

EARLY VEVAY

By PERRET DUFOUR.

(Concluded.)

The wheat harvest for the present season being now nearly ready for the sickle, and the wet weather we were having the past week reminds the writer that many years ago if such wet weather had set in, many farmers would have predicted that the wheat would be "sick", that is, that the flour made from such wheat when made into bread and eaten would have produced nausea and vomiting. For well does he remember when he has eaten a meal, and eaten new wheat bread, how deathly sick it has caused him to be. But it has been many years since there has been any "sick" wheat in this country. What caused the "sick" wheat was always a debatable question, nearly every one having his own theory to advance. Some seasons the wheat crop would be very much damaged during such wet weather as we have had for the past week, by the wheat sprouting after being cut and shocked, and often to sprout before being cut.

In reading the accounts of passengers arriving in San Francisco, California, from New York City in six and eight days calls to the recollection of the writer the travels performed by persons from this place to different points in the state years gone by. In 1817 or 1818 the trip from Vevay to Vincennes was performed on horseback in the spring of the year in about six days, through mud, rain and across swollen water courses. In many cases having to cross a stream through the water for the distance perhaps of some two, three and oftentimes four miles.

As late as the fall of 1832 the writer, in company with others, was over three days in reaching Indianapolis from Vevay, which at that time was as great an undertaking as a trip to St. Louis or St. Paul would be in these days of fast traveling.

Of steamboat traveling much could be said that would be both amusing and instructive. Some of the first steamboats

running on the Ohio river that were of much importance or of any size were built about 1820 or 1821, but the names of many of them are entirely forgotten. The "Velocipede," "Gen. Green", "Plough Boy", "Highland Laddie" and "Eliza" are the names of some of the early steamboats recollected on the Ohio river. At one time the "Velocipede" was caught in a storm not far from this place and had her upper deck damaged considerably. The "Gen. Green" at one time struck a snag, sinking and damaging the cargo, which was principally coffee. The "Plough Boy" was at one time running up the Wabash river in the year 1822 or 1823, or somewhere about that date, as appears from the following notice dated Vincennes, April 3, but the year can not be ascertained, as the notice is found on a scrap of an old newspaper:

On Tuesday morning last the citizens of this place were gratified by the appearance of the steamboat "Plough Boy," Captain Beacon, bound for Terre Haute, being the second boat that has ascended the Wabash.

But steamboat traveling in those days was as expeditious in proportion as the travel by land, the writer, as late as 1823, being two days and two nights in reaching Cincinnati from Vevay on the "Highland Laddie", a small boat that was owned in part by Duncan McCallum, one of the early Scotch settlers on Long Run.

It would appear from the frequent and open violation of law in our midst that the population has in no wise improved in morality since the early days of the county, although they have the opportunity of hearing the Gospel preached much more frequently than then. For from about the year 1814 until about 1827 there was perhaps no regularly organized church in Vevay or its immediate vicinity on the Indiana side of the Ohio river. But there was frequent preaching by the Baptist and Methodist ministers or local preachers up to 1818 or 1819, when Dr. Jas. Welsh, the Presbyterian minister mentioned in a former number, began preaching weekly of Sabbaths in the courthouse, and although there was no regularly organized Presbyterian church he continued to preach until his suspension from the ministry by the Presbytery of Cincinnati about the year 1825.

In 1824 a Presbytery was formed in Indiana, comprising seven ministers, thirty-one organized churches and a missionary society, and embraced the whole of the state west of a line drawn due north from the mouth of the Kentucky river.

On the 28th of January, 1828, a meeting of those persons friendly to the Presbyterian church was held in Vevay for the purpose of electing ruling elders of the church to be formed in this place. Rev. Ludwell G. Gaines acted as moderator, by order of the presbytery of Cincinnati. Edward Patton was clerk of that meeting. Israel R. Whitehead and James G. French were chosen to receive and count the votes. Three elders, William French, Morgan Patton and David Walker, formerly a ruling elder in the church of Log Lick, were elected.

David Walker, it may not be improper here to state, was the father of Judge Charles E. Walker, of Madison.

The church thus organized during the winter and spring of 1828 raised by voluntary subscription about \$270 in sums from \$1 to \$30 and bought a lot on which the present Presbyterian church stands, and during the summer and fall of that year had erected a church, built of brick, but so badly put up that it did not last very long. In that building the church worshipped until about 1838, when the church became nearly extinct. During this period of time the church enjoyed the ministerial services of Rev. L. G. Gaines, Joshua L. Wilson, R. B. Dobbins, J. Thompson, ——— Thomas, Peter Munfort, John Morral, William Lewis, H. Little, William J. Montieth, James Hummer and George B. Bishop.

The Rev. R. Hammond was the first Methodist minister who preached in the state of Indiana. This was in the year 1819, under a walnut tree near where the statehouse now stands.

The foregoing paragraph appears in the *Religious Intelligence* column of the *Cincinnati Gazette* of July 3, 1869, and it must certainly be an error. The Rev. Allen Wiley, who was so long connected with the Methodist church, is known to have preached a funeral sermon in Vevay sometime in the year 1816, and Abner Clarkson, who was residing in Madison in 1813, says he heard Mr. Wiley preach in Madison in that year.

There was no regularly organized Methodist church in Vevay until about the year 1825. In 1837 the Methodist congregation built a brick church on the lot where the present Ruter Chapel stands, previous to which their meetings were held in the courthouse, schoolhouse, and in the old Presbyterian church. The writer has forgotten the names of most of the Methodist ministers who preached in this place, but recollects the names of Revs. Mr. Strange, Enoch G. Wood, Tarkington, James Jones, H. J. Durbin and Allen Wiley, who were at different times on Vevay circuit as circuit preachers or presiding elders.

The Baptists held their meetings for many years in the schoolhouses of the town, but more frequently in a log house which stood on Market street about where Ulysses P. Schenck's ice house now stands. Among the earlier preachers of that persuasion who preached in that house may be named Mordecai Jackson, father of Ibzan Jackson, of Posey township; John Graham, who resided for many years on the left hand fork of Indian creek, H. D. Banta, and occasionally Mr. Clark, the father of Lewis A. Clerk, preached in town. And although Mr. Clark was blind, and had been from his youth, if he once had an introduction to a person, and conversed with him for a short time, if he should meet that person long after, upon hearing his voice he would recognize him and call him by name. Mr. Clark had a son (Orange Clark) living in Mississippi whom he visited sometimes, traveling all the way by land with a small boy as his guide. When passing through Vevay on one of his journeys to his son's, when asked whither he was traveling, his reply was "to see my son in Mississippi."

The Baptist congregation in 1834 contemplated building a meeting house, and in soliciting subscriptions among the citizens to defray the expense, and to obtain a lot on which to build it, John F. Dufour executed to Henry D. Banta, William Price and Mordecai McKenzie, trustees of the Switzerland Baptist church, a bond for a deed to the south-east half of lot No. 71, provided a brick meeting-house were built on the same within 18 months, not less than 30 feet wide by 40 feet long, and 13 feet high between the floor and ceiling. The house was built and completed and is the one now used by

them. Some two years after, the trustees represented to John F. Dufour that they had lost the bond, but wished him to make the deed, which he did, but as the trustees were anti-missionary, they insisted on having the deed made to the "Regular anti-missionary Baptist Church." This will account for the manner in which the deed was thus made. It may not be amiss to state that the Baptist church in this place was first organized in 1833.

The engine mentioned in a former number, set up by Joshua Smithson as the first engine ever set up in Vevay, was built by Frederick L. Grisard, who was carrying on the blacksmith business, and Lewis Golay, who had served an apprenticeship at engine building with a person by the name of Tift. All the wrought iron work about it was worked by F. L. Grisard, and the polishing and finishing was done by Lewis Golay, and the engine set up and put in running order by him.

In speaking of preaching in this vicinity in early times, I neglected to mention a custom that existed among the Swiss colonists from their first settlement here until some later period, when preaching became more frequent. It was their custom to meet together on the Sabbath for religious services, such as singing psalms, reading prayers and some one of the number reading a sermon, at which services the whole number of colonists would be present. The reading of the prayers and the sermon was most frequently done by Daniel Dufour who was the oldest of the male colonists. Some of the services were very impressive as the the sermons read were those which had been delivered in the "Fatherland" by some of most eminent ministers of that period, belonging to the Protestant church, and perhaps their delivery had been heard there by some of the eldest persons present who heard the reading here, which must no doubt have recalled to their minds recollections of their former homes, the friends and companions of their youth, far away from the macross the broad Atlantic.

About the earliest revivals of religion in this neighborhood commenced among the Baptists in Craig township, under the preaching of Rev. Henry D. Banta and John Graham. They

preached in several different neighborhoods. They preached frequently at the house of Mr. Thiebaud, being on the same farm where Justin Thiebaud now resides; and those persons who were received as members were as a matter of course baptized in the Ohio river. In this connection, an anecdote may be very appropriately related which will go in some measure to show the depravity of the human heart when not under the influence of the Gospel, which proclaims "On earth peace, good will to man." On one occasion there were several persons who were about to receive the ordinance of baptism, and the officiating minister was wading out to ascertain the condition of the bottom. It is said a person standing near by seized a good sized dog by the neck and threw it into the water near the minister, exclaiming: "There is one baptized."

An anecdote that is related by some, that on one occasion Daniel Dufour had on the Sabbath, read a very impressive and affecting sermon, which it is said brought tears into the eyes of many of his hearers. In speaking of the reading of the sermon he remarked to some person who asked him if he had preached, that he had, and that his hearers shed tears on hearing him. Some one remarked that it must have been a very affecting sermon. He replied, yes, for he had shed tears also and "I be damned if you had heard it you would have cried, too."

There has never been any very extensive revival of religion in any one of the religious denominations of Vevay, except in the Methodist church, about the year 1840, when upwards of 150 were received into the church on probation; but on many occasions there has been very marked interest manifested by numbers who attended public worship in the several churches in the town, and they have slowly and gradually increased in numbers.

Many years ago, and while James Kirby, the father-in-law of George E. Pleasants, resided here, a Universalist preacher came here, and it was announced that he would preach in the "Barracks", a long frame building which stood on the corner of Market and Union streets, on the lot now owned and occupied by John Melcher, which had received that name as by common consent. Mr. Kirby called on Abner

Clarkson and wished him to go and hear the true doctrine, and after much persuasion Mr. Clarkson consented to accompany him. After hearing the preaching of the sermon, and on the way home Mr. Kirby remarked to Mr. Clarkson "that's the doctrine," and appeared to be very much interested in the "doctrine." The next day, after having slept over and thought of the sermon, he met Mr. Clarkson and said to him, "Well, Clarkson, I believe the doctrine we heard preached last night will do very well to live by, but will not do to die by."

This Mr. Kirby, it was now recollected, was the owner of a steamboat in early days, perhaps about 1817, which was called "Vesta," and which was used in navigating the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. It is related that on one dark night, when ascending the Ohio near to or above Big Bone creek, Mr. Kirby, who was acting as captain, perceived something in the river near to the "Vesta" when he called out "Show your lights!" And receiving no answer, and no light being shown, he directed the pilot to go ahead, when suddenly the "Vesta" came up against a large rock, and the consequence was the sinking of the "Vesta." That rock was for many years afterwards called "Kirby's Rock". Whether that rock retains that name among steamboat men of the present day, is not known to the writer.

While on this subject it may not be improper to state that before the introduction of steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi river and their tributaries, the trading on the river was carried on with flatboats, keelboats and barges. Keelboats and barges were used for bringing groceries and other heavy articles up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and their tributaries, and were propelled against the current with poles, and by "cordeling".

In this business James Kirby was engaged for some years, with one or two barges, one of which it is believed he converted into a steamboat, by having an engine put up.

Joseph Bosaw is about the only person now living in our midst who was engaged in the keelboat business, he having perhaps made one or two trips to New Orleans and back, and

several trips up to Kanawha Salines with a loan, and returning laden with salt.

About the year 1815, a person named Jackson made a trip from some place in Ohio, perhaps Steubenville, down the Ohio river with a keelboat laden with furniture and such other manufacturers of wood as was much needed in this new country, stopping at Vevay for a few days. This Mr. Jackson made several trips down the river with his keelboat laden each time with furniture. There is still in Vevay a set of chairs purchased of Mr. Jackson about 1816, and any person having the curiosity of seeing a set of chairs, which in those pioneer times were considered the best that could be made, may do so by calling in at Mrs. Polly Dufour's on Liberty street.

As these articles may now begin to be uninteresting to the readers of the *Democrat*, the writer will begin to give something of more recent times, and will try and get up a few numbers, relating incidents from about 1823 and a few years later.

Anything that may have been related of individuals, has not been so related with any other view than to give a history of the times, so far as the writer knows, and has been informed by others, without the least intention of doing an injury to the feelings of any.

Sometime in 1818, William C. Keen, who was brigadier general of Indiana militia, and resided in Vevay, received two six-pounder iron guns from the state authorities, being the quota of that grade of arms to be distributed in his brigade. One of those guns was sent to Rising Sun, where an artillery company had been organized. The other was retained at this place, and a company was organized, and Daniel V. Dufour was elected captain of that company. There was no person at the time who knew much or anything of artillery practice, except the captain, he having attended a military school in his native country. The company was organized and were regularly drilled, so that in a short time it was what might be termed a No. 1 company, so far as manoeuvring with the guns was concerned. The company was, after it had been organized three or four years, composed of young men from Switzerland, and sons of the Swiss about Vevay, and a few

Americans. The names of some of them as far as can be ascertained were: Captain Daniel V. Dufour, privates S. C. Jones, W. H. Jones, Chas. Thiebaud, A. Raymond, R. Morerod, F. Morerod, J. Detraz, B. Detraz, G. Kessler, F. Desserens, J. Vairin, A. Bornaud, P. Bettens, B. F. Siebenthal, Fred L. Grisard. After the first organization of the company, many others became members, but none appear to have been near as expert gunners as some of the old members, who were drilled and exercised in the management of the gun occasionally on Sunday afternoons.

In 1825, when it was known that General Lafayette would certainly visit Cincinnati, the company determined to visit that city at that time, and take with them their gun, which, in after years received the name of "Old Betz." Some members of the company were prevented from going to see the general, but a number of them embarked on a steamboat and reached the city about an hour after the general and escort had crossed from Covington to Cincinnati, and were not present at the reception, but they had a fine time of it generally.

Some members of the company who remained at home, predicted that on their arrival at Cincinnati, those who did go would not be noticed by any persons among the thousands who would be present to welcome the nation's guest.

The company, on their arrival, were met at the landing by members of the committee on arrangements, and of the artillery company of Cincinnati, and when "Old Betz" was rolled off the boat on to the beach, and the boys were ready to haul her up the bank by hand one of the officers of the day came riding up and told them that in a short time a span of horses would be sent to take the piece up into the city and enter the procession that was about being formed. In a short time a span of fine blacks was hitched to the gun, and the boys marching along in martial order, soon became the observed of all observers.

After the procession had marched through the principal streets, and had been dismissed, a firing of cannon was commenced by the Vevay company, and soon after by the Cincinnati company. The exercise of firing was very good, and the two companies vied with each other which should excel. The

Vevay company by the rapidity with which they loaded and fired their piece, so far outdid the Cincinnati company that they received the praise of every person, and even Gen. Lafayette who was introduced to the captain and his men by John J. Dufour, the father of the captain, gave them the praise of being the most accurate in artillery tactics of any company he had met with on his visit to the United States. He enquired of the captain and his men where they had been instructed in the tactics of artillery, and had quite a long conversation with them. He enquired very particularly how far they had travelled to be present. When informed that they had come about 70 miles, he replied: "My friends, you have put yourself to a great inconvenience to come so far to see me, who am only a man."

On introducing the general to the Swiss artillerists, John J. Dufour took occasion to make a speech in which he referred to the services of the general during the War of the Revolution, and that the Swiss who then stood before him, had come to the United States to enjoy the blessings of the government he had been instrumental in securing for his fellow man.

After firing their gun for several hours, the cartridges gave out, and they had to procure others. It is said that the members of the Cincinnati company, chagrined on account of the correctness and the rapidity with which the Vevay company went through the exercise of loading and firing, made cartridges for the Vevay gun too large, with the view of retarding them in the rapidity of their firing, but still the Vevay company, although the cartridges were too large, were still able to fire twice or three times to the Cincinnati company's once.

The two companies tried their skill in rapid firing on the following day, and bets of from one hundred to one thousand dollars were freely offered that the Vevay company could fire two to one, none of which bets were taken.

The uniform of the company was rather an awkward and heavy one for summer wear. It consisted of a blue dress coat trimmed in scarlet, a bear skin cap about one foot high, rather bell-crowned, and trimmed with scarlet cord and tassel. Well does the writer, who in later years was a member of the com-

pany, remember how oppressive the great black cap and blue cloth coat buttoned up to the chin, were on fourth of July occasions, when drawn up in line in the hot sun. The uniform of the "Old Specks" of 1862 and 1863 although very oppressive in warm weather, was nothing to compare with that of the old Swiss artillery company.

Among those members who took part in manning the gun on the visit to Cincinnati and participated in the festivities of the occasion were the Captain, J. and B. Detrax, S. C. Jones, W. J. Jones, A. Raymond and F. Deserens. Others were of the numbers, but their names are not now recollected.

Some members of the company were unexpectedly prevented by unforeseen circumstances from being present. Of that number R. Morerod, G. Kessler, J. Vairin and F. L. Grisard can be named, and it is said that some of them were very much disappointed in not being with their comrades.

The occasion of the visit of Gen. Lafayette to Cincinnati was an event that was heralded in the papers of that place and the surrounding country for months before the appointed time for his arrival there.

After the ceremonies of his reception and the incidents attending, the newspapers of Cincinnati, Louisville, Lexington, and all the smaller towns, for weeks after, were filled with accounts of the ceremonies, and of the many incidents that occurred on that day; and all of them had to award the praise to the Swiss artillery company of Vevay for the precision and rapidity with which they managed and fired their gun; and it may be said that every member of that company felt proud of belonging to it, whether he was present or absent on the occasion, which elicited so much praise from strangers.

Many of the statements made in this number are from personal recollection, and others from facts related by some members of the company who took part in the management and firing of "Old Betz" on that occasion.

At some of the elections held in the early days of the county, some very amusing circumstances in relation to the candidates and the canvass might be given to show that often the voters cared not so much for the talents of the candidates who were seeking their suffrages as to gratify their passions

of revenge, malice, and for sporting with the places of honor and trust.

At an election when a representative to the state legislature was to be chosen Samuel Merrill was a candidate. Certain persons who were opposed to his election, and wishing to defeat him, met together and determined on supporting Daniel Haycock as a candidate in opposition to Mr. Merrill. The canvass was conducted with much spirit by the friends of both candidates. Mr. Merrill's claims on the score of qualifications for the position, were not in the least questioned by any, but his opponents urged against him that he was a Yankee adventurer; that their candidate was a man of the people, and ought to be elected; and all the usual appliances of those early days were used to induce the voters of the county to vote for Daniel Haycock, the peoples' candidate, against Samuel Merrill, the Yankee adventurer, who had come among us only to get office, which as was urged, he could not get where he came from.

In those days "whisky" might be said to be king, for with the aid of whisky, many times men of bad habits were elected to fill the offices, while the deserving were left to take "back seats".

Mr. Merrill was elected, by the friends of Mr. Haycock in one of the townships, voting for a Mr. Lacock, through mistake; or, as some of Haycock's friends alleged, Merrill's few friends in that township putting out tickets with Lacock's name instead of Haycock's on tickets which they had thus prepared for the express purpose of defeating Haycock; be that as it may that error in the ticket secured Mr. Merrill's election to the legislature, and contributed in no small degree to his future position in the state, as treasurer of state for several years, and president of the State Bank of Indiana; for had the votes cast for Lacock been cast for Haycock, he would have been elected by a small majority.

At another election for a representative in the state legislature there was a candidate before the people who was very acceptable to a great majority of the voters, and it was thought until within ten days or two weeks of the election, he would have no opposition. However, some persons, for mere

sport, prevailed upon a person living above Vevay, to consent that his name might be used by them as a candidate for representative, to which he consented, and his name was thus announced as a candidate:

To the voters of Switzerland county: Having, at the solicitations of my friends and neighbors, consented to become a candidate for Representative in the Legislature of Indiana, I pledge myself, if elected, to use to the utmost my abilities to support such measures only as will be beneficial to the county I represent, and the State at large.

Respectfully,

His X
ABRAHAM MILLER
Mark

Now, be it known that Mr. Miller was an honest old farmer, and, as was the case with many who were raised in the western wilds, was an uneducated man; and in thus consenting to become a candidate no doubt, was like his friends and neighbors, anticipating some rare sport during the remainder of the canvass, and on election day.

The day for holding the election came, and as Mr. Miller was a resident of Jefferson township, he came to Vevay on the morning of election day, full of fun and frolic, electioneering to secure votes, which he did with a great deal of success at the polls of Jefferson township. During the day, his friends and he himself appeared to be confident of his election, for he went to some of the prominent men about Vevay and assured them that he did not wish to be elected, that he and some of his neighbors, seeing there was no opposition to the person who was a candidate, had determined to have a candidate and some sport out of the matter.

He appeared to be fearful he might be elected, and stated to some of his friends that if he was elected he did not know what in the devil he would do, for he was not able to fill the place as he ought to fill it, and such other expressions. He received a very fair proportion of the votes cast, but was defeated by a majority of about fifty votes.

On election days about that time, say from about 1818 to 1838, on entering a grocery where liquor was sold a spectacle presented itself to the eyes of the beholder, that, in these

days would be such a sight as to horrify many. Persons who, in days gone by, have seen such sights, and have been participants in them having the spectacle placed in such a conspicuous position as to be seen of all the voters who might chance to step into one of those groceries. The spectacle here meant was this: On the morning of elections, each candidate would have a bottle filled with whisky, and his name printed in large letters on his bottle, so that his supporters might drink of his whisky, and thus at a general election on the first Monday in August when several officers were to be elected, and several aspirants for each office, there might have been seen on the the counters from ten to fifteen bottles filled with whisky, with the name of a candidate on each bottle; and as the voting proceeded through the day, those who were watching the interests of their favorite candidates, would step into the grocery to see how the whisky of their favorites was being drank. If the bottle of the friend was full enquiry would be made of the barkeeper how many times he had filled that bottle: If it had been filled oftener than the bottle of his favorite's opponent, he went away with a light heart, assured that his favorite's friends were in the ascendancy.

And thus the whisky bottle was regarded as the thermometer of the state of the public mind, in relation to the success or defeat of the candidates who were asking them for their suffrages. The time of such sights as this has passed, and many who have been candidates for office, and have had their names placed on one of these thermometers, have been heard often to say that "Whisky and whisky-sellers rule the legislature of Indiana."

But even in those days, Indiana can boast of some of her most honest legislators; men who had the best interests of the state at heart; men who were not always trying to initiate some scheme or new measure, whereby they might fill their pockets at the expense of the honest farmers and tax payers of the state. It is true, some of them had very crude notions of the best manner to develop the resources of the state.

As an example, a worthy senator who represented Switzerland and Ripley counties in the senate, conceived the singular idea of having a penitentiary erected in such a manner that

it could be placed upon wheels and hauled along some of the state roads that were then being opened and worked, and made so secure that convicts might be locked up by night and employed during the day in working on the road. In that manner he contended the labor of the convicts could be made available in opening and working the roads throughout the state, that were established by legislative enactment. He advocated his "rolling penitentiary", as it was termed, with much zeal, but failed in having it made a law. This senator was George Craig, and let others have what opinions they may on the subject, would it not be a profitable undertaking at this time?

At a time when railroads were first spoken of in the legislature of Indiana it is said that a worthy representative, representing one of the counties bordering on the Wabash, and in whose county the land was in many localities swampy, that in order to have roads that would be of sufficient firmness to bear up the travel, it was necessary to make what is usually called "corduroy bridges", which are made by placing round poles or split rails lengthwise across the road—replied to a speech made by a real railroad member, "In my county we have as good railroads as in any county in the state of Indiana, or in the world for they are made of oak rails that can not be surpassed by those in any part of the country for durability."

It is said of another Wabash county representative, that when a canal was spoken of being built in the Wabash valley, and speaking of the cost of its construction, he declared it as his firm belief that "the cost of the construction of a canal from Fort Wayne to Vincennes could be entirely paid in coon skins."

Thinking some additional facts in relation to navigating the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and tributaries with barges, keel and flatboats, fifty and sixty years ago, might not be unacceptable to the readers of these numbers, some few of those facts and some incidents connected therewith, will be mentioned in this number.

John and Joseph Bosseau, who came to Vevay in 1813 with their father and family, were both engaged in navigating

those rivers soon after their arrival here; Joseph being at this time 78 years of age, and residing on Bee-Tree Run, two and one-half miles from Vevay, and his brother John, being his senior by five years, resides in Wood county, West Virginia.

Joseph, perhaps, made but one or two trips to New Orleans and back, but made several to St. Louis and back, on one occasion making the homeward bound voyage by land, on foot, which was performed in six or seven days. One trip was made up the Mississippi river to Prairie du Chien, with provisions for the garrison stationed at that place. He also made two or three trips up Cumberland river to Nashville; one or two trips up Tennessee river to the Mussel Shoals, and but for the obstruction to navigation by those shoals, would have gone farther up that river, having arrived at the shoals too late in the season to be assisted in getting over them.

Many trips were made by him up the Kentucky river as far as Sublett's ferry, to which point iron and groceries of all descriptions were taken and from which tobacco, whisky and bacon were brought down on the return trip. The boat on which he was employed up the Kentucky river was in the service of Lewis Sanders, who, about that time, was engaged quite extensively in manufacturing near Lexington, Kentucky, and in merchandising. It is said that John Sanders and Ab. Sanders were engaged in running boats up the Kentucky river about this time, but the exact year the writer has not been able to ascertain.

"Uncle Joe" has also put his shoulder to the pole and assisted in propelling keel boats up the Monongahela river as far as Brownsville, which, in those days was known by the appellation of "Redstone."

It is said that in the very early days of navigating the Ohio and its tributaries, the following dialogue, if it may be so termed, occurred between a person on shore and the captain of a keelboat out in the stream, descending the Ohio: "Hallo the boat." "Hallo." "What is the name of that boat?" "Yellowstone." "Where is it from?" "Redstone." "Where are you bound to?" "Limestone." "What are you

loaded with?" "Grindstones." "What is the Captain's name?" "Whetstone."

Uncle Joe has gone up the Muskingum river in his keel-boating to Zanesville, several times up to Pittsburg and more times than he has fingers and toes up to Kenawha Salines, taking up whisky, bacon, coffee, sugar and other groceries; and in all those voyages he was said to be the most active and at the same time the best natured person of all the crew, which was generally composed of from six to ten men with poles, and the captain or steersman. The last trip he made in keelboating up to the Kenawha Salines, for Jacob R. Evertson, laden with whisky, bacon, groceries, and a few dry goods, he had as companions several persons from this vicinity, but cannot recollect any of them now except Andrew Roberts, the father of John James Roberts of this place. Uncle Joe says, that, fearing Mr. Evertson would not be willing to allow them rations of whisky, he provided himself with a gimlet, then removing a hoop on the barrel, he bored a hole with his gimlet at which he filled a coffee pot with whisky, stopped the hole, replaced the hoop, and in that way procured a sufficient supply of whisky for himself, Andrew Roberts, and two others (which four made up the mess) during the trip.

At one time, on leaving Pittsburg, a bet was made by the captain of the keel Uncle Joe was on board of, and the captain of another boat, as to which would beat to Cincinnati. The boat on which Uncle Joe belonged was to start one day ahead of the other boat. On arriving at Biffingtons island, the water being quite low and not of a sufficient depth to admit the passage of the boat, about 100 barrels of whisky were put overboard, and with a rope made fast together by tacking the rope to the barrels. They were sent ahead to their destination at the mouth of Big Sandy, and yet the boat could not pass until stone at the bottom were removed to deepen the channel; and the boat, by this means, was gotten through the shallow channel. But that their competitors might not profit by the channel being thus cleared, the stones thus removed together with others, were thrown back into the channel from which they had been taken—thus making the channel perhaps shallower than they found it. So, when the

other boat arrived at that point, they could not pass, and were compelled to deepen the channel, which delayed them and Uncle Joe and his companions landed their boat at Cincinnati about three days in advance of their competitors.

John and Joseph Bosseau are said to be the only survivors of those who were engaged in navigating the western waters in those early days with keelboats.

These facts and incidents are here related as told the writer by Uncle Joe himself, some days since, not for any worth or merit attaching to them, but with the thought that perhaps fifty years hence some of those who may then be on the stage of action may chance to read them, and learn what those who preceded them in the voyage of life had been called upon to do and to suffer that the necessities of life might be conveyed from one point to another in this now great and prosperous valley of the "father of waters," and his numerous tributaries.

It is said that John Bosseau is to visit this county soon, and if so, let any ones who are curious to hear from him and his brother Joseph's own lips a recital of their trials, hardships, privations and pleasures, too, call, and perhaps what is here written of them and much more may be learned.

Some incidents which are said to have occurred at Cincinnati in 1825, on the occasion of the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette, which have been related and brought to the recollection of the writer by a member of the artillery company of Vevay, who was one of the party, it may be well to have recorded in these numbers, to be handed down to those who come after the present generation.

It is related that while the Vevay Swiss Artillerists were firing with great rapidity, by some means some fire was dropped on the cartridges, which must have caused the explosion of the whole contents of the box, but for the coolness and presence of mind of Andrew Bornand, whose position was to apply the match to fire the gun, and whose attention was called to notice the coal of fire on one of the cartridges on perceiving which he stepped up to the box very coolly and in a slow, cautious manner, took the fire in his hand, threw it away, and thus saved the cartridges in the box from being set

on fire, and preventing an explosion, that in all probability might have caused the death of some one of those engaged in manning the gun.

On some other occasion, Mr. Bornand was priming the gun, the priming burned without setting off the gun. Stepping up to the gun, he commenced to pour the priming from the powder horn by his side, when the gun went off setting the powder in the horn on fire, causing it to explode, burning Mr. Bornand's hand and face considerably, which caused him considerable pain for a few days.

In the spring of 1826, Edward Patton was married, and as was then the custom among the members of the company, "Old Betz" was on the day of the infair brought into requisition to proclaim the joy of the members of the company. While in the act of ramming down a cartridge which proved to be rather large, and which Phillip Betten who was ramming, was unable to get down, Rodolph Morerod (the husband of Mrs. Henrietta Tardy), stepped up, took hold of the rammer with such force as to cause the cartridges to burst, which it was thought was the cause of the gun going off, while he was still in the act of ramming the cartridge home, horribly burning and bruising Mr. Morerod, and melting the buttons on his coat. He was taken home, and after lingering in great suffering for some days he died.

To show the rapidity with which the company fired the gun at Cincinnati at the time of the reception of Lafayette, it is said that although the cartridges were made so large that it was with great difficulty they could be rammed home they went through all the artillery exercise in loading and fired twenty-nine times in a little over three minutes, which as heretofore stated, was very generally spoken of by the Cincinnati and other western newspapers, as the best artillery exercises ever performed in the west, and perhaps in the United States, up to that time.

It is related that while Lafayette was on the platform surrounded by many who were anxious to take by the hand the friend of America when she stood in need of friends, there was observed in the crowd an old and feeble female, who was evidently making her way through the crowd towards the

platform where Lafayette, surrounded by the "bonton" of the surrounding country, was being shaken by the hand and congratulated. At length the old lady gets through the crowd, ascends the platform and taking Lafayette by the hand, with streaming eyes calls on God to bless him; and addressing herself to the brave and generous Lafayette, she speaks to him thus: "Do you remember me, General?" He informs her that he did not remember or recognize her. She then informed him that while he was imprisoned in the castle of Olmutz she had waited on him during his imprisonment, carrying refreshments to him. Then the General, with tearful eyes, recognizes her, and praying God to protect and defend her, they separated.

Among the Swiss who first came here were some who, besides being vine dressers in their native country, at which they were occupied during the summer and autumn, some of them went to the mountains with the cows to pasture, and there remained to attend to the cows, made the butter and cheese, during the season best adapted for that purpose, some of the cheese made by them being of an excellent quality. About 1824, some jersons came to this country and brought cheese that had been made by some of the relatives of the Swiss colonists, which was said to be three or four years old, and was so hard that it required a saw to cut it into slices. It was so rich that it would melt when taken into the mouth, and was of an excellent flavor.

Jean D. Morerod was one of the experts in making good butter and cheese, and many of the older settlers here can bear witness of the quality of the cheese.

It was remarked some time since that in the early days of the colony, three families united in the purchase of a cow for their joint use. This remark was made by an old settler, but of its correctness the writer cannot say anything, as he does not recollect ever having heard anything of the circumstance until lately.

It may be strictly correct, for in those days money in the wilderness was not so plenty as in these days of "greenbacks," "bluebacks" and "redbacks", and the settlers had as yet nothing to sell that would command money.

The writer well recollects that even as late as 1827, there could not be raised by any one person a sufficient amount of money to pay for the brick house and the lot at the corner of Main Cross and Market streets, which was sold at sheriff's sale. John F. Dufour, Israel R. Whitehead and Thomas Armstrong, joining together, could raise money enough to pay the bid, which was made in the name of the three, and that amount was \$307.

At that time money was scarce and hard to be had, even though a person had produce to sell. Then wheat was selling at about $31\frac{1}{4}$ cents per bushel; corn about $12\frac{1}{2}$, and other productions farmers had to sell in proportion.

Seeing an article in some newspaper lately, giving an account of the condition of Steven C. Stevens, who has had the sad misfortune to have his mental faculties so shattered that it has been necessary to have him placed in the Insane Asylum, has called to the mind of the writer that Judge Stevens, who was first admitted to the practice of the law at the bar of the Switzerland circuit court, in 1816, afterwards was prosecuting attorney, a representative in the legislature of Indiana, and then a senator, and was appointed one of the judges of the supreme court of Indiana; and that although he had talents of no ordinary kind, yet an Allwise Creator has permitted disease, in the worst form, to overtake him in his riper years.

Judge Stevens and Hon. Jeremiah Sullivan are the only surviving attorneys of the territorial courts in this part of the state.

In the early days of Vevay, what few youth were about the town did not enjoy the privileges and benefits of having good schools, such as the youth of Vevay have at the present day.

In 1816, 1817, and 1818, the first school was opened, in which Greek and Latin, and the higher branches of English literature were taught. The school was conducted by Alexander Holton, who gave public notice of his school in the following card, published in the *Indiana Register* in November, 1817:

NOTICE

The subscriber has opened a school in the town of Vevay, State of Indiana, which he calculates, personally, to superintend. The branches of literature he will teach, and the terms of tuition per quarter, are as follows, to wit: Reading, \$3, Reading and Writing, \$3.50; Mathematics, in its various branches, Geography and English Grammar, \$4; Greek and Latin Languages, \$5. He flatters himself that from the long habit of teaching the above branches of literature, particularly the languages and mathematics, that he shall be enabled to give satisfaction to all persons who shall favor him with their patronage.

ALEX. HOLTON

Vevay Nov. 18, 1817

Mr. Holton was an accomplished scholar, and his school was well patronized, considering the small number of scholars in the town and vicinity to be taught.

A Mr. Wilson, a Baptist preacher, taught school in Vevay in a small log house which stood on Ferry street, on the lower part of the lot on which the Russell house now stands. That house had previously been occupied as a horse mill, but about the time of its occupancy as a place where the young idea was taught to shoot, the mill was removed from town. This was in the fall of 1815. In Mr. Wilson's school, Orthography, Reading and Writing only were taught.

James Rous, the father of Ladig and Percy Rous, in 1814 and 1815, taught school in the Seminary of Vevay, which was a one story hewed log house, about twenty or twenty-five feet long by twelve or fifteen feet wide, with a door in one end, and for windows, one log on each side, was cut out, and a sash with perhaps twenty or twenty-five glass in each, in a single row, was fitted into the opening made for the window. In this house the writer was a scholar for a year or more and among his schoolmates who attended that school he can now name but few who are living: John Scott, now Dr. Scott, of New York city, brother-in-law of James Cole, Rebecca Cole, now the wife of Enos Littlefield, Esq., who left this place about a year ago for Texas, and perhaps Wm. W. Huston, of York township.

Mrs. Julia L. Dumont, whose reputation as a successful teacher is well known in this community, commenced teaching about the year 1820, and for many years delighted to give

instruction and her kind advice to the boys and girls who were placed under her care for educational purposes. She was perhaps the most successful and efficient teacher that ever imparted instruction in Vevay. This, by no means is said to detract from the merits of any who have been called to teach in our public schools since she ceased from teaching. Many of the present fathers and mothers of Vevay, who were pupils under Mrs. Dumont, and obtained their education under her teaching, lived to see their children receive their education, so far as the English language was taught, by her and under her instruction.

Sylvanus Waldo, a brother to the father of O. S. and J. F. Waldo, taught school here, but the length of time is not recollected nor the year during which he taught. He was taken sick while his school was being carried on, and it is thought he died from the effects of that sickness.

One James Brown taught a school in the log house which stood on the lot on Main street now occupied by R. F. Grisard. This school was kept for several years, and although Mr. Brown was reputed a cross and severe teacher, yet his scholars improved rapidly under his tuition. In that school the writer made most of his advance in his studies. Most of his schoolmates in that school have removed from this place; but a majority of them have been called to "that bourne from whence no traveler returns." This school was taught perhaps in 1820, '21 and '22.

At one time, the exact date not recollected, one Wick commenced a school in a frame building which stood on Main street nearly opposite the court house, which was continued but a short time, for want of sufficient patronage. Sometime during the year 1822 or 1823, Isaac B. Kinsman, a down-eastern, from the banks of the Kennebec river, in the State of Maine, came to Vevay, and commenced school teaching. He was a good scholar, and capable of teaching Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He continued teaching school at intervals until perhaps in the fall of 1825. He was in the habit of indulging too freely in the use of intoxicating liquors, which unfitted him at times for his avocation. He had a very good school, and gave general satisfaction in his teaching, for he never

kept his school open while intoxicated. In April, 1824, he concluded to abandon school teaching and turn his attention to trading. Accordingly he gave notice that he wished to purchase a large quantity of turkeys, ducks and good chickens, to be delivered in Vevay on three days of the week following, for which he promised to pay in specie, for chickens 50 cents per dozen for a single dozen or 62½ cents per dozen for five dozen or more, brought at one time by the same person. Same price for ducks and 25 cents apiece for turkeys.

He collected together a good number of each and took them down the river, making quite a good speculation by the operation. He was a ready writer, and the paper published in Vevay at the time was made interesting by his contributions. One of his articles published in the *Indiana Register*, September 17, 1824, reads thus:

Mr. Keen—Report says the books belonging to the Auditor's office under the territorial government have been lost. Will you have the goodness to let the people know if that is the fact, who was the Auditor at the time, and what loss the State sustained in consequence of the loss of the books, &c.?

Report says also that the Legislature once authorized the Jeffersonville Canal Company to raise a certain sum of money by lottery—that managers were appointed—a scheme published—many tickets sold for cash—and the purchasers of tickets swindled out of their cash, as the lottery was never drawn; do tell the people who were the managers and agents of this business—who were the swindlers; and such other information on the subject as you may be in possession of.

Report says that ——— will be a candidate for the senate of the United States. The people have heard very strange stories about his conduct toward his wife; that in consequence of his neglect &c. she pined, sorrowed and died. Please tell them how it is.

In September, 1824, a man and wife were living near Vevay, not very harmoniously together, the wife left the husband and went to live in the family of a neighbor. As usual in such cases, the deserted husband gave notice in the public paper that his wife had left his bed and board, and was living in adultery with the neighbor where she had gone to stay. Kinsman hearing of the affair sought an opportunity to see the man with whom the truant wife was living and advised him to publish a denial of the charges published by the de-

served husband. It was agreed that Kinsman should prepare the notice, which appeared in the paper a short time after as follows:

ATTENTION

The public are particularly requested to suspend their opinion for the present respecting the publication signed ———. have employed the woman he calls his wife to reside in my family as a servant or housekeeper, and do not harbor her.

In the legislature of Indiana during the session of 1823 and '24 which was the last held at Corydon, Switzerland county, was represented by Stephen C. Stevens and Ralph Cotton. During that session the laws of the state were revised, and in the revision of the bill relative to crime and punishment, the following section was inserted, (see page 145 of *Journal of proceedings of the Senate*):

Section 42, Every person who shall make, print or publish any slanderous or ridiculous writing picture or sign with a malicious or mischievous design or intent towards government, magistrates or individuals, shall on conviction be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars.

As this obnoxious section was inserted in the revised bill, and was nowhere to be found in the statutes before in force in this state, William Hendricks, the revisor, it was at the time intimated would explain to the people his motive for introducing it.

The bill passed through all the readings in both houses to the last reading in the senate, when Joh. H. Thompson moved to strike it out and the ayes and noes being called for, were as follows: Ayes—Wm. Graham, of Jackson; Jas. Gregory, of Marion; Elisha Harrison, of Vanderburg; John Jenckes, of Vigo; Samuel Milroy, of Washington; Isaac Montgomery, of Gibson; Frederick Sholts, of Davies; James B. Slaughter, of Harrison; John H. Thompson, of Clark. Noes—Samuel Chambers, of Orange; Daniel Grass, of Perry; John Gray, of Dearborn; Lewis Johnson, of Fayette; James Raridon, of Wayne; Jas. B. Ray, of Franklin; Milton Stapp, of Jefferson.

The mass of the people were much opposed to such a law being in force in Indiana, and thought it smacked very much of the gag law of John Adams passed in the reign of terror.

During the next session of the legislature, which convened at Indianapolis in January, 1825, and was the first held at that place, Switzerland county was represented in the House by Stephen C. Stevens and William Guard, who were elected on the first Monday of August, 1824.

At that election the following candidates were voted for and received the number of votes set opposite their respective names: Stephen C. Stevens, 358; William Guard, 319; Newton H. Tapp, 204; Linus Scoville, 126; George Tague, 55; Robert McCorkle, 45; William Brandenburg, 27.

William Guard and Linus Scoville were nominated by a meeting held at Jacksonville favorable to the removal of the seat of Justice from Vevay. Stephen C. Stevens was elected speaker over David H. Maxwell by a vote of 23 to 20.

At the August election of 1824 three members of congress were elected to represent the state in the nineteenth congress.

The legislature had at its last session remodelled the three congressional districts into which the state was divided. The counties of Orange, Perry, Spencer, Warrick, Vanderburg, Posey, Gibson, Pike, Dubois, Knox, Davies, Martin, Sullivan, Vigo, Parke, Monroe, Lawrence, Wabash, Greene, Owen, Morgan, Putnam, Vermillion, Hendricks and Montgomery, 25 counties forming the First district.

The counties of Jefferson, Clark, Jackson, Washington, Harrison, Crawford, Floyd, Scott, Bartholomew, Jennings, Marion, Hamilton, Johnson, Shelby, Madison and Delaware, 16 counties, forming the Second district.

And the counties of Henry, Rush, Decatur, Randolph, Wayne, Franklin, Fayette, Dearborn, Union, Switzerland, Ripley and Allen, 12 counties, forming the Third district; making a total of 53 counties in the state.

In the Third district the candidates were John Test, Daniel J. Caswell and James B. Ray. Test and Caswell were in favor of John Q. Adams for President, but Mr. Test was pledged that if the choice of President should be thrown into the House of Representatives he should be governed by the vote of the people of the state or his district as expressed by the electors.

Ray was in favor of Henry Clay for President.

John Test was elected, the vote in Switzerland county being: Test, 238; Ray, 197; Caswell, 186. The vote of the district with the vote of one county (Randolph) not included stood: Test, 4,522; Ray, 2,936; Caswell, 1,457.

In the Second district the candidates were Jeremiah Sullivan and Jonathan Jennings. Mr. Jennings was elected, receiving in Harrison county, in which he resided, a majority of 994, while Mr. Sullivan received in Jefferson county, in which he resided, a majority of 800.

In the First district the candidates were William Prince, Ratliff Boone, Thomas H. Blake and Jacob Call. William Prince was elected, but having no data from which to give the vote, let this statement suffice.

The contest for President in 1824 was perhaps no more exciting and spirited in any locality than in Switzerland county, for on the 31st of January the friends of Henry Clay met at the house of Thomas Armstrong and organized by appointing Colonel John F. Siebenthal, chairman and Captain George G. Knox, secretary. General William C. Keen, Stephen Whicher, Jr., and Nath. Cotton were appointed a committee to draft a suitable address to the voters of the Third congressional district. Henry Clay was nominated as a candidate for President and Andrew Jackson for Vice President. In the conclusion of the address to the people the committee thus spoke of Henry Clay: "In the language of the children of Israel on a certain occasion we say, 'let this good man rule over us'."

On the same day a meeting, favorable to DeWitt Clinton for President met at the court house and was organized by the appointment of Abner Clarkson as chairman and Israel R. Whitehead as secretary. The meeting after being organized nominated DeWitt Clinton for President and Andrew Jackson for Vice President. A committee was appointed to draw up an address to the people, calling their attention to the great interest they had in using every proper measure to procure the nomination of the gentleman nominated.

On the 21st of February, 1824, a meeting of the citizens of the county friendly to the election of Jackson as President was held at the court house in Vevay. Daniel Dufour was

chosen chairman and Edward Patton and William McCullough appointed secretaries. The meeting was addressed by Isaac B. Kinsman, and pledged themselves to support Jackson for President and Clay for Vice President.

On the 19th of March, 1824, the following notice was published:

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD

The members of Congress having nominated William H. Crawford for president and Albert Gallatin for vice-president it behooves all the steadfast friends to be up and doing. The friends of Mr. Crawford are requested to meet at the courthouse in Vevay on Monday next at 2 o'clock, p. m., to take such measures as will be advisable to advance the interests of said persons.

March 10th.

NOBILITY

Whether the meetings were held is not known, but the following week this notice was inserted in the paper published in town: "Wm. C. Crawford.—Monday last was fixed on by the friends of Wm. H. Crawford to meet at the Court House in Vevay to adopt measures to advance the interests of Messrs. Crawford and Gallatin. The day came—it passed—not a soul approached the edifice."

Some of the prominent men and aspirants for office in this part of Indiana, particularly in the Third congressional district, were opposed to the candidates for President on different grounds. Some opposed Clay and Jackson because they were slaveholders, and lived in slave states. Some opposed Mr. Adams because as was asserted he lived in Washington City, and was an owner of slaves.

Some of the aspirants for congress in the Third district were said to favor the election of Jackson while here in Switzerland county and when in other counties where Clay or Adams were more prominent, they advocated the election of the one or the other, as the one or the other was the most prominent.

At length the election came and it would appear from the result that outside of Vevay and the vicinity the people cared nothing about who was the President. The result in Switzerland county was as follows: Jackson, 161; Clay, 108; Adams, 28.

The election over, everybody glad "on it", as Brother Jonathan said. The friends of the several candidates who previous to the election could not say a civil word of or to each other soon began to harmonize and associate together as was their usual custom. The unusual small number of votes cast was owing to several causes: Polls were opened in three townships only, and the votes of but one counted—the returning judge from one township came in without the return—the other brought his return, but not being in legal form it was rejected; however, the judges reported it to the secretary of state specially. In Posey township Jackson had 66 and Adams 46 votes. In Cotton township Jackson had 25, Adams 23, and Clay 18.

In these times of high taxes and burdens upon the tax payers of the county of which we hear so much said every day where an assemblage of people are met, and of which we read in every newspaper published in our land, it may be interesting to those who read these articles to know something about the burdens and taxes borne by the people forty or fifty years ago.

These things can be seen by any person who would take the trouble of examining the records of county affairs on file in the auditor's office at Vevay, so far as relates to the county of Switzerland and the archives of state at Indianapolis so far as relates to the state finances. But that every person and tax-payer of the county who reads the *Democrat* may have a glimpse at these matters, a few statements in relation thereto will be given in these numbers from time to time. The first will be a "statement" of the financial concerns of Switzerland county from the 16th of November, 1822, to the 12th of November, 1823, inclusive. It appears that on the 15th of November, 1822, there was a deficit of \$914.20, in other words the county was in debt to that amount at that date. The amount of the duplicate placed in the hands of the collector for the year 1823 amounted to the sum of \$1,126.80, and the amount of the other receipts were \$288.64, making the total amount of receipts for the county provided the whole amount on the duplicate was collected, \$1,415.44. The total amount of expenditures, including the \$914.20, the amount of the

deficit for the year 1822 as above stated, was \$2,387.05; from which it will be seen that the indebtedness of the county on the 12th of November, 1823, was \$971.61, showing that instead of paying off the debt of the previous year, the indebtedness of the county was increased.

This statement shows that the whole amount of taxes collected and on the duplicate for that year amounted to \$1,415.44.

At the August election, 1824, the number of votes cast for the three candidates for congress in the county was 621. By dividing the amount of taxes imposed on the voters of the county for that year by the number of votes will show that the taxes was about \$2.28 for each voter. And yet there was a deficit of \$971.61½ which would have required an additional tax of about \$1.56 on each voter to pay that deficiency, and would have required a tax of about \$3.84 on each voter for that year.

About this time county orders were offered for sale by those holding them at 50 cents on the dollar, without purchasers, except in suitable amounts for tax payers to pay their county taxes. How very different from what these matters are at this time. The amount of taxes charged on the duplicate, the receipts and expenditures of the county, and the number of voters in the county at present only can make the reader realize the difference.

It appears that the receipts and expenditures of the state from the commencement of the State government in 1816 to the first of January, 1823, made an aggregate of \$113,230.34 received at the state treasury during that period from taxes alone, to which is added revenue of the territory, receipts on account of seat of government, salt springs and incidental receipts to make the aggregate of receipts from all sources amount to \$183,185.51 while the aggregate of expenditures amounted to \$170,686.53, and leaving a balance in the treasury on the first of January, 1824, of \$12,498.53; which, to the casual observer would appear to be a very satisfactory financial condition for the young state to boast of, after an existence of only seven years.

But for all this good showing, the financial affairs of the

state it is said were in a very unsatisfactory condition, for on the assembling of the legislature on the first Monday in December, 1823, the governor communicated to that body the situation of the affairs of the state. On taking a view of the financial concerns of the state, together with the situation of the departments of the auditor and treasurer, it was deemed advisable to make a thorough examination and exhibit of those departments from the beginning of the state government up to the first of January, 1824. To do this would require the constant labor of a master book-keeper and accountant for something near thirty days. Numbers of the members of the legislature could have ably performed that service but none of them were willing to leave the house and their other business entirely to attend to that; hence it became necessary to employ some person to perform that service. The Hon. Isaac Blackford was called upon, and although the task was almost Herculean yet he undertook it and in about thirty days went through both departments from the first day of the state government up to the first day of January, 1824, and made a detailed report in writing, exhibiting in a clear, plain and satisfactory manner the true situation of the financial concerns of the state. The report was a document of great importance, inasmuch as it was the foundation of a new era in the management of the departments of the auditor and treasurer of state. The treasury department at the beginning of that session of the legislature was much embarrassed and pressed for payment, and the legislature was compelled to provide either by the re-issue of treasury notes or by loan, the sum of about \$20,000 to meet the payments of the state debts which were then due and daily becoming due. The governor had recommended a loan and that plan for raising the required amount was adopted, without hesitation, and an act passed authorizing a loan of any sum not exceeding \$19,000.

The re-issue of treasury notes were opposed on the ground well known to all, that there were no funds to redeem them, and that it would have been countenancing the odious principle of banking without capital which in their opinion would have been an indirect species of swindling. It was supposed

by some that the system of loaning might at first be unpopular, but firmly believing that it was the only true policy which could be adopted by which the credit of the state could be preserved, and that it would stand the test of honesty, wisdom and time, it was finally adopted without a dissenting voice.

A law was passed by that legislature removing the seat of government from Corydon to Indianapolis on the first day of January, 1825; and the next General Assembly was to convene there on the second Monday in January, 1825.

That General Assembly was constituted as follows: The House of Representatives consisted of 27 farmers, 3 mechanics, 5 doctors, 1 private gentleman, 4 merchants and 6 lawyers, making in all 46 members. The Senate consisted of 11 farmers, 2 tavern-keepers, 1 doctor, 1 merchant, and 3 lawyers, making in all 18 members, including the lieutenant governor.

At that session of the legislature the votes cast for and against the calling of a convention to change the constitution of the state were examined and officially announced as follows: No convention, 11,991; convention, 2,601; majority against a convention, 9,390. Nearly half the counties neglected to make returns to the secretary of state.

The financial operations of the state treasury for the year 1824 were more successful than was anticipated by the most sanguine. Of the \$19,000 supposed to be necessary to be procured by loans only \$5,971 was procured, and of that sum \$975 was seminary funds unemployed in the treasury. So beneficial to the treasury was the change of system that the current expenditures were more easily and promptly met with that amount than they were the previous year by a re-issue of \$15,000 of treasury notes; and with the additional advantage, that on the expenditures authorized by the legislature of the previous year the state paid interest on \$5,971 only, while on that authorized by the legislature at its preceding session interest was paid on \$15,000. In addition the public credit was maintained, the currency restored to soundness and much of the public expenditure economized, in proportion as the currency was rescued from depreciation.

The receipts into the treasury during the year 1824

amounted to \$40,435.94, by which the treasury notes were redeemed in good faith, and the audited warrants paid, and there was on the 10th of January, 1825, in the treasury in available funds \$12,508.

The state debt amounted on the 1st of January, 1824, to \$27,044.19. On the 1st of January, 1825, it amounted to \$17,499.17 exclusive of interest. That indebtedness consisted of \$4,655 treasury notes then in circulation, \$5,971 loan, \$5,000 of which the state owed to roads and canals and \$1,373.17 on bonds transferred to the treasury of the United States. The state debt on the 10th of January, 1825, exclusive of interest, exceeded the actual cash in the treasury, \$4,991.15.

The revenue for 1824, after deducting the per cent for collecting amounted to \$39,294.86. The current expenditures of the year 1825 were estimated not to exceed \$21,000, and a reduction of all contingent expenses was confidently expected.

Sometime in the spring of 1824, the murder of some Indians on the frontier settlements of the state, by whites, created a great sensation in the northern portion of the state. The perpetrators of that murder were arrested and imprisoned in Madison county. As Madison county was a new county, sparsely settled, having no public buildings, it became necessary for want of a proper jail in which to keep the prisoners, to maintain a guard over them for safe keeping. The expenses of keeping up such guard from the month of March, 1824 until some time in January, 1825, considering the newness of the county the sparseness of its population and the deleterious effects of the case on its general prosperity the governor, in his message to the legislature on its convening at Indianapolis, on the 10th of January, 1825, recommended that the expenses incident to the safe keeping of the prisoners for which the county might be liable, be paid out of the state treasury.

The further details of this most unpleasant transaction appear to be that James Hudson, one of the persons charged with the murder of Logan, an Indian chief, was at the October term, 1824, of the Madison county circuit court, convicted and sentenced to be executed on the first day of December, 1824; that previous to the day appointed for his execution he

escaped from prison, and that he might not escape the punishment of his crimes by becoming a fugitive from justice, the time of his execution was, on the suggestion of the presiding judge and the prosecuting attorney of that court, respited and postponed by the governor of the state till the 12th of January, 1825.

Whether the prisoner, James Hudson, was ever retaken and made expiate for his crimes by being executed, the writer does not know.

As a part of the history of the "slavery" controversy which has been brought to an end by having slavery prohibited by the constitution of the United States, it may be something new to many and may bring to the minds of others who have forgotten it to here state that in 1824 the legislature of Georgia passed a resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States which would prohibit "the importation or ingress of any person of color into any one of the United States, contrary to the laws of such State;" and that resolutions were passed in Ohio and Maine disapproving of that resolution.

The legislature of Ohio about the same time adopted resolutions recommending to the legislatures of the several states and to the congress of the United States, a system providing for the gradual emancipation of slaves, and recommending the passage of an act by the general government (with the consent of the slave holding states), by which the children of such persons born after the passage of such act should on certain conditions be free at the age of twenty-one years. These resolutions were received by the governor of Indiana and were accompanied with requests that they be laid before the legislature of the state.

In the legislature which met at Indianapolis in January, 1825, Switzerland county was represented in the Senate jointly with Ripley county by George Craig, the father of Mrs. Tabitha O. Kyle, and in the house as before stated by Stephen C. Stevens and William Gard. In the Senate James Dill, of Dearborn county, was elected secretary and John H. Farnham, of Clark county, was elected assistant secretary. In the House Henry P. Thornton, of Scott county, was elected clerk and James Franklin Doughty Lanier was elected assist-

ant secretary. For the purpose of showing how the population of the counties has changed since then as shown by the representation of some of the counties in the legislature then and now. Then Switzerland county had two representatives and a senator jointly with Ripley county. Now Switzerland county is entitled to a representative jointly with Ohio county and a senator jointly with Ripley county. Ripley county then had one representative and now has one, and one jointly with Jefferson county. Then Hamilton, Marion, Madison, Henry, Shelby, Decatur, Rush and Johnson counties were entitled to one senator jointly, and Marion, Hamilton and Madison were jointly entitled to one representative, and Decatur, Shelby, Rush and Henry were jointly entitled to one representative. Now each of those counties is entitled to one senator with one or two exceptions, and one county to two senators; each of them have one or more representatives. Then Wayne, Randolph and Allen counties had one senator. Now each Wayne and Allen have a senator. Then Wayne had three representatives, now two, and in fact the whole state north of the second tier of counties from the Ohio river has settled and been organized into counties which have a stronger representation in the state legislature than any of the counties on the Ohio river, which would seem to establish the fact that that portion of the state last organized into counties is better adapted to agriculture than those nearer the Ohio river, thence the reason of their becoming more densely populated, and therefore entitled to greater representation in our legislature.

With the assembling of the legislature for the first time at the future permanent seat of government, a host of persons came also seeking as usual to be officers and waiters on the noble representatives of the people, as well as of the good people of the state, some who were willing for the good of the people to exchange good, fat honorable offices for better ones, and many others who had none at all, willing to take upon themselves the duties of any officer, provided they were well paid for it. Some men in those days for a little money and an easy berth were willing to do anything to make an honest living. How much better it would have been for many of those stout, able-bodied fellows, if they had turned into the woods as many were doing and there have laid the axe at the

root of the tree, and have assisted in clearing away the rubbish. They would have then have been doing permanent service to themselves, their families and the state, too. But this would have been hard work, they did not like to undertake it. If they were talked to on the subject, they would say "I cannot do it; my family would not like it, &c.," making an hundred excuses to turn the subject to that of the favorite subject, an office. One wished to go to the United States senate, B. wished to be secretary of state, C. supreme or presiding judge, and so on to the end of the alphabet.

Then would come a long story to enlist the feelings of the representative addressed in favor of the office seeker. One had been unfortunate; one was poor; one has a large family to maintain; with a long list of arguments which had already become as familiar as the old mail carrier's horn, when he had arrived in the vicinity of your postoffice. These things have not changed as rapidly as many other things within the state and nation, for at every assembling of our legislatures there are about half a dozen office seekers for each member, and instead of this thirst for office abating it only increases as the population increases, and will continue increasing until every man shall be compelled to take his turn in discharging the duties of the offices for a mere pittance as our grand and traverse jurors are compelled to serve, each one taking his turn.

Not long since the writer was looking over an old paper and came across the following notice, which is given here as a specimen of what was done in Indiana nearly fifty years ago; the article reads thus:

DISGRACEFUL

Married—A few days since, in the vicinity of this place, by Abel Thornberry, Esq., Obadiah Anderson, a man of color to Betsy Freeman, a white woman, formerly both of Brookville.

If such transactions took place in Indiana fifty years ago, may we not expect to hear and see the same transactions enacted in this, our day and generation. Whether true or false think and ponder on the probabilities of such affairs being of frequent occurrence in our midst, and that before many years roll around.