

HISTORIC SKETCH
AND
BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM
OF
SHELBY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors
will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with
pride by remote generations."—MACAULAY.

BIOGRAPHY IS THE ONLY TRUE HISTORY."—EMERSON.

ILLUSTRATED.

EMBELLISHED WITH PORTRAITS OF WELL KNOWN RESIDENTS
OF SHELBY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

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HISTORIC SKETCH.

sists in employing the best man and wife that can be had for the price, and not as some counties do—employ a man and woman simply because they are cheap, when, in fact in point of efficiency they are not more than one degree above the paupers themselves. Sometimes children of good, ordinary intellect find their way to the alms house, which is their saddest feature. What can be more dreary than the future prospects of a pauper child? The superintendent should be instructed to find homes for all such as soon as possible, in the hope of lifting them out of their forlorn condition.

"The improvement of our poor house system, I think, would be greatly facilitated, were this abode of misery more often visited by the better class of citizens in the county. It would give encouragement, and be an incentive to the superintendent to do his utmost to make the place as nearly as possible what it should be.

"Great care ought to be taken in the admission of inmates, not to exclude any who are actually in need of assistance, nor, on the other hand, to allow lazy and vicious persons to become pensioners upon public bounty. Thoroughness in the discipline and employment at hard labor, in proportion to their strength, will prevent serious imposition, because able-bodied beggars will not submit to it. Those who do, and whose fortunes are irremediable, are entitled to sympathy, and should not be permitted to suffer because they are poor and unfortunate. They should be made comfortable, and the small expense necessary to accomplish this, ought not to be grudgingly bestowed.

"Respectfully submitted,

"J. M. HARNETT, M. D.,

"County Physician."

In connection with the above we transcribe from the records a paragraph from the

report submitted, at the July, 1892, meeting of the board of supervisors, by Mr. Bigler, of the committee on Poor claims:

"Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors:

"Your committee on Poor claims would beg leave to report that we have examined all bills presented to us, and are very much astounded over the enormity of the sums of money claimed. In view of the fact that the La Grippe is no longer prevalent, yet by a perusal of the records of this county it would seem as if a certain number of doctors had the "Grip" on the county at all times. In the meantime, and until the law is changed or other means may be devised for the relief of the tax-payer and suffering humanity, we recommend the payment of the following claims."

THE FIRST VENIRE OF GRAND JURORS

At a session of the county commissioners' court, held at the house of Barnet Bone, in June 1827, the following named persons were selected to serve as the first grand jurors of Shelby county:

"James Renshaw, Jacob Elliott, Isaac Banghoe, Joseph Robertson, Thomas Lamb, John Richardson, Mills Whitley, Thomas Pugh, David Beck, Charles Wakefield, Jonathan Howard, Thomas Robertson, John Lee, Senr., David Hinton, William Hall, Senr., William Miller, Shelton Allphin, Robert Kerlyle, Lewis Ledbetter, John Weger, Francis Jordan, James Jordan, and Levi Jordan."

At the same session of the commissioners' court, the following named persons were drawn as the

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"It is further ordered that the said applicant pay the costs hereof, etc."

FIRST DIVORCE.

"Bennet Robinson vs. Elizabeth Robinson.
Libel for Divorce.

"It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the parties were lawfully married, as is set forth in said libel; and that the said Elizabeth did voluntarily and wilfully absent herself from the libellant for two years in continuance; and proof of the pendency of this libel having been made according to law. It is ordered, adjudged, and decreed, that the banns of matrimony heretofore subsisting between the said parties, be, and they are hereby dissolved—and the prayer of the said bill be granted: and that the said libellant pay the costs attending the prosecution of his said libel."

LEGISLATORS FROM THIS DISTRICT.

We copy the names of the legislators from Shelby county, or the district in which it is situated, since its organization, in 1827:

SENATORS.

William Williamson	1832—'35
Peter Warren	1836—'49
Hiram Rountree	1849—'51
Gabriel R. Jernigan	1853—'55
Joel S. Post	1857—'59
Richard J. Oglesby	'61
H. M. Vandever	1863—'65
John M. Woodson	1867—'69
Solomon Lewis	'71
Charles Voris	1871—'73
Thomas Brewer	1875—'77

Erastus N. Rinehart	1879—'83
L. B. Stephenson	1884—'88
Samuel W. Wright, Jr.	1888—'92
Isaac B. Craig	1892—'96
S. C. Pemberton	1896—

REPRESENTATIVES.

George H. Beeler	1832—'33
Thomas B. Trower	1834—'35
John S. Turley	1836—'37
William F. Thornton	1838—'39
Owen Prentice	1840—'41
Jonathan B. Howard	1842—'43
John S. Turley	1844—'45
Edward Evey	'49
Anthony Thornton	'51
S. W. Moulton	1853—'57
Thomas Brewer	'59
Thomas W. Harris	'61
Reuben Roessler	'63
William Middlesworth	'65
Charles Voris	1867—'69
John Casey	'71
Edward Roessler	"
William H. McDonald	'73
William H. Blakelay	"
Benson Wood	"
William Gillmore	'75
William Middlesworth	"
William Chew	"
Gershom Monahan	"
Nathaniel P. Robinson	"
Thomas J. Fritts	"
William M. Abraham	'79
James L. Ryan	"
Baitly Scarlett	"
Alfred C. Campbell	1880—'82
George D. Chafee	"
F. M. Richardson	"