

A
HISTORY
OF
LACLEDE
COUNTY

LEO NYBERG

LOCAL HISTORY
REFERENCE
MISSOURI
LACLEDE CO
HISTORY

SPRINGFIELD
SPRINGFIELD

About The Author

Lawrence H. ... was born in ... of ... in ...

... where he was born ...

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A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

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Permission to reprint this publication was graciously given by Mr. Nyberg's sons Leo E. Nyberg and Charles Y. Nyberg.

About The Author

Leo Everette Nyberg was only 34 years old when he died of tuberculosis at Fort Smith, Arkansas, on March 7, 1940.

Nyberg's short, but full life, began on a small farm near Phillipsburg, Missouri, where he was born on November 5, 1905.

It would later lead to the Arkansas Legislature.

At the age of 10, Nyberg finished grammar school, and at the age of 14 he finished high school in Lebanon and moved on to Southwest Teachers College in Springfield for three years.

While in college, he was hired as a reporter with the Springfield Leader. It was also about this time, at the age of 20, that Nyberg wrote this book, one of the earliest written about the history of Laclede County.

Nyberg would leave the State of Missouri for Arkansas where in 1929 he would become the City Editor and later Editor of the Helena World.

In 1932, Nyberg was elected to the Arkansas Legislature as a Representative from Phillips County. He was reelected in 1934, 1936 and 1938. He was the first lawmaker from that county to serve four consecutive terms.

A leader of the liberal bloc, Nyberg produced an enviable record in the Legislature. In 1938, already suffering from tuberculosis, he got out of his sickbed and led a fight for a \$2.5 million building program for the State Tuberculosis Sanatoria.

He was credited with literally giving his life in the fight to secure adequate hospital and medical facilities which would save the lives of thousands suffering from the disease that would eventually take his life.

A 500-bed hospital in Booneville, Arkansas would become known as the Nyberg State Tuberculosis Hospital.

The bill, he co-wrote with Representative Lee Nichols of Logan County, would lead to the expansion of not only the State Tuberculosis Hospital but also the expansion of another facility in Alexander, Arkansas.

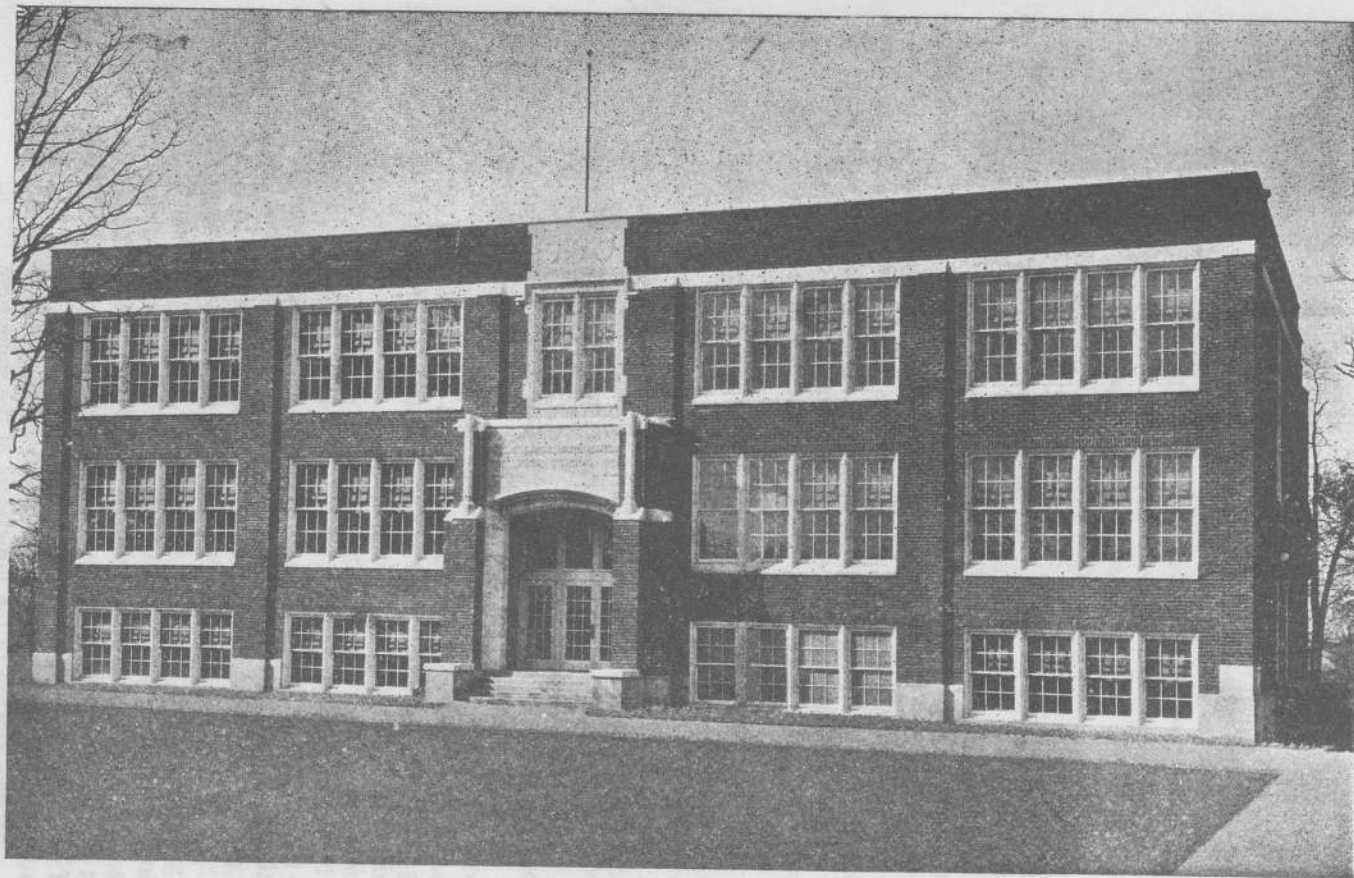
It was passed by the Arkansas Legislature in March of 1938. Seven major buildings and many smaller buildings to help persons afflicted with tuberculosis were built with funding from the bill.

At the time of his death Nyberg was survived by his wife, Demma Retta Young Nyberg (who he married in 1930), the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Young, the owners of the Helena World; two sons, Leo, Jr., and Young Nyberg; his mother, Mrs. Adelia Nyberg of Lebanon, Missouri; three brothers, Oscar Nyberg of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Charles Nyberg of Pacific, Missouri and Lloyd Nyberg of Phillipsburg, Missouri; and two sisters, Mrs. Rissia King of Phillipsburg, Missouri and Mrs. L.G. Campbell of Lebanon, Missouri.

The high esteem in which this Laclede County native was held by the citizens of Arkansas was attested to by the scores of messages of condolence from all sections of the state that were received by his widow and the Helena World as news of his death spread.

Among those issuing a statement about Nyberg was State Senator Luther J. Wilkes, who was elected to the legislature at the same time.

"His great battles for humanity were so very outstanding," he said of Nyberg.



THE WALLACE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, LEBANON, MISSOURI.

A HISTORY
OF
LACLEDE COUNTY
MISSOURI

FROM 1820 TO 1926

BY
LEO NYBERG



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LEBANON, MISSOURI

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LEO NYBERG

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LEBANON, MISSOURI

DEDICATION

TO OUR GRANDPARENTS, YOURS AND
MINE, WHOSE PERSEVERING EFFORTS,
WHOSE UNFALTERING TOIL, WHOSE NEV-
ER-CEASING FAITH IN THE POWERS OF
THOSE ROCKY HILLS AND STUMPY FIELDS,
AND WHOSE HEART-BREAKING LABORS
HAVE ENABLED US, THEIR POSTERITY,
TO LIVE COMFORTABLY AND RESPECT-
ABLY WHERE THEY TOILED ENDLESSLY
---TO THEM THIS LITTLE BOOK IS RESPECT-
FULLY AND REVERENTLY DEDICATED.

DEDICATION

TO OUR GRANDPARENTS, YOURS AND
MINE, WHOSE FORTHRIGHT EFFORTS
WHOSE UNFATHOMED TOIL, WHOSE MAY-
ENCOURAGING FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF
THOSE HOPEFUL AND STURDY FOLKS
AND WHOSE HEART-BREAKING LABORS
HAVE KEPT US IN THEIR COMPANY
TO LIVE COURAGEOUSLY AND HONOR-
ABLY WHILE THEY TOOK ENDLESSLY
--TO THEM THE LITTLE BOOK IS DEDICATED
FULLY AND REVERENTLY BELIEVING

PREFACE

It has been only a few years now since it was possible to obtain any information desired concerning the early history of the county from some old neighbor who had lived through it all and was able to give any kind of information first hand. But that respected and honored generation is passing—even today they are a great many less than a year ago. Only a very few more years and we know that all of them will be gathered to their fathers. With them will die those interesting tales of early days—unless those tales are made into permanent form so that they may be obtained by everybody. Soon our children would be growing up without the slightest idea of what their grandparents and great-grandparents had done before them, for soon there would be no one from whom they might learn of these things. Because of this condition there is a great need today for a history of our home county. Its purpose will be to serve as a connecting link between the past and the present—and the future.

In compiling this little book the author has been aided by a great many people. It would be impossible to give a list of all those who have helped, but those whose assistance has been most valuable are listed below. Among them are Mr. and Mrs. J. E. MacKesson, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Fuller, Sam Farrar, Aunt Hannah Murphy, Mrs. Joe Warren, Mrs. N. J. McFarland, Mrs. Eleanor Watt, Solon H. Manchester, the Fulkerson brothers, Homer Davenport, E. B. Kellerman, various members of the Shakespeare Club, and all the old veterans of the Civil War. The assistance of all has been greatly appreciated.

LEO NYBERG.

Lebanon, Missouri,
August 15, 1926.

PREFACE

It has been only a few years now since it was possible to obtain any information desired concerning the early history of the county from some old neighbor who had lived through it all and was able to give any kind of information that had. But that respect and honored generation is passing—even today they are a great many less than a year ago. Only a very few more years and we know that all of them will be gathered to their fathers. With them will be those interesting tales of early days—unless those tales are made into permanent form so that they may be obtained by everybody. Even our children would be growing up without the slightest idea of what their grandparents and great-grandparents had done before them, for even there would be no one to tell them that night's tale of these things. Because of this condition there is a great need in this day for a history of our home county. Its purpose will be to serve as a connecting link between the past and the present—and the future.

In compiling this little book the author has been aided by a great many people. It would be impossible to give a list of all those who have helped, but those whose assistance has been most valuable are listed below. Among them are Mrs. and Mrs. J. E. Blackstone, Mrs. and Mrs. William Fox, Mr. Sam Taylor, Aunt Margaret Murphy, Mrs. Joe Warren, Mrs. V. J. McArthur, Mrs. Virginia Wolf, John H. Macomber, the Fullerton family, Mrs. James Davidson, E. E. Robinson, various members of the Spang family, and all the old veterans of the Civil War. The assistance of all has been greatly appreciated.

Lafayette, Missouri,
August 15, 1928.

LEO WYBING.

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CHAPTER I

THE EARLY SETTLERS—THE FERRY MILL, AND OTHER EARLY EXPERIENCES

CHAPTER ONE

THE FIRST SETTLERS

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CHAPTER I.

THE EARLY SETTLERS—THE FIRST MILL AND OTHER EARLY ENTERPRISES

EARLY in the spring of 1820 Jesse Ballew came westward, crossed the Gasconade River near where the Hazlegreen bridge spans that river to-day, and built his little log cabin on the west side of the stream. Jesse Ballew thus became the first white settler within the bounds of what later was to become Laclede county. A short time later Henry Anderson, another daring pioneer, settled just across the river from Ballew, to be followed shortly by another settler, William Montgomery, who erected his cabin a few miles down stream. In 1823 Jesse Williams came and settled just below where Bear Creek empties into the river. Jesse Williams was the father of Obadiah Williams who settled one mile west of Lebanon and from whom Williams Pond gets its name. Others who followed shortly afterward were William Tweedy, Leonard Eastwood, Spencer O'Neal, Aaron Span, and James Campbell, all making their homes near where the first men had settled.

Settlers now began coming thick and fast. As early as 1836 the land in this region was surveyed and sectionized, thus making it possible for land entries to be made within sixteen years after the arrival of the first settler. When we consider that at the time of the coming of the first settler all this section was a savage wilderness sparsely covered with timber and wild grasses, inhabited by wild animals and wilder Indians, it is amazing to see that within such a short time such rapid progress could be made in the bringing of all this territory under the control of government authority and supervision. The first ones to take advantage of this rich territory thus opened for homesteading were Abraham Munholland, John Tucker, Robert Montgomery, D. B. Laxton, Benjamin Moore, William Maxey, John Honssinger, Robert Farris, Moses Bean, and W. P. Wisdom.

Barney Munholland, descendant of Abraham Munholland, lives near Falcon, in the eastern part of the county to-day. Mose Bean was a tall raw-boned man, a sort of one-horse lawyer, and fairly well educated for

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those days. John Honssinger has relatives living near Abo to-day, among whom is Oscar Honssinger, whose wife is attaining wide renown as a turkey raiser.

Hawkins' Leg, as this section of the county was known at first, was later renamed Smith township in honor of William H. Smith, one of the most highly esteemed pioneers of that section. He was a great old deer-hunter, was a slaveholder, loved horses and dogs, and he owned all the land on each side of the road just across the Hazlegreen bridge. Dr. Titterington of Lebanon, a dentist, is a grandson.

Jordan Lane, another deer hunter, of medium size, dark complexion, and blue eyes, lived on Bear Creek close to the Pulaski county line, two miles from where the Frisco railroad runs now. William and Meredith Wilson, two brothers, lived on Prairie Hollow, up from the Gasconade. Newt Wilson, City Marshal of Lebanon, is a grandson of Meredith Wilson. Thomas Stark, a great hunter, also settled near them, at about the same time, between the years 1830 and 1835. A few years later, Adam Todd, Charles Phipps, James Manes and Jesse Towell settled higher up on Bear Creek. About the same time Jerry Rowland, from whom Rowland ford on the Gasconade gets its name, Benjamin Fugate, Carter T. Robinson and Thomas Weatherly settled on the Gasconade. Immediately afterward Eli Rippy and William Murrell settled on Prairie Creek. Thomas Weatherly, being something of a mechanical genius, and tired of beating hominy for bread, built a mill near the mouth of the Osage Fork, which supplied for years the breadstuff of the people of that section.

The first mill of any sort to be erected in the territory now Laclede county was built in 1825 by Robert Montgomery. This was nearly ten years before Weatherly erected his mill.

The second company of settlers that came to this section was made up of George W. and Robert Davis, W. H. Smith, Elisha Northrip, F. B. Fugate, Joseph Lane, James Mayfield, John Paradise, John Mizer, J. W. Harrison, A. Story, F. W. Percy, H. W. Traylor and others, who settled in the rich valley of Bear Creek.

The earliest settlers in and around Lebanon were James Jolley, John T. Cooper, William A. McPhail and Lauckland Murphy. About the same time Moses Thompson settled about eight miles east of Lebanon, and Isaac Whitson twelve miles southeast of Lebanon.

"Aunt Hannah" Murphy, the Old Town fortune teller, was with Isaac Whitson as a laborer on his farm for many years and knew him well.

THE EARLY SETTLERS

These settlements were made about the year 1834. J. M. Appling moved near Lebanon in 1836.

Among the first settlers in Goodwin Hollow were Peter Goodwin, for whom it was named, Abel Benton and John Case. The tide of settlement soon thereafter set in that direction. Among those who came prior to 1840 were Miles Vernon, Joseph J. Thrailkill, John Atchley, Jared Hoffman, Peter Barr, Alex Hoffman, John Robinson and Thomas Lowry. Many of the descendants of these old pioneers now live near the old homesteads, while others are scattered among the several states.

About the year 1840, David, Levi C., Daniel, John and Martin Fulbright settled on the Dry Auglaize, on the broad and productive lands which once belonged entirely to the Fulbright family. Levi C. Fulbright, who had come to the county first, really settled here in 1830. He was the first man to whom the ordinance of Christian baptism was administered within the bounds of what is now LaCledde county, and he also assisted in locating the first public highway established in the county.

John W. Lomax, Jesse Brown, Peter Bennett and A. N. Sweet were among the first who settled on the Niangua River. About the year 1837 James Brice settled near the famous spring and soon after erected a mill. Brice now bears his name. In 1843 Joseph Henson settled in Spring Hollow. A number of settlements were made in that hollow from 1855 to 1860 and it is now thickly settled with many people who are direct descendants of those early pioneers.

W. A. Mullicane, from whom Mullicane school is named, is believed to be the first white man that settled in "Dance Yard Hollow." At the mouth of this hollow was a large yard used by the Indians for their dances, hence the name of "Dance Yard." This spot has the most romantic associations with the aborigines of the Ozarks of any single place in LaCledde or adjoining counties. It was at one time one of the most beautiful spots in the county.

In 1852 there were no settlements on Mountain Creek. Shortly after that time many families of Swedes and Norwegians came to this section of the county and took up homesteads. August Anderson, who was later killed by his sons over in Wright county; John Linn, Andrew and John Faulk, Gustave Bringleson and C. J. S. Nyberg were the first settlers on Mountain Creek.

The first settlements in the portion of the county taken from Wright county were made by Peter Barrow, Samuel Cooper and Charles and Daniel Bilderback. Barrow settled near Brush Creek Station; Cooper,

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

one and one-half miles below; Daniel Bilderback, three miles below, on Brush Creek, and Charles Bilderback at the head of Jones Creek.

About the same time John S. Shields, John R. Casey, Arnet Shields, Jeremiah Russell, Samuel Odell, Samuel Grigsby and William and Elijah Bohannon settled at different places, mostly on the rivers, in the eastern part of the county.

However, Jeremiah Russell lived only about three miles east of Conway and had a store there, the place being called Jericho, from Russell's first name, Jeremiah. Anderson Everett, Elijah and James Benton, James Hughart and Daniel Street settled in the Brush Creek section. Peter Bashaw, James, Kit and William Steen and William Atwood settled on Steen's Creek. Two years later, Alexander and John Lorange, Joab Scott, Morgan Davis, John Thurman, Jesse Brake and others settled in the same locality. These settlers were principally from Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio.

William Cossey, Joseph McMenus, Sr., and Micajah Forkner were early settlers at the head of Jones Creek. Forkner, however, was really a little way over the line in what is now Dallas county. William Cossey was one of the earliest settlers to take up land near Conway, as he settled on Jones Creek at a beautiful spring, two miles northwest of Conway in the spring of 1847. He brought his family with him from Indiana. Some of his descendants live near the old homestead close to Conway today.

In those days the houses all over what is now Laclede county were very much scattered. The nearest mills were Robert Farris' and Josiah Taggart's on the Osage Fork, and Brice's on the Spring Branch. Dr. W. M. Dodson was the nearest physician, forty miles distant. There were no lawyers nearer than Springfield; drug stores were unknown; there were no conveniences of any kind, and the man and his wife reared their family by the sweat of their brows.

Some early histories of pioneer days try to paint beautiful pictures of the peaceful simplicity of early days, with rough comforts and happiness everywhere among the early settlers. Yet times were not nearly so happy-go-lucky as our children today are taught to believe. Our pioneer fathers in Laclede county lived hard. They literally hewed their homes from the wilderness itself, snatching from nature herself the bare necessities of life—and nature was sometimes not kind.

We today are somewhat inclined to minimize the importance of what our grandparents accomplished in these hills so many years before we saw the light of day—we like to believe such language as the following,

THE EARLY SETTLERS

taken from Goodspeed's History of Missouri, published in 1899: "Wild game and fish were abundant, and the land flowed with milk and honey. The old settlers were thrifty, kind and hospitable. The women dressed in homespun and the men in butternut jeans. The fair maiden who could get a little turkey red mixed in the colors of her gown never failed to catch a beau. Hoe-downs, log-rollings, corn-shuckings and cabin-raising were the order of the day. The old Virginia reel was the favorite and the merry-makings always wound up with cutting the pigeon wing, double shuffles and jigs, in the latter of which every dancer had to stick to his own puncheon."

Such an account of early life is terribly unfair to our grandparents. It is true that some times such times were enjoyed, but the days and days of sweltering toil, the heart-aches, the hardships, and the sufferings which were undergone meanwhile are never mentioned in such picturesque narratives. When we try to imagine the sufferings of those early mothers who reared large families of ten to fifteen children, and the endless toil of those early fathers who ground the livelihood for those families from the wilderness itself with bare hands, we can get some inkling of what we, in our comfortable surroundings today, will never realize. Those mothers were old, gnarled women at forty. Those fathers were bent, broken men at fifty. We must not allow ourselves today to take from them one grain of glory which they so nobly gained for themselves in their battle against the odds of nature—we must not allow ourselves to minimize the importance of their great work by believing such trash as "the land flowed with milk and honey." Let us instead remember with awe and thankfulness that we will never see the days which our forefathers right here in Laclede county suffered through for us—so that we might live in modern comfort.

CHAPTER II

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

LACLEDE COUNTY was organized in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly of Missouri, entitled "An Act to Organize the County of Laclede." The act reads as follows:

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

SECTION 1. All that portion of territory bounded within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the northeast corner of the Township of ...

CHAPTER TWO

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

... Township of ...

SECTION 2. Thomas ...

SECTION 3. John ...

CHAPTER TWO

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

CHAPTER II.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

LACLEDE COUNTY was organized in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly of Missouri, entitled "An Act to Organize the County of Laclede." The act reads as follows:

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

SECTION 1. All that portion of territory comprised within the following limits shall be organized into a separate and distinct county, for all civil and military purposes, except representation, and the territory now belonging to the counties of Pulaski, Wright and Camden is hereby attached back to such county for representation: Beginning at the northeast corner of Dallas county, thence east with the line dividing Townships 36 and 37 to the top of the ridge dividing the waters of the Dry Auglaize from the Wet Auglaize; thence south and east on the middle of said ridge separating the waters of the Wet Auglaize from Bear Creek until it strikes the range line dividing Ranges 13 and 14; thence south on said range line to the township line dividing Townships 34 and 35; thence southeast on a straight line to the middle of Range 12; thence south to the corner of Wright county; thence west with said line to the range line separating Ranges 17 and 18; thence north with said range line to the place of beginning. The territory thus organized shall, as soon as it is entitled constitutionally to a separate representation, have it.

SEC. 2. Thomas Whitacre, of Miller county; John Duncan, Sr., of Pulaski county, and Washington Henson, of Dallas, are hereby appointed commissioners to locate the seat of justice of said county; it shall be the duty of these commissioners to meet at the house of L. Murphy, as soon as they can conveniently do so, and proceed to the selection of such site, and they are hereby instructed by the fifth section of "An Act to provide for the organization of counties hereafter established," approved February 6, 1845. (The section referred to reads as follows: "Such commissioners, or a majority of them, when duly qualified and assembled, shall examine and select the most suitable place in such county for a seat of justice for the same, having due regard for the situation, quality of the land and the convenience and interest of the inhabitants.")

Sec. 3. John Kelly, of Camden county, is hereby appointed a commissioner, whose duty it shall be to advertise an election in eight of the most public places in the county, to hold an election for the purpose of electing all the civil officers of the county; such commissioner shall advertise at least twenty-five days before the day of election; and shall appoint judges of election, who shall hold the election in every

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

respect as is now provided by law, except returning the poll books, which shall be returned to the commissioner, who shall thereupon certify to the governor the election of such persons and the office to be filled; and the officers so elected and commissioned by the governor shall hold their offices until the next general election, and until their successors are duly elected and qualified; such election shall be held on the first Monday in April, 1849.

SEC. 4. The courts of said county shall be held at the house of L. Murphy until the seat of justice shall be established by law.

SEC. 5. The several assessors of the counties of Pulaski, Wright and Camden shall deliver to the county court so much of their respective books as applies to the taxable inhabitants of the county of Laclede, and take a receipt for the same; such receipt shall be a sufficient discharge from all responsibility incurred thereby.

This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 24, 1849.

In accordance with the provisions of the foregoing act, an election was held at the required number of places within the county, on the first Monday in April, 1849, and Robert Farris, William Smith and Samuel W. Barnes were elected judges of the county court, John S. Shields, sheriff, and John L. Herndon, clerk of the county court. In further obedience to the act, these officers, after being duly commissioned and qualified, met at the house of L. Murphy, beneath a large tree just below Old Town, on the thirty-first day of May following, and there organized the county court by electing the Hon. Robert Farris presiding judge.

On October 1, 1849, the first day of the first term of the circuit court, Thomas Whitacre, of Miller county, and John Duncan, of Pulaski county, "a majority of the commissioners," went before the judge of the circuit court and reported the donation of fifty acres of land for the location of the county seat of Laclede county. Forty-one acres of this land had been given by Benjamin B. Harrison and wife, for no other consideration than that the county seat be located thereon. The other nine acres was donated by James M. Appling and wife, also for the consideration that the county seat be located there. Thus the first fifty acres for the site of the county seat of Laclede county was virtually donated for that purpose.

The site for the town was then surveyed out into lots, blocks, alleys and streets, and named Lebanon, after Lebanon, Tennessee. The lots were then sold at auction, with the exception of those reserved for county purposes, and the block of lots thus sold brought the sum of \$255.33. Afterwards other blocks of lots were sold at stated times and the money brought in was used in the erection of various county buildings.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The contract for the first courthouse for Laclede county was let to A. S. Cherry in May, 1850. The building, a one and one-half story frame structure, with the court room on the first floor and the clerk's office on the second, was so far completed in November of that year that the county court held its session therein, and it was fully completed and accepted from the hands of the contractor in February, 1851. At this time \$350.00 was appropriated for the erection of a county jail. This contract was given to W. O. Duval and the jail was completed in September, 1851. This jail was made of three walls of squared logs, the timbers of the outer and inner walls being laid horizontally and those of the middle wall being placed perpendicularly. This jail was burned in 1857, and soon another, of similar dimensions, was erected. The latter was burned down during the Civil War and for a number of years the county was without a jail. Meanwhile the prisoners were kept at the county expense in the Webster county jail.

After all the lots of the original fifty acres had been disposed of and the town of Lebanon had become a trade center of some importance, it was discovered that the title to the lands on which the town was built did not rest in the hands of the county or the owners of the various lots, but that the fifty acres which really belonged to the county and to the various owners of the town, really laid some distance to the north of them. However, little difficulty was experienced from this error for the county court merely conveyed the original fifty acres back to the original owners and received in exchange clear title to the land on which the town was built. The date of these last deeds was October 5, 1854. Many other interesting events in the early history of this little town will be found in another chapter under the history of Lebanon.

Thus we see that just twenty-nine years after the coming of the first settler, this territory was organized into a permanent county. It was named in honor of Pierre Liguest Laclede, the founder of St. Louis.

CONFIDENTIAL

The contents of the first volume of the series were...
A. J. [Name] in the [Year]...
[The text continues with a detailed account of the project's progress, mentioning various meetings and the challenges faced during the development of the first volume.]

Working on the [Project Name]...
[The text describes the collaborative efforts of the team, highlighting the contributions of various individuals and the iterative nature of the work.]

[The text continues to detail the project's milestones, including the completion of the first draft and the subsequent revisions.]

[The text concludes with a summary of the project's status and a final note on the importance of the work.]

CHAPTER III

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

AT THE beginning of the War of Secession in 1861, Laclede and Laclede county made up the first seceded, isolated community in the South. The only railroad miles from railroad or telegraph. No papers were read and so all knew they would be the only community. The people know but little of the secession and seceding the only reason for that of the secession. They heard only sufficient to understand the nature of the war. They heard only sufficient to understand the nature of the war. They heard only sufficient to understand the nature of the war.

CHAPTER THREE

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

CHAPTER THREE

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

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CHAPTER III.

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR.

AT THE beginning of the War of Secession in 1861, Lebanon and Laclede county made up the most secluded, isolated community one could imagine, one hundred miles from railroad or telegraph. Newspapers were rare and so old when they reached the little community that the people knew but little of the contention and agitation that was exciting the rest of the country. They heard only sufficient to make gossip for the loungers on the dry goods box at the country store. They heard talk of war, but never dreamed it would reach them or that there were soldiers on either side of them.

No wonder then that there was great excitement throughout the little town and countryside when the old lane, a mile and a half away on the Rolla road, became filled with soldiers, their bayonets gleaming in the sunlight. This was the first inkling, so to speak, of the great conflict that was so soon to stir the entire nation more than it had ever been stirred before. "Who are they?" "What are they doing here?" was on everybody's tongue. On they came and as they marched through and into the town, the Lebanon folk learned that they were General Nanthaniel Lyon's advance guard of three regiments of German United States troops in command of General Siegel, on their way to fight General Price at Wilson's Creek, near Springfield. Few of these troopers could speak English. They immediately arrested and put in jail all able-bodied men. They confiscated all provisions and took all the live stock that could be used by them in any way. Conflicting tales are told by old veterans and others who can remember those days concerning the actions of Siegel's men while they were in Lebanon, some bearing out the assertions that they were brutal and unkind to the civil folk, others contending that they took only those things to which they were entitled by the laws of war.

At any rate, after General Lyon's army reached Lebanon, and General Siegel had moved on toward Springfield, the people were treated

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

much more kindly. The town was filled with soldiers coming and going. The time came when the entire army moved on toward Springfield, and the little town seemed quiet and peaceful once more. But this was only for a short time. About three weeks later, on a bright Sunday morning, it seemed that everybody was at church. Soon someone came to the door and motioned one of the men outside. Then people began leaving, one at a time, tiptoeing outside. Finally the preacher quit talking and church was dismissed, the entire congregation going outside to lie flat on the ground with their ears close to the earth, listening. They could feel the earth trembling and by listening closely they could hear the thundering of the artillery at the Battle of Wilson's Creek nearly seventy miles away.

War had come into the midst of this peaceful little community, so far removed from the heart of the strife and turmoil that was causing this great rebellion. Yet these country folk immediately took sides—some for the North, others for the South. Three days passed, days that seemed like weeks. All were wondering who had won. Finally a man came galloping into town shouting the news that General Lyon was killed and the Yankees were defeated, most of them captured with their cannon and wagons. What was left of them would be in Lebanon in a few hours. General Price was just behind and a battle was expected every minute.

Lebanon was wild with suppressed joy and fear. Everybody spoke in whispers. Then came the Seigel men that had been in Lebanon, in advance, but not with the pomp and arrogance of a few weeks before. They were raw troops and had almost run the entire distance from Wilson's Creek. They had thrown away haversacks, coats, and many had no guns. Their clothes were wet with perspiration and covered with dust. When the command "Halt!" was given, every man fell to the ground, exhausted. Price was not following, but they thought he was, and it had the same effect. They could rest but one hour. The bugle sounded, and with weary legs and sore feet they started on that long seventy-five mile tramp to Rolla. Their wagons carried only the wounded, as their horses were exhausted. They did no foraging, had no stragglers, and by ten o'clock the next day the entire army had passed through.

The first companies raised at Lebanon, one for the State service, and another for the National service, were raised at the same time and drilled near each other. These men were not then enemies. But when both companies went to their respective commands it so happened that the one raised for the State service joined the Confederate forces while the other remained on the side of the North. The company raised for the

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

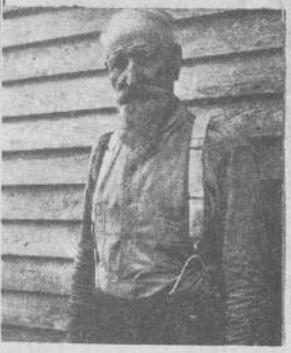
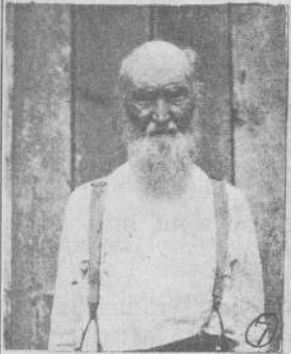
South went to join Price's command at Springfield. It served through the Pea Ridge campaign and later joined the Confederate forces and went south. Many companies were raised from Lebanon and Laclede county during the course of the War, for both sides. A great many men also went directly to the respective armies without joining any company directly from Lebanon. Because of this fact and in order to give actual facts the author has seen personally every veteran of the Civil War on both sides, now living in Laclede county. He has obtained from them accounts of their actual experiences and is giving them here that the people of this county may gain more intimate knowledge of what these men did during the Civil War. No history of a single company on either side would give so general a history of the county during the Civil War as does this section giving a brief history of each man now living who served in that war. The remainder of the story of Lebanon and the Civil War will be found in the chapter giving the history of Lebanon.

Following is a brief sketch of each Civil War veteran now living in Laclede county, telling the important events occurring during that conflict to the individual veteran, for after all, history is the story of people and not of places or things.

Willis Freeman, near Dove, is the oldest Civil War veteran in Laclede county. He was ninety-one years old on January 14, 1926. Willis Freeman was transferred several times during the war but spent most of his service in Company B, of the 4th Missouri Cavalry. He saw most of his service right here in Missouri, mostly on scouting service and guard duty, keeping down bushwhackers. However, he also went into several of the adjoining states and was in the Price Raid.

George C. Peak, of Conway, is the next oldest veteran. He was eighty-eight in November, 1925. He was in Company F, of the 129th Illinois Infantry. He was in the service two years and nine months, in Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and North and South Carolina. He served under Generals Hooker and Sherman and was in Sherman's famous "March to the Sea." He was in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain and also at the Battle of Atlanta.

Richard Franklin Nunn, living near Orla, was in the War from the beginning to the end. He was eighty-three years of age on May 26, 1926, and came to this county in 1882. Mr. Nunn was in the First Cavalry Army Corps, in Company I, the 6th Kentucky Cavalry. He fought under General Rosecrans at Chickamauga and was one of the two left in his company to reach the top of Lookout Mountain in that famous battle.



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LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

He was also in the historic forty days and nights raid after Jefferson Davis at the close of the war. Richard Franklin Nunn also has the distinction of having lived with the same wife for sixty-one years.

Lorenzo Dow Gleason, of Lebanon, was in Company H, of the Third Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery for one and one-half years. He was on duty at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, guarding the city of Washington, and was also detached and spent some time in Baltimore, and at Monocacy Junction, three miles from Fredericksburg. Mr. Gleason was eighty-two years old on May 31, 1926.

Timothy Willard, living near Southard for fifty-seven years, was in Company K, of the First Missouri Cavalry for seventeen months but was wounded and discharged. He recovered and went into Company F of the 62nd Illinois Infantry, and was in service for three years and six months, altogether. Timothy Willard was eighty-four on August 25, 1925. He saw service in Missouri and Arkansas and was in the Battle of Pea Ridge.

William Henry Turner, Laclede county's best known veteran, was born in New York State, but went to Connecticut when he was a baby. He was living there when the war began and although only fifteen years of age, "Uncle Billy" joined a Litchfield county regiment and was in the war from the beginning to the end. He was in Company E, of the 19th Connecticut Infantry, for seven months, and was transferred to the Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery. He was in the battles of Spottsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and the Wilderness campaign. He suffered a sunstroke while lying in the trenches at Petersburg. He was discharged July 5, 1865. "Uncle Billy," as he is known by everybody, was eighty-one years old February 20, 1926.

Richard A. Carter served in Company D of the 135th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. Thomas H. Dobbs. He was in the Home Guard Cavalry for two years prior to that, being too young to go into active service. He was in the service for two and one-half years on guard duty at St. Louis, Rolla and Pilot Knob. He was in the Price Raid and in numerous skirmishes. "Uncle Dick," as he is called by his numberless friends, is the best marksman in Laclede county, both with revolver

Pictures on opposite page: 1. Willis Freeman; 2. George C. Peak; 3. Richard Franklin Nunn; 4. Lorenzo Dow Gleason; 5. Timothy Willard; 6. William Henry Turner; 7. Richard A. Carter; 8. Jasper Dennis; 9. Isaac N. Magee; 10. Belfield Brown; 11. Levi Willis; 12. John Miller Watkins.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

and rifle, being able to wing birds practically every shot with a revolver. He was 80 years old October 19, 1925.

Jasper Dennis, of Morgan, was in Company G, of the Sixteenth Missouri Cavalry, being in the service almost a year. He was eighty-one years of age on May 1, 1926. He came to Laclede county at the age of eight years from Tennessee, and has been here ever since with the exception of the time he spent in the service during the war. With Richard F. Nunn, of Orla, Jasper Dennis also bears the distinction of having lived with the same wife for sixty-one years. He was in the same company as Rufus Lorange of Lebanon.

Isaac N. Magee, of Lebanon, first joined the Seventh Kentucky Cavalry, but this regiment was so badly shot up after the Battle of Cumberland Gap that it was merged with the Seventeenth Michigan Cavalry. Mr. Magee was in the service almost three years, acting as a despatcher most of the time because of his size and age. He saw service mainly in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was eighty-two on January 19, 1926.

Belfield Brown, of Orla, although living in the county only a short time, had lived just across the line in Wright county for forty-two years. He served in the Union Army during the last eighteen months of fighting, being in both of the King Salt Works battles and at Mount Sterling, Kentucky, when Morgan made his last raid.

Levi Willis, of Lebanon, was in the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry, Company G, for almost two years. He was in the Battle of Nashville and saw service mainly in Tennessee and Mississippi. He was eighty years old on May 6, 1926, and is a native of Indiana, coming to this county seven years ago.

John Miller Watkins, near Abo, was in Company E of the Twelfth Kansas Infantry for one year and six months. He saw service in Arkansas and Oklahoma and was in the battle of Saline River. He was eighty years old on March 10, 1926.

William C. McCallister was in Company I, Eighteenth Iowa Infantry. He was in the service from July 7, 1862, to September 8, 1865. He was in the battles of Fayetteville, Saline River and Poison River, Arkansas, and he saw most of his service in Southern Missouri and Arkansas. He was eighty-two September 18, 1925, and came to Laclede county in October, 1877.

William M. Baker, one of the youngest veterans in the county, was in the service twenty-three months in Company I of the Tenth Indiana

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

Cavalry. He was at Decatur, Mississippi, and also at the fall of Mobile. He is seventy-eight years of age and lives near Winnipeg, in the eastern part of the county.

Harrison Renner, near Russ, was in Company A of the Fifty-first Illinois. He was in the service about nine months and was at Blue Springs, Tennessee, at the close of the war. He is seventy-nine and came to Laclede county in 1865, at the close of the war.

Caleb Coon, near Winnipeg, is one of the most lively and able-bodied veterans remaining in the county. He served in Company B of the 193rd Ohio Infantry for one year. He saw service in the Shenandoah Valley, in Virginia, and was at Winchester, Virginia, at the close. He was eighty years old in May, 1926.

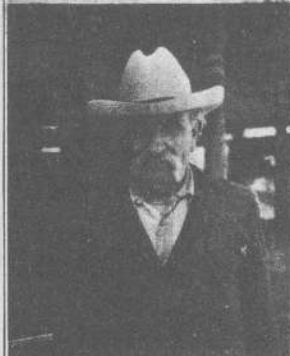
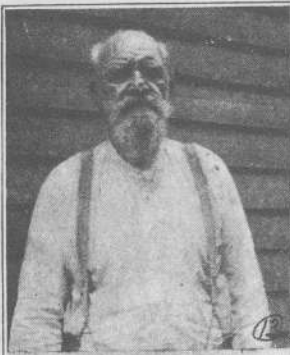
Louis Nero, Competition, is another very old veteran, being eighty-eight years old Christmas Day, 1925. He was in Company G of the Sixth New Hampshire Infantry and served from the last of 1863 until the last of 1868, being kept in as a regular after the close of the war, for three years. He was at Petersburg, Virginia, and helped tunnel under the Confederate lines. He was through this entire campaign, ending at the surrender of Lee.

Horace W. Bird, of Eldridge, served in the Eighth Missouri Cavalry, Company C. He went in when he was only fifteen and served as a bugler because of his age. He was at the battle of Little Rock and saw service mainly in Southern Missouri and Arkansas. He was seventy-nine, July 27, 1926.

Moses Knight, near Russ, was in Company G, Twenty-fourth Missouri Infantry, from the beginning of the war to the end. He saw service in Louisiana, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee. His regiment failed to get into the Battle of Wilson's Creek because they had not yet received their equipment. He was in the Battle of Nashville, and was at Mobile, Alabama, at the close. Moses Knight was born in Dunklin county, Missouri, and moved to this county when he was only seven. He is now eighty-two.

Hugh Watkins, near Phillipsburg, served in Company L of the Sixteenth Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, of which Charles W. Rubey was Captain. Mr. Watkins, a brother to John Miller Watkins, of Abo, is eighty-five years old and served for two years in Southwest Missouri.

William Gann, Conway, was in the service for three years, in Company B, Twenty-fourth Missouri Infantry. He saw service in Tennessee,



LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

Louisiana and Southeast Missouri, and was in the battles of Pleasant Valley, Louisiana, and Tupelo, Tennessee. He was eighty-two September 28, 1925.

Frederick Schiebe, Conway, was in Company E, Ninth Wisconsin Infantry, from the beginning of the war to the end. He rendered his service in Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana, and was in the Saline River fight in Arkansas. He is eighty-one and came to Laclede county in 1880.

John W. Robertson, near Phillipsburg, was in the war from the beginning to the end. He served in Company H, of the Eighth Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, and acted as scout, being on scout duty practically all the time. He was one of six scouts sent out to locate Price's camp after the evacuation of Little Rock, and the six rode up on the camp un-awares. Their sudden appearance put to flight the entire command as they thought they were the advance guard of the entire Northern army. John W. Robertson served as Judge of the Western District for one term, and he is now regarded as one of the most esteemed veterans of the county.

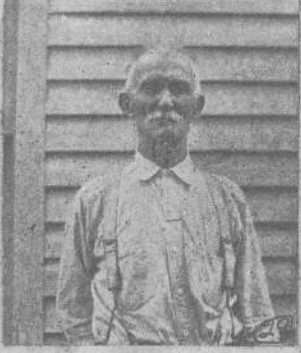
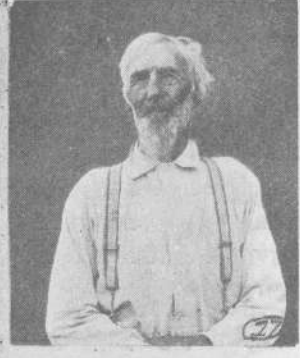
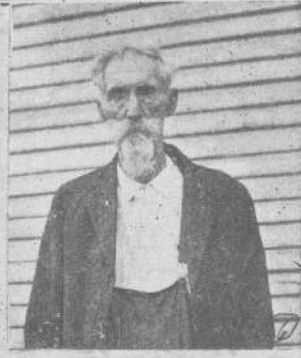
James R. Lorance, Morgan, was in Company G, of the Sixteenth Missouri Cavalry. He was in active service about twenty months, and was in service three years altogether. He served as a scout in Southwest Missouri mainly, and was in the Price Raid. James R. Lorance was seventy-eight years of age September 12, 1925, and he is one of the youngest veterans in the county. He has lived in Laclede county all his life.

John Thornbury, Conway, served in Company D, of the Missouri State Militia. He was in the service for two years and ten months, and saw service in Missouri, guarding wagon trains from Rolla to Springfield, and scouting for bushwhackers. He is eighty-three years of age.

Kelly Moore, near Phillipsburg, was in Company H, Eighth Missouri Cavalry, for two and one-half years. He saw service in Missouri and Arkansas and was in the battles of Brownville and Little Rock, Arkansas. Kelly Moore is seventy-nine years old, and lives within a mile of his birthplace.

C. H. Moore, among the oldest veterans in the county, was eighty-seven August 8, 1926. He was in the service for twelve months in Com-

Pictures on opposite page: 13. William C. McCallister; 14. William M. Baker; 15. Harrison Renner; 16. Caleb Coon; 17. Louis Nero; 18. Horace W. Bird; 19. Moses Knight; 20. Hugh Watkins; 21. William Gann; 22. Frederick Scheibe; 23. John W. Robertson; 24. James R. Lorance.



LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

pany G, Sixth Provisional, and served as a scout and guard. He also served in the State Militia before this. C. H. Moore lives near Phillipsburg and has the distinction of having voted for Abraham Lincoln for President.

Samuel Jones, Drynob, served first in the Provisionals, and then in Company H, Eighth Missouri Cavalry. He was in the service three years, in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. He was eighty-two in April, 1926.

J. W. Stewart, Lebanon, served in Company L, Third Iowa Cavalry, for one and one-half years. He saw service in Missouri, Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky. He was in the Price Raid and was at the Siege of Selma, Alabama. J. W. Stewart is seventy-nine years old.

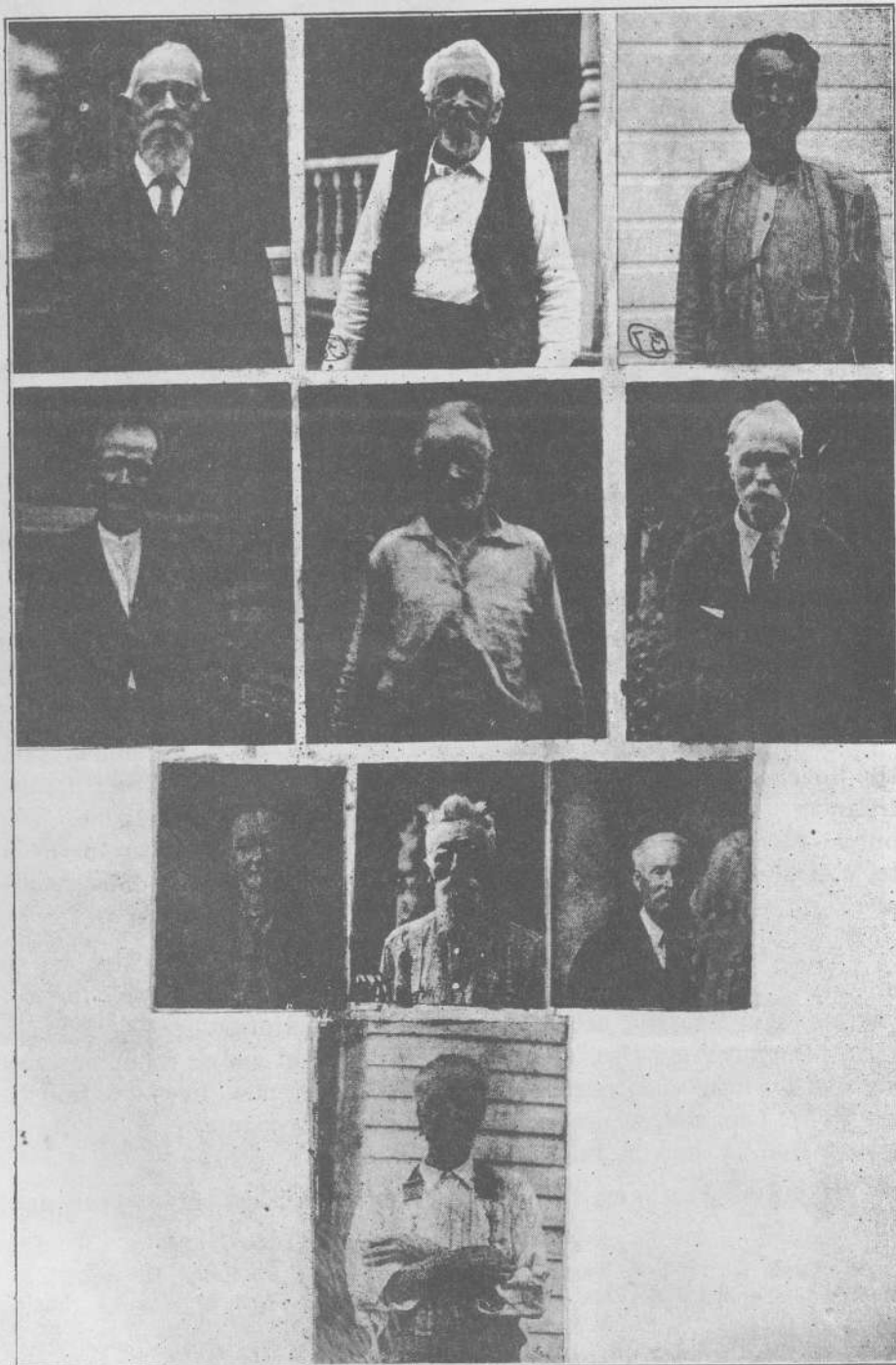
Elias Gibbs, Lebanon, has had a number of interesting war experiences, having served in the Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry, Company B. He saw service in the two Virginias and in North and South Carolina. He was in the war from the beginning to the end and was in the famous Petersburg campaign. He served under Meade and Grant, and completed a sixty mile march in twenty hours to be at the surrender of Lee. He was in a total of twenty-two fights. Elias Gibbs was eighty-five years of age December 10, 1925.

Charles Plumleigh, Lebanon, enlisted twice—first in Company B, of the Seventy-first Illinois, in 1862; later in Company F, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry. He was in the Battle of Shiloh and in the Siege of Vicksburg. Mr. Plumleigh was captured and remained a prisoner in the historic Andersonville prison for seven months. He was in Andersonville at the close of the war. He was eighty-four in September, 1925.

C. C. Draper, Lebanon, served in Company C, Third Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, sometimes called the M. S. M. He served for three years and three days, acting as bugler and adjutant's clerk, being too young for anything else. He was in Price's Raid and in numerous scouting expeditions and skirmishes. C. C. Draper now lives on his farm north of Lebanon, where he has a beautiful country home. He was eighty years of age on July 9, 1926.

Elijah M. Pinckney, Lebanon, was in the service only a year, due to

Pictures on opposite page: 25. John Thornbury; 26. Kelly Moore; 27. C. H. Moore; 28. Samuel Jones; 29. J. W. Stewart; 30. Elias Gibbs; 31. Charles Plumleigh; 32. C. C. Draper; 33. Elijah M. Pinckney; 34. Tom Nash; 35. Peter Ware; 36. John Shilkett.



LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

disability. He enlisted the first time in the Thirty-fourth Illinois, Company A, but was discharged at the end of nine months because of disability. He then enlisted again in the Forty-first Wisconsin, Company C, and got to serve three months. He was in the Army of the Cumberland and served under General Grant at Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, and Memphis. He is eighty-one years of age.

Tom Nash, of Eldridge, has the distinction of being the only colored veteran in the county. He served as a teamster and waiter for eighteen months and as a soldier in active service for one year. He was in Company I of the Second U. S. Artillery. He served in Tennessee and Mississippi, and was at Memphis at the close of the war. "Uncle Tom" is eighty years old. He hauled the first load of lumber for the village of Eldridge.

Peter Ware, living a few miles south of Brice, served in Company I of the 189th Ohio Infantry. He saw service in Alabama, and was in the army for almost a year. He is eighty-one years old.

John Shilkett, Phillipsburg, served in Company K, 149th Indiana Infantry. He was in the service about five months and spent some time in a hospital. He saw service in Tennessee and Alabama, and was in Alabama at the close of the war. "Uncle John" Shilkett was eighty years of age September 16, 1926.

A. B. Butler, Lebanon, was forced to run away from home five times in order to join the Union army. Each time he was caught by his stepfather and forced to return home. He finally made his get-away just seven months before the war ended, enlisting in Company A of the 154th Illinois Infantry. He was at Nashville at the close of the war. Mr. Butler was eighty years of age February 19, 1926.

A. C. Hickman, Lebanon, served in Company F, Thirty-second Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He served under Blair and also under Gen. John A. Logan. He was at the beginning of Vicksburg and was in the Battle of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. He was in the service two years and eight months, and was discharged at Woodville, Aabama, on January 6, 1864, for disability. He was eighty-four years old on November 9, 1925.

A. L. Benage, Lebanon, was in Company E, Forty-eighth Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He saw service in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee

Pictures on opposite page: 37. A. B. Butler; 38. A. C. Hickman; 39. A. L. Benage; 40. A. R. Lorance; 41. W. W. Miller; 42. Joseph N. Ramey; 43. I. N. Haun; 44. C. T. Starnes; 45. W. H. H. Smith; 46. John Digby.

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and Illinois. He was in the service two years and was stationed at Chicago at the close of the war, guarding prisoners of war. He was eighty-two years of age February 1, 1926. A. L. Benage is the grandfather of Jean Paul Bradshaw, Lebanon's youthful orator.

A. R. Lorance, Lebanon, served in Company G, Sixteenth Missouri Volunteer Cavalry. He saw service in Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas, was in the Price Raid, at Big Blue, and numerous skirmishes and raids. He was in the service fifteen months, and has spent all his life in Laclede county. He was eighty-three August 22, 1926.

William W. Miller, Lebanon, served in Company B, 154th Illinois Infantry, serving seven months and one day, mostly in Tennessee. He was eighty-two July 28, 1926.

Joseph N. Ramey, Conway, was in Company H, Eighty-seventh Indiana Infantry. He served almost three years, seeing service in Georgia, Tennessee and North and South Carolina. He was in the Battle of Chickamauga, at Missionary Ridge, Richmond, in Sherman's "March to the Sea," and at Johnston's surrender at Raleigh, North Carolina, at the end of the war. He was eighty-two September 15, 1925.

I. N. Haun, Lebanon, enlisted in 1861 in the Twentieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg and served through the Wilderness campaign. He also served on Cape Hatteras on patrol duty. Mr. Haun was discharged in 1864 at the end of his three year term. He represents the sole Union survivor of the Battle of Gettysburg in Laclede county today.

C. T. Starnes, Oakland, served from 1863 to 1865 in Company M, Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry, under General Thomas. He was born in Kentucky and came to this county at the close of the war in 1865. He was at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, at the end of the war. He was eighty-three January 8, 1926.

William H. H. Smith, living southeast of Lebanon, enlisted at the very beginning of the war, April 24, 1861, in the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company I. He was wounded and taken prisoner in the first Battle of Manassas, or Bull Run. He remained a prisoner until June 9, 1862, and was discharged June 18, 1862, as unfit for service. He then attempted to re-enlist but was refused admission. He was eighty-five on August 25, 1925. He represents the veteran in Laclede county today to first get into actual fighting in the Civil War.

John Digby, Lyons, was in Company G, Twenty-fourth Missouri Volunteers, and was in the war from the beginning to the end. He was all

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

over the South, in Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee and Kentucky. He was in the battles of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. He was under General A. J. Smith of the Sixteenth Army Corps. He was discharged from St. Louis at the close of the war. John Digby was eighty-one years old January 9, 1926. He was born in Illinois, but has lived in Laclede county sixty-five years.

Samuel J. Franklin, Competition, volunteered when he was only seventeen, joining Company M, Tenth Illinois Cavalry. He served two years and ten months. He saw service both in Illinois and in the South, and at one time he guarded prisoners in Chicago when there were 100,000 Confederate soldiers in prison there. He was discharged at Cairo, Illinois, at the end of the war.

The author regrets that he was unable to get Mr. Franklin's picture.

The author also regrets that he was unable to locate George Decker, another veteran of the Civil War.

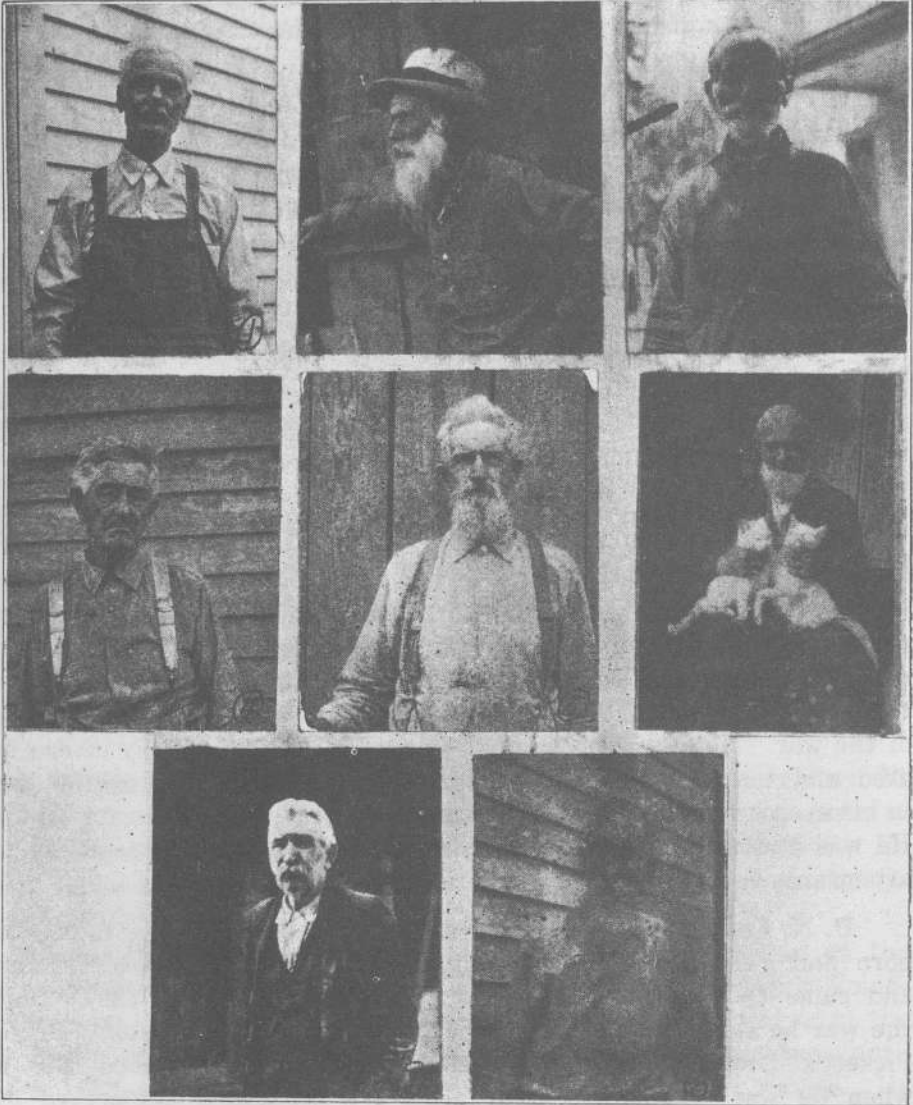
CONFEDERATE VETERANS

There are only eight veterans of the Confederate side remaining in Laclede county.

T. A. Vernon, living on his farm north of Lebanon where he has spent practically all his life, joined the Confederate army at the beginning of the war. Leaving the county with his father, a brother, and two cousins, he was the only one of the five to return home at the close of the war. He was also one of the fifty-five in his company of one hundred and ten to return safely. Mr. Vernon retains more of the South in his speech and in his dress than any other of the Confederate veterans. He was under Gen. Sterling Price through the Battle of Pea Ridge, and afterwards followed Price through all his campaigns.

D. N. Cole, one of the most interesting veterans in the county, was born and reared in the Appalachian Mountains of Eastern Tennessee, and came to Laclede county to settle near Eldridge in 1887. During the war he served in the Eighth Virginia Infantry, in Hunton's Brigade, Pickett's Division, under General Longstreet. He entered the war when he was sixteen, one year after the beginning, and served until the close. D. N. Cole was in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, advancing in the open for nearly half a mile to Roundtop where the strongly intrenched Union forces poured volley after volley into the ranks of the Confederates. Of his entire company, Mr. Cole was one of the seven to answer roll call after that charge, the most famous of the Civil War,

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY



CONFEDERATE VETERANS IN LACLEDE COUNTY

1. T. A. Vernon;
2. D. N. Cole;
3. William H. Martin;
4. Richard T. Southard;
5. Sam Latimer;
6. John C. Hicks;
7. Martin Henry Forkner;
8. Abner Adkins

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

and one of the greatest of all history. Even the Federals cheered the bravery of Pickett's men who advanced unflinching in the face of almost certain death.

William H. Martin, Morgan, ran away to join the Confederate army before he was fifteen. He was refused admission at first, and saw the second Battle of Manassas, or Bull Run, before being admitted into the army. He finally was admitted into Company A, Twenty-sixth Tennessee Infantry. He was at Fort Donelson and Murphrysboro, and his regiment was captured at Donelson. However, Martin escaped as a stretcher carrier. He then joined the Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, and was wounded four times. He was then in the battles of Chickamauga and Knoxville. Martin was eighty years of age July 6, 1926. He has the distinction of having traded horses with General Morgan, the famous raider, and tells it as one of his favorite stories.

Richard T. Southard, near Southard, served in Company E, Tenth Missouri Infantry, Parson's Brigade of Price's army. He saw service mostly in Arkansas. He was captured at the end of twenty-two months and was paroled after taking the oath of allegiance.

Sam Latimer, one of the eight remaining Confederate veterans in Laclede county, has the distinction of having been born in three different counties—Greene, Dallas and Webster, due to the changing of county boundaries during the early period of settlement. "Uncle Sam," as he is known by his numberless friends, was eighty-three years old August 9, 1925, and he has been in over thirty different states, across the ocean twice, and is now living within eight miles of his birthplace. He was in the war from the beginning to the end, in Company I, Third Missouri Infantry, and later in the First Missouri Infantry. He was under fire at Farmington, Corinth and Vicksburg, Mississippi, saw Grant's gunboats pass Vicksburg, but was captured shortly afterward, May 17, 1863, and remained a prisoner until he was exchanged for three months before the war ended. He was fighting under Joseph E. Johnston at Mobile when he surrendered April 9, 1865.

John C. Hicks, just within the county near Plato, has had many varied experiences, as he joined General Sterling Price's army July 10, 1861. He was in the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Lexington, and numerous other smaller skirmishes. He was a school teacher for thirty-five years, a thresherman, and a Baptist minister for nearly fifty years. He was eighty-eight years of age in March, the oldest Confederate veteran in Laclede county. He was in the service from the beginning until the end.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

Martin Henry Forkner, Conway, was in the Confederate army from 1863 until 1865. He is a son of Micajah Forkner, the first settler near Conway. Mr. Forkner was eighty-one years of age in October, 1925.

Abner Adkins, west of Lebanon, enlisted with Dick Wickersham, in Company E, First Missouri Infantry. He served under General Price, and was in the Battle of Pea Ridge. He then served in Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia, seeing service in the battles of Corinth, Shiloh, Port Gibson, Grand Gulf and Iuka, and was inside the walls at Vicksburg. He was captured after the fall of Vicksburg, and paroled. He served nearly three years and was in the army of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. Mr. Adkins is now eighty-three.

CHAPTER IX

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

EVEN before the founding of the first settler Lacade county had a well defined road. When Jesse Balfour came to settle in 1840 he found an old Indian trail crossing the Gasconade near where he soon erected his little log cabin. This Indian trail was followed by the Indians during the course of their wanderings from place to place in search of better hunting grounds. These trails were all over what is now Lacade county and were the forerunners of the roads which have since been made. The territory was more especially a hunting ground for the Indians.

CHAPTER FOUR

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Old teams hauling freight in large quantities across Lacade on this road for several years before the civil war. The old roads of this territory as well as for all the adjacent territory in the southwest to be carried over this old trail. The teams also went on this old trail to Springfield and beyond. When the Civil War broke out the country this road immediately became a highway for the army. It was then covered by both the North and by the South. The route was open to the old Military Road and hundreds of soldiers marched over it during the course of the war. The famous advance of General Nagins' army into Southland, Missouri was made over this old military road and the defeat of the Federalist of Wilson's army the following year. Lewis' defeated and humiliated army followed the same route. The Federalists were forced to escape from General Polk's army and were driven back many miles behind them. A great number of men, women and children were carried over this road, with their families and property.

CHAPTER IV.

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS.

EVEN before the coming of the first settler Laclede county had a well defined road. When Jesse Ballew came to settle in 1820 he found an old Indian trail crossing the Gasconade near where he soon erected his little log cabin. This Indian trail was followed by the Indians during the course of their wanderings from place to place in search of better hunting grounds. Such trails were all over what is now Laclede county and were the forerunners of the system of highways and roads which now reach into every part of the county. As soon as settlers began coming to this territory, and more especially when the territory around Springfield began to be settled, an important road was opened from Rolla to Springfield, and even reaching beyond Rolla into St. Louis. This road became one of the most famous in the United States and by far the most important in Missouri. The history of this trail is very interesting and this chapter will attempt to give a brief history of it, especially in its connection with Laclede county.

Ox teams hauling freight in huge, cumbersome wagons freighted over this road for several years before the Civil War. All the supplies for this territory as well as for all the settlers farther to the southwest had to be carried over this old trail. The mails also were carried over this trail, to Springfield and beyond. When the Civil War broke over this country this road immediately became the important line of communication, coveted by both the North and by the South. Its name was changed to the old Military Road and hundreds of soldiers marched over it during the course of the war. The famous advance of General Nathaniel Lyon into Southwest Missouri was made over this old Military Road, and after the defeat of the Federals at Wilson's Creek the disordered retreat of Lyon's defeated and humiliated army followed the same road in their frenzied haste to escape from General Price whom they thought was following close behind them. A great amount of war supplies was afterwards carried over this road, right through the very heart of Laclede

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

county. Great military wagon trains, guarded by companies of soldiers, followed this famous old road with supplies for the soldiers in the Southwest. This road was really the key of the military operations of the Union forces in Northern Arkansas, Northeast Oklahoma, Southwest Missouri, and Southeast Kansas.

After the close of the Civil War this road again became noted as a great line of communication for with the coming of the telegraph the line of wires followed the old Military Road very closely, and the name of the trail subsequently became changed to the Old Wire Road. Still this was the main travelled route to the southwest. Hundreds of wagons travelled to the west, following the Old Wire Road. An interesting tale is



THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE GASCONADE RIVER

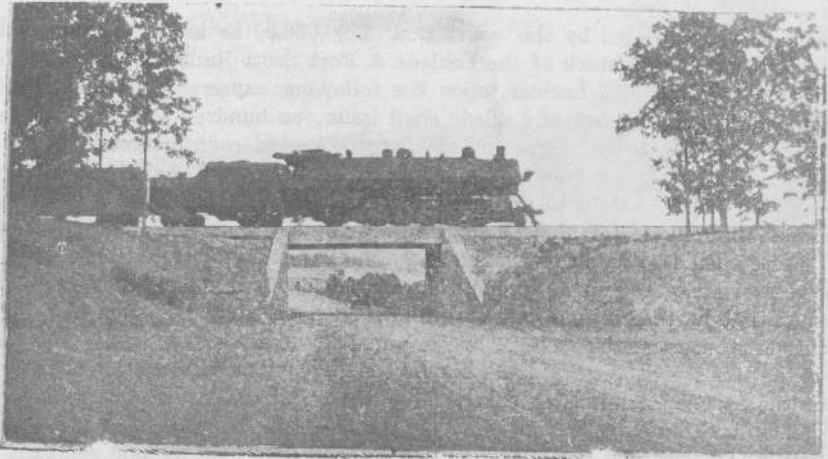
Near Hazlegreen on National Highway No. 60

told of a man passing through the county along this road at the time of the great rush to Oklahoma territory, or as it was then called "Indian Territory." He was driving a splendid four horse team to a new "prairie schooner" equipped in the very best style of those days. Across the top of his covered wagon was painted in huge letters, "Oklahoma or Bust." The next fall the citizens of the county were amused to see the return of this splendid equipage, now with all its splendor vanished. The four horses, so sleek and fat before, were now famished and jaded. The once new wagon was now broken down and dilapidated. But the owner was honest, for across the top of his wagon he had painted another caption, "Oklahoma and Busted."

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The next great epoch in the history of Laclede county occurred in the summer of 1869 when the railroad, spanning the entire nation, passed through the very heart of the county from northeast to southwest. The railroad was completed so that the first passenger train ran into Lebanon October 20, 1869. This first train was greeted with intense joy. A great celebration was held in honor of this event and bands played, speeches were made, and all the town celebrated as if this train had brought in the very life-blood of the community. Lebanon was for some time the terminal of the railroad, but within a short time the road was completed into Springfield.

Even with the coming of the railroad the old trail retained its im-



VIADUCT OVER NATIONAL HIGHWAY NEAR PHILLIPSBURG

portance, for the new road with its steel rails and its iron horse followed the course laid out by the early pioneers years before. The railroad follows within view of the old road practically all the way and in a few places where this is not the case it is always only a mile or two to the Old Wire Road. The accompanying illustration, showing the National Highway passing under the viaduct, with a train crossing above at the rate of forty miles an hour, is wonderfully illustrative of the progress of the times, for not two hundred feet away from the scene of this picture runs the famous old road over which so many thousands of people—soldiers, traders, adventurers, and homeseekers—travelled to glory or to death. Even the telegraph line is near by and closer still is the road bed of another railroad which would have joined the old Laclede & Fort

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

Scott Road, giving within a close radius the setting for the complete history of Laclede county's railroads, telegraph and highways. This scene is near Phillipsburg and may be found without any difficulty, with all the historic interests mentioned above.

Closely following the coming of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad, or as it is called now, the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad, came the promoters of the Laclede and Fort Scott Railroad. This railroad was the one which brought so much grief to the taxpayers of Laclede county, and also the one which caused to be settled upon the people of Dallas county a debt which is taking generations to lift. On August 17, 1869, the County Court of Laclede county made and caused to be spread upon the records of its proceedings, and order in effect as follows:

"It is hereby ordered by the court that \$100,000.00 be and the same is hereby subscribed to the capital stock of the Laclede & Fort Scott Railroad Company, for and on behalf of the county of Laclede, upon the following expressed conditions and none other: First, The said county of Laclede shall issue one hundred county bonds, each in the sum of \$1,000.00, to be signed by the president and countersigned by the clerk, under the seal of the court, having twenty years to run, or be payable in twenty years, reserving, however, the right to redeem all or any part of the bonds at any time after ten years from their date of negotiation, and bearing seven per cent interest per annum, which interest shall be paid semi-annually, and to be made payable at any such place as may hereafter be agreed upon. Second, that said bonds shall not be issued and delivered until such time as the railroad bed or grading shall be completed from Fort Scott, in the State of Kansas, to the western line or boundary of the county of Laclede, ready to receive the cross ties, or the said company shall commence the construction of the road at the eastern terminus of same in Laclede county. Third, that the proceeds of these bonds shall be expended in the construction of the railroad within the limits of the county of Laclede, and there shall be a depot built and kept by said company within one-half mile of the court house, in Laclede county, and the road shall run from that point through the county to its western line or boundary. Fourth, that said railroad company, as the agent for the county of Laclede, shall negotiate and contract to sell the bonds to the very best advantage that the market will allow, with the express understanding that Laclede county shall pay the railroad company no percentage or commission on sales, and none of the costs and expenses incurred in securing and negotiating the bonds. Fifth, the said county court will hereafter appoint an agent, to be known as the county railroad agent, who shall file a bond, to be approved by the county court, in the sum of \$200,000.00, before he proceeds to discharge any duties whatever, which bond shall be conditioned that he will faithfully discharge his duties as below mentioned, and any further duties that the court shall impose upon him. One of his duties after fixing his bond and the approval of the same, and after the county bonds are negotiated and sold by the railroad company, shall be to receive and take the county bonds to the place where negotiated and sold, and deliver them to the purchaser and receive the money and proceeds thereof. And another part of his duties shall be that he shall pay to said railroad company the proceeds arising from the sales in monthly installments, equal in amount to the sums expended by the company in

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

making the railroad bed or grading, within the boundaries of Laclede county, on the line extending from the intersection of said road with the South Pacific Railroad, within one-half mile of the courthouse of Laclede county, to the western line or boundary thereof, the amount thus expended and to be paid by said agent to be ascertained by the affidavit of the president, treasurer, and chief engineer, showing the amount expended, in good faith, in the construction of the railroad bed or grading, within the boundaries of the county and on the line aforesaid. Sixth, when the county railroad agent pays to said railroad company the whole proceeds arising from the sale of the bonds aforesaid, in the sums, manner, and at the time mentioned, then Laclede county is to receive from the railroad company certificates to the amount of \$100,000.00, the full amount of the bonds. Seventh, The county of Laclede specially reserves the right that in case the said Laclede & Fort Scott Railroad Company shall not, within ninety days from the date of this order, file in the office of the clerk of this



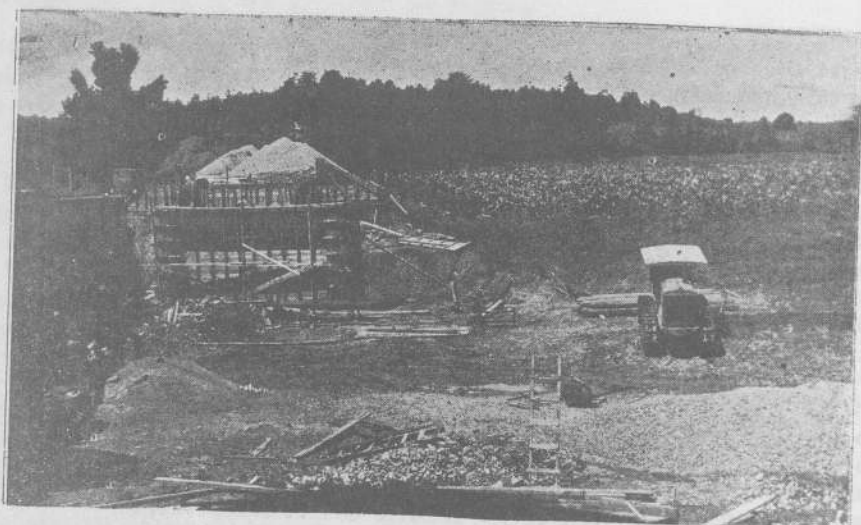
CONSTRUCTION WORK ON A HIGHWAY

county a written acceptance, under the seal of the company, of the subscription in this order made, with the conditions therein contained, then this county court of Laclede county may withdraw the above subscription of \$100,000.00 from the railroad company, without any liability to said railroad company, or to any person or persons whatsoever."

A supplemental order for the execution of the bonds in accordance with the foregoing order was made on June 14, 1870, and Charles W. Rubey was then appointed as county railroad agent to receive the bonds, properly executed, from the hands of the county clerk, and deliver them to the purchasers as set forth in the original order. The bonds were negotiated and delivered to the purchasers before the railroad company had fully complied with its part of the contract. The road-bed was mostly graded ready for the cross ties, on the line within the county, as desig-

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

nated in the order, when the subscription was made, but the depot mentioned therein, which was to be erected and maintained within a half mile of the courthouse, was not built at all. Notwithstanding the failure on the part of the railroad company to fully comply with the contract, the county court, believing that the company would in due time complete the railroad, was some way or other induced to issue the bonds, and allow them to be negotiated and delivered to the purchasers. The company, after having received the proceeds from the sale of the bonds, wholly failed to further fulfill its contract. But now the bonds had gone into the hands of innocent purchasers and must be paid, and the county was left



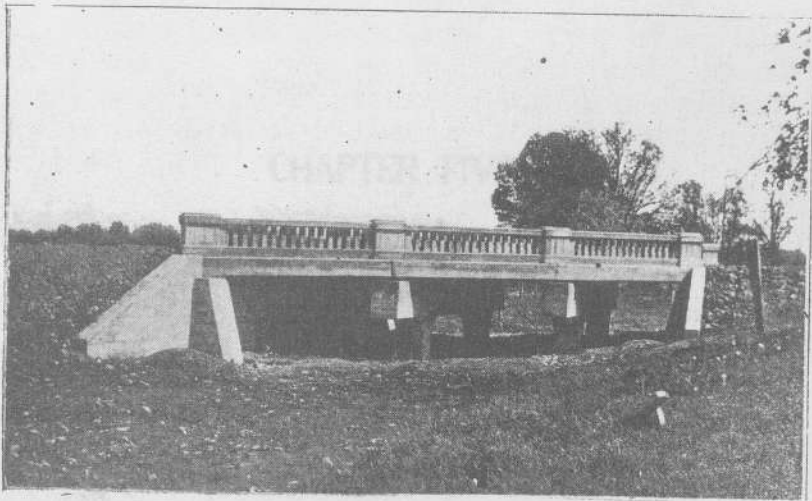
CONSTRUCTION SCENE ON A HIGHWAY

without recourse. A hundred thousand dollars of the county's obligations were out accumulating interest, all of which in the course of time would have to be paid, and for which the county received absolutely nothing—nothing but a road-bed partially graded ready for the cross ties. It will be observed, however, by reference to the contract, that the county court in the contract did not require an obligation on the part of the railroad company to build and maintain a railroad, only a “road-bed” or grading to be completed ready for the cross ties.

Afterward, January 1, 1878, the county court entered into a compro-

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

mise contract with the bond-holders whereby the latter agreed to surrender the original bonds for new refunding bonds for sixty-five per cent of the amount of the principal and interest of the original indebtedness; but before executing their part of this contract, the court, on January 21, 1878, fearing that they might possibly be transcending their powers, put the proposition to a vote of the people of Laclede county. In the ensuing election the proposition carried by a vote of 658 to 185. These bonds then hung over the county like a pall for many years, a few being paid off each year. Thousands of dollars of the tax-payers' money thus went to pay off this seemingly useless debt incurred by the poor business judgment of that



BRIDGE ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 60, NEAR LEBANON

county court so many years ago. Yet we cannot blame them, for all the people in the county were eager for railroads, just as all other counties were similarly anxious for as much railroad mileage as possible. This craze for railroads nearly ruined the neighboring Dallas county and caused a serious burden to be placed on our own county for many years. Only a few years ago the last of the bonds were paid off in Laclede county and a mass meeting and celebration was held to witness the burning of the last bonds.

The next great epoch in the history of communication in Laclede county has now appeared in the form of the county's share in the great state

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

and national highway system. Laclede county has two magnificent highways—Missouri State Highway Number 5, and U. S. Highway Number 60, formerly Missouri State Highway Number 14. The National highway also follows the old, old trail, even crossing the Gasconade River near the old crossing. Thus we see the modern progress of the entire nation outlined before us right here in Laclede county by following the progress of that old Indian Trail up through its various stages of advancement to the present time. First the Indian Trail, then the old wagon road, the Old Military Road, The Old Wire Road, The Railroad, and now great highways, spanning east and west, north and south. Truly, Laclede county is blessed with historic interests from the past and of the present.

CHAPTER V

LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS

ALWAYS outstanding among the public interests of Laclede county have been the schools—both public and private—whose story, if detailed, would fill this book many times over. One of the private schools has become almost nationally known, and is now one of the centers in the hearts of the people of the county. One of the public schools has now taken its place among the best in the state. It is in giving the history of these schools that this chapter is devoted.

CHAPTER FIVE

LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Old Lebanon Academy, the first school in the county, was a group of independent schools. Among these were the schools of James Cherry, James Apple and W. S. Parsons. The first school was the principal building of the Old Academy.

They shared a teacher for the school of Phillips, a graduate of a college in New Hampshire. From the year of the academy's opening, some time than a decade or so ago, the school was in a state of constant improvement for the good of the county. The school was in a state of constant improvement for the good of the county.

The romantic story of the school of Phillips and school was not fully recalled by those who were present. The Old Academy was located in the city of Lebanon, and it was one of the best of its kind. It was one of the best of its kind. It was one of the best of its kind.

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A HISTORY OF TALLADEMA COUNTY

and several highway routes. Talladema county has two principal high-
way routes—U. S. Highway 2 and U. S. Highway 1. The former runs
from the north to the south, passing through the center of the county
and following the old route of the Georgia Railroad. The latter runs
from the east to the west, passing through the center of the county
and following the old route of the Georgia Railroad. The two routes
intersect at the center of the county, forming a cross. The
county is divided into several districts, each of which is
governed by a local board of commissioners. The county is
divided into several precincts, each of which is governed by a
local board of commissioners. The county is divided into several
municipalities, each of which is governed by a local board of
commissioners. The county is divided into several school districts,
each of which is governed by a local board of commissioners.

CHAPTER FIVE

TALLADEMA COUNTY SCHOOLS

CHAPTER V.

LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS.

ALWAYS outstanding among the public interests of Laclede county have been the schools—both public and private—whose story, if detailed, would fill this book many times over. One of the private schools has become almost nationally known, and is now only a memory in the hearts of the people of the county. One of the public schools has now taken its place among the few best in the State. It is to give a brief history of these schools and all the other Laclede county schools that this chapter is devoted.

The Old Lebanon Academy was erected in the early fifties by a group of public-spirited citizens of the old Lebanon.

Among these men were John B. Harrison, Colonel Alfred Cherry, James Appling and B. B. Harrison. John B. Harrison was the principal instigator of the Old Academy.

They engaged a teacher by the name of Phillips, a graduate of a college in New Hampshire. Pupils came from all the surrounding counties, some from a distance of seventy-five miles. There were no places provided for these people who came so far, so the citizens of the town opened their homes to them, allowing them board and room and laundry for one dollar a week apiece.

The romantic associations of this wonderful old school are now tearfully recalled by those who once attended there. The Old Academy was located in the midst of a great grove of old oak trees, and it was surrounded by a beautiful campus. The accompanying picture, showing this once beautiful building, fails hopelessly in picturing what this school really looked like. In the front of the building there was a beautiful portico, and the entire structure was a really pretty building.

The greatest day of the school year was the "exhibition," as it was called. It consisted of orations, dialogues, songs, and the like, and people came from far and near to be in attendance. There were only two



(62)

REUNION OF STUDENTS OF THE OLD ACADEMY IN 1907

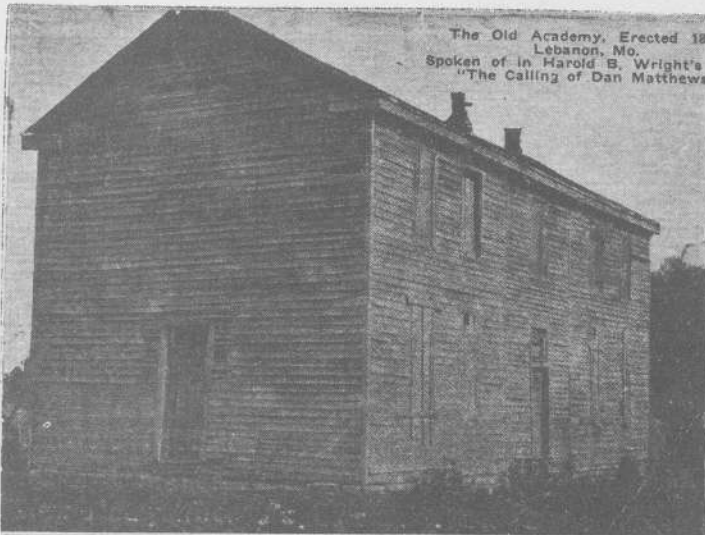
Top Row Left to Right: Mrs. E. L. Greenleaf, Mrs. A. J. Windle, Mrs. Maria P. Saunders, James Holman, J. W. Appling, Hodge Jones, Mrs. Hodge Jones, J. M. Herndon, Mrs. J. M. Herndon, James Lumkin, Mrs. James Lumkin.

Bottom Row Left to Right: Mrs. Alfred Case, Alfred Case, Mrs. James Holman, Mrs. Julia Colby, Miss Lizzie Saunders, Mrs. Fannie Evington, Mrs. Anne Scott, Mrs. A. C. Hickman, Mrs. James McComb, Dr. James McComb.

LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS

pianos in town, having been brought from St. Louis in wagons. On the day of the "exhibition" one of them was always carried to the Old Academy by the young men, and was always an important drawing card.

The longest and most thickly settled street in the Old Town led off from the northeast corner of the square, straight to the Old Academy, "that much talked of seat of learning, with its beautiful campus, and grand old oak trees." It was the ruins of this wonderful institution which were immortalized in Harold Bell Wright's book, "The Calling of Dan Matthews." At the time Mr. Wright first viewed it it had passed



THE OLD ACADEMY

like those who once sought learning within its walls, into a state of hopeless decrepitude. Weather-beaten, and practically in ruins, "with its broken windows, crumbling walls, and fallen chimneys," it stood in its weed-filled yard, revered and respected by those who remembered it as the meeting place of Hope Farwell and Dan Matthews in that beautiful story.

But the Old Academy is no more. Each year brought added dilapidation until the crumbling roof and tottering walls menaced those who visited there. A clipping from the Lebanon Rustic of December 18, 1913, gives the last chapter in the history of this, the most romantic building in Lebanon's history: "The Old Academy building in Old Town was torn

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

down the first of the week by Baxter Lambeth, who recently purchased the land on which the building stood. Thus another of the landmarks of Lebanon is gone. Another tie that has bound the past with the present for a number of our citizens by the memories of their youth and the old days has been broken. . . . The building has been in an unsafe condition for some time and Mr. Lambeth decided that it would be best to demolish the old structure. The roof fell in some two years ago."

District Number One was established before the Civil War, as were a number of other districts over the county. However, the money dis-



LEBANON'S FIRST BRICK SCHOOL BUILDING

bursed from taxes collected were wholly insufficient for school purposes, so for a time the balance was made up from the school patrons who contributed according to the number of children attending the school from that family. This was the method used all over the county for the first years of our public schools. Even then the funds collected were sufficient only for short terms consisting usually of three months.

The Lebanon public school district was organized in 1870. The first principal was Lambertine J. Johnson. He was assisted by Mrs. Hardy, Miss Ostrander—later Mrs. J. G. Lingsweiler—and Miss Vernon, now

LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Mrs. Herndon. The school opened in September, 1870. Before December Johnson was discharged and Mr. Clark finished the school year.

Early in 1870 plans for a "magnificent school building" were submitted to a committee. The contract was let for an \$18,500 building.

The grounds, comprising four acres, were donated by Joseph Ivey. "A handsome fence, costing \$1,000, enclosed the grounds. The building was ready for use in the autumn of 1871.

The first principal in the new building was Church Harding. He was assisted by Miss Palmer—later Mrs. J. C. Wallace—and Miss Barr—later



LEBANON PUBLIC SCHOOL
When Thomas L. Rubey was Principal.

Mrs. L. D. Gleason. The term was very short, lasting only about three months. It is interesting to know that the last of the bonds issued for building that school over half a century ago were paid off only a very few years ago.

The second principal was Paul Roulet, afterward professor of modern languages in Drury College. E. B. Kellerman was principal from 1877 to 1880 and T. L. Rubey from 1886 to 1891. A clipping from the Laclede County Republican, dated September 6, 1895, says: "The administration of E. B. Kellerman marks an epoch in the school. He was retained for

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

a term of three years and during that time he placed the school on a firm basis of gradation."

The Republican further adds, "During the five years T. L. Rubey held sway the school attained its present system, thus making the Lebanon schools take rank among the first in the State."

Several other schools sprung up about this time, among them being the Scott Normal in the old Yocum House, the old Christian Academy, and the Pinkerton Academy. An announcement in the Laclede County Republican for August 16, 1889, reads as follows:

"Lebanon Academy!

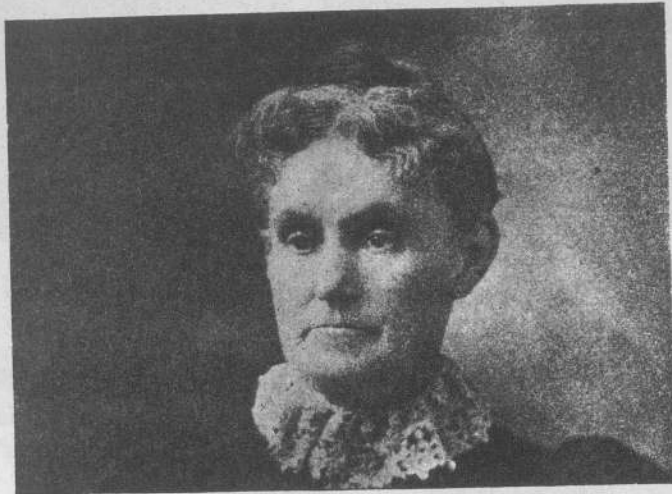
The Fall Term of the Lebanon Academy will open Monday, September 2nd. Terms: English Course, \$6.00; Scientific Course, \$8.00; Classical, \$10.00. One-half paid in advance. Special attention will be given to the preparation of students for teaching.

J. L. Pinkerton, Principal."



THE OLD YOCUM HOUSE

From an old wood cut



MRS. LOUISE G. WALLACE

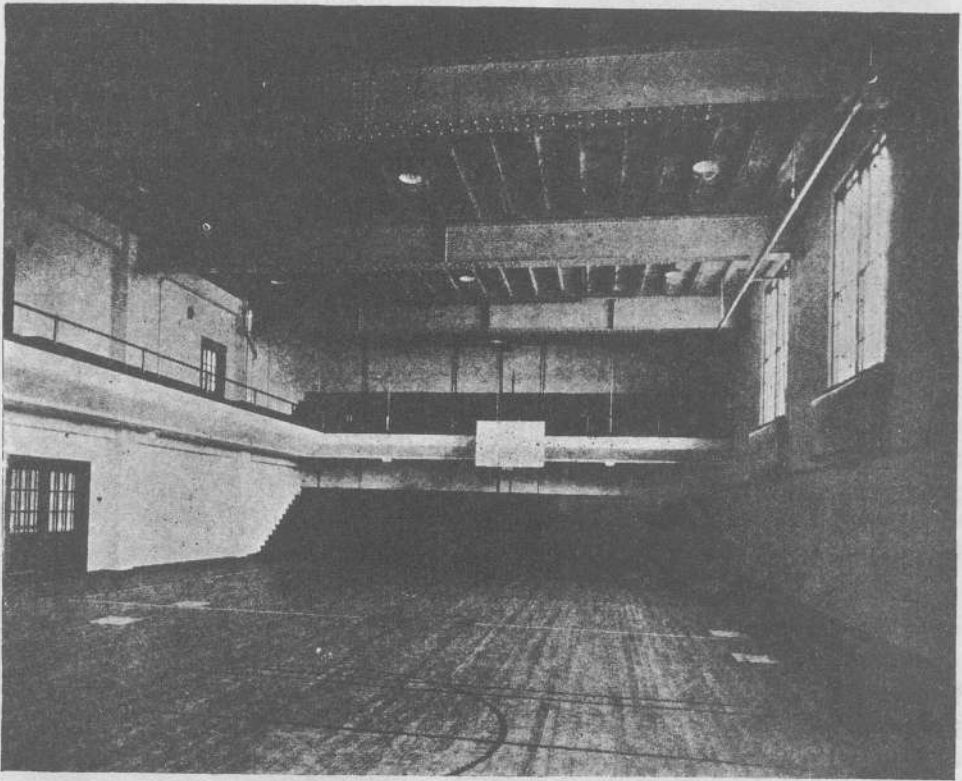
Who gave Lebanon Wallace Memorial High School

The history of the Hamilton White and Culpepper-Shanon Colleges is given in the next chapter on the Magnetic Well. These schools grew

LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS

out of the Gasconade Hotel and the Magnetic Well boom, and all are so closely linked together that they are inseparable.

The Lebanon High School building, now the Lebanon Junior High, was built in 1912. It served splendidly until the great growth of the school system under Superintendent Roscoe V. Cramer made another building necessary. The gift to Lebanon of the magnificent Wallace



GYMNASIUM IN WALLACE MEMORIAL BUILDING IN LEBANON

Memorial High School building by Mrs. W. I. Wallace, as a memorial to the late Judge Washington Irving Wallace, has been the finest gift ever bestowed upon the community.

Lebanon High School, as well as the entire Lebanon Public School system, has attained state-wide prominence in recent years. Roscoe V.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY



ROSCOE V. CRAMER

Superintendent of Lebanon Schools

scholarship contests. The winning of the State Home Economics contest has almost become a habit. Last year's winners are shown below. Her students are meeting with success everywhere. Jean Paul Bradshaw, a graduate in 1923, is no doubt the most outstanding. He was on the State championship debate team in 1923 and a prominent student at Missouri University since graduating from Lebanon High School. He was elected President of the Student Body at the University in the spring of 1926 and will serve in that capacity during his Senior year there.

Two other outstanding students have been Ted Willard and Lawrence Grace who won the State high school debating championship in 1926.

Cramer, now recognized as one of the outstanding school men of the State, has been instrumental in building Lebanon's schools to their present standards. Prominent among Superintendent Cramer's achievements has been the winning of the State championship in high school debating twice in four years. Two other times his teams were in the finals and semi-finals in the race for the debate championship.

Lebanon High School has also been wonderfully successful in all other fields—basketball, baseball, agriculture, vocational home economics, in art, and in



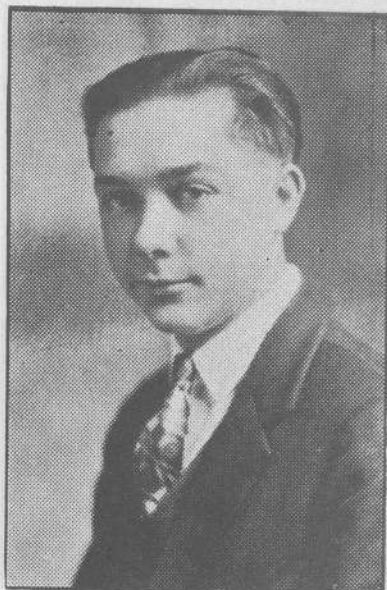
JEAN PAUL BRADSHAW

State Champion Debater, 1923

W. LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS

There have been many other prominent graduates of Lebanon High School, but the author begs leave to escape the task of saying further who are the more outstanding.

This brief history of Lebanon High School would be incomplete without mention of Professor H. J. Deppe, vocational agriculture instructor. Professor Deppe has been with the school longer than any other teacher and his work both in the schoolroom and throughout the county has been highly commendable. Henry C. Detherage, Helen F. Morgan, Jessie Burley and "Pappy" Harrison are other favorites who have helped so many Lebanon graduates along the path to education.



TED WILLARD

State Champion Debater, 1926



LAWRENCE GRACE

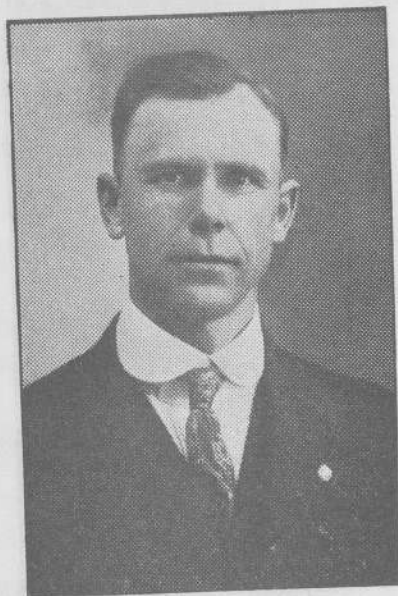
State Champion Debater, 1926

The Conway Schools

The first school in Conway was a log cabin, one room, about a quarter of a mile northwest of the depot. The first teacher was W. E. Catlin, about the year 1874. Mrs. Maria Smith, whose husband was Judge Smith, was the next teacher. She died just a few years ago at Phillipsburg. Then came Rodney O. Hardy, who has been Representative from Dallas county, and is still teaching near Plad. Other pioneer teachers were Mrs. Amanda Beckner Smith, Belle Beckner, now Mrs. Gibson of Springfield, Missouri, John Beckner and wife.

In 1880, C. Hanson built a two story building just north of his dwell-
(69)

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY



H. J. DEPPE
Lebanon's Agricultural Instructor

ing, and this was used for a community church, the upper floor for school and for Grange meetings. A few years later a school building—two rooms—was built in the northeast part of town and the first teachers in that building, about 1884, were J. L. Newhouse, Mrs. S. H. Schmalhorst, R. S. Phillips, R. H. Sampson, and Chloe Beckner of Lebanon.

The present building was built in 1901. Joe Davis was the first Principal. Others were T. J. Cochran, County Superintendent; L. S. Haymes, who is now Representative from Greene county, and Spencer Legan of Conway.

Conway now has a modern four-year high school which has been growing steadily during the past years. Professor Chester W. Parker, the present Superintendent, from Southwest Teachers College, at Springfield, is rapidly building up the entire Conway school system.



LEBANON'S HOME ECONOMIC CHAMPIONS, 1926
Misses Thelma Chandler and Ruby Evans, with their instructor, Miss Merle Ford.

Considering the size of the town, Conway's schools are now among the best in this section of the State.

LACLEDE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Phillipsburg, with its new consolidated high school building, has only just started in the building up of its school system. However, with the start the school now has and the manifested interest of its patrons, a great deal is to be expected from the Phillipsburg school in the future.

Competition is also coming to the front with its schools. The schools there, although lacking as yet in buildings and equipment, have been doing remarkably well in recent years.

The entire Laclede county school system is well recognized among Missouri's schools. Much credit for this position goes to G. C. Jones, County Superintendent of Schools. This man's record, as well as the support given him in the last election against two very strong opponents, shows him to be well established in the hearts and minds of Laclede county people. His untiring service in aiding the establishment of the several consolidated schools over the county, has been among his achievements.



G. C. JONES
County Superintendent of Schools

The winning of the State spelling contest for rural schools last year by Miss Marguerite Brown of Candock school is another outstanding point for Laclede county's schools.

CHAPTER VI

LEBANON'S MAGNETIC WELL

IN THE spring of 1887 the officers of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company expressed a desire to obtain a supply of water. If an abundance of water could be obtained, a complete system of waterworks, including a reservoir, a pumping station, and a well, would be drilled a well within the city limits. A strong current of water was reached 115 feet from the surface. This amount of water was not an artesian well, but a clear sparkling water.

CHAPTER SIX

LEBANON'S MAGNETIC WELL

In boring the well no unusual was observed with the exception of a small amount of iron at the bottom. At 125 feet an extremely hard sandstone was encountered. In fact, this is a very fine, hard sandstone. The water in this well is clear and sparkling.

The magnetic properties were first observed when the water was brought to the surface. Several months ago it was discovered that the water would attract iron filings and small pieces of iron. The iron filings were found in the well as well as in the water. The water is very pure and is not affected by magnetic influences. An ordinary iron pipe would pick up a small amount of iron filings. A magnet in the vicinity of the well is powerfully attracted and carries a number of iron filings.

CHAPTER SIX

LEWIS'S MACHETS BILL

CHAPTER VI.

LEBANON'S MAGNETIC WELL.

IN THE spring of 1887 the officers of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company expressed a desire to establish a division at Lebanon if an abundance of water could be obtained. A company of citizens, contemplating a system of waterworks, in prospecting for a supply of pure water, drilled a well within the city limits. A strong stream of water was reached 135 feet from the surface. But wishing, if possible, to secure an artesian well, the work was continued to a depth of 1,000 feet. Clear sparkling water was obtained in great abundance. Between 600 and 950 feet streams of water were reached flowing through subterranean channels varying from six inches to three feet in thickness. The flow of these streams for long distances carried away the rock cuttings to such an extent that only clear water remained in the well after twenty-four hours continuous work with the drill. As far as practicable samples of the rock were taken every five feet, and these, arranged in glass tubes, show the entire formation, which presents a surprising number of changes, as though some great convulsion had mingled the strata without reference to their natural order.

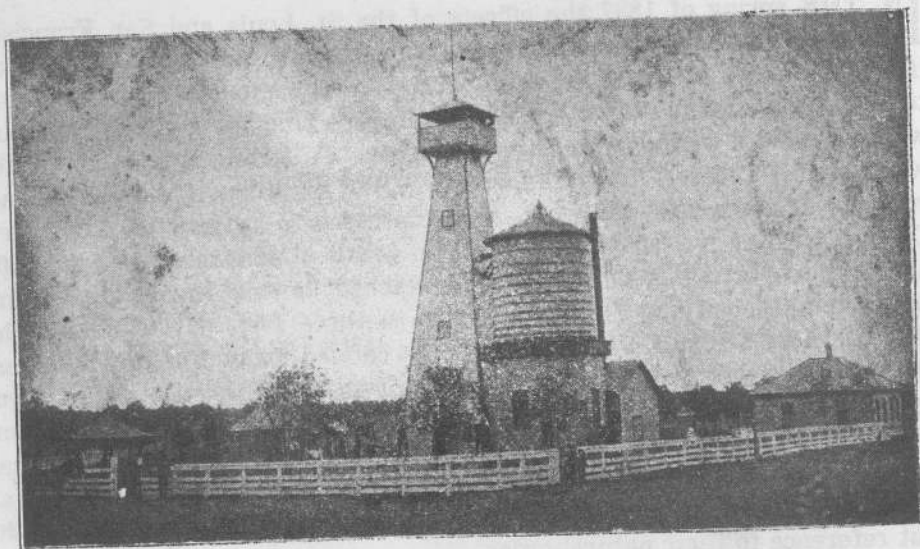
In boring the well no mineral was observed with the exception of a small amount of iron at two points. At 425 feet an extremely hard quartz rock was encountered. Underlying this is thirty feet of white sandstone. The pump for raising water is located in this formation.

The magnetic phenomena was first observed while drilling through the quartz rock, but was thought incidental to the heavy steel and iron tools. Several months later it was discovered that iron pipes which exhibited no unusual properties while lying about the yard, when placed in the well or connected with those previously put down, became highly magnetized. This property is readily imparted to any substance susceptible to magnetic influence. An ordinary pocket knife rubbed on the pipe would pick up a nail weighing eighty grains. A compass in the vicinity of the well is powerfully deflected, and within a radius of three

A HISTORY OF IACLEDE COUNTY

feet the north end of the needle pointed steadily to the well from all directions. The existence of earth currents of electricity is well established and the exhibition of a strong magnetic influence coming up, as it were, from the depths, is an unquestioned fact in this case.

This remarkable discovery was enough to excite interest. Though no claim of any medicinal quality was made by those interested in the well, invalids and the afflicted began using the water which was found to act speedily and beneficially. Before bath houses and other conveniences could be provided, visitors from a distance began to arrive.



THE FIRST TOWER AT THE MAGNETIC WELL

During the summer after it was drilled, the well was visited by thousands. Many for want of suitable accommodations and others for lack of means, camped near the well. Farmers from considerable distance conveyed the water to their homes. And without solicitation orders for shipment to distant points were constantly received. Notwithstanding the want of facilities, which were later supplied, it is believed that there was not a single case among the persons afflicted who came to the well for its magnetic water but what was cured. The citizens of Lebanon at once abandoned their wells and cisterns for drinking purposes and an improved sanitary condition was obvious to all resident physicians. Especially

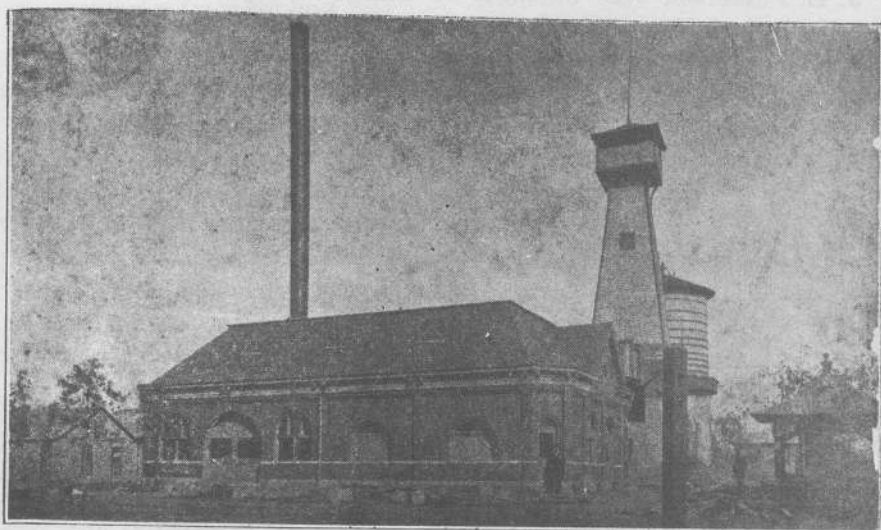
LEBANON'S MAGNETIC WELL

was this evident in the almost entire absence of infantile diarrhoea, usually prevalent everywhere in summer.

Naturally the well immediately became Lebanon's greatest asset. It is interesting to read the following advertisement in the Laclede County Republican for February 8, 1889:

"LEBANON MAGNETIC WATER

"Analyzed by Chemistry division of U. S. Geog. Survey, June 29, 1888, from sample received from Hon. R. P. Bland, water from well 1,000 feet deep, Lebanon, Laclede County, Missouri. Water very pure. Prop-



THE MAGNETIC WELL AND POWER HOUSE

When the Power House was new.

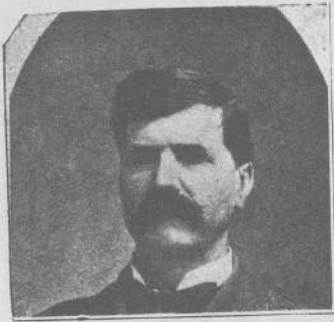
erties: This water is recommended for dyspepsia, and diseases arising from an excess of acid on the stomach, for rheumatism, headache, neuralgia, nervous debility, insomnia, and for all diseases arising from a deranged action of the kidneys and urinary organs. It never sickens or nauseates the stomach, keeps pure and fresh for any period. No finer table water can be found anywhere. Testimonials furnished on application. Address, Lebanon Water Co., Lebanon, Mo."

Soon after the beginning of the big magnetic boom a group of St. Louis financiers became interested in the possibilities presented by Leba-

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

non as a famous watering place. A company was formed, made up entirely of these men, and this company purchased from the Lebanon Light and Water Company the well and the water rights throughout the city. A magnificent hotel, the Gasconade, was built in 1890 at a cost of \$110,000. It was 200 by 50 feet, with three stories and a basement. It contained something over 100 rooms and had all modern hotel equipments. Beside the main building were a large gymnasium, an engine room, and an ice house. The building was handsomely finished inside and was very richly furnished. It was managed by Paul Paquin, Superintendent, and R. C. Beaty, Business Manager.

J. E. Fulkerson was manager of this company's interests in Lebanon. He had charge of the building of the Gasconade and promoted the other business enterprises of the company in Lebanon. The company built a street railway from the Frisco depot, running from the Laclede Hotel, turning at Farrar's corner, running down Commercial street and thence up to the veranda of the Gasconade, below where the power house and standpipe are today. This was an electric line and was run principally for the accommodation of the Gasconade guests. After the passing of the hotel it was discontinued and the tracks were taken up.



J. E. FULKERSON
Manager Lebanon Water Co.

The following quotation was taken from the Rolla New Era of that day: "The Gasconade, of Lebanon, Mo., is an institution that any community would be proud to have within its limits, and the ever-widening fame of the magnetic water is attracting the attention of invalids and rest seekers all over this and adjoining states. The hotel is strictly first class in every particular and the efficient and urbane business manager, Mr. R. C. Beaty, looks well after the comfort of each individual guest, while Dr. Paul Paquin, an eminent young physician, is superintendent, and has immediate charge of the treatment of all guests requiring the special baths and other medical treatment given. This department of the hotel is especially complete and luxurious, and has a number of trained and skilled attendants, male and female, for both wings of the bath house. The tubs are large sized, porcelian lined, thus insuring the greatest cleanliness, and any kind of a bath is given. The treatment of rheumatism at this establishment has been very successful, and we know of no better place in the United States to spend a few weeks

LEBANON'S MAGNETIC WELL

at any time of year in rest or recreation. It is a scientific institution for health and pleasure, located in a natural sanitary all-year resort."

However, the Gasconade boom was short-lived. As early as 1893 it began to wane, and the first difficulty of the famous watering place is told in an article taken from the Springfield Democrat for December 5, 1893: "Receiver Beaty, of the pretty Gasconade Hotel, Lebanon, has decided to close the house today until March 1. It was found that the hotel was losing money and it was decided to close until the opening of the season when those who seek health at resorts will leave home. The Gasconade is owned by a company that also owns the lighting and water plants at Lebanon. Two weeks ago the hotel was put into the hands of a receiver on a friendly suit."

The Gasconade opened again March 10, 1894, for the 1894 season, but it was unable to run profitably. It began to decline rapidly now and on August 9, 1895, all the property of the Lebanon Light and Water Company was ordered sold at public sale, after sixty days' notice. The sale was made to satisfy a mortgage of \$53,550. The property sold included the Gasconade Hotel, the light and water plant, the bottling works, and a large amount of real estate. Thus ended Lebanon's short career as a great watering place as many citizens hoped it would become.

Following the discontinuance of the Gasconade Hotel an attempt was made by Hamilton White, an adventurer and promoter, to establish a college in Lebanon in the old Gasconade building. It was started and was known as the Hamilton White College. It was a co-educational, non-sectarian institution, and taught academic and college studies, bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting, elocution and physical culture, music on piano, organ, and stringed instruments, drawing, portrait painting in oils, water colors, china, and pastel. Several students were enrolled from Laclede and adjoining counties, and school was carried on for some time.

Miss Jennie Prudence Heywood, teacher of elocution at the Hamilton White College, died during this time, shortly after her arrival from Chicago to take her position. Her death, coming suddenly after a social event in honor of her arrival, was quite a shock to the little college.

Shortly after the beginning of the school a resolution was passed at a meeting of the board of trustees at the call of the president to take necessary steps to secure a new college building of brick, by means of agents throughout the state to solicit donations and to sell portraits of Frances E. Willard. It is interesting to know that there are a great number of these portraits to-day in many of the offices and homes in Lebanon and Laclede



THE GASCONADE HOTEL

This was the most magnificent building ever erected in Lebanon. It stood just below the Magnetic well, where the farmers hold their annual picnic now, and was one of the finest buildings in the Southwest at that time.

LEBANON'S MAGNETIC WELL

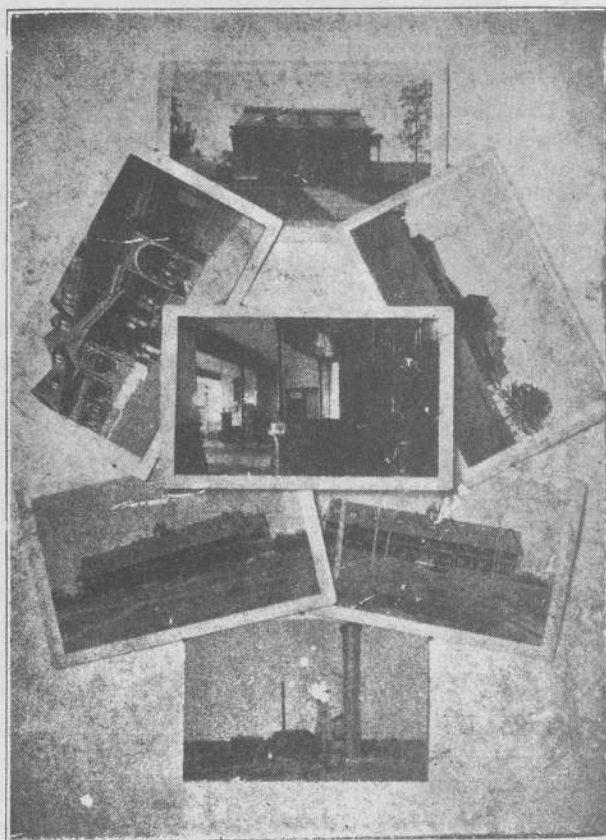
county, sold by Hamilton White's agents. However, the life of this college was very short. This farewell to Hamilton White, printed in the Laclede County Republican, August 19, 1898, no doubt expressed the feeling of the entire community to this gushing college president who left suddenly in the night: " 'Professor' Hamilton White, philanthropist, public benefactor, and educator, has departed from us. He has shaken the dust of Lebanon from his feet and the hallowed spots that erstwhile felt his commanding presence and echoed to his dulcet voice will know him no more. We may wander in the sylvan shades and ponder beside the bosky dell, in meditation of the professor's glorious achievements, but he will not be with us, for he has transferred the scene of his endeavors to a far distant clime." Thus another of the dreams for the greatness of Lebanon, this time the dream of one from the outside world, was shattered.

The next attempt at establishing a college in the old Gasconade building was made by Messrs. Culpepper and Shannon who founded what was called the Culpepper-Shannon College. School was started with an enrollment of eighty-nine students, and more were expected within a few days. The outlook was splendid for the best school in the Southwest. Then on September 21, 1899, as great a calamity as ever befell Lebanon occurred when the splendid old building went up in smoke. When the citizens, responding to the call for help, arrived at the scene and saw the magnificent building in flames and beyond any chance to save, they realized what the town was losing. The fire started from the flue leading from the office fireplace. The flue was clogged with soot, which was set fire, and the flames found a crack in the chimney through which to get to the rafters, and the roof was soon blazing. The fire was discovered when the blaze was small and a few buckets of water would have extinguished it. Some of the students rigged the hose, but by an unfortunate array of circumstances the water was not on and it very soon became a hopeless case. Attention was directed to removing the contents, but the fire was so swift and fierce on the big wooden pile that the large force at work had time to secure a comparatively small amount of the contents. Almost all of the \$1,000 worth of new furniture, the greater part of the college library of 4,000 volumes, contributed largely by the people of the community, the school paraphernalia and the greater part of the private possessions of the teachers and students were lost. Two new pianos were among the contents. There was no insurance whatever, on building or contents, and what burned was a total loss.

A mass meeting of citizens was called that night, to get an expression from the people in regard to the question of retaining and encouraging the

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

college and to extend a word of sympathy and appreciation toward the college management and faculty. I. W. Mayfield called the meeting to order and E. B. Kellerman was chosen chairman, making a timely speech on the importance of re-establishing the college. He was followed by J. P. Nixon and W. I. Wallace in words appropriate for the occasion. Professors Sigler, Peoples, Sample, and Manning of the college faculty spoke in



VIEWS OF THE OLD GASCONADE

response to call. Speeches were made by James McComb, E. F. Schwaab, I. W. Mayfield, J. M. Billings, and J. L. Day. On motion, at the conclusion of the meeting the secretary was instructed to prepare and present to Messrs. Culpepper and Shannon a resolution expressive of the community's sympathy, of the people's appreciation of the good work of the man-

LEBANON'S MAGNETIC WELL

agement and faculty, and assurance that the citizens would heartily co-operate with any plan to make the college a permanent institution. Teachers and students were invited to stay in the private homes until the college was again in running order. The Laclede County Republican for September 29, 1899, expressed the sentiments of the community when it stated, "Within a year from the date of the fire a new brick building will be erected on the site of the old one equipped and arranged even better than the one burned."

Within a week after the fire seventy-two subscribers had pledged a total of \$5,200 towards the erection of a new building. In another week fifteen others had raised the total amount to \$5,615. However the subscriptions stopped here. Not another cent was raised and interest for the new building likewise languished and died. The college was re-organized a month later and continued for a time in seven rooms on the second floor of the Greenleaf Block. Finally interest died completely and Lebanon's career as a college town ended abruptly. The site of the old Gasconade Hotel is now only a pasture, marked by a few large stones and some uneven ground where the foundation stood.

To-day all that is left of that great boom that is really worth while to the people of Lebanon is the famous magnetic well, "The purest water in the world." It still retains its wonderful qualities, in that very pure water taken in large amounts is always beneficial and healthful. Few people drink enough water to maintain health. Naturally when they would get access to water which they imagined would be so beneficial to them they imbibed it in great quantities. Thus they would be benefited. Lebanon still has the same healthful water. It still will not make one sick, no matter how great the amount taken. The magnetic phenomena still exists, but imagination, that great physician, has departed from Lebanon to take up its abode in other great watering places where the same process is being repeated. Lebanon was left, unhooked, so to speak, from another dream of greatness and fame.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The first building erected on the site of the old one... The one hundred...

Within a few years... total of \$2,500,000... fifteen thousand... new building... a month later... of the Ontario... career as a... Hotel is now... heaven ground...

To-day of this... to the people... in the world... water taken... people drink... would get... them that... Lebanon still... no matter how... exists but not... to take up... is being... dream of...

CHAMBER SEVEN

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

CHAPTER VII.

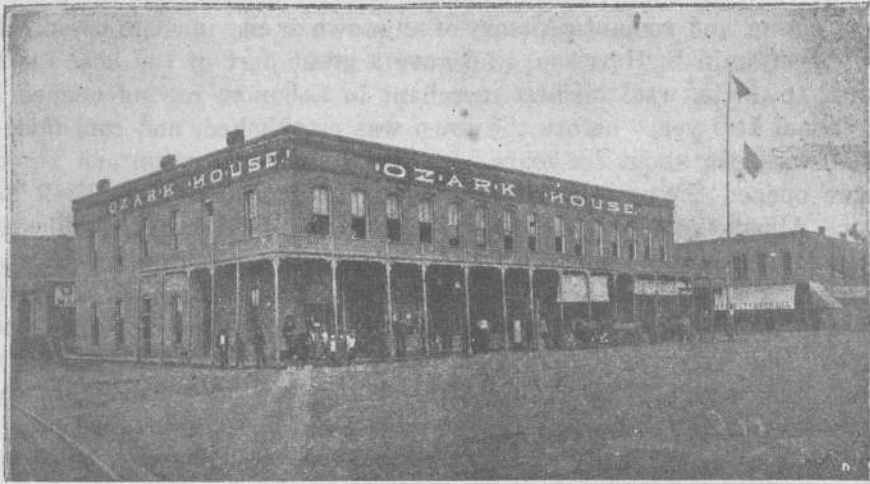
TOWNS AND VILLAGES—LEBANON.

LEBANON, the county seat of Laclede county, has probably the most interesting and romantic history of any town or city in Southwest Missouri. Benjamin B. Harrison, who gave a great part of the land for the original townsite, was the first merchant in Lebanon, having opened his store about two years before the town was established, and continued in that business for about six years. In 1853 John B. Harrison and Thomas Hooker opened the next store which was run until after the Civil War began. About the year 1857 J. W. McClurg, later Governor of Missouri, and then a merchant in Linn Creek, opened a branch store in Lebanon. McClurg's store was managed by Eugene O'Keefe who continued it until it was broken up during the war period. When the war began there were in Old Town, then Lebanon, about four stores. The first hotel in the town was kept by a Mr. Attaway and the first restaurant by a Joseph Fisher. Lebanon was then a small place but a great deal of business was carried on there. However, practically all business came to a standstill during the period of the Civil War. Much of the goods from the stores was destroyed by one side or the other during the times the town was held by either the Federals or the Confederates. Lebanon was the scene of a few small skirmishes and was used as a quartering place by the Union forces. After the Pea Ridge campaign a stockade fortification was thrown up around the old brick Union church in Old Town. The place was then garrisoned for a long time by the Third Iowa Cavalry, and subsequently by Col. McClurg's regiment, the Eighth Missouri State Militia.

After the close of the war, business immediately began to revive and thrive in Old Lebanon. Many business places sprung up and it became a very pretty and lively town. Some of the business places at that time were Wallace Brothers General Store, H. P. Crane, Joe Fisher's restaurant, Rubey & Ivey, Serl's drug store, Worthington's store, Norman's drug store. Bradley & Hartmiller, hardware, a bank, Cushwah's general

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

merchandise, Steinberg's, and two hotels or taverns, the Western House and the Olive House. There were two wells, in the square, with a jail and an old courthouse. All the business houses were located around the old square which was located in an ideal place, with everything perfect for an beautiful townsite. The little town had a great deal of social life, especially for the young folks. The Harrison home, with its beautiful lawn filled with all kinds of trees and shrubbery, was one of the social centers. The young ladies and young men used to gather there, and an old swing under one of the great oak trees was a favorite play-



AN EARLY LEBANON SCENE

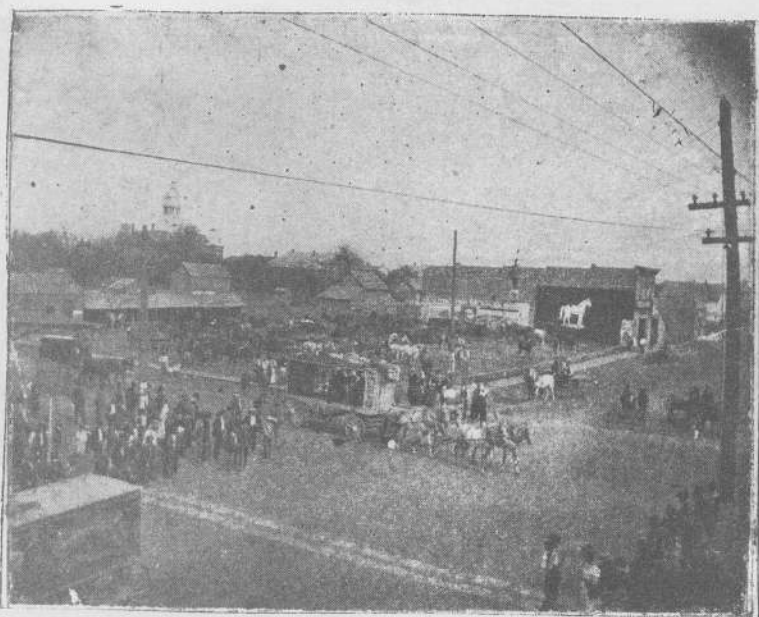
Showing the Ozark House—Now the Commercial Hotel

ground. The Old Academy was another favorite spot and was the cultural center of the town. A complete history of the Old Academy may be found in another chapter. Before the war a great many of the inhabitants of Lebanon owned slaves. The square was even sometimes used as a slave market, where negroes were auctioned to the highest bidder. Lebanon, after the war, became a very beautiful little town, with trees, flowers, and shrubbery everywhere.

Then the railroad came. The first train ran into Lebanon in 1868. But it did not run into the town itself. The story is told that when the officials of the railroad company asked for land and money for the build-

TOWNS AND VILLAGES—LEBANON

ing of a depot near the little town, the officials of the town replied that not one cent would be given. "Then we will move your town," the railroad company said, to which the reply was given, "It can't be done." The railroad company retorted, "We'll show you." And they did. The railroad yard and station was located nearly a mile from the Old Town, and the town literally was moved. Business house after business house, and home after home moved to the new location, and as it is stated in "The Calling of Dan Matthews," the residents "left the beautiful, well-drained



CIRCUS DAY: FACING WHERE CLARK BROS. STORE IS TODAY

Note the Old Court House in the Background

site chosen by those who cleared the wilderness and stretched themselves out along the sacred right-of-way."

On that mud flat Lebanon has grown and thrived, though with Harold Bell Wright, many a citizen has since vainly regretted the town's removal to its present location. It has truly meant the "taking of the railroad to her heart literally. The depot, the yards, the red section house, and the water tank are all in the very center of the town. Every train, while stopping for water, (and they all stop), blocks two of the

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

three principal streets. And when, after waiting in the rain or snow until his patience is exhausted, the humble Corinthian goes to the only remaining crossing, he always gets there just in time to meet a long freight backing on to the siding. Nowhere in the whole place can one escape the screaming whistle, clanging bell, and crashing drawbar." This paragraph in Wright's story was undoubtedly based on the author's personal experience and is one fully appreciated by the average Lebanon resident, particularly by the unfortunate dwellers on the "other side" of the tracks, with which number Mr. Wright was included during his residence in Lebanon.



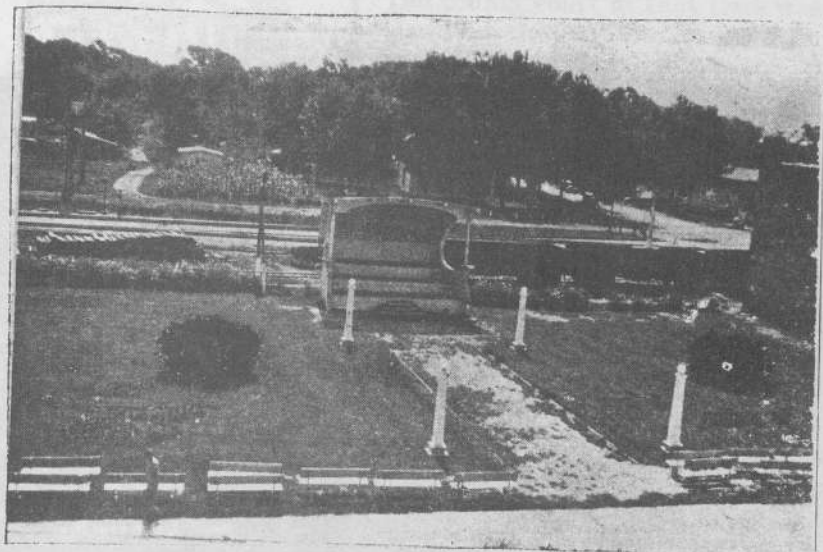
HARWOOD AVENUE, LEBANON

There were no brick buildings in Old Town, but with the removal of the town to its present location a great many of the business places were built of brick. However, practically every building of any kind that was worth anything at all was moved to the new location. It was a real exodus, not a day passed without seeing one or more houses being moved over on rollers, with the house hitched to a windlass being wound by a horse. Even the location of the cemetery was changed, or it may have been changed before to the present location. When the cemetery was moved, only three bodies were moved—those of a man, a woman, and a little child. The others remained unmoved, and are still lying buried near the Stebbins home close to the sink hole. It is not known how many are buried there but it is certain that there is quite a number. Two

TOWNS AND VILLAGES—LEBANON

caskets were taken out when the basement for the first Stebbins home was being dug.

Along with the coming of the railroad came a great many more people, coming to make their homes in Lebanon. Among these were J. G. Lingsweiler, Richard Parks Bland, the Bradshaws, Isaac Hoskinson, and many others. J. G. Lingsweiler really came in 1866, as did W. I. Wallace and Conrad Weissgerber. Charles W. Rubey came in 1860, just before the war.

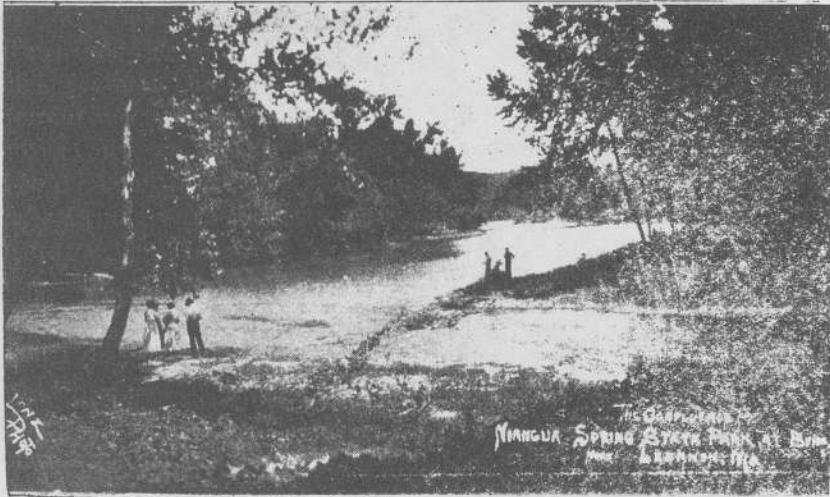


THE BAND PARK, LEBANON

Immediately the new town began to prosper. It was the terminus of the railroad for a year and received a great impulse from that source. It grew even faster than the older town had gone in the other direction with the coming of the railroad. Better houses were built than were commonly found in Old Town, and the business buildings were larger, usually built of brick, and were better equipped and stocked. About this time came the great controversy concerning the moving of the courthouse, the jail, and the county records. Intense feeling arose and much argument was used on both sides. Eventually the county court decided that the records were to be moved to the new town, or the Railroad Addition as it was called. This was in 1870, and the old courthouse was

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

sold for fifty dollars. The county court then rented some space in a building owned by Alfred Case and planned to use this until a new courthouse could be provided. However, the opponents to the move obtained a writ of mandamus, compelling the moving of the records back to Old Town, the Supreme Court of Missouri holding that the county court had no right to change the location. But when the new Constitution of the State was adopted in 1875 it stated that "all additions to a town which is a county seat shall be included, considered, and regarded as a part of the county seat." So with the privilege thus granted, the county court



THE CONFLUENCE OF THE SPRING BRANCH AND THE NIANGUA
Niangua Spring State Park

again moved the county records to the Railroad Addition and there they stayed. The county court then leased from J. G. Lingsweiler, J. P. Nixon and W. I. Wallace some space on the second floor of the three buildings then controlled by those individuals where the State Savings Bank, Kellerman's law office, and the Portland Cafe are now located, paying for this space at the rental of \$300 per year on a three-year lease. However, the county offices remained there until 1887, when they were removed to the second story of the Greenleaf Block, where they remained until the building of the courthouse, the cornerstone of which was laid

TOWNS AND VILLAGES—LEBANON

on Saturday, June 23, 1894. W. I. Wallace and J. P. Nixon made addresses at this time. The courthouse was finished shortly afterward, and was a two story stone building with basement. The lower floor contained sixteen rooms. A wide hall intersected the floor with east, west, north, and south entrances. The upper floor contained the circuit court room with witness, jury, and consultation rooms. The county court at that time was composed of Judges D. W. Beard, D. J. Hough and S. R. Bradshaw. Sheriff R. P. Goodall was superintendent and S. J. Hyde & Co. of Kansas City, were the contractors.



THE OLD COURT HOUSE

Burned in 1920

of one of the young belles of that time, now an old lady, "With the railroad came a great number of splendid young men to make the social life of Lebanon more interesting. There was J. P. Nixon, J. G. Lingsweiler, Sam Farrar, and many others, and we had parties, dances, and hay rides, with the most fun imaginable." Dances usually lasted from seven in the evening until three and four next morning. Hay rides were frequent, and Bennett's was the favorite picnicking place. Then there were clubs to which everybody of any social prominence whatsoever belonged.

During this time the little town of Lebanon grew steadily and continued to hold its position of leadership and prominence among all the towns in the surrounding counties. It was the trading center for a very large territory and naturally profited thereby. A number of exciting incidents occurred about this time---along in the seventies and eighties---among which the most outstanding was the murder of George E. King and the hanging of Joseph Core, the murderer. Several months before King was murdered



SAM R. FARRAR

Lebanon Business Man 54 Years

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

Core and he had trouble concerning some wheat stacks which had burned, belonging to Core. Core accused King of burning them and had him arrested. At the trial the latter proved that he was not the man. Core did not believe that justice had been done, and a bad state of feeling existed between the two. On the day King was killed Core ate dinner at the house of Esquire Lindsay, who lived a short distance from King's house. After he left some gunshots were heard in the valley and in a few moments Joe Core's horse came back by Lindsay's. King had taken dinner at a neighbor's house and had gone into the valley to cut some sled



THE OLD SWINGING BRIDGE, BRICE

runners. The people at this house heard the gun firing and it was proved that both King and Core had just time enough to reach the place of murder when the reports of the guns were heard. King was found on the side of the hill about seventy-five yards from the road. His body had two gunshot wounds in it and his head was beaten almost to a jelly with some sort of a weapon. Core's horse tracks showed that King had been met in the road and a pool of blood there showed that King had been shot in the road and that he had fled up the hillside. The horse tracks showed that he had been pursued a short distance when the rider dismounted. Human tracks were discovered leading from this place through the woods in the direction of Core's residence.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES—LEBANON

The defendant was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to be hanged. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, where the judgment of the lower court was confirmed, and the day of execution was fixed for Friday, March 5, 1880. When the day came crowds of people were present to witness the execution. Promptly at one o'clock the doomed man was taken to a hollow at the edge of town, over beyond the well, where the gallows had been erected. There, after all things were made ready the platform dropped, and Core's soul was launched into eternity. After the execution a confession of the crime, which Core had placed in the hands of his spiritual adviser, was read.

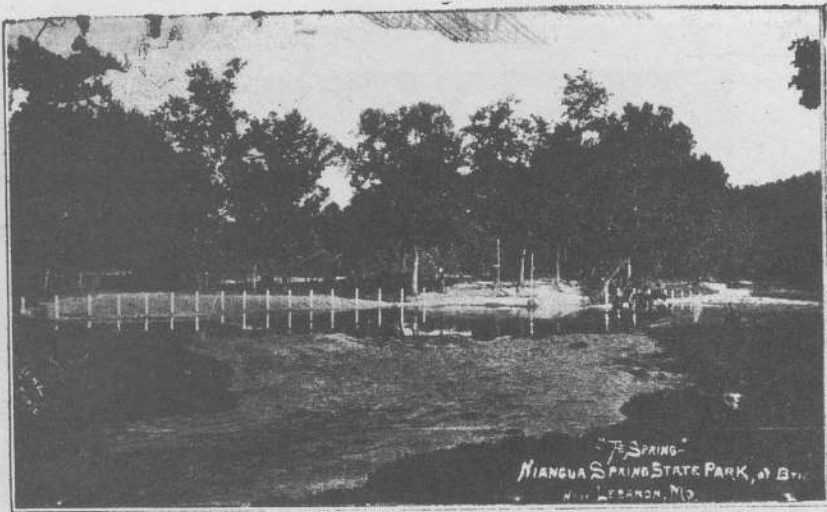


A LEBANON BASEBALL TEAM THIRTY YEARS AGO

Another interesting episode in the crime history of this county was enacted when Billy Martin killed George Mizer, his uncle. The first thing that brought him into notice was the killing of a young man named Prewitt. There had been a grudge between the two for a time, and when they met at a threshing it was not long before the quarrel was revived. Prewitt was armed with a pitchfork and Martin was armed with a pistol. In the fight Prewitt was killed and his brother was wounded. Martin was tried and the jury acquitted him. Afterward, June 9, 1879, the community was startled with the news that Martin's uncle, George Mizer, had been shot and killed while plowing in a field. It was not known who killed him. It was alleged that an intimacy had existed between Martin and Mrs. Mizer and that Mizer believed that Martin had had improper

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

relations with her. A quarrel ensued, and out of this circumstance suspicion arose that Martin was the assassin. He was arrested, indicted, and brought to trial for the murder of Mizer in February, 1880. He had 112 witnesses sworn to testify in his defense and the prosecution called fifty-six witnesses, making a total of 160. In the trial which lasted several days such a web of direct and circumstantial evidence was woven about him that the jury found him guilty of murder in the first degree and upon this verdict he was sentenced to be hanged. Before the day of



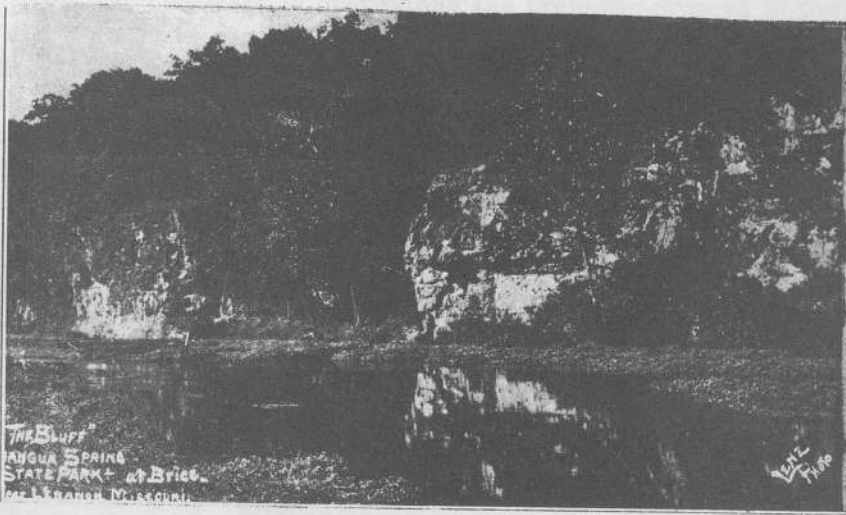
THE FAMOUS SPRING, NIANGUA STATE PARK

execution he made love to and won the heart of Maggie Wilson, a niece of the jailer, who was often entrusted with the duty of feeding the prisoners. On the sixteenth day of November, 1880, when the jailer was absent Maggie procured the keys, unlocked the door of the cell, set her lover at liberty and fled with him.

She had her long flowing hair cut off, dressed in male attire, mounted a mule, and rode away with her outlawed lover to share his fate. They traveled through several states, and finally located at Martin's Station in Virginia, where under the name of Cross he began working in a blacksmith shop. Here he was suddenly pounced upon by two North Carolina officers who mistook him for a man who had committed a crime in that state. Supposing that they wanted him for the Missouri case he struck

TOWNS AND VILLAGES—LEBANON

one with a hammer and the other with a rod of iron, levelling both to earth. He then fled to Sullivan county, Tennessee, where, under the name of Ratcliff, he began farming. Soon afterward his whereabouts was discovered and under a proper requisition Sheriff Goodall went there and captured him, bringing both Martin and his wife back towards Lebanon by way of St. Louis. While coming up Dixon Hill, between Arlington and Dixon, the prisoner jumped from the train through a window with his shackles on and made his escape. The train was stopped and a search



A SCENE ON THE SPRING BRANCH

Niangua Spring State Park

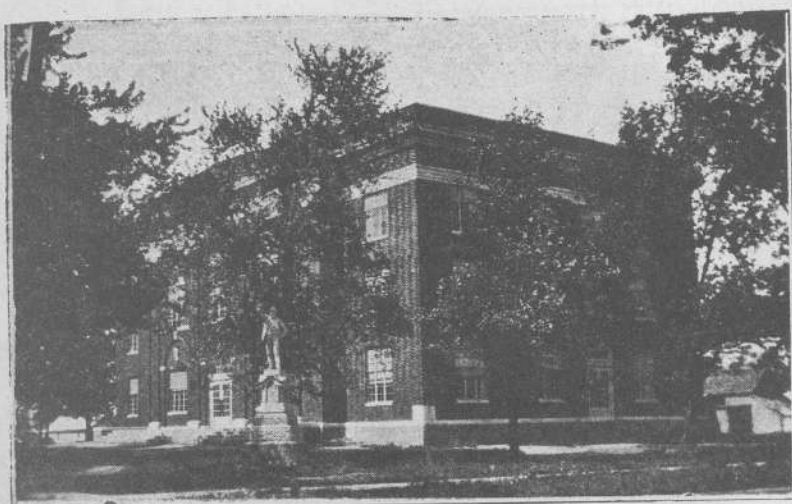
was made but it was so dark that he could not be found. Mrs. Martin was brought on to Lebanon and lodged in the jail, where shortly afterward, twin babies were born to her. Billy Martin was captured soon after, and was granted a new trial on change of venue, and he was tried and acquitted in the Dallas county Circuit Court. He was later tried on a charge of horse stealing and was found guilty. He then served a term in the Missouri penitentiary.

Harold Bell Wright, one of America's greatest novelists, also occupied an important place in the history of Lebanon during his stay here as pastor of the Lebanon Christian church. It was while he was staying

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

here that he gathered the material and thought out the setting of his book, "The Calling of Dan Matthews." The scenes described in that well known book may all be found in and around Lebanon.

Another event in the history of Lebanon was the burning of the Laclede county court house on the last day of February, 1920. The fire broke out early on Sunday morning, of unknown origin, and the entire inside of the building was in flames before it was discovered. County Recorder W. C. Druen and County Treasurer W. D. Adkins were able to get into their offices and take out all their records and most of their



THE NEW LACLEDE COURT HOUSE

Statue of Richard Parks Bland in Foreground. "The Statesman."

office furnishings. The vaults in all the other offices protected the records in them, except in the circuit clerk's office, and Circuit Clerk A. H. Gray lost all the records in his possession. G. C. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, lost everything in his office.

The county court called a mass meeting of citizens to consider the proposition to vote bonds or to levy a direct tax to rebuild. The county court rented the Garrison Hall, above the then Garrison Garage and used it as a court house. At the mass meeting it was found that everyone practically was in favor of voting bonds. At an election held June 1, 1920, to consider the proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000 for

TOWNS AND VILLAGES—LEBANON

the building of a new court house, the bonds were voted down by a very heavy vote. Very few votes in favor of the proposition were cast in any part of the county. Many felt that the bond issue was greater than necessary, and another reason given was that many people were dissatisfied at the way in which the ruins of the old court house were disposed of. The material left after the burning of the old building had been virtually given away for a song by the county court.

However, Laclede county now has a new court house, the finest public building in Lebanon. It stands on the old site and is a building of which every citizen of the county is justly proud. A great amount of hard work was necessary in overcoming the prejudice aroused in the citizens all over the county, but it was finally accomplished. But the new building was not erected until nearly all the \$20,000 insurance on the old building had been spent in rent and in moving from place to place. If the remains of the old court house had been properly cared for, and if the first bond issue had been made for a reasonable amount so that it would have been approved, Laclede county to-day would have been several thousand dollars better off. The \$20,000 insurance would have gone a long way in the erection of a new building. But it is all too easy for us to look back upon the mistakes of years gone by, so perhaps we had best be lenient in our criticism and remember that all of us make blunders at times.

Another shameful incident resulting indirectly from the burning of the old court house has been the bribery scandal of the former Presiding Judge of the County Court, William Murphy. Through the efforts of Homer Davenport, Probate Judge, enough evidence was obtained to secure the conviction of Murphy and his sentence to the penitentiary. Murphy was trapped in his underhanded methods of robbing the people of Laclede County when he accepted a bribe from a private detective who was acting as an agent who wished to buy some safes which had been used by the county before the completion of the new court house. The case created considerable notoriety throughout the state and received much publicity in all the leading newspapers.

A happy contrast to the career of William Murphy has been the effective manner in which Sheriff Sam C. Allen has served since being elected. Sheriff Allen is now one of the best known sheriffs in Southwest Missouri and has made a name for himself all over this section of the state. His untiring warfare against law violators has been very effective in stopping the much talked of crime wave. Already he has sent more prisoners to the Missouri Penitentiary in his two years in office

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

than his two predecessors did in their eight years of office. Bootleggers, moonshiners, thieves, burglars, political grafters, automobile thieves, crooks of every description, have been caught with the goods and turned, at least temporarily, from their paths of crime. Sheriff Allen's service has met with much satisfaction among everybody in the county except the criminal class. His record among the sheriffs of the state is one of which the people of Laclede county are justly proud.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CONTINUED)

CONWAY.

Conway is situated in the extreme southwest corner of Lincoln County on the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad and on National Highway No. 89. It is second in size to Lawrence and is a very comfortable little town with a number of well-kept business stores. The town of Conway

CHAPTER EIGHT

TOWNS AND VILLAGES. (CONTINUED)

CONWAY, MISSOURI

Population 1,200

was laid out in 1870 by the railroad company and was named in honor of the officials of the railroad, who first came to Conway in 1858 and 1860, but it was a very small village. It was first incorporated in 1871 and operated as a lumber yard. The first building built here was occupied by the railroad. It was destroyed by fire and was stored in Lawrence, Mo.

A HISTORY OF LACEDER COUNTY

that his two predecessors did in their other years of office. Goodness, evil, manhood, villainy, mystery, political problems, and, above all, the trials of every description, have been caught with the grapple and thrust at hand honorably, from every hole of crime. Sheriff Allen's services are not only well remembered among everybody in the county, but also in the whole state. His record among the sheriffs of the state is one of which the people of Laceder County are justly proud.

CHAPTER EIGHT

TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CONTINUED)

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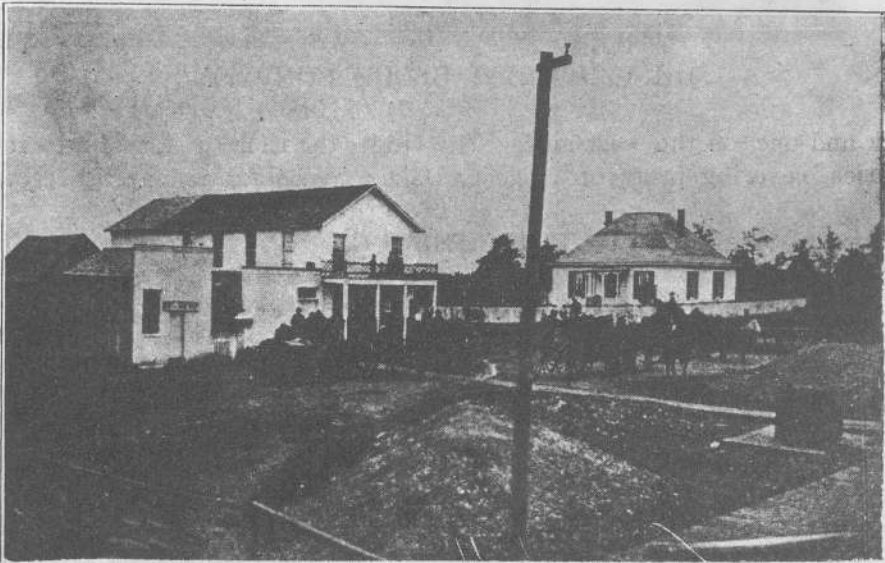
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CHAPTER VIII

TOWNS AND VILLAGES. (CONTINUED)

CONWAY.

Conway is situated in the extreme southwest corner of Laclede County on the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad and on National Highway No. 60. It is second in size to Lebanon and is a very enterprising little town with a number of well-equipped business places. The town of Conway



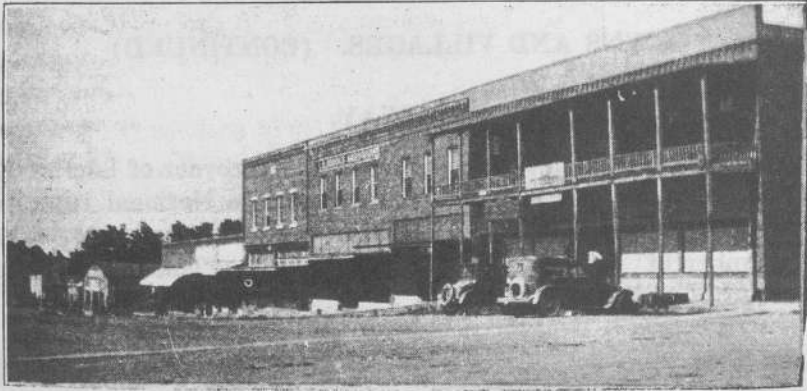
CONWAY: OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO

C. Hanson's Store and Dwelling

was laid out in 1869 by the railroad company and was named after one of the officials of the railroad. The first store was opened in 1869 by Irvin & Knight, but it was a very small business. C. Hanson came to Conway in 1871 and opened up a larger general store, later building the large brick building now occupied by Joe Warren. It became one of the largest general stores in Laclede county.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

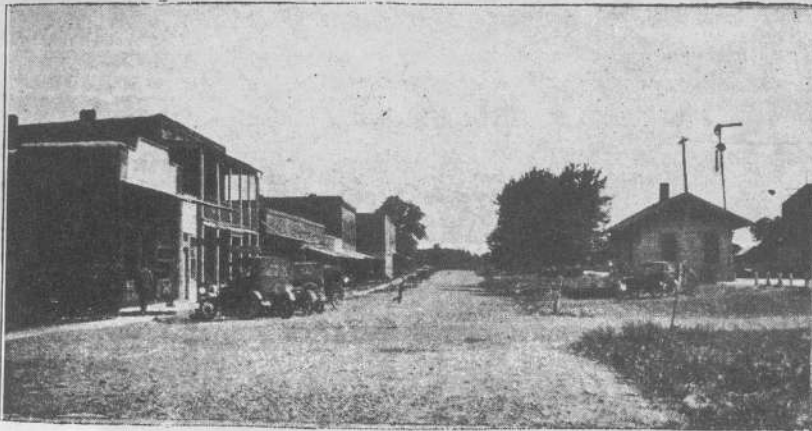
The Hanson Addition to Conway was laid out in 1882 when the rapid growth of the town made more room necessary. Since that time Conway has enjoyed a steady growth. It has two business streets west of the



MAIN BUSINESS BLOCK, CONWAY

track and one on the east side. The trade territory reaches into four counties, covering parts of Laclede, Dallas, Webster, and Wright counties.

PHILLIPSBURG.



MAIN BUSINESS BLOCK, PHILLIPSBURG

Rufus Phillips, from whom the town of Phillipsburg was named, came to Laclede county before the Civil War and established a store and

TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CONTINUED)

mill where the County Farm is to-day, just below the present site of the town. This was the beginning of Phillipsburg. So this town does not owe its start altogether to the railroad for it had really begun before the railroad had even been thought of. However, after the railroad came through, August Hoetting built a store about where the postoffice stands to-day and thus became the first business man in the present location of the town. Robert Young came a number of years after him, and Eli Massey then built on the east side of the track.

Phillipsburg is now located only a half mile each way from National Highway No. 60, and is the railroad point for Buffalo, in Dallas county. There are a number of business places and the farms surrounding are well stocked with hogs, cows, and chickens, and there are also a number of good fruit farms. C. L. Senn was for many years an outstanding business man, and was to Phillipsburg what C. Hanson was to Conway---the leader in everything.

BRICE.

Brice, the seat of the Niangua Spring State Park, is composed of a store, postoffice, hotel and water mill and is situated in the most beautiful spot in Laclede county. It is becoming famous as a summer resort and is also known as the old home of Rev. Paul M. Bennett, evangelist and singer. Brice is the Gordon's Mill of Harold Bell Wright's story, "The Calling of Dan Matthews." Wright says, "Gordon's Mill, on Gordon's Creek lay in a deep, narrow valley, shut in and hidden away from the world by miles of rolling forest-covered hills. The mill, the general store and postoffice, and the blacksmith shop are all connected with Corinth (Lebanon) twelve miles away by daily stage, a rickety old spring wagon that carried the mail and any chance passenger. Pure and clear and cold the creek came welling to the surface of the earth full grown, from vast, mysterious, subterranean caverns in the heart of the hills."

The state park was established there in 1923 and the state fish hatchery for rainbow trout is also located there. Part of the park lies in Dallas county. It is now a favorite resort for fishermen.



PAUL M. BENNETT
Evangelist

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

SLEEPER.

Sleeper, also located on the Frisco, was built along with the railroad. Benjamin West, a section boss, was the first person to live there. Tim O'Connell built the first store and was the first postmaster. His store stood where Everett Barnett, the Frisco agent, now lives. George Campbell next built on the west side of the railroad. Addison Ury was the



SLEEPER, MISSOURI

first blacksmith. Sleeper now has a number of stores, a blacksmith shop, postoffice, railroad station, and is the center of a fair farming country.

COMPETITION.

The first settler came to Competition in 1852 and his name was R. L. Nelson. He erected a store and sold goods and named the place Newburg.

Then a man named Roar settled three miles northwest of Newburg and also put in a stock of goods, and a postoffice. He figured the community center should be here.

Still another man named Ben Moore put up a mill and a store near the Gasconade River one and one-half miles east of Newburg.

During the Civil War Roar and many near here were killed.

Shortly after the war a school house was to be built for the community, and its location was left to a vote. One over the majority voted to place it at Newburg. Then since Roar was dead they decided to bring the

TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CONTINUED)

postoffice to Newburg. But there was already one Newburg postoffice in Missouri. So they changed the name from Newburg to Competition.

The first Masonic lodge organized in this part of the country was at the Roar place before the war.

OTHER STORES AND POSTOFFICES



THE MAIN STREET, MORGAN, MISSOURI



STREET SCENE, ELDRIDGE

A Typical Country Town

TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CONTINUED)

There are a number of smaller places scattered over the county, most of which are stores and postoffices combined. Brush Creek, Eldridge, and Morgan are the three largest of these, with Orla coming next. Others are Abo, Winnipeg, Lyons, Oakland, Hazlegreen, a summer resort, Pros-



MILL DAM AND HATCHERY

Niangua Spring State Park

perine, Nebo, Falcon, Pease, Drynob, Monarch, Drew, Agnes, Lynchburg, Dove, Russ, and Loyalty. All of these little places are very important in the system of mail service which reaches every person in the county.

CHAPTER II

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE WORLD WAR

The history of Laclede county and the World War is a story which every citizen of the county will never be ashamed to read. The history of Missouri counties was not long ago, but in every year of the whole war, Laclede county was a part of the whole. The history of the county is a story which is a part of the whole. The history of the county is a story which is a part of the whole.

CHAPTER NINE

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE WORLD WAR

... which many articles had been written and published. Practically every person in the county was a part of the war. The history of the county is a story which is a part of the whole. The history of the county is a story which is a part of the whole.

The record of Laclede County, Missouri, is a story which is a part of the whole. The history of the county is a story which is a part of the whole. The history of the county is a story which is a part of the whole.

CHAPTER IX.

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE WORLD WAR.

THE history of Laclede county and the World War is one of which every citizen of the county need never be ashamed. Outstanding among Missouri counties was our own home county, for in every field during the entire war, Laclede county always stood among the leaders. The first honor which the county received to bring it into prominence was the announcement by the War Department that Laclede county, and Howell and Holt counties were the only three Missouri counties who were exempt from the first draft because their quota was filled by volunteer enlistments. Few communities in the United States won this distinction.

In Liberty Loans and War Savings drives Laclede county citizens always promptly filled their quota. Red Cross drives, with auction sales in which many articles sold time after time at fabulous prices, were heartily supported. Practically every person in the county wore a little Red Cross button, emblematic of membership in that organization. Food conservation regulations were observed religiously with wheatless and meatless days which every citizen honorably remembered. And in many homes and in many windows shone the little blue star on the field of white which meant that THEIR son was in the training camps, or "Somewhere in France."

The record of Company C, 129 Machine Gun Battalion, composed of Laclede county boys, is one of the most honorable and heroic of the war. The following quotation from the Laclede County Republican, for November 29, 1918, is the best tribute to these brave men that can be found for this chapter: "The Republican presents this week the most important communication this paper ever received or published—one signed personally by ninety-four of our own heroic soldier boys, who went through five days and nights in the most awful slaughter of the war, the Argonne Forest drive, performing deeds for their country and their flag—for us—never surpassed in all history for unselfish patriotism and devotion to home and to native land.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

"These boys have prepared and sent to us for publication a voluntary tribute to their captain, Douglas D. McDonald, who has proved himself to be all that his friends and admirers herein claim for him. The testimony in this regard from these boys who went through the experiences with their captain is worth more than the words or the opinions of ten thousand persons who never got closer than a distance of four thousand miles from the scene of action.

"In General Order No. 83, issued from Headquarters, Thirty-fifth Division, on October 17, 1918, by order of Major General Peter E. Traub, four officers of the 129th Machine Gun Battalion were cited for courage and devotion to duty in the face of the enemy's fire. These officers were Major T. H. Loy, commanding; Captain George H. Wark, Captain D. D. McDonald, and First Lieutenant W. S. Perry. Of Captain McDonald the citation states:

"Captain Douglas D. McDonald, 129th Machine Gun Battalion, on September 28, 1918, near Chaudron Farm, while making a reconnaissance, under intense enemy fire from artillery and machine guns, discovered a gap of half a mile in our line, placed his machine gun company in the gap, then reorganized some straggling and disorganized infantry and scouts and led them forward, putting them in position there, thus preventing a possible infiltration of the enemy forces.'"

The tribute to Captain McDonald from his men reads as follows:

"One year from the date Company C, 129th Machine Gun Battalion left its mobilization camp, at Nevada, Missouri, found that company eagerly awaiting the conclusion of one of the heaviest and fiercest bombardments ever turned loose on the German positions at the Argonne Forest. Promptly at 5:30 a. m. the big guns were silent and with a cheer the American Infantry went over the top to victory. And with the second wave went Company C, under the command of Captain D. D. McDonald. From then until the time the division was relieved he was in the thick of the fight, and time after time he proved himself a man among men. Never once did he ask his men to go, but always asked them to come, for he was a leader in action as well as in words.

"Again and again he led the company safely through the heavy German barrage, where it seemed almost impossible for a human being to live. The German machine gun bullets were never too thick for him to go forward in advance of the company and wisely chose a good position for his men. Each and every member of Company C are proud of their Captain, and the undersigned members of the company who are present

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE WORLD WAR

for duty desire that the citizens of Lebanon and Laclede county know that when the acid test of battle came he proved himself a leader of men in every sense of the word,—one under whom the people should be proud to have their sons fighting.”

This glowing tribute was then signed by the members of the company there for duty: “Lieutenant Paul W. Conner, First Sergeant Virgil Wills, Mess Sergeant Floyd Jones, Supply Sergeant C. R. Barrows, Stable Sergeant Porter C. Hough, Sergeant W. Clyde Fuller, Sergeant Claude A. Stagner, Sergeant R. D. MacKesson, Sergeant Edmond H. Smith, Sergeant Horace B. Maples, Sergeant William E. Carter, Sergeant Buford R. Young, Sergeant Joseph J. Norton, Corporal Clayton I. Bunch, Corporal Guy O. Coffman, Corporal William C. Bunch, Corporal Lee Bevers, Corporal Ralph H. Davis, Corporal Jesse L. Daugherty, Corporal W. G. Coney, Corporal Roy F. Wills, Corporal Leslie Orr, Corporal Homer H. McDowell, Cook James D. Hurt, Cook Walter B. Douglas, Cook Ben A. Davis, Mechanic Russell D. Lorance, Mechanic Roy C. O’Dell, Mechanic Andrew Jaynes, Saddler Rufus Vermillion, Bugler James Crumb, Privates Merlin Joslin, Randolph Clark Mayfield, William Phipps, Marvin Carlton, Robert C. Devore, Marion B. Harshaw, Ernest Murdock, Hardy R. Chadwick, Lonnie Osborn, William A. Justis, John Mason, Oscar S. Owen, Roy Clifton, J. Franklin Clark, Harry L. Pidcock, Moses L. Boland, Thomas Stogsdill, Roy L. Mock, Edward Neuhaus, Oscar McClure, Willie Windsor, Edgar Bourke, John W. Morgan, Arch H. Maddox, Clarence L. Montgomery, Everett C. Trower, Carl G. Whitaker, Ralph E. Doty, Clarence L. Chalmers, Alva Adams, John Evans, Otto L. Wardrip, James Harris, Ulysses C. Taylor, Orla Teaver, John G. Steed, Burl C. Pritchett, James R. Cooper, Clarence Williams, Flemon Hodges, George W. Shockley, Charles E. Short, Clarence Sullivan, Emma Sharp, William J. Hunter, Orestus Chastain, Roy Skiles, Ernest Bates, Raymond Osborn, George Wofford. Matt T. Krenser, Edward Clark, Eldo Block, Dock A. Wofford, Orville Atkinson, Floyd Snow, John Decker, S. A. Mills, Ray Weakley, Arthur Gage, Elbert Hawk, Roy A. Kruer, Grover C. Rigdon.”

One of the boys, writing to a Lebanon acquaintance, expresses his personal appreciation of Captain McDonald as a man, soldier and leader:

“Having gone through what I have with Captain McDonald, the last few days, I can’t help writing about it. We have, for our captain, the finest man, and I will say the bravest, in the world. During the whole drive he did not take us a single place that he did not first go himself. He was the only officer in the whole division who did not rear and drive his men. He had a kind word and a smile for us all—and he got the re-

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

sults. After going through it with him, he is my hero. This is not much of a letter. I am so tired and nervous that I can hardly write. The Captain looks well and is still the fellow who cheers us up. As I have said before he is the ONLY captain in the Thirty-fifth Division.

Sincerely yours,

Buford Young."

In this battle, the Battle of the Argonne Forest, on September 26 to 29, 1918, Sergeant Headley Williams, Privates Floyd Hooper and Russell Towers, and Cook Hubert Smart, from Lebanon, and Corporal Lowell Montgomery, of near Long Lane, were killed in action. Among the wounded were Callison, Kaffenberger, Fuller, Mark Harris, John Davis, Allen, Ralph and Ray Elder, Sumner, Weissgerber, Blickensderfer, Devore and Lillard.

Sergeant Headley Williams was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Williams. He enlisted in Company H at Nevada, in June, 1916, and was in service on the Mexican border. He then returned to Lebanon and remained until the company was again called into service August 5, 1917. He was a favorite with all his comrades, being one of the youngest boys in the company—just sixteen years of age when he enlisted.

Private Russell Towers was the grandson of William H. H. Smith, near Oakland. His parents died when he was three years of age and he had made his home with his grandparents. William H. H. Smith, a veteran of the Civil War, gave a son to his country in the Spanish-American War, George J. Smith, who died in the Philippines. Russell Towers was twenty-four years of age and enlisted in Company H during the summer of 1917. He was a quiet, industrious young man and a brave soldier.

Private Hubert Smart enlisted as a cook in Company H during the summer of 1917. He went with the company to Camp Doniphan and then to France.

Floyd N. Hooper was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Manes Hooper. He was twenty-two years of age. He grew to young manhood in Lebanon and enlisted in Company H before it left for Nevada in August, 1917.

Corporal Lowell Montgomery was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Montgomery and had grown up near Long Lane, in Dallas county. He was one of the bravest men in the company and was a splendid young man. He was just twenty-one years of age.

John Stratton, although not in this company, was another Laclede county lad to lose his life in France. He died, "somewhere in France" on October 15, 1918. He was from Phillipsburg.

LACLEDE COUNTY AND THE WORLD WAR

At the close of the war two false announcements concerning the signing of the Armistice were made. Both announcements were enthusiastically celebrated. Then, on Tuesday, November 12, 1918, as a grand finale to the two premature peace celebrations held before, Lebanon and Laclede county "went over the top" in the greatest jubilee in the history of the county. Schools dismissed. A big parade was given, headed by Mayor Isaiah Brown. The Kaiser was burned in effigy. Rev. W. E. Mathews and Hon. Thomas L. Rubey spoke. Don O. Vernon was the master of ceremonies, which lasted all day. The band played, bells rang, anvils were set off, and whistles blew, to celebrate the end of the greatest war in history. And Laclede county had reason to celebrate because of the most enviable war record of any county in Missouri.

LACEDER COUNTY AND THE WORLD WAR

At the close of the war the late arrangements regarding the signing of the armistice were made. The announcement was made locally on Saturday, November 11, 1918, and the news spread to the two people of the Laceder County. The first news of the war "went over the top" in the greatest jubilation in the history of the county. Schools throughout the county were headed by Mayor Joseph Brown. The flag was being hoisted in the streets and the people were celebrating. The day after the war was the first day of mourning which lasted all day. The day after that the girls were set off and a grand display was made in the streets. The most notable was the parade in Laceder County. The parade was held on the 11th of November.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Williams and their family were among the first to be notified of the war. It was on the 11th of November, 1918, that the news of the war was first received in Laceder County. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918.

William H. Smith, a resident of Laceder County, was among the first to be notified of the war. He was notified on the 11th of November, 1918. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918.

The news of the war was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918.

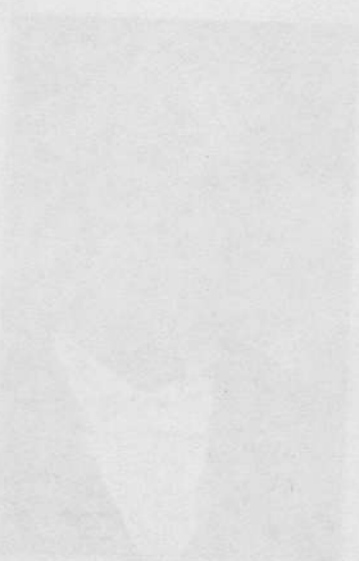
The news of the war was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918. The news was first received in Laceder County on the 11th of November, 1918.

CHAPTER 3

THE THEATRE OF THE AMERICAN WEST

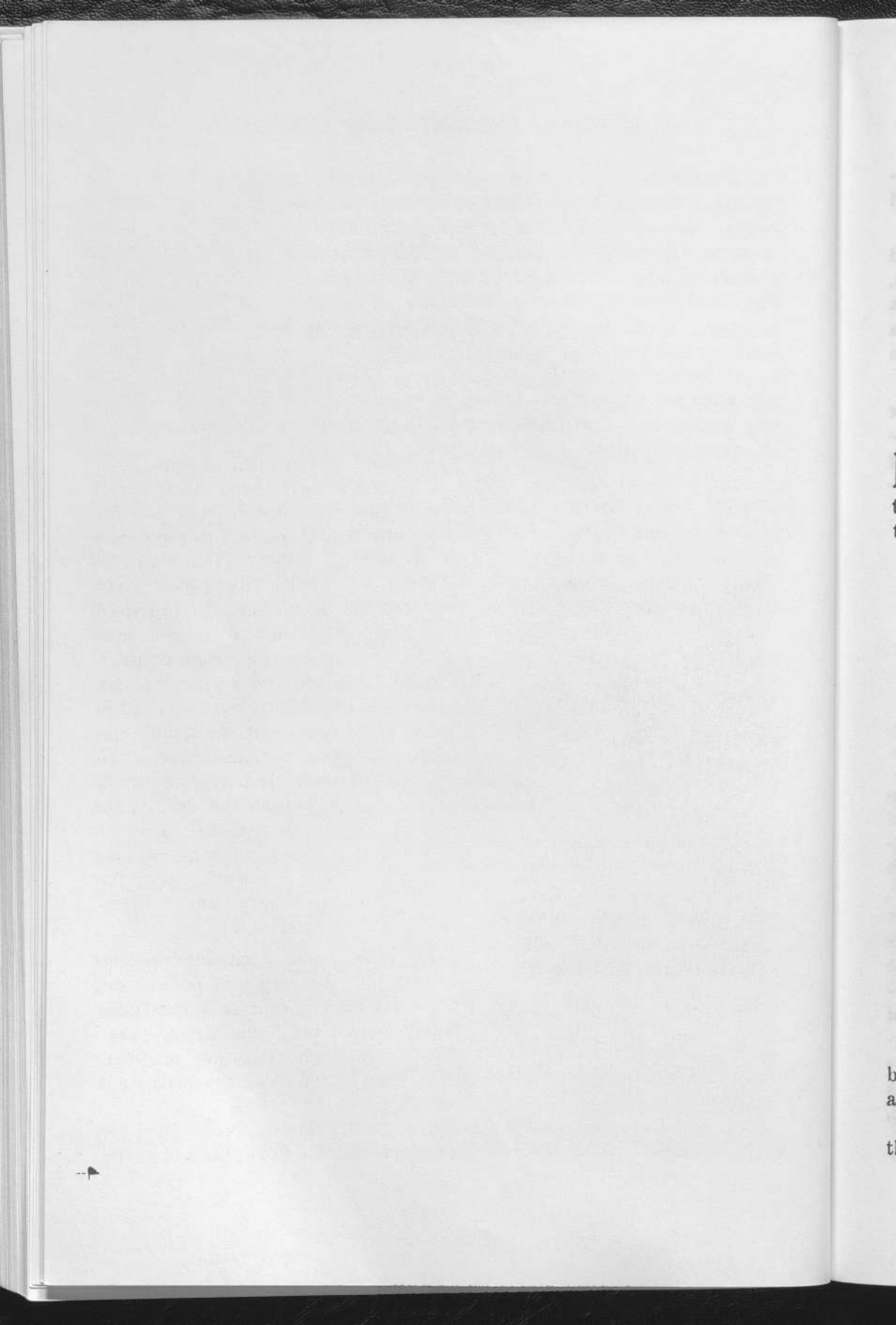
EDWARD PARRIS WILSON

EDWARD PARRIS WILSON was born in New York City, New York, August 10, 1895. He was one of the first American architects to study in Europe, and he spent his early years in the public schools and City University of New York. He was a member of the New York City Board of Education, and he served as its president from 1930 to 1932.



Wilson's architectural career began in 1917 when he joined the firm of McKim, Mead & White. He worked there until 1920, when he joined the firm of Goodhue, Starbuck & Lee. In 1921, he founded the firm of P. P. Wilson & Associates, which he led until his death in 1983. Wilson was a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete in skyscrapers, and he designed some of the most important buildings in New York City, including the Empire State Building and the United Nations Secretariat Building.

Wilson's architectural style was characterized by its simplicity and its use of modern materials. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, and he served as its president from 1954 to 1956. He was also a member of the National Academy of Design and the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Wilson's work has been widely recognized and celebrated, and he is considered one of the most important architects of the 20th century.

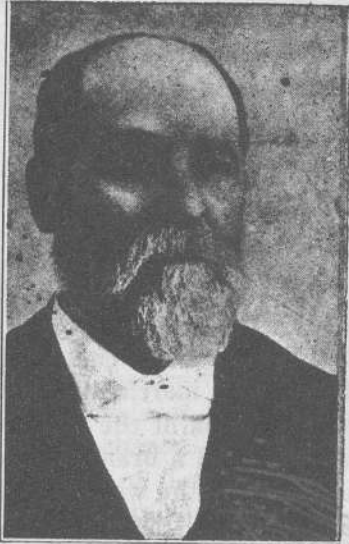


CHAPTER X.

THE TEN OUTSTANDING MEN.

RICHARD PARKS BLAND.

RICHARD PARKS BLAND was born near Hartford, Ohio county, Kentucky, August 19, 1835. He grew up on the farm there and attended the public schools and Griffin's Academy. He emigrated to Wayne county, Missouri, and taught school for one term and then went to California



RICHARD PARKS BLAND

"The Statesman"

brought him the name of "Silver Dick" Bland by which he became nationally known.

Mr. Bland also opposed the annexation of Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines. He made many great speeches in Congress and in the

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

campaign of 1896 he was one of the leading contenders for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States. He was defeated in the famous convention that year, by William Jennings Bryan.

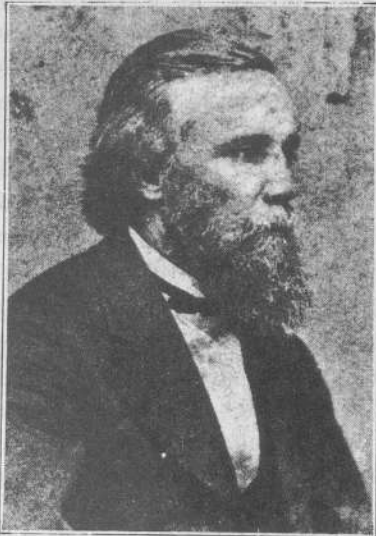
Richard Parks Bland was a great favorite with children and also had very many loyal friends everywhere. He naturally had political enemies, but even they respected him for his great honor and honesty. The great tribute paid him in Harold Bell Wright's "Calling of Dan Matthews," as "the Statesman" of "Corinth" is one of the most beautiful in modern literature.

Richard Parks Bland died at Lebanon, June 15, 1899. Soon after his death his friends erected a statue of him in the corner of the courthouse yard in Lebanon, showing the "American Commoner" standing with unlifted hand in a characteristic attitude. Beneath is the inscription:

"I do speak for the great masses of the Mississippi Valley, when I say that we will not submit to the domination of any political party, however much we may love it, that lays the sacrificing hand upon silver and will demonetize it."

RICHARD PARKS BLAND

Erected by the friends of the dead Statesman at Lebanon, Missouri, his old home, the Monticello of the West.



J. W. McCLURG

J. W. McCLURG

J. W. McClurg, ex-governor of Missouri, was born February 22, 1818, and was a native of St. Louis county, Missouri. He was a merchant at Linn Creek at the outbreak of the Civil War, and at that time had a branch store in old Lebanon. During the war he became Colonel of the Eighth Missouri State Militia. He was also elected to Congress for two terms and was elected Governor of Missouri before the expiration of his last term in office. He came to Lebanon in 1885 and made his home here until his death, December 2, 1900.

THE TEN OUTSTANDING MEN

J. G. LINGSWEILER



J. G. LINGSWEILER

J. G. Lingsweiler was born in Buffalo, New York, April 13, 1844. He served in the Union Army during the closing years of the Civil War and was in Sherman's "march to the Sea." He participated in the Grand Review of the Union Army in Washington. In March, 1866, he came to Lebanon, where he attended the Old Academy for two years.

He started in the lumber business by hauling a load of lumber from Arlington before the railroad was built. After the coming of the railroad his business increased and he became one of the foremost business men of Lebanon. His excellent business ability, his efforts in the improvement of Lebanon and Laclede county, and the personality which made and retained so many close friends, make of J. G. Lingsweiler one of the outstanding men of Laclede county. He died October 12, 1915.

DR. JAMES McCOMB

Dr. James McComb, physician and surgeon, was born near Jacksonville, Illinois, March 12, 1832. He taught school for a short time after coming to Missouri and then attended Missouri University, a St. Louis Medical College, and finally graduated from Jefferson Medical College,

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

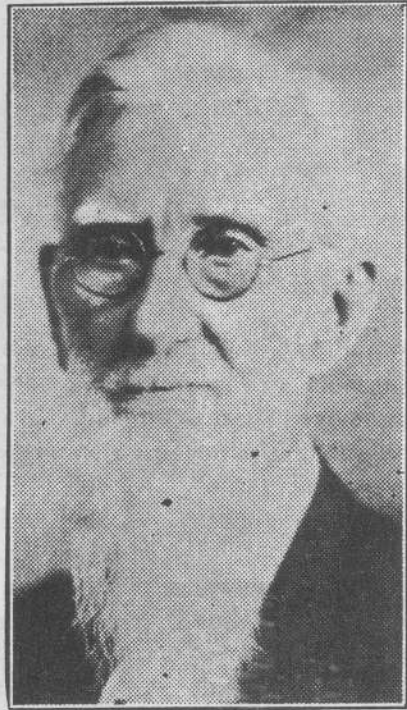
Philadelphia. He came to Laclede county in 1858 and settled permanently in Lebanon in 1863. He practiced his profession in the county for many years and was one of the noblest characters ever seen in Laclede county. He was one of the Christian church's strongest members and was honest, upright, and deeply religious. He was for years the oldest member of the Christian church and the following account of that church's beginning is taken from a paper written by Dr. McComb himself:

"The Christian church of Lebanon, Missouri, was organized in 1867 by J. M. Tennison in what is now called Old Town, with thirteen members, two elders, and two deacons. The organization took place in the old court house which was located a little north of the public square. In a short time it moved and worshipped in the old Union Brick church built before the Civil War by Baptists, Disciples and Masons--the Masons occupying the upper story from about 1868.

"The church moved and worshipped in a store building which had been moved from Old Town and located on a lot just north by the Catholic church and from there it moved in 1873 to where it now worships."

Dr. McComb was also a philosopher. He drew up eleven precepts which he labeled "Eleven things worth remembering." They are:

1. The value of time.
2. The success of perseverance.
3. The pleasure of working.
4. The dignity of simplicity.
5. The worth of character.
6. The power of kindness.



DR. JAMES McCOMB

THE TEN OUTSTANDING MEN

7. The influence of example.
8. The obligation of duty.
9. The wisdom of economy.
10. The virtue of patience.
11. The improvement of talent.

The thoughts set forth in these eleven "things worth remembering" illustrate more than anything else the life and character of this grand old man. Dr. James McComb died March 6, 1926, just one week before he would have been ninety-four year of age.

CHARLES W. RUBEY

Captain Charles W. Rubey was born in Cooper county, Missouri, in December, 1836. He came to Lebanon in 1860, just before the beginning of the Civil War. He organized Company L, Sixteenth Missouri Cavalry, and served as captain of the company. After the war, Captain Rubey returned to Lebanon where he was engaged in farming, stock dealing, and merchandising for a great many years. He was one of the founders of the State Bank, the oldest and largest bank in Laclede county. He was the father of Hon. Thos. L. Rubey, Congressman from the Sixteenth District, and he was an honorable and respected citizen.



CAPT. CHAS. W. RUBEY
In an Army Captain's Uniform

J. P. NIXON

J. P. Nixon, lawyer and jurist, came to Lebanon about the time of the railroad and he literally made himself by his pluck and by his commanding personality. He was for many years one of Lebanon's leading lawyers. It is said that he first rode into Lebanon on the running gears of a wagon, with only an old-fashioned carpet bag and his natural gifts to carry him through.



J. P. NIXON

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

WILLIAM TECUMSEH VERNON

Bishop William T. Vernon was born near Lebanon, July 11, 1871. His parents, Rev. and Mrs. Adam Vernon, were among the old settlers of Laclede county. They moved to town when their son was one year of age, to make a home for themselves where their children could have the advantages of school facilities offered by the town of Lebanon.

Young William attended the one-room public school in what was known as the "old town" until 15 years of age. In the fall of 1886 he entered Lincoln University, at Jefferson City, Missouri, and was graduated at the head of his class, valedictorian, June 13, 1890.

He was elected teacher of the public school of Bonne Terre, Missouri, and assumed the responsibility of that position in the fall of 1890. At the end of two years he was selected as principal of the public school of Lebanon, which at that time had two teachers. Here for four years he had a successful record, and was known as a leader among his people in Laclede county and a brilliant future was predicted for him by all who knew him. Possessing oratorical powers, he was called upon to deliver addresses in various parts of the country and became well known. The publicity given him by J. E. McKesson, editor of the Laclede County Republican, meant much at this time.



BISHOP W. T. VERNON

He felt the call to the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal church of which he, with his parents, had been a staunch member. He spent some time at Wilberforce University, in Ohio, the leading school of his denomination, in further preparation for his work.

Called to the presidency of Western University, at Quindaro, Kansas City, Kansas, a then struggling school, he found full opportunity for the exercise of his talents. As stated, this institution was then struggling, but within less than ten years he had secured the active support of the State of Kansas and so inspired the representatives of his own denomination that the institution became an outstanding one among schools of

THE TEN OUTSTANDING MEN

its class. By this time he had a faculty of 15 trained instructors, with 400 students, and had erected buildings worth many thousands of dollars. So well known did he become on the platform that, in 1906, he was appointed Register of the United States Treasury by President Roosevelt. He went into this office by far the youngest man who had obtained such a position. His signature was necessary on the currency of the country and all government bonds issued. By this time he was recognized as one of the national leaders of his people. He served two years under President Roosevelt and two and a half years under President William H. Taft.

From there he was called to the presidency of Campbell College, Jackson, Mississippi, one of the leading schools of his denomination in the South, serving there most acceptably until 1915, when he was called to the pastorate of Avery chapel, an A. M. E. church, at Memphis, Tennessee, one of the leading churches of his denomination.

In 1920, at the General Conference in St. Louis, Mo., he was elected one of the Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal church, and assigned to the superintendency of the Seventeenth Episcopal District of that church, which comprises the missionary work of his denomination in the Union of South Africa and Basutoland. There his administration was productive of great good. With his wife he made four trips to Europe and two to South Africa. His headquarters were at Cape Town, Cape Colony, S. A. From this point he traveled throughout the provinces of Cape Colony, the Transvaal, Orange Free States, Natal (Zulu land), and the Protectorate of Basutoland. His work there was signally constructive. Aside from the traveling, supervision and organization of mission stations, he had built a school in the mountains of Basutoland for native Basutos. This school, the "Emily Vernon Mission," is named in honor of his wife, who accompanied and labored with him in that far-away land.

Returning to America in 1924, his report on that work so impressed the General Conference that definite provisions were made for larger service by his successors. In 1924 Bishop Vernon was assigned to his present work, which consists of the following conferences: Bermuda, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Michigan and additional work in Indiana and Illinois.

Bishop Vernon's headquarters are at 348 Josephine St., Detroit, Michigan, where he now resides.

In 1901, he married Miss Emily J. Embry, a daughter of the late

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

Bishop J. C. Embry, of the same denomination. She is a college graduate and has accompanied him on all of his visits to foreign lands.

Bishop Vernon is a Greek letter fraternity man, an Odd Fellow, and a 33rd degree Mason. Lincoln University and Wilberforce University have conferred upon him the degrees of Master of Arts, Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Laws.

DR. JAMES M. BILLINGS



DR. JAMES M. BILLINGS

Dr. Billings has been for many years local surgeon for the Frisco Railway. He is a member of the Laclede County Medical Association, the International Association of Railway Surgeons, the American Medical Association, and the United States Board of Pension Examiners.

Dr. Billings was for many years the partner of Dr. James McComb and shares with him the position of honor and the gratitude which the entire county has given to these physicians.

THOS. L. RUBEY

Hon. Thos. L. Rubey, Congressman from the Sixteenth District of Missouri, was born at Lebanon and spent his early life on a farm. He attended the district school and later went to Lebanon to school. He graduated from the University of Missouri and served as Superintendent of Schools in Lebanon for five years. He then taught in the Rolla School of Mines for a number of years.

THE TEN OUTSTANDING MEN



HON. THOS. L. RUBEY

Later he served in both branches of the General Assembly of Missouri and while serving as State Senator he was president pro tempore of that body.

In 1903-1905 Thos. L. Rubey was Lieutenant-Governor of Missouri. He was then elected as Representative in Congress for the Sixteenth District and has served in that capacity in the 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, and 68th Congresses, and was re-elected on November 5, 1924, to the 69th Congress.

He has received the nomination of the Democratic Party for the 1926 election. Thosmas L. Rubey has served his constituents, both Democratic and Republican, in a very satisfactory manner. He is a very forceful speaker, and has always stressed agricultural improve-

ment during his fourteen years of service in Washington. He is a son of Captain Charles W. Rubey, and he is now President of the State Bank of Lebanon.

PHIL M. DONNELLY

Phil M. Donnelly, lawyer and legislator, was born at Lebanon, on March 6, 1891. He attended the public schools in Lebanon, graduating in 1909 from Lebanon High School. He then graduated from the School of Law of St. Louis University in 1913 and began practicing law in Lebanon. He had been admitted to the practice of law at the age of twenty-one, even before he had graduated from law school.

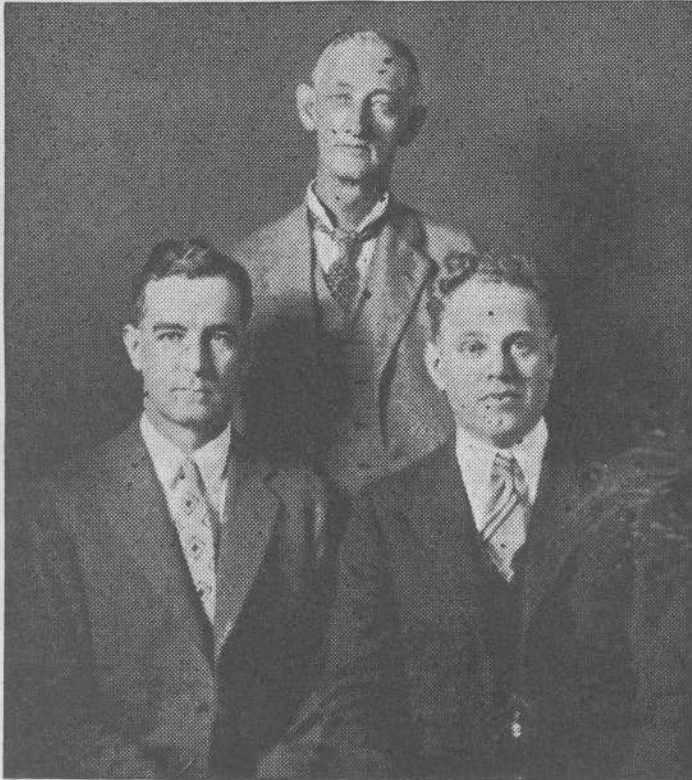
Phil M. Donnelly was Prosecuting Attorney of Laclede county during



PHIL M. DONNELLY

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

1917-1918 and was City Attorney of Lebanon from 1918-1922. He was elected to the House of Representatives of the Missouri State Legislature in 1922 and was elected State Senator in 1924. He was one of the youngest members of the Legislature, yet he was instrumental in passing some much needed legislation. He also served on a number of important committees and has proved himself to be an accomplished orator and a conscientious legislator.

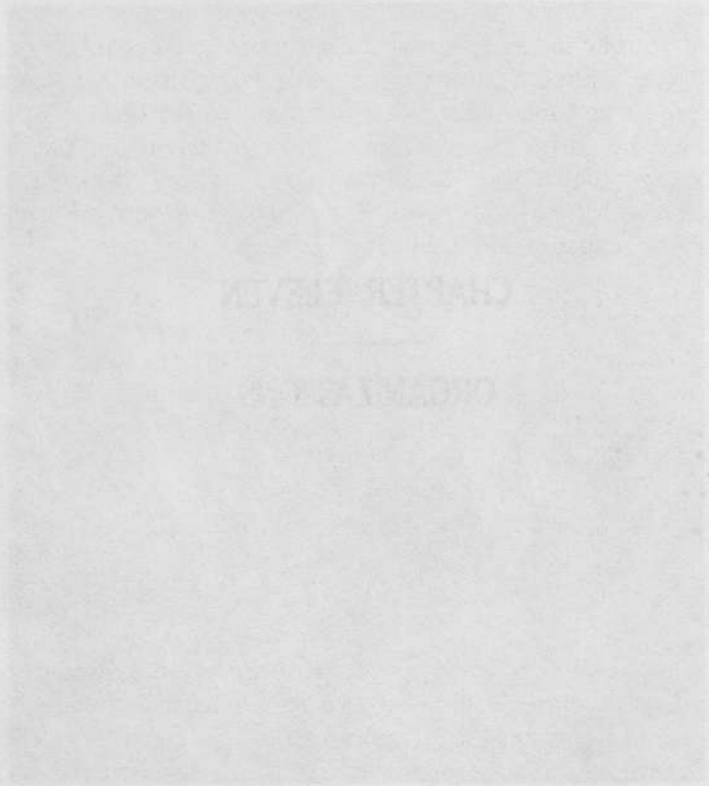


SENATORS PHIL M. DONNELLY, F. H. FARRIS, W. A. BROOKSHIRE

Three State Senators who were born in Laclede county and served in the State Senate at the same time.

A HISTORY OF LAKE SUPERIOR COUNTY

1817-1818 and was the founder of the town of... He was elected to the House of Representatives of the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1822 and was elected State Senator in 1832. He was one of the young and energetic members of the Legislature who were instrumental in securing the first general legislation for the State in 1835. He was also instrumental in securing the first general legislation for the State in 1835 and the first general legislation for the State in 1835.



CHAPTER XXV
APPENDIX

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT BY J. H. FERRY, W. A. KROGG, AND OTHERS

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CHAPTER XI.

ORGANIZATIONS.

LACLEDE county is the home of many important organizations, a number of which have attained state-wide recognition. Because of the limited space it was thought best to give the detailed history of what may well be called the three representative organizations in Laclede county rather than give just a few facts about all. These three organizations are the Masonic Orders in the county, the Laclede County Farmers' Association, and the Lebanon Shakespeare Club.

LACLEDE LODGE NO. 83, A. F. & A. M.

On September 21, 1853, there was organized the nucleus of Laclede Lodge No. 83, A. F. & A. M. I. W. Greenstreet was named W. M.; J. B. Harrison, S. W.; G. B. Mitchell, J. W.; Josiah Ivey, Treasurer; B. B. Harrison, Secretary; James W. Rider, Tyler; A. S. Cherry, S. D., and James Thomas, J. D. The original charter, which is still in the lodge's possession, was issued May 25, 1854. It was issued by L. S. Cornwall, Grand Master of Missouri, and A. O. Sullivan, Grand Secretary. Alfred S. Cherry is named in the charter as W. M.; J. B. Harrison, S. W., and G. B. Mitchell, J. W.

This lodge was organized just four years after Laclede county was organized and the names of the organizers of Laclede Lodge No. 83 will be found repeatedly in the early history of Laclede county. Those whose names are mentioned most frequently are J. L. Herndon, B. B. Harrison, J. B. Harrison, Alfred S. Cherry, Alfred Case, Josiah Ivey, A. M. Appling, and J. B. Lambeth.

John L. Herndon was the first County Clerk and John S. Shields the first Sheriff.

A. S. Cherry built the first court house, was the second Treasurer of the county, was on the first road commission and later represented the county in the state legislature.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

On June 25, 1855, a movement was put forth to build a new lodge hall. This resulted in the erection soon afterward of the square, two-story brick building on "Old Town" hill which was long known to Lebanon dwellers as the Negro brick church. This building was built in connection with a church organization, the church using the lower floor and the lodge the upper. This building was used during the Civil War as a fort and later as a school known as the Seminary. The lodge sold the building in 1871 for \$600 to a Negro church and it has since burned.



THE OLD BRICK UNION CHURCH

During the Civil War political feeling ran so high that dissension arose among the members and work was suspended from 1861 to 1865.

When the railroad came through and the new town was built, some of the new town members tried to have the lodge moved, but being unable to do so, they applied to the Grand Lodge for a charter and organized a new lodge. This new lodge was Center Lodge No. 410. Both lodges continued to function and grew and prospered for 21 years. On November 30, 1892, these two lodges consolidated into Laclede Lodge No. 83.

On October 14, 1872, Center Lodge interested itself in the matter of a proper burial ground, which soon resulted in the purchase of what is now known as the City Cemetery. This was accomplished by Center

ORGANIZATIONS

Lodge No. 410 and Laclede Lodge No. 83, together with Auglaize Lodge No. 192, I. O. O. F. This cemetery is still owned and controlled by trustees of Laclede Lodge and Auglaize Lodge.

Laclede Lodge No. 83 has a membership of 175. They own the spacious quarters, on the third floor of the Sam Farrar building where they meet. The present officers are: J. H. Easley, W. M.; G. C. Moulder, S. W.; S. A. Casey, J. W.; Charles Lingsweiler, Secretary; J. F. England, Treasurer; Ray L. Butts, S. D.; M. V. Martin, J. D.; J. A. Buster, S. S.; Ernest Freece, J. S., and T. B. Burley, Tyler.

LEBANON CHAPTER NO. 64, R. A. M.

Lebanon Chapter No. 64, R. A. M., was organized in 1870. The charter dated, October 6, 1871, was issued by J. M. Fox, Grand High Priest, and George F. Gourley, Grand Secretary. The first officers were: George H. Greenleaf, H. P.; O. S. Williams, King, and J. T. Talliaferro, Scribe.

The following year Richard Parks Bland was H. P. and the next year Erwin Ellis was H. P. Companion Ellis later served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Missouri. This chapter has a membership of 127. The present officers are: J. H. Easley, H. P.; C. E. Lingsweiler, King; Ray Butts, Scribe; M. V. Martin, C. H.; W. I. Mayfield, P. S.; F. M. Jones, R. A. C.; V. L. Martin, Third Veil; William Warren, Second Veil; W. H. Callaghan, First Veil; T. B. Burley, Sentinel; W. I. Dufferfer, Treasurer, and S. A. Casey, Secretary.

LEBANON COMMANDERY NO. 33, KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

Lebanon Commandery No. 33 was organized May 11, 1880. The charter, which was issued May 3, 1881, by W. G. Hull, R. E. G. C., bears the name of the following officers: Erwin Ellis, E. C.; R. P. Bland, Gen., and J. T. Talliaferro, C. G.

Other charter members were Isaac Hoskinson, W. I. Wallace, J. W. Farris, H. T. Wright, George H. Greenleaf, Sam Farrar, E. B. Kellerman, John G. Lingsweiler, W. P. Bowman, and S. R. Apperson. Listed among the members at this time is one of whom the lodge is justly proud, the Right Eminent Sir Arthur T. Nelson, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Missouri.

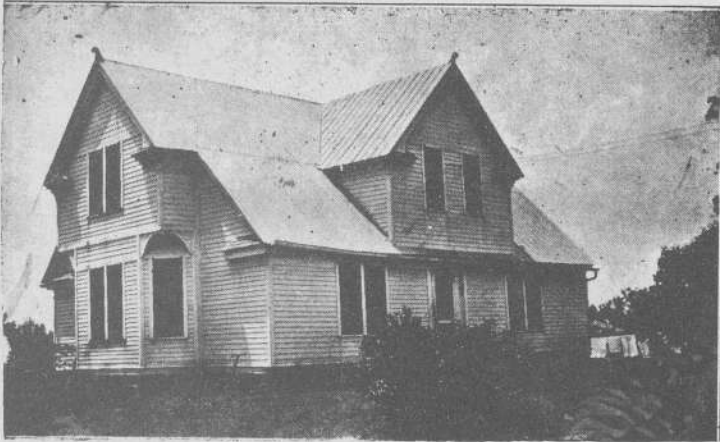
The present membership is 65. Present officers are: J. H. Easley, E. C.; F. M. Jones, G.; D. D. Joslyn, C. G.; C. F. Martin, S. W.; V. L. Mar-

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

tin, J. W.; G. C. Moulder, P.; W. I. Diffenderffer, Treasurer; A. O. Mayfield, Secretary; W. S. Warren, S. B.; C. W. Joslyn, W., and T. B. Burley, S.

LACLEDE COUNTY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

The history of the development of the Laclede County Farmers' Association is very interesting. For many years it was contended that the farmers would never organize themselves and stick together for their own interests. The farmers of Laclede county have proved that this contention is false, and they now have the strongest and largest



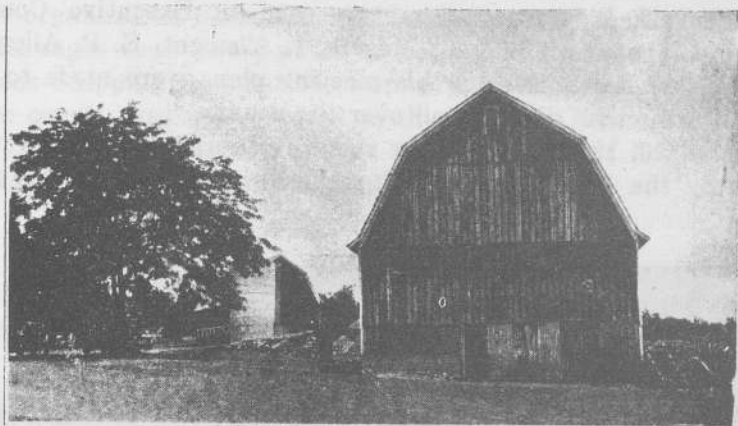
FARM HOUSE ON THE SCHNEIDER FARM, OAKLAND

individual business organization in Laclede county. However, this organization was brought about very slowly and from a very small beginning. In 1916 a Farm Bureau, as it was called, was organized in the Union School district near Phillipsburg. The leaders in this little organization studied the plan of a state-wide organization formulated by William Hirth, of Columbia. This plan contemplated control of the marketing channels of farm products from producer to the central markets. It was this idea, then only a far away dream, which dominated that organization of farmers at the Union school house that night ten years ago.

In 1918 the Union Farm Bureau was re-organized as a Farm Club. The work of this Club stimulated other communities over the county,

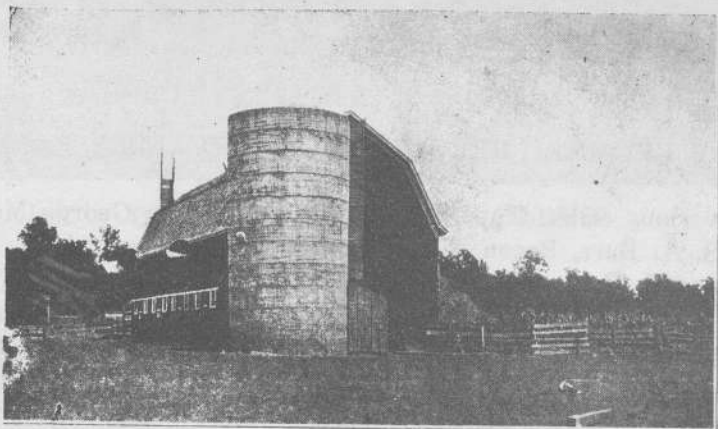
VINTAGE ORGANIZATIONS

resulting in the organization of a similar club at the Bearthicket schoolhouse in November, 1919, with nine charter members. Two weeks later



THE BARNS ON THE SCHNEIDER FARM, OAKLAND

one was organized at Stony Point, and this one was closely followed by Lonesome Hill and Mount Zion.



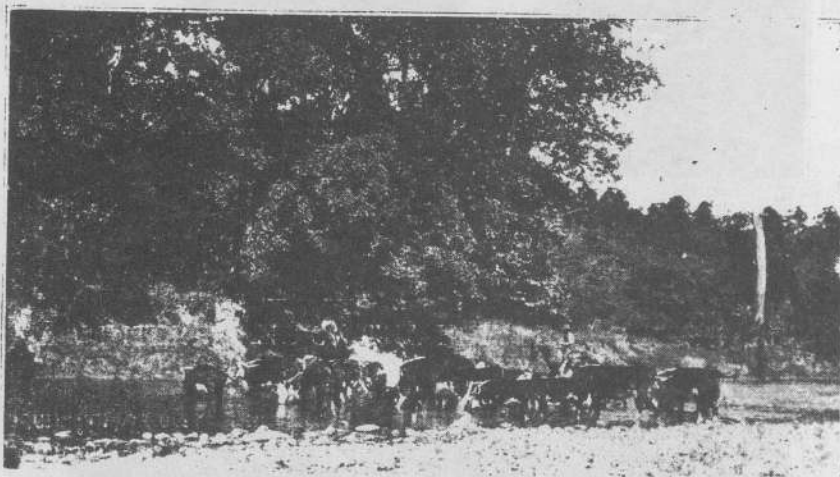
BARN AND SILO ON THE SCHNEIDER FARM, OAKLAND

In January, 1920, H. L. McFarland of the Bearthicket Club was sent as a representative of these Clubs to a Farm Club meeting held at the Marquette Hotel in St. Louis. A few weeks later Howard A. Cowden, then Secretary of the Polk County Farmers' Association, addressed a mass

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

meeting of farmers at the courthouse in Lebanon and a temporary organization of the Laclede County Farmers' Association was made. The following officers were elected: J. Wiley Atkins, President; Dallas Vernon, Vice President; J. B. Carnett, Secretary; and an Executive Committee was elected composed of Remmer Meents, L. Clement, E. P. Allen, C. L. Blakley, and Joe Edwards. At this meeting plans were made to organize Clubs in the school districts all over the county.

By March 20, 1920, twenty-four clubs were organized and a meeting was called by the President, with the following representatives present



BEAU BRUMMEL HEREFORDS, MOON VALLEY FARMS

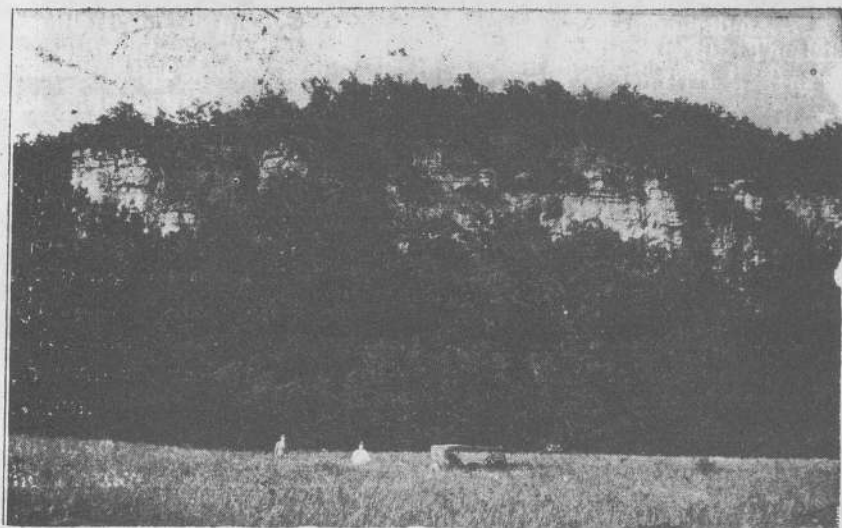
from the various clubs: Theo. R. Bland, Bland Club; George McCulloch, Oakland; S. A. Barr, Bacon; C. W. Sunquest, Blackfoot; A. G. Everett, Independence; I. E. Lockwood, Hazle Dell; Ora Ratcliff, Stony Point; W. M. Bowman, Liberty; John Keith, Keener; H. Metz, High Prairie; H. Bringleston, Weissgerber; R. L. Hudson, Bolles; R. R. Heiser, Kapp; Lee Bethurem, Sleeper; W. A. Vickers, Keck; R. F. Kuhnert, Canlock; Homer L. King, Flag Pond; J. B. Carnett, Washington; Owen Vernon, Gannon; A. J. Schneider, Lyons; Van Minkler, Ivey; David Frye, Mullicane; Carl Heimaster, Mt. Zion, and L. Clement, Bearthicket.

At this meeting permanent officers were elected as follows: J. Wiley Atkins, President; Joe Draper, Vice President; and a Board of Directors made up of one from each township and two at large. The Board of Directors were L. Clement, Union; J. A. Pool, Hooker; Owen Vernon,

ORGANIZATIONS

Spring Hollow; James Kinnett, Auglaize; R. D. Wilson, Osage; A. J. Schneider, Franklin; J. B. Carnett, Washington; and P. M. Montgomery and C. A. Vickers, at large.

The organization became active in co-operative marketing, and Produce Exchanges were incorporated at Lebanon, Phillipsburg, and Conway. Live Stock Shipping Associations were organized at the same places. In 1924 the county was incorporated as the Laclede County Farmers' Association, Incorporated, under the Non-Stock, Non-Profit Marketing Act of the State of Missouri, approved on April 9, 1923.



ON THE MOON VALLEY FARMS

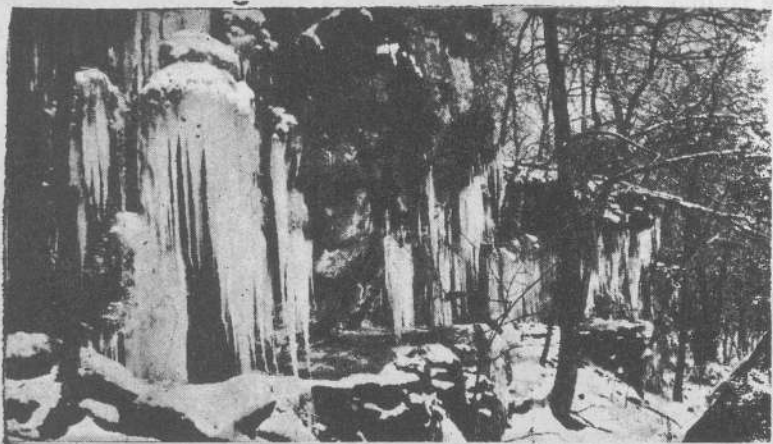
The first county Farmers' Picnic was held at the Adkins Grove near Lebanon, August 9, 1922, and a picnic has been held each year since. In 1924 the picnic was held in the Magnetic Park in Lebanon and was attended by the largest number of farmers ever present at a picnic in Laclede county. Prominent speakers are always present at these picnics which have become a custom now among Laclede county farmers. These picnics attract the greatest crowds which ever assemble each year in Laclede county which are composed entirely of farmers.

The Laclede County Farmers' Association is becoming stronger with each succeeding year. Its rapid growth is proof enough of its value to the

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

farmers of this county and its strength should be a source of pride to every person in Laclede county.

The farm women of the county have organized a Club known as the Laclede County Women's Progressive Farm Club. This organization



A WINTER SCENE ON THE HONSSINGER FARM, ABO

has been very active and has done much in strengthening the Farmers' Association.

THE LEBANON SHAKESPEARE CLUB.

The Lebanon Shakespeare Club is one of Missouri's pioneer women's clubs. It has the distinction of being the second oldest federated woman's club in the State, having celebrated its 44th anniversary on January 26, 1926.

At the present time, when every field of activity and opportunity is open to women and women's clubs are to be found in every community, it is hard to realize the prejudice those women of the old-time Shakespeare Club had to meet and overcome. Outside the Church, there were no women's organizations in Lebanon at that time, and, in true pioneer fashion, the Shakespeare Club helped blaze the trail that led the way to the larger life and unlimited opportunities that are now enjoyed by women.

To go back forty-five years, the Shakespeare Club had its beginning on January 26, 1882, when three earnest women, Mrs. Mary P. Wallace,

ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. May Warwick and Miss Emma Van Patten, wishing to take up some worth while study, at the suggestion of Mrs. Wallace, met at her home to read Shakespeare. Inspired by Lilly Langtry's success as Rosalind in "As You Like It," they read the first act of that play and so enjoyed the afternoon that they decided to meet again the next Saturday to read the second act. This they did, inviting others to join them. The second afternoon, February 2nd, there were seven readers, the four additional ones being Mrs. Fannie Wallace, Mrs. Henrietta Farrar, Mrs. H. T. Wright and Mrs. Harriet Sargent. The readings were continued and the number of readers gradually increased until at the end of the first year the group numbered twenty members, and was then regularly organized under the name of the Lebanon Shakespeare Club, which continued to meet regularly on Saturday afternoons at the homes of members.

For the time they read at random, but soon began a systematic study of the English historical plays, beginning with King John and continuing through Henry VIII, making at the same time a thorough study of English history. Other plays followed, and then at the end of three years, it was decided to venture into other fields of literature.

A step forward was the decision to have annual printed programs, the first being issued for the club year, 1891-2, which at that time extended from the first of October to the first of July. The program committee for that year was composed of Mesdames Mary Wallace, W. H. Owen, Erwin Ellis, J. G. Lingsweiler, D. R. Diffenderffer, H. T. Wright, J. P. Nixon, Gertrude Johnson, and J. T. Bradshaw.

For fifteen years, Mrs. Mary Palmer Wallace (Mrs. J. C. Wallace) was the President of the club, its leader and its inspiration. She was a woman of vision, culture, charm; of infinite tact and exalted ideals. Only those who came in intimate touch with her gracious personality and felt the inspiration of her words and her presence can understand the large part Mrs. Wallace played in the development of the Shakespeare Club.

Mrs. Henrietta Farrar was the first Club Secretary and continued to fill that office until her death in 1892. She was followed by Mrs. J. T. Bradshaw, who most capably acted in that capacity for several years. Mrs. Gertrude Johnson was the first Treasurer, an office with which she was associated until 1897.

The earliest membership list now available is that of 1885, and shows the following names: Mrs. J. C. Wallace, Mrs. W. A. Johnson, Mrs. Sam Farrar, Miss Bird Palmer, Miss Adella Clendenin, Mrs. F. D. Ostrander, Miss Anna B. Wallace, Miss Winnifred Serl, Mrs. Harriett Sargent, Mrs.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

H. T. Wright, Mrs. D. C. Wallace, Mrs. M. W. Serl, Mrs. B. T. Warwick, Mrs. J. G. Lingsweiler, Mrs. J. M. Pierce, Mrs. J. P. Nixon. The following year, Mrs. Erwin Ellis, Mrs. W. H. Owen, Mrs. D. R. Diffenderffer, Miss Jennie Ellis, and Miss Katie Wallace were added to the membership.

In the early days much was made of the club's anniversary, January 26th. Each year this occasion was the most brilliant event in the social life of Lebanon and those who had the privilege of participating were accounted most fortunate indeed. Space forbids going into detail, but in the scrapbooks of old-time members are recorded descriptions of elaborate banquets and Shakespearean programs that marked in delightful fashion the passing of the club's birthday.

The Shakespeare Club had a part in the organization of the State Federation. The club had become a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1893. In January, 1896, a meeting was called for the purpose of forming the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs and Mrs. Mary Wallace attended that meeting as a delegate from the Shakespeare Club.

Likewise, the Shakespeare Club helped in the organization of the Sixth district of the M. F. W. C., the organization being perfected at a meeting held in Lebanon in April, 1903, Mrs. Mary Wallace being the first District President.

Aside from the liberal education and spiritual uplift that it has given its members and its broadening influence on the intellectual and social life of Lebanon, the club's greatest contribution to this community has been the Shakespeare Club Public Library, which it established and has maintained for more than twenty-five years. Sometime in the late '90s, the exact date no one now remembers, the club held a book reception at the home of Mrs. Wallace and the resulting small case of fifty books was the nucleus of the library that has now grown to more than 1,500 volumes. All these years this has been maintained by the club, and, as the only public library in Laclede county, it has supplied a very real community need. At present it is housed in the Laclede county courthouse, in the absence of a library building. Those who gave many years of service as librarians were Mrs. Mary Wallace, Miss Virginia Farrar, Mrs. F. J. Johnson, Mrs. E. B. Kellerman and Mrs. R. A. Todd, with other members acting as assistants at times.

In what the old time members are wont to term "the Golden Age" of the club's activity, the club's membership was limited to thirty and

ORGANIZATIONS

often its waiting list exceeded its membership. The membership it still limited to thirty.

The presidents of the club have been: Mrs. Mary P. Wallace, 1882-1897; Mrs. Fannie Wallace, 1897-98; Mrs. H. T. Wright, 1898-1900; Mrs. J. G. Lingsweiler, 1900-02; Mrs. J. W. Farris, 1902-04; Miss Grace Moss, 1904-05; Mrs. S. R. Farrar, 1905-06; Mrs. J. E. MacKesson, 1906-07; Mrs. Gertrude Johnson, 1907-08; Mrs. J. P. Nixon, 1908-10; Mrs. E. F. Stebbins, 1910-12; Mrs. R. A. Todd, 1912-18; Mrs. F. J. Johnson, 1918-1922; Mrs. J. E. MacKesson, 1922-26.

Other organizations in the county are the Laclede county Fruit Growers Association, The Domestic Science Club, which is almost as old as the Shakespeare Club, the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, the Parent-Teachers Association, and a number of others, all of which have done a great deal in building Laclede county.

CHAPTER TWELVE

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN, AND FARMERS

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CHAPTER XII.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN, AND FARMERS.

C. E. MONTGOMERY, GROCERIES

G. E. Montgomery has been in the present grocery business in Conway for the last seven years. Prior to taking over the store which he now owns he had run the Corner grocery for four years, and before that he had run a store at Morgan for about two years. Before beginning as a storekeeper Mr. Montgomery had been a farmer near Conway, and he was born and reared within two and one-half miles of Conway. When he entered the present location he purchased the building outright. It had been a restaurant formerly but that was discontinued and a full stock of groceries, flour, and cured meats was put in. C. E. Montgomery has managed the business since that time and he has continued to build up his stock until he now has one of the largest and best grocery stores in Conway. The putting in of an entirely new stock also insures a fresh supply of groceries.

LACLEDE ROLLER MILLS

The Laclede Roller Mills was first known as the Laclede Mill and was first located in "Old Town" before the moving of Lebanon to the present location. It was first started there by Smith & Appling, being moved to the site of the present mill by those men soon after the coming of the railroad. After the invention of the roller mills the name was changed to the Laclede Roller Mills and has borne that name since.

In 1893 the old mill burned, being rebuilt soon afterwards by J. G. Lingsweiler who continued to run the mill until it was taken over by the present management in 1916. Under Lingsweiler's management hard wheat flour was made for some time but it was discontinued until the mill was taken over by Dean M. Martin, the present owner. Martin again began the manufacture of hard wheat flour and at present it is the only mill in Laclede county or any of the adjoining counties which manufactures hard wheat flour.

Dean M. Martin has been a miller for a number of years, having been in business even before taking over the Laclede Roller Mills. The large elevator now controlled by the Farmers' Exchange was built by Martin after a similar one was destroyed by fire shortly after the mill had been purchased from Lingsweiler.

The Laclede Roller Mills is now doing a thriving business in flour and mill feeds, manufacturing their own hard and soft wheat flour and feeds. Their specialty is "Purity" soft wheat flour and "Red Rose" hard wheat flour. Martin's sons are now actively engaged in the business, assisting in the management of the mill.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

THE STATE BANK, LEBANON

The State Bank, "The Old Bank on the Corner," is the oldest bank in Laclede county. It has been in the same location and under the same management for thirty-six years. It was re-organized in 1905 in order that the capital stock might be increased, but there was no change in personnel except the addition of Thomas L.



S. F. LUMM

Rubey to the Board of Directors. Charles W. Rubey, the father of Congressman Thomas L. Rubey, was one of the first organizers of the bank. The officers at the time it was organized were Capt. J. C. Wallace, President; Capt. Charles W. Rubey, Cashier, and S. F. Lumm, Bookkeeper. The bank started with a capital of \$12,500. S. F. Lumm, the present Cashier of the State Bank, is the only member who has been with the bank since its organization.

In 1905, when the bank was re-organized, the capital stock was increased to \$30,000.00. It is without question the largest banking institution in Laclede county and has held that position through all time since its organization. It has enjoyed a steady growth on the well-known corner from which the



THE STATE BANK, LEBANON

"The Old Bank on the Corner"

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

name is taken, "The Old Bank on the Corner." The bank now has a total Capital, Surplus, and Undivided Profits of \$70,000.00.

The present officers of the bank are Thomas L. Rubey, Congressman from the Sixteenth District, President; J. A. Elliott, Vice President; Dr. J. A. McComb, Vice President; S. F. Lumm, Cashier; A. P. Draper, Assistant Cashier; Charles Hughes, Assistant Cashier; Arthur Mumford, Teller; Farmer Lewis, Bookkeeper, and Mrs. Minna Draper, Stenographer. C. C. Draper, with the bank from 1905 to 1925, has retired.



AN INTERIOR VIEW OF THE STATE BANK, LEBANON

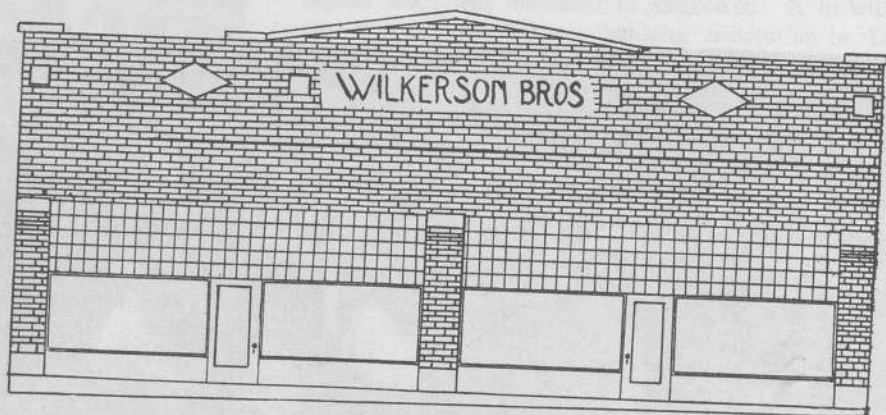
"The Old Bank on the Corner"

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

WILKERSON BROTHERS, GARAGE

The largest and most important business place in Conway east of the railroad is without question the Wilkerson Brothers' Garage. Beginning in Conway only four years ago, these men have built up one of the substantial business houses in Laclede county. W. M. Wilkerson, the active member of the firm, was in the produce business here for five years before going into the garage. Before that he had been a farmer all his life, nine miles west of Conway.

This garage, situated in the southwest corner of Laclede county, is the center of a large territory taking in the southern part of Dallas county, the northern part of Webster county, the southern part of Laclede county, and even extending into the northwest part of Wright county. Conway is the trading center for this territory and the Wilkerson Brothers' Garage thus becomes the center for the automobile trade of the district since it is the only Ford sales and service garage for the entire section taken in by the territory mentioned above.



WILKERSON BROTHERS' GARAGE, CONWAY

With such a large business district to cover, the Wilkerson Brothers' Garage naturally has had a very rapid increase in size and importance. From the comparatively small beginning on the east side of the railroad, it has expanded until it has been found necessary to erect a new building in order to accommodate the large demand which is becoming greater each year. A large modern garage building is now being constructed on the corner just north of the Warren store on the west side of the railroad. It will be in an L-shape, 100x50 one way, and 45x25 the other.

Fords, Fordsons, Firestone tires, Ford parts, and service are the outstanding stock-in-trade of this garage. Ford cars need no introduction anywhere. They, as well as the other things carried by the Wilkerson Brothers' Garage, have become necessities in the lives of the American people. Any establishment furnishing those necessities is certain to prosper, especially when it is built upon the principles which are being carried into everyday practice by the owners of this garage.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

JONES MOTOR COMPANY

The Jones Motor Company, one of Lebanon's leading garages, was established in 1921 by Floyd W. Jones, the present owner and manager, who came to Lebanon in 1919 after spending three and one-half years in the service. During the two years from 1919 to 1921 Jones was really starting the present business, but it was not until the latter date that the Jones Motor Company was established. From a very meager beginning with practically nothing to start with, Floyd W. Jones has now built up his present business until at present he employs a force of fourteen men, one of the largest in Lebanon. He has the Chevrolet Sales and Service agency, the only one in the county, and also has a full line of parts and accessories, Wilhoit gasoline and oils, Willard storage batteries, and Fisk tires and tubes.

He also runs the bus line between Lebanon and Springfield which started four years ago. It was taken over by Jones in 1925. He also started the Jefferson City-Springfield Bus line in May, 1926. With his two lines together he now runs three busses daily—two between Jefferson City and Springfield and one between Lebanon and Springfield only. He is connected with the Union Bus Depot in Springfield which connects with all the bus lines in Southwest Missouri.

The Jones Motor Company has outgrown its present quarters and will soon occupy the new building being erected next door. Jones will then occupy both buildings, and will have a show room twenty-five by twenty-five feet and shop space thirty by twenty-five feet. He will then have a fully equipped shop to handle any kind of work—welding, lathe work, battery service, and all kinds of repairing.

STERLING BROTHERS, GROCERIES

The Sterling Brothers, David I. and Roy Sterling, first began their present business in 1921, with a small stock of goods taken over from J. M. Phipps. From that modest beginning they have built up their store until now it is one of the most up-to-date and well stocked groceries in Lebanon. Both men were born on the Gasconade River east of town and have lived here all their lives with the exception of a year spent in Kansas City prior to their coming to Lebanon to set up the present business. While in Kansas City David I. Sterling worked as a motorman on a street car, and Roy was a street car conductor. After working for some time David became injured and was forced to spend five months in a hospital, and finally both brothers decided to return to Lebanon as soon as David was able to leave the hospital. It was then that they entered the grocery business they now own. They have literally grown up in the merchandise business, as their father, John Sterling, has been a country storekeeper all his life, having owned general stores at Dry Knob, Monarch (on the Gasconade) Abo, and even established a post office and store at Roe, which has since been discontinued. So it may truthfully be said that the Sterling Brothers have been reared in the grocery business, and we are not surprised that they have succeeded as they have in Lebanon. They handle a complete line of staple and fancy groceries and are headquarters for G. M. D. products in Laclede county. Their store is one of the three Red Arrow stores which have been attracting attention by their unique sales and advertisements during the last few months. David I. Sterling, the oldest member of the firm, is now serving as Councilman on the Lebanon City Council, ample proof of the respect and esteem which these young men already hold in the minds of the people of Lebanon.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

J. WARD OWEN, GARAGE

J. Ward Owen, the owner of one of the most up-to-date garages in Southwest Missouri, is an experienced business man, having been in the present business since 1919. Before that he was a banker for seven years in Oklahoma in the First National Bank of Bristow. Then he became connected with a bank in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, formerly capital of the Choctaw Nation, where he remained for several years.

J. Ward Owen is the son of W. H. Owen, one of Lebanon's pioneer business men. W. H. Owen for many years had one of the largest mercantile establishments in Laclede county, having been in business where the Palmer furniture store now stands. He was the founder of the St. Louis Store, his place of business going under that name all the time he was in business here. His son, J. Ward Owen, has now taken his place among the business men of Lebanon, except that the son has selected the garage business rather than the mercantile trade as the type of enterprise for the carrying on of the name of Owen among the business interests of Laclede county. He is performing the difficult task of taking the place of W. H. Owen in Lebanon's business world in a manner creditable both to the community and to himself.

The garage, located on Jefferson Avenue, moved into the present ample quarters during the latter part of December, 1923. Prior to that the business had been started four years before just across the street, but had rapidly outgrown that space, making it necessary for the present modern garage building to be erected. He is the exclusive Lebanon dealer in Dodge Brothers motor cars, Exide batteries, Goodyear tires and tubes, and also carries a complete line of automobile accessories and equipment of every description.

LYRIC THEATRE

Lebanon's theatre, the Lyric, is a completely equipped modern motion picture theatre, showing the best pictures available and equal in many respects to the theatres of the large cities. C. H. Fayant, the owner and manager of the Lyric, is a native of Lebanon and Laclede county. He first began his theatre in the old Froezech Building, but was there only a short time. He then moved to the present excellent location in 1916 and has been building up the standards of his shows since that time until to-day his pictures are second to none.

C. H. Fayant had been in the confectionery business where James is now for twenty years. He was a student for a year both at Drury and at Rolla School of Mines. He also had charge of the ice and bottling works for one year. His father, A. Fayant, was one of the leading business men of Lebanon for over forty years.

The Lyric Theatre is one of the most unique theatres in the state. It has the best screen that can be found anywhere. It also has two other features which are seldom found—the seats face the front entrance of the theatre, just the opposite of what is usually found in theatres. And in addition to this out-of-the ordinary feature the Lyric has a huge fog-horn which is blown at the beginning of each show. This fog-horn has now become well known everywhere and creates considerable interest for out-of-town visitors. It has been part of the Lyric equipment for ten years now.

An important feature recently installed is the Arctic Nu-Air Cooling System. This is a modern cooling and ventilating system which changes the air completely every ninety seconds, thus insuring absolute health and comfort for the patrons of the theatre. The Arctic Nu-Air Cooling System, "As Refreshing as a Sea Breeze," operates as a cooling and ventilating system in the hot summer months and as a ventilating system during the winter.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

THE CONWAY RECORD

A period of thirty-five years has elapsed since Conway boasted her first newspaper. There is in the files of the Conway Record a copy of "The Chief," published at Conway, Missouri, March 26, 1891. This is undoubtedly one of the first papers ever printed in Conway. As it is Volume 1, Number 25, the first issue would have been dated about July 1, 1890. Dr. M. G. Roberts tells that he was a resident of Conway at that time, and with the co-operation of Dr. Tom Lockwood, a well remembered old time citizen, and the editor, John E. Wells, ran off the first edition of the paper.

We do not know, exactly, when the name of the paper was changed to its present title, but according to the oldest files in our possession, dating from February 23, 1899, Volume 6, Number 15, with F. M. Anderson and John T. Newport as owners, editors, and publishers, it must have been about November 1, 1892. These parties succeeded L. P. Layman, who very possibly had owned the paper since the time of its relinquishment by Mr. Wells. After about eighteen months Mr. Anderson sold his interests in the business to John A. Brown, the firm being Newport and Brown for some time.

Then followed a period during which the ownership was transferred a number of times, but owing to the incompleteness of the files in our possession covering these changes, we are unable to give the owners' names in their regular order of succession and in their entirety. Among them however are W. S. Bradshaw, and John Burge and Son, these parties assuming the management only, the ownership meanwhile having reverted to F. M. Anderson again. In 1907 M. M. Clough assumed control, operating the plant until its purchase in September, 1909, by L. A. Griswold, who assisted by his wife, conducted the business efficiently and successfully, until in November, 1914, it passed into the hands of W. M. Bear.

Again, in June, 1916, it changed owners, when Dr. F. E. Patton took command. Next in line was Ben P. Schneider, whose editorial experience ended somewhat abruptly when he volunteered for army service in May, 1917. The management was assumed at that time by Miss Gladys Reser, the present editor and publisher, who is now conducting the paper in a very efficient and business-like manner. Miss Reser is one of the very few women in the state to be publishing and editing a newspaper alone.

LENZ STUDIO

W. A. Lenz, Lebanon's photographer and the only one in Laclede county, began here in 1907 in Manchester's old stand. Three years later, in 1910, he built the building which he now occupies, and continued in business there until 1920. He then sold out to Strathman and went to Pennsylvania where he spent four years.

He returned to Lebanon in 1924 and began business again on Madison Avenue, but soon took over Strathman's interests and has now moved back to his old location on Commerical Street. He now has a completely equipped modern studio, one of the best in the state. W. A. Lenz is also the inventor of a new print washer for washing pictures, which has created quite a sensation in the photograph business. He manufactures them in Lebanon and ships them to all parts of the world.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

J. G. LINGSWEILER LUMBER COMPANY

The J. G. Lingsweiler Lumber Company is now one of the two oldest firms in Laclede County. It was established in 1869 by J. G. Lingsweiler and two others—McAlister and Barton. Within a short time, however, McAlister went to Springfield and started a lumber yard there and Barton went to Pierce City. Barton afterward became the founder of the Ash Grove Portland Cement Company. After his partners went away, Lingsweiler remained in Lebanon. The company started in at the location where it is found today, and had come in with the railroad and the moving of "Old Town." The J. G. Lingsweiler Lumber Company then has literally grown up with the town. It grew as Lebanon grew until to-day it is like Lebanon—it is recognized as the most important of its kind in the large territory reaching out from the Laclede county seat into all the adjoining counties.

The Lingsweiler family has been directly connected with the public and social life of Lebanon for many years. Much concerning the work of this family may be found elsewhere in this book for it would be impossible to write a history of Lebanon without considerable mention of the Lingsweilers. Without question, J. G. Lingsweiler stands out among Laclede county people as one of the ten outstanding men.

In 1893 J. G. Lingsweiler built the Laclede Roller Mills. His son, C. E. Lingsweiler, the present manager of the lumber company, was the manager of the mill from 1893 until 1918. It may be seen then that two of the important business interests in the county were directly controlled by J. G. Lingsweiler. In addition to the mill and lumber yard he also ran a brickyard near the coal chute. Brick were made here for many years, the last that were made being used in the construction of the Lingsweiler Building at the corner of Commercial and Jefferson. After that the brick yard was abandoned. The remains may be seen to-day where clay had been removed for making the brick.

C. E. Lingsweiler, the son of the older Lingsweiler, took over the management of the lumber business in 1912. He also continued to manage the mill until it was sold six years later. C. E. Lingsweiler spent one year at Depauw University at Greencastle, Ind., and a year at Drury College in Springfield. He then graduated from the Gem City Business College of Quincy, Illinois.

The J. G. Lingsweiler Lumber Company, known for many years as "The Old Reliable Lumber Company," is one of the most complete business houses of the county. It supplies all kinds of building material—lumber, cement, sash and doors, brick, lime, roofing, paints, oils, stucco, and in addition carries a large supply of coal.

LEBANON AUTO WRECKING COMPANY

The salvaging of parts and metal from old cars has now become an important phase of the motor industry. Last year while 4,300,000 automobiles were being manufactured, 1,500,000 went to the scrap heap. The Lebanon Auto Wrecking Company on South Madison is engaged in the work of buying up and dismantling old cars of all makes, salvaging the parts which are in good condition, and selling these parts at from 40% to 95% of the cost of new parts. These parts are absolutely guaranteed. This establishment can furnish any parts for any make of car known. Second-hand cars and new and second-hand tires and tubes are also handled. It is managed by Mike Feinstein, a disabled veteran of the World War and a member of the Kaffenberger-Williams post of the American Legion. It is owned by Roy Kort of Kansas City.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

L. J. KAFFENBERGER, CITY BAKERY

L. J. Kaffenberger, the owner and manager of the City Bakery, first came to Lebanon forty-three years ago. He started a small bakery where the Fayant Millinery store was located for a number of years, but was burned out in the fire that destroyed that block at that time. He was away from Lebanon then for a time, returning and starting another bakery where the Jefferson Hotel now stands. He later moved up into the Glendenin building and it was while he was located there that he began his newstand business. Shortly afterward he built the present building and moved into it, and has been located there ever since. Mr. Kaffenberger has a complete modern bakery and confectionery and sells all leading magazines and daily papers. He is recognized as one of the oldest business men of Lebanon and has done a thriving business here for forty-five years. Without question his business is worthy of the patronage of the citizens of Lebanon.

PRAIRIE VALLEY FRUIT FARM

The Prairie Valley Fruit Farm, located near Phillipsburg, was settled and established thirty-eight years ago by J. V. Turner, the father of the present manager, Elwood Turner. This fruit farm contains 200 acres and has 60 acres of orchard. There are forty acres of bearing trees and twenty acres of five year old trees. This year's crop is 3,000 bushels, while last year's was 7,000 bushels. There are enough bearing trees of each variety of Ben Davis, Gano, Stark's Delicious, Grimes, Yorks, Ingrams, and Jonathans for a car load or more. The young twenty-acre orchard contains Grimes, Stark's Delicious, Jonathan, Winesap, and Huntsman's Favorite. Of small fruits there are four and one-half acres of strawberries and five acres of grapes will be set in 1927. There is also a nursery in connection with the fruit farm. All the trees on this farm are sprayed and pruned thoroughly and fertilized with nitrate of soda.

DRS. SOLOMON & SOLOMON, CHIROPRACTORS

Drs. Solomon & Solomon, Chiropractors, are graduates of the Hunter School of Chiropractic, Springfield, Missouri, which offers a three year course. They located in Lebanon May 15, 1919, and are enjoying a good practice, and are very successful with their patients.

When they first began their practice they encountered much prejudice against their profession, which is usually true of any new theory that departs from the usual customs. Having the courage of their convictions, however, they met prejudices with facts until today, people are gradually coming to the new way of treating disease. They have shown thousands of sick people the way to health.

Inquiry brought out the fact that while Drs. Solomon & Solomon were very successful in nervous troubles, wry neck, lumbago, rheumatism, etc., they also secured in many cases sensational results, in appendicitis, typhoid, influenza, blood poisoning, eczema, measles, tuberculosis,—in short, all ailments to which the body is heir.

They are now equipped with an X-ray machine and a wonderfully sensitive instrument, the neurometer, which locates the pressure of nerves along the spine. These instruments show exactly where the cause of disease is located and play no small part in the successful work these doctors are doing.

Their offices in the State Bank building are completely furnished with all the other equipment necessary to the carrying on of a successful practice.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

A. W. SCHNEIDER, JEWELER

Lebanon and Laclede county have the distinction of having the most up-to-date and fully equipped jewelry store between Springfield and St. Louis. A. W. Schneider, jeweler, has been the owner of this business since taking it over from M. L. Greenstreet in 1916. Mr. Greenstreet had established the firm four years before in the new Lingsweiler building on the corner of Commercial Street and Jefferson Avenue.

A. W. Schneider came to Lebanon from Belleville, Illinois, where he had worked in a similar business for four years. He had attended school in St. Louis for two years. Mr. Schneider is now Lebanon's exclusive dealer in American made watches--Waltham, Hamilton, and Howard watches and Bulova wrist watches. He handles a complete line of silverware, diamonds, and Victor Victrolas.

M. D. VERNON, GROCERIES

The store of M. D. Vernon, one of the out-lying business places of Lebanon, has been at the present location at the corner of Fourth and Harrison for the last seven years. However the present modern stucco building was erected in 1925 just one door from the old location. The business was moved into the new home in November, 1925. M. D. Vernon had been a farmer in the Blackfoot district all his life prior to coming to Lebanon. He is a descendant of the old Vernon family, one of the oldest and best known families in the county. His grocery store has grown from a small stock put in in 1919 in the old building next door to the present complete stock of groceries and notions of all kinds in one of the neatest and up-to-date buildings in Lebanon.

J. F. GREGORY, SPORTING GOODS

Without question J. F. Gregory has the most interesting business in Lebanon. He came here from St. Louis where he had been engaged in a similar business and set up in the present location in 1919. Besides the complete line of sporting goods which Gregory carries, he also manufactures fish and animal traps and also a special bait for

fish lure which are manufactured by him right here in attracting fish. The fish and animal traps and the Lebanon are sent to all parts of the world. Mr. Gregory has something of which very few business men in Southwest Missouri are able to boast--his extensive territory. He has received orders for baits and fish and game traps from all the countries of the globe, among which are Alaska, India, New Zealand, Mexico, England, France, Panama, Argentina, Trinidad, Japan, China, Syria, South and Central Africa, the Malay



Peninsula, the Philippines, Java, Peru, Columbia, Liberia, and Ceylon. His advertisements may be seen in many leading magazines, including the Popular Mechanics Magazine, Field and Stream, National Sportsman, Hunting & Fishing, Outdoor Life, Hunter-Trader Trapper and all other sportsmen's magazines. These magazines go to all parts of the world and it is through this extensive advertising field that his business has been built up to its present proportions. Few of the larger cities can boast a better and more complete line of sporting goods of every description than is afforded to this section of the country by J. F. Gregory.



BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

CLARK BROTHERS MERCHANDISE COMPANY

The Clark Brothers Merchandise Company has long been the leading mercantile establishment in Laclede county. It was established in 1892 when the Clark Brothers, H. B., A. H., and H. W. Clark, bought out the Wallace Brothers who for many years had held the same position among the business men of Lebanon that has since been held by Clark Brothers. For eleven years the business remained in the three old stands in the Greenleaf block until it was entirely destroyed by fire, January 12, 1903. In February of the same year Clark Brothers bought out W. H. Owen and carried on that business in Owen's old stand until late in the fall of the same year. They then built the present large building on the corner of Commercial street and Jefferson



avenue and moved into their new quarters late in the same year, 1903. This building is the largest occupied by any individual business in Lebanon or Laclede county. It is 100x100 feet and the immense expanse of plate glass windows fronting on two of the three important business streets of Lebanon is one of the special attractions of this establishment. Men's and boys' clothing, ladies' ready-to-wear, shoes, and dry goods are the leading lines handled by Clark Brothers.

LEBANON CREAMERY COMPANY

The Lebanon Creamery Company was organized in 1909, and has been under the present management since 1911. The business of the Creamery Company has increased steadily since the organization of the company. In fact the volume of business has increased exactly ten times since 1911, meaning that the Lebanon Creamery handles ten times as much business to-day as when it was taken over by the present management in 1911.

The policy of the Lebanon Creamery has been and is to give the producers the best available market for their dairy products. They manufacture the Bluegrass Brand Butter. It is interesting to know that this butter is sold almost entirely in Boston, Massachusetts.

The by-product of the creamery, buttermilk, is sold back to the farmers for feed. It makes excellent feed for hogs, chickens, and all other kinds of poultry.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

W. C. BROWN, MACHINE SHOP

W. C. Brown, machinist, has been in his present trade since 1892, beginning in Springfield. He worked for the United Iron Works, which is the largest in Springfield, for the Frisco, and also for the Phoenix Machine Company. Then in 1908 he came to Lebanon, working at the ice plant and he had a small machine shop in connection with the ice plant. He worked there for 3 years and did the first automobile repairing in Lebanon. Then in 1911 he was elected Councilman from the First Ward to help in the purchasing of new machinery at the city power plant. He installed the two new units at the power plant in 1911-12 and had full charge of the plant for 5 years.

In 1916 he built the present machine shop just across the street from the power plant. Starting in on a very small scale, he has added to his equipment from year to year until now he has one of the best machine shops anywhere in this section. He has added a planing machine, cylinder boring machine, and put in acetylene welding equipment in 1916. He also has a complete supply of machinery needs.

He makes a specialty of repairing all kinds of machinery, gasoline and steam engines, and automobile parts. Steam, gasoline and automobile engine cylinders are rebored. Acetylene welding of every description is handled with efficient workmanship. Already his business has grown to such proportions that he is unable to handle it alone and it will be necessary within a few years to increase the size of his plant in order to accommodate his trade.

CASE CANNING COMPANY

The Case Canning Company is now one of the largest businesses which Laclede county affords. This company was established by John H. Case of Marshfield and the first factory in Laclede county was established at Brush Creek in 1912. A year later factories were put up at Conway and Phillipsburg. The Perfection Canning Company factory of Lebanon was taken over by Case in 1915. In addition to these factories a great number of others have been added during the last few years until to-day there are a total of eighteen tomato canning factories in Laclede county, all owned and managed by Case Canning Company. There are factories at Conway, Phillipsburg, Huben, Brush Creek, Lebanon, and Sleeper on the railroad, besides twelve others at inland points all over the county. The smaller inland factories have been put up in order to accommodate the tomato growers all over the entire county and to make it possible for every section to be reached.

In order to give some idea of the immensity of this business in Laclede county it is well to tell just how large the volume of business has been during the year 1925. During that time 57 cars of tomatoes were shipped from Conway, 40 cars from Phillipsburg, 10 cars from Brush Creek, 2 cars from Huben, 28 cars from Lebanon, and 12 cars from Sleeper. This is a total of 149 cars of canned tomatoes, which includes all the factories in Laclede county as the output of all the factories was shipped from these six shipping points. Phillipsburg is also the shipping point for the Buffalo and Long Lane factories in Dallas county.

Laclede county has more canning factories and a larger output than any other county whose factories are owned and managed by the Case Canning Company. This large industry, built up only in recent years, represents one of the most important in the county. It is one that deserves much attention, and a great deal of credit should be given its founders.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

DEMUTH GROCERY AND MARKET

The Demuth Grocery and Meat Market, one of the old established business houses of Lebanon, was established by Simon Cornelius Demuth fifty years ago. After several changes in location it finally was moved to the present location when the late Fred Demuth, a son of the founder, became connected with the business. At first only groceries and queensware were handled, but at the death of S. C. Demuth, the meat market was put in. The business was incorporated in 1904 with John Walstrom and Thomas Glenn as joint owners. However, Glenn remained only a short time. In 1915 Raymond Demuth, a son of Fred Demuth, took charge until his death in 1918.

W. L. McIntyre, the present owner and manager, took over the entire business in November, 1925. He immediately made a number of important changes in the entire establishment. McIntyre established a sound reputation for himself during the four and one-half years he spent as owner of the Vogue confectionery. He is a veteran of the World War and is a native of Louisiana, coming to Missouri shortly after the close of the war. Selling out his business, the Vogue, one day and moving into the larger and more responsible business the very next day. The new sanitary market is the most pleasing attraction of the place and insures the best and cleanest service obtainable anywhere. He also handles a complete line of staple and fancy groceries and a full stock of queensware.

CHRIST HELLWIG, CLEANING AND FINE TAILORING

Lebanon's tailoring and cleaning and pressing establishment is everything that could be desired along that line. Christ Hellwig has managed this business since coming to Lebanon from a similar business in St. Louis in January, 1910. He took over the place of Sebastain Sack, the old Lebanon tailor, and has proved himself to be a capable, efficient tailor. Mr. Hellwig has had forty-two years experience along his line, having begun as a tailor when he was only fourteen years of age.

He put in the present modern cleaning plant in 1915 and completely modernized his business in 1918 by putting in the Hoffman steam pressing machine in use to-day. Besides his work of cleaning, pressing, and alteration, Hellwig also is equipped for everything in the tailoring line, such as suits and ladies' coats to order, even doing considerable business in made-to-order clothing outside of his Lebanon trade. Few cities larger than Lebanon can boast a more complete service than the one we have had since C. Hellwig came here sixteen years ago.

W. B. WEST, PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

W. B. West, dealer in plumbing, electrical, radio and batteries for auto and radio, was born in Laclede county and has followed plumbing for the last twenty-five years. His father came to Lebanon on completion of the railroad and started in the implement business, having sold the first machinery sold in this county. W. B. West was the first established radio dealer in Laclede county, having handled radio since its infancy. You will find him a booster for the Ozarks and one of the old school "a friend in need is a friend indeed. You need me and I need you."

He has a complete establishment in very respect, carrying a full line of plumbing, electrical equipment, batteries, Freshman Masterpiece radios, radio equipment of all kinds, complete light and water systems for country homes, and in addition, is the Fairbanks-Morse dealer for this territory. He also has a great deal of trade in many of the smaller adjoining towns, as he is one of the best plumbing and electrical experts in this section.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

McMILLEN & MILLSAP, DRUGGISTS

The drug store now owned by McMillen and Millsap was first established in the spring of 1867 in what is now termed "Old Town." M. W. Serl was then the owner and he erected the present building after the coming of the railroad. He removed his stock to the new building in 1870, one of the first brick buildings in the new town. At the time the business was taken over by the present owners on March 1, 1896, Mr. Serl had been in the drug business longer than any other druggist in Southwest Missouri.

W. J. McMillen and J. E. Millsap then bought the business from Mr. Serl. Both are natives of Laclede county. Mr. McMillen's family came to the county when he was very young, and Mr. Millsap was born here. Lauckland Murphy, one of the founders of Lebanon, was the grandfather of J. E. Millsap.

The business has been completely changed from Serl's time. Nothing is left of the old store except the prescription case and an old counter. Everything is now modern in every respect. A modern soda fountain was installed two years ago, and the stock has been increased to a very great extent. However, it was one of the best stocked drug stores in Lebanon at the time it was owned by Serl, but modern times demand a greater variety of equipment than then. The furnishings of the store are more elaborate, while nearly all the other features of the business have been greatly changed.

W. J. McMillen, the senior member of the firm, died February 20, 1926.

HOLMAN AND STEWART, FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING

The firm of Holman and Stewart in the Froehlich Building has been doing an excellent furniture and undertaking business for the past eight years. William N. Holman, the senior member, has been connected with the business since 1916, taking over with B. J. Cain the firm of Turner and Kirkham who were in the Vernon block at that time. The business was moved in 1917 to the present location which had just been vacated by the Lyric Theatre. E. N. Stewart, the other member of the present firm, and Mr. Holman took over the interests of Cain a year later. Mr. Stewart is a graduate undertaker of the Barnes School of Undertaking in Chicago, and has had charge of the undertaking work since he finished his work in that school. The undertaking branch of the business which is complete in every respect, was added after the firm moved to its present location.

VERNON & MAYFIELD, PRODUCE

The Vernon and Mayfield Produce Company, J. W. Vernon and M. R. Mayfield, is one of the largest establishments of its kind in Laclede county and does both a retail and a wholesale business. Although this business place is one of the oldest in Lebanon, it has been under the present firm name only since 1915. It was taken over at that time from W. A. and Charles Vernon under whom it began in 1898. Both of the present owners were once farmers, Mayfield coming from a farm just outside the town and Vernon coming from the little red mill owned by Adkins where the canning factory now stands. Mr. Vernon had been a prominent farmer prior to his eight years spent on the mill. This produce company has grown from a small express shipment business to the present large business from which two to three carloads of poultry and four to five carloads of eggs are shipped every week.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

PALMER FURNITURE COMPANY

The Palmer Furniture Company, Furniture and Undertaking, was established in 1891 as the firm of Kapp and Palmer where the Republican office and the Palmer warehouse is now. A. L. Palmer, father of the present owners, then bought the present building and moved into it in 1903. It was known as Palmer and Walser for a short time.

The present owners, R. A. and S. R. Palmer, took over the business actively in 1915. It has always been a furniture and undertaking establishment, but has been modernized within the last ten years. Both men are graduates of the Alexander School of Undertaking in St. Louis. Theirs is now the largest furniture and undertaking establishment between Springfield and St. Louis. It is complete in every respect, including a modern motor hearse and ambulance.

In addition to the large building with basement completely stocked with furniture at the main store of the firm, there is also a large warehouse and a second-hand store connected with the business. They are each located in a separate building in the next block, one in which the business first started thirty-five years ago. The Palmer brothers have practically grown up in the furniture and undertaking business and are experts in their line in every respect.

W. C. BOOTH, CASH STORE

The W. C. Booth Cash Store is recognized as one of the leading business houses in Lebanon and has been under the present management since it was taken over from G. M. Dickerson in October, 1923. W. C. Booth is a native of Dallas county and was in the same business for fifteen years in Buffalo. While there he was one of the leading merchants of that place, and had been a prominent farmer and stockman before entering the dry goods and clothing business. The store handles a complete stock of Florshiem and Walkover shoes, men's and ladies ready-to-wear, and dry goods. Mr. Booth began to enter into the spirit of building Lebanon as soon as he came here and is already one of our most public-spirited men. While in Buffalo he was always an enthusiastic supporter of all worth-while activities and was on the Board of Education there for a number of years.

LEBANON VULCANIZING COMPANY, VULCANIZING

The Lebanon Vulcanizing Company is one of the oldest firms in the county to have grown up since the use of automobiles has become common. It started several years ago when a man by the name of Gilmore set up in the business of vulcanizing, specializing in Gates half-sole tires. Then for a number of years Robert Arnold carried on the business, until in 1924 it was taken over by the present owner, Ralph D. Norman. Mr. Norman spent the early part of his life on a farm on Goodwin Hollow, later going to St. Louis where he worked as a street car conductor for more than a year. He then returned to Laclede county and took over the Lebanon Vulcanizing Company. He specializes in a very high standard of vulcanizing, having the largest and best vulcanizing equipment in Lebanon. He also handles Gates and U. S. tires and tubes.

BURLEY BROTHERS, THE ST. LOUIS STORE

The Burley brothers, R. E. and C. B. Burley, have spent practically their entire business lives in Lebanon, both having worked for several years in a similar business before taking over the St. Louis Store in 1922. The name, St. Louis Store, has no connection with the ownership of the store, merely having been attached to it back in the days when it was the custom to give such names to many of the business places in town. In 1903 the name was taken over by W. P. Hooker and J. A. Vernon who continued the business until 1922 when it was totally destroyed by fire. Within a short time after the fire the present building was erected on the old site and the St. Louis Store was reorganized by the Burley brothers. With entirely new equipment and stock it has flourished since it has been taken over by the present owners, who without question are two of Lebanon's most outstanding business men of to-day. Both have been reared in Lebanon, the younger having been born here and the other coming here at a very early age. Their business is one of the most up-to-date and completely equipped which the town affords, as they carry a full line of dry goods, ladies' ready-to-wear, clothing, luggage, shoes and men's furnishings. The principle upon which they now base their business dealings, that of giving the utmost service combined with quality merchandise at the lowest possible prices, is a business principle which is certain to result in the well-merited success which the Burley brothers enjoy today.

MICHAEL SCHREKENHOEFER

Mr. Schrekenhoefer came to Lebanon in 1907, almost immediately apprenticing himself to a first-class custom boot and shoe maker. Having learned his trade in a thorough manner, he opened his first shop on Madison avenue, several years later moving to his present location on Jefferson avenue. Starting with the first electrically operated shoe repair machinery ever brought to Lebanon, Mr. Schrekenhoefer always kept his equipment up to date and turned out work of the highest grade, and a constantly growing patronage attests the wisdom of this policy. In addition to doing repair work Mr. Schrekenhoefer sells specials in men's shoes and a general line of shoe findings.

Soon after coming to Lebanon Mr. Schrekenhoefer took the necessary legal steps to make him a full-fledged citizen of his adopted country, and the record of his daily life here shows him to be a real influence for good in the community.

THE ELECTRIC THEATRE, R. L. FORKNER

The Electric Theatre in Conway has been under the ownership and management of R. L. Forkner since it was started in 1915. Mr. Forkner is a native of Laclede county, as he had run a thresher and saw-mill all over this section for twenty-seven years before beginning the Electric Theatre, eleven years ago. He is a direct descendant of Micajah Forkner, the first settler in this part of the territory where Laclede, Dallas, and Webster counties join. Just before 1915, Mr. Forkner ran a restaurant in Conway for seven years. Then in 1924 he established a modern theatre in Lebanon, but was forced to discontinue because of ill health. He now runs one of the best theatres in Conway that can be found anywhere, so far as quality of pictures is concerned, as he often runs pictures ahead of the larger Springfield theatres as much as three months in advance.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

FARMERS STATE BANK, PHILLIPSBURG

The Farmers State Bank, a banking institution in Phillipsburg, Missouri, one of the strongest banks in the county, was organized the twenty-sixth day of June, nineteen hundred six.

Some of the persons taking stock at the time were: Hon. Thos. L. Rubey of Lebanon, H. M. Smith of Springfield, and the following local people: John M. Montgomery, Eli Massie, G. W. Steen, John V. Turner, C. L. Senn, E. S. Turner, E. L. and J. L. Turner, P. H. Turner, P. M. and J. Montgomery, F. M. Jones, R. O. Senn and A. T. Lewis. E. L. Turner was elected President, C. L. Senn Vice-President, P. H. Turner Secretary of the Board, and A. T. Lewis Cashier. The bank received its charter July 18, 1906.

On March 31, 1908, Mr. Lewis resigned as cashier and W. H. Shank was elected in his place, who served as cashier until August 31, 1909, on which date he voluntarily resigned as cashier to attend to other duties. Mr. Shank was then elected President and R. O. Senn, who had been working in the bank since soon after the organization, was elected cashier, which position he now holds.

E. Senn, who was a member of the board of directors and serving as Ass't Cashier, left his position when war was declared. He then volunteered and served with the 129 M. G. Bn. After returning home he resigned as Ass't Cashier and went into the milling business. Miss Tracy McFarland, who had been working as book-keeper since 1916, was elected Ass't Cashier and is still serving as such at the present time.

During the war the board purchased ten thousand dollars worth of liberty bonds for the bank, besides the bonds purchased for their customers.

This bank has made an excellent record during its twenty years of existence. It has built up a surplus, equal to its capital stock, the only bank in the county to have this feature.

The officers and directors are well known and need no recommendation. One thing that speaks well for the bank is that the same officers and directors have been in charge of the affairs of the bank for a number of years, with the exception of C. L. Senn, Vice President, who served as such officer until his death July 9, 1924. Fred M. Jones was then elected to succeed him.

An interesting incident in the history of the bank was the spectacular robbery of the bank, early in the morning of April 21, 1914. However, the burglars were captured before noon the same day and have since served sentences in the state penitentiary for the crime.

The bank has made it a practice to look after the depositor's interest, as well as to make money for the bank.

The adopted slogan of the bank, "A good bank in a good country," is an excellent one. The stock is well distributed among all classes of business men, farmers and professional men, making it a good, sound, democratic bank, serving the community in which it was intended.

The present stockholders are: Thos. L. Rubey, W. O. Pool, I. N. Miller, E. S. Turner, J. Montgomery, P. M. Montgomery, W. H. Shank, R. O. Senn, H. O. Tribble, Tracy McFarland, and F. M. Jones. The last seven named composing the board of directors.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

BURGNER-BOWMAN-MATTHEWS LUMBER CO.

The Burgner-Bowman-Matthews Lumber Co., with central offices in Kansas City, began in Laclede county in 1924 when the branches of the D. J. Landers Lumber Company in the county were taken over on January 15, 1924. The Lebanon branch, the largest in the county, is one of the most completely equipped in this section. J. H. Price, the present manager, has been the manager of the Lebanon branch since it was taken over from the Landers Company. He had also been the manager for the Landers firm prior to that. This yard handles lumber of all kinds, builders' hardware, Cook's paints, brick, cement, glass, oil, sash and doors, etc. It is located on South Madison and is completely equipped in every respect.

The Phillipsburg branch of the Burgner-Bowman-Matthews Lumber Co. was also taken over from the D. J. Landers Co. in January, 1924. Jesse S. Hackler has charge of the Phillipsburg yard and has been manager since it was taken over by the present management. He had been the assistant manager of a lumber yard in Buffalo for a number of years prior to his coming to Phillipsburg. The Phillipsburg branch handles practically the same line of building supplies as the Lebanon branch, except on a somewhat smaller scale.

GUY W. SPILLER, GROCERIES

The modern grocery store of Guy Spiller on the corner of Commercial street and Jefferson avenue is far removed from the old saloon which occupied the same location in the early days of Lebanon after the removal from Old Town. Guy Spiller began his present business about fourteen years ago after buying out the business of J. E. Walstrom and Company. Mr. Spiller had been engaged in a similar business nearly fourteen years while in Demuth's just across the street. His father was at one time one of the leading business men of Lebanon. Since taking over the business he now owns, Mr. Spiller has enlarged and improved his stock of goods so that to-day he has a very complete line of staple and fancy groceries, which together with its excellent location makes his business one of the best in Lebanon.

CLAWSON AND RICH, GENERAL CONTRACTORS

J. W. Clawson and A. O. Rich, contractors and builders, have been together since 1925. Their specialty is public buildings, such as school buildings, and the like. The new consolidated school at Phillipsburg and the school at Windyville were both constructed by Clawson and Rich. These men draw their own plans and specifications which are furnished without cost in the construction of their buildings. Mr. Clawson is an expert architect and builder and Mr. Rich has been a carpenter for twenty-eight years. The state inspector, after inspecting the consolidated building at Phillipsburg, stated that it was the best building, put up at the lowest cost, that he had ever inspected. They will also construct the hydro-electric plant and dam at the Moon Valley Farms.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

THE LACLEDE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

J. E. MACKESSON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

The Laclede County Republican had its beginning in a newspaper published by A. F. Lewis, under the name of The Lebanon Republican, in the late '60s. Mr. Lewis was an ardent Republican and the paper reflected his strong political views. The exact date of Mr. Lewis' venture into journalism is not known to any of the old residents interviewed regarding the matter, but it is known that The Republican was in existence in 1867.

With varying fortunes, the paper continued through the succeeding years, with several changes in name. It was known as The Chronicle for several years, copies of 1874 issues being in existence. Later, it was known successively as The Journal, The Champion, The Graphic, and, finally the original name, The Republican, was restored by Sam Keller, about 1889, this name being retained by the present editor and publisher, J. E. MacKesson.

Through this paper, many well known citizens have left their impress on the community. Johnny Johnson and Howard Phillips succeeded Mr. Lewis as editors. Later men associated with the paper were Frank Wilson, Charlie Wilson, M. W. Gustin and Sam Keller. J. E. MacKesson, who had been previously associated with the Pleasant Hill Review, the Pleasant Hill Local, the Lee's Summit Jour-



THE REPUBLICAN OFFICE THIRTY YEARS AGO

(J. E. MacKesson in the Foreground)

nal, the Cass County Leader and the Kansas City Journal, became owner and editor of The Republican in February, 1892. With the exception of six years, from June 1, 1919, to June 1, 1925, he has since directed the destinies of the paper, having been in active charge for twenty-eight years.

The ideals of the Republican and its editor are expressed in part in the following quotation from an editorial in the issue of June 5, 1925:

"In the newspaper work, if the worker has the right outlook, there is always a message to carry and a goal to achieve. In the words of a fellow laborer in the vineyard: 'If perchance some day I may hit upon a really worth-while thought that may cause men and women to think—to turn around and take another and better path—I shall not have labored in vain.'

"Every business is a manifestation of the person or persons behind it. The highest reason for carrying on a business is that of service. The person who loses sight of this object and devotes his time, attention and life wholly to money-getting is of no particular use to the community, to the world, nor to himself. Our object is, and shall ever be, to serve. We shall devote our time, attention and whatever ability we may have to community service, to party service, to moral, intellectual and spiritual improvement where and when opportunity offers."

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

STEINBERG'S, THE HOUSE OF QUALITY

A. E. Steinberg began in the merchandise business with Wallace Brothers and has literally grown up in the business. He was with that firm for ten years and later was connected with Clark Brothers for nineteen years, thus having had a great deal of business experience before setting up for himself in 1910. Mr. Steinberg's father was one of Lebanon's pioneer business men, having been in business in Old Town before the coming of the railroad and later in the new town after the town had moved to the Railroad Addition as it was then called.

Steinberg's opened for business in the present location just sixteen years ago and continued until March, 1926, when Mr. Steinberg was forced to close out his business because of ill health. After spending the spring and summer recuperating Mr. Steinberg returned and has again opened his business in the old location with a complete new stock of goods. He formally opened his new business on Saturday, August 14. As before he carries a complete line of men's and boys' clothing, furnishings and hats. His excellent location, together with the outstanding quality of all his furnishings make his business one of the best in Lebanon and one that every citizen of the county should justly be proud of seeing in business again.

VALLEY VIEW STOCK FARM, SLEEPER

The Valley View Stock Farm, at Sleeper, is owned and managed by Fred Clifton & Sons, on Rural Route number one. They are breeders of big type Poland China hogs and have been breeding and showing since 1919. Their hogs have been consistent winners wherever shown at both State and district fairs. Their herd is closely bred to World Champions. Their present herd boar, "The Dollar Mark," is a son of the twice world's champion boar, "Armistice Boy." His dam was sired by the world's champion boar "Monarch." The Valley View Stock Farm has breeding stock for sale at a reasonable price and is one of the outstanding pure bred stock farms in Laclede county.

HEUER'S SHOE STORE

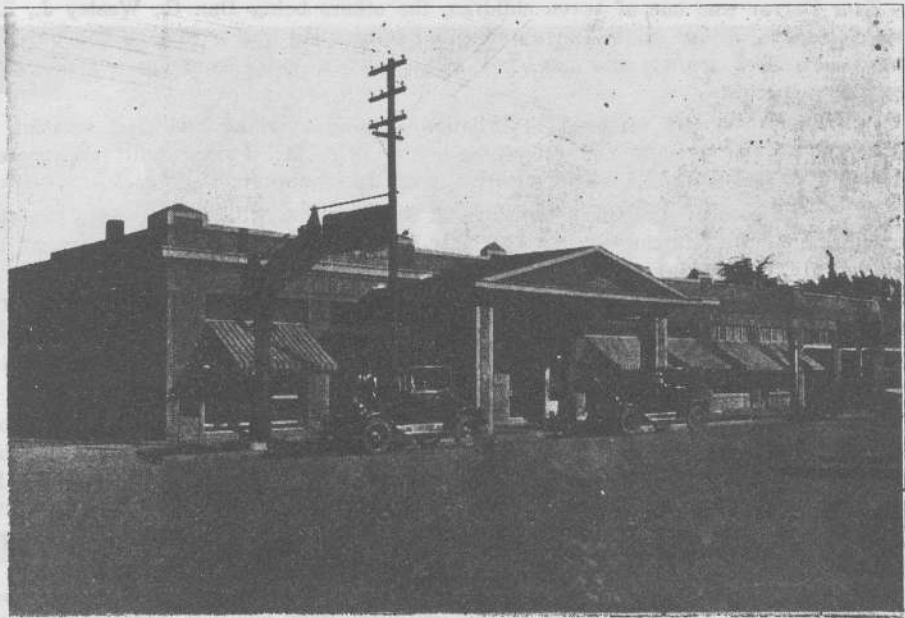
T. C. Heuer, the owner and manager of Heuer's Shoe Store, has the only exclusive shoe store in Laclede county. This business has been only recently established in Lebanon, but it has already taken its place among the more progressive of Lebanon's business firms. It handles shoes for the whole family, specializing in sample shoes. The quality and prices offered by this shoe store are unequalled anywhere. An up-to-date shoe repair shop is also run in connection with the shoe store, making an ideal combination for the convenience and the economy of the people of Lebanon and Laclede county in purchasing and caring for their foot wear. The motto of the store, "Service is Our Sole Aim," is amply lived up to in every respect.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

VERNON MOTOR COMPANY

The Vernon Motor Company began in Lebanon in March, 1925, taking over the interest of W. H. Owen at that time. E. L. Vernon, the owner, is a native of Laclede county, although he has spent most of his life in business in Salem, Missouri. Mr. Vernon was in the largest mercantile business in Dent County for thirty-two years. He left Lebanon in 1892, intending to remain in Salem only a few months. Instead he stayed until March, 1925, closing out his business interests there with the largest clearance sale ever held in Salem.

E. L. Vernon did not take up his present business wholly inexperienced in that line. He had also had the Ford sales and service agency in Salem for a number



THE VERNON MOTOR COMPANY, LEBANON

of years. T. M. McSpadden, the Manager of the Vernon Motor Company, was also manager of Vernon's Ford agency in Salem. He came to Lebanon with Mr. Vernon and acted as Manager of the present business since it has become the Vernon Motor Company.

Mr. Vernon has now taken his place among the business men of Laclede county. He has made a number of improvements in his business since taking it over and now has one of the most up-to-date and completely equipped Ford sales and service agencies in Southwest Missouri. The accompanying photograph shows the large, low modern garage building with its display rooms, offices, storage rooms, and the large plate glass display windows, in all making a very attractive building.

SAM R. FARRAR, DRUGGIST AND BOOKSELLER, LEBANON, MO. FIFTY-FIVE YEARS ON THE CORNER."

The Sam R. Farrar Drug Store is Lebanon's oldest business institution. Samuel Richard Farrar, owner and proprietor for fifty-five years, pioneer resident of Laclede county, has the distinction of being the oldest business man in the county in point of continuous association with one business. He has owned the same business, on the same corner, for fifty-five years.

He is the son of Reuben H. and Virginia Jones Farrar and was born on his father's farm, near St. Clair, Franklin county, Missouri, August 25, 1849. The Farrar family was founded in Missouri in the early years of the past century by Leonard Farrar, great-grand-father of Sam R. Farrar and a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Sam Farrar was one of seven children, the others being Dan C., Wesley J., Ziporah, Clara S., James M., and Benjamin B. Farrar. He was reared on the parental farm, in Franklin county, and acquired his education in the common schools, later becoming a teacher.

In 1869, the family removed to Lebanon, coming overland and first locating in Old Town, on the present Tuscumbia road. In 1870, Mr. Farrar built the present family home, on Harwood avenue, the first house to be built in that block.

He served as clerk in the drug store of Matthews & Ellis for a year, studying medicine under Dr. Matthews. In 1871, Mr. Farrar and N. R. Hooper bought the business, Mr. Hooper later selling out to his partner, who has continued in the business, in the same location, to the present day. For more than fifty years it has been one of the largest small town retail drug stores in Missouri.

In 1887, Mr. Farrar was one of the organizers of the Bank of Lebanon, serving for many years as a member of the board of directors and as president.

Always interested in politics, Mr. Farrar has been an active and loyal Republican all his life. For twenty years, he was chairman of the Laclede County Republican Committee, giving generously of time and money in the service of his party. He has filled many positions of responsibility and trust. Was elected mayor in 1877, county treasurer in 1884 and 1886 and county collector in 1888 and 1890. His record in these offices was a credit to himself and his party.

He served as delegate in many county, congressional and State conventions; in 1900, was assistant sergeant at arms at the Republican National Convention, which nominated McKinley and Roosevelt; in 1908, was alternate at the Chicago convention, which nominated Taft.

Mr. Farrar has been prominent in fraternal organizations and was active in many early ones now defunct. He is affiliated with Laclede Lodge No. 83, A. F. and A. M., Lebanon Chapter No. 64, R. A. M., Lebanon Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templars, Abou Ben Adhem Temple, Mystic Shrine, Springfield; also with the W. O. W., the I. O. O. F. and the Royal Arcanum.

For many years he has been a member of the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association, serving as member of the executive committee, as second vice president and as honorary president. His church affiliations have been with the Congregational Church, of which he has been a member many years.

Mr. Farrar was married three times. His first wife was Miss Elizabeth Barbee, whom he married in 1873. She died in 1877, leaving one daughter, Virginia Barbee Farrar, who is married to J. E. MacKesson, of Lebanon. Mr. Farrar was married to Miss Henrietta Bryan of St. Louis, in 1881. She died in 1892, leaving one daughter, Florene Marie Farrar, who is married to E. H. Broughton, of Long Beach, California. Mr. Farrar's present wife was Miss Florence Buckingham, of St. Louis, whom he married in 1896.

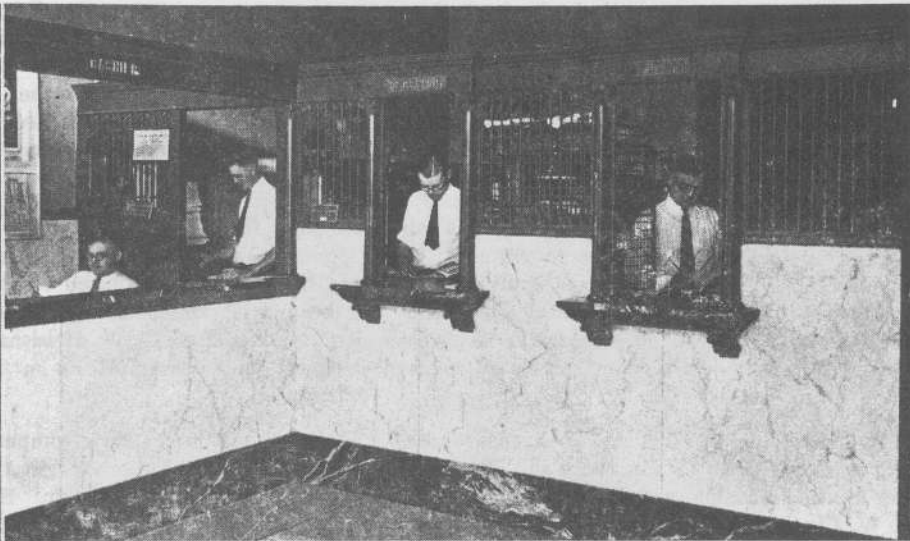
Mr. Farrar's drug store is stocked with one of the most complete lines of drugs and drug sundries in the state and he is the best known druggist in Laclede county.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

STATE SAVINGS BANK

The State Savings Bank of Lebanon was organized June 18, 1917, with a capital of \$25,000.00. The original officers were F. J. Demuth, President; F. H. Stith, Vice President; I. T. Curry, Cashier, and Pearl Hamill, Assistant Cashier. The present personnel is about the same except that the present Board of Directors is now composed of E. B. Kellerman, President; M. H. Franke, Vice President; I. T. Curry, Cashier; F. H. Stith, Assistant Cashier; L. C. Mayfield, A. H. Gray and Fred Koby, with Marvin Martin and Fern Willard assistants.

The present capital and surplus of the State Savings Bank is \$40,000.00. In the nine years of its existence this bank has acquired more than a third of a million dollars deposits. It is not controlled by any particular individual or family. There are thirty stockholders distributed among farmers, business, and professional men with-



THE STATE SAVINGS BANK, LEBANON

out the controlling interest being held by any single individual. Already the State Savings Bank has outgrown its present quarters and plans are now being made for moving into the adjacent building which the bank already owns. This move will be made early in the next year and the new quarters will be equipped with a modern burglar and fire proof vault, rest rooms, consultation rooms, and an assembly room for farmers' and business men's conventions. The assembly room will be a decided improvement, for such an innovation is now needed in Lebanon for the accommodation of the many meetings and conventions which are held each year.

This bank has some very interesting rules governing its methods. For instance it has the rule that no officer or director can borrow from the bank. Another rule is that no officer can make a loan to exceed \$500.00 without first consulting the Board of Directors. The rapid growth of the State Savings Bank can be understood when its large deposits, its principles, and its plans for the development of Lebanon and Laclede county are thus explained.

The accompanying photograph shows the interior of the bank with Mr. Curry, Mr. Stith, Mr. Martin and Mr. Willard at their respective places. The interior of the new quarters will be quite similar in furnishings.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

THE LEBANON RUSTIC

The Lebanon Rustic, one of the three newspapers in Laclede county, was established in October, 1873, by John W. Armstrong in Stoutland. The office was in an old time side room of a building on the west side of the railway. The first edition was very small, in fact about the size of the old-time Blueback spelling book. Four years previous to the establishment of the Rustic at Stoutland a newspaper, The Laclede County Leader, was established in Lebanon by George W. Bradfield. This was the old Democratic paper of the county. In the early seventies this paper was succeeded by the Anti-Monopolist, an independent paper published by Rev. J. G. Lemon, a Baptist minister. J. T. Bradshaw, a young boy at that time, served his apprenticeship during the management of Mr. Lemon.

In 1878 young Bradshaw and a cousin, W. J. Talliaferro, re-established the Laclede County Leader and conducted the business for several years as an aggressive Democratic paper. The Rustic was moved from Stoutland to Lebanon and was consolidated with the Democratic paper here and the name changed to the Rustic-Leader with Armstrong and Bradshaw as editors and publishers. Bradshaw became sole owner of the paper and continued as editor and publisher until 1898 when he was succeeded by his brother, A. W. Bradshaw. The name Rustic-Leader had been changed to the Lebanon Rustic a few years previous.

In 1884 Milton Fuller, who served his apprenticeship in a newspaper office in Richland and who in 1883 went to Altmont, Kansas, and spent a year in newspaper work there and at Columbus, the same state, came to Lebanon. He worked for the Laclede County Sentinel for several years and then became foreman for the Rustic about 1890. He continued as foreman after J. T. Bradshaw sold to A. W. Bradshaw and served with him until 1903, when he went to Carthage and was employed on the Democrat for three years.

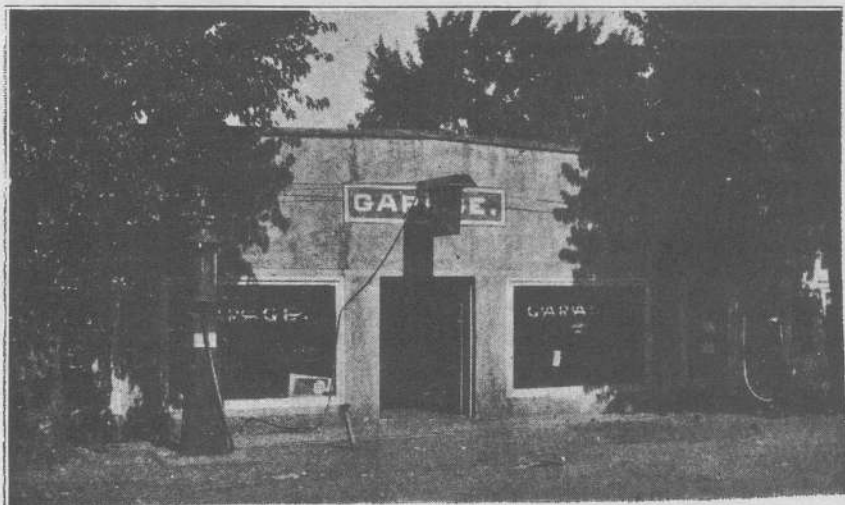
A short time previous A. W. Bradshaw had sold the Rustic to a stock company and it was published by Pritchett and Welch. June 1, 1906, Milton Fuller bought the paper from the company and took up the work as owner, editor, and publisher. His son, W. Clyde Fuller, learned the business during his school days. In June, 1919, on his return from two years service in the United States army, one year of which was spent in France, he became a joint partner with his father in the business of editing and publishing the paper.

The Stoutland Rustic, afterwards the Lebanon Rustic, was originally printed from the oldest and most antiquated hand press known and in use in the small country newspaper offices at that time. This was the old Washington hand press. It was replaced in the early nineties by a Prouty cylinder hand-power press, which was used until the installation of the present power cylinder press, with attached folder, operated by an electric motor. The presses for commercial printing are operated by electric motor. The three-magazine Intertype, which was installed in 1920, is used to set type now instead of by hand as in the olden days. A Myer-Both casting box enables the advertisers to have illustrations for their advertisements made in the office. A power saw is used to cut the metal plates and wood base into the desired shape. The Rustic is now one of the best equipped country newspaper offices in Missouri.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

STONE MOTOR COMPANY, CONWAY

The Stone Motor Company of Conway was established in November, 1924. W. O. Stone, the owner and manager, has had a great deal of experience in the garage business and is well qualified for the position he now holds among the business men of Conway. This garage and automobile agency is situated in an ideal location, just three blocks east of the Missouri State Highway 14, which will soon be changed into a national road. The Stone Motor Company is also in the center of the business district of Conway, making its location one of the very best.



STONE GARAGE, CONWAY

The Stone Motor Company is an authorized Chevrolet agency, giving complete Chevrolet service. W. O. Stone, the manager says, "Trade that old car in and ride in a new Chevrolet." Chevrolet cars need no introduction to-day. They are rapidly becoming the most popular low-priced car and are the best hill-climbers of all cars. They are the most popular priced car of the day.

The Stone Motor Company is located in a large 45x60 building equipped with a complete repair shop managed by skilled workmen. This garage also operates a taxi service to anywhere. In addition to the Chevrolet agency and the repair shop, the Stone Motor Company also carries a complete line of Chevrolet Service, gasoline and oil.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

MOON VALLEY FARMS

The Moon Valley Farms, with Henry C. Flowers of Kansas City owner, and C. A. Downs, manager, began in 1923, and extend from the State Park at Brice to Windyville, and lie along the Niangua River for three and one-half miles. The land borders along the Park on the south for a half mile and on the west for an equal distance.



THE FARM HOUSE, MOON VALLEY FARMS

There is now a total of 2,387 acres and it is a self-sustaining gentleman's summer resort under judicious management. The Farms now have fifteen head of horses and mules, a force of eighteen men, a Fordson tractor, a hundred fifty head of cattle, three to five hundred head of sheep, and an equal number of hogs. There is a modern home with lights and water, and open house is held at all times for any one who wants to come—boats and saddle horses being furnished to all guests.



BARN AND SHEEP SHEDS ON MOON VALLEY FARMS

Registered Beau Brummel Herefords, Jerseys, and Oxford Down sheep are the purebred livestock. The farms operate under the direct advice of Prof. Harmon, the district agricultural agent. A private hydro-electric plant is now under construction, with a dam across the Niangua that will be eight feet high and a hundred twelve feet long. When all present plans are completed the Moon Valley Farms will represent a total investment of \$100,000.

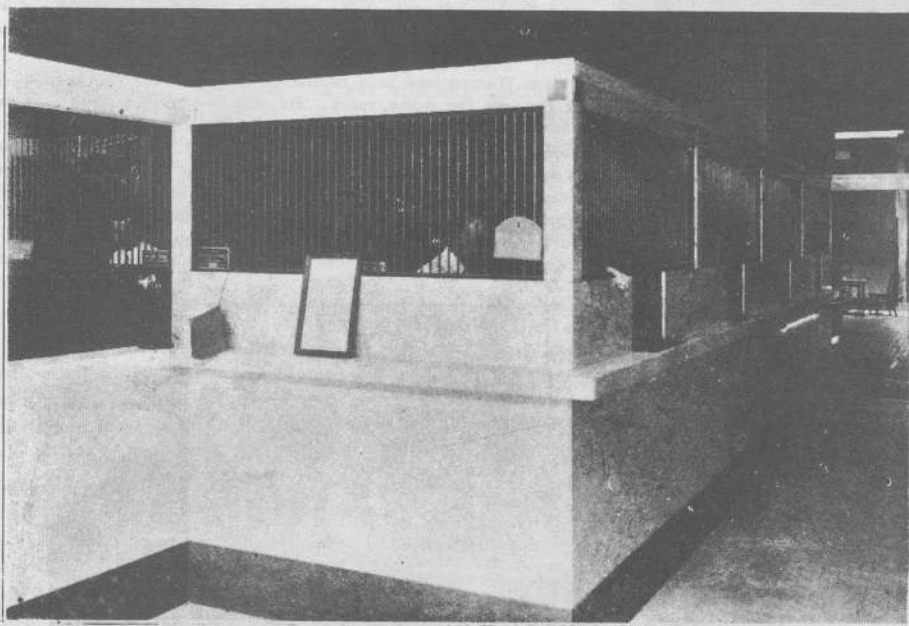
BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The First National Bank of Lebanon was first established as the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, a state institution, and continued as such for nearly two years. It was organized with a capital stock of \$30,000.00 distributed among twenty-four stockholders—O. L. Weissgerber, E. W. Cook, W. H. Owen, J. E. Millsap, W. E. McComb, J. M. Butts, J. A. Elliott, Elmer S. Coffman, C. D. Rippy, J. H. Caufield, John B. Atchley, S. A. Casey, William A. Garretson, R. E. Burley, Fred Hess, D. M. Martin, Tom Cook, J. A. Walker, S. D. Caufield, W. H. Butts, D. D. Joslyn, O. M. Whitley, and L. C. Mayfield. The first Board of Directors was made up of O. L. Weissgerber, President; E. W. Cook, Cashier; W. E. McComb, Vice President; W. H. Owen, J. H. Caufield, C. D. Rippy, and J. E. Millsap. Caufield and McComb, Vice President; W. H. Owen, J. H. Caufield, C. D. Rippy, and J. E. Millsap. Mr. Caufield and

This bank was nationalized February 1, 1915, under the direction of John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency. The capital stock remained the same. The new Board of Directors was composed of O. L. Weissgerber, President; W. E. McComb, Vice President; E. W. Cook, Cashier; J. E. Millsap, J. H. Caufield, Elmer S. Coffman, and S. A. Casey.

A. E. Oliver came to Lebanon as assistant Cashier January 14, 1918, and remained as such for



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, LEBANON

two years. Lawrence Coffman was elected assistant Cashier January 1, 1919. E. W. Cook was Cashier until December 3, 1919, when he was succeeded by A. E. Oliver.

The next changes in the personnel of the bank were made on January 9, 1923, when A. E. Oliver was elected to the Board of Directors to succeed W. E. McComb. Prior to that J. M. Butts had been elected to succeed E. W. Cook on December 3, 1919. O. L. Weissgerber next resigned from the Presidency of the Board of Directors because of ill health and was succeeded by J. E. Millsap. Mrs. O. L. Weissgerber was elected to the Board of Directors at the same time, June 23, 1923.

J. E. Millsap is now President; A. E. Oliver, Cashier; and J. H. Caufield, first Vice President and Elmer S. Coffman, second Vice President. J. D. McClure, Jr., took the place of Lawrence Coffman as first Assistant Cashier in September, 1923. Mary Mumford had become Assistant Cashier in September, 1920, while Jack Moulder became Bookkeeper at the time Mr. McClure became Assistant Cashier.

The First National Bank, although the youngest in the county, is the second largest bank in Laclede county. It is the only National Bank and also the only member of the Federal Reserve System in the county.

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

JOE WARREN

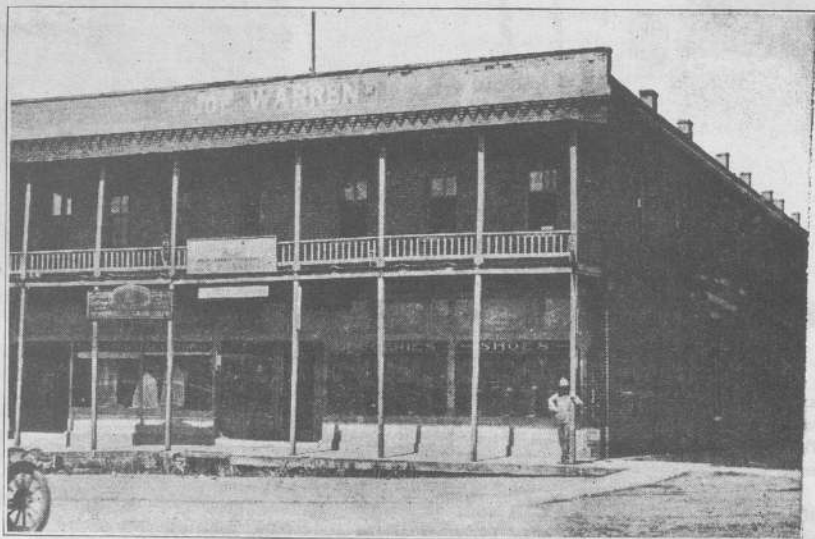
The oldest business in Conway is the one now owned by Joe Warren on the prominent corner at the head of the principal business block. This building was erected fifty years ago by Chris Hanson, who ran the business for over thirty years. Thirty-two years ago Joe Warren became connected with the store. At first everything was carried in the stock of goods---hardware, furniture, lumber, flour, feed, groceries, clothing, and shoes. It was a complete general store supplying a very large territory.



JOE WARREN

Joe Warren, the present owner, took over the store alone in 1905. At that time the building was old style, with three entrances. It was remodeled in 1915. There is only one entrance now at each end. The business to-day is about as it was at the time he took it over. It is still a general store, with the hardware, furniture and lumber left out. He carries a complete stock of clothing, shoes, dry goods, hats, caps, and groceries. It is without question the largest establishment in Conway.

Joe Warren has been connected directly with the business life of Conway for many years. He was responsible for the present light and power plant, having started in with a small private plant several years ago. He then permitted a few others to connect with his plant, until finally it was necessary to get a much larger plant. Soon another increase was necessary, resulting at last in the present modern light and power plant which Warren owned up until five years ago. He also built the building now occupied by J. L. Brooks and the Conway Drug Company, erecting it in 1915. Joe Warren also has a unique profit sharing plan—a return of ten dollars in cash register slips entitles the customer to a return of four per cent in trade. His slogan, "Yours to Please," is one which he strives to live up to.



JOE WARREN, CONWAY

The Conway Drug Co. is also owned by Joe Warren. It was started in 1915, and was under the management of Lon Warren, a son, a registered pharmacist, until he was forced to go to Phoenix, Arizona, for his health. The drug store was taken over from Dr. M. G. Robinson who owned it only about four years. It is the only pharmaceutical drug store in Conway.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

J. L. BROOKS, HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENTS

J. L. Brooks, hardware and implement dealer of Conway, has one of the most interesting, as well as the most successful, business careers among the business men of Laclede county. Beginning as a farmer east of Conway and spending all his life there on the farm until 1903, he has now become one of the outstanding figures among the leading business establishments of the county. He started the present hardware and implement business on the east side of the track in 1903, in a small building with very modest equipment and stock. From that beginning has grown the store which is now one of the two largest hardware and implement stores in Laclede county.

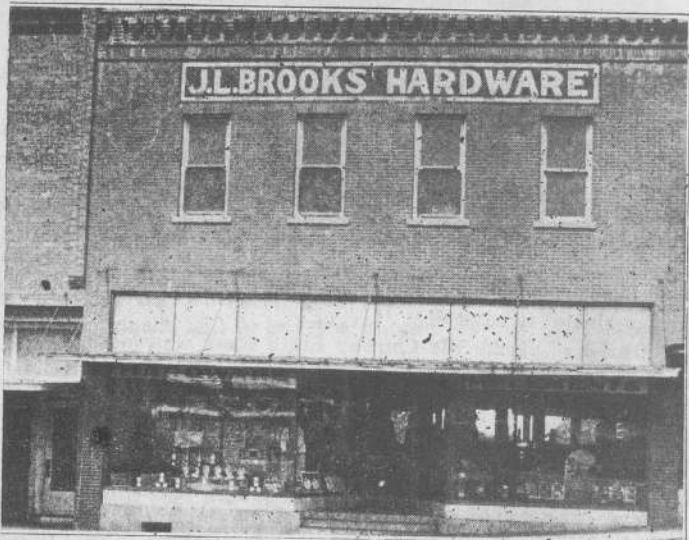


J. L. BROOKS

J. L. Brooks remained in the little business across the tracks until 1915 when he was forced to move into a larger building because of his rapidly increasing business. After becoming established in the present building which had just been completed at that time, he enlarged his stock and began building up the best hardware business in his territory. To-day he has accomplished what he set out to do. No other town the size of Conway or even larger can boast a better or more complete line of hardware and implements.

This store is not limited to one particular line of goods. No single company has a monopoly on the trade of J. L. Brooks. He sells International Harvester implements, John Deere vehicles and implements, Oliver implements, Primrose and DeLaval cream separators, all kinds of queensware and sporting goods—and hardware of every description. This store deceives the customer only in one particular—it isn't a small town store. It is a complete, modern establishment brought directly to the farmers of the four counties which it helps to serve.

Besides the two story building shown here which is entirely taken up by this business alone, he also has a large warehouse on the east side of the track which is taken up by his stock of implements.



J. L. BROOKS HARDWARE, CONWAY

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A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

FARMERS' BANK OF CONWAY

The Farmers' Bank of Conway is among the oldest and longest established banking institutions of Laclede County. This bank was first organized on September 23,



FARMERS BANK OF CONWAY

1907, by J. A. Shields, T. N. Shields, E. W. Cook, Joe Warren, and W. I. Diffenderfer. At that time J. A. Shields was President, T. N. Shields was Vice President, and E. W. Cook was Cashier. The same charter issued for the bank then is the one under which the Farmers' Bank is still carrying on its business. This is quite a unique record, for very few banks as old as this one can boast no change in their charter over such a long period of existence.

On May 7, 1923, the Conway State Bank was merged with the Farmers' Bank of Conway and business was continued under the charter of the latter bank. Since the merging of the two institutions, the business has been carried on in the present location, in the center of the principal business block of Conway. It is now one of the strongest and most firmly established banks in Laclede county. It has a capital of \$10,000.00, and a surplus of \$4,000.00.

The present officials of the bank are O. C. Benage, President; G. W. Summers, Cashier, and W. L. Clay, Secretary; D. L. Graham, Vice President; John M. Roper, and John H. Case, Directors.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

LEBANON PRODUCE EXCHANGE

The Lebanon Produce Exchange was incorporated and opened for business in the block building now occupied by J. W. Owen's garage. The directors were Hiram Metz, of the High Prairie Club; W. L. Litzenberg, of Oakland; G. Schneider, of Lyons; Mike Hill, of Washington; F. M. Corry, Knob; Joe Edwards, Washington, and M. E. Fulbright. Fulbright was elected Manager.

On April 1, 1921, a branch of the Farm Club Cold Storage Co., of Springfield, was established in connection with the Exchange in order to concentrate in car load lots and ship to the central markets. The Exchanges at Phillipsburg, Grove Spring, and Long Lane and a number of country stores co-operated.

Two months later, on June 1, 1921, S. R. Dennis, the present Manager, was elected Manager. The business grew in volume so that larger quarters had to be found and the elevator on Commercial street was purchased from the Lebanon Elevator Company. The stock was moved in January, 1923. In the spring of 1923, owing to poor health Mr. Dennis was forced to resign as Manager and J. Wiley Atkins was selected as Manager. Later Mr. Dennis returned and resumed his duties as Manager and holds that position at present.

A 25x56 foot addition was built to handle the cream, eggs and poultry. Even then the growth of the business necessitated the building of a 22x40 foot addition to the poultry building, making room for seventy-five feeding batteries. This enables the Exchange to feed poultry in car loads to good advantage.

A fifty-barrel flour mill has been installed which enables the Exchange to make a good soft wheat flour and soft wheat feeds.

The Exchange is now receiving produce from twenty-six stores and trading points, which, together with the extensive farmer trade, gives volume enough to enable the Exchange to handle produce in carloads and to pay the highest market price for eggs and poultry.

The Exchange's volume of business for the year ending May 13, 1925, was, total sales: \$282,403.16; for the year ending May 31, 1926, \$431,036.29; an increased percentage of 52.7%. This increase in business is proof that the farmers are satisfied with the way the exchange is handling their business. The operating expense for the same period was approximately 3%, which is a very low overhead expense and another proof that the farmer can handle his own business successfully.

The personnel of the Lebanon Farmers Produce Exchange is now composed of the following persons: S. R. Dennis, Manager; Mrs. Gus Smith, Leona Devasure,



S. R. DENNIS

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

George Reagan, Cream Department; F. M. Barlow, Produce Department, Leonard J'Dell, Roy Nicewarner, J. H. McNeely, J. A. Jarrell, R. F. Kuhnert, Roy Nyberg Burgess Usery, and Ivan Bacon.



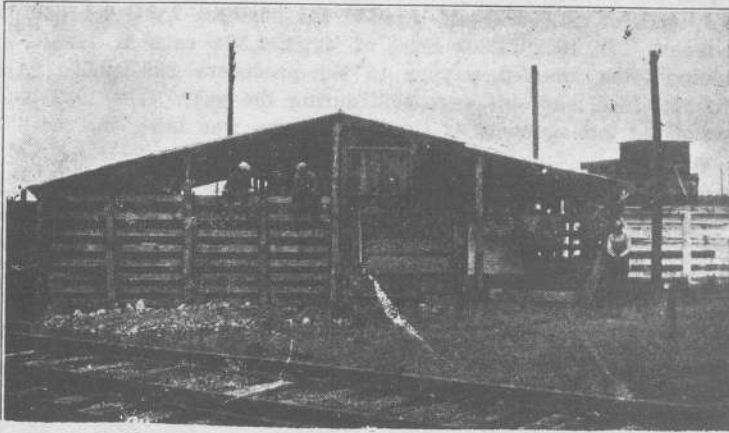
THE FARMERS EXCHANGE, LEBANON

LEBANON FARMERS SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

The Lebanon Livestock Shipping Association was organized in 1920, with W. A. Vickers as manager. He was later succeeded by H. V. Wallick. This Association is governed by the Board of Directors of the Laclede County Farmers' Association. Mr. Wallick resigned as manager July 1, 1923, and was succeeded by Ashford Hough, who has since held the position of manager. This Association shipped during the first ten months of 1923 1,398 head of cattle, 4,665 head of hogs, and 1,528 head of sheep, or a total of eighty-one cars of stock, and paid the farmers \$86,884.53. During 1924 the Lebanon Association shipped 133 cars of livestock, an increase of 25 loads over 1923. The total number of hogs shipped was 8,206, of cattle 2,854, and of sheep, 1,464. The market net was \$151,717.92, or an average of \$1,140.73 per car. The patronage dividend was \$1,683.00, making an average dividend of \$12.65 per car load. The volume of business of the Shipping Association is slightly more than half that of the Exchange.

All the Farmers' Shipping Associations in Laclede county consign their shipments to the Farmers' Live Stock Commission Co., the largest commission firm at the St. Louis Stockyards. This Commission Company is owned by the Missouri Farmers' Association. Full market prices are received for all live stock.

BUSINESS MEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN AND FARMERS

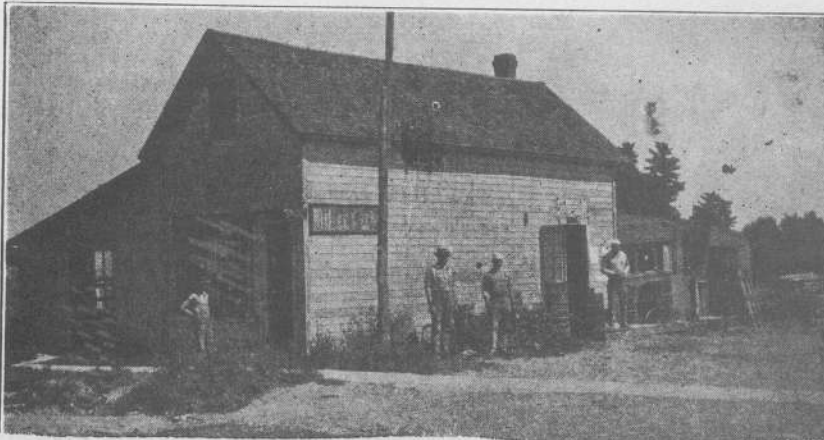


COVERED STOCK YARDS

Owned by the Lebanon Shipping Association

PHILLIPSBURG FARMERS EXCHANGE

In the month of February, 1920, a mass meeting of farmers in the trade territory of Phillipsburg, Mo., was held at Phillipsburg. Howard A. Cowden, then Secretary of the Polk County Farmers' Association, addressed the meeting. At this meeting steps



THE FARMERS' EXCHANGE, PHILLIPSBURG

were taken to organize a Farmers' Exchange and a committee was appointed to find a location. The property of Clarence Tait was purchased, consisting of the buildings and four lots. A Board of Directors was named, namely, F. W. Clyde, G. W. Moore,

A HISTORY OF LACLEDE COUNTY

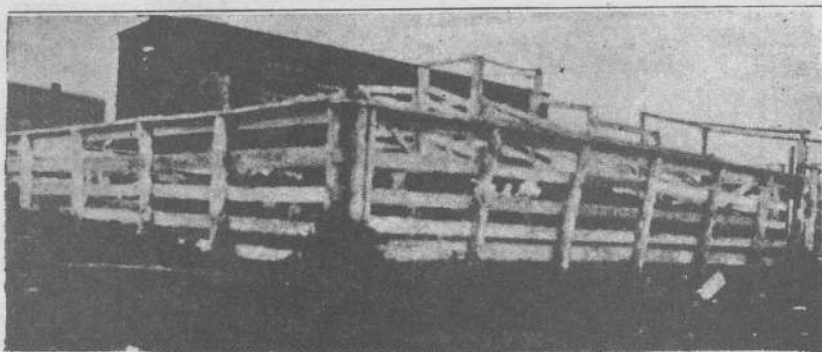
E. E. Barnes, S. R. Dennis, and Carl Heimaster. The Exchange was incorporated with a capital stock of \$4,000.00 and opened for business April 1, 1920, with I. T. Simms as manager. In 1922, 1,803 cases of eggs, 1,364 cans of cream, and 47,347 pounds of poultry was handled, paying to the producers \$29,849.22. Also twenty car loads of flour, feed, and salt were sold during the year. The 1922 business was conducted under the management of Cecil Rich, who was later succeeded by Frank W. Clyde as manager.

The volume of business increased considerably during 1923 and the 1924 reports show the following volume: 1,377 cases of eggs at \$8,362.02; 37,858 pounds of butter-fat at \$13,108.13; 40,566 pounds of poultry at \$7,379.24; hides, wool, and rabbits \$491.33; local sales \$14,187.28; and a total volume of business of \$44,034.00, with an overhead expense of six and one-tenth per cent. The total business for the year 1925 was \$60,836.51 and the total business for the first six months of 1926 amounted to \$35,011.44. These figures show how this Produce Exchange has been increasing its business and prospering under the management of the farmers of this district. The board of directors is now made up of J. M. Prosser, Ora Ratcliff, L. E. Rich, W. M. Shields and G. W. Moore. A stock dividend of 8% was paid to the stockholders in 1925, and an equal amount will be paid this year.

The personnel of this exchange is made up of Frank W. Clyde, Manager and Bookkeeper; T. W. Caffey, and Orville Cunningham.

PHILLIPSBURG SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

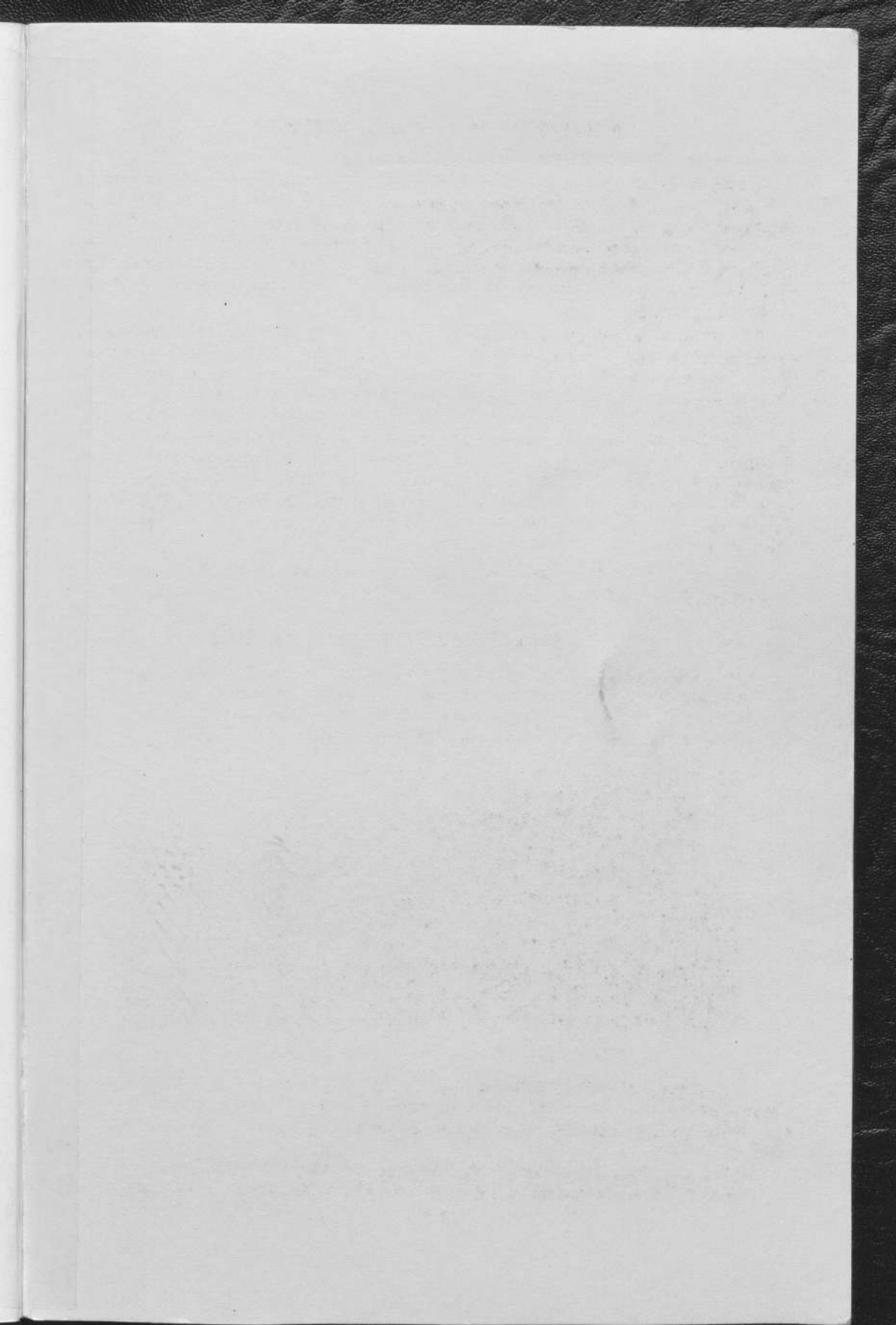
The Phillipsburg Shipping Association was organized in 1922 and is governed by the Board of Directors of the Phillipsburg Farmers' Exchange. G. W. Moore was the first manager of this association. He resigned in January, 1923, and A. M. Clark was elected manager and has since held that position.



THE STOCK YARDS, PHILLIPSBURG

In 1924 the Phillipsburg Shipping Association shipped 15 cars: 906 head of hogs, and 225 head of cattle for which a market net of \$13,946.85 was received, or an average per car load of \$929.79. A patronage dividend of \$180, or \$12 per car load was paid.

In 1925 the Association shipped slightly over \$23,000 worth of livestock. During the first six months of 1926 the volume of business exceeded \$12,000.



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