firing on Fort Sumter, when there was no doubt that civil war with all its terrible ravages was close at hand, the citizens of Howard County began to take sides and as most of her citizens were of Southern birth or extraction the general sentiment and feeling was with the Southern cause. A mass meeting was held at the court house in Fayette and many speeches made by those who were in favor of secession and others advising against a severance from the Union. As the Southern sentiment was the strongest and led by such men as Gen. John B. Clark, Gov. C. F. Jackson and many others, a company of men was raised and J. B. Clark, Jr., made captain of the state troops to repel invasion of the state from Federal troops. After every effort had failed to reconcile and compromise the difference of opinion as to what course the people of Howard County should take in the war, those of her citizens who were believers in the justness of the Southern cause from time to time as the war progressed went south and joined the armies of Gen. Sterling Price. It is estimated that Howard County furnished no less than two thousand soldiers to the South and about fifteen hundred to the Union cause during the war.

During the Civil war Howard County suffered considerable from the ravages resulting from the contending forces occupying her territory. No large battles were fought in Howard County, but there were a great number of engagements between small bodies of soldiers representing federal troops and what was known as guerrilla squads under Todd, Jackson, Anderson and Quantrell.

The only battle of any moment was the battle of Glasgow between the Confederate forces under Gen. Sterling Price and a body of Federals stationed at Glasgow under the command of Col. Chester Harding, of the Union army, in October, 1864. The battle was begun by the Confederates under Generals Joe Shelby and John H. Clark and after a few hours' engagement the Federals surrendered with a loss of sixty killed and a great many wounded. The Confederate loss was nearly as large. After the close of the Civil war and the smoke of battle had cleared the horizon from the effects of the most stupendous internecine strife of modern times, the citizens of Howard County returned to the peaceful walks of life. Many had lost all their earthly possession in the war, and hence were compelled to begin life anew.

The County Today

The area of Howard County is about 463 square miles, with a frontage on the Missouri river on the west and south of thirty-four miles. The face of its territory was originally covered with a growth of heavy timber, except small upland and southern prairies and a much larger acreage in the northern part of the county which is included within Prairie Township. The bluffs near the city of Glasgow in Chariton township rise to a height in some places of 275 feet above the average water mark of the Missouri river and this is probably about the general elevation of the highlands throughout the county. The river bluffs on the western border are very steep and in some places are perpendicular, but on the southern border are more gentle in decline. The streams often pursue their course 150 feet below the tops of the ridges and the valleys are connected with the ridges by long and easy slopes. The southern portion of the county is not as hilly as the, northwestern. The undergrowth of timber consists of many valuable varieties such as white, red and black oak, chestnut, oak, black walnut, elm, hickory, ash, linden, and sycamore. Aside from the frontage on the Missouri River the rest of the county is watered by such streams as the Moniteau, Bonne Femme, Salt creek. Sulphur creek. Bear, and Gregg's.

There are many salt springs to be found in Boon's Lick and Richmond townships which were utilized by the early settlers to furnish domestic salt. Good coal and profitable deposits of coal are to be found in nearly every township in the county in sufficient quantities to supply all home consumption. In fact, in Burton Township a coal shaft is in active operation on the line of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad.

Schools

The crowning glory of American institutions in the establishment of the public school system. Nowhere is it found of a higher order of efficiency and conducted by more energetic teachers than in Howard County. The public school system was organized in 1867 under the state laws of 1866. Since that date the public schools have gradually increased both in number and efficiency.

Churches

The religious and moral development of her citizens has not been neglected and the march to a higher plane along the lines of moral rectitude is looked after by the various Protestant churches; Southern Methodist, Baptist, Christian, Presbyterian and Episcopal. There are also denominations of Seventh Day Adventists, Holiness, and Catholic.

It has been a question of dispute for many years as to which denomination was the first to raise the standard of Christ in Howard County. After a close investigation into the records of the past, it is generally conceded that the Baptists were the forerunners in carrying the banner of the cross into the virgin territory of what is known as the Boon's Lick country. The Methodists were but a few years later in establishing the emblem of the cross in Howard County. Mount Pleasant Baptist church near New Franklin is evidently from the records the oldest church organization in the county, having its origin April 12, 1812. The Christian church in Howard County, one of the largest in membership as well as in wealth, was organized between 1816 and 1820. The Presbyterian and Episcopal churches were organized some years later. The Southern Methodist church is probably the largest in wealth and membership of any in the county. The Catholics have churches at Fayette, Glasgow and New Franklin.

Conclusion

In conclusion it may be said that there are few counties in the state with an acreage of only 463 square miles that have had a more interesting history filled with more thrilling events and heroic deeds, and none that have been more potent as a factor in shaping and directing the political history of the state.

From the year 1810 to the present time Howard County has been the center of political thought in the state and has furnished many prominent and eminent men in the state and nation.

In the councils of the nation she had a representative in the United States senate in the person of David Barton. In the House of Representatives are to be found the illustrious names of John G. Miller, Gen. J. B. Clark, Sr., and J. B. Clark, Jr.

In state councils and on the supreme bench: William Scott, George Tompkins, and Abiel Leonard; in the treasury department: A. W. Morrison and R. P. Williams; as state auditor, John Walker; and as governor: John G. Miller, Thomas C. Reynolds, Lilburn W. Boggs and C. F. Jackson.

Abiel Leonard, Jr., and Ethelbert Talbot, bishops of the Episcopal Church, Eugene R. Hendrix, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, James P. Major, Major General United States Army, Uriel S. Sebree, Rear Admiral United States Navy, are natives of Howard County.