

1682.

COMBINED HISTORY

OF

EDWARDS, LAWRENCE AND WABASH

COUNTIES, ILLINOIS.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

DESCRIPTIVE OF THEIR SCENERY

AND

Biographical Sketches of some of their Prominent Men and Pioneers.

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1883.

March, 1879, he was appointed master in chancery for a term of two years, and in 1882 he was elected prosecuting attorney. Mr. Strawn has confined himself to a general practice in which he has been very successful.

WILLIAM F. FOSTER, although a native of Indiana, has been a resident of Edwards county since he was four years of age. His education was acquired by hard, studious application to his books, having attended school only nine months in his life. In January, 1876, he began reading law in the office of F. A. Sampson, at Sedalia, Missouri, and was admitted to the bar in that State May 8, 1876, having acquired the knowledge of law necessary for admission within the short space of four months. He was admitted to practice in Illinois January 22, 1879, and located at Albion, since which he has had a good practice. In November, 1880, he was appointed master in chancery and served in that capacity for a term of two years.

#### LAWRENCE COUNTY.

##### FORMER RESIDENT LAWYERS.

Many lawyers at various times have made Lawrence county their residence, some for a very short period and others remaining for several years. It is impossible to gather the names of all those who resided at Lawrenceville in the earlier part of its history, as they have passed from the recollection of the oldest citizens.

JUDGE AARON SHAW was the earliest resident attorney that became in any way prominent. He was admitted to the bar at Lawrenceville in 1835, and remained there for several years. In 1850 he was elected to the Legislature, and in 1857 to Congress. He subsequently moved to Olney. March 2, 1863, he was commissioned circuit judge in the twenty-fourth circuit, vice James C. Allen, resigned. In 1882 he was again elected to Congress, and still resides in Olney.

JOSEPH G. BOWMAN located here about 1835. He is a fine judge of law and a successful attorney. He moved to Vincennes and from thence to Olney, where he now resides.

FREDERICK A. THOMAS, a young attorney, came about 1840, was elected circuit clerk and died while in office.

Two brothers, LOUIS and D. B. ABERNATHY, located here about 1860. The former held the office of school commissioner, and the latter was master in chancery for several years. They were promising young lawyers, and both died in Lawrenceville.

T. P. LOWERY became a resident practitioner about the same time as the above named, and remained for seven years. He held the office of county surveyor for two terms, and served in the capacity of school superintendent and justice of the peace. He moved to Texas.

WM. LINDSEY was here for a few years, leaving about 1864 or '65. He was politically inclined, a fair stump speaker, and receiving an office under the government he departed.

JOHN FIELDS, a lawyer of considerable ability, came to the bar in 1867. He graduated in the law department of the State University of Indiana. In 1870, he was a partner of E. B. Green of Mt. Carmel; was appointed master in chancery in 1871, performing the duties of that office until 1878. Failing health caused him to give up his lucrative practice here and he is now a resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

D. L. BREWER, a well known attorney, resided in Lawrenceville for a number of years.

HARRY BRISCOE, with the story of whose horrible death the citizens are so familiar, was a good young lawyer, and was for a time prosecuting attorney of the county.

T. A. STEWART, and I. N. FARNSWORTH were among those of the more recent years.

##### PRESENT RESIDENT LAWYERS.

The oldest resident lawyer of Lawrence county is the Hon. Wm. J. Chews. He was born in Crawford county, Illinois, in 1824, and five years later his father moved his family to this county, locating on Allison prairie. Here he grew to manhood, attending the common schools of his neighborhood, and laboring at home on the farm. At the age of twenty-one his father gave him forty acres of land, and he engaged in farming for himself. A few years later he moved to Lawrenceville, and embarked in the milling business, with which he soon became dissatisfied and returned to farm life. In 1843, he began the study of law under the directions of J. G. Bowman, being admitted to practice in 1846. It was now, for the first time, that he had an opportunity of displaying his powerful intellect. His knowledge was acquired almost entirely by self-culture, and had he devoted his entire attention to law, he would doubtless have shed lustre on the bar of southern Illinois. He is a man possessed of extraordinary judgment, a good speaker and a sound, careful lawyer. In 1869 he was elected to the office of county judge, but resigned his position in 1872, when his fellow-citizens chose him to represent them in the State Senate, where he served with distinction for two years. The Judge is still living, on his farm, near where his father settled on coming to the county.

T. B. HUFFMAN, a native of Indiana, received his rudimentary education in the common schools of his native State, completing his literary education at the Vincennes University, and at Lincoln University at Lincoln, Illinois. Commenced the reading of law in the office of Judge William B. Jones, of Lincoln, and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1869. In May of the same year he located in Lawrenceville, where he has since continued to practice his profession. In 1873, was appointed by the governor to the office of county judge, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of William J. Crews. About the close of the term of county judge, Harry Briscoe, the prosecuting attorney, died, and Mr. Huffman was chosen to fill the vacancy, and in 1875 was elected to the same for the term of four years. In 1869, he formed a partnership with

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David B. Abernathy, and, subsequently, for about two years was in partnership with E. Callahan. In 1881, he took into partnership, D. L. Brewer, which continued until the death of the latter in March, 1822. In June, 1882, S. G. Gee, became a partner, and the firm of Huffman & Gee still continues.

WILLIAM M. ROBINSON, is a son of Dr. J. A. Robinson, a Methodist minister. He received his early education in the public schools, in the various towns in Illinois, to which his father was sent as pastor, and subsequently attended McKendree college at Lebanon, Illinois, from which institution he graduated in 1870. In 1871, he began reading law with William Stoker, of Centralia, and afterward with Judge Horace Hayward, Olney. Was admitted to the bar in January, 1875. Immediately thereafter he began the practice of law in Olney, associated with W. Mattoon, and in August, 1876, came to Lawrenceville and opened an office, forming partnership with D. L. Brewer, in 1877, which continued for a period of two years, since which time Mr. Robinson has practiced alone. He is a man of great talent and a lawyer of ability.

S. B. ROWLAND, is a native of Illinois. He began the study of law in the office of Wilson & Hutchison, of Olney, and afterward attended the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating in March, 1871. Was admitted to the bar in this State, in April of the same year, and soon afterward located in the practice of law at Lawrenceville. In 1882, he formed a partnership with T. P. Lowery, and in the same year purchased the *Lawrence County Democrat*, which was under his management about four years. March 16, 1883, he formed a partnership with his old preceptor, E. S. Wilson, of Olney.

GEORGE HUFFMAN, is a brother of Judge T. B. Huffman, also a native of Indiana. He was educated in the schools of his native State, attending the Vincennes University, and in 1867 entered the Lincoln University of Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1869. Began the study of law in 1870, in the office of W. B. Jones, at Lincoln, and was admitted to practice in 1871. For a few years he taught school, and was engaged in the mercantile business, and in the spring of 1878 began the practice of his profession in Lawrenceville by himself. In 1879 he became a partner with E. S. Wilson of Olney, which continued until August, 1880, when he formed a partnership with Frank C. Meserve. Mr. Huffman is a good lawyer.

K. P. SNYDER, the present efficient prosecuting attorney of Lawrence county, was born in Richland county, Illinois, where he received his early education, subsequently attending the State Normal University, at Normal, Illinois. Read law in the office of Fifer & Phillips, of Bloomington, at the same time attended the law department of the Wesleyan University, from which institution he graduated in June, 1879, and immediately thereafter was admitted to the bar at Mt. Vernon, Illinois. September 1, 1879, he opened a law office in

Lawrenceville. In 1880, he was elected to the office of State's attorney for Lawrence county, for a term of four years. Mr. Snyder is a studious, careful lawyer, and a successful prosecutor.

T. B. FINLY, a resident attorney of Sumner, a native of Ohio, attended Miller's Academy, and afterward Franklin College at Athens, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1869. Read law in the office of Miller & Sherrard, at Steubenville, Ohio, and took a course in the law school at Cleveland, Ohio. Began practice at Sidney, Ohio, and afterward became a partner of Judge William Lawrence, at Bellefontaine, Ohio. Opened an office at Sumner, in 1879, where he has since resided.

FRANK MESERVE came to Illinois from Massachusetts, his native state, in 1879. He is a young man of scholarly attainments, having had advantage of the superior schools of his native state, and graduating at the Boston University in 1877. His father being a lawyer, Mr. Meserve inherited a natural inclination and tact for the legal profession, and shortly after leaving college he began the study of law in his father's office. Coming west, he resided with his uncle, at Robinson, Illinois, and completed his legal course in the office of Callahan & Jones of that town. He was admitted to the bar in this state in June, 1880, and the following month located in Lawrenceville, forming a law partnership with George Huffman, under the style of Huffman & Meserve, which still continues. In January, 1881, the firm purchased the *Democratic Herald*, Mr. Meserve assuming editorial charge. He is an energetic, studious lawyer, with good prospects for an extended practice.

C. J. BORDEN is a native of Pennsylvania; he graduated from the Chester county Academy, in Pennsylvania, in 1873, and in 1876 went to Kentucky and attended the law department of the University of Louisville, graduating in 1879. He located in the practice of law at Lawrenceville in 1881.

S. J. GEE was born in St. Francisville, in this county. He entered Shurtleff college, at Alton, Illinois, in 1876, graduating in 1880, and immediately afterward began the study of law in the office of Brewer & Huffman, in Lawrenceville, and was admitted to the bar in 1882. Soon afterward he became the junior partner of T. B. Huffman, with whom he is still associated.

PHILIP W. BARNES, the present judge of the Lawrence county court, is a native of Ohio, and came with his father to this county when a lad of six years; attended the common schools of Lawrence county, and graduated at the Olney high-school in 1879, and soon afterward entered the law department of the Illinois Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, Illinois, from which he graduated June 15, 1881, and was admitted to the bar January 11, 1882. On the 4th of December of the same year he began the practice of law in Lawrenceville by himself. In 1873 Mr. Barnes received the nomination for the office of county judge, by the Republican party, and was elected, the duties of which office he is now discharging with credit to himself and

satisfaction to the people of Lawrence. Judge Barnes is a young man of promise.

#### WABASH COUNTY.

##### FORMER RESIDENT LAWYERS.

The first resident attorney of Wabash county, as near as it is possible to ascertain, was EDWARD MUNDY. He was a native of New Jersey, and became a resident of Wabash county as early as 1820, locating in what is now Friendsville precinct. He traveled the circuit and was considered a good attorney. He was elected to represent this district in the legislature in 1830. A few years later he moved to Michigan, where he afterward became very prominent in political affairs, being elected Lieutenant Governor and holding other important offices. An attorney, by the name of ELKINS, is remembered as early as 1826, having located in the county, remaining however, only a few years.

HON. O. B. FICKLIN, a gentleman so well known to the citizens of the Wabash country, became a practising lawyer at Mt. Carmel as early as 1830, and was elected from Wabash county to represent that district in the legislature in 1834. Soon after serving out his term in the legislature he moved to Charlestown, Coles county, this state, and from that district was elected to Congress in 1843, being four times re-elected, and for many years recognized as one of the leaders of that body. He is still an honored citizen of Charlestown.

A MR. PYLE, came to Mt. Carmel about 1833, remaining about three years.

JAMES McDOWELL, came in 1836, and practiced law at the Wabash bar until his death in 1866. He was for several years judge of the probate court, and was regarded as a sound attorney. Besides his profession he was also engaged in mercantile pursuits for several years in Mt. Carmel.

CHARLES H. CONSTABLE, was a native of Maryland and located at Mt. Carmel in 1839, and remained here until 1852, when he removed to Marshall county, Illinois, where he was elected to the office of circuit judge. He was a lawyer of ability. Died about the close of the late war.

JOSEPH G. BOWMAN, a Virginian, became a member of the Wabash bar in 1839. He was elected to represent the district in the legislature in 1840, and subsequently moved to Lawrenceville, and thence to Olney, where he still resides.

JOSEPH C. ORTH, native of Pennsylvania, located here in 1844, practicing his profession for three or four years, when he engaged in farming in this county until his death in 1857.

ROBERT W. DOUGHERTY, came here from Baltimore about 1848, practiced law for a short time and returned to the east.

VICTOR B. BELL, brother of Robert Bell, practiced at the Wabash bar from 1848 to 1855, when he moved to Chicago, and formed a partnership with Gen. T. E.

Ransom. He afterward moved to Washington, D. C., and from thence to New Orleans where he died in 1867. In 1852-54, he represented Wabash and Edwards counties in the house of Representatives.

##### PRESENT RESIDENT LAWYERS.

ROBERT BELL is the oldest resident lawyer of the Wabash county bar. He is a native of the county, and received his education in the common and select schools of Mt. Carmel. He began the study of law in the office of his brother, Victor B. Bell, and subsequently attended the law department of the Indiana State University, from which Institution he graduated in February, 1855. In the spring of the same year, he formed a partnership in law, with Lewis C. Keller, at Fairfield, Illinois, where he began the practice of his profession. After a residence of two years at Fairfield, he established an office in Mt. Carmel. In 1864, he formed a partnership with Edward B. Green, under the style of Bell & Green, which firm still continue, one of the strongest in southern Illinois.

In 1863, Mr. Bell was elected President of the Illinois Southern Railroad Company, which afterward merged into the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad Company. In 1869, he was appointed by the Governor, Judge of Wabash county, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge T. J. Armstrong. In the same year he was elected President of the St. Louis, Mt. Carmel & New Albany Railroad Company, serving in that capacity until the consolidation of that railroad into the Louisville, New Albany & St. Louis, in 1872. In 1876, he was sent as special agent of the U. S. Treasury, to California, to investigate alleged frauds in the International Revenue district of that State. In the campaign of 1878, he was the Republican candidate for Congress in the nineteenth district, making a vigorous fight, although the district was hopelessly Democratic. Was a member of the Republican State Central Committee at large, from 1878 to 1882, and was one of the U. S. Commissioners in 1881, appointed to examine the Atlantic and Pacific railroad in New Mexico.

Besides those more important positions, Judge Bell has held many other minor offices of trust, in all of which he performed his duties with credit and satisfaction. He is a sound successful lawyer.

EDWARD B. GREEN, who stands at the head of the Wabash county bar, is a native of Pennsylvania, born December 29, 1837. He obtained his early education in the common schools of his native State, and took a classical course in the Reimersburg Academy, after which he was for some time Professor of Languages, in the West Freedom Academy. Leaving that position, he came directly to Edgar county, Illinois, in 1858, and began the study of law in the office of Green & Eads, at Paris. Completing his course, he was admitted to the bar in June, 1860, and immediately afterward came to Mt. Carmel, and established himself in the practice of his profession. Four years later he formed a partnership with Robert Bell, under the style of Bell & Green.

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