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Crawford County

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Crawford county, one of the smallest and poorest counties of Indiana, lies nestled among the hills of southern Indiana. The territory out of which the county was formed originally belonged to Harrison, Orange and Perry. The General Assembly of Indiana enacted a law during the session of 1817-1818 which provided for the new county. Governor Jonathan Jennings signed the bill on January 29, 1818. Much credit is due Senator Dennis Pennington of Harrison county, who introduced several petitions sent to him by Martin H. Tucker and other citizens praying for the formation of a new county. The bill was introduced January 1, 1818 and passed January 5, 1818.¹

The boundaries of the county were not definitely established until 1831, since when it has had the following: Beginning at Big Blue river and following the river with its meandering until it reaches the line dividing section 26 from section 27 in township three south, range two east, thence north along that line till it intersects the river, thence following the river to the Washington county line, thence west to the Orange county line, thence south two miles, thence west twenty miles, thence south nine miles, thence east six miles, thence south four miles, thence east six miles, thence south to the Ohio river, thence following the river and its meanderings to the mouth of Big Blue river.²

¹ *Senate Journal* 1817-1818, pages 74, 81, 84, 88, 90 and 196.

² *Laws of 1837*, 239. This boundary was fixed by law February 10 1831.

On different occasions citizens of Perry and Harrison counties petitioned the General Assembly to be allowed to unite certain parts of these counties to Crawford, but most of the petitions have been rejected.³

Crawford county was named in honor of William H. Crawford of Georgia, cabinet officer and politician, who was a candidate for the presidency in 1824. The county contains about 300 square miles. When it was organized in 1818 the land was heavily forested. There were not much more than two acres of swamp land in the whole county. The uplands were covered with oak, hickory, gum, beech, poplar and walnut while the creek bottoms were covered with sugar, elm, and sycamore. As a hunting-ground the county was not surpassed by any in the state, while the streams of Big Blue, Little Blue, Turkey Fork, and West Fork were the very best for fishing. The White Sulphur well at Sulphur, Indiana, is unsurpassed by any spring of mineral water in the country. The Marengo and Wyandotte caves are considered by some the most beautiful in the world.

When the county was organized in 1818 many settlers had already located in it. Just how many squatters were in Crawford county then one cannot say now but there must have been a large number. In wandering through the woods, now, one occasionally finds a pile of stones and the evidence of some early home. Many old fruit trees, some still living and others dead, are found scattered here and there in the forests. This indicates that the spot of land was at one time the seat of some squatter's home. The five original townships into which the county was first divided were Jennings, Ohio, Sterling, Patoka, and Whiskey Run.

Jennings was named after Governor Jennings, Ohio lies on the Ohio river from which it takes its name, Sterling was named, no doubt, after Mount Sterling, a city in Montgomery county, Kentucky, from which many of the settlers came, Patoka derives its name from the Patoka river which runs near the township. There is an Indian legend connected with the name Whiskey Run. The story goes that down on the stream one day an Indian named "Whiskey" killed a man named "Run" who had a jug of whiskey with him. Then he

³ *House Journal* 1821, 198; 1834, 94, 173, 327, 584.

ran away with Run's whiskey. So the pioneers generally spoke of that stream as Whiskey Run. One may take the legend for what it is worth.⁴

After the original organization of the county four new townships were formed. The boundaries of the old townships were changed too. In September, 1827, a large tract of land was transferred from Perry county⁵ to Crawford county out of which a new township called Union was made. Liberty township was formed out of territory taken from Sterling and Whiskey Run in December, 1842. Boone township was carved out of Ohio township on March 7, 1848. It was named after the Boones, one of whom is buried on the hill near the town of Alton. The last township organized was Johnson. This was formed about 1864.⁶ Andrew Johnson had been a war Democrat and a stanch Union man and was candidate for the vice-presidency in 1864. So the people named the township Johnson.⁷

The first county seat was named Mount Sterling probably after Mount Sterling, Kentucky, from which several of the settlers came. The town was laid out in section 33, township two south, range one east. This site is about four miles southeast of the present town of English. The site of the town was a high hill, hence the meaning of the word "Mount." Birney Labruk made the plat of the town.⁸ Thomas W. Aubrey, who was probably the first justice of peace in the county states that Birney Labruk came before him January 25, 1818, and acknowledged that plat to be the true plat of Mount Sterling. Brice Patrick, who was the county agent, brought the plat to the recorder's office and William Samuels recorded it November 11, 1818, the drawing of which one may see in the first book in the recorder's office on pages 2 and 3. A copy of the plat is submitted in the present writing.

The town was located on the northeast quarter of section 33. The streets ran north and south and east and west. The streets running north and south were Carr, Biddle, Dock, Samuel, Hall, and Totton. They were sixty-five feet wide.

⁴ Legend given by J. M. Johnson of Marengo, Ind.

⁵ *Laws of 1827*. Commissioner's records Sept. 3, 1827.

⁶ Commissioner's records, Book 3.

⁷ *State Supt. Report 1864*, under Crawford county.

⁸ Recorder's Book 1, pages 3-4.

Those streets running east and west were Main, Market, and Water⁹ streets. Only a few houses were ever built in Mount Sterling. The county clerk's records show that James Brasher lived there and at his home the August and December terms of court were held in 1818. A few old apple trees of the Horse apple variety were still standing in 1900. In that year Henry Batman cleaned up and cultivated the old field which had grown up in brambles years ago. He said the old apple trees were still living after about 82 years.¹⁰

One reason why the town never grew was the scarcity of water. It was situated on a level plateau on the top of a very high hill where water could not be easily obtained. After the county seat was moved to Fredonia a law was enacted forbidding it "to be located in any other place unless a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome water was available."¹¹

Henry Green bought land, August 1, 1812, located in section 34, township 2 south, range 2 east.¹² Judge Green, who was born in Ireland, was honored by being elected judge of Crawford county. When Davis Floyd visited Crawford county in 1818 to organize the first court Judge Green and James Glenn were present to help him. These men were associate justices at the trial of Ouley which will be described later. Green was elected to represent Crawford county in the General Assembly of Indiana in 1821.¹³ He introduced petitions sent to him by James Glenn and others praying that a commission be appointed to relocate the county seat of Crawford county. These petitions were referred to a select committee composed of Green of Crawford county, Charles Dewey of Orange, Alexander Wallace of Orange, and Moses Kirkpatrick of Floyd. After the committee had duly considered the matter, Green reported a bill providing for the appointment of a board of commissioners to select a permanent site for a county seat. The bill having been passed the governor signed it on December 22, 1821.¹⁴ Besides being a legislator, he was appointed supervisor on the "Governor's

⁹ From old plat in Recorder's office.

¹⁰ This information was furnished by J. E. Turley of English who was born and reared near the old site.

¹¹ *Indiana Laws of 1827*, page 86.

¹² Sale Date Book Recorder's office.

¹³ Information furnished partly by Squire Henry Green, Marango, Ind.

¹⁴ *Indiana House Journal 1821*, 96, 236, 265.

Old Trail" as far west as the state road running from what is now Marengo to Leavenworth.¹⁵ He was justice of peace for many years and left a well earned reputation. The date of his death is unknown. His grandson, Henry Green, of Marengo, still holds the office of justice of peace.

No farms were sold in 1813 in what is now Crawford county. The war was on then and immigration to the west was somewhat retarded. In 1814 the following men bought farms: Alex Barnet, James Totten, Henry Fullenwider, William McKay, Andrew and Joseph Kinkaid, Moses Smith and Robert Fields.¹⁶ Of these, Henry Fullenwider is probably best noted. He was a leading citizen around Alton for many years. His descendants live in Boone township and the Fullenwider school was named after him. He was one of the trustees for district No. 4 when the congressional township 4 south, range 1 east was divided up by the township school trustees in August, 1837.¹⁷ He lived to a ripe old age.

The names of the men who bought farms in 1815 were John Hastings, John Green, Robert and Isaac Sands. All these men proved good substantial citizens. Isaac Sands was elected to represent Crawford county in the General Assembly in 1836, and had been treasurer of the county in 1830.¹⁸ Later he represented Crawford and Orange counties in the senate of the General Assembly in 1841 for a term of three years.¹⁹

In 1816 the following men came into the county and bought farms at the land office at Jeffersonville: Michael Harvey, James McIntosh, Abram Sheckles, William Sharp, Eli Wright, Riggs Pennington, George Repley and Robert Yates.

Robert Yates was one of the most noted men of the above group. Governor Jennings appointed him county commissioner in 1818. He was selected by Sheriff Weathers to be a member of the first grand jury ever held in Crawford county. This grand jury which met at James Brasher's home in Mount Sterling returned the indictment against James Ouley for

¹⁵ Commissioner's Records May 5, 1827.

¹⁶ The date book contains the names of all land buyers and dates of purchases. Recorder's office.

¹⁷ Old synopsis book of Ohio township, August 23, 1837.

¹⁸ Commissioner's Records July 5, 1830.

¹⁹ Indiana Senate Journal 1840, page 1-5.

murder of Briley. Mr. Yates was also supervisor on the county roads for several years.²⁰

The list of men who bought farms in 1817 was much longer. The following names were the more important: George Jones, Henry Richards, Martin Scott, John Flannery, John Sturgeon, John Sands, Robert Scott, James Green, Daniel Weathers, and Archibald Allen. These men were hardy pioneers, and patriotic men.

Martin Scotts' farm was located in Jennings township about four miles north of Leavenworth on the Old Salem and Leavenworth road. Many of his descendants live in the county at the present writing. His grandson, Martin Scott, was elected trustee of Jennings township in 1894 over John W. Collins on the Democratic ticket by a majority of 7 votes. The original Martin Scott was one of the grand jurors from Jennings township in 1818, when the murder case already referred to was under consideration. He was also foreman of the grand jury of the December term of court in 1818, held at Mount Sterling. He was road supervisor for many years as well as lister of Jennings township. Mr. Scott seems to have displayed at times a very bad temper. The records of the county show that he was fined \$1.00 in May, 1829, for swearing.²⁰ He was buried in the "Old Scott Graveyard" on what, at the present writing, is the Aniel Froman farm.

Daniel Weathers and his brother Richard were born in Wales. They moved to Virginia and from there to Tennessee. Daniel Weathers lived in Tennessee in 1800 and cast his vote for Adams for the presidency that year. Richard, who lived at Knoxville, cast his vote there for Adams. While in Tennessee Richard Weathers married a southern girl and later moved to Indiana. Neither one of the brothers liked slavery. They crossed the Ohio river at Tobacco Landing by means of a raft which they pushed by a long pole. Richard settled just east of Milltown in Harrison county on what is now known as the McCutcheon farm and lived in a three sided log cabin.²¹

²⁰ Recorder's office Book 1 or A, index.

²⁰ Commissioner's records May 1829, Book 1824-1834.

²¹ Data given by Atty. J. H. Weathers, of Marengo, Indiana, grandson of Richard Weathers.

While hunting one day he crossed the Big Blue river near where Milltown now stands and came over into Crawford county. The scenery charmed him so much that he decided to re-move to Crawford county. So he moved to where Marengo now is and squatted on what is now, at this writing, Lyman Jones' farm. Here he worked for 25 cents a day until he had \$75.00 which he hoped to apply on a farm when he purchased one. One night his purse fell through the puncheon floor and a cow managed to get it some way. The money, most of which was paper, was chewed up by the cow when Richard Weather found his purse the next morning. So Mr. Weathers did not buy a farm then but sold out his claim and squatted again where Dave Apple's farm now is. Meanwhile Daniel Weathers had been more fortunate and had bought the farm mentioned above. Richard Weathers did not purchase a farm till 1825.²²

After the law was passed providing for the formation of Crawford county in 1818, Governor Jennings appointed Daniel Weathers sheriff and issued him a commission Sept. 8, 1818. The bond of Sheriff Weathers is here given:

Know all men by these presents; that we, Daniel Weathers, James Barker, John Smith, Robert Yates, Thomas Roberts, Riggs Pennington, and Richard Weathers are held bound to Governor Jennings and his successors in office for the sum of \$5000.00 for which payment we jointly and severally promise to pay to Governor Jennings and his successors in office, provided however that if Daniel Weathers discharges his duties according to law, the above obligations are null and void.

For the state
James Barker

William Samuels
Recorder of
Crawford Co.

For Weathers
Daniel Weathers
Richard Weathers
Riggs Pennington
Thomas Roberts
Robert Yates
John Smith
James Barker²³

Daniel Weathers performed his duty faithfully till he was relieved from office about 1822. These two Weathers reared families, several of whose sons served their country in the Civil War. Major William V. Weathers, Captain Enoch

²² Most of the data given here was furnished by Atty. James Weathers, a grandson of Richard Weathers, Marengo, Ind.

²³ Weathers' Bond—Book A page 5 Recorder's office.

Weathers, James M. Weathers, Andrew E. Weathers and James Weathers have remarkable war records. When Captain Hines of Bowling Green, Kentucky, made his daring raid into Crawford county in 1863, he talked with Captain Enoch Weathers at Marengo. Major Weathers at the present writing is living at Marengo. Last but not least is Attorney John Henry Weathers of New Albany. He was the son of James Weathers who died at Marengo about 1918. John H. Weathers practiced law at Leavenworth many years. In 1896 he was nominated for judge of the circuit court in the district composed of Harrison and Crawford counties. He lost the election by 52 votes. Both counties were Democratic then and usually polled a Democratic majority of 800 votes.

The names of the persons who bought farms in Crawford county in 1818 were: Malachi Monk, George Wyman, Moses Smith, Thomas Easley, George Wilks, Chas. Springer, Elisha Tadlock, Elisha Totten, Peter Funk, Sam Westfall, Abram Wiseman, Cornelius Hall, John Lee, Jacob Conrad, Elizabeth Wright and Peter Sonner.²⁴

Of the above named persons probably Cornelius Hall was the most noted man. He was appointed county commissioner by Governor Jennings in 1818, and served the county in that capacity. Mr. Hall was well read in law and at Ouley's trial he was one of the judges. Sheriff Weathers chose him as grand juror in 1818 when the circuit court was organized and held the first session at Mount Sterling. When Mr. Hall's term of office expired he became associate justice of Crawford county, an office which he held many years.

Elisha Tadlock was the first seminary trustee of Crawford county.²⁵ When the law was enacted in 1818 which provided for the office, Governor Jennings appointed him trustee. On December 18, 1821, he made a report to the General Assembly which showed that he had on hands then \$100.50 of seminary funds. He was elected to represent Crawford county in the General Assembly in 1825²⁶ He was overseer of the poor for many years in Whiskey Run township. At that time there was no poor farm and the board of county

²⁴ Old Sale date book—Recorder's office.

²⁵ *Indiana House Journal* 1821, 236.

²⁶ *Indiana Journal* 1825, 1-5.

commissioners generally selected some one to look after the poor in each township. In 1825 this board allowed him \$37.50 for keeping Timothy Bennett for three months. Mr. Tadlock was collector of the state revenues in 1827. In 1828 he was licensed to keep a tavern at Leavenworth.²⁷

Moses Smith bought a farm near where English is and there reared a family. His son, Minor Smith, grew up in Sterling township and raised a family of several children, two of whom were George C. Smith and James J. Smith. The Smiths have always been good citizens and popular with the people. In 1914 George C. Smith was elected trustee by the Republicans in Patoka township, the first Republican trustee in that township for many years.

Probably one of the most popular as well as one of the best men in the county. In 1916 he was elected treasurer by the Republicans over James M. Brown by 191 votes. Two years later he was re-elected by the Republicans over James Jones by 17 votes.²⁸

Malachi Monk was one of the earliest settlers of Crawford county. He built a block house near the town of Marengo on the farm now owned by J. Ed Ross, county clerk of Crawford county 1918-1922. He served his county in various capacities. Was road supervisor for several years. The date of his death is not known. His son, Malachi Monk, junior, was elected auditor for two terms from 1868 to 1876.

Abram Wiseman located in what is now Ohio township. He and his brother, Jacob Wiseman, came from the East to Kentucky and thence to Indiana. Several of their sons were in the Civil war, among which one may mention George E., Philip, Abram, William and Henry. The grandsons of the two pioneer Wisemans served in the Spanish-American war, while in the World war a number of the Wisemans were overseas.

The last name of which the writer has space to write is Peter Funk. The Funk family has been prominent all through the history of the county. Solomon Funk and John E. Funk were old supporters of the Republican party in 1860. John E. Funk, who was elected county commissioner in 1894 helped

²⁷ Commissioner's records Nov. 5, 1825.

²⁸ Data from the *Crawford County Democrat*.

to re-locate the new county seat of justice at English in 1895, when that town was made the county seat by the courts. Cadmus C. Funk, who was the grandson of Solomon Funk, was elected sheriff of the county in 1912 over V. Byrum by a majority of 331 votes.²⁹ When his term of office expired in 1914 he was re-elected for another term of two years at the close of which term he engaged in business at English.

The names of the men who bought farms in the county in 1819 were: John Roth, Henry Richards, John Hughes, Henry Jones, John Sheckels, Jonathan Bird, William Groves, and David Rice.

The list of names of the men who bought farms in 1820 is as follows: Dave Miller, John Sheckels, Sam Kemp, John Morgan, Joseph VanWinkle, Addison Williams, and Reuben Wright. Sam Kemp's farm was located two miles west of Fredonia in section 7, town 4 south, range 1 east. Mr. Kemp's son John was a noted man of the county during the Civil war. He was a member of the 49th Indiana volunteers and was wounded several times.³⁰ He lived to be a very old man and died near Leavenworth. Sam Kemp's grandson, Clay Kemp, lives at Alton at the time of the present writing.

Much can be said about Addison Williams whose farm was located in section 14, town 3 south, range 1 east. He platted a town which he called New Haven and had the plat recorded at the county seat in Fredonia. No one bought the town lots and the town never grew. He lived on his farm many years and was justice of peace for some time. He was road supervisor in Jennings township for many years.³¹ His grave may be seen today on the old farm near the present town of Magnolia. In those days men had their own local cemeteries, many of which may still be seen scattered over the county. Addison Williams, being disappointed because his first town, New Haven, never grew, platted another town which he named Magnolia. The plat was recorded on July 4, 1838.³² This town which was situated about four miles northwest of Leavenworth, was located in section 22, town 3 south, range 1 east. Many town lots were sold, a large mill

²⁹ County papers for vote.

³⁰ See *Terrell's Reports*, Regiment 49.

³¹ County Recorder's old record. See A. Williams.

³² Deed Book 2, Page 351.

was built, and a still house constructed. The old buhrstones may still be seen where his mill was built. Magnolia never grew to any considerable size. Today it has several houses, a store, and a postoffice.

In 1821 these men bought farms: James Brown, James McMartin, Robert Samuels, Richard White, Hamilton McKee, ————— Gwartney, Ed Sturgeon, William Riley, Lawrence Biers, John Vanmeter, Archibold Stone, John Condra, Mason Jenkins, Ab. Wiseman, B. Bogard, Joel Lyons, Richard White, James Mansfield, Jackson Nicholson, James Totten, Abram Bird, John Goldman, David Lowe, Burton Parr, Abram Sheckels, and George Wilks.

The Mansfield family lived at Leavenworth for a long time. James M. Mansfield who was the son of James Mansfield was a soldier in the Civil war. He was elected clerk of Crawford county in 1866 and held the office one term. The school at Mansfield was named after him.

Abram Sheckels bought a farm in town 4 south, range 1 east. Many of his great grandchildren still live in Boone township at the present writing. He is the grandfather of Oliver Morton Sheckels, superintendent of the city schools at Brownstown.

Burton Parr became a very useful citizen of the county. One of his descendants, E. E. Parr, was elected trustee of Boone township in 1914. At the close of his term of office he was re-elected. John Parr, another one of his relatives, was elected trustee of Boone township in 1900.

James Totten was appointed sheriff of Crawford county in 1825. At that time the office of sheriff was very difficult to fill. Many of his descendants live in the county at the present writing.³³

These men bought farms in 1822: Julius Woodford, Peter Frakes,, David Brown, Obadiah Childs, Jacob Conrad, Wilson Scott, Sam McMahon, R. S. Thom, Reuben T. Thom, Thomas Conon, and Ebenezer E. Morgan.

This list has the names of the Thom brothers: Reuben T. and Robert S. Something will be said about the Thom brothers in the chapter on Fredonia.

³³ Commissioners Records, May 1825.

Julius Woodford for many years was one of the leading citizens of Crawford county. He was elected county commissioner from the second district in 1833 to succeed Zebulum Leavenworth.³⁴ He was one of the first merchants of Leavenworth. In 1825 he was granted a license to sell foreign merchandise in the town. He sold the lot of ground to the Crawford county seminary trustees in 1835 on which the old seminary was built.

E. E. Morgan held the office of county recorder from 1825 till 1846.

In 1823 there were two men who bought farms: John Austin and William Patton.

The list in 1824 was: John R. Wyman, Henry Rhodes, David Wilbur, Edward Riddings.

For 1825 these men bought land: David Beals, Richard Weathers, John Weathers, John Mahon, Robert Baldwin, Joseph Beals, Adam Denison, Walter Gresham, John Funk, Will Stroud, Thomas Walker, James Totten.

In this group there are several names about which mention should be made. Joseph Beals was the grandfather of Stewart A. Beals who was elected county superintendent in 1903. The latter held that office for 14 years, during which he did more for the schools of Crawford county than any superintendent who held the office before him. It was through his efforts that the high schools at Leavenworth, English, Marengo, and Milltown were commissioned. At the present writing he is superintendent of the English high school.

The list of those who bought farms in 1826 were: Henry Bray, Sam Scott, William Good, R. T. Thom, D. Gresham.

1827: John Peckinpaugh, David Lane, Charles Springer, William Riley, David Attleberry, Robert Milesat, Dudley Gresham, James Totten, Reuben T. Thom, William Bland, Francis Able, Thomas Parr, Milton Holcroft, O. Raymong, Julius Woodford, Thomas Davidson, Samuel Bird, W. P. Thompson, Edward Butler, William Taylor, James Stuart, Isaiah Bullington.

No farms were sold in 1828. The list for 1829 has these names: John Leggett, J. H. Mills, Seth and Z. Leavenworth,

³⁴ Commissioners Records, Sept. 1833.

Wood Proctor, Librim Frisbie, James Totten, John Lynch, and Thomas Davidson.

In 1830 these men bought farms: Chas. Bloomfield, Elias Chenoweth, Joseph VanWinkle, Abram D. Tower and Isaac Funk.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST COURT

The first session of the circuit court of Crawford county convened at Mount Sterling, August 1, 1818. Hon. Davis Floyd, Judge Green, and James Glenn composed the court. Since there was no courthouse in Mount Sterling then, James Brasher let the judges use his new log house. This house was too small to accommodate all of the jurors, hence they sat around on logs in the yard.

Sheriff Daniel Weathers was present and returned the names of the following men for a grand jury: Cornelius Hall, Lazarus Stewart, Alex King, William Osborn, James Lewis, Elias Davis, Elisha Potter, Alex Barnett, William Potter, Robert Yates, Peter Peckinpaugh, William Scott, Reuben Laswell, Abraham Wiseman, George Tutter, Martin Scott, John Sturgeon, Robert Sands, Isaac Lamp, Ed Gobin, and Malachi Monk.¹

These men elected Cornelius Hall foreman. After due consideration the jury returned a bill against James Ouley for murder in the first degree. The evidence showed that Ouley had followed William Briley through the woods for some distance and had then shot him in the back about where his suspenders crossed.

The ball came out in his neck making a wound about 8 inches deep. Briley died almost instantly and Ouley escaped with his horse and about 75 cents in money.

Briley lived near the present town of English. He had left home with a sack of wool and was going to Corydon to get the wool carded. He was traveling on the Governor's Old Trail which ran from Corydon to Vincennes. The exact spot where the shooting occurred cannot now be located. It happened near the top of White Oak hill in what was then Whiskey Run township.²

¹ Old Court Records in the Clerk's Office, Book 1, English, Indiana.

² This information was furnished by Attorney James H. Weathers of Marengo.

This act occurred July 1, 1818. Some men happened by and found Briley. They started to carry him to his cabin over on Dog creek. After they had gone about two miles they decided that they would bury him there. So a grave was dug and the body was buried just as the men had found it. Briley had no person living with him and Ouley might have escaped if he had hidden the body.

The news spread rapidly and the whole community was aroused. The only evidence then against Ouley was that he had disappeared from home that same day on which the man Briley was killed and that some woman had seen him following Briley through the woods.

Jonathan Chambers and Zedekiah Lindley who were prominent men volunteered to catch Ouley. These men had no warrant for his arrest but they were experts in catching horse thieves and felt sure that they could catch Ouley if he could be found anywhere. So they traveled all over southern Indiana but did not find him. They then crossed the Ohio river near Mauckport and began hunting for him in Meade county, Kentucky. After a two weeks' tramp they came to the town of Brandenburg and decided to give up the hunt and let him go. While stopping at the tavern one day they saw men hauling cord wood into town. From these men they learned that there was a wood cutter out in the forest who had come there from Corydon a short time before. That night Chambers and Lindley crept up and caught Ouley in his cabin. They brought him back to the old block house near Marengo and chained him to the logs in the house and guarded him day and night till the trial came off on the first day of August.

The bill returned by the grand jury read:

James Ouley late of Crawford county, a yeoman not having the fear of God before his eyes, but moved and seduced by the spirit of the Devil on July 1, 1818, with force and arms in Whiskey Run township in and upon William Briley in the peace of God then and there being wilful and of malice aforethought did make and against James Ouley with a certain rifle gun of the value of \$10 loaded with gun powder and a certain leaden bullet with which gun the said Ouley did shoot William Briley in the back and the ball came out in his neck making a wound about 8 inches deep from which wound Briley died almost instantly.³

³ Old Records in the Clerk's Office, Book 1.

The trial began at once. Ouley pleaded not guilty and demanded that the county furnish him an attorney. The court appointed Henry Stephens and Harbin Moore to defend while William Thompson was appointed prosecuting attorney for that session of the court.

Daniel Weathers, the sheriff, had a large number of men present from which these men were selected for a petit jury: Elisha Lane, Constance Williams, Marcus Troelock, Joseph Beals, Andrew Troelock, David Beals, John Goldman, James Richie, William May, George Peckinpaugh, Thomas W. Cummins, and Robert Grimes. Constance Williams was selected foreman of the jury.

The trial was conducted out of doors in the woodyard. The jurors who were among the best men in the county were sworn to hear the evidence and to decide the case. After all the evidence was in and the court had instructed the jurors, the jury retired to consider the evidence. After some time the jury returned a verdict of guilty and placed his sentence at death.

The counsel for defense asked for a new trial on these grounds: 1. That the verdict was contrary to the state law; 2. That the evidence was not sufficient; 3. The conduct of the jurors was not proper; 4. That outsiders talked to the jurors during the trial; 5. That Elisha Lane had expressed his opinion before the trial began; 6. That one of the jurors was too much indisposed to pay the proper amount of attention that such a case demanded. The juror in question was said to have been asleep.

The court not being fully advised adjourned till the next day when it refused the defendant a new trial and asked him if he had any further reason why sentence of death should not be passed upon him. He asked the court to arrest the judgment of the jurors on these grounds: 1. That he was a wheelright made the evidence uncertain; 2. That the bill did not have the name of the state or county in it.⁴

The court overruled the argument and passed this sentence upon him:

⁴ All the statements here are taken from the clerk's records at the court house in English, Indiana.

That he should be kept in the old block house in the custody of the sheriff till October 1, 1818, when he should be taken out on the same road or on what ever new road might be laid out by that time in one half mile of Old Mount Sterling, between the hours 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and hanged by the neck till dead.

Sheriff Weathers took the prisoner back to the block house and chained him to the logs. Men kept guard over him day and night. Yet he attempted to gnaw out. Years afterwards when the block house was torn down one could see the place where he had gnawed with his teeth on the logs of the block house.⁵

Cornelius Hall who was a carpenter, volunteered to make the casket for Ouley. On the day of execution the coffin was put into a wagon and Ouley was chained and hauled back to Mount Sterling and hanged. He was buried in the old field near the site of the hanging. His grave was marked for a long time but now no trace of it can be found. Henry Batman who cleared the old field in 1900 said that he found a spot of clay near the road about three feet by six and thought that must have been the dirt which was thrown up from the grave.⁶

There was not much direct evidence against Ouley in the case but the jury was sure that he was guilty. So they wanted to make an example of him for the rest of the outlaws who lived in the county.

After the county seat was moved to Leavenworth another affair occurred near Milltown, Indiana, for which the offending culprit was hanged at Leavenworth. James Fields, who was under the influence of alcohol, came home one night and ordered his mother to get up and get his supper. She did not arise as quickly as her son thought that she should and he drew a revolver and shot his mother through the thigh. This occurred on June 7, 1846. Mrs. Field lived till June 10th and died. The jury returned an indictment against Fields and the sheriff arrested him and lodged him in jail.⁷

The grand jury returned a bill against Fields which reads as follows:

⁵ Information by Attorney James H. Weathers who was the grandson of Richard Weathers, deputy sheriff then.

⁶ Information by James Turley of English, Indiana.

⁷ County Clerk's Records for 1846.

James G. Fields, late of Crawford county, not having the fear of God before his eyes but moved by the spirit of the Devil did with force and with a certain revolver worth about \$1 loaded with gun powder and a ball; to wit, against one, Susanah Fields in the peace of God did shoot with the said revolver and inflicted a wound from which the said Susanah Fields died on the tenth of June at his home near Milltown, Indiana.

Fields pleaded that he was not guilty in the sense in which the grand jury had indicted him. The following men were selected for a jury: A. B. Tower, James Vanwinkle, Sam McMahan, Walker Main, Swango Hadden, William Armstrong, Marmaduke McCarney, James L. Temple, James G. Sloan, Chas. Comcien, Nincom Haskens, and Gabriel Williams. After all the evidence was in and the matter was discussed the jury retired to consider the case but could not agree. So the jury was discharged on November 11, 1846. A new jury which was composed of these men was empaneled: George Jones, Oliver Hannon, John Jones, Greenberry Roberts, John Goldman, N. C. Peckinpugh, Tich Warner, James D. Jones, William Dean, Andrew Biers, Elias O'Bannon, John K. Tyler. This jury found Fields guilty of murder in the first degree and he was sentenced to death.⁸

Judge John Lockhart called Fields before him and ordered him to be kept in the county jail at Leavenworth until December 18, 1846. On the 18th he was to be taken out and hanged by the neck till dead.

The sheriff built the gallows on the east side of Poison creek not far from where the old carding machine stood. On the day of the execution the prisoner was put on a wagon and hauled out to the gallows. Six men with guns walked before the wagon. Sheriff Samuel Clark had taken care to see that no confusion of any kind occurred or any attempt to rescue the prisoner. Clark was so excited on this occasion that when everything was ready he struck at the rope which held the trap door on which he had put Fields and missed the rope. The second time he cut the rope and let the prisoner fall. The rope broke but several men sprang forward and helped the sheriff hold up the prisoner till the sheriff tied the rope. Then he was left swinging till he was dead.

⁸ All the data here were taken from the clerk's records at the court house at English's, Indiana.

The body was buried at the foot of the gallows. Thousands of men and women were present on that occasion. The writer's father came from near Alton to see the hanging. Old men said that the opposite hill was covered with men since it afforded a good view.

FREDONIA

While Judge Floyd was holding the first session of the circuit court in Crawford county and the good citizens at Mount Sterling were hanging Ouley, a new town was laid out on the banks of the Ohio river by Allen D. Thom and Robert S. Thom. These men had moved from Virginia to Indiana and had finally located in Crawford county. Allen D. Thom made a plat of the town and filed it in the recorder's office at Corydon, Indiana, before the county seat was located at Mount Sterling. William Samuels stated that Allen D. Thom came before him personally and acknowledged the plat to be the true plat of Fredonia. The indenture was made June 22, 1818.¹

The site where the town was laid out was one of the most picturesque of all river towns. At this point the Ohio river makes a great bend in the shape of an ox-bow or a horse-shoe. Hence the bend was called the horse-shoe bend. The river sweeps far northward into Indiana and then glides away gently to the southward. Standing on the high bluff one can see as far up the river as Leavenworth and down the river to Schooner Point. The tongue of land on the Kentucky side is about three miles across in one place and probably twenty-five miles around.

From Indian Hollow to Schooner Point—a distance of 5 miles—the hill on the Indiana side is so precipitous that one cannot build a road from the top of the bluff to the river except at Fredonia where a small creek runs down to the river, up which was built a wagon road over which freight could be hauled. This bluff is about 500 feet high, many parts of which are almost perpendicular. On this high plateau Allen D. Thom and Robert S. Thom laid out the site for the town. The site, as already stated, commanded a view

¹ Deed Book: Pages 1, 2, 85, recorder's office.

of the Ohio river for many miles so that hostile Indians could not approach during the day without being seen by the people of the town. The level land extended back from the river bluff about one-half mile before the land became rough and hilly and descended to Little Blue river on the west about two miles away. The writer has copied a plat of the town and inserted it here facing this page.²

At that time any man owning land and wishing to sell could lay out a town plat, give the town some name and advertise the lots for sale. He had the plat recorded in the county recorder's office. If many lots were sold a town might grow up. In that case he could get more for his land than he could get if he sold outright. Many men bought lots at Fredonia and a town was soon started on that high hill. Plenty of good water was found by digging several deep wells. Thom's well was about 6 feet in diameter and 86 feet deep. It stands full of good water the year around. The well was walled from bottom to top, in most places with dressed stone. This indicates that much work must have been done in its construction. The other two wells were also very deep.

One serious objection to the town of Mount Sterling was the absence of good water. Creek water could not be used because of the danger from its impurity. After the county seat was moved from Mount Sterling to Fredonia the General Assembly of the state of Indiana enacted a law providing that the county seat must not be moved again under any condition unless a good supply of drinking water was available.³

Allen D. Thom had a rich brother named Reuben T. Thom. At that time he was a large land owner of the county. Of this land Allen D. Thom owned 80 acres, while his brother owned the rest which amounted to about 1468 acres. Reuben Thom as far as can be known never came to the county but remained at his home in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Reuben Thom was very desirous of having the seat of justice located at Fredonia. Fredonia had far outgrown Mount Sterling which at the best never had many houses. He felt sure that he could sell his

² Data given by an old citizen of the town.

³ *Indiana State Laws for 1827*, 86.

land better if the seat of justice was located at Fredonia. Hence he offered to give a tract of land on which a courthouse might be built and a jail located. At that time no one had the right to move the seat of justice from Mount Sterling. So James Glenn, who was a prominent citizen of the county and an associate justice, sent a petition to Henry Green, who represented the county in the General Assembly at Corydon, praying that the seat of justice be moved and that a committee be appointed to locate a new seat. This petition being read November 21, 1821, was referred to a select committee of which Green of Crawford county, Tipton of Perry county, Dewey and Wallace of Orange county, and Kirkpatrick of Floyd county, were members with permission to report by bill or otherwise. The committee reported out a bill on November 30th which came up in the house on December 2d and 7th and was passed Thursday, December 15, 1821. In the meanwhile many petitions were sent to the General Assembly praying that the bill be passed. For this reason one can say that the people in general approved of the change of the county seat. After a few days in the committee the senate passed the bill and the governor signed it. This provided that Sam Connor of Perry county, Henry Thornton of Scott, Stephens Rainey of Clark, Isaac Stewart of Floyd, and Robert Evans of Vanderburgh should be commissioners whose duty it was to meet at the courthouse in Mount Sterling on March 1, 1822, and after due examination to relocate the seat of justice if the committee thought that it was beneficial to the people of the county. The committee was to value the improvements made on the lots at Mount Sterling and the cost of digging the public well. The state was to compensate the men who had bought the lots in Mount Sterling up to the value of their improvements.⁵

The county agent was empowered to examine the courthouse at Fredonia and if he found it better than the one at Mount Sterling he should notify the commissioners who would authorize the county officers to move their books to the new location which the committee had chosen, or would choose if it had not done so yet. If the committee relocated the seat

⁵ *Indiana House Journal*, pages: 43, 44, 96, 105, 171, 200. *House Journal* for the year of 1821.

of justice the sheriff was authorized to inform the county commissioners where the new location was and when they should meet.⁵

The committee met at Mount Sterling and after due consideration decided to accept Mr. Thom's generous offer. He had agreed to give a large tract of land on which he would build the county a courthouse and a jail, all of which he was to give to the county. The deed was duly made, as promised by Mr. Thom, to the county commissioners. The deed reads:

This indenture was made the 12th day of November, 1822 between Reuben T. Thom of Fredericksburg, Virginia, by his attorney, Allen D. Thom, on the first and Thomas Davis, Cornelius Hall, and Robert Yates, county commissioners of Crawford county on the second part and their successors in office. That the said Reuben Thom by his attorney, Allen D. Thom, for and in consideration of the county seat being permanently located at Fredonia receipt whereof is hereby granted acknowledged and bargained and sold and hath granted to the county commissioners and their successors in office for the use of the county this tract of land: Beginning at the center of section 10, township 4 south, range 1 east, run south 91.5 poles, east 89.5 poles, to a certain white oak tree, north 91.5 poles, then west 89.5 poles to the starting point, in all about 50 acres.⁶

The said commissioners to have and to hold said land with all its appurtenances on the land.

Allen D. Thom had this deed recorded December 15, 1822.

The new courthouse which was a two-story brick, was about 39 feet long and 33 feet wide. The second story was used for a court room and the down stairs provided rooms for the different county offices. Reuben Thom's contractors did a good piece of work in constructing the house which is still standing. The upper story now has been cut lower and the ceiling of the first story has been raised. The building is now used by the Methodists for a church. The house has not been used for court purposes since 1843.

The old jail which was rather small was a strong one. The house was built out of hewn logs which were notched down well at the corners. Then the house was ceiled by using hewn timbers about 10 inches wide and 4 inches thick. These timbers, which were set vertically, were bolted to the logs. The floor and ceiling were similarly constructed.

⁵ Indiana *State Laws* for 1821, 9-12.

⁶ See book 1, page 94, in the recorder's office at English, Indiana.

As far as known only one person ever escaped from that old jail until it was condemned, about 1840. The man who escaped was accused of horse stealing. He secured an iron rod of some kind and burned his way out. It must have taken him a long time. After he was out the man escaped into Kentucky before the officers secured him. After that man escaped the jail was guarded of nights when there were prisoners in it waiting trial.⁷ When the board doing county business met the first time after the man escaped they ordered E. E. Morgan to have a new jail door made. This new door was to be made of hewn timbers, the first laid lengthwise, then the second set of timbers cross-wise and bolted to the first ones. Then the third set of timbers was put lengthwise and bolted to the first two sets. This made a door which was about one foot thick. The board granted to Mr. Morgan for doing the work and hanging the door the sum of \$20.⁸

The location of the jail and courthouse is marked on the accompanying plot of the town.

The sheriff was not responsible for the prisoners in these early days. The board doing county business generally appointed some man jailer and when the jail was full with prisoners the jailer had several guards to help him keep them safe till they were disposed of some way when court met. In 1827 Sam Clark, Ephraim Conrad, Elias O'Bannon, Edward Martin and Richard Boyles were allowed \$2.50 each for helping guard the jail. Henry Conrad was appointed jailer and pound master in 1831 and in 1837, respectively.⁹

When the new courthouse was ready the citizens of Fredonia went to Mount Sterling and carried away the records. Local tradition says that the books were carried away by force. The records were in Fredonia and the first session of the court was held there on March 10, 1822.¹⁰ At that time the books were put into sacks and carried on horses. If the records were carried away by force, it was only the first time; they have been carried away from each of the later county seats by force.

⁷ Information furnished the writer by Percy Allen, great grandson of the jailer, Henry Conrad.

⁸ Commissioners records for 1829, May 4th.

⁹ Commissioner's records for 1827, November.

¹⁰ Clerk's old records, Book one.

The county officers at that time were: county commissioners, Thomas Davis, Cornelius Hall and Robert Yates; county recorder, William Samuels; coroner, William Campbell; the county treasurer was appointed each year by the board doing county business. Daniel Weathers was the first sheriff and held the office till about 1823, when Martin H. Tucker was appointed.

Under the old constitution the county business in Crawford county was done by a board composed of the justices of the peace from the towns and the various townships. The county had a board of county commissioners but they did not seem to have much business to perform for the county. The board doing county business was composed of William Course, John Wood, Thomas Davis, Samuel Farrows, Henry Wakefield and Allen D. Thom. They were known as justices.¹¹

The board of justices held a meeting at the courthouse in Fredonia in November, 1824, and contracted much business for the county. The board appointed Seth M. Leavenworth and Edward Golden to lay out a road from Leavenworth to intersect the Mount Sterling road near Jake Enlow's farm. Archibald Sloan was appointed to view out a road from his farm to the farm of Richard Weathers. William Dodd who was seminary trustee reported that he had \$255.25 of the seminary funds.

When the board met in January, 1825, they appointed the following men superintendents of the 16th sections of school land in the county: Allen D. Thom, James Glenn, Peter McMichel, James McIntosh, Martin Scott, Archibald Sloan and William Anderson. Robert S. Thom was appointed county treasurer for the year 1825. Road supervisors were also appointed. Zebulum Leavenworth had charge of the Leavenworth and Salem road as far as the Jennings township line. Calburn had charge from Fredonai to the mouth of Little Blue. William Harvey was supervisor on the Leavenworth and Paoli road as far as the Jennings township line. Allen D. Thom had charge of the road from Fredonia to the Princeton ford and the Perry county line. From Cole's ford to Leavenworth William May was appointed. Valentine Sauer-

¹¹ County Commissioners' Records for November, 1824.

heber from Leavenworth to Fredonia. James Totten was appointed sheriff to succeed Martin H. Tucker who resigned¹³

The board doing county business set the following tax rates for the county for 1825:

First rate land tax per 100 acres.....	\$1.25
Second rate land tax for 100 acres.....	\$1.00

These prices were fixed in 1825 for the taverns:

Third rate land per 100 acres.....	\$.75
On suits of clothes each.....	\$.50
License to sell foreign goods.....	\$10
Horses, mules, or donkeys.....	\$3.75
Yoke of oxen over three years old.....	\$.25
Brass clocks	\$1.50
Silver watches	\$.50
Ferries on the Ohio river	\$5.00
Ferries on Big Blue river	\$2.00

These prices were fixed in 1825 for the taverns:

One half pint of whiskey	12 cents
One pint of whiskey	12 cents
One half pint of wine	25 cents
One pint of wine	43 cents
One half pint of peach brandy	12 cents
One pint of peach brandy	18 cents
French brandies at the same rates as wines	
Meals	25 cents
Horse feed for 24 hours	25 cents
Lodging for men	25 cents
License for taverns	\$25.00. ¹⁴

This is the first evidence one has of fixing prices.

These men were the listers for the year 1825: Jennings township, Ben Lyons; Sterling township, David H. Tucker; Whiskey Run township, James Spencer; Patoka township, John Wood; Ohio township, Henry Conrad. It was their duty to assess the property in their respective townships. They were appointed by the board doing county business. Their salaries were:

¹³ County Commissioners' Book 2, January meeting for 1825. Book not numbered by pages.

¹⁴ Commissioners' Records for Jan. 5, 1825.

John Wood, Patoka twp. -----	\$5.00
James Spencer, Whiskey Run -----	\$6.00
David H. Tucker, Sterling -----	\$7.00
Henry Conrad, Ohio twp. -----	\$6.00
Ben Lyons, Jennings -----	\$6.00 ¹⁵

The same year Thomas W. Fox was granted a license to run a tavern in Fredonia. The fee was \$20. The prices were fixed on the meals and drinks as shown above. Probably this was the first tavern licensed in the county of Crawford. The first grocery was opened in Fredonia in 1830. This was the old name for a saloon. William Curry was the proprietor. John Leggett was granted a license to keep a tavern in Fredonia in 1825. David Rice was granted a license to keep store and sell foreign merchandise the same year. In 1829 the board doing county business granted Nancy Colhson a license to sell liquor. Probably she was the first woman to sell liquor in the county.

One of the best known citizens of Crawford county was Henry Conrad. He moved from Virginia to Crawford county and settled in Fredonia about 1822. He built a two story log house and became a hotel keeper. This old house which has been weather-boarded up is still standing. After the death of Mr. Conrad in 1842 Esau McFall bought the house. During the Civil war when Captain Hines made his disastrous raid into Crawford county he stopped at Fredonia and took breakfast at Esau McFall's hotel.¹⁶ Henry Conrad was much honored by the people of the county. He was assessor of Ohio township several times and was road supervisor several years as well as overseer of the poor of Ohio township. For several years he was jailer and pound master. He died in Fredonia and was buried in the old cemetery in 1842. His son William A. Conrad ran a store in Fredonia for many years. After the Civil war he moved to Kansas and spent the last years of his life at Winfield, Kansas.

Ever since the county had been organized many people from Perry county and parts of Harrison county had wanted to join certain parts of these two counties to Crawford county. Mr. Tipton, to whom was referred the petition of John Ewing

¹⁵ Commissioners' Records for May 8, 1827.

¹⁶ The information given here was furnished by Percy A. Allen, great grandson of Henry Conrad.

and others of Perry county praying for that part of Perry county to be joined to Crawford county, reported that the prayer was unreasonable and ought not be granted. The house of representatives of Indiana concurred in the report. Not discouraged, the citizens kept on working and secured part of their desire during the next few years as the next pages will show.¹⁷

The board doing county business in 1827 transferred a large tract of land from Perry to Crawford county. The tract of land began at the meridian line south where Perry county begins then running north four miles, west six miles, south four miles, and east six miles. This tract of land was added to Ohio township. Later in the same year 1827 the board of justices made a new township which they called Union. This new township consists of the congressional township three south, range one west, and six sections of the congressional township two south, range one west.

When Robert Thom died Allen Thom married his widow. He built a large two story frame house under two giant locust trees on the edge of the river bluff. The old house remained standing till 1918 when it was torn down. Part of the old foundation may yet be seen. The old well out of which the writer has drunk is still used by the people. Allen D. Thom was justice of peace for many years and road supervisor on the Leavenworth and Princeton road. The board doing county business appointed him superintendent of the 16th section of township four south, range one east, on January 3, 1825.¹⁸ In the same year he was asked to open a road 20 feet wide from Fredonia to the mouth of Little Blue in the direction of Rome.

In 1827 there was an exciting election in Crawford county. The point at issue was whether Seth Leavenworth should be elected to the General Assembly. He was in favor of moving the county seat from Fredonia to Leavenworth. Gorry Jones contested the election and the board doing business heard the evidence. It appeared that James Coeputs, Will Hooten, David Swarens, Ephriam Mansfield and John Maxwell had cast ille gal

¹⁷ Commissioners' Records for Sept. 3, 1827. They are not numbered by pages.

¹⁸ County commissioners' records for January 3, 1825.

votes in the election at the town of Leavenworth. The board voted to seat Leavenworth by the ayes: Mesen, McMickel, Wood, Flinn, Tadlock, Blackwell, Woodford and Leavenworth. The nays were: Mesen, Rice, Thom and Suggs. It was plain to be seen that Thom did not want Leavenworth to go to the General Assembly at Indianapolis.¹⁹

In 1827 the people sent Thom to Indianapolis when the bill was before the General Assembly to build a railroad from Indianapolis to the Ohio river. Thom met the committee and made one of the greatest speeches of his life in favor of the railroad being built to Fredonia instead of Madison. When the committee voted Madison won the road by one vote.²⁰

Leavenworth who represented Crawford county in the General Assembly made a great speech in favor of railroads instead of canals. One may see the speech in full in the *Indiana Journal*, March 20, 1827. Both Thom and Seth Leavenworth lost popularity by advocating railroads. Hence the first road was built from Indianapolis to Madison. Thom was appointed postmaster in these early days. He was a tall man and wore a high top silk hat, in the crown of which he carried the letters while he was working around the town. If a man asked him about mail, he took off his hat and ran the letters and gave the man whatever were for him. Then he put the others in his hat and went about his business. The mail left Fredonia at 6:00 a. m. Wednesdays and arrived at Princeton at 6:00 p. m. Thursdays. On the return the mail left Princeton at 6:00 a. m. Thursdays and arrived at Fredonia 6:00 p. m. Fridays. Mail by way of Corydon and Bedford arrived weekly. Not many letters ever came to Fredonia so one can see why Thom carried them in his hat.²¹

Mr. Thom was a very peculiar man. He never drank any water at all and was always of a cold disposition. He would wear an overcoat while working in the harvest field.²² Thom lived to be a very old man. He died about 1867 and was buried in the cemetery at Fredonia. There is a brick for a

¹⁹ Information by Percy Allen of Fredonia.

²⁰ Information by Allen of Fredonia.

²¹ Information given by George E. Wiseman of Beechwood, who knew Thom well.

²² Information furnished by Samuel R. Bird who married into the Thom family.

head-stone at his grave. After much trouble the writer, with the assistance of Mr. Wiseman, was able to locate the grave. Mr. Thom once made a race for Congress but was defeated in the nomination. His wife died about 1875 and the estate was in the courts of Crawford county for many years till it was settled in 1918 when his grand-daughter, Mrs. Hattie Henley, was appointed administratrix for the estate.

After the county seat was located at Fredonia in 1822 business began to boom. A man named Best bought a large tract of timber which he sawed into plow beams. Mr. Best lived in Louisville and owned a large hotel in that city. He put a heavy mortgage upon the hotel to get the money to buy the saw mill which he set up at Fredonia. For a long time during the panic of 1837 and afterwards the market was not very good, hence he could not sell the plow beams from which he hoped to get the money to pay off the mortgage on the hotel. William Conrad, who ran a store in Fredonia, one day called Best into the store and asked him about the matter. Best was much discouraged and felt that he was sure to lose the hotel. Then Mr. Conrad told Best that the men were intending to close the mortgage when it became due but he was ready to help him and could loan him the money. On the day on which the mortgage became due Conrad went with Best to Louisville and paid off the mortgage. At that time he had acres of land covered with sawed plow beams. After some time the sale of timber grew better and the man paid Conrad every cent of the debt.²³ Mr. Best brought with him a man named Frye to be his head sawyer. Mr. Frye who was a Scotchman did well with the work, but his love for whiskey overcame his best judgment and he died a pauper in Fredonia. On his death bed he requested his friends to bury his chopping ax and a pint of brandy with him. This request was performed and the ax and the brandy were put in the coffin with him.²⁴

Another old settler of Fredonia was Walter Gowans, who was born in Scotland in 1767. He moved to America and located at Fredonia in 1821. When the plague of cholera was so bad in 1832 he fell a victim to that malady. His grave is one of the oldest in the county which has no marker.²⁵

²³ This information was given by Percy Allen, grandson of Mr. Conrad of Fredonia and has the old account books of that Mr. Conrad yet.

²⁴⁻²⁵ This information was furnished by Percy Allen of Fredonia.

Another important industry in these days at Fredonia was tanning. Mr. Collingwood built a large tannery just out of the town and employed three men all of the time. Thousands of hides were tanned there and then shipped away on boats for the trade on the Mississippi and at New Orleans.

During all these busy days while the county seat was at Fredonia only one man was killed in that town. His name was Hoback. One night he attended a dance at the Mrs. Cummins' home. Here trouble arose between him and another man. A fight ensued in which Hoback was killed with a wooden hammer or maul. The court acquitted the defendant on the grounds of self defense.

Many amusing stories are told about William Conrad, who was justice of peace, and kept a large store in Fredonia in these early days. Saturday was the most trying day of all. On that day the country people came to town to trade. West of the town about three miles lived two large men named Wiseman. They weighed about three hundred pounds each. There were two or three Goads in the county that were about as large and as strong. A feud grew up between these parties. When they came to town on Saturdays they did their trading and put all the groceries in their wagons and then got brandy and went out under the trees to drink. A fight was sure to follow in a few minutes. Then Mr. Conrad would go out and arrest the men and bring them into the office, try and fine them 50 cents and costs. The men always paid the fines, after which he would make them shake hands and agree to be friends, give them a pint of brandy and put them into the wagon and send them home rejoicing.²⁶

On the old account books of William Conrad one often finds charged to some one: One gallon of brandy at 75 cents. Mrs. Thom's account on a certain page on which the date of 1860 is given is:

	Debit	
January 18, two sad irons		\$1.00.
.. 21, one box of hair pins		20 cents.
.. 22, three pounds of coffee		50 cents.
.. 23, two pounds of butter		40 cents.
		<hr/>
Total debit		\$2.10.

²⁶ Percy A. Allen, the grandson of Mr. William Conrad.

The first school house which was built in Fredonia was of logs. The old recitation bench is in Allen's store at Fredonia at the date of this writing. This old seat has many cuts and carved marks on it. It was made out of yellow poplar and must be about 75 years old.²⁷

LEAVENWORTH

The town of Leavenworth was named after two men who platted the town and lived there many years. Seth Marshall Leavenworth was the fifth in descent from Thomas Leavenworth, who moved from England to America in 1664 and settled at Rockbury, Connecticut, where Seth Marshall was born June 13, 1782. His early education was obtained in the grammar schools of Connecticut. Having caught the western fever he came west in 1809 and located at Cincinnati for some time. While here he studied law and taught school. After a short time he moved farther west and finally settled at what is now Leavenworth and bought a large tract of land in 1818. While living at Leavenworth he became engaged to Esther Mathers, of Cape May, New Jersey, whom he married at New Albany, Indiana, June 15, 1820.

He engaged in business in Crawford county and was very successful. He helped build a mill at Leavenworth where corn and wheat were ground and lumber sawed. In 1827 he built a mill at what is now Milltown, which for many years went by the name of Leavenworth's mill. While he owned the mills at Milltown and at Leavenworth, he was very much interested in the navigation of Big Blue river.¹ He wanted the General Assembly of Indiana to enact a law to improve Big Blue river but every bill failed to pass.² He helped to locate and open all new roads many of which ran from Leavenworth out into the state. The roads tended to direct the trade and the business into the little town of Leavenworth.

²⁷ Information from Conrad's old account books.

¹ All information was taken from the genealogy book of the Leavenworths. In the *Liberty Hall* of Cincinnati, June 19, 1811, is an advertisement by Seth M. Leavenworth for a school. The term closed June 30, and the next opened July 7. "All Sciences" were taught.—Ed.

² *Indiana House Journal* for 1827, pages 316-374. Read was twice candidate for governor. He and Leavenworth were political rivals. In a tilt before the Assembly Leavenworth usually had the advantage.—Ed.

The people soon recognized that Mr. Leavenworth was a leader so he was elected to represent Crawford county in the General Assembly at Indianapolis in 1827. One of his objects was to move the county seat from Fredonia to Leavenworth. Of course this always caused an uproar among the people of Fredonia. He introduced several petitions sent to him by various citizens and these caused so much confusion at times that Mr. Read of Davis and Martin counties refused to serve on the committee with him but led the fight against the resolution. On a test vote the house refused to kill the resolution. Later Mr. Leavenworth withdrew all the petitions.

Mr. Leavenworth tried hard to get a law enacted to build a railroad from Indianapolis to the Ohio river. When the matter came up before the people of Crawford county such a storm of opposition arose that he was not re-elected in 1828. He believed that railroads were better than canals and made a remarkable speech in favor of railroads. This speech caused so much comment that the *Indiana Journal* secured a copy from Mr. Leavenworth and printed it in the *Journal*, March 20, 1827. Men said that the "cars" would run over the stock in the fields and woods and kill the children in the streets. At that time the stock ran out in the forests.³

One very far-sighted measure which Mr. Leavenworth advocated was a Marine hospital for the sick river men. Often these men and women were exposed to the cholera and other diseases while they were traveling on the boats. Sometimes there would be an epidemic of cholera at New Orleans. A passenger returning from the south might develop the disease while he was on the boat and expose everyone on the boat. After various encounters in the house the measure was defeated. Had this law been enacted the state would have been compelled to build a hospital at some town on the Ohio river, where men who were sick on the boats might be taken and cared for till they were able to go home.⁴

In 1828 he opened up a tavern at Leavenworth, where he had operated ferries over the Ohio river and Big Blue, besides operating the mills which have been mentioned. He was interested in education and at one time was one of the

³ *Indiana Journal*, March 20, 1827.

⁴ *Indiana House Journal* 1829, pages 127 and 172.

trustees of Indiana University, 1838.⁵ He was engaged in every enterprise whereby the county would be improved. The commissioner's records from 1824 to 1834 have many references to his activities. He lived at Leavenworth till about 1850 when he moved to Missouri, where he died in 1853.

Zebulum Leavenworth, who was also a descendant of the above mentioned Thomas Leavenworth, was a cousin of Seth Marshall. He was born at Granville, Massachusetts, January 4, 1792. He attended the public schools till he completed the course of study. When the great tide of immigration began in 1811 he moved west to the city of Cincinnati where he taught school one year. After he had closed his school in 1812 he studied law at Chillicothe, Ohio, under Judge Scott for one year. In 1814 he became a surveyor. The government at that time needed a large number of surveyors because the War of 1812 was practically over and a great number of men were moving west. Mr. Leavenworth was a very good mathematician and enjoyed the work. He went to Illinois and worked for the government for a long time. When he was no longer needed he returned to Cincinnati on a keel boat. This was rather slow traveling. The keel boat was different from the broad horn, being pushed with oars and poles. This must have been a laborious undertaking when one thinks of pushing an old boat for several hundred miles against the current of the swift Ohio river. Arriving at Cincinnati he engaged in trade with success. In 1816 he moved to Jeffersonville, Indiana, and two years later he located at what is now Leavenworth, Indiana, in Crawford county.

On January 11, 1821, he married Margaret Patterson, at Leavenworth, Indiana. She was born in Delaware, December 28, 1802, her people moving to Leavenworth in 1819.⁶

Zebulum Leavenworth was connected with Seth M. Leavenworth in most of the enterprises already mentioned.

He served in the General Assembly of Indiana during the sessions of 1830, 1832 and 1833. His work on education, on the management of the city of Indianapolis, and on finances were meritorious. He served on the committee of ways and

⁵ *Indiana University Catalogue* for 1837-38, 39.

⁶ Most all the information on this page was taken from the Leavenworth genealogy book.

means, opposed the law which changed the way of doing business in Crawford county but was defeated. When he returned home in 1831 the people elected him county commissioner from the second district composed of Jennings township. He was road supervisor for many years and in 1827 he was elected justice of peace for Jennings township.⁷

Mr. Leavenworth was one of the stockholders in the clay turnpike company and helped run the stage line from Leavenworth via Bloomington to Indianapolis. As late as 1860 several of the old coaches of this stage line could be seen standing in the vacant lots at Leavenworth.⁸

In 1858 Zebulum Leavenworth was elected township trustee of Jennings township.⁹

In 1858 Mr. Leavenworth went over part of Scott township in Harrison county and secured the signatures of 72 land owners to a petition praying that that part of Scott township be joined to Crawford county. The citizens of Harrison county carried the case to the circuit court at Corydon. When the case was called for trial Mr. Walter Q. Gresham was Leavenworth's attorney and Mr. Wolf represented Harrison county. For a long time it seemed that Crawford county would win, and just as the county judge was about to give the decision Attorney Wolf came up to the judge and said that he wanted to see him privately before he gave the decision. In the private interview Wolf told the judge that if that part of Scott township was given to Crawford county that it would endanger the Democratic party in the county of Harrison; that part of the township was heavily Democratic and if given to Crawford county it would reduce the majority in Harrison county so much that the party would be in danger of defeat. The next morning the judge decided that the action was unconstitutional and the land could not be given to Crawford county. Mr. Leavenworth could have appealed the case to the state supreme court for the sum of 50 dollars but he could not get a man in the town of Leavenworth to help raise the money.¹⁰ Had that land been gained to Crawford county in 1858, then English would not have won

⁷ County Commissioners' Records from 1824 to 1834.

⁸ Information given the writer by E. P. Leavenworth, son of Zebulum Leavenworth.

⁹ County Commissioners' Records for 1859.

the county seat in 1896, for then the town of English would not have been the central point of the county. Mr. Leavenworth lived to celebrate his golden wedding at Leavenworth in 1871. The Leavenworth *Independent* has the following account of the celebration:

Golden Wedding A Half Century of Wedded Life The Dinner Speeches Supper Presents A Rare Occasion and a Splendid Time. The first golden wedding ever celebrated in Crawford county took place at the residence of Oliver Leavenworth near the town last Wednesday evening. The parties celebrating their fiftieth year of wedded life were Zebulum Leavenworth and his wife, Margaret Leavenworth. Ages 79 and 69 respectively.

At the dinner party given on Wednesday at noon to a number of friends and members of the family Mr. Leavenworth arose and in a voice full of emotion gave the history of their married life in poem form. The poem was full of pathos and sublime thoughts and when the aged gentleman resumed his seat every eye was full of tears. Below is the poem in full:

1. Fifty years through shine and shadow,
Fifty years, my gentle wife,
You and I have walked togethr
Down the rugged hill of life.
2. From the hill of spring we started
And through all the summer land
And the fruited autumn country
We have journey hand in hand.
3. We have borne the heat and burden
Willingly, painfully, and slow.
We have gathered in our harvest
With rejoicing long ago.
4. Leave the upland to our children.
They are strong to sow and reap.
Through the quiet wintry lowlands
We our level way will keep.
5. 'Tis a dreary country, darling,
You and I are passing through,
But the road lies straight before us
And the miles are short and few.

¹⁰ Information given by his son E. P. Leavenworth.

¹¹ Leavenworth Genealogy Book.

6. No more dangers to encounter,
No more hills to climb, true friend,
Nothing now but simple walking
Till we reach the journey's end.
7. We have had our time of gladness.
It was a proud and happy day.
Ah. The proudest of our journey
When we felt that we could say;
8. Of the children God has given us,
Proudly looking on the six,
Lovely women are our daughters
And our sons are manly men.
9. We have had our time of sorrow
And our time of anxious fear
When we could not see the mile stones
Through the blindness of our tears.
10. In the sunny summer country
Far behind us Little Zebie, Thaddie,
And Marshall, too, grew weary
And we left them on the way.
11. Are you looking backward, Mother,
That you stumble in the snow?
I am still your guide and staff,
Lean upon me even so.
12. And what is that which you say?
Yes, I know your eyes are dim
But we have not lost our journey
And our trust is placed in him.
13. Cheer thee, cheer thee, faithful heart,
Just a little way before,
Lies the great Eternal City
Of the King that we adore.
14. I can see the shining spires
And the King, the King, my dear,
We have served him long and faithful.
He will bless us never fear.

15. And the snow falls fast and heavy,
How you shiver in the cold,
Let me wrap your mantle closer
And my arm about you fold.

16. We are weak and faint and heavy
And the sun's low in the west,
We have reached the gate, my darling,
Let us tarry here and rest.

Mr. Leavenworth lived at his home there till about 1878 when he died and was buried in Cedar cemetery, overlooking the little town in which he had lived so long and which he loved so well. The hill covered with cedars was given to the town by Mr. Leavenworth for a cemetery and has long been known as Cedar cemetery.¹² His son with whom the author is well acquainted lives in Leavenworth at the date of writing and has furnished valuable information.

The site of Leavenworth lies on the Ohio river about three miles above the town of Fredonia, where the rich bottom is about one-fourth of a mile wide. A large spring of the best drinking water ran out from under the river hill. Hence the site was much superior to the town of Fredonia. The town is about 363 feet above the sea.¹³ Boats can land directly at the wharf. The plat which was made by the Leavenworths may yet be seen in the county recorder's office at English, the county seat. The streets as platted are 50 feet wide, except Front street, which is 60. The alleys are 12 feet wide. The plat submitted here is an exact copy of the original. It was filed in the recorder's office at Mount Sterling on July 14, 1819, William Samuels being the county recorder at that time.¹⁴

The town was situated on the deepest bend of the Ohio river and soon became a landing port for the towns of Salem, Paoli, Bono, Jasper and Bloomington. Of course not all of the commerce of these towns passed through Leavenworth but a large amount of the trade passed there. Leavenworth was the principal trading point till the Monon railroad was

¹² Information given the author by Mrs. Sullivan of Indianapolis, one of his daughters.

¹³ *Indiana School Journal*.

¹⁴ County recorder's office, Deed Book 1, page 21.

built out from New Albany through Borden, Salem, Orleans, Bedford and Bloomington. Then freight could be hauled to those towns much easier and cheaper on the railroads.

The old bus or stage line ran from Leavenworth to Bloomington. It left Bedford every Monday at 6:00 a. m. and came by the way of Mount Sterling and Fredonia with the mail. The mail bus arrived at Fredonia on Tuesday at noon. After the Salem and the Paoli roads were built the coaches ran directly to these towns and did not go around by Fredonia.¹⁵ One may judge of the amount of business done at Leavenworth by the number of roads which ran out from the town in all directions.

The freight could be landed on the banks of the Ohio river at Leavenworth very easily. A road was built up the side of the bluff back of Leavenworth and another road was constructed up the hill by going around up Poison creek. Here the hill is not so precipitous and a reasonable load can be hauled when the roads are kept in good repair. The old Jasper road came up the river hill near the Big spring. One who has not seen the river hills here cannot tell anything about the amount of work required to construct such a road.

Many town lots were sold in Leavenworth after the plat was recorded. The board doing county business granted Julius Woodford a license to sell foreign merchandise on May 2, 1825, for a fee of \$10. This license was good for one year and permitted the man to sell any imported goods that he cared to handle and the people would buy. Elias Lyons opened up a store on January 2, 1827.¹⁶

Elisha Tadlock, who had represented Crawford county in the General Assembly in 1825, was the first one to open up a tavern in Leavenworth. He began business in May, 1827. Seth Marshall Leavenworth opened up a hotel in 1828. H. H. Samuels started a store in the town on the first day of January, 1833. Just how many people lived in the town of Leavenworth in 1830 one cannot now tell. In that year there were 3,234 people in the county. In 1820 there were 2,583. By 1830 there were about 128 farms sold in the county. Hence one can see that there was a large number of squatters in

¹⁵ *Indiana Journal*, August 14, 1827. See mail bids.

the county.¹⁶ In that case Leavenworth might have had 100 people.

In 1834 the leading citizens of Leavenworth secured several lots near where the Big spring branch runs into the Ohio river and started a manufacturing company. One finds a record of the matter in the grantor and the grantee books, but no further trace of the matter can be found. The records do not tell what the company manufactured. The following is a brief form of the charter which the General Assembly granted the company.

The Leavenworth Manufacturing Company was incorporated by law February 1, 1834. The principal sections of the charter are:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Indiana, that John Peckinpaugh, Dudley Gresham, and Elam Willey together with such other persons as may associate with them for the purpose of prosecuting the manufacturing, exporting and importing business within the state to be established and located at the town of Leavenworth or near the town in Crawford county, Indiana, be and the same are hereby ordained and declared to be a body politic and to all intents and purposes to be known by the name of the Leavenworth Manufacturing Company by which name they and their successors shall have continued succession, and be entitled to use all the privileges and the immunities of the laws of the state of Indiana. The said corporation shall exist for a term of 50 years.

Section 2. The capital stock of the company shall consist of \$100000 and shall consist of \$100 shares. The said corporation shall begin business when \$4000 worth of the stock has been sold. Dudley Gresham, Elam Willey, and John Peckinpaugh shall receive subscriptions to the said capital stock.

Section 3. When \$4000 worth of the capital stock has been sold, the corporation shall elect 5 directors who shall have the whole management of the stock and the property. The said directors shall be elected by the stock holders.

Section 6. The stock holders of the corporation shall be held responsible for the amount of their subscriptions to the capital stock.

Section 7. The capital stock shall be considered as personal property and managed as the board of directors may direct.

Section 9. This corporation shall not act or be engaged in any species of banking business or issue any bills of credit in the form of bank notes.

¹⁶ Commissioners' Records on the above dates using book two.

Section 10. This act shall be and is hereby declared to be a public act for the purpose herein specified and shall take effect and be in force at once.¹⁷

Leavenworth by 1830 had far outgrown Fredonia. Many of the citizens of the town had for some time desired the seat of justice re-located at Leavenworth. A law was enacted in 1827 which provided for the relocating of county seats by a committee consisting of Henry McGee of Orange county, John McPheeters and Robert McIntire of Washington, George Boone of Harrison and David Burr of Jackson.¹⁸

This committee was to meet at Fredonia on the first Monday in March, 1828, and make a careful study of the situation. Should the committee after a careful survey think that the seat of justice ought to be moved, the committee was authorized to choose a new seat of justice. This committee did not think it was best to move the seat of justice; so the county seat remained at Fredonia for several years more.

In 1831 the law of Indiana made a change in the way of doing county business. Before that date most of the business was done by a board composed in Crawford county of justices of peace from each township. By the new law the county was divided into three districts and one commissioner was to be elected from each district. At the election held in August, 1831, Zebulum Leavenworth was elected commissioner from the second district composed of Jennings and Whiskey Run townships. Jacob Rice was elected from the first district composed of Ohio and Union townships. James Glenn was elected from the third district composed of Sterling and Patoka townships. The seal of the county commissioners consisted of a round device containing these words: "Commissioners' Court of Crawford County", and a likeness of a girl holding a pair of balances.¹⁹

The people in Leavenworth tried to build up a town seminary. On December 24, 1830, a law was enacted providing for the incorporation of a seminary. The chief men who composed the body corporate and politic were John L. Smith, Elam Willey, Andrew Biers, James B. Davidson and Seth M. Leaven-

¹⁷ *Indiana State Laws* 1834, page 98.

¹⁸ *Indiana State Laws* 1827, page 86.

¹⁹ *Indiana State Laws* 1830-1831, page 59.

worth. They were styled "The President and the Trustees of the Leavenworth Seminary Society" and in that name could sue and be sued.²⁰

The law provided that the trustees should be elected annually on the first Monday of April by the subscribers of the seminary. These trustees should take an oath before entering upon their duties and after which they should elect one of their number president who should be competent to manage the business.

The trustees were to employ competent men as teachers and dismiss the same when thought best. The law looked well on paper but so many difficulties existed that not much was done in education. Fredonia had a school society too about this time, but the citizens there never succeeded any better than the ones at Leavenworth in school matters. The chief men who were interested in Fredonia were Allen D. Thom, Jacob Rice and Thomas Cummins.²¹

Leavenworth was more successful when in 1835 a law was enacted to incorporate a seminary for Crawford county. The board of trustees located the site of the seminary at Leavenworth.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That the qualified voters living in Crawford county are hereby authorized to elect at their next annual election one commissioner or a seminary trustee in each township of the county by a vote of the whole county, and the qualified voter in each township receiving the highest number of votes given in said election in the whole county shall be considered as duly elected trustee.

Section 2. The trustees so elected or two thirds of them shall meet in the town of Leavenworth on the first Monday in May next, and each before entering upon his duties as trustee execute a bond with security, made payable to the state of Indiana in a penalty of \$400, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties as such, which bond shall be filed in the clerk's office.

Section 3. The trustees so elected and their successors in office are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name and style of the president and the trustees of the Crawford county seminary, and by that name corporate name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court of legal proceedings in this state and by that name have perpetual succession.

²⁰ County Commissioners' Records for 1831.

²¹ *Indiana State Laws* 1831, page 131.

Section 4. The trustees at their first meeting, or any subsequent meeting, may appoint, designate, fix, and determine, at which place in said county the seminary shall be located and a suitable building erected. When the majority of trustees has selected a place and a suitable lot on which to locate said building they may demand the seminary funds of the county which may be on hands at that time.

Section 5. The trustees or a majority of them, at their first or subsequent meeting shall elect of their own body a president and a treasurer who may not be of their own body, to continue in office during the will of a majority of the trustees.

Section 6. The treasurer of Crawford county is hereby authorized and required to pay any order given by the board of county commissioners to the trustee of the Crawford county library.

Section 7. The trustees so elected shall remain in office during good behaviour.²²

The trustees met at Leavenworth and after being duly organized and having considered different places selected Leavenworth as the site for the county seminary. Ebenezer E. Morgan, who was county clerk, sold the trustees certain lots on which to build the seminary. These lots are designated on the plat of the town of Leavenworth. At that time William Course, who was seminary trustee, had \$427.66 on hands.

The trustees built a large two story house for the seminary. The old building which is still standing is now used for a residence by William Conrad.

Leavenworth by 1840 had far outgrown Fredonia. A newspaper, *The Leavenworth Arena*, was being published in 1839. The *Arena* was the first paper that one finds any account of in the records of the county.²³

The town of Leavenworth was incorporated by a state law February 7, 1835.

²² *Indiana State Laws* 1835, page 32.

²³ Commissioners' Records, book three, January, 1839.