

Goodspeed's  
Osage County History

Osage County, Missouri

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1889

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Introduction to the  
Hearthstone Legacy Publications  
Ebook edition of

## Goodspeed's Osage County History

During the 1880's and 1890's an ambitious project was underway by the Goodspeed Publishing Co. and several others to document the history of numerous American counties. These histories documented the earliest settlement of the county as well as the events that shaped its history such as natural disasters, political events, crimes, Civil War events, and its prominent citizens and organizations.

Among those county histories was a combined volume titled "History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries and Osage Counties, Missouri". From that volume, we have extracted and present here, the complete Osage County, Missouri section, including the Biographical Appendix.

This edition is a photo replica of the pages from the original edition and so is an exact copy of the pages pertaining to Osage County exactly as they appeared in 1889. The original grammar and spellings (and misspellings) are exactly as they appeared in the original printing.

The page numbering of the original edition has been retained in this edition. As a result, you will note that the history of Osage County begins on page 629 and concludes on page 696. After covering the history of all seven counties, a special section of biographies was included at the rear of the book. The biographies for Osage County commence on page 1129 and conclude on 1164.

Turn the page and you will have stepped back more than 115 years in the history of Osage County, Missouri. You will read of the ordinary as well the extraordinary people and events who shaped the communities and organizations that continue to this day. May you enjoy the journey back to pioneer times in this newly settled land!



# HISTORY OF OSAGE COUNTY.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND RESOURCES.

Osage County lies just east of Jefferson City's (Cole) county. Its northern boundary is the Missouri River, while Gasconade and Maries Counties are respectively east and south, and the Osage River, with small lines of Cole and Miller Counties, are its western border. It has an area of 375,336 acres, the greater part of which is a peninsula between the Osage and Gasconade Rivers, facing the Missouri.

*Geology.*—If all the drift, bluff and bottom soils were scraped off of Osage County a great layer of limestone, with cotton-rock and river and stream-cut valleys, would be seen, except where this is somewhat sunk in the east, where a crumbling sandstone would be noticeable; the former is called second magnesian limestone and the latter saccharoidal sandstone. If these great layers could be lifted off a comparatively thin layer of what is known as second sandstone would appear; lift this off and a great body of third magnesian limestone would be noticed, and below this there have been no observations in Osage County.

*Topography.*—The county is a very broken highland—a kind of broad promontory stretching along between the Osage and Gasconade Rivers to the Missouri, by which it is drained. The main water-shed runs along somewhat parallel to the Gasconade, a little southeast of the center, and a few miles southeast of Linn branches to the northwest and strikes the Osage River near the mouth of the Maries. A minor ridge leaves this point on the other side of the Maries, and stretches southwardly between the waters of the Osage and Maries. This formation leaves three main basins—the Missouri, north of the main and branch ridges;

the Gasconade, east of the main water-shed, and the Maries, between the main, the branch and the minor ridges, with a small one on the banks of the Osage.

*Drainage, Streams, Etc.*—The drainage is good and rapid, the creeks, rivers, etc., becoming very high and torrent-like during heavy rains on the upper courses of the streams. This leaves numerous intermittent streams that are dry most of the year, and very sensitive to even slight rains, often making them not fordable. The main streams are the Missouri River, with its larger tributaries, L'Ourse (Loose is a pioneer corruption of the French name, meaning Bear Creek) and Bailey's Creeks; the Osage River, with the Big Maries Creek and its affluent, the Little Maries Creek; and the Gasconade River, with Pointer's, Brush and some lesser creeks. The order of size is: Missouri, Osage, Gasconade, Maries, L'Ourse, Bailey's, etc. These have cut out the uplands, and as a result the rivers are generally lined with lofty bluffs, but leaving fine farms on the creeks. The larger bottoms along the rivers are about the site of old Castle Rock, some on the Gasconade and in the northeast corner.

*Resources.*—The products of the county are mineral, vegetable and animal. Of the mineral kingdom, cotton-rock is much used for building; also the sand and limestones. Lime is made. Clay (brick and paint) is found, and also iron and lead, although they have not been developed. The limestones form numerous caves in which have been found niter, on the Gasconade. Slight evidences of coal have been found.

The oaks are the most common of the vegetable products; cotton-wood appears on the Missouri, while on the Gasconade hickory, hackberry, walnut, maple, box-elder, etc., are found. On the uplands are a less vigorous growth—chiefly of oaks. Wild berries of various kinds, and grapes, thrive.

Deer, turkey, pheasant, rabbit, squirrel, wolf, fox, quail, ducks, etc., greet the hunter occasionally.

All vegetables common to the Mississippi Valley abound here, and only need better market facilities and more systematic cultivation to make the county a garden and an orchard. The chief shipments, however, are wheat, corn, oats, hay and apples.

Stock is well cultivated, the leading shipments being cattle,

hogs, sheep, mules, horses, chickens, geese, turkeys; eggs are exported in abundance. Durham and Jersey cattle, Poland-China and Berkshire hogs, and Cotswold sheep are receiving attention.

*Statistics.*—In 1872 Osage had 3,541 horses, valued at \$138,029; 1,456 mules, at \$75,544; 10,704 cattle, at \$81,275; 10,159 sheep, at \$10,159; 27,608 hogs, at \$45,792; moneys, notes, etc., \$210,013; other personal property, \$117,335; real estate, \$1,365,280; total, \$2,043,425. In 1888 the assessor found 3,025 horses, valued at \$106,280; 24 jacks and jennets, at \$990; 2,853 mules, at \$117,002; 14,793 cattle, at \$127,340; 8,347 sheep, at \$8,440; 15,071 hogs, at \$24,299; other stock, \$3,317; moneys, etc., \$498,268; other personal property, \$174,111; an insurance company, \$825; real estate, \$1,456,006; total, \$2,516,053 (farm produce not assessed as before). In 1870, out of 10,467 white and 326 colored persons, 8,392 were native (6,888 born in Missouri), and 2,401 foreign. There were six steam saw-mills in 1870 and four flouring mills. There are twenty-nine and one-half miles of railway. In 1881 there were twelve steam and one water flouring mill and several saw-mills. There were also twenty-four postoffices and thirteen villages. In 1841 there were fifty-three conveyances of real estate; in 1881 about 600; and the total from 1841 to 1881 was 13,500. The total number of marriages from 1841 to 1881 was 6,243.

#### PIONEER OCCUPANCY.

The settlement of Osage territory has been a sort of succession of nationalities or races. The prehistoric occupants of this region were, of course, Mound Builders; then came the successive Indian nations, followed by the French, closely after whom came their American cousins from Virginia. Finally the Dutch and Germans almost take possession.

*Mound Builders and Indians.*—The only evidences of the ancient people before the Indian occupation are their mound remains. These are found in some of the bottoms (now plowed over), and with a certain regularity of arrangement. A few are seen near Chamois. On the bluffs, especially at St. Aubert and Chamois, are also found stone mounds which have been opened

and disclosed skulls, bones, ashes, etc. The high-school building at Chamois is built on one. These have been called Indian graves, but the Indians disclaimed any knowledge of them whatever, saying "they were always there."

The Indians most common to this territory were the Osages, Shawnees and Delawares, who made Cote Sans Dessein their great trading post during the French occupation of Missouri. They also, later on, traded their pelts to the French village opposite. Among the chiefs best known to the earliest white settlers were "Big Indian John" and one called by the whites "Pocahontas"—better known to the reader as a feminine name. Their baskets, moccasins, pelts, etc., were traded to the whites for food. No trouble ever occurred. Among some of these Indians were Catholic converts of the early missionaries. They had trails all through the county, serving for years as roads; these were often made by deer and bear also, on account of the thick, high "blue sage grass" that covered the county.

*The Early French Settlers.\**—The early French traders located at Cote Sans Dessein probably before the present century, and this became a prominent point. "Jean Baptiste Paraw" settled on Big Island in the first decade of the present century, probably. At an early date—evidence points to between 1805 and 1810—the Missouri, according to its perverse habit, began cutting the Cote Sans Dessein bank and building the south bank, whereupon the most of the village moved over about a quarter-mile below Bonnot's depot, on bottoms now in the river. Here they had huts ranged along the main road fronting the river, where at long intervals a boat from St. Louis landed, or canoes plied between there and the "Hill-without-a-Cause" opposite. The jolly French spent their days in revelry, only needing a few hours a week for necessary duties. The tri-weekly dance was a cardinal feature of their life, in which the Indian brave and maiden were common and welcome. The names of the earliest settlers are forever lost to history, but they were known to be Creoles. During the first decade La Plant,† a German pilot who was said to have led Lewis and Clark part way up the river, came

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\*See introduction to chapter on Organization.

†These early names are spelled by sound, as the oldest settlers only so remember them.

up the river as a trader and pilot. He located at the village which seemed to have had no name but *French Village*. He afterward left and lived among the Indians, of whom he took a wife and reared several sons. Subsequently tiring of his swarthy spouse, and returning to the early village he married a French woman. His Indian sons often came to visit their "medicine man" father, for it should be mentioned that La Plant was widely known as a snake-charmer and doctor. This is vouched for by Mr. Rodney Groves, now a venerable citizen of Osage County, who says that the muttered incantation of the old pilot seemed to prevent serious results following the snake bite which was so common an injury in those days of numerous snakes, and patients came to him for leagues around. A companion of La Plant related to Mr. Groves the following incident of a hunt with the old "doctor:" He and La Plant found themselves in a thick bottom one evening, and the master of snakeship proposed camping for the night. At that his companion objected strongly for fear of snakes. "Well, we'll see if there's any snakes here," said La Plant, beginning to chant his weird words. In a few minutes a wriggling black-snake came through the grass and looked up at La Plant. He continued his mutterings, to which his snakeship gave profound attention, and then at the wave of a wand-twigg it glided away. La Plant then assured his companion that the snakes would not interfere with their slumbers,—and they did not.

Another prominent citizen was Grazier, or the Captaine. It is a peculiarity of this settlement that the real name of the families was not the one generally used; that is, Mr. Grazier's family and himself were called Captaine; if he had a boy called Joe he would be known as Joe Captaine. These names were no doubt applied in the Indian manner, but they were given in French. Mr. Grazier had probably been a captain. Others were named from various circumstances. The Vinsants, De Noyes, Foyes, Henos and others were among the later families. The Foyes were said to be relatives of Gen. La Fayette. Capt. A. G. Bennett kept the first store there as early as the 20's. He had run a boat on the Missouri, and on one occasion, it is said, he outwitted the authorities at Fort Leavenworth, beyond which point boats were not allowed to carry liquor. It was a season when

cholera was prevalent at St. Louis, and Capt. Bennett concluded to fill his boat with whisky and run the blockade. His boat was stopped at the fort, whereupon, in a loud voice, he ordered the men to "bring them two dead bodies ashore!" at the same time informing the officer in charge that they had died of cholera! It is needless to add that he was not only allowed but ordered to move on.

This French community were far more moral and refined than late generations are accustomed to consider them. They had whisky, though; each family bought a barrel, and it was left open, free to all, and when it was exhausted another family bought one. The Fourth of July was celebrated by the inevitable dance. The chief food was wild meats and hominy. There were no schools. A priest occasionally held services in some house, and dedicated a grave-yard on the site of Mrs. Bonnot's store, in the excavation of which were found many of the disturbed bones of earlier pioneers. The river began again to encroach upon the village, as if determined to scatter it, and the people soon took the hint, for they year by year left, and many located in the uplands. The last of the village, however, was a store kept by Augustus Mengese, who, at the great overflow of 1844, had to call for help to move his things away, and French Village was no more. Later comers located on the site of Bonnot's.

*The American Settlers.*—These periods of course overlap each other, but they were really separate in their aims and interests. The earliest land entries were in 1818, but it is probable that many came in a few years before that. The Americans—mostly from Virginia—settled along the streams back in the county. On the Gasconade were Peter Walters and a few others at various dates during the 20's, and some before (see land entries). On Indian Creek were William Titsmouth, Camm Seay, Richard Tiller, Alonzo Campbell, Wyatt Smith, Robert Wilson, James Marsh, — Holloway (on Maries), Giles Lee. On Brush Creek, as early as 1819, were David Hoops, Hardin Keeny, Sanford Backus, James Burns, Joshua Berry; on L'Ourse Creek were the Laughlins, Eads and Hugh Heatherly, before 1818. About the site of Chamois were at the same date Gen. James Parsons, Maj. Moses Welton, Daniel and Joseph Shobe, Henry Hull and the Nichols, besides some others.

*The German Settlers.*—About 1833 a colony of Westphalians came in and located along the two Maries chiefly. These were largely headed by thoroughly educated men, whose aspirations had been to either found or become identified otherwise with an institution of learning in the new country. Among these were the Bruns, Gramatica, Hesse and others. Hesse afterward returned to Germany, and in 1838 made a map of the Maries and Osage region, a copy of which is now in possession of Father Braun, of St. Louis, from whose exhaustive research into the Catholic history of Osage County these chapters acknowledge aid. From the mouth of the Maries up, the following names appear: Dohmen, Messerschmidt, Scheulen, Colson, Kunermann, Zellerhoff, H. Huber, Hoecyway, Höcker, Hesse (yetz Bössen), Geisberg, Gramatica, Dr. Bruns (at site of Westphalia); on the west fork, David Bruns, Herm. Bruns, Fellups and Hilt; on the east fork, Ahrez, Huber, Linnemann, Cons, Hesler and Schwarz; on the west uplands, Ahrez, Clarenbach, Zurmegede, Chipley (Shipley), Carl Huber, Nacke and Fennewald; on the northeast uplands, F. Schwarze, Wilson, Lee (Smith's Post-office) and the McDaniels. It will be seen that those to the northeast on the map are Americans. On the map, too, is a cut of the first log house at Westphalia, built by Dr. Bruns. The only roads (*wegs*) marked are: *Weg nach den Gasconade Eizenwerken*, to the iron-works; *weg nach Potosi*, from Shipley's ferry southeast; *weg von Jefferson City, nach St. Louis*, through Lisletown and past Smith's Post-office, and *neuer weg*, a "new road," to the north. Westphalia became their headquarters, and from that time on the immigration has been constant. [See the pages on Towns.] There had been a few of these settlers as early as 1825.

*Land Entries.*—Osage has two entries, made during the early French occupation, probably, by independent "Survey No. 2,801, certificate No. 372, St. Germain, *alias* George Germain," and "Survey No. 2,639, John Roberts." The earliest United States entries were made November 20, 1818, by Hugh Heatherly and William Dodds. On December 8th following, entries were made by Robert Shobe, Samuel Gibson, Lewis Hall, J. M. Morrow, Angus Langham, William Laughlin, Daniel Shobe, Moses Welton, and during the same month, John Eads, Isham Talbot.



and William Rector, and Isaac Best. In 1819 were those of William Bailey, J. Burchard and James Simpson; in 1820, Jefferson Lively; in 1823, William Eads, William Bumpass; in 1824, John Perkins, Samuel Shobe; in 1825, David Waldo and W. Bumpass, David Massie; in 1826, Charles and Tarleton Massie, Bernard Bruns; in 1827, John Newton, William Howard and George Boulware. These are all before 1830.

From 1830 to 1840 are: J. B. Cooke, Sanford Backus, 1830; 1831, R. P. Jones, W. Talbot; —, Sampson Pummill; 1832, Joseph Lagsdon, D. Simpson, W. L. Walton; 1833, Lewis Bolton, John Pryer, Sr., G. W. Massey, Benj. Laughlin, D. Branson, James Wyatt, Henderson Campbell, Joel Starkey, John Crouch, J. Foulks, F. Dodds, Thomas Taylor, Isaac Ray, John Scott, James Hilton, Sr., David Miller, Martin and Jesse Douglass, H. Barclay, J. Wyatt, Chesley Vaughan, D. Hoops, James Burns, John Backus, Hardy Keeny, W. F. Fowler; 1834, S. and W. Cason, J. Mercer-smith, J. Holliway, Benj. M. Lysle, Jacob Holliway, Charles Bolton, G. W. Burchard, Joseph Williams, S. Gibson, Jesse Evans, J. Grazer and L. Laplante, Thomas Doggett, William Anderson, James Glasgow, Peter Burns, W. Triplet, W. P. Smith, Wyatt Smith, Robert Shipley; 1835, W. Wilhoit, D. Colston, J. Thompson, Joseph Nacke, Theo. Kolk, Francis Gramatica, Nicholas Hesse, Tillmore Agee, Coleman Seal, Thomas Robinson, A. J. Moore, Solomon Shobe, Thomas McKnight, E. T. Langham, Elias Barcroft, J. Williams, R. R. Goodman, Elizabeth Francis, G. Lee; 1836, R. W. Wells, John Berry, W. Tackett, M. G. Harrison, John Pryer, Jr., M. Powers, R. Moore, Sam. Harrison, W. Simpson, F. Hoecker, H. Zurnegede, W. Mason, J. Ashlers, E. Fillman, H. Holliway, W. Griffin, J. B. Harrison, J. T. Litton, Thomas Anderson, G. Fennewald, P. F. Clarenbach, Joseph Aretz, J. P. Dunham, M. Alkire, E. Booker, J. Hawkins, Pleasant Coffet, Pleas. Crouch, William Wyatt, W. O. Agee, Payton Williams, W. Smith, F. Denoyer, S. Ferguson, J. M. Saloe, D. Groves, E. G. Berry, James Parsons, G. H. Callender, Marmaduke Daniel, Thomas Jackson, James Weiden, W. Gomer, Solomon Caldwell, Robert Moore, H. H. Bridges, Jacob and Lydia Lollar, A. Gibson, Lewis Vincent, J. M. Salve, Thomas Quick, Lucy Cason, M. Alkire, J. W. Johnson, J. W. Wise, A. M. Miller, H. J. Wise, J. Bolton, John



Heinrich, F. Schwarze, B. Hesfeler, T. Miller, Chris. Hallomon, I. Smible, T. and W. Pointer, A. J. Moore, W. and E. Daniel, S. and T. A. Lancaster, J. Dillon, A. Campbell; 1837, Levi Perkins, S. Simpson, G. Thompson, G. Schwartz, C. Bössen, J. Dohnen, W. M. Lamkin, J. Breeding, H. Reimerman, H. Huber, James Nicholds, G. H. Bruns, D. Phillips, James Rowland, Francis Geisberg, David Bruns, Thomas Smith, A. Branson, J. H. Hawkins, A. Crider, J. F. Coffet, Jacob and Nancy Campbell, A. Margroves, Balis Laughlin, James Gibson, Elijah Breeding, Charles Seal, H. Whitley, B. Eads, A. Morehead, G. Groves, Jane McKnight, James Glenn, T. Morgan, Isaac Alford, S. Crismon, J. Curphey, Isaac Backus, W. F. Page, D. Goodman, William Miller, W. Owen, R. Rollins, G. Blumenkemper, O. W. Holmes, J. Fick, A. Hill, M. Ritter, J. Koland, Charles Huber, B. Linneman, J. Bruegink, J. Cox, Ed. and Jane Freeman, Elizabeth and William Massey, F. and H. Holterman, R. M. Woody, Z. Isbell, L. Toler, D. Collins, John Sutton, M. Wilson, N. Orme, R. M. and E. Wilson, Charles Roark, James Scott, S. West, J. Branson, E. Tellerhoff, H. Poinerman, F. Waltz, M. Davis, M. A. Palmer, A. Holliway, P. and W. Crough, P. T. Buck, Susan N. Shipley; 1838, Sarah Prince, J. Treuburger, J. H. Kunere, H. Schenlen, Margaret Schroder, J. B. Maxey, L. Hull, Samuel Laughlin, Jesse Agee, E. T. Cason, Joseph Brewster, B. R. Yocum, Thomas Davis, S. A. Wiseman, T. Wiseman, A. Vaughan, William Keeny, G. H. Hill, W. Lucker, H. H. Hillen, B. Hageboug, T. Linneman, Thomas True, J. A. Page, E. McJilton, J. W. Glover, Moses Roark, L. Rothkopf, R. Berry, I. Smith; 1839, Benj. Huffman, Henry Breson, H. J. Speed, Edward and Samuel Walker, Rudolph Aud, P. W. Nolin, R. A. Hancock, T. F. Clary, H. J. Hull, Barnabas Boulware, Gertrude Schwartz, M. Gotzen, Mat. Agee, Helen Newton, George Tubbe, Henrietta Bruns, J. B. Mareille, Herm. Odelehr, Jesse Winbarne, R. Cox, W. Contes, B. Simpson, H. Baker, R. Hamet, T. J. Laughlin, A. R. Phillips, N. Ferrier, John Gibson, Rodney Groves, Jer. Lee, T. L. Powell, J. L. Cooke, Joseph Dodds, B. Seidner, J. D. Cochrane, Benj. Johnson, R. R. Howard, Charles Chronenbold, Silas and James Estes, Z. Jackson, William McKnight, J. B. Marcille, B. Salve, J. B. Besson, J. P. Sannies, Theoph. Briscoen, G. Couser, Lucien

Philbert, T. J. Young, David Hoops, S. H. Young, J. R. and Isaac Hilton, W. Rothwell, Henry Lurton, J. M. and W. F. Fowler, Thomas Backus, H. R. Hibler, George Mageune, George Freshwater, W. Huber, J. J. McDaniel, Elizabeth Miller, John Ramsey, A. W. C. Hutton, Columbus and E. Hutton, W. Jarvis, J. F. Oligschlagel, H. Laureth, S. Myerpeter, M. Renney, John Zeilman, M. Davis, A. F. Willis, B. Breens, S. Ottensmeyer, H. Feltman, J. Luckenhoff, G. Westerman, C. Kaiser, M. A. Holmes, H. Grove, W. Lakebrink, J. Boone, S. and J. T. H. Hughes, J. H., C. G. and D. S. Woody, A. Hamlet, J. Russell, Joseph Hallomon, O. P. Roads, J. Owens, G. Crustingerd, J. W. and W. R. Huckstep, John Chapman, J. M. Laughlin, Lina Wilson, D. Miller, Polly Phillips, J. Jett, W. T. E. North, W. P. Smith, F. Eppenhoff; 1840, F. Lucker.

There were very few entries in the 40's, but large numbers late in the 50's. Since that decade entries have been scattering.

*An Interesting Tax List.*—As is well known Osage County was once a part of Gasconade, which also included several other counties. This was so in 1828, when the following complete assessor's list was made, certified to by William Coppedge, assessor, August 4, 1828 (received by David Waldo, county clerk), in which can be seen the names of Osage settlers, along with others. It will be noticed that the wealthiest man on the list was an Osage resident. The amount of land owned by residents was 9,068.75 acres; number of slaves, 101; horses, 794; cattle, 1,669; carriages, 5; "improvements," 10; male inhabitants between twenty-one and sixty-five years of age, 353; whole tax, \$825.91. The wealthiest man was Moses Welton, who owned over 1,884 acres of land, valued at \$4,800, and sixteen slaves, valued at \$3,350; he was one of the few men who owned a watch. Henry Hull's wealth lay chiefly in slaves, thirteen, valued at \$3,100. Jesse Evans and James Parsons each had ten slaves, those of the former valued at \$3,000, and Parsons' at \$2,000. These were the wealthiest men of the county. The names of the list are given complete, with the assessor's spelling retained: Thomas Apling, John Adams, Benjamin Allen, James Arthur, Barnabas Arthur, William Arthur, Jacob Anderson, Samuel Abbott, Michael Alkire, John Breeding, Adam Bradford, Isaac Bradford, John Baldrige, Alexander

Baldrige, Joshua H. Buckhart, William Bradford, William Baker, James Bates, James Boyd, Matthew Bates, Samuel Brown, Nancy Brown, Moses Brown, Jeremiah Brown, Isaac Brown, William Bowles, James Benton, Abram Benton, Abel Benton, James Ball, Elijah Benton, Mark Benton, Jesse Benton, Mark Benton, Sr., Wilbourin Britton, Frankey Britton, Bedford Britton, William Britton, Mathias Baker, Jesse Ballew, Alfred S. Bone, John Blize, William Bumpass, Thomas Bittick, Frederick Barbarick, Samuel Buchard, Thomas Basket, Willis O. Bryant, William Bell, Margaret Butler, Joseph Butler, William Brown, James Burns, Sanford Baccus, Hugh Bartlett, John Burchard, George Burchard, Elijah Breeding, George Boulware, Thomas Bales, Frances Carman, Gabriel Chinoweth, Absolom Cornelius, James Collens, William Cornelius, Alexander Coppedge, George Coppedge, George Cole, John Carter, Zandy Carter, Washington Carter, Robert Clinton, Jonathan Clinton, Alexander Castleman, Jonathan Cane, James Cambell, Moses Campbell, Thomas M. Casebolt, Jacob Casebolt, James Coyle, Mannen Clement, William Clement, Andrew Clement, Abram Clement, Daniel Crider, Sr., Joseph Crider, Daniel Crider, Jr., Henry Cowen, Joshua Cox, Thomas Cox, Andrew Cox, Mary Cox, Lindsey Coppedge, William Coppedge, Dianna Coyl, John Coyl, Immanuel Case, Nancy Caldwell, William Cason, Pemborter Cason, Seth Cason, Edmond Cason, Frederich Capehartt, Nichless Clark, Stephen Combz, William Careley, John Costly, James Careley, John Capehartt, Henry Carely, Thomas Capehartt, Isaac Christman, Stephen Christman, William Christman, David Davis, Bazeel Drolett, Charles Drolett, John Decoursey, Joseph Dickson, John Dunlap, Henry Duncan, Harrison Davis, Isaac Davis, Esq., John Day, Farmer Doyl, Lewis David, John Duncan, Sr., John Duncan, Jr., Bowls Duncan, Samuel Duncan, John Duncan, Esq., Thomas Dulon, William Dodds, Ledford Eastis, Leonard Eastwood, Jesse Evans, George Evans, James Eastis, Hugh Eastis, John Eedes, Nancy Eedes, Benjamin Eedes, Peggy Flatt, Nelson Grogan, John Givens, Thomas Gibson, William Gillaspy, James Gillaspy, Alfred Givens, Samuel Glover, Abraham Gibson, James Glasgow, John Gibson, James Gibson, Samuel Gibson, John Grady, Battest Grassaw, Patience Howard, Joseph Holbert, Newel

Hayden, Thomas Hightowr, John Honsinger, Sr., James Harrison, Esq., Charles Helm, Peter Hobaugh, William E. Hawkins, Bartlet Harris, George Hinson, John Humphrey, John Honsinger, Jr., Acra B. Hurt, Joseph Hays, Jonathan Humphrey, Joel Humphrey, John Hinchy, Ezekiel Hinchy, Urah Hinchy, Henry Holder, John Hobaugh, Sr., Audrey Hobaugh, Alexander Hill, George Hill, Bilberry Hinchy, David Hoops, Esq., David Hoops, Jr., George Hoops, Jonathan Holloway, Jacob Halloway, Hugh Hetherly, John Huffman, William Hughs, Joseph Hughs, Henry Hall, Drury Hall, John Hughs, John Howard, Henry Hull, William Howard, William Howard, Sr., Willis Hensly, Willis Hensly, Sr., James Inglis, James Johnson, William Jordon, Dull Johnson, Susannah Jamison, Thomas Johnson, Luke Jefferson, William James, James Jett, William Jarvis, John Johns, Samuel King, Obadiah Key, George Kitchens, Hardy Keene, Barney Lowe, Esq., James Landsell, Lewis Letney, David J. Long, John Lewis, John Lamb, James Luster, Robert Law, William Laughlin, John Laughlin, Benjamin Laughlin, Jeffrey Lively, Jesse Lively, Anthony Larue, Charles Lane, John Lewis, Sr., Canarro C. Lane, James Loftin, Merriman Loftin, David Lenox, William Laughlin, Lewis Leplont, John Martin, Paul McDenowey, Battest McDenoway, Luisong McDenoway, Lewis McDehat, Francis McDenoway, Charles Miscal, John McFerson, Stephen Mason, William Morrison, Hiram Morrison, John Mercer, James Massie, Samuel Massie, William Miller, Macaiyat Morris, William Morris, Ellis Matlock, Abner Starret, Nathaniel McKean, Thomas Matlock, Reuben Melton, Robert Montgomery, Bryant McClenden, John Montgomery, William Montgomery, Esq., Walter Maxey, Katherine McGee, William Margrave, Anthony Margrave, Joseph M. Morrow, William Massay, David Massay, Zarlton Massay, David Massay, Jr., Gideon P. Norman, Merit Nobles, Stanmore Nobles, Richard Nobles, Zephiniah Nobles, James Newberry, Aaron Night, Spencer O'Neal, Henry Ormsby, John Ormsby, William Owens, Nicholas Ownsbay, William Parmer, George M. Perry, John Pettis, Stephen Pettis, George Poynter, Jeremiah Potts, Thomas Patterson, Asa Pinnell, Esq., Newman Pounds, Levi Perkins, John Poyter, Robert Pryor, James Parsons, David

Perkins, William Pryor, Hiram Perkins, John Pryor, Daniel Pryor, Joanah Poynter, Jesse Patterson, John Patterson, Phillip Patterson, Ephraim Perkins, John Phillips, Isaac Perkins, Alexander Patterson, Cyrus Patterson, Robert Patterson, Charles Rail, Jr., Charles Rail, Sr., Amos Reed, John E. Robertson, Amos Richardson, Jr., Amos Richardson, Sr., Hiram Robertson, William Reed, Mary Reed, Robert Rollins, Leonard Reed, Jr., Leonard Reed, Washington Revis, Alexander Rattles, James Renfro, Bartlett Renfro, Joel Robertson, Thomas Robertson, William Robertson, William Roark, James Roark, Thomas Roark, Fountain Self, Jacob Snowden, Henry Stuart, James Stuart, Jacob Stuart, James Skaggs, Parmer Sinclair, William Spear, Reuben Sparks, James Stark, Josiah Stills, Aaron Spann, Thomas Stark, Charles Stuart, Andrew Skaggs, John Stevens, Henry Skaggs, John Skaggs, Mark Sullivant, George Snodgrass, James Snodgrass, Joel Starkey, Isaiah Shockley, James Snelson, Thomas Shockley, Daniel Shockley, William Shivers, John Scott, James Sullivant, Elizabeth Shobe, Moses Simpson, Daniel Simpson, Samuel Shobe, Solomon Shobe, Robert Shobe, John Strain, Uriah Shockley, William Truesdall, Esq., Otis Turner, Job Throckmorton, George Tilfore, John Timmons, William Twitty, Josiah Tigert, John Turpin, Josiah Turpin, Samuel Travis, William Tanzy, Thomas Taylor, William Tuckett, Phillip Tuckett, John Tuckett, John and Reuben Vest, Reuben Vaughan, John B. Waldo, James D. Watkins, James Wright, John Williamson, James Williamson, James Wilson, John Wilson, Willis Wilson, Rola Williams, Sr., Elias Williams, Rola Williams, Greenberry Williams, Peter Walters, Samuel Woods, John Wyatt, James Wyatt, Nancy Watson, Edward Watson, William Ware, Robert Wright, D. D. and E. W. Waldo, Moses Welton, Lewis Welton, Joseph Waldo, William West and David Waldo. Of these but twenty-eight owned land.

*Early Interesting Incidents.*—In early days people's wants were few, and a little farming and hunting were their chief occupations. Before Sanford Backus built the first grist-mill (horse power) on Bush Creek, corn was the only grain; then, however, they went to Kentucky and got some wheat for seed. Notwithstanding the ravages of wolves, hogs and cattle grew nicely on

the forest mast, and were driven off occasionally to the big pinery mills at the head of Big Piney, or later on to the Meramec and Gasconade Iron Works, and rarely to St. Louis and Jefferson City. A considerable business followed by almost everyone was rafting pine lumber down the rivers to St. Louis.

The first store of which information can be gained was Capt. Bennett's at French Village. The next one was at Lisletown, in 1831 or 1832; this was the second town and first post-office in the county, and was "boomed" by its founder, Benjamin Lisle; it was located at the left of the mouth of the Maries, but never prospered, for Westphalia was founded about 1835, and soon overshadowed Mr. Lisle's town completely. John Thompson also had a store on Big Maries before Westphalia's time. Medora was an early settlement, but its real town features were not assumed until the advent of the railway. The second post-office was kept by Wyatt Smith as early as 1832, on Indian (afterward Smith's) Creek. The next agitation for a town was the location of the county seat. A Mr. Goodman had a mill about five miles southeast of Linn site, and this land was bought and laid out into the town of Van Buren to secure the seat of justice; a valiant effort was made, but in vain, and the place soon died out. Castle Rock, on the Osage bottoms at its main western bend in this county, was a beautiful site for a town; it was founded a few years before the war, by the brave Col. George W. Boomer, of the Twenty-sixth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, who intended to make a representative place of it, and soon secured a large mill, a furniture factory, stores, hotel, church and school. At the outbreak of the war it had assumed considerable proportions. His acceptance of the colonelship of "the brave little Twenty-sixth," and his fall in battle, was the signal for the ruin of his town, which fell as quickly as it rose. The first post route was the courier post between the capital and the metropolis of the State.

Schiller's mill, near Westphalia, was about the second mill established, and here also was the first "still," near 1833.

The earliest election known was one held in 1832 at James Bruns'.

The first deed recorded in Osage County was filed March 12, 1841, for the sale of "one negro boy by the name of Samuel "

for \$500; Preston G. bought it of Joseph H. McDaniel. The first marriage record reads:

I, Abraham Gibson, a justice of the peace within and for Osage County, do hereby certify that I joined together in Holy Matrimony Edward Harper and Nancy Phillips on the 25th of February, 1841.

ABRAHAM GIBSON, *J. P.*

Filed and recorded June 1, 1841.

E. McJILTON, *Clerk and Recorder.*

The next was March 23, 1841. Allen Langley was married to Elizabeth Williams, by Squire Gibson also; then on April 30, 1841, Rev. John Burgess, a "Hardshell" Baptist, married Jacob Campbell and Milenay Baker; following this Rev. Ferd. M. Helias united John Adolph Selapen and Margaret Schrader. Rev. John Woody married the next couple.

#### ORGANIZATION, COUNTY COURT, ETC.

*As Originally Constituted.*—Of course the inhabitants of Osage territory had nothing to do with organization,\* at least until the creation of Gasconade County in 1821, when its citizens took a prominent part in county affairs. Moses Welton was one of the commissioners of public works, also William Bumpass; and James Parsons and Joseph Morrow were two of the locating commissioners. Gibson Township about covered Osage territory in 1822, and up to 1839, when an Osage Township was created. In those days Maries Township generally represented that county; Cullins Township was the better part of what is now Pulaski and Phelps counties, and so on. Among the first acts of that county, too, are found the names of the Langhams and Moses Welton. One of the very first purchases of land was the Big Island, opposite Cote Sans Dessein; this island was settled at, possibly, as early a date as 1800, for Jean Baptiste Paraw acquired it by right of settlement, and after his death his widow married Joseph Rassene (or Rassein), who, on December 21, 1818, sold it for \$300 to Robert A. and John G. Heath. It embraced 160 acres. Moses Welton was the wealthiest man in the county, even in 1821, when he had twelve slaves, valued at \$3,450. The Shobes, Laughlin, Parson and others were also prominent.

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\* See Maries County division of this volume for County Organization.



William Bumpass, Robert Shobe, David Hoops, Asa Pinnell, and others were among the members of the first county courts. Many of its citizens served officially in the mother county, even down to the time of organization, when some resigned to become officers in the new county of Osage.

*The Creative Act.*—Hon. A. Alexander was the Gasconade representative who was elected with a view to creating the new county, and he proposed the following act, which was passed and approved January 29, 1841:

An act to organize counties therein named, and define the boundaries thereof [including Nodaway, Andrew, Jasper, Dade, Grundy, Niangua, Wright, Ozark, St. Clair, Kinderhook, Scotland, Bates, Adair, Osage and Shannon]. \* \* \*

40. All that portion of territory included within the county of Gasconade, and being west of the range line dividing Ranges 6 and 7, is hereby created a separate and distinct county, to be called and known by the name of the county of *Osage*.

41. Gustavus A. Parsons, of Cole County; Matthew Walton, of Audrain County, and Thomas Moseley, of Montgomery County, are hereby appointed commissioners to select the permanent seat of justice for said county.

42. The circuit and county courts of said county shall be holden at the home of Thomas Robinson in said county until the permanent seat of justice is established, or the court shall otherwise direct.

It was also ordered that the commissioners receive \$2 per day for services; that the court and sheriff be appointed by the governor; that the courts appoint the clerks. An act of March 1, 1855, defined the boundary between Osage and Pulaski counties; but otherwise there has been no important change.

*Origin of Name.*—Gasconade seems to have set a precedent in county naming in honor of one of her most prominent streams, for her daughter Osage and her granddaughter Maries were named in the same way. It is of course well known that the name Osage came originally from the name of the Indian nation who once occupied Western Missouri—the word is a corruption of *Oua-chage*, meaning “the strong,” and was applied to the river by the French.

*Location of County Seat.*—As has been shown, the first seat of justice was temporarily at Thomas Robinson’s, on Loose Creek, about six miles northwest of the site of Linn, and then for a few terms at Elijah White’s, on Swan Creek, near the site of Rich



Fountain; the court next ordered it to the home of Adolphus Mengese, at the Cave Spring, about four miles west of the site of Linn. During this time the commissioners appointed for locating had to be replaced in part. Finally G. A. Parsons, of Cole; William Coppedge, of Pulaski, and E. P. Gaines, of Callaway, were ordered to meet at A. Mengese's on Thursday before the second Monday in June, 1842, and the spot afterward named Linnville (since curtailed to Linn) was chosen. Meanwhile a Mr. T. A. Baker, Bennett's clerk, bought land about four and a half miles southeast of Linn, and started a town called in the records "Vanburin" (Van Buren), and boomed it as a candidate for the commissioners to consider. The court even held a few sessions there, but when Linn was chosen, and named in honor of Senator L. F. Linn, court was ordered there in the house of Eli McJilton, the clerk, to await the erection of public buildings. Here it has remained without any strong attempt at removal, except Van Buren and Loose Creek efforts.

*The County Court.*—As the records of the county are complete from the first, the proceedings of the earliest court may be seen as follows:

STATE OF MISSOURI, } *Solicit.*  
COUNTY OF OSAGE. }

At a county court begun and held at the house of Thomas Robinson, on the twenty-fifth day of March, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, were present the Honorable Roysden Robinson and John Chapman, justices of said court, Zachariah Isbell, sheriff, and E. McJilton, clerk.

Court being called:

1st. Ordered by the court that Roysden Robinson be appointed president of the court until otherwise ordered.

2d. And now at this day comes Zachariah Isbell, sheriff and *ex-officio* collector of Osage County, and presents his official bond for approval, which was done.

[Here E. McJilton does likewise.]

4th. Ordered that David Hoops, Sr., be appointed assessor for Osage County for the year 1841; and the said Hoops comes into court and enters into bond, which bond is approved.

[Here follows the first township organization, given below.]

17th. Ordered that the next regular term of Osage County Court be held on the second Monday in May next, and every three months thereafter until otherwise provided.

18th. Ordered that Seth Pryor be appointed county surveyor for Osage County until August, 1841, and until his successor be duly qualified.

[Here the clerk was ordered to buy an office outfit, and keep the office at his own house. Also a tax on licenses of 150 per cent is ordered. The clerk is also ordered to notify the secretary of State that the following justices have no copies of State laws: W. Shockley, R. Robinson and L. L. Lane, of Jackson (now in Maries county); Abe Gibson and Robert Moore, of Linn Township; Moses Phillips and George Cretzinger, in Benton; also two in both Crawford and Benton.]

Ordered that the court adjourn until court in course.

ROYSDEN ROBINSON, *President O. C. C.*

So ended the first day and term.

*Township Organization.*—One of the first acts of the first day of the Osage County Court (March 25, 1841) was the following formation of municipal townships. Jackson: "Commencing at the southwest corner of Osage County; thence north to the township line between Townships 41 and 42; thence east along said township line to the section line between Sections 3 and 4, in Range 9 west; thence south along said section line to the south boundary of Osage County; thence to beginning." Jefferson: "Commencing at the southeast corner of Osage County; thence along the line of said county to the southeast corner of Jackson Township; thence north along said township line to the northeast corner of Jackson Township; thence east along the township line between Townships 41 and 42 to east boundary line of Osage County; thence to beginning." Crawford: "Commencing at the northeast corner of Jefferson Township; thence east along said township line to section line between Sections 34 and 35, in Range 9, in Township 43; thence east to line between Townships 43 and 44; thence east to eastern boundary line of Osage County; thence to beginning." Benton: "Beginning at the northeast corner of Crawford Township; thence west along said township line to the range line between Ranges 8 and 9; thence north to the Missouri River; thence down said river to the northeast corner of Osage County; thence to beginning." Washington: "Beginning at the southwest corner of Crawford Township; thence west along said township line between Townships 41 and 42 to the west boundary line of Osage County; thence north to Osage River; thence down said river to the mouth of the Maries

River; thence up said Maries into the centerable (central) line in Township 43; thence east to northwest corner of Crawford Township; thence to beginning." Linn: "Commencing at the mouth of Maries; thence up said Maries to the Washington Township line; thence east to the range line between Ranges 8 and 9; thence north to the Missouri River; thence up said river to the Osage River; thence up said river to the beginning."

These townships were to have these roads districted by the following commissioners: E. Moss, for Jackson; R. Levell, for Jefferson; G. McDaniel, for Crawford; T. Taylor, for Benton; R. Moore, for Linn, and Camm Seay for Washington. The following term the election organization was made as follows: At the house of Daniel Boone, in Jackson, the judges were to be Abe. Edmondson, Jesse Boone and Thomas Anderson; at the house of D. B. Wherry, in Jefferson, the judges were W. Henderson, Reuben Terrell and William David; at John J. McDaniel's, in Crawford, Robert Goodman, J. J. McDaniel and Sanford Backus were to act; Joseph Morrow, John Gibson and Thomas Taylor were judges at John Berry's, in Benton; in Linn, at Thomas Robinson's, Thomas Jackson and C. and J. M. Laughlin served; and at Westphalia, in Washington, Giles Lee, F. W. Hofeus and Oliver Hombs supervised the polls.

On June 18, 1855, the next reorganization was made by changing the old boundaries somewhat, but on May 31, 1866, the six townships were divided so as to add the following new townships: Lincoln: Beginning at northwest corner Section 15, Township 42, Range 8; thence west to northwest corner Section 14, Township 42, Range 10; thence south to Maries County line; thence east to Gasconade River; down river to Sections 15 and 16, dividing line of Township 42, Range 8; thence to beginning. Fletcher: Beginning at northeast corner Section 13, Township 43, Range 7; thence west to northwest corner Section 16, Township 43, Range 8; thence south to northwest corner Section 16, Township 42, Range 8; thence east to northeast corner same; thence south to Gasconade River; down river to Sections 18 and 19, dividing line of Township 42, Range 7; thence east to county line; thence north to beginning; and Harris: Beginning at northeast corner Section 12, Township 44, Range 7; thence west to northwest

corner Section 9, Township 44, Range 8; thence south to southwest corner Section 9, Township 43, Range 8; thence east to county line at northeast corner Section 13, Township 43, Range 7; thence north to beginning. These were, however, soon abolished, and the old six-township organization resumed, as at present.

*Miscellaneous Proceedings.*—Thomas C. Clark was one of the justices of the earliest court, first serving at Elijah White's. The first petitions for roads were from Evans' Ferry, on the Missouri, to Robert Goodman's mill; from the same place to Lysletown (also spelled Liletown and Lisletown); from Williams' Landing to the county seat. Shipley's ferry privilege was the first act of that kind. A fifty-cent bounty on wolf-scalps was one of the early laws. The first naturalization case was that of "Jacob Struempf." The first court of appeals was held August 27, 1841. The first allowance for assessor's work was \$61.37, to David Hoops, Sr. Camm Seay was the first administrator (1841). The first election ordered was for one constable and three justices in each township; the first election for court justices was in August, 1841. April 10, 1842, court was ordered held at Van Buren, and on November 16 they ordered the county seat proper called "Linnville."

A boy living at Dr. M. Walton's was the first one for whom the court appointed a guardian. Henry Zurmegede was a surveyor in 1842, and April 10, 1842, deeds and papers were completed for the county seat; John Scott, Esq., was then ordered to lay out the site. The first "inn or tavern" was licensed to Charles Holtschneider, at "Lisletown." In 1843 George Cretzinger was made superintendent of public buildings, and the first court was held at Linn August 14, 1843. It was at this court that the first organization of a school-district occurred. This was Township 42, Range 10, and D. S. Woody was made commissioner, with Caleb Balband and Abraham Barnhart as directors. The first allowance for a "sine bord" (mile-post) was \$1.00, to George Tacker. August 28, 1843, it was ordered that money should be borrowed and bids let for court-house and jail. The first township to need a patrol was Benton; Charles Phelps was made captain. In 1843 M. C. Davis and others made a feeble ef-