

SANGAMON CO.
GAZETTEER

CONTAINING

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE SKETCHES OF THE SEVERAL
TOWNSHIPS OF THE COUNTY,

TOGETHER WITH

CITY DIRECTORIES

OF

SPRINGFIELD AND JACKSONVILLE,

AND A

DIRECTORY OF THE NAMES, OCCUPATION, AND POST
OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS
AND FARMERS OF THE TOWNSHIPS AND
VILLAGES THROUGHOUT SANGAMON CO.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

COMPLETE BUSINESS REGISTERS AND REGISTERS OF
STATE, CITY AND COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS,
SOCIETIES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c.

ALSO,

A List of the Post Offices in Illinois, and a List of Money
Order Offices throughout the United States.

Compiled and Published by John C. W. Bailey.

ISSUED AT THE OFFICE OF

JOHN C. W. BAILEY,

SPRINGFIELD AND CHICAGO, ILL.

Clear Lake

Was settled about 1819 or 1820. Hugh McGary settled in 1820, immediately on the bank of Clear Lake, that gives the name to the town; about the same time Samuel Danley, from Kentucky, settled about one mile from Hugh McGary. John Smith from Tennessee, came soon after. Mr. Danley built the first mill, which was operated by horse power with a large wheel, geared with a raw hide band. In connection with said mill, the first Distillery in the town was erected by Mr. Danley, and perhaps the first in Sangamon Co. The above named settlers were on the north side of Sangamon River, which flows through the town, near the middle the whole length. Clear Lake is immediately on the Old Kickapoo trace leading from the Kickapoo Towns, on Kickapoo Creek, Logan Co., to the old trading post at Edwardsville. This was one of our most reliable roads, inasmuch as that said trace always crossed the streams at the best fords, of course there being no bridges at that time. Mr. John Hoover, a German, Mr. Howell, another German, Mr. Solomon Blue, and Mr. Uriah Blue, settled on the south of the Sangamon River in 1824 or 1825, they all being of German descent gave to the place, the name of Germany Prairie. The first Church erected in the town was by the Baptists in 1829, a log building, but was never entirely finished. Mr. Aaron Vandever, was the first Baptist minister in the town, though the Methodists preached in the town before this date. There were two School Houses, erected about the same time, one North, the other South of the River, both in 1836, the one on the North side cost \$202, the one on the South side cost probably \$150. No. of Scholars about 20 at each. Coal is abundant in the town, though only about three mines have been opened as yet, two of which have been pretty extensively mined, especially the one at Jamestown on the T. W. and W. R. W., owned by Mr. P. L. Howlett, who is perhaps operating the largest establishment of the kind in the State, viz: a Distillery with a capacity of consuming 2400 bushels of grain per day, with a merchant mill attached, with six run of Burr Stones. Mr. P. L. Howlett, is undoubtedly one amongst the most enterprising men of this or any other State, beside which he is the most affable, courteous and universally esteemed gentleman among all acquainted with him, or have any dealings with him. His enterprising genius led him to believe that there was an immense bed of Superior Coal at a great depth below the surface. Accordingly he employed experienced men from the Pennsylvania Oil region to erect the necessary machinery, and bored 200 feet down into the earth, which resulted in striking a vein of Superior Coal, over 8 feet in thickness. This test was made a few feet from his Distillery, about 80 rods from the Rail Road. In order to make this matter sure, he moved his boring machinery up near the Rail Road switch, and bored down again with the same result, he expects to sink a shaft next Spring, when it is anticipated that a new era will have dawned in the history of the town of Clear Lake. All the Coal mines that have been mined are confined to the Bluffs of the River, and are merely surface mines, about 20 or 22 inches in thickness. Such is one of them that Mr. Howlett, at Jamestown, has been obtaining his supply of Coal for operating his establishment. This vein is 22 inches, and has been mined, probably 1000 feet in length.