

CHAPTER X.

THE BAR.

LA SALLE COUNTY LAWYERS.—A LONG AND HONORABLE ROLL.—
LAWYERS THAT HAVE DIED OR REMOVED.—OTTAWA.—STREATOR.
—LA SALLE AND PERU.—MENDOTA.—MARSEILLES.—SENECA.—
EARLVILLE.—SHERIDAN.—TONICA.

La Salle County has a bar of more than average ability. Its size, wealth and number of large towns have combined to render it an attractive field. Ottawa has been for a third of a century the location of the Supreme Court of Illinois, Northern Grand Division, and the Appellate, Circuit, County and Probate Courts render Ottawa a busy place for attorneys and all who have use for their services. In the past her lawyers have been foremost among her honored citizens. Although the record contains no long array of distinguished names, yet every one familiar with the county knows that the members of the La Salle County bar have maintained an excellent reputation for character, honesty and diligence in business. In this chapter it has been the endeavor of the writer to include the name of every lawyer of prominence that ever resided in the county, together with biographical sketches, when it was possible to procure them, of all who, from long residence or conspicuous ability, might justly be considered as entitled to such mention. Of course the larger share have resided at

OTTAWA.

It is said that the first practitioner here was a young man named George W. Forsythe, who came from Burlington County, N. J., in 1834. He soon went South, and nothing is known of his subsequent history. Lorenzo Leland, whose sketch is given below, was the second. Shortly after, in 1835, came Seth B. Farwell and Adam Y. Smith. The former was first from New York, but came from Ohio here. He was prosecuting attorney for a time. He afterward became a judge in California. Smith came from New York, also was here three or four years as a partner of Farwell,



Judge Thomas P. Halligan.

then went South. He acted as loan agent for the State Bank. Thus it would seem that the first few lawyers did not thrive in this place. Shortly after their departure several attorneys located here who became afterward prominent in the history of the county, and from thence forward there has been no dearth of legal talent at Ottawa.

LORENZO LELAND was the second lawyer to locate in Ottawa, and is one of the best remembered figures in the history of the La Salle County bar. He was born at Grafton, Mass., Sept. 27, 1813. After passing through the excellent common schools of his native village he entered Andover College, and having graduated, studied law. He came to Illinois about 1835, stopping first for about six months at Peoria and then coming to Ottawa, where he opened an office and entered upon the successful practice of his profession. In 1837 he was married at Ottawa to Miss Burgit, daughter of Orville Burgit, Esq., whom most of the older citizens remember as having lived on the farm at present occupied by the county house. His wife died in the spring of 1840, and in 1842 he was married to his second wife, Miss Martha Holbrook, in Massachusetts. Meanwhile he had been appointed by Judge Ford as Clerk of the La Salle County Circuit Court, a position the duties of which he discharged with such marked ability that when ten years later the Supreme Court came to Ottawa he was appointed by the judges Clerk of that court, a position to which he was afterward several times re-elected, holding the office until 1867, when he declined a re-election. His second wife died about 1854, and two years later he married the widow of Abraham Hoes, who died about ten years later, and in 1867 he married the wife who survived him, Mrs. Thompson, daughter of M. H. Prescott. He died Aug. 26, 1881, and was buried two days later, from the Episcopal church, by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was an old and honored member.

Few of Ottawa's old citizens enjoyed a wider acquaintance than Mr. Leland, or were so universally esteemed. It is doubtful whether he had an enemy in the world. Always sober, temperate and righteous in his living, in the course of his long official career he naturally accumulated a handsome fortune, but he never went outside of Ottawa to seek investments, his attachment to this place being singularly tenacious, and his readiness to take a part in all projects for building up the town ever prompt and conspicuous. Open-handed, big-hearted and benevolent in disposition and practice, conspicuously social, genial and kindly in nature, a

pleasant companion and fast friend, his death created an unusual void in the community.

HON. T. LYLE DIOKEY was born Oct. 2, 1811, in Paris, Bourbon Co., Ky. In 1826, at the age of fifteen years, he entered the Ohio University, where he remained a close student for four years. He then entered the senior class of Miami University, and graduated with honor from that institution in 1831. Dec. 6, 1831, he was married to Miss Juliet Evans. After his marriage he taught school in Ohio and Kentucky with great success. In the winter of 1834 he came to McDonough County, Ill., where he made the acquaintance of Hon. Cyrus H. Walker, who, becoming attached to the young and ambitious teacher, induced him to commence the study of the law. His progress in this branch of study was so great that he practiced law at Macomb before he was regularly admitted to the bar, and attained considerable renown. In 1835, at the age of twenty-four years, he was duly admitted to practice in the courts of Illinois. After this he removed to Rushville, Ill., where, in addition to his legal business, he edited a thriving Whig paper. Here he became largely interested in real estate speculations, which proved disastrous, owing to the panic of 1837, and for many years afterward he was financially crippled by being required to meet large notes, the majority of which carried interest at twelve per cent. In 1836 he removed to Ottawa, Ill., where he soon built up a large and lucrative practice as an attorney. He remained in Ottawa in the peaceful pursuit of his profession until 1846, when the Mexican war occurred. He then raised a splendid company of men from the city and surrounding country, of which he was commissioned Captain, and which was afterward attached to the First Regiment Illinois Volunteers. He was obliged to resign on account of ill health, and he returned home and resumed his practice of the law. He was elected a Judge of the Circuit Court, which then comprised twelve counties, but after four years of judicial service he resigned and again resumed the practice of an attorney. He came to Chicago in 1854 and opened a law office, but continued his residence at Ottawa. On Dec. 31, 1855, he had the misfortune to lose his wife, who died after an illness of several weeks. It was not until 1858 that he was enabled, by dint of hard application to business and the practice of the closest economy, to pay all his indebtedness, but he did so, and settled with his creditors in full, paying both principal and interest. In that year, with his mind relieved from its weighty load,

he returned to Ottawa, resolved to take life easier. During the year 1858 Judge Dickey, although heretofore an ardent Whig, warmly espoused the cause of Stephen A. Douglas during his famous contest with Lincoln, and delivered a number of eloquent and forcible addresses in various parts of the State.

He became connected in business with W. H. L. Wallace, of Ottawa, and his son Cyrus E. Dickey, and the firm transacted a large legal business until 1861, when the Rebellion broke out. Judge Dickey immediately set about forming a regiment of volunteers, which was mustered into the service as the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, and the Judge was commissioned its Colonel. For two years Colonel Dickey was an active and intrepid soldier. He took part in the capture of Fort Henry, and led the brilliant advance at Fort Donelson. At the battle of Shiloh he took an active part. Both of his sons and General W. H. L. Wallace were with him during this desperate struggle, and General Wallace was killed during the engagement. In 1862 he was appointed to the position of Chief of Cavalry on the staff of General Grant, and was placed in command of Memphis, Tenn. He also participated in the battle of Iuka. After this he assumed command of the four brigades of cavalry in General Grant's army. He was engaged in a desperate encounter with General Pemberton far in advance of his supports for four days, on the retreat from Tallahassee. At one time selected six hundred men and engaged in an extensive and successful raid through a region of country swarming with Confederate soldiers, and returned safely and without losing a man. The celebrated raid of Grierson in 1863, during which the railroads around Jackson, Miss., were completely destroyed, was suggested and organized by General Dickey.

In the latter part of 1863 he resigned his commission and returned home, where he formed a law partnership with John B. Rice. In 1866 Judge Dickey was the Democratic candidate for Congressman-at-large. In 1868 he was appointed as Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, and had full charge of the Government suits of the court of claims. His labors in that branch of litigation in the United States Supreme Court were performed with great ability and with undiminishing fidelity. He was frequently complimented by the judges of the Supreme Court for the thorough and able manner in which he performed his arduous duties. Among the more important cases which were tried in the Supreme Court during Judge Dickey's term was the Floyd accept-

ance case, and although opposed by Jere Black and Judge Curtis, Judge Dickey was sustained by the court. He held this position for about two years, when his health failed him, and he resigned and spent the succeeding winter among the tropic groves of Florida. He married again in 1870, and his second wife was a Mrs. Hurst, of Prince Ann, Md., after which he returned to Ottawa and again began the practice of the law. In December, 1873, he removed to Chicago. In December, 1875, he was elected Judge of the Supreme Court to fill a vacancy. The manner in which he fulfilled the duties of this trying and responsible position was so satisfactory that in 1879 he was nominated as an independent candidate, and so great was his personal popularity that he was elected over Thomas Dent, a most worthy gentleman and the regular nominee of a party that was then in the ascendancy. After that time he remained upon the bench of the Supreme Court of Illinois, which position he so ably filled for nearly ten years. Perhaps no other judge upon the bench has gained the popularity and universal respect which justly belong to Judge T. Lyle Dickey.

Possessed of a wonderful memory and with a remarkable power of analysis, his judgments were always received with profound consideration, and his opinions on important cases have generally been sustained.

As a lawyer he was a most brilliant advocate. His arguments were lucid, logical, and possessed an aptness of illustration that carried with them all the elements of conviction. His power of quick and telling repartee was marvelous. In the social circle Judge Dickey was universally a favorite. Genial, whole-souled, intellectual, and with a fund of humor that was almost boyish in its exuberance, he was warmly welcomed at the firesides of our best and wealthiest citizens. Perhaps no one in Chicago had as many warm and devoted personal friends as Judge T. Lyle Dickey.

In his decease, which occurred July 22, 1885, at Atlantic City, N. J., the city and State lose an able jurist, an eminent citizen, and a legal counselor whose place will be difficult to fill, society mourns the loss of the most genial and courteous of gentlemen, and the hearts of many friends are sad at the demise of one of the warmest and most thoroughly friendly spirits in this active, bustling and progressive age. Judge Dickey left a widow and four children surviving him. The children are Mrs. W. H. L. Wallace, the widow of General Wallace, who was killed at the battle

of Shiloh; Mrs. Wallace is now residing at Ottawa; John J. Dickey, eldest son, residing in Omaha, Neb.; Mr. Dickey is superintendent of telegraph on the Union Pacific Railroad; Charles H. Dickey, who is a merchant, residing at Maui, Sandwich Islands, and Mrs. Caleb H. Wallace, wife of a brother of General M. R. M. Wallace, who is also residing at Maui.

JOHN V. A. HOES came from Kinderhook, N. Y., in 1836, and resided in Ottawa forty-two years, dying in October, 1878. He was a nephew of President Van Buren. He was admitted to the bar in New York, but did not practice until after he had located at Ottawa. His first few months here were spent as editor of a campaign paper published for a short time at Ottawa. After this journal "died the death" he devoted himself to the law, and was so engaged until about 1855. He then retired from active business. He was a man of vigorous mind, and while not an office-seeker, was interested in politics in a general way. He was Probate Justice from 1837 to 1843. His wife was Fanny Reynolds, and they left a son and a daughter. The former, Edward V. B., is now in a bank in Chicago. The latter, Ella A., married M. B. Peak, Cashier of a bank in Green Bay, Wis., and was a second time married, to a Mr. Neville, also of Green Bay.

JOHN C. CHAMPLIN came to Ottawa with his father in 1836, and except one term of four years as County Judge, practiced law continuously until his death in 1873. He was crossing the railroad track at night, slipped and fell, and was run over. His wife and daughter reside in Chicago, the latter being the wife of Evans Walker. Judge Champlin was an able lawyer, and had an excellent practice.

HENRY G. COTTON was admitted to the bar here in 1839, and was a member of the same about seven years, until his death, Dec. 7, 1856. He came here a ripe lawyer, and by his studious habits and close application he made a steady and regular advance in the science of the law. In 1849 he was elected the first County Judge of this county, which office he continued to hold until his death. He discharged the duties of this high and responsible office with very marked ability and uncommon satisfaction. He was held in such high esteem that no apology is needed for reproducing here a few paragraphs from the memorial address of Judge Cavarly, delivered before the Supreme Court:

"The County Court, with its present enlarged civil jurisdiction, was looked upon by very many members of the bar, as well as by

many of our most intelligent citizens, as an experiment, and much doubt was honestly entertained whether any man who should be called to preside in this new tribunal would be able to command the confidence of the people and sustain himself before a bar so intelligent and distinguished for its legal learning as the bar of this county; yet Judge Cotton, by his profound knowledge of the law, his inflexible integrity, his gentlemanly deportment, modest, courteous and unassuming manners, immediately banished all apprehensions of failure, and secured for himself the respect and confidence of the people, as well as the respect and confidence of his professional brethren.

“The County Court of La Salle County was no longer an experiment, but became at once, under his judicious administration, of equal dignity and importance with the Circuit Court, without any disparagement to the distinguished Judge of that deservedly popular court.

“Judge Cotton, whilst he added dignity to the bench, inspired the people who had business before him with unshaken confidence in his ability and integrity. He was unobtrusive, modest and retiring in his manners; and in all his intercourse with the bar and the people he was just and blameless.

“In one branch of his official duties, I may be permitted to say he may be held up as a model judge. I allude to his probate duties. In that relation his memory will ever be regarded and held in the highest respect by the widows and orphans whose rights and interests he guarded and watched over with sleepless vigilance. He was always patient in listening to the afflicted widow, in her bereavement, and ever ready with his counsel and advice to protect her rights and the rights of her orphan children, and aid her in the administration of the estate she was called upon to settle.

“When it was announced in this city that Judge Cotton was no more, all felt the shock. A thrill of grief and sorrow was felt by the inhabitants throughout the length and breadth of this county. He fell at a time of his greatest usefulness—in the midst of his family, and surrounded by his friends. The void thus created in the family circle is irreparable. The court and this bar deeply sympathize with his afflicted widow and his orphan children. And although his frail and slender form is no more to be seen among us, either here or in the common walks of life, yet his memory and modest bearing will ever be present in our recollection.

"In vain would I attempt to add a pebble to his monument; he has reared it for himself, and it may be found where he erected it, in the records of his court, and in the confidence and hearts of the people."

JAMES STOUT, a brother of Dr. Joseph Stout, came here from Ohio in 1845, having been admitted in that State. Though not formally admitted here until 1849, he practiced until 1860 at Ottawa, and was then appointed Collector of Internal Revenue at Boise City, Idaho. This office he held until Hayes's administration. He is now farming near Boise City.

WM. H. L. WALLACE came to Ottawa in March, 1845, and resided here until the war, into which he entered and sacrificed himself at Shiloh. A full biography of General Wallace is given in the chapter devoted to the civil war.

JOHN F. NASH was admitted in 1849; practiced a little; then elected Clerk Circuit Court; and now for many years has been Cashier of the First National Bank.

P. K. LELAND was admitted in 1851; practiced some years; was County Judge one term, and is now banking at Seneca. He is a brother of Lorenzo Leland.

O. C. GRAY was admitted in 1853 and practiced some twenty years; was a partner of Washington Bushnell when he died. He was an excellent lawyer and had a good practice.

ABRAHAM HOES, a brother of John V. A., came sometime in the "forties," and was here perhaps fifteen years, until his death. He was one of the ablest lawyers ever at Ottawa, and was a member of the constitutional convention of 1849.

JULIUS AVERY came early in the "fifties;" was a partner of Bushnell for a time, and lived in Ottawa some twenty years. He was for a short time with his brother George, in control of the *Free Trader*, in 1855. He was of moderate caliber, as a lawyer, and rather intemperate in his habits.

HON. WASHINGTON BUSHNELL was a resident of Ottawa for thirty-two years, coming in 1853, and remaining until his death in 1885. He was born Sept. 26, 1827, in Madison County, N. Y. In 1837 his father, Stephen Bushnell, with his family, moved to Kendall County, Ill., settling in the neighborhood of Lisbon. Here young Bushnell worked on the farm in summer, attending in winter the local schools, which, however, were for the country exceptionally good. In 1849, having in this desultory way picked up a very fair education, he decided to adopt the legal profession, and to that end

entered the National Law School at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1853, was admitted to the bar in New York, and then at once came to Ottawa, where he formed a partnership with O. C. Gray, one of the leading attorneys at the time at the La Salle County bar. The firm soon grew into note as one of the ablest in this part of the State, and Mr. Bushnell, being soon after appointed City Attorney, and then elected State's Attorney, the firm was strengthened by the addition as a partner of Julius Avery, another brilliant young lawyer. In 1860 Mr. Bushnell was elected to the State Senate, in which he maintained a leading and influential position until 1864. In 1868 he was elected Attorney-General of the State, an office the duties of which he discharged with signal ability for four years. In 1880 he was a candidate for Congress in this district, but did not receive the nomination, and after that measurably withdrew from politics, though remaining, as he always had been, an adherent of the Republican party, becoming apparently disgusted with politics, taking no such active part in the political contests of the day as was naturally expected from a man of his wide influence and great ability. Instead of it, he settled down quietly to his law practice, forming a partnership with Mr. Bull, then with the late Judge Gilman, then with D. A. Cook, and at the time of his death had Captain T. C. Fullerton for a law partner. His health for the previous ten or twelve years, however, had at no time been robust, and it was only on special occasions and when unusually aroused, that he exhibited the strength and force and fire of his more robust days. While yet a young man he married Miss Phebe Charles, of Peru, who, with the six children—a son and five daughters that were born to them—survive him. He accumulated considerable property and left his family in comfortable circumstances.

He was a remarkable man in many ways, and largely composed of that stuff of which great men are made. At all times an able and fluent speaker, when roused he was brilliant and forcible to a degree. Tall, and of commanding presence, with a voice full of strength and music, and a countenance radiant with expression, few men could sway a jury or an audience as he could. Socially he was one of the most genial and companionable of men. Open-hearted, generous almost to a fault, no movement, either in the direction of some deserving charity or the general good, but found him a ready promoter and a liberal contributor.

DWIGHT F. CAMERON practiced here a few years, after being ad-

mitted in 1857. He was interested in the building of the Fox River Valley Railroad, and soon after went to Chicago, his present home. He was possessed of a good mind, but did not devote himself exclusively to legal practice.

GEORGE C. CAMPBELL was admitted in 1858, and during his ten-years residence here became known as a railroad attorney. He went to Chicago where he died in the summer of 1885.

FRANK J. CRAWFORD was admitted in 1858, after he had been deputy in the county clerk's office, and practiced a few years here. He also went to Chicago, where he has been moderately successful.

SAMUEL C. WALKER, a son of George E., practiced a few years (admitted in 1861), and died of consumption.

EBENEZER LEWIS was admitted in 1861, and two or three years later moved away.

WILLIAM E. BECK was admitted in 1861, practiced for a time, was County Treasurer one term, went West, and is now a Supreme Judge in Colorado.

FRANKLIN F. BROWER was admitted in 1862, after studying with B. C. Cook, and commenced practice at once, following the law for eight years, until his death in 1870. He had been Mayor one term, and was City Attorney at the time of his death.

HENRY K. BOYLE was admitted in 1865, and practiced six or seven years, when he died. He was a good lawyer, a partner of Colonel Dickey, and was Mayor of Ottawa one term.

ALEXANDER T. CAMERON was admitted the same year with Mr. Boyle, and after several years went West.

JOHN H. SHEPHERD, admitted in 1866, was County Treasurer two years and died of consumption. He practiced but little.

THOMAS S. BOWEN, who was Treasurer immediately preceding Shepherd, was admitted to practice the same year. He died soon after.

HERMAN SILVER, admitted also the same year, practiced a few years and went to Colorado. He now holds some official position at Denver. Was of moderate ability as a lawyer.

CYRUS LELAND, a son of Lorenzo, graduated at Yale and was admitted here in 1867. After a few years he went to El Dorado, Kan., where he has a good practice.

BENJAMIN M. ARMSTRONG, admitted the same year, was here a little time, and then went to Southern Kansas, where he is said to be doing well.

CHARLES H. BRUSH, admitted also the same year, practiced a number of years and then went to Minnesota, in consideration of delicate health. He was a promising young lawyer.

CHARLES H. GILMAN was one of La Salle County's most eminent citizens, and for a quarter of a century a prominent member of the bar. He was born at East Windom, Conn., in 1817. Receiving, as all Connecticut youths do, a good High School education, he was engaged in various occupations, such as farming and clerking by turns, until 1840, when he directed his steps Westward. He first located in that year at Peru, in this county, and soon afterward bought a farm and went to work upon it in Troy Grove, adjoining the village of Homer. Marrying about that time the daughter of Hon. Asa Mann, a former prominent and well-known Pennsylvania politician, but then a resident of Troy Grove, he settled down to farm work, filling at the same time the office of Justice of the Peace and other local positions. Ten or twelve years later he removed to Mendota and commenced the practice of law, for which he had been by years of study preparing himself, and by 1869 his professional ability became so well recognized that he was elected to the important office of County Judge of La Salle County, the duties of which position he discharged with exceptional ability. Subsequently he was also elected a member of the State Board of Equalization from this Congressional District, an office for which, by his careful, thoughtful and methodical habits, he was peculiarly fitted. Retiring from office, he formed a partnership with Hon. Washington Bushnell for legal practice at Ottawa, and subsequently with his son-in-law, Mr. Cook, of which firm he remained the head until his death, which occurred April 14, 1880.

The Judge, whose residence was on the east side, had been in the business part of the city late at night, and his family being out of town, instead of going home he had returned to his office in the second story of Wood's block and lain down on a lounge. About four o'clock in the morning, feeling uneasy, he got up in the dark, and being doubtless but half awake and confused in mind, started to go out, and mistaking an open window for the door, stepped out and fell heavily—his weight was nearly 200 pounds—on the sidewalk some twenty feet below. Now thoroughly awake, though stunned, he made a shrill outcry, which attracted several parties. Not knowing how the Judge had got there they picked him up and carried him to his office, but on arriving at the door found it locked on the inside. One of them climbed over the

transom and opened it, when the open window and the surroundings revealed the fact that the Judge had fallen out of the window. He was made as comfortable as possible, but had received internal injuries which proved fatal three days later.

As a lawyer, Judge Gilman was well read, careful, and in counsel always safe. Displaying no especial forensic ability, he was trusted more for his care and faultless accuracy in preparing his cases and especially his pleadings. He despised all legal dodges and tricks; his only care was to get at the exact facts and justice of the case. He was a man not only thorough in his legal studies, but had a thinking, plodding, philosophical mind which made him, aside from his legal profession, a devotee of scientific studies, especially in the direction of geology, mineralogy and anthropology.

JOHN A. GILLIAM was admitted in 1869, practiced two or three years, and is now in Kendall County.

JAMES O'DONNELL, admitted in 1871, practicing a few years. Is described as a "good fellow," and a lawyer of fair ability.

Of course there are many more who have been here for very brief periods, but the above are those best remembered. The legal firms now in practice at Ottawa are, alphabetically: M. M. Armstrong, Blake & Moloney, Boyle J. Carroll, Bull, Strawn & Ruger, Bushnell & Fullerton, David A. Cook, T. W. D. Crane, Cullen & Hitt, John H. Druitt, Duncan & O'Connor, J. W. Ebersol, G. S. Eldredge, Gilbert & Eckels, C. Griggs, D. P. Jones, Norman Kilburn, B. F. Lincoln, Arthur Lockwood, Mackinlay & Leland, Duncan McDougall, George S. Paine, Richolson & Gentleman, Snow & Stead, E. C. Swift, M. H. Swift, L. L. Thompson, V. B. Weeks, A. J. Williamson and George H. Haight.

STREATOR.

The first practicing lawyer to reside at Streator was H. N. Ryon, who came to this city in the autumn of 1867. He was born in Pennsylvania, Feb. 20, 1832, and came to this county in 1838. He practiced law at Sacramento from 1860 to 1867. He is in politics a Republican, and is still a resident of Streator.

The second arrival of the legal fraternity was named Pratt; but little is remembered of him. He was here but a short time.

ORLANDO CHUBBUCK visited Streator in the autumn of 1868, and opened an office, but did not make his home here until 1870, when he removed his family to this place. He has been in continuous

practice since. He was the first village attorney of Streator and held that position five years.

C. W. KELLER was the next member of the bar to take up his residence at this point. He was born in Titusville, Pa., Sept. 24, 1835, and was married to Ellen M. Wright, in Brookfield, Ill., June 3, 1858. Previous to the civil war, in which he lost an arm, he was a common day laborer. He was admitted to the bar in Erie, Pa., March 11, 1871, and came to this county the same year. After practicing some years here, he went to Kansas, where he is still engaged in the law. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics a Republican. He was village attorney for a year or more.

H. H. BROWER came from Livingston County about the same time as Mr. Keller, and after two-years residence in Streator went to Nebraska. He was, while here, a partner of O. Chubbuck. Democratic in politics, he was interested in all matters of local importance. As a lawyer, he stood well.

W. S. JACKSON came to this place not far from this time, and has practiced here irregularly since. He advertises as a "general collecting agent." He is a Democrat, and has been a member one term of the village board.

E. J. WALL came about 1873, went into partnership with Mr. Chubbuck the following year, and about 1875 went West. He was a Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church.

C. DOMINY'S arrival was chronicled in 1875. He was Justice of the Peace for several years, and about 1877 formed a law partnership with Orlando Chubbuck, which relation existed about two years. He was then appointed special agent of the *Ætna* Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, which company he still represents. Mr. Dominy is a Republican.

WALTER REEVES located here a few years ago and has practiced since. He was born in Pennsylvania, Sept. 25, 1848, and came to this county in 1856. He is a Republican, and has served as village attorney.

PETER WILSON came about the same time from Buffalo, Mo., remained two or three years, and then returned to Missouri.

J. D. MURDOCK, an Indianian, came here about 1877 and commenced practice the following year. Is still a resident.

G. L. BELFORD, whose family has lived west of Streator for a number of years, located here about 1880, has practiced somewhat,

and has been Justice of the Peace for five years. He is a Democrat and a member of the Catholic church.

A. P. WRIGHT and JOHN ESSINGTON, from Odell, Livingston County, have been in practice here for about five years.

F. C. BLANDIN has been here about the same length of time, and is an attorney and insurance agent. He is a graduate of the law department of the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington.

GEORGE E. GLASS is another who was admitted to the bar in Livingston County, and immediately after came here.

Several have read law at Streator and been admitted in this county. George L. and Ed. Richards read with Mr. Chubbuck and were made members of the bar in 1880, but are not practitioners. The former is cashier of the Union National Bank, and the latter is now a banker in Iowa. Matthew Jack is another who studied with Mr. Chubbuck and was admitted at the same time with the Richardses. He ranked third in a class of 1880, and George L. Richards was second. Mr. Jack, also, is not in practice, being connected with the glass-works. Joel T. Butler read with C. W. Keller, and was admitted about 1879. He is well along in years, and has considerable property. He does an excellent probate business. Harvey Dicus studied with Mr. Chubbuck and is now Justice of the Peace. O. B. Ryon was admitted in 1882, after reading law with his father, H. N. Ryon, and the two are now in partnership.

The present practitioners of Streator are as follows: H. N. Ryon & Son, Orlando Chubbuck, Walter Reeves, Joel T. Butler, John Essington, George E. Glass, J. D. Murdock, Harvey Dicus, F. C. Blandin, W. S. Jackson, G. S. Belford and A. P. Wright.

LA SALLE AND PERU.

The first resident lawyer of Peru was Judge William Chumasero, who settled here some time in the "forties," and practiced in Peru and La Salle (after the latter was founded), for about twenty years. He was a prominent Whig politician, afterward joining the Republican party, and held in a great degree the esteem of his fellow citizens. He was City Judge of the two cities for two or three years. He was a good lawyer, and accumulated some property here. He has for about twenty years been a resident, and for a portion of the time Territorial Judge of Montana.

A son of Dr. Guy Hulitt also located at Peru before there was

any La Salle, and practiced five or six years. He was a gentleman of good education, and a fair lawyer. He was unmarried, and died when about thirty-five years old.

The first lawyer to reside in La Salle was James Strain, who came in the year 1852, from Ohio. He practiced here about fifteen years, then went to Monmouth, Ill., and finally settled in Kansas, where he died a few years later.

The second member of the profession to live here was David P. Jenkins, who practiced until commissioned Major in the Union army in the late war. He was afterward promoted Lieutenant-Colonel. His home is now in Washington Territory.

David L. Hough came here about 1848 from Vermont as Canal Collector, but had studied law before coming here. He practiced until about 1872, and is well remembered as a sharp business man and a shrewd lawyer. He is now in Chicago, and has come to public notice as President of the Adams & Harrison Street Railway Company.

NELSON C. CANNON came in 1849 or 1850, and was quite prominent in local affairs, being Mayor three terms, and City Attorney at the same time. He was a jolly fellow, and practical joker. Shortly after the war he went to Iowa, where by a prudent management of the negro vote he was elected Mayor and Police Magistrate of Red Oak, running against candidates of both the old parties.

ALFRED PUTNAM came in 1853, practiced a short time, was City Clerk and Justice of the Peace, and left here in 1862. He is now in Grand Rapids, Mich.

E. F. BULL came here from Ohio in the fall of 1855, and practiced till about ten years ago, when he went to Ottawa. There he is still practicing, one of the leading lawyers of the place.

G. S. ELDRIDGE and THOMAS HALLIGAN were early comers to Peru. The former is now in Ottawa. The latter was Judge of the twin cities after Chumasero, and died about ten years ago.

CHARLES BLANCHARD came to Peru about twenty-five years ago, and afterward made his home in Ottawa. He is now Circuit Judge.

GEORGE D. LADD came to Peru about 1850, and is still practicing.

CHARLES S. MILLER came from near Peoria in 1855 or 1856, and left here in 1874, having been chosen County Judge.

JAMES W. DUNCAN was born here in 1850, and admitted to the

bar in 1872. He has been prominent both in legal practice and in politics. For the past eight years he has been in partnership with A. J. O'Connor, present Mayor of La Salle, which official position Mr. Duncan also filled for four years. Though still connected with Mr. O'Connor, he is living in Ottawa. He was elected State Senator in 1882.

The present active members of the bar residing in La Salle are, in the order of their admission: R. D. McDonald, A. J. O'Connor, S. P. Hall and Thomas Gallagher. Peru has two practitioners—George D. Ladd and Murray Blanchard.

MENDOTA.

The first lawyer in this city was Charles H. Gilman, who came in the spring of 1854, practiced about fifteen years, and then went to Ottawa to reside, having been elected County Judge. He died in that city. He was a good lawyer, standing undoubtedly at the head of his profession in Mendota; was somewhat of a politician, and was village attorney for a number of years.

E. S. Mudgett came at nearly the same time with Gilman, and practiced until during the war, when he went to California. He held the postoffice appointment under President Buchanan four years.

J. C. CROOKER came soon after these two, and resided here nearly a quarter of a century. He went to Nebraska about 1879, and is now practicing at Lincoln. He was an active, energetic man, making both friends and enemies. He ran the *Observer* in partnership with William E. Beck, the two selling after a time to R. H. Ruggles, who made it the *Bulletin*. Mr. Crooker also served as Alderman from the third ward, for a term.

WILLIAM E. BECK studied law here with Mr. Crooker, and was admitted to the bar soon after he ceased to work on the *Observer*. He was for some years also a surveyor and engineer, and altogether did not practice law much in Mendota. He was married here, and in a year or two more went West. He now lives at Denver, and is a Chief Justice of the State of Colorado.

JOSEPH H. HUNTER came to the city about 1870; had graduated at some law school, and was admitted to the bar before coming here. His first legal practice, however, was in Mendota. He was a zealous Republican, and while not a pronounced politician, was City Attorney three or four years. He married a daughter of J. C. Crooker, went to Lincoln, Neb., about 1878, and died there

in 1883, having obtained a good business, and earned a reputation as a good lawyer.

LA VEGA G. KINNE was admitted to the bar here and practiced one year in Mendota, in partnership with Charles H. Crawford. He then went to Eldora, Iowa, where he now resides. He became a Judge, and was candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket in 1883.

CHARLES H. CRAWFORD, above mentioned, graduated at Evanston in the same year with Kinne. He remained at Mendota some three years, and then went to Chicago. He is now State Senator for Cook County.

LUCIEN B. CROOKER, a nephew of J. C., served during the late war, and on his return studied law with his uncle. He practiced until about 1881, when he was appointed Revenue Collector for the Aurora district. He was relieved of this position in 1885, and is now in practice again.

The older lawyers have all left Mendota, those now practicing being comparatively young in the profession. These are, in the order of their admissions, L. S. Scaman, E. S. Browne, F. P. Snyder, Otto Kieselbach, John A. Lamberton and S. E. Bartlett.

MARSEILLES.

The pioneer attorney in Marseilles was W. A. Morey who first "hung out a shingle" in the spring of 1868, and has remained ever since. He has held various township and village offices, the principal one of which is the Justice of the Peace, which office he now holds. Frank Fisher came about 1872 or 1873 and remained for a number of years and is now in Texas. B. Bickford came in 1875 or '76 and commenced practicing in 1884. Mr. Bickford is a business man and an attorney of considerable ability.

SENECA.

The legal profession has been fairly represented in Seneca. Among the first, if not the first, to practice law in Seneca was William S. Jackson, now of Streator, who came in 1866 and remained until 1871 or '72. Robert Nixon came in 1867 or '68 and practiced until 1872; is now in Missouri. C. H. R. Thomas came in 1870 and practiced five years. He is now in the drug business and is a very successful business man. F. F. Fisher came in 1871 and practiced two years.

EARLVILLE.

John R. Snyder was the first man to open a law office in Earl-

ville; he came in 1855. Two years later J. W. Browne came and established a partnership with Snyder. The firm was a strong one and did a large business and practiced over a large territory. Mr. Snyder is now in Washington Territory and Browne still remains at Earlville. The latter has served two terms as Mayor of the city and has filled other prominent positions. A. J. Grover came some time about 1855 and practiced several years. D. M. Dale was here two years and John W. Blee about the same length of time. Several students have read for two or three years and removed.

SHERIDAN.

Almon V. Whitney come to Sheridan from Streator in 1873, and taught the village school for two years. He then practiced law for three or four years, a part of the same time editing the *Sheridan News-Letter*. He is now at Canton, Ill., in a newspaper office.

TONICA.

Ira Moshier, C. B. Palmer and Henry Gunn have practiced law at this point, though the last named is the only one who can really be said to have made the law a chief means of livelihood. Mr. Gunn has held several local offices and is highly esteemed.





HISTORY
OF
LA SALLE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF ITS CITIES, VILLAGES AND TOWNS,
EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, CIVIL, MILITARY, AND POLITICAL
HISTORY, PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS, AND
BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

VOLUME I.

ALSO A CONDENSED

HISTORY OF ILLINOIS,

EMBODYING ACCOUNTS OF PREHISTORIC RACES, ABORIGINES, WINNE-
BAGO AND BLACK HAWK WARS, AND A BRIEF REVIEW OF ITS
CIVIL AND POLITICAL HISTORY.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
INTER-STATE PUBLISHING CO.
1886.