

CHAPTER XII.

NEWSPAPERS OF SHELBY COUNTY—THE SHELBYVILLE SPECTATOR—THE SHELBY COUNTY WEEKLY—THE SHELBY COUNTY HERALD—THE SHELBY COUNTY TIMES—THE SHELBYVILLE GUARD—THE SHELBY GAZETTE—THE SHELBY INDEX AND TORCHLIGHT—THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT—FIRST PAPER IN CLARENCE—THE CLARENCE COURIER—THE CLARENCE REPUBLICAN—THE HUNNEWELL ENTERPRISE—THE HUNNEWELL ECHO—THE ENTERPRISE RESUMES PUBLICATION—THE HUNNEWELL BEE—THE BETHEL SUN—THE MISSOURI SUN.

THE SHELBYVILLE SPECTATOR.

The first man to make a newspaper venture in Shelby county was F. M. Daulton. He was editor, proprietor, publisher and “devil” all at one and the same time. The paper bore the name of The Shelbyville Spectator, and was published at the county seat. The material for the equipment of the plant was moved to Shelbyville from Old Bloomington, Macon county. The Spectator saluted the public in Shelby county in the early spring of 1853. It was Whig in politics, and in size and make-up was a six-column folio, or a four-page paper, of six columns to the page. Mr. Daulton had about 400 subscribers to his weekly periodical, and some of his advertisers were Thomas Applebury, McAfee & Dickerson, Cotton Bros. and James Mar-maduke. The office was located on the northwest corner of the square in a small frame building. In 1854 the publisher formed a partnership with James Wolff, who bought the material of the Hannibal Journal and added it to the Spectator equipment. The new proprietors had just got started in good

shape when the entire office except a few cases of type were destroyed by fire. Enterprising and charitable citizens then made up money for the relief of the publishers and Mr. Daulton went to St. Louis and purchased the material for reinstating the plant. The new plant was located in a small brick building on the northeast corner of the square belonging to Mr. B. F. Dunn.

Daulton soon after sold his interest to a school teacher by the name of James Carty, who soon died. Mr. Wolff ran the paper only a short time thereafter until he died.

The publication then fell into the hands of a man by the name of N. C. Sperry, who changed the name of the paper to “The Star of the Prairie.” The “Star,” however, soon flickered out. The publisher was a worthless, shiftless sort of a fellow and finally left town without notifying his creditors of the time of his departure or his destination. He left many unpaid bills and but a few friends. The material was then moved to Mexico, Mo.

Mr. Daulton, the founder, moved to

Gainesville, Ark., and for years published a Democratic paper there.

THE SHELBY COUNTY WEEKLY.

In a short time after the "Star of the Prairie" had faded from the newspaper skies, two men formed a partnership and started the publication of the "Shelby County Weekly." These men were Griffin Frost, a practical printer from Mexico, Mo., and Hon. G. Watts Hillias, a young lawyer of Shelbyville. The former was publisher, the latter editor of the new publication.

The first paper published by this firm was issued on March 7, 1861. The office was located over Gooch's grocery store in Shelbyville.

The material for the equipment of the plant was purchased in St. Louis in the fall of 1860, and was transported to Hannibal by boat. The river froze up before the steamer arrived at Hannibal and the publication was delayed until the next spring.

Mr. Frost's brother, John, who later published the Quincy Daily News, and then the Clarence Courier, was the chief compositor on the paper. A boy by the name of Henry De Jarnett was what was then termed the office "devil."

The paper was a red-hot secession sheet and enjoyed a liberal advertising patronage and had about 500 subscribers. The motto was: "Free as the Wind, Pure and Firm as the Voice of Nature, the Press Should Be."

The paper, however, did not survive long. It came into existence at a perilous time, about the outbreak of the Civil war. The firing of the first shot at Sumter was told in this publication, and the editors were such strong secessionists

that in June of 1862 a few representatives of the Union Home Guards visited Mr. Frost and told him if he did not suspend the publication of his "treasonable sheet" they would stop it for him. He thereupon closed up the office and went to Marion county, and soon after entered in the Southern army under Martin E. Green. Mr. Frost was captain of the Marion county company. He saw four years' service, two of which were spent in a Federal prison. After the war he published a volume entitled "Prison Life and Recollections." He then went to Edina and established the Edina Democrat, and died only a few years ago. The "Weekly" office was locked up for a time. During the war Union soldiers threw most of the material into the street and the remainder was shipped to Maryville, Missouri.

THE SHELBY COUNTY HERALD.

In 1871 W. L. Willard & Bro. purchased a part of the Shafer-York plant at Shelbina and moved the outfit to Shelbyville. Colonel York took the remainder to Independence, Kansas, where he conducted a paper for several years. The Willards changed the politics again, making the paper Greenback. The paper was first Democratic, then Republican, later Greenback, again Republican, then back to its mother politics, or Democratic. June 15, 1881, the plant was sold to F. M. Springsteen and H. B. Davis, Mr. Willard going to Edina and founded a Greenback publication. The new partnership guided the doctrines of The Herald jointly until March, 1883, when Springsteen retired. Mr. Davis continued the publication until January of 1888, at which time Prof. W. R. Holli-

day purchased the plant and turned it politically from a Greenback to a Republican organ. The paper preached the doctrine of Republicanism for about one year and a half, until June, 1889, when it went into the hands of Joseph Doyle, who, although nominally making the paper Democratic, ran the paper as a strictly local newspaper and paid very little attention to politics. As a local paper, the Herald has from its foundation been what might be called the official county paper. It gives the County court proceedings regularly, as well as the Probate court dockets and devotes much space to Circuit court matters. Mr. Doyle guided the destinies of the Herald until August, 1905. He then sold to C. L. Ennis, who stayed in control until the fall of 1905, when Mr. Doyle again became editor. The paper continued under Mr. Doyle's control this time until October, 1907. Mr. Doyle then sold to Ennis brothers, Carl and Joshua, two sons of the former editor, who conducted the paper until February, 1910. Mr. Doyle then came into control for the third time and remained the owner and editor until November, 1910. The paper then went into the hands of C. E. Wailes, the present efficient owner:

THE SHELBY COUNTY TIMES.

J. R. Horn, the founder of the Hunnewell Echo, concluded he wanted a larger field and that instead of being simply an echo he wanted to be the "big noise." He therefore moved his plant from Hunnewell to the county seat and on February 1, 1884, he sent out the first issue of the Shelby County Times, an eight-column Democratic paper.

THE SHELBYVILLE GUARD.

E. D. Tingle founded this publication at the county seat in May, 1892, but soon sold to J. T. Welsh, who in September, 1893, sold a half interest to B. F. Glahn. In April, 1893, E. P. Dunn purchased the plant and continued as editor and owner until May, 1898, at which time he failed and made an assignment. Perry Claggett, who held the mortgage, was made the assignee, and in the same month sold the plant to E. J. Spencer, who remained in charge for only a short time, and in June sold the property to W. A. Dimmitt. Mr. Dimmitt held the property until January, 1902, when he sold to Starrett & Hayward. These men continued the publication until November, 1902, when they sold back to W. A. Dimmitt. The latter continued publication until fire destroyed the building and the plant. The plant was a total loss, as the owner had no insurance, and besides the loss of material lost all his book and subscription accounts.

SHELBYVILLE GUARD.

The first issue of the Shelbina Gazette was sent out on January 10, 1866. This was the first paper published in Shelbina. The full name of this publication was --The Weekly Gazette.-- The founder and publisher was an Illinoisan by the name of J. D. Moudy, a conservative Democrat.

The Gazette was a seven-column folio. The office was on Center street in the Goodman block. In April, 1866, just four months after the founding of the publication, Mr. Moudy sold out to his foreman, E. D. Hoselton. Mr. Hoselton

conducted the paper single handed until in the fall, when he sold a half interest to J. S. Bates, who soon sold to Frank M. Daulton, the original newspaper man of Shelby county.

Later Daulton became sole owner, but soon after sold the entire plant to Colonel Shafer and A. M. York, who turned the paper into a Republican publication. At this time the name of the paper was also changed to "The Shelby County Herald."

THE SHELBY INDEX AND TORCHLIGHT.

William N. Bumbarger and H. P. McRoberts were the founders of this publication and the first edition of volume number one came from the press July 13, 1881. In January, 1882, Simpson bought out McRoberts, and a year later N. H. Downing became the sole proprietor and editor. Dr. J. M. McCully became half owner on March 1, 1884, and July 1st following the firm became McCully & Christie, C. W. Christie buying Downing's interest. In 1885, Dr. McCully sold his interest to his partner. The latter failed in a few months and the property again went into the hands of Dr. McCully. In the fall of 1885 McCully sold the property to William Mason, who changed the name of the paper to "The Shelbina Torchlight." Mr. Mason died in about a year and the publication was resumed by his sons, Harry and George, until January, 1889, at which time the ownership passed into the hands of A. L. Roe and Prof. E. L. Cooley. In April, 1891, Roe purchased his partner's interest and became sole proprietor. In August 1893, the Torchlight again changed hands, this time going into the possession of Naeter & Has-

kins. The new owners were young and ambitious and printed a good paper full of local news. They remained in charge until November, 1897, when they transferred the ownership to Rev. W. W. McMurry. In December, 1900, Mr. McMurry sold to Cleek & Williams. This firm lasted until September, 1902. Mr. Williams then bought his partner's interest and became the sole proprietor. Mr. Williams sold a half interest to J. E. Thrasher, and in May, 1904, the publication was sold to P. B. Dunn, Jr. Mr. Dunn conducted the paper until March, 1907, at which time he sold out to C. J. Colburn. Mr. Colburn remained as editor until May, 1908, when he sold a half interest to N. E. Williams, and in December following Mr. Williams became the sole owner again and is the present owner and editor. Mr. Williams is a man of good judgment and an able writer. He is a pronounced prohibitionist and always stands for the clean and honest administration of public affairs.

THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT.

On April 1, 1869, E. D. Hoselton, former owner and editor of the Shelbina Gazette, established The Shelbina Democrat. This publication was an all home print, seven-column folio, or four page paper.

In 1870 Col. S. A. Rawlings became a partner in the publication of the paper. The latter was a Virginian and came to Shelby county in 1848. He died September 28, 1875. During the Civil war Colonel Rawlings served on the Confederate side and organized and commanded the Third Battalion of Infantry, Harris Division, Missouri State Guards.

After the death of Colonel Rawlings

Judge James C. Hale assumed editorial charge of the paper and remained at the helm until in May, 1881, when the present owner, Col. W. O. L. Jewett became a partner with Mr. Hoselton. Mr. Jewett at this time was a young lawyer of more than ordinary ability and had distinguished himself as a public speaker and campaigner. He was a determined, aggressive editor, just the kind the times demanded, and he soon established a reputation as a writer. The firm of Hoselton & Jewett remained in control of the paper until November 4, 1891, when the senior partner, Mr. Hoselton, sold his interest to J. W. Cox, a brother-in-law of Mr. Jewett's. This firm continued to publish the Democrat until July 31, 1901, at which time Mr. Jewett purchased the interest of his partner, Mr. Cox. Colonel Jewett has been the sole owner and editor since the above date. Hon. W. O. L. Jewett is today the father of the newspaper fraternity of Shelby county. Although advancing in years, he is recognized as one of the most forceful writers in the State. He is a fearless defender of what he believes to be right and is generally on the right side of all questions. He takes great pride in promoting the city in which he lives and is also patriotic to his county and state. The Democrat, under Colonel Jewett, takes the lead on all public spirited questions. The agitation for a new court house was started by the Democrat, as was also the electric light proposition at Shelbina, as well as many other smaller and less important enterprises. The "Democrat" is now taking the lead on the water works proposition and it is only a question of a few months until the venerable editor will behold the

fruits of his labors in that direction. The Democrat is democratic in politics, issued Wednesday of each week and today is a home-print, six column quarto. The paper is printed on a cylinder press, run by a gasoline engine. The type is set by a Junior Mergenthaler. The paper is up-to-date in every respect, and Mr. Jewett has proven to the community that the pen is mightier than the sword from the fact that he has made the Democrat so strong a factor in the development of Shelby county and northeast Missouri. In December, 1910, Mr. Jewett leased the paper to his two sons, H. H. and E. W. Jewett, who took charge January 1, 1911. This ended the newspaper career of one of the pioneer newspaper men of the state.

FIRST PAPER IN CLARENCE.

A man by the name of Steel was the first adventurer in the newspaper business in Clarence. This daring act was committed in 1877, and his product of the press was called "The Clarence Tribune." The paper was at first printed in Macon City, but later moved to Clarence and located over the post-office. The policy of the paper was neutral in politics. Mr. Steel conducted the paper about two years and then abandoned the field.

THE CLARENCE COURIER.

The second adventurer in the newspaper field in Clarence was W. M. Bradley, who founded "The Clarence Courier" in February, 1881. The founder conducted the paper for the space of a little over a year, and in May, 1882, sold to W. D. Powell, who remained as the editor and owner until August, 1884,

at which date he sold the plant to John L. Frost, who had been in the newspaper business in Quincy, and N. H. Downing, formerly of the "Shelbina Index," who soon after sold to Frost and moved to California. Mr. Frost was a good newspaper man, but died November 22, 1888, and the establishment was sold to S. R. Lloyd and J. R. Asbury in January, 1889. The latter did not remain in the partnership long. Mr. Lloyd continued with the publication, however, until July of 1894. The present owner, H. J. Simmons, and G. L. Frost then bought the plant. This partnership lasted less than a year, and Mr. Simmons then became the sole owner and editor. In 1898 W. M. Pritchard purchased a half interest in the paper and a cylinder press was installed. This firm continued the business until June, 1900, at which time Simmons again became the sole owner and leased a half interest to his brother-in-law, Edward B. Grant. The paper was issued under the firm name of Simmons & Grant. The ownership has not changed since Simmons bought out Pritchard, but at Mr. Grant's death in July, 1910, a half interest was leased to Enoch W. Ragland, and the paper is now being published by the firm of Simmons & Ragland. The paper is issued Wednesdays of each week and is an all home print, six-column quarto. It is Democratic in politics and has at all times labored for the improvement and advancement of the city, county and state.

THE CLARENCE REPUBLICAN.

At the present time this is the only Republican paper published in the county. Its existence dates back to 1889,

October 2nd. O. P. Devin was the founder, but soon turned the office over to V. V. Peters, who conducted the paper until August, 1891, when George B. Klingenbeil became the publisher. The latter held the editorial chair only a few months and relinquished the management to A. L. Jordan, who remained at the desk until November, 1893, when he turned the plant over to E. T. Jones, a young lawyer who lived in the city. Jones held control until May, 1894. James S. Watkins then became the editor and continued the publication until 1895, when R. N. Shanks, the present owner, took charge. Newland Shanks conducted the paper a few months in 1904, but soon turned the paper back to his father. In 1895 Mr. Shanks changed the name of the publication to the "Farmer's Favorite" and in 1896 suspended publication. He, however, resumed publication again in 1897 and the paper is now being published by Shanks & Son, the junior member of the firm being R. Elma Shanks. In 1910 the policy of the paper was changed to an independent Republican. The paper is a six-column quarto, patent inside, and is progressive and a good local paper.

THE HUNNEWELL ENTERPRISE.

The newspaper fever struck Hunnewell in 1882. That year Thos. Irons established the "Hunnewell Enterprise." The fever soon subsided and on January 10, 1883, the "Enterprise" suspended publication.

THE HUNNEWELL ECHO.

Hunnewell Echo," which was Demo-

cratic in politics. Mr. Horn published the paper in Hunnewell until January, 1884, when he moved it to Shelbyville.

THE ENTERPRISE RESUMES PUBLICATION.

Thomas Irons resumed publication of the "Enterprise" again in December, 1885, but only lasted a few months and again suspended.

THE HUNNEWELL BEE.

In September a fourth venture was made in the newspaper business at Hunnewell. This time it was by Eld. J. T. Craig, who turned the "Bee" loose on the inhabitants of this village September 10, 1890. He later sold to J. J. Heifner and returned to the pulpit. Mr. Heifner conducted the paper until 1893, when he sold to Albert Blackburn, who changed the name of the paper to

"THE HUNNEWELL GRAPHIC."

In March, 1894, the "Graphic" passed into the hands of O. P. Sturm, who remained in charge until August, 1895. Sturm then moved to Malta Bend, Mo., and engaged in teaching school. He turned the paper over to his brother,

George W. Sturm. In May, 1896, the plant was sold to J. H. Orr. Mr. Orr sold a half interest in a few weeks to E. J. Spencer, and in July, 1896, bought his partner's interest back. In September, 1897, the present owner, A. B. Dunlap, became the editor and owner, and has greatly improved the paper, which has been such a strong factor in the development and advancement of the city. The paper is independent in politics.

THE BETHEL SUN.

The above publication was launched upon the newspaper seas in the year 1896. The person who first made the "Sun" shine in Bethel was C. S. Ward. He sold to Joe Miller, who soon transferred the plant to S. M. Bohon, who in turn sold to W. A. Dimmitt. The plant was not a paying proposition and was discontinued in 1901.

"THE MISSOURI SUN."

Rev. D. A. Brown, a Christian preacher, and C. S. Ward, in August, 1897, started a paper in Leonard called the "Missouri Sun." "The Sun," however, soon went into a total eclipse and has not been seen in the newspaper skies since.