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Early Vevay

By PERRET DUFOUR, Vevay[1].

There are many incidents connected with the settlement of all new countries, which, if committed to writing or printing, would be a source of pleasure to those who come upon the stage of action long after those who first made their settlement have gone to that "bourne from whence no traveler returns".

It is a source of regret to many of the descendants of the settlers of this part of the land that they have not a more minute account of incidents that occurred from 1802 till 1820; for they have to bring to their aid the recollections of some who were but children, for the greater part of what they know of but a small portion of the incidents connected with the settlement which was commenced here in 1802. But in order that some few of those incidents may not be entirely forgotten, I will, agreeable to a promise made to you, try, in my feeble manner, to write an article occasionally for insertion in your paper (the Vevay *Democrat*), and if you should think them of sufficient interest, or that they would in anywise prove acceptable to the readers of your paper, you may publish them. I will not promise that the style in which these articles may be written will be so fascinating as to cause them to be read, but that the incidents that may be

[1] These articles were published in the Vevay Democrat in 1869. They are republished here primarily because Switzerland county has no published county history.

related will enable those who may read them to learn the privations and hardships endured by the early settlers of this part of the now great state of Indiana.

As an introductory article, I must give some of the incidents and reasons that induced the colony of Swiss who first settled Vevay and vicinity to leave the ease and comfort of an old-settled and wealthy country to come to a wilderness in search of a home. I will try and not make any of these articles too lengthy.

In March, 1796, John James Dufour, a citizen of Vevay, Canton De Vaud, in Switzerland, started from his native village for the United States, with the design of selecting in the then wilderness of the West a home for himself, his brothers and sisters, and after examining different localities along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, from Pittsburgh to St. Louis, he finally selected the lands between Hunt's creek and Indian creek as the future home of himself, his brothers and sisters.

Previous to his selecting these lands, he had formed a vineyard association with some of the citizens of Lexington, Kentucky, among whom were Henry Clay, Dr. Brown and a Mr. Hart, and planted a vineyard on the Kentucky river, about four miles above the mouth of Hickman creek, in Jessamine county. This vineyard was commenced in the spring of 1799.

As yet, the brothers and sisters of John James Dufour had not come to this country, and the preparation of the land for planting the vineyard and keeping it in order was done by Americans, under the direction and superintendence of John James Dufour.

On the first of January, 1801, the Dufour brothers and sisters, together with a few of their neighbors, met together at the appointed place, for taking a last and long farewell to home, friends and native country, to cross the broad Atlantic for their new home in an unknown and howling wilderness where, instead of the voice of friends, they would hear the whoop of the Indian and the howl of the wolf. It must have been an affecting scene to behold young men and young women, some of them in their teens, and two or three in-

fants, bidding farewell to friends and home, to settle in such a wilderness as this part of the country then was.

The whole number who then came to this colony were seventeen souls: Daniel Dufour and his wife, John Francis Dufour, David Dufour, Jane Maria Dufour, Antoinette Dufour, Susannah M. Dufour, Philip Bettens, his wife and daughter, Jean Daniel Morerod, Francis Louis Siebenthal, John Francis Siebenthal, Peter Borallay, his wife, son and daughter.

After a boisterous voyage across the Atlantic they arrived at Norfolk, Virginia, in May, 1801. From thence they crossed the Allegheny mountains in wagons, to Pittsburgh, thence down the Ohio river to Maysville, and from there by land to Lexington, where they arrived on the 3rd of July, and were present at the celebration of the 4th of July; and on the 6th the seventeen souls arrived at the vineyard on the Kentucky river, where they remained for some time.

In the spring of 1802 these persons petitioned congress to pass an act authorizing then to enter lands on an extended credit, with a view of giving them an opportunity of introducing the culture of the grape in the United States. Accordingly, on the 1st of May, 1802, an act was passed by congress and became a law, giving them the power to enter four sections of land on a credit of twelve years. Under that act about 2,500 acres were selected and about 1,200 acres more, adjoining thereto, was entered and paid for as other purchasers of the public lands entered land; and after they commenced settling on these lands they gave it the name of New Switzerland.

There were but few settlers near these lands when the settlement by the Swiss families commenced.

The lands selected by John James Dufour for the settlement of his brothers, sisters and the other emigrants who came with them to the United States, were fractional sections seven and eighteen, town one, range two; sections twelve and fifteen, and fractional sections thirteen, fourteen, twenty-two, twenty-three and twenty-seven, town two, range three west, extending along the Ohio river from Hunt's creek down to the lands now owned by Francis E. Mennet, whose

father, Samuel Mennet, Frederick L. Raymond, Frederick Deserns, Louis Gex and Luke Oboussier, had joined this Swiss colony and purchased some of the lands up the river to the road that turns out from the river bank and runs out to the Indian creek bridge, passing the residence of the Widow Norrissey. The balance of these lands were divided among the Dufour family, Golay, Siebenthal, Bettens and Morerod.

These lands were covered with the heaviest forests, for which the Ohio river bottoms were so famous, and the undergrowth being overrun with grape vines, made it almost impossible to get through it. These almost impenetrable forests were more congenial for the abode of the Indian, bear, wolf, catamount and wild cat, than for man. Suffice to say, that into this forest these Swiss families had "come to stay", or, in other words, to find a home, and with their vigorous arms and determined courage, to clear up the land and cultivate it as a means of procuring a living.

In 1803 some of these families came from the first vineyard in Kentucky to these lands. Jean Daniel Morerod and Philip Bettens moved into a cabin that had been erected by some "squatters" on the public lands near where Charles Norrissey's house stands, and remained there together until they could build themselves cabins on their respective tracts of lands, which lie adjoining.

They had for neighbors a family by the name of Maguire, who lived in a cabin some where near the lot owned by William Hall, and John Rayl, who lived in the bottom opposite the foot of Vevay island, and Heathcoat Picket, the grandfather of Benjamin Picket, living near where the Place house, now owned by Julius McMakin, stands, and Griffith Dickason, and William Cotton, who lived on Indian creek, near where John Baker now lives.

Any one who has assisted in opening a new settlement can easily understand what an undertaking it must have been to clear the land and raise log houses where the settlements were so sparse, and they may imagine what a work was here for persons to do, in this heavy forest, who had been born and reared in a country that dated its settlement back to the time of the Ceasars, and who knew little or nothing about

using the axe as our "Yankees" do, who had a house to raise, logs to cut and roll, and but few, very few, neighbors who knew anything about this kind of work, to assist them.

These persons had been accustomed to all the necessaries and many of the luxuries that could be obtained in old settled countries; and here they were in a howling wilderness, far from any market in which to purchase the coffee, chocolate and other articles of food and clothing—Cincinnati at that time being the nearest and most convenient place to obtain these articles.

It is related of Mr. Bettens' and Morerod's families, which were then small, that when they had no milk, they did not use coffee. Their neighbor, Maguire, having a cow, sent them milk every other day. On that day they used coffee, and on the day they received no milk they would take the cloth in which the coffee was pounded (having no mill) and smell of it to get the flavor of the coffee.

During the spring of 1804 others of the Swiss families came to their lands, the Siebenthal's, Golay's, Gex and others, so that the settlement was considerably increased and the lands from that time began to be cleared up more rapidly; and in 1805 quite a good crop of corn and some wheat was raised. The straw was saved, in a very neat manner, to make hats. The Dufour girls made a great many of these hats, which were sent to Cincinnati for sale.

It was said of Mr. Morerod, who married one of the Dufour girls, Antoinette, that on one occasion his wife had made two or three dozen of these hats which he took to Cincinnati with him in a canoe. While going up the street with these hats on his shoulder the citizens ran after him to see what he had, and when they saw he had hats for sale he sold them all in a very short time at about two and a half and three dollars each.

Mr. Morerod used to relate many incidents in relation to the wild game that came about his clearing and fields. I recollect he related that one fall in particular wild turkeys were so numerous and tame that he was obliged to keep them away from his hogs when he fed them corn, as they could eat the corn faster than the hogs could; and if a turkey

was needed for the table, nothing was necessary to be done but to select out one that appeared fat and with a stick knock it over and kill it, which could be done very easily. Bear, deer and wilk turkey were so plentiful that there was no fear of a famine for flesh to eat.

Improvements began to be made at other points along the river above where Vevay now stands, and the land on which Vevay was laid out was being cleared up, Daniel Dufour having commenced in 1804 to make an opening between where William Hall resides and U. P. Schenck's warehouse; and John F. Dufour, who was yet at the first vineyard, had hired some person to commence an opening on his land, between where Vineyard and Liberty streets now run.

About this time the Indians had been quite troublesome on the Wabash, about Vincennes, and the settlers began to take precautions against a surprise, but they were not molested, and matters were going on prosperously for the new settlement. Vineyards were being set out as fast as it was possible to prepare the land for that purpose. But still the settlers were almost shut out from the world around them. If they wished to get letters from their friends, or to send any, they were obliged to go to Port William (now Carrollton), the nearest post office, and that supplied with a mail once in two weeks, or perhaps once a week.

These were privations which we at the present day would be very far from submitting to, for we can now in a few hours get news direct from London, Paris and from the Pacific coast, and no doubt we could receive at this time letters from Alaska in as short a space of time as they could at that time from New York City. What would some of our "Young America" say if they had to go and settle in such a country and undergo the privations of the settlers of this part of Switzerland county?

Although from 1800 to the admission of Ohio into the Union as a state, that part of the present state of Indiana lying east of the Indian Boundry, as it is called (commencing opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river) was in the Territory Northwest of the Ohio, and the balance of the state and territory west to the Mississippi river was called Indiana ter-

ritory, until 1809, when the territory was divided, and all west of the Wabash, and a line drawn from Vincennes due north, was called Illinois territory.

Nothing occurred to retard the clearing up of the land. The settlers were not molested by the Indians, and enjoyed their health remarkably, and they began to gather about them cattle, horses and hogs, but their hogs had to be taken good care of to prevent the bears and wolves from catching them, which was of very common occurrence. And their fields and vineyards began to make quite a contrast with the surrounding forest.

The first wine made was in 1806 or '07. The quantity was quite limited, but of a very good quality; but still the vineyards were enlarged every spring, so that the bearing vines became more numerous from year to year, and the quality of wine also increased every year until the vintage of 1808 and '09 yielded: the former, 800, and the latter about 1,200 gallons of wine.

Orchards were commenced so soon as land could be prepared for planting out the trees, and in a few years quite large orchards were in a thrifty condition and some commenced bearing fruit.

This will bring us to the commencement of the year 1809 and still the settlers were obliged to go in canoes, skiffs or perogues to Cincinnati for their salt, iron, nails, groceries and dry goods, not yet enjoying the convenience and luxury of a steamboat ride to the Queen city.

In the spring of 1809 John Francis Dufour came from the first vineyard in Kentucky to his land in New Switzerland, as the settlement was then called. He built a cabin on the spot where Mr. William Archer's kitchen stands. The cabin was built of small round logs, one and a half stories high, in the midst of a heavy growth of timber, the logs being cut so near the spot where they were raised that it required scarcely any hauling to be done. The logs of the cabin were hewed inside after they were raised. Into this cabin Mr. Dufour, his wife and child then about eighteen or twenty months old, moved, and he turned his attention to clearing more land, raising a crop and planting out a vinyard.

The health of the colonists was preserved in a very surprising degree, considering the hardships and privations they had to undergo. They had cleared a considerable quantity of land, and planted several acres of vineyards, which began to bear fruit.

But one great difficulty had yet to be overcome, as all their correspondence going through the mail had to be sent to Port William before it could be put into the mail. John Francis Dufour drew up a memorial to the postmaster general, which was signed by himself and all the citizens of the neighborhood, and sent to Hon. Buckner Thruston, who was either a senator, delegate or representative in congress. (Senator, 1805-9.) Upon its receipt, Mr. Thruston laid it before the deputy postmaster general, which fact he communicated to Mr. Dufour by letter, of which the following is a copy:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1810

SIR: I received your letter with the memorial enclosed to the Postmaster General, and shortly after waited on the Deputy Postmaster General (Mr. Granger being confined with sickness) and laid before him your said memorial, and am happy to inform you that your desires will be complied with, both in regard to the establishment of a Post office at Vevay, and your appointment as Postmaster. You may shortly expect to hear from the Deputy Postmaster General on this subject, who promised to enclose you your commission. I am rejoiced to hear of your success in the cultivation of the vine, and wish you all manner of prosperity in future. I feel no claim to the compliments you have been pleased to bestow on me in regard to my zeal for encouraging the improvements of the Western country, etc., but be happy to deserve such if it shall ever be in my power to render you service.

With a sincere desire that yourself and your compatriots may reap a good harvest from your labors, which must essentially redound to the public good, I am

Your humble servant,

B. THRUSTON

This letter was directed to John Francis Dufour, Port Williams, Ky.

The commission appointed John Francis Dufour of New Switzerland, Dearborn county, Indiana territory, deputy postmaster aforesaid, at Vevay, and bears date the 23rd day of March, 1810, and is signed by Gideon Granger, who was then

postmaster general. This commission was resigned on the 20th of September, 1835, to take effect on the 1st of October following, which was accepted by the postmaster general. Whether the settlers received their letters and papers regularly by the mail, it is impossible for the writer of this to say; but one fact will be very manifest to every one who may read these articles—that they had no longer to go eight miles to the nearest post office. Although the post office was called Vevay, there was no town laid off yet.

In the fall of 1810 the Swiss settlement extended from about where Liberty street of Vevay now is to where Francis E. Mennet resides, and had augmented from the three first families, numbering seven persons, to thirteen families, numbering sixty-six persons; and as they owned the lands about the mouth of Indian creek, they changed the name on account of the great number of creeks in the United States called Indian. The name given it by them was "Venoge", after a small river in the Pays de Vaud, which empties into the beautiful lake Geneva, and on the banks of which some of these Swiss were raised. A description of the settlement cannot be better given than by copying here an account of it written by John F. Dufour, in the fall of 1810, which is as follows:

New Switzerland is situated on the right bank of the Ohio river, in Jefferson county, Indiana territory, about seven miles above the mouth of the Kentucky river. This settlement was begun in the spring of 1803, by some Swiss, of the Canton of Vaud, formerly a part of the Canton of Verne. Their principal object is the introduction of the culture of the grapevines in this country.

This settlement, or the place called New Switzerland, extends from the mouth of Plum creek, down the river to the mouth of Venoge creek, known by the name of Indian creek, a distance of about four and a half miles, fronting the river, and extending back for the quantity of about 3,700 acres of land—2,500 acres of which they purchased under a law of congress in favor of John James Dufour and his associates, allowing them twelve years to pay for it, from 1802, the time of the purchase; the balance they have bought, as other purchasers, and paid for it. The lower end, about two miles along the river is occupied by thirteen Swiss families, composed of sixty-five individuals, of every age. Ten of these have successively come to join the three first who had begun the settlement. Had it not been for the difficulties in crossing the ocean,

it is believed the whole distance of four and one-half miles would be filled up with many more of those industrious people.

The improvements of the Swiss are considerable, considering the time when they began, the few hands employed, and their inexperience in the way of improving land in this country. They have now about one hundred and forty acres of land under cultivation, about eight of which are planted in grape vines, and now bearing, which offer to the eye of an observer the handsomest and the most interesting agrciultural prospects which has perhaps ever existed in the United States of America. There are about eight or nine acres more planted in grapevines which are not yet bearing, and they keep planting more every spring. The crop of wine of this year (1810) has exceeded the quantity of 2,400 gallons, the quality of which is thought by judges of wine to be superior to that of the Claret of Bordeaux. The black grapes with which it is made are originally from the Cape of Good Hope. Out of the 2,400 gallons, about 120 was white or yellow wine, made with the Madeira grapes. These two kinds of wine are the only ones which have hitherto succeeded, but others are going to be tried, and it is very probably that some of them will also produce good wines. When the vines shall be older, and the vine-dressers be able to let their wine acquire age before they sell it, its quality will be much superior to what it is now, and there is no doubt but in the course of a certain number of years the United States will be able to do without importing wine. That precious culture will be tried in different parts of the Union, and will undoubtedly multiply rapidly. The Swiss will encourage it with all their power. They give slips gratis to whoever will plant them, with directions and instructions as to their cutivation.

The Swiss also cultivate Indian corn, wheat, potatoes, hemp, flax, and other articles necessary to farmers, although in small quantities. Some of their women manufacture a certain quantity of straw hats, which they sell in Cincinnati, and on the river to trading boats, carry them to the Mississippi country, where they are very ready sale. They are made in a fashion quite different from other straw hats. They are made by tying the straws together, instead of plaiting, and sewing the plaits. It is one of Mr. Dufour's sisters who has first brought the art to this western country, and perhaps into the United States.

As the Swiss enlarge their vineyards every year more and more their settlement will in a few years become of great consequence, not only in producing good and wholesome wine, but also in being a model for those who will establish new vineyards in other parts of this continent, which will be found suitable for that culture.

New Switzerland has the advantage of two roads. One is a fork from the road leading from Lawrenceburg to Port William, taking off to the left about one mile and a half before arriving at Venoge or Indian creek, and leads to Dufour's ferry, opposite which is a road leading to Frankfort and Lexington, Kentucky. The other road is one leading from the upper end of Jefferson county down to Madison, all along the river. There is also a post office by the name of Vevay, which

is the name of a town intended to be shortly laid off in the center of New Switzerland, for the accommodation of mechanics.

Such, then, were the leading features of the new settlement in 1810. There is no mention made of grist mills and other necessary manufacturing establishments for the convenience of the people. As for mills, nearly every family had one of their own, a hand mill, the stones of which were generally about fifteen inches in diameter; or if it was thought to be more expeditious to convert corn and wheat into meal and flour, the Ohio must be crossed to go to a horse mill about four miles back from the river, near where John Scott used to live. The sacks of grain were put on the horses, taken to the river, the sacks put into a canoe and one person paddling across, another holding the horses behind the canoe, and thus made to swim across the river. After the grinding was done the river was recrossed in the same way. In that milling operation it required two men and two horses often two days to get two grists of two and a half or three bushels each, ground and brought home.

As for schools, they were almost unknown. Lucien Gex taught a school at Mr. Bettens, near the spot where Samuel E. Pleasant's house now stands. This school was kept up for some two or three years. The writer recollects attending that school at the age of about four years, going alone from home (the place where William Archer's new building now stands) until he got to his uncle Daniel Dufour's, and from there he and two cousins went on to their uncle Morerod's, and were joined by two other cousins, and all proceeded to school. The French language only was taught.

It may be of interest to name some of the first born in the colony, who are now living.

The first child born in the colony was a daughter of Mr. Bettens, born perhaps in 1803. She is still living, and is the wife of Henry Brachman, of Cincinnati.

The next was a daughter of Mr. Morerod and a daughter of Daniel Dufour, born in 1804. They are both living. The daughter of Mr. Morerod is Mrs. Harriet Tardy, of the firm of Tardy and Detraz, milliners, of this place. The daughter of Daniel Dufour was married to John M. King, who was

in 1835 or '36 postmaster here, and was the first auditor of Switzerland county after that office was created. At last accounts she was living with one of her daughters in Cincinnati.

During the winter of 1810-'11, and the spring and summer of 1811, the settlers were often alarmed at the news of Indian depredations on settlements north and northwest of New Switzerland. As the best means for safety, at night several families would meet at Mr. Morerod's, as the most central and convenient place, the women and children remaining within, with the door well barred, and the men by turns standing guard outside. How many anxious nights were passed in this manner cannot now be told, but during the fall of 1810 and winter of 1810-'11 this was kept up; the men working through the day in their fields and clearings not knowing at what moment they might be attacked by Indians and massacred in the presence too, perhaps, of their wives and little children. But fortunately they passed through the winter and spring without any hostile demonstration being made against the settlement. Sometime before the Battle of Tippecanoe, in 1811, the Indians became more hostile and attacked a settlement somewhere north of Madison, at a point which gave to that event the "Massacre of Pigeon Roost". This occurred sometime in the winter of 1811-'12, and as that had taken place within less than thirty miles of New Switzerland, the settlers were again thrown into dismay and consternation, not knowing but that they would be attacked by these merciless savage foes, who spared none, regardless of age, sex or condition. And this consternation was not confined to the settlers at New Switzerland, but spread throughout the whole southern and southeastern portion of the territory. This state of uncertainty continued during the spring of 1812, when the authorities ordered the militia to be called out, and orders were issued by the commandants of regiments to have men raised by voluntary enlistment. Elisha Golay, who had been commissioned a captain of the first batalion in the first regiment of the militia of Jefferson county, by William Henry Harrison then governor of Indiana territory—his commission bearing date of the 4th day

of February, 1811—received an order to enlist men in his company, which order is in the following words:

MADISON, May 10th, 1812

Captain ELISHA GOLAY:

DEAR SIR: I have received orders from Colonel David Hillis this day, to have raised within this battalion fifteen privates, two corporals and two sergeants, who are to be rendezvoused in Madison on Friday next, at the hour of 12 o'clock. You are hereby authorized and required to convene your company on Wednesday next, for the purpose of raising by voluntary enlistment three privates and one sergeant within your company, to be equipped according to law, and marched with two days provisions to Madison, on Friday the 15th of this instant as above stated. You are to hold the same number of men in readiness to march to Madison on Saturday, 23d of this instant, as a relief to the first draft. But if volunteers cannot be had, you will have to draft, and place your whole company in such order as to give relief every ten days to those who are in service. You are also notified that you are to command the company now raised, and will come prepared accordingly to serve until discharged by order of the colonel or commander-in-chief.

JOHN VAWTER, Maj. 1st Bat. 6th Reg. Ind. Mil.

This order and those to captains of other companies were promptly obeyed, and the following named persons volunteered for the service required, and were placed under the command of Captain Golay after they had rendezvoused at Madison: Lieutenant, William Blankenship; 1st sergeant, Luke Oboussier; 2nd sergeant, Beverly Vawter; 3d sergeant, Peter Storm; 4th sergeant, Thomas Whitson; 1st corporal, John Hall; 2nd corporal, Abraham Cline; privates, Lewis Golay, John Tague, James Picket, Peter Mosbyer, James Edwards, Samuel Lattimore, James Hicks, Achilles Vawter, Joshua Tull, William Chambers, Lewis Blankenship, Squire Hall, Daniel Demaree, William Laughridge, Stephen Rutherford, William Fidds, Osburn Monroe, Williamson Dunn, Thomas Taylor and Booth Thomas.

After this company was fully organized and ready to receive the orders of the colonel or commander-in-chief, Captain Golay received the following order from the lieutenant colonel of the regiment:

Captain ELISHA GOLAY:

You will proceed on the morning of the 16th instant [1812] with the detachment now under your command from the town of Madison

to the outside of the frontier settlements of this county, and then to range east and west as far as the settlements extend. On your arrival at the frontier you will proceed without delay to build a block house [Buchanan's Station] of such size and form as will most securely and conveniently accommodate a detachment of from thirty to forty men, including officers. You will also keep a sufficient number of men on duty as rangers, both east and west of the spot on which you may erect the block house, to watch the motions of the Indians and give timely notice of their approach and in case of any alarm either by an attack or otherwise, you will take the most speedy method of giving notice to the lieutenant colonel of this regiment; and in every case of this kind you are referred for further instructions to the orders of the commander-in-chief whose general orders are most implicitly to be obeyed. You will in all your movements, be on your guard, and never allow any advantages to be taken of your forbearance with the enemy while on their frontiers, and in all cases, when there is strolling and skulking parties of Indians within the boundaries of your command with whom your men may meet, do not allow your men to run any risk by enquiring of them respecting their friendship towards us, unless circumstances will justify it. You will also be held responsible for your conduct while on this command. Your present tour will be for ten days from the time of your departure from this place, and at the same time you are not to come in with your men until a relief arrives, unless compelled by a superior force of the enemy. You will take care to give your orders to the men under your command, not by any means whatsoever to fire after sunset, unless at an enemy, or to give an alarm, and at all other times it will be expected that your orders will be given on this subject with prudence and exercised with caution. You will take care to keep on duty at all times a sufficient number of sentinels and no other orders will be given to them but such as your presence may by circumstances require.

DAVID HILLIS, Lt.-Col. 6th R. I. M.

MADISON, May 15th, 1812.

This detachment proceeded through the forests to the outside of the frontier settlements upon the discharge of the duties assigned them by the orders of the commandant of the regiment. During their service they had the good fortune to escape all the wiles and strategy of their wily enemy. The block house they were to build according to the order, was built at a point somewhere within the present bounds of Jefferson county, and was familiarly known and called, in after years, "Buchannon's Station," which stood there until within a few years past.

See with what minute details the order specifies the duties

of the commander of this detachment of hardy backwoodsmen, while on duty far from the more settled parts of the country, and on their enemies own ground. It was well known they had a wily and treacherous enemy to deal with, and that it required prudence, courage and fortitude for so small a number of men to meet perhaps hundreds of the savage foe whose mode of warfare was to spare neither age, sex or condition, when they attacked the settlements of the white man. The duties assigned to this detachment were strictly carried out and these hardy backwoodsmen again returned in safety to their families and friends. After this time there were no more hostile Indian raids into the settlements along and near the Ohio river in this part of the territory.

Among the names of those who composed this command may be recognized some who have been somewhat prominent in the affairs of state. David Hillis, who represented Jefferson county in the legislature, and was lieutenant governor of the state; the Vawters were men of note in the state; after the formation of the state government John Vawter was a member of the senate for many years, filled the office of United States marshal, for the district of Indiana, and was an active and influential friend and advocate of the system of internal improvements, and he and one of the other Vawters were ministers of the gospel who preached in this part of the territory. They were of the Baptist persuasion. William Dunn was the father of Colonel William McKee Dunn, who is well known by the citizens of the county. Luke Oboussier and Lewis Golay were residents of New Switzerland—the latter a brother of the captain and father of Selden T. Golay. Stephen Rutherford was the father of Joseph Rutherford of this place. John Tague was the father of Joseph Tague, who resides at Mt. Sterling. James Picket was a brother of Heathcoat Picket and uncle to Benjamin Picket. Abraham Cline lived below Indian Creek and I believe was related to the Raymonds and Edward Violet. Daniel Demaree was a connection of the Demarees living on Indian Kentucky, in Jefferson county, and those living in this county. Of the other members of that detachment, the writer has no knowledge. These men were some of the instruments employed by God

in making this (then) wilderness a suitable abode for civilized men, that He might honor and glorify the Creator and Preserver of their lives and health, and that we, their descendants, might have "goodly heritage" and give God the praise for all the mercies and blessings vouchsafed to us as a people.

In the spring of 1806 John James Dufour returned to Europe with the intention of settling his affairs, and to raise money to pay the United States government for the land purchased by him, which payment would become due in 1812 and also to bring his family and his father to this country.

In crossing the Atlantic ocean the vessel in which he had taken passage was captured by an English man-of-war and taken to Plymouth on the 4th of May, 1806. He remained in England, not being permitted to depart, until the 5th of June following, when he was permitted to resume his journay to Switzerland. He remained in Switzerland until 1816, when he again returned to the United States. During his stay in Europe the war between Great Britain and the United States commenced, and it was not thought advisable for him to start on his return during the war, for fear of being captured, all the funds he had with him perhaps be taken from him and the means for paying for the land would be lost—the time for the payment to the government being near at hand. He sent a memorial to congress, setting forth the facts and asking an extension of the time of payment, which was granted.

At the conclusion of the war he returned and made final payment for the land. Those of the colony here very much feared the land would be forfeited for non-payment, as there was not much prospect of making that amount by the sale of the products of their farms.

In the spring of 1809, when John Francis Dufour left the first vineyard to come to New Switzerland, he was one week in getting to Port William. The Ohio river was so high that the back water ran up the Kentucky river to Frankfort, making it necessary to row the small boat in which the voyage was made. On arriving at Port William, it was found impossible for him to get up the Ohio to the place of his destination, alone. Leaving the boat, with his wife and only child, and

what articles of household goods were on board, he walked up to New Switzerland to get some of his friends from there to go and help him up with the small boat. On the next morning they started up the river, and at night arrived at the mouth of Indian creek, during a severe storm, which caused the river to be so rough that several articles which were heavy were thrown overboard to lighten the boat, among them a large iron kettle and a pair of hand mill stones.

In 1811 very severe shocks of earthquake were felt—the same shocks, no doubt, which were so violent along the Mississippi river, and caused the opening and the sinking of the earth at New Madrid. The person who was mail carrier at that time, and supplied the post office at Vevay, was staying at the house of John Francis Dufour. During the night, his horse was fastened to the end of the cabin. During the night the shocks were so severe that the inmates were awakened, not knowing what it was. At first they thought that Indians had surrounded the house and were trying to get into it; but not hearing any noise, it was then thought it might possibly be the horse rubbing against the house and then all was still. In the morning, however, feeling the house to shake, and not knowing what caused it, on looking out at the window, which faced to the southwest, the trees were perceived to be swaying to and fro, as violently as though the wind was very high, when in fact it was very still, no wind blowing. Then, and not till then, did the inmates of the little cabin, who were very much alarmed during the night—fearing that Indians had surrounded them—ascertain that it was one of those terrible convulsions of the earth, an earthquake. These shocks were felt at intervals, for two or three days.

In the summer of 1812, a family residing about where Louis Schroeder lives, consisting of a man and his wife, whose name is not now recollected, but thought to be Rayls—the man being up in Switzerland working (on this side of the creek)—the woman heard the firing of guns up the creek, and supposing that Indians were in the neighborhood, became alarmed for her husband's safety. There then being no nearer neighbors than at the mouth of the creek, she proceeded down to where Edward Violet and his father were at work in the field,

and crying out loudly for help, the father directed his son Edward to go and ascertain the cause of the noise they heard. When he came to where the woman was he found that she was very much frightened saying that large numbers of Indians were coming down the creek, for she had heard the firing of the guns. She was set over the creek, and for safety proceeded up to where her husband was at work.

During the years 1812, '13, '14 all the business relating to the county of Jefferson—of which what is now Switzerland county formed a part—was transacted at Madison. The returns of elections, returns of overseer of roads, battalion and regimental musters, and various other duties of officers and citizens, were transacted and performed at Madison, the county seat. The population of this part of the county of Jefferson increased in such a manner that the assessor for 1813 was appointed from among the citizens of this part of the county, and John Francis Dufour was in February, 1812, appointed by the court assessor for and within the county of Jefferson; and in October of that year he was appointed county surveyor of Jefferson, by Thomas Posey, then governor of Indiana territory. These matters are mentioned only to show that the interests of the county were such as to require the appointment of the county officers residing in this part of the county.

Some time during the years 1812 and '13 a grist mill was built at Laughery, near where Hartford now stands, and a horse mill opposite Port William. The latter was known as McIntire's mill, having been built by a person of that name, who was the grandfather of Joseph Netherland. Very frequently persons from the settlement would have to remain two days before getting their grinding done at the horse mill; and often two or three would join together, load a large canoe, take it up the river to the mouth of Laughery, and up the creek as far as they could get, and then get a wagon to haul their grain from there to the mill. In this manner, perhaps after an absence of two or three days, they would return with their grists of meal.

After the declaration of war against Great Britain, in 1812, the Indians in the northern part of the territory, and

along the Wabash river, appeared quite hostile to their white neighbors and as a precaution against the possibility of their making a sudden descent upon the settlement in the southern part of the territory and along the Ohio river, "rangers," as they were termed, were sent out quite a distance into the interior to watch their movements, and give timely notice of their approach.

These men were taken from the companies of militia which were organized by voluntary enlistment. The year or years in which these rangers served, is not exactly known; but the names of some of them which are recollected are John Stepleton, William Keith, Samuel Peak, Lewis Golay, David Golay, Peter Nighswonger, Thomas Rayl, Peter Lock, James Picket, Jesse Warden, James A. Stewart, one White, William Miller and Abraham Miller, his father, Edward Violet, and many others whose names are forgotten. These rangers would go out into the interior up Laughery, near where Versailles now stands, and range to the west a considerable distance. At one time they went as far as Fort Harrison.

Many incidents no doubt occurred on these tours of duty by these hardy pioneers, which, if they could be related in these numbers, would be highly interesting to their descendants, who are very numerous in the county; but unfortunately, the actors in these affairs have passed away from our midst without committing to writing any of those thrilling incidents attending the camp duty and camp life, and they are lost to us.

Some time after the rangers were dismissed from duty, and it no longer required their presence in the interior, one of them in an evil hour, was tempted to commit a crime, and, yielding to that temptation, was prosecuted in the courts for stealing a barrel of whisky or cider. A trading boat having landed below the foot of the island, had, among other articles, whisky, on board to sell. This man, whose name was Peter Lock, a very large robust young man, managed to get a barrel of whisky out of the boat and carried or rolled it into a thicket a short distance back from the river bank. By some means he was discovered as the thief, or suspected. Proceedings were instituted against him for the theft, and Amos Lane, then supposed to be the most able lawyer among us, was employed

to defend him. He was acquitted and the fee that Lane received for his services was the transfer of a certificate for the south half of a quarter section of land lying on Plum creek, which Lane afterward sold to Amos Gilbert and is the land now owned and occupied by Thomas Huffman.

John James Dufour died in the spring of 1827, at his residence above Log Lick, leaving his property to his only son, Daniel Vincent Dufour. Francis Louis Siebenthal died of a disease contracted in the lower country, where he had gone with a boatload of produce, some time about the year 1824 or 1825. His son, John Francis Siebenthal, died near Cincinnati, about nine years since.

The old gentleman Borallay died from the effects of the kick of a horse, some few years after coming to this country. His widow lived to be a very old person. His son Peter died about the year 1854, on the old homestead in Garrard county, Kentucky. The daughter was married to a man named Mayfield, who removed to Monroe county in this state, where she died, leaving quite a large family, some of whom are still living in that county.

Phillip Bettens lived and died on his farm just below Vevay—the front part of the farm being now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Duplau, and Samuel E. Pleasants. His wife died a few years after. His daughter, who married John Detraz, died about three years since.

Daniel Dufour died in the winter of 1854, lacking a few days of 90 years of age. His wife died in the summer of 1865, aged about 88 years.

John Francis Dufour died in June, 1850, having been taken ill during the sitting of the circuit court, of which court he was, at the time, one of the associate judges.

Jean Daniel Morerod was married to Antoinette Dufour, and they lived and died on their farm below Vevay, on which John R. Morerod, their son, is now living. Mr. Morerod died about the year 1838, and Mrs. Morerod in the winter of 1857.

Jane Maria Dufour married John Francis Siebenthal, and lived for many years on their farm, being the one now owned by the widow and heirs of William Norrisey. Mrs. Siebenthal died in the neighborhood of Cincinnati, some years since, and shortly afterwards Mr. Siebenthal died.

Susannah M. Dufour was married to Elisha Golay, and lived on their farm above Plum creek, until both became of such age as to make it advisable for them to cease from the labors attendant on farming. They lived with their son, Constant Golay. Mrs. Golay died in 1866, aged about 80 years, and her husband died about one year afterwards, aged 83 past.

One member of the Dufour family, Aime Dufour, who was quite young when the colonists left their native country, was not permitted to accompany them on account of his being too young. After he had grown up and completed his education, he came to this country in 1816, residing in this neighborhood for some years, when he went to New Orleans, and finally settled at Vermillionville, Louisiana, where he was still residing about two years since.

It is impossible to state with any degree of certainty the number of the descendants of the Dufour family, but as near as can be ascertained at present, the number cannot be much under one hundred and seventy-five or eighty.

At this time there is no one of those who were grown at the time of their settling in the colony now living, except the widow of John Francis Dufour, who is still living, and is near 80 years of age.

The population of this part of the state during 1812, 1813 and 1814, commenced increasing considerably. In 1812 the population within the present bounds of Switzerland county was about 900; in 1813 at the time the town of Vevay was laid out, it was about 1,000, and was mostly confined to the immediate vicinity of the river and creek bottoms; in 1815 the population was ascertained to be 1,800 souls.

The vineyards began to produce, and still more were being planted every year. The vintage of 1812 produced about 800 gallons more than that of 1810—the crop not being as good as it was in 1810. The production continued increasing from year to year, until in 1818 the quantity of wine made by the colonists was about seven thousand gallons. At the time of the greatest prosperity of the grape culture, the number of acres in vines could not have been less than forty-five, and the quantity of wine made about twelve thousand gallons.

As the old persons began to decline in years, and were no longer able to attend to the vineyards, and their children began

to take charge of these matters the culture began to be neglected and their attention was turned more to raising corn and potatoes; so that at this time there is but little wine made on the farms where such quantities were made in bygone years.

The vineyards were places of resort for those who visited this place; some, perhaps, from curiosity, and others again with a view of having a wine party. On such occasions, frequently during the sitting of the court, the lawyers and judges were in the habit of spending an evening or perhaps an afternoon in quaffing some of "Father Morerod's" wine. Frequently on such occasions some one of the company would perhaps indulge rather freely of the wine, so that it was necessary for some one of his companions, and often two or three to assist him in getting to his lodgings at the hotel.

On some of these occasions the governors of Indiana, and the senators and representatives in congress have been known to participate in these social gatherings, and in that manner the fame of "Vevay Wine" was spread abroad.

During John James Dufour's absence in Europe, when writing to his brothers and sisters, he would invariably urge them to be industrious in the management of their vineyards, and gave directions about many of the particulars necessary to be observed to succeed in making good wine. And in writing about the laying off the town, he was very solicitous about the manner in which it should be done.

The reason, no doubt, of his anxiety about the success of the colony in succeeding in their undertaking, was that his father, when they left Europe, had entrusted the care of his children to his eldest son. This was done by a writing, in which the father transferred his paternal care over his children to his eldest son, John James Dufour; and by that writing it was enjoined upon the said John James Dufour to learn them to be industrious, economical and sober, and see that they did not become indolent, proud and haughty; and above all, that he should use his efforts to instruct and persuade them as to the truths of the Christian religion, and for that purpose he was directed fervently to pray the God of mercy, as he (the father) would also himself do, that He would open their hearts

and consciences to the true Christian faith, as the only means of making them happy in this world, and to assure true felicity in the life to come.

In the spring of 1813, it having been decided by John Francis Dufour to lay off part of his land into town lots, and as it was necessary to make the streets run as near at right angles with the river as possible, it became necessary to run down on to Daniel Dufour's land a short distance, and up on John James Dufour's land. The lots were laid off partly in the woods and partly in a "deadening," as it was termed, the timber having been previously girdled. The town plat was made out and recorded in the recorder's office of Jefferson county, at Madison. Notice of the sale of the lots was inserted in papers published at Cincinnati, Lexington, Frankfort, and Louisville, and the sale of the lots took place in October or November of the year 1813. The sale was cried by one John M. Johnson, the clerk of the sale being Elisha Golay. At the sale many persons from abroad purchased lots: Jeremiah Smock, of Fayette county, Ky., purchased lot No. 135; Jacob Mikesell purchased lot No. 133; William McIlvain, lot No. 124; Peter Mikesell, lot No. 134; John Patterson, lot No. 129; John Hill, of Scott county, Ky., lot No. 125; Joab Madison, lot No. 152; Jesse Lamme, lots Nos. 165, 166, 167 and 168; John Scott, lots Nos. 85 and 87; Abner K. Starr, lots Nos. 123 and 183; Joseph Noble, lots Nos. 58 and 91; and many others, too numerous to mention here. The prices of lots varied considerably—the lowest selling for $22 and the highest for $92. The one sold for $22, was No. 26, and the one sold for $92, being No. 66.

During the spring and summer of 1814, buildings began to be put up in different parts of the town. John Francis Dufour had the first house built after the town was laid out, on the lot where Charles Thiebaud's brick building on Main street stands. It was built for him by Samuel Butler, (now living near Plumb Creek bridge,) and his father. It was hewed or "scutched," after it was raised. That same spring Joshua Jones, who had a set of house logs hewed somewhere near Grant's creek, floated them down to Vevay and put up a house of them on the lot now owned by James F. Bristow,

and commenced the manufacture of split-bottom chairs. John Scott, the father-in-law of James Cole, built a house the same summer, on the lot corner of Main Cross and Pike streets, opposite to Benjamin Schenck's dwelling, in which he lived several years, and carried on his trade of tailor.

During the spring of 1814, John Dumont came here and built a house on the spot where his present brick building stands, where he has remained ever since.

As the town of Vevay had now become a fixed "institution," and the population of that territory which was during the year organized into a county and named after the native country of the proprietors, "Switzerland," had augmented to about 1,600 souls, and was constantly augmenting, it became necessary to have a county organized to suit the convenience of the citizens who were then compelled to go from the extreme upper end of (now) Switzerland county, at the mouth of Grant's creek, for all such business as had necessarily to be transacted at the county seat to Madison. In answer to an application of a number of citizens, by petition to the legislature of the territory of Indiana, the county was organized. John Francis Dufour and Elisha Golay being the most active and influential friends of the measure, attended the session of the legislature as lobby members that year, and had the satisfaction of having their efforts crowned with success.

During the fall of 1813, Robert Bakes came to Vevay and established a carding machine on the lot corner of Main and Vineyard streets, now owned and occupied by George W. Hathorn; and the following spring, James Rous, the father of Ladig and Percy Rous, from representations made to him by Mr. Bakes, what a fine country it was, came to Vevay and bought the lot immediately above the one owned by Mr. Bakes, on Vineyard street, which lot is now owned by John Hamilton. Bakes ran his carding machine in Vevay for some years, when he built a mill on Long Run, where Siebenthal's mill now stands; and Mr. Rous remained in Vevay for some time, when he removed to the country and located on the farm which is now the pauper farm. Mr. Bakes had his mill so arranged that he carded wool and ground grain; and Mr. Rous built a horse mill on the top of the hill, near to Mr. Bakes. Often in

the summer and fall months, when there was not sufficient water to run Bakes' mill, Mr. Rous' horse mill was running, and did all the neighborhood grinding. Many times when clouds would rise, with the appearance of rain, they would seem to part to the west of the mill, and no rain falling, gave the opportunity to Bakes or some other person who wished to carry on a joke, for saying that Mr. Rous, by some necromancy, and raising a long pole, would part the clouds and prevent the rain from falling to raise the run, and thereby Bakes could not run his mill, so that Rous could have all the grinding to do on his horse mill.

During the spring of 1814, John Francis Dufour commenced having logs hewed, with which to build a house, which was built at the corner of Main-Cross and Market streets, and partly finished in the fall; and was the same house that William Archer demolished last fall to make room for the frame he has constructed in its stead. In that house the courts were held for a time, and for many years the post office and clerk's office were kept in it. The courts were also held for a while at the house of Robert M. Trotter, who was a relative of Gabriel Johnson, whose house was situated on Main street, and occasionally at the house of Thomas Armstrong.

The county of Switzerland being organized, it became necessary to have officers to transact the business necessary for the public interest, the maintenance of order, and the execution of the laws.

The governor of the territory having the power of appointing all the necessary officers, both civil and military, in the exercise of that power appointed the following named persons:

For associate judges of the circuit court, William Cotton and James McClure; sheriff, John Francis Siebenthal; coroner, Ralph Cotton; clerk, John Francis Dufour; county surveyor, Elisha Golay; recorder, John Francis Dufour. The commissions are all dated the 15th of September, 1814, except that of the recorder, which is dated 11th October, 1814, and are signed by Thomas Posey, as governor, and John Gibson, as secretary.

As a curiosity and a relic of the past, a copy of one of these commissions is here inserted and reads as follows:

INDIANA TERRITORY, SS.

Thomas Posey, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Indiana Territory. To all unto whom these presents shall come—greeting:

Know you, that I have constituted and appointed, and by these presents constitute and appoint Ralph Cotton, of the county of Switzerland, gentleman, to be Coroner of our said county of Switzerland during our pleasure; and do hereby authorize and empower him to do and perform all and whatsoever to the office and duty of Coroner in our said county of Switzerland doth any ways belong or appertain.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the Territory to be affixed, at Jeffersonville, in said Territory, the fifteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-ninth. TH. POSEY

By the Governor:

JN. GIBSON, *Secretary.*

The commissions of the other officers of the county were in the same words as the one to Ralph Cotton as coroner, with the exception of the name of the person and of the office to which the person was appointed. It now became necessary that the officers should be sworn into office, and as the laws in force at that time seem to have been silent as to what officers were entitled or authorized to administer such oaths, Governor Posey made the following appointment of a person to administer the oath to the clerk:

Thomas Posey, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Indiana Territory: To William Cotton, sends greeting:

Know ye that I have by these presents authorized you to administer the oaths of office as ascribed by law, to John Francis Dufour, Clerk of the Circuit Court for the county of Switzerland.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory of Indiana at Jeffersonville, the sixteenth day of September, eighteen hundred and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-ninth.

TH. POSEY

By the Governor:

JN. GIBSON, *Secretary.*

In compliance with the foregoing appointment, William Cotton administered the oath of office to John Francis Dufour, as clerk, a certificate of which is on the back of the commission, and reads as follows:

INDIANA TERRITORY, SWITZERLAND COUNTY, SS:

The within named John Francis Dufour personally appeared before me and took the oath prescribed by law, more effectually to prevent duelling, and the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, together with the oath of Clerk of the Circuit Court of the aforesaid county.

Given under my hand this 4th day of October, 1814.

WM. COTTON

Still the other county officers, and the judges and military officers were required to take an oath as also one to prevent duelling, and to support the constitution and it would appear there was as yet no officer or person authorized to administer the oath to the others and on the 15th of September, 1814, Governor Posey made the following appointment:

I, Thomas Posey, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Indiana Territory: to John Francis Dufour, sends greeting:

Know ye that I have by these presents authorized and empowered you to administer the oath or oaths of offices, as ascribed by law, to all officers, civil and military, who are or may hereafter be appointed for the county of Switzerland.

Given under my hand and the seal of said territory at Jeffersonville the 15th day of September, eighteen hundred and fourteen and of the independence of the United States the thirty-ninth.

THOMAS POSEY

By the Governor:

JN. GIBSON, *Secretary.*

Under this appointment the oath of office was administered to all the officers both civil and military, and the county business whatever that might be, could now be administered according to law.

The county seat had not been established and no place for holding the courts, had been selected. This selection, it would seem, belonged to the county to determine, until such time as a permanent seat of justice should be created, according to law. Provisions for that purpose were made by a law of the territory passed in 1813, prescribing the manner of establishing seats of justice in newly organized counties. The associate judges of the counties constituted the county court, and had the transaction of the county business entrusted by law to them. The same duties pertained to them as now pertain to our present boards of county commissioners.

The territorial legislature, in the act organizing the county of Switzerland, named persons as commissioners to locate the seat of justice for the county. The names of three of the commissioners only are known. The three who performed the duties required were Jesse L. Holman, the father of Hon. Wm. S. Holman, our representative in congress at the present time; Joseph Short, the father of Jesse V. Short, who resided among us for a length of time, and Alexander A. Meek, a lawyer who resided in Madison for some years afterwards until his death.

The three commissioners above named met on the 17th day of October, 1814, in the town of Vevay, for the purpose of selecting the most eligible place for the seat of justice of said county, and to receive any proposals and donations which might be made for the benefit of the county.

The donations offered by the proprietor of the town of Vevay and the citizens particularly interested in having the seat of justice established here made proposals to the commissioners to induce them to locate said county seat at Vevay, some of them as follows:

The subscriber hereby offers to the commissioners appointed for locating the seat of justice of the county, to give to said county in the town of Vevay, and marked on the plat of said town the Public Square, containing two acres of land, for the purpose of erecting the public buildings thereon, provided the seat of justice for said county be fixed on said square. He also offers a subscription in the name of the subscribers thereto, to the amount of upwards of two thousand four hundred dollars, and lot No. 92 in said town, which he respectfully submits to their consideration.

JOHN FRANCIS DUFOUR

VEVAY, Oct. 13, 1814.

I further promise to use my best endeavors to procure more subscribers to the aforesaid subscription paper, which I expect to obtain to a considerable amount.

JOHN FRANCIS DUFOUR

In addition to the within proposals, we jointly agree and obligate ourselves to have conveyed to the agent of this county, to be appointed by the Court of said county of Switzerland, the in lots numbered thirty-three and sixty.

DL. DUFOUR BLANE
JOHN FRANCIS DUFOUR

George G. Knox, who had purchased a lot in Vevay, but who was still residing at Frankfort, Kentucky, proposed to give fifty dollars in carpenter's work, or ten dollars in cash.

As a further inducement for the commissioners to locate the seat of justice at Vevay, Daniel Dufour Blane and John Francis Dufour gave the following obligations:

SWITZERLAND COUNTY, October 28th, 1814.

We, the subscribers oblige ourselves, our heirs, and executors that we will be accountable to the agent that may be appointed by the court, in and for said county to pay and guarantee to him for the use of said county, the payment of two thousand five hundred dollars, on account of the subscription referred to within, on this condition, that is to say, that the seat of justice for said county shall be placed at Vevay, in said county. Witness our hands and seals the day aforesaid.

DANIEL DUFOUR BLANE
JOHN FRANCIS DUFOUR

Benjamin Drake, who owned the land where the town of Florence now stands, made a proposition to the commissioners, provided the seat of justice was established on fractional section No. 6, town, 2, range 1 west.

As it was not convenient for the commissioners to pursue the object of their meeting further at that time, they postponed a further examination until the 26th of October, and appointed their meeting on that day at the house of Benjamin Drake.

A proposition was also made by parties living in what is now known as Egypt Bottom, for the location of the seat of justice of the county on fractional section No. 35 town 2, range 1 west, which is two and a half or three miles above the mouth of Bryant's creek.

A proposition was also submitted to the commissioners for the location of the seat of justice on fractional section No. 3 town 2, range 2 west.

In the next number a copy of all the propositions made to the commissioners to induce them to locate the seat of justice at the several different points proposed, will be given if they can possibly be procured.

The first meeting of the county court in and for the county was held for the purpose of receiving the report of the commissioners, and is thus entered on the records, which being

the first records of the county court, is a book consisting of simply about one-half quire of common foolscap paper, and unruled:

At a special county court, began and held at the house of Robert M. Trotter, in the town of Vevay, in and for Switzerland county, on Friday the 28th day of October, 1814: Present the Honorable William Cotton and James McClure, associate judges of the circuit court for said county, and authorized to transact county business.

Jesse L. Holman presented to the court the following report, to wit: To the Honorable Judges of the Circuit Court of Switzerland County:

We, the undersigned, three of the commissioners appointed by the legislature of Indiana territory, for the purpose of fixing the seat of justice in and for the county of Switzerland, met agreeably to the law establishing the county of Switzerland, in the town of Vevay, in said county, on the 17th day of October, 1814, and being first duly sworn proceeded to examine the most eligible place for the seat of justice in said county, and to receive any proposals and donations which might be made for the benefit of said county; when the proposed donations marked A, Aa, and Aaa, were made by the citizens of Vevay, provided the seat of justice should be established in said town; and the proposed donation marked B, was made by Benjamin Drake, provided the seat of justice was established on fraction 6, town 2, range 1, west; and it being inconvenient to pursue the object of our meeting further at present, we postponed a further examination until Wednesday the 26th instant, and appointed the house of Benjamin Drake as the place of our meeting on the last named day.

Wednesday, October 26th, 1814. Agreeably to our former determination, we met on this day at the house of Benjamin Drake in said county when and where we received the proposed donation marked C, provided the seat of justice was fixed on fraction 35, town 2, range 1, west; and marked D and E, provided said seat of justice was fixed on fraction 3, town 2, range 2, west; and the additional proposed donations marked F, provided said seat of justice was fixed on fraction 6, town 2, range 1, aforesaid.

Whereupon on Thursday, the 27th of October 1814 we proceeded to examine the places above proposed (except the fraction 35 aforesaid which, from its extreme southeastwardly situation, we considered as entirely ineligible), and also to examine the boundaries, the land, and the central parts of said county, and taking into consideration the extent of the county, the quality of the land, and the prospect of the future, as well as the weight of present population, together with the probability of future divisions, we have fixed upon the Public Square in the town of Vevay, in fractions 23 and 14, in town 2, range 3, west, as the most eligible place for the permanent seat of justice of said county, and do hereby declare that it is our opinion, judgment and determination that the seat of justice for said county be fixed and

remain permanently at the place aforesaid. Given under our hands and seals at Vevay, this 28th day of October, 1814.

Commissioners fees, to-wit: J. Short, six days; J. L. Holman, seven days; A. A. Meek, seven days.

JACOB SHORT
JESSE L. HOLMAN
ALEX. A. MEEK

The court on the next day made an order dividing the county into townships, as follows:

Ordered that this county be divided into two townships, as follows to wit: that all that part of this county lying east of the section line which begins on the Ohio river at the corners of fractional sections 8 and 9, and runs north to the boundary of this county at the corner of sections 21 and 29, in town 3, range 2, west, compose one township, to be known by the name of Posey; and that all that part which lies west of the aforesaid line, compose one township, to be known by the name of Jefferson.

The court also ordered that the place of holding elections in Posey township be at the house of Lewis Jones, in said township; and that the place of holding elections in Jefferson township, should be at the house of Robert M. Trotter, in the town of Vevay, in said township.

The court also ordered that William Pierson be appointed superintendent of elections in the township of Posey, and that John Dumont be appointed superintendent of elections in the township of Jefferson.

The court appointed Robert Cotton, a brother of Judge William Cotton, Charles F. Krutz, the father of William G. Krutz, now of Florence, and Joseph Noble, father of Charles, Lewis and Oliver Noble, of this place, as constables for Jefferson township.

William Campbell, the father of Mrs. Samuel Protsman and of Mrs. William Protsman, and whose widow is now living with her daughter, Mrs. William Protsman, and Caleb Mounts, were recommended by the court to the governor as proper persons for the office of justices of the peace for Posey township; and George H. Kyle, was recommended by the court to the governor, to be reappointed justice of the peace for the lower end of Jefferson township.

Elisha Golay, who had ben appointed county surveyor by the governor, having declined to accept the appointment, the court recommended John Gilliland as a proper person to fill that office.

On the 25th of November, 1814, the court, according to the provisions of an act of the territorial legislature, approved March 2d, 1813, entitled "An act for fixing the seats of justice in all new counties hereafter to be laid off," appointed Elisha Golay agent for the county; and at the same time the court instructed the county agent thus appointed, "to cause a jail house to be built on the corner of lot No. 60, in the town of Vevay," which jail was built, and on the 30th of March, 1815, the court directed that the said county agent "pay to Hiram Ogle the sum of money which, as agent of the county, he is bound to pay him for building a jail house in the town of Vevay, in and for said county." The jail thus built was of hewed logs about one foot square, one story high, and stood where the stone blacksmith shop occupied by Joseph Rutherford, now stands.

When the court met on the 3d of May, 1815, it appears that there had not been as yet any necessity for using the jail, unless it was used without lock and key, for the county agent was directed to

> procure a strong lock for the jail, also a strong padlock, and cause them to be put on the doors of said jail, also a common double padlock for the gable-end door.

Said county agent was also instructed

> to cause the corners of the jail house to be cut down, and also such trees as are in danger of falling on said house and pay for the same out of any money which may come to his hands, belonging to the county.

Persons at this day might probably suppose that there was not much use in putting a criminal into such a jail, with only a strong lock and padlock to keep those confined therein from making their escape. And they might also wonder why it was ordered to cut down the corners of the jail after it was built. In raising log houses in those days, the ends of the logs projected nearly one foot and it was the cutting off the ends of these projections which is meant by having the "corners of the jail cut down."

Some years after that jail was in use, a prisoner was confined therein, having friends outside to assist him, who gave him a saw, with which, during the night he sawed off a log, slipped it out, and thereby made an opening large enough for him to make his escape. Afterwards another prisoner, named Thomas Coen, was confined for some violation of the law and he, to free himself from "durance vile," as attorneys say, set fire to the jail, made his escape, and perched himself on the top of the hill above where the woolen factory now stands, and remained there until the place of his recent confinement was entirely reduced to ashes.

At a meeting of the court on the 30th of March, 1814, Elisha Golay, agent for the county, was directed to

> cause to be advertised in the *Kentucky Reporter*, *Liberty Hall*, and *Western Eagle*, at Madison, that on Tuesday, the second day of May, 1814, there would be let to the lowest bidder the building of a brick court house on the public square of the town of Vevay, Ind. Ter.; said house to be two stories high, thirty-six feet long, and thirty feet wide; the first story twelve feet between floors, and the second ten; and that on that day a plan of the building will be exhibited, and further conditions made known.

On the 2d of May, 1814, the court met and were engaged most of the day in arranging a plan for said building, when it was thought advisable to alter the dimensions, which had been previously agreed upon, so as to make the house thirty-six by thirty-two; and after having agreed upon the plan, Elisha Golay, agent for the county, was ordered to proceed to the letting the building of said house to the lowest bidder, when it was struck off to John Tandy of Gallatin county, Kentucky, at the sum of $1705. Then it was ordered that Major Elisha Golay, agent for the county, proceed to let the clearing of the public square to the lowest bidder when it was struck off to Samuel Davies, at the sum of twenty-six dollars and seventy-five cents.

The court house was not finished so as to be used until perhaps in 1816. Stephen C. Stevens was appointed by the court to have the bar in the court properly arranged.

The citizens of the young town of Vevay at its first settlement formed a literary society, and had by purchase, donations, and otherwise, collected together quite a well selected

library. This society was composed of members who paid a certain amount into the treasury annually, which amounts were expended for the purchase of books. In November, 1814, the president and directors of the society appointed John Francis Dufour to solicit donations. The following appointment was given him by the officers:

> The president and directors of the Literary Society of Vevay being anxious as far as in their power to place instruction within the reach of the rising generation, and considering their contracted funds, do hereby solicit the patronage of literary characters who feel a spirit of benevolence towards our infant institution. We therefore do hereby authorize John Francis Dufour to receive donations in books and other things for said society, and we pledge ourselves that all donations shall be recorded in our society journal.
>
> JOHN DUMONT, *Pres't,*
> GEORGE COGGSHELL
> ROBT. M. TROTTER
> D. DUFOUR BLANE
> *Directors*
>
> Vevay, 5th Nov., 1814.

Under this appointment Mr. Dufour, at one time, obtained donations of books from some of his acquaintances at Lexington, Kentucky, and perhaps some from individuals in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The library collected by this society was much used by the citizens of Vevay and vicinity, until about the year 1829 or 1830. It was last in the possesion of James Rous after he removed from his farm to Vevay, about the year 1832 or 1833, and it is presumed what is left of it may be in the possession of one of his sons.

Of the in-lots laid out in 1813, eight were reserved and donated to the Seminary of Vevay, which was afterwards, in 1816 incorporated by the legislature. On one of these lots a log school house was built in the fall of 1815, in which a school was maintained and kept up for some years. This house stood on the lot now owned in part by Joseph Peelman, on Ferry street, on the spot where said Peelman's brick dwelling stands. These lots, after the introduction of our present common school system, were, by the common consent of the donor, John Francis Dufour, the trustees of the town and citizens, disposed of, and the proceeds merged into the com-

mon school fund, in the building of a school house, and afterwards used in aid of the building of our present public school building.

During the summer of 1814, the town and the surrounding country commenced improving quite rapidly. There was in the town several stores, two or three taverns, two or three blacksmith shops, one or two tailors, a chair factory, and a manufactory of large and small wheels for spinning and reels. But still the country was new and very sparsely settled, for wolves were so plentiful and troublesome that the territorial legislature had passed a law giving a bounty of one dollar for each wolf scalp, that the person claiming the bounty, should prove to the satisfaction of the county agent he or she had killed. Under this law an allowance was made in 1815, as follows:

> Elizabeth Jones is allowed one dollar for the scalp of a wolf killed by her in 1814.

It is related that on one occasion Heathcoat Picket and his brother James had gone on a ridge west of Jacksonville, near where there was a bear wallow, for the purpose of killing deer. Heathcoat went on one ridge and James on another, thinking to chase the deer, from one ridge to the other. While thus separated, James was surrounded by a pack of wolves, which commenced their howling, with their head raised up, as if looking at something in the tops of the trees. Heathcoat hearing this barking or howling, went over to where James was, to see what caused such a howling, when he beheld the wolves around James, and James looking up into the tree tops as if trying to see what the wolves were barking at. When Heathcoat came where James was, he asked James what all this meant. James replied "these dogs have treed something. See how they bark at it." James had taken this pack of wolves for dogs.

Sometime in the fall of 1814, the news of McDonough's victory over the British on Lake Champlain was received by the citizens of the young town of Vevay, who, to show their joy at the reception of the news of the victory, decided to have an illumination of the town. Every house, in fact, every win-

dow in every house, was as brilliantly illuminated as could be with common tallow candles.

From the first settling of New Switzerland, until in 1814 and perhaps later, there were but few ministers of the Gospel in this region of country. Until there were ministers to preach the Gospel it was the custom among the Swiss colonists to meet together on the Sabbath and engage in singing psalms, reading prayers, and sermons, which was continued for many years.

Occasionally, John Price, who resided on the Kentucky side of the Ohio, above Carrollton, Mordecai Jackson, who also lived in Kentucky above Ghent, and father of Ibzan Jackson, who now resides on Bryant's creek, above Florence, would be on this side of the river and would preach. They were both of the Baptist persuasion. Sometimes one of the Vawters, of whom mention is made in a former number, preached in this vicinity.

Among the early settlers in the upper part of the county may be named George Wade, the Vandoven family, Benjamin Drake, Lewis Jones, John Kilgore, William Pierson, William Campbell, Caleb Mounts, Robert Gullion, Amos A. Brown, John Neal, Job Trusdell, Charles Campbell, James Trusdell, William Johnson, Elisha Wade, Peter Lostutter, William White, the Wallicks, McCrearys, McCorkles, Ezekiel and Joshua Petty, and James McClure.

It would be quite an undertaking to give the names of all those who resided in the bounds of Switzerland county in 1814.

(To Be Continued.)