

portionment of 1872, Winnebago and Boone formed the Ninth Senatorial District. The separate representative districts have been abolished under the new constitution. John Early, of Winnebago, was elected senator to the Twenty-eighth General Assembly, and Mr. Hildrup, of Boone County, a representative. In the next General Assembly Mr. Early was still senator and Myron K. Avery the Boone County representative. In the Thirtieth General Assembly all of the members came from Winnebago County. In the Thirty-first Charles E. Fuller, of Boone, was senator and Omar H. Wright, of Boone County, a representative. The same in the Thirty-second General Assembly. Under the apportionment of 1882, Lake, McHenry and Boone Counties formed the Eighth Senatorial District. Judge Fuller was a representative, being the only Boone County member from the district. The same for the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth General Assemblies. In the Thirty-sixth General Assembly from 1888 to 1890 Judge Fuller was senator, and all the representatives came from outside of Boone. The judge was also senator in the Thirty-seventh General Assembly and George Reed, of Boone, a representative. In the Thirty-eighth General Assembly Reuben W. Coon, then of Lake County, but prominently identified with this county, was senator and Mr. Reed was representative. The same as to the Thirty-ninth General Assembly. In the Fortieth General Assembly, from 1896 to 1898, DuFay A. Fuller, Republican, and Jacob Edelstein, Democrat, both of Belvidere, were representatives. D. A. Fuller also served as representative in the Forty-first General Assembly, and became senator in the Forty-second. Cornelius V. O'Connor, Democrat, of Boone, served as representative at this session. Mr. Fuller also served as senator the following session. In the Forty-fourth General Assembly Frank R. Covey, of Boone County, was representative. During this session, Edward D. Shurtleff, of Marengo, was speaker of the house, being

a representative from the district including Boone County. In the Forty-fifth General Assembly Mr. Covey again served as representative, and Mr. Shurtleff was speaker.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

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### COURTS.

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BOONE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTS AND EARLY OCCUPANTS OF THE BENCH—LIST OF CIRCUIT JUDGES—CIRCUIT CLERKS AND STATE'S ATTORNEYS—COUNTY COURTS AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BAR—PROMINENT MEN WHO HAVE HELD THE POSITION OF CIRCUIT JUDGE—SKETCHES OF PRESENT COURT OFFICIALS—COURT HOUSE AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The circuit judges, clerks and state's attorneys in the early days were as follows:

#### CIRCUIT JUDGES.

Dan Stone, 1839 to 1841.  
 Thomas C. Brown, 1841 to 1847.  
 Jesse B. Thomas, 1847 to 1849.  
 Hugh Henderson, 1849 to 1851.  
 Isaac G. Wilson, 1851 to 1861.

The first circuit judge who resided in Boone County was Allen C. Fuller. He was commissioned July 1, 1861, and resigned July 18, 1862, in order to become adjutant general of the state. He was succeeded by Theodore D. Murphy. This county was in the Thirteenth Circuit at that time. Under the act of 1877, Boone County became part of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. The judges have been as follows: Theo. D. Murphy, June 16, 1873, Woodstock; Hiram H. Cody, September 15, 1874, Naperville; Clark W. Upton, August 20, 1877, Waukegan; Clark W. Upton, June 16, 1879, Waukegan; Isaac C. Wilson,

June 16, 1879, Geneva; Charles Kellum, June 16, 1879, Sycamore; Isaac G. Wilson, June 1, 1885, Geneva; Clark W. Upton, June 1, 1885, Waukegan; Charles Kellum, June 1, 1885, Sycamore; Charles Kellum, June 1, 1891, Sycamore; Clark W. Upton, June 1, 1891, Waukegan; Henry B. Willis, June 1, 1891, Elgin.

Under the apportionment of 1897, Boone County became part of the Seventeenth Circuit, the judges were as follows:

John C. Garver, Rep., Rockford, June 18, 1897, deceased; Charles E. Fuller, Rep., Belvidere, June 18, 1897; Charles H. Donnelly, Rep., Woodstock, June 18, 1897; Arthur H. Frost, Rep., Rockford, March 5, 1902, vice Fuller; Arthur H. Frost, Rep. Rockford, June 18, 1903; Charles H. Donnelly, Rep., Woodstock, June 18, 1903; Robert W. Wright, Rep., Belvidere, June 18, 1903.

#### CIRCUIT CLERKS.

Seth S. Whitman, 1839 to 1849.

Noah W. Birge, 1849 to 1850, when he departed this life, and in April, 1850, Stephen C. Gooding was appointed clerk by Hugh Henderson, then circuit judge. Gooding held the office of clerk from 1850 to 1851.

Daniel T. Olney, 1851 to 1853.

Fayette B. Hamlin, 1853 to 1857.

Daniel H. Whitney, 1857 to February 12, 1864, when he died.

Horatio C. DeMunn was appointed circuit clerk February 15, 1864, and held the office until December, 1876, when James W. Sawyer was elected.

#### STATE'S ATTORNEYS.

Shelton L. Hall, 1839 to 1843.

Joseph B. Wells, 1843 to 1845.

James L. Loop, 1845 to 1846.

Thomas L. Turner, 1846 to 1847.

W. A. Boardman, 1847 to 1849.

Alonzo Platt, 1849 to 1851.

P. W. Platt, 1851 to 1852.

Amos B. Coon, 1852 to 1853.

Millard M. Boyce, 1853 to 1857.

E. L. Joslyn, 1857 to 1861.

Amos B. Coon, 1861 to 1865.

Charles E. Fuller was elected in 1876.

#### LATER JUDGES AND CLERKS.

In 1897 Charles E. Fuller was elected circuit judge and held that office until 1903, when the new Eighth Congressional District was formed and Judge Fuller was chosen by his fellow citizens to represent them in Washington. Judge Fuller's ability as a lawyer and on the bench is so well known it is useless to enlarge upon it here. The regret at losing him as a judge was only compensated by the fact of his being our congressman. It will be unanimously conceded that Chas. E. Fuller is at the present time Boone County's foremost citizen in public life and his name is known throughout all Illinois.

The county, however, was able to offer to the other parts of the judicial district another lawyer, whose legal ability fitted him for the place, and Judge Robert W. Wright was elected circuit judge in 1903 and still holds that position. Judge Wright is an excellent lawyer and left to go on the bench, a practice which probably netted him considerably more than the salary of his office. As a counselor his advice was sought by many large interests, both in the county and from elsewhere. During the vacations of court in this district, Judge Wright has held court in Cook County to relieve the overcrowded conditions of the docket there.

The present circuit clerk is Adelbert C. Fassett, who has held that office since 1884 and is also unopposed for the coming term, which commences this fall. Mr. Fassett has the records of his office thoroughly in hand, and is known throughout the county for his courtesy and the assistance he offers in many ways to the citizens who have to consult the records or engage in court matters.

The county clerk since 1894 has been William Bowley. Probably no man in the county

has more friends. The present state's attorney is Patrick H. O'Donnell, a young lawyer of ability and popularity. Mr. O'Donnell was elected in 1904, succeeding Judge C. B. Dean, and is also a candidate for re-election on the Republican ticket. Previous to Judge Dean's term, Robert W. Wright was state's attorney for a number of years.

#### COUNTY COURT.

Among the county judges have been Daniel H. Whitney, elected in 1849; Hiram C. Miller, in 1853; Allen C. Fuller, in 1857; M. M. Boyce, in 1861; L. W. Lawrence, in 1865, and for many years thereafter; Wales W. Wood, in 1889. C. B. Dean for several terms. William C. De Wolf in 1898. Judge De Wolf is the present county judge.

#### JUSTICE'S COURTS.

So many of the citizens have held this important position that we will not attempt to name them all, or any large proportion. Among the early justices were John K. Towner, John S. King, Hiram Waterman, Alexander Neely and Frederick W. Crosby. The present justices, who are holding court in Belvidere, are Walter Lucas, M. C. Marean and Charles S. Spackman. Among the others, who have held justice's court in Belvidere in the last ten years, have been William F. Hovey, A. E. Jenner, Squire Reynolds, H. C. DeMunn and A. F. Appleton.

#### THE BOONE COUNTY BAR.

Among the earliest members of the Boone County bar were J. L. Loop, William T. Burgess, John C. Kemble. Many of the parties were represented by lawyers from outside of the county. Soon after this Gen. Hurlbut and Allen C. Fuller came to Belvidere, the first in 1845 and the second in 1846, and together with William H. Wood, brother of Wales W. Wood, and Mr. Loop, they constituted the leaders of the Boone County bar for many years. Among the

other prominent attorneys were M. M. Boyce, Lewis Pray, J. S. Terwilliger, F. B. Hamlin. The next generation of lawyers consisted of Chas. E. Fuller, Omar Wright, Sr., Robert W. Wright, J. S. Hildrup, William R. Dodge, Wales W. Wood, C. B. Dean. Somewhat later William C. De Wolf, William L. Pierce and William Bies-ter were admitted, all of whom are still prominent attorneys at the present time. In 1899, Charles S. Kucker, Arthur S. Appleton, and Richard V. Carpenter commenced practice in Belvidere. Mr. Kucker died a few years ago. Mr. Appleton is practicing at Spokane, and Mr. Carpenter is practicing in Belvidere. At about this time the following attorneys were also in Belvidere, all of whom by reason of death or removal have ceased to be practicing members of the Boone County bar. Philip C. Lampert, Charles Roach, Fred Evans, Guy Powell, Max Kunze, William Labrie, Fred L. Hunt, H. D. Blodgett. Among the others who were admitted in the '90s or since then and are still practicing are P. H. O'Donnell, Frank R. Covey, J. M. Huff, William Israel, James R. Jaffray, E. T. Gridley and Irving Banks. Edward A. Thompson, grandson of Deacon Avery, practiced here for several years but has recently removed to Colorado to engage in the mining business. Arthur Tripp and William Waugh have been admitted recently, and Mr. Tripp is practicing in Belvidere. The only practicing attorney outside of Belvidere is H. B. Stevenson of Capron.

Of the present members of the Boone County Bar the following brief mention is submitted:

Wm. C. De Wolf, who is county judge, was born in Spring Township, 1865. He was admitted in 1887 and formed a partnership with Judge Fuller. He has one of the best practices in Belvidere. Wm. R. Dodge has been practicing for many years and holds the office of master in chancery. He occupies the building formerly used as Neely's Bank. Mr. Dodge is one of the most careful and accurate men in Boone County. Judge Wales Wood was born in New

York in 1837, and read law in Belvidere in the firm of Fuller & Wood, which was composed of Gen. Fuller and William H. Wood, who were both very able lawyers. Judge Wood was admitted to the bar in 1860 and shortly afterward enlisted in the Ninety-fifth Illinois. He was adjutant of that regiment and held several other commissions. Afterward he was master in chancery, state's attorney, city attorney, and county judge. He is and for many years has been prominent in the G. A. R., and in many of the public affairs of our city, and is regarded with great respect by his many friends for his long, honorable career and pleasant disposition. Judge C. B. Dean was born in DeKalb County, where his father was a prominent early settler. He located in Belvidere in 1862 and after graduating in 1873 at Ann Arbor, commenced practice in Belvidere. He has been city attorney, county judge and state's attorney and also has done a great deal of abstract work. Judge Dean recently removed to Oklahoma. Wm. L. Pierce was born in the spring of 1868. He graduated from the Northwestern Law College in 1892. He has practiced since then, part of the time alone and part of the time in partnership, being associated at various times with F. J. Evans, J. M. Huff, Chas. Roach, Wm. Israel, and Jas. R. Jaffray. Mr. Pierce is one of the best jury lawyers in Boone County. He is now mayor of Belvidere and also was mayor before Mayor Lyon, whom he succeeded. Jas. R. Jaffray was born in Belvidere in 1862 and took up surveying and abstracting, which profession he followed for a considerable time. Some six or seven years ago he was admitted to the bar, and is now associated with Mr. Pierce. He is also corporation counsel. William Biester was brought up in Belvidere and admitted to the bar in 1887. For a number of years Mr. Biester was interested in bees, horticulture and political economy, and did not actively pursue his profession, but he is now located in the Foote Block and gives his full time to law and has one of the

best practices in the city. Richard V. Carpenter was born in Chicago in 1871 and graduated from the Chicago College of Law in June, 1897, being admitted to the bar that year. He came to Belvidere in 1899 and formed a partnership with Chas. S. Kucker and Arthur F. Appleton. Mr. Kucker came from Waukegan, was one of the best known young men in the city in lodge and social circles, and had a large circle of friends. He married Miss Edith Coon, daughter of R. W. Coon. He died about two years ago. Mr. Appleton married Miss Daisy Dean, daughter of Judge C. B. Dean, and is now practicing at Spokane, Washington. Attorney Carpenter occupies offices with John C. Foote in the Foote Block. He has been for many years associated with Judge Orrin N. Carter, now of the supreme court of the state, and spends about one third of his time in Chicago, assisting Judge Carter.

P. H. O'Donnell was born in Belvidere in 1872 and graduated at Ann Arbor in 1898. He is at present state's attorney and one of the most prominent of Belvidere's younger lawyers. William Israel was born in New Jersey and was educated at Ann Arbor. After practicing for a time in Chicago, he came to Belvidere and became associated with Mr. Pierce. He is now associated with Judge Fuller. James M. Huff came from Indiana, where he had been practicing for some time, and commenced practice in Belvidere about 7 years ago. He occupies a suite of offices on Buchanan Street, with Frank King. Mr. Huff has been prominent in the Masons and was a member of the North Side school board, in addition to his legal work. Ernest C. Gridley comes from Winnebago County and commenced practice in Chicago. He came to Belvidere about three years ago and has offices in the Starr Block. Arthur Tripp was brought up in Belvidere and is located in the suite with Mr. Biester, in the Foote block. Irving Banks was brought up in Flora Township and has practiced part of the time in Belvidere and part of the time in Chicago.



BOONE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, BELVIDERE

## COURT HOUSE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The location of the court house was decided upon by the commissioners named for the purpose, by sticking a stake in the ground where they thought it should be. The location selected was about where the present court house now stands. The first court house, built in 1839-40, had two stories and a basement. Robert B. Hurd, Levi Adkin, Jr., and James Johnson had a great deal to do with the building of the structure. Before this was built the county commissioners' court seems to have been held at Simon P. Doty's and various other places. The first term of the circuit court was held at the "Baptist house of worship in Belvidere (the place appointed by the county commissioners' court for holding courts in Boone County)," on Thursday, the fourth Monday in April, 1839. The judge was Dan Stone, the clerk, S. S. Whitman, and the sheriff, Houghton C. Walker. The first case called was that of Ira Gould vs. Thos. O. Davis, an appeal from a justice court. When it was called it appeared that it had been settled out of court and was therefore dismissed. The Baptist meeting house then stood on the southeast corner of Van Buren Street and Hurlbut Avenue, where the red brick house formerly owned by Squire Reynolds now stands. It was removed directly across the street and used as a church building by the Universalists. In 1861 it was moved next to where Moore's Livery Stable now is, on West Lincoln Avenue, and was owned by John Gray and rented for a paint shop. About 1865, it was sold to Ira D. Hill and moved by him to a tract of land which he owned on Hurlbut Avenue, not far from where that street joins Lincoln Avenue. It still stands in quite good condition and is owned by Pundt and rented by him as a residence. Mrs. Adelia Robinson, daughter of Mr. Hill, resides on Madison Street, just northerly of this building, and is well acquainted with the facts of its history. In passing, it is interesting to note that

Mrs. Robinson, her father, daughter and grandchild, are residing at the place noted, constituting four generations. The former meeting house is a rather low, one story structure, somewhat along the lines of the New England houses. When Belvidere gets larger and wealthier, perhaps this interesting relic of the early days, "the first court house," may be moved to the public park and turned into a museum.

The present court house was completed about September, 1855, and stands on the hill facing Main Street. In the lower floor it has two rooms for the county superintendent of schools, one of which is being fitted up for the holding of county court; also a room for the county treasurer, one for the board of review, and one which is known as the "old jail room," where records are kept. The stairs go up the left side of the entrance and the upper floor is devoted to the court room, jury room, and two retiring rooms for the bar. Allen C. Fuller and Leonard M. Beebe were the building committee for the county board, and were given a vote of thanks by the supervisors for their faithful work. The question of selling the building and grounds for school purposes and moving the court house to another site was agitated in 1872. Supervisors Hall, De Munn and Bogardus were appointed a committee to look into the matter, but nothing definite ever was done concerning the change.

In July, 1875, Supervisors Murch, Lambert, Greenlee were appointed a committee to attend to the erection of a fence around the public square, either posts and boards, four boards high, or posts and rails. Main Street was extended across the square in September, 1878. A galvanized barb wire fence was placed on the west side and another fence on the east side, with turn-stiles in front of the buildings.

The record office was built by Reuben Cook, contractor, in 1878. Ira D. Hill was superintendent of the work and the building committee consisted of John Greenlee, John J. Foote, Wil-

liam Andrews and O. S. Nichols. Considerable repairing was done to the court house in 1880, the committee being W. D. Cornwell and William D. Swail. In 1892 the city was allowed to place a water tower on the square. Within the last few years the court house has been repainted, remodeled and greatly improved.

The sheriff's residence, at the back of which is the county jail, stands on the mound next north of the court house, and is a handsome, well-built structure, in a very pleasant location.

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## CHAPTER IX.

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### BANKS—PUBLIC UTILITIES.

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HISTORY OF BANKING ENTERPRISES IN BOONE COUNTY—LIST OF EARLY BANKERS—RATES OF INTEREST AT DIFFERENT PERIODS—RAILROADS—EARLY STEAM ROADS—PRESENT ELECTRIC LINES—FIRE DEPARTMENT—WATER AND LIGHT SERVICE—TELEPHONES.

One of the earliest bankers was Alexander Neely. Mr. Neely's bank was in the red brick building now owned by William R. Dodge on East Lincoln. Mr. Neely was at that time one of the most prominent men in Belvidere. The bank afterward failed during one of the panics, which used to cause so many failures among the business men in the early days. One of the last accounts withdrawn was that of the Presbyterian Church, by Deacon Avery, who had a hint of the coming failure from a friend and hurried to get the money out. Among the assets was a large number of notes of the "Wild Cat" currency, mostly from Milledgeville Bank of Georgia. The First National Bank was organized in May, 1865. Allen C. Fuller was elected president and Newell C. Tompkins, cashier. Among the other presidents have been William

S. Dunton and Mark Ramsey and the present one is George M. Marshall. The present cashier is Albert E. Loop, who has grown up from boyhood on the north side, and who, like his father, Major Loop, is one of the most popular of the citizens. This bank occupies, as it has for many years, part of the Greenlee building at the corner of North State and Lincoln Avenue, and is one of the chief financial props of the city. The Second National Bank was founded in 1884. It occupies a very handsome white stone building on South State Street with large Ionic columns. Omar H. Wright is the president and succeeded D. D. Sabin in that office. Before that Gen. A. C. Fuller was president. Irving Terwilliger has been cashier for many years, and has been brought up in banking business since boyhood. The People's Bank is an organization chartered under the state laws and has its bank building on the easterly side of State Street, near the bend at Logan Avenue. It was founded in September, 1889, and has always been very popular with the depositors. George M. Murch is the president and he succeeded William B. Swail. John Greenlee was cashier for many years, but upon his failure in health Benjamin Harnish was advanced to that position, which he fully merits by his genial and accommodating attention to all details of the patrons' wants. The Farmer's Bank was established in the spring of 1908 and occupies the old Murch & Pettit building at the bend at Logan Avenue. The vault in the new bank is a very fine one. George Myers is president and A. Gates White, who for many years has been one of the best known business men at Garden Prairie, is cashier. The bank has a large number of stockholders and has already taken its place among the solid financial institutions. Among the private banks in the early days were those of Fuller, Lawrence & Woods in the '50s and Yourt, Lawrence & Company, which was organized July 15, 1874, on the south side, and conducted by a board of five directors elected annually. The

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