

## CHAPTER V.

### HISTORY OF THE COUNTY FROM 1850 TO 1861.

Miscellaneous—The Election of 1852—The Political Campaign of 1856—Know Nothings—Election of 1858—Slavery Days—The Presidential Campaign of 1860—After the Presidential Election—The War Cloud on the Horizon.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

In the spring of 1853 the first newspaper in the county was established at Shelbyville. It was called the *Shelbyville Spectator*. F. M. Daulton was the first editor and proprietor, then associated with him was one James Wolf. The office was on the north side of the public square, near the north-west corner. It was burned down in about a year after the paper started (see newspaper history).

Of the severe winter of 1856-57, Mr. Holliday says:—

The winter of 1856-57 was the hardest winter I ever experienced. Early in October there fell a great deal of rain, after which it turned cold, and the ground froze hard; another rain fell and another freeze followed. Such was the weather during the entire winter. Sometimes the mud was so deep that cattle could find no place dry enough to lie down on; and there was no spot in the field to place feed for the stock, and consequently quantities of feed were wasted. The feed being expended early, the stock fared badly, especially as the grass was late in coming up the following spring, not making its appearance until about the 25th of May. Many cattle died from exposure and want of provender.

A market was opened in Iowa for milch cows, as that State was being rapidly settled, and during the early part of the spring mentioned, some men bought up a drove of cows, destined for the Iowa market, but owing to the backwardness of the season, they did not start until about the 10th of June, when finding insufficient grass to maintain their herd, they were forced to stop on Salt river and remain in the bottoms waiting for the grass to grow. They finally reached their destination in Iowa, where they realized a good price for their cattle, but having had to buy feed for two months longer than they expected, the expenses took up all the profits, and the speculation did not prove a successful one.

In the year 1859, the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad was completed through the county (see history).

During the troubles in Kansas (1854-58) regarding whether it should be admitted into the Union with or without slavery, a few men

from this county went out under the auspices of the pro-slavery party of Missouri to help make Kansas a slave State. Not more than a dozen went and they did not remain long. They were there long enough to vote, and that was all that was required.

In 1859 the Pike's Peak excitement carried off quite a number of our citizens, most of whom returned soon. In the spring a party of five started from near Shelbyville, for Denver, but meeting hundreds who had been there and found out the humbug, they turned back at Cottonwood, in Kansas. This party was composed of M. H. Marmaduke, George Gillaspay, Daniel Brant, Jenkins Beathards, and a free colored man named "Jim" Givens.

In July, 1855, the contract was let for the building of the offices of clerks of the county and circuit courts, attached to the court-house. J. M. Ennis was the commissioner. He let the contract and the work was finished. In 1858 the cupola was built, at a cost of \$325. Mr. S. P. Eagles, of Shelbyville, was the builder.

In the spring of 1856 there were extraordinary floods in the county. All the streams rose to an unusual height. Salt river and North river were thought by many to be higher than they had ever been before, although some old settlers asserted that North river was highest in 1844.

In January, 1855, snow fell to a depth of 12 inches, followed by a high wind from the north which kept the snow moving for 11 days, so that making or breaking roads was almost impossible. A road made during the day was filled up during the night, and could not be found the next day. On the prairies the snow was blown off the north and west sides of the fields, and deposited on the east and south sides. Where the snow was blown off the hard freeze killed the wheat.

May 12, 1855, there was a heavy frost in the county which killed the hickory leaves, red clover, all the fruit and nearly all the wheat, which was partially headed. The fruit and leaves on the mulberry trees were killed, and another growth put out the same season, and it is said that the fruit actually matured.

Mr. Holliday relates that in the summer of 1855 there was considerable excitement on the subject of a road from Shelbyville to Shelby. A petition was presented to the county court praying that body to change the State road from Shelbyville to Paris from its then location, and causing a new road to be made running from Shelbyville to Walkersville, thence to Shelby, and vacating the old road.

The court appointed three commissioners, and instructed them to view both routes, measuring the distance of the established road and also the projected one, and report the facts. They did so, and gave

their preference to the route already established. The friends of the new road were not satisfied, and a review was granted them. The county court appointed new commissioners, who confirmed the report of their predecessors. Again the friends of the Walkersville route demanded another investigation and report, and again the case was decided against them. The matter ended with the establishment of a *county* road crossing Salt river at Walkersville, while the old State road, established by the Legislature in 1836, and running from Paris to the mouth of the Des Moines river, was let alone to cross the river where it does now, at the old Dickerson ford.

Although so good an authority as Mr. Holliday says this was in 1855, it is probable that it was some years later, as Shelbina was not laid out until in 1857.

#### ELECTION OF 1852.

At the Presidential election, 1852, the Democrats carried the county for Pierce and King over Scott and Graham, the Whig candidates by a good majority. The votes of but five townships can now be given, and they were as follows:—

<i>Townships.</i>	<i>Pierce &amp; King.</i>	<i>Scott &amp; Graham.</i>
Black Creek . . . . .	147	142
Bethel . . . . .	109	15
Tiger Fork . . . . .	4	9
Taylor . . . . .	11	10
Jackson . . . . .	38	26
Total. . . . .	309	202

This was the last year that the Whig party, as a party, put forth a Presidential ticket.

#### THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OF 1856.

A most intensely exciting political contest was that of this year, especially in Missouri. It was not only a Presidential year, but a gubernatorial year, and besides there were Congressmen and county officers to elect. Only two Presidential tickets were voted here—the Democratic, headed by James Buchanan and John C. Breckinridge, and the Native American or “Know Nothing,” headed by Millard Fillmore, of New York, and Andrew Jackson Donelson, of Tennessee. This year the Republican party put up its first Presidential ticket, but it received no votes in this county, and but few outside of the Northern States.

For Governor there were three candidates. Trusten Polk was the

regular Democratic nominee, with Hancock Jackson for Lieutenant-Governor; Thomas H. Benton was an Independent Democratic candidate, with J. W. Kelly, of Holt county, for Lieutenant-Governor; the "American" candidate was Robert C. Ewing, of Lafayette, with William Newland, of Ralls, for Lieutenant-Governor. Col. Benton was making his last fight for political existence, and bravely he fought. He made a canvass of the State, visiting many of the principal cities and towns.

Benton had hosts of strong friends in this State, many in this county, some of whom even yet cherish his memory with great fondness. Men name their boys for him, hang his portrait in their parlors, and delight to do honor to his memory. When he died — in April, 1858 — there was general sorrow among them, although had he lived longer he doubtless would have been a Republican, as many a one of his henchmen became, and this would have disgusted a large proportion of his friends who admired him to the last.

For Congress there were but two candidates in this district: Hon. James J. Lindley, Whig, Know Nothing, etc., and Hon. James S. Green, regular Democrat, of Lewis county.

The Germans of Bethel township, this county, voted almost solidly for Col. Benton, he receiving in that township three times as many votes as both the other candidates. The following was the result in this county of the

AUGUST ELECTION, 1856.

Townships.	GOVERNOR.			CONG'SS.		LEGIS'RE		SHERIFF		TREAS'R.	
	<i>R. C. Ewing.</i>	<i>Truisten Polk.</i>	<i>Thomas H. Benton.</i>	<i>J. J. Lindley.</i>	<i>J. S. Green.</i>	<i>John McAfee.</i>	<i>G. H. Edwards.</i>	<i>J. M. Ennis.</i>	<i>E. L. Holliday.</i>	<i>J. M. Marmaduke.</i>	<i>Joe Bell.</i>
Black Creek, Shelbyville . . . . .	58	82	16	72	87	92	63	92	63	95	59
“ “ Walkerville . . . . .	27	24	13	30	34	34	30	34	29	32	28
“ “ Van Nort's . . . . .	18	20	1	20	19	20	17	24	15	22	15
“ “ Hawkins' Office . . . . .	44	72	9	60	65	69	55	73	53	74	47
Bethel . . . . .	21	17	108	35	36	53	37	102	25	100	24
North River . . . . .	15	16	—	14	17	16	15	15	16	16	15
Salt River . . . . .	25	35	3	25	38	38	23	34	28	37	23
Tiger Fork . . . . .	52	13	2	54	14	16	52	15	52	18	50
Jackson . . . . .	104	21	6	100	26	21	110	30	97	26	99
Clay . . . . .	27	5	6	31	5	5	25	7	24	5	26
Taylor . . . . .	20	20	2	21	23	18	23	21	22	28	12
Total . . . . .	411	325	166	462	364	382	450	447	424	453	398

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1856 — THE “KNOW NOTHINGS.”

One of the most exciting Presidential campaigns ever known to Shelby county was that of 1856. The contest was between Buchanan and Breckinridge, the Democratic candidates, and Fillmore and Donelson, the nominees of the Native American, or “Know Nothing” party. Several meetings were held and a full vote polled.

The Native American, or “Know Nothing” party deserves particular mention, as it once was a political organization very formidable in its character and largely in the majority in this county and district. It was formed some time in the decade of 1830, but did not become strong or very prominent until the dissolution of the Whig party, in 1853. In 1854 the first lodge was established in this county. In 1856 lodges were numerous.

The party was a strange one, as it was a secret political order whose members were oath-bound, and which had its lodges, its signs, grips and passwords, and worked secretly to accomplish its openly professed objects. It was composed chiefly of old Whigs, although there were many ex-Democrats in its ranks. The corner-stone of its platform was the principle that “Americans must rule America,” in other words, that none but native-born citizens of the United States and non-Catholics ought to hold office, and it also favored a radical change in the naturalization laws.

It is said that the hailing salutation of the order was, “Have you seen Sam?” If answered by the inquiry, “Sam who?” or “What Sam?” the rejoinder was, “Uncle Sam.” So popular did the party become that its “boom” carried many counties and districts in the Union.

In 1856 the following was the platform of the Missouri Know Nothings, relating to national issues: —

1. That we regard the maintenance of the Union of these United States as the paramount political good.
2. A full recognition of the rights of the several States, as expressed and reserved in the Constitution, and a careful avoidance by the General Government of all interference with their rights by Legislative or Executive action.
3. Obedience to the Constitution of these United States as the supreme law of the land, sacredly obligatory in all its parts and mem-

bers—a strict construction thereof, and steadfast resistance to the spirit of innovation of its principles—avowing that in all doubtful or disputed points it may only be legally ascertained and expounded by the judicial powers of the United States.

4. That no person should be selected for political station, whether native or foreign born, who recognizes any allegiance or obligation to any foreign prince, potentate or power, or who refuses to recognize the Federal or State constitutions (each within its sphere) as paramount to all other laws or rules of political action.

5. Americans must rule America; and to this end native-born citizens should be selected for all State and Federal offices, in preference to naturalized citizens.

6. A change in the laws of naturalization, making a continued residence of twenty-one years an indispensable requisite for citizenship, and excluding all paupers and persons convicted of crime from landing on our shores; but no interference with the vested rights of foreigners.

7. Persons that are born of American parents, residing temporarily abroad, are entitled to all the rights of native-born citizens.

8. An enforcement of the principle that no State or Territory can admit others than native-born citizens to the rights of suffrage, or of holding political office, unless such persons have been naturalized according to the laws of the United States.

9. That Congress possesses no power under the Constitution to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States where it does or may exist, or to exclude any State from admission into the Union because its constitution does or does not recognize the institution of slavery as a part of its social system and (expressly pretermittting any expression of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any territory), it is the sense of this meeting that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the territories of the United States; and that any interference by Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia, would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the national faith.

10. That we will abide by and maintain the existing laws on the subject of slavery as a final and conclusive settlement of the subject in spirit and in substance, believing this course to be the best guarantee of future peace and fraternal amity.

As previously stated, but two candidates were voted for at the Presidential election in this county in 1856—Millard Fillmore and James Buchanan. John C. Fremont, “Benton’s son-in-law,” as certain Democrats delighted to denominate him, received no votes. There were a few Republicans in the county, but they did not show their hands. The election called out a full vote and the result showed

that each party had increased its vote, the Know Nothings rather the more. They swept the county by the following vote:—

<i>Townships.</i>	<i>Fillmore, K. N.</i>	<i>Buchanan Dem.</i>
Black Creek, Shelbyville.	159	195
Black Creek, Walkerville.	37	24
Bethel	29	57
Tiger Fork.	41	19
Taylor	15	10
Jackson	85	17
Clay	28	12
North River.	9	12
Salt River	29	27
Total	432	373

Leading Know Nothings in this county at this time were Thomas O. Eskridge, Joseph M. Irwin, Henry T. Sheetz, Dr. J. Bell, James Foley, George Gaines, John S. Duncan, Leonard Dobbin, John Dunn and James Gooch.

Prominent Democrats were J. B. Marmaduke, Henry Louthan, Lewis Jacobs, Perry B. Moore, John Dickerson, John F. Benjamin, W. J. Holliday, John McAfee, William R. Strachan, Alex McMurry, J. M. Ennis.

#### THE ELECTION OF 1858.

The August election of 1858 attracted but little interest in Shelby county. The Democratic State ticket and John B. Clark for Congress had no opposition here; neither had J. M. Ennis, Democratic candidate for sheriff. The only contest was between the candidates for the Legislature. The Democratic candidate was William Richmond Strachan, who four years later became so notorious throughout North-east Missouri as Gen. McNeil's provost marshal. The Whig candidate was Samuel Singleton. The Democrats swept everything and Strachan was elected by a large majority.

#### SLAVERY DAYS.

As this volume will be read by many in future years who will have no personal knowlege of what the institution of slavery was when it existed in the United States, a brief account of that institution as it existed in this county may not be inappropriate and void of interest.

In 1860 there were 724 slaves in Shelby county, and this was the largest number ever in the county at one time. The majority of these were owned in the south half of the county, and were employed in agricultural labor.

Slavery in this county was transplanted from Kentucky and Virginia. Certain families owned slaves in those States, and carried

them along when they came to the new country. Nearly all that were ever here came with their masters or were natives of the county. Few were ever brought here and sold on speculation. Many were taken out of the county and sold to go into the far South, but there was no profit in bringing them here for sale. Negroes are known to be prolific when surrounded by favorable circumstances, and they increased very rapidly under the workings and practices of the system. Many slave girls became mothers at fourteen.

The slave owners worked their slaves for profit. Slavery to them was not only social power and supremacy, but it was wealth and a source of wealth. The slaveholder therefore worked his slaves to the best possible advantage for gain. They were provided with comfortable cabins, with coarse but comfortable clothing, with a sufficiency of food, and medical attendance was furnished them when they were sick. The self-interest of the master prompted this, if his humanity did not. It was rare in this county that a master overworked and underfed his slaves, or treated them with extreme harshness and cruelty.

Slaves were property and rated a part of a man's personal estate, as his horses were. To be sure they were regarded as something more than brood mares and stallions, though their value, in a certain sense was the same — proportionate to their increase. This could not be avoided. The owner of land had a right to its annual profits, the owner of orchards to their annual fruits, and under the law the owner of female slaves was entitled to their children. While in Louisiana and perhaps another State slaves were real estate, in Missouri they were chattels. Though no attention was given to their education, their religious instruction was not neglected, and they were encouraged to hold meetings and to conduct revivals and prayer meetings, and in particular the Pauline precept, "Servants obey your masters," was constantly cited to them as one of the teachings and commands of the Bible.

The domestic relations of the slaves were regulated more with regard to convenience than what would be considered propriety in these days. Marriages between them were not made matters of record. Quite frequently no ceremony was said at all — the parties simply "took up." Occasionally the husband belonged to one master, the wife to another. But in most instances the family relation was observed, or at least imitated. Husband and wife occupied one cabin, where they brought up children and lived after the fashion of to-day. The husband and wife not only did not have to provide for themselves, but



they were not expected to provide for their children. That was the master's care and duty.

The husband was usually satisfied with one wife — at a time. There was not that laxity of morals concerning the connubial relations here that existed in the far South. There were numbers of mulatto children, and quadroons and octoroons — as there are to-day — because there were depraved and libidinous men then — as there are now. Sometimes a father owned as slaves his own daughters, whose children had for fathers their mothers' half-brothers. But these cases were rare. The Northern Abolitionists exaggerated and magnified the existence of evils of this sort. Usually the fathers of mulatto children were depraved and disreputable white men who were not the owners of slaves.

It was quite common for certain slave-owners to hire out their slaves to those who needed them and did not own them. A good man would hire for \$250 a year, and found. It was made an indictable offense for a master to permit a slave to hire his own time, and it was also an offense to deal with them unless they had a permit.

Women were hired as well as men. Some idea of the terms on which they were employed may be gained from the following copy of an original letter written by one citizen of this county to another, on the subject: —

JANUARY 10, 1843.

*Mr. Thomas J. Bounds:* SIR—This will inform you that the woman you wish to hire belongs to me. You can have her a year for forty dollars by clothing her in the following manner, viz.: Two winter dresses, two summer dresses, two shifts, one blanket, a pair of shoes and stockings for the woman; two winter dresses, one summer dress, two shifts for the child. You'll have to lose the time lost by the woman occasioned by sickness or other acts of Providence, and I'll pay all doctor's bills. You'll have to send for her.

Yours respectfully,

R. H. DURRETT.

While there was frequently a harsh master, the instances of downright cruelty to the slaves in this county were rare. There were cruel masters, as there are cruel husbands and fathers, but the rule was that slave-owners were considerate, reasonable and just. It was necessary that there should be discipline, but this was enforced with as few rigors as possible. In every municipal township there were patrols, appointed by the county court, whose duties were to patrol their respective townships a certain number of times per month, and to keep a watch and scrutiny upon the movements of the negroes.

Eternal vigilance was the price of slavery. The slaves required continual oversight. There were restive spirits among them with ideas of freedom, whose movements had to be restrained; all insubordination had to be repressed; all loafing and prowling for the purpose of petty larceny had to be broken up and reproved. After the Southampton insurrection and the fearful murders of Nat Turner and his followers, in 1831, "risings" and insurrections were feared wherever there were considerable communities of slaves. To prevent as far as possible any trouble among or about the slaves was the office of the patrols. They made their rounds — one of their number being the leader or "captain" — as nearly as possible at unexpected times and suddenly. No slave was allowed off the farm where he belonged or was employed after nine o'clock at night without a written pass from his master or employer. All offenders of this class were made prisoners and punished.

The negroes had their happy times, and on the whole it is perhaps nothing but the truth to say that their average *physical* condition when in slavery was as good as it is to-day. The state of some of them was better. Sentimental considerations must be left to others. They had their dances, their frolics, and their assemblages of various sorts. Corn huskings were made occasions of merriment and diversion. In 1840 or later there was a custom, when the huge pile of corn was husked, to take up the master and bear him on the shoulders of the huskers at the head of a procession which marched around the premises singing songs improvised at the time, and so called "corn songs."

In the Civil War about 75 negro men enlisted from this county in colored regiments, chiefly in the Second Missouri and First Iowa "African Descent."

In 1865, when the slaves were freed, the majority of them left their masters and mistresses and set about doing for themselves. Very many went to Macon and Hannibal, preferring town life to rural life. Others left the State, many going to Illinois, where were plenty of anti-slavery people from whom they expected much substantial sympathy and assistance — which but few of them received, however. Numbers believed that not only were they to receive their freedom, but that in some way the government was to compensate them for their term of servitude. A few are said to be yet looking for the "forty acres of land and a mule!"

Slavery received its death blow when the Civil War began — so it turned out. As elsewhere stated hundreds of slaves left their masters

in this county in 1862 and 1863. Even the slaves of Unionists ran away. When in 1865 by Legislative enactment and the adoption of the XIII. Amendment all slaves in this State were set free, there was a great deal of discontent in this county. Men declared rashly that they would not rent a negro a foot of land, or render him any sort of aid in his efforts to make a living; but in time this feeling passed away, the situation was accepted, and now there is but the merest handful of persons who would re-establish slavery if they had the power.

In 1860 the population of Shelby county was as follows: Whites, 6,565; slaves, 724; free colored, 12; total, 7,301.

#### THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF 1860.

In very many respects the Presidential campaign of 1860 was the most remarkable, not only in the history of Shelby county, but of the United States. Its character was affected not only by preceding, but by succeeding events. Among the former were the excited and exciting debates in Congress over the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the Kansas-Nebraska controversy; the passage by the Legislatures of various Northern States of the "personal liberty bills," which rendered inoperative in those States the fugitive slave law; the John Brown raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in the fall of 1859, and various inflammatory speeches of prominent leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties in the North and in the South.

There was the greatest excitement throughout the country, and when it was in full tide the Presidential canvass opened. The slavery question was the all-absorbing one among the people. The Republican party, while it had not received a single vote in Shelby county, had carried a large majority of the Northern States in the canvass of 1856, and every year since had received large accessions to its ranks, and under the circumstances, there being great dissension in the Democratic party, prognosticating a split, bade fair to elect its candidates.

The Democratic convention at Charlestown, South Carolina, April 23, after a stormy and inharmonious session of some days, divided, and the result was the nomination of two sets of candidates — Stephen A. Douglas and Herschel V. Johnson for President and Vice-President, by the Regulars, and John C. Breckinridge and Joseph Lane, by the Southern or States rights wing of the party.

The "Constitutional Union" party, made up of old Whigs, Know Nothings, and some conservative men of all parties, nominated John

Bell, of Tennessee, and Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, on a platform composed of a single line — “The Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws.”

The Republican party was last to bring out its candidates. It presented Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin, on a platform, declaring, among other things, that each State had the absolute right to control and manage its own domestic institutions; denying that the constitution, of its own force, carried slavery into the territories, whose normal condition was said to be that of freedom. Epitomized, the platform meant hostility toward the *extension* of slavery, non-interference where it really existed.

It was to be expected that Missouri, being the only border slave State lying contiguous to the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, — “A peninsula of slavery running out into a sea of freedom,” as Gov. Bob Stewart called it, — should be deeply concerned in the settlement of the slavery question. Her people or their ancestors were very largely from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and other slave-holding States, and many of them owned slaves or were otherwise interested in the preservation of slavery, to which institution the success of the Republican party, it was believed, would be destructive. There were many of this class in this county. There was not only a selfish motive for the friendliness toward the “peculiar institution,” but a sentimental one. It was thought that it would be unmanly to yield to Northern sentiment of a threatening shape or coercive character. If slavery was wrong (which was denied), it must not be assailed at the dictation of Northern Abolitionists.

The canvass in the State was very spirited. The division in the Democratic party extended into Missouri. The Democratic State convention nominated Claiborne F. Jackson, of Saline county, for Governor. The Bell and Everett party nominated at first Robert Wilson, of Andrew, and on his withdrawal, Hon. Sample Orr, of Greene county. Judge Orr was selected in the room of Mr. Wilson by the central committee. Very soon the politicians began a series of maneuvers designed to develop Jackson's views on the main questions before the country, and especially as to which of the two Democratic Presidential candidates he favored. For a long time the wily Saline county statesman succeeded in evading the question and in defining his position; but at last the Missouri *Republican* and other Douglas organs “smoked him out.” He announced in a well-written communication that he was for Douglas, because he believed him to be the regular and fairly chosen nominee of the party; but at the same

time he announced himself in favor of many of the principles of the Breckinridge party. He was called by some who disliked him "a Douglas man with Breckinridge tendencies," "a squatter sovereign on an anti-squatter sovereignty platform," etc.

When Jackson's letter appeared, soon thereafter the Breckinridge men called a State convention and put in nomination Hancock Jackson, of Howard, for Governor, and Monroe M. Parsons, of Cole, for Lieutenant-Governor.

Being encouraged by the feuds in the Democratic party, the Bell and Everett men had high hopes of electing their gubernatorial candidate at the August election, and carrying the State for "Bell, of Tennessee," the ensuing November. To this end they did everything possible to foment additional discord and widen the breach between the two wings of their opponents; but they over-did the business. The Democrats saw through their tactics, and agreeing to disagree as to Presidential candidates, practically united in the support of C. F. Jackson and Thomas C. Reynolds, at the August election, and triumphantly elected them by a plurality of about 10,000: C. F. Jackson, Douglas Democrat, 74,446; Sample Orr, Bell and Everett, 64,583; Hancock Jackson, Breckinridge Democrat, 11,415; J. B. Gardenhire, Republican, 6,135.

In Shelby county the vote stood: C. F. Jackson, 621; Sample Orr, 576; Hancock Jackson, 95; Gardenhire, 91. Votes for a Republican were given in the county for the first time. The railroad had brought in numbers of Republicans, and many of the Germans of the county were of the same faith.

Nothing daunted by their defeat in August, the Bell and Everett men in Missouri kept up the fight for their Presidential candidates, and came within a few hundred votes of carrying the State for them in November, the vote standing: —

For the Douglas electors . . . . .	58,801
For the Bell electors . . . . .	58,372
For the Breckinridge electors . . . . .	31,317
For the Lincoln electors . . . . .	17,028
Douglas' majority over Bell . . . . .	429
Douglas' majority over Breckinridge . . . . .	27,484

It is said that many Democrats voted for Bell because they thought he was the only candidate that could defeat Lincoln. In the October election the Republicans had carried Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, and Lincoln's election was almost inevitable. Fusion tickets against

the Republicans had been formed in New York, New Jersey, and other States, and many thought the Tennessee statesman might be elected after all.

In Shelby the vote for President resulted: Bell, 702; Douglas, 476; Breckinridge, 293; Lincoln, 90. Bell received almost as many votes as Douglas and Breckinridge together. The Republicans held their own from the August election very well, giving to Lincoln only one less vote than Gardenhire had received. There are many even yet who have forgotten that there were *ninety* Lincoln men in Shelby county in 1860, and are inclined to dispute the official record in the case.

#### AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

The news of the election of Lincoln and Hamlin was received by the people of Shelby county generally with considerable dissatisfaction; but, aside from the utterances of some ultra pro-slavery men, there were general expressions of a willingness to accept and abide by the result — at least to watch and wait. A number of citizens avowed themselves unconditional Union men from the first — as they had every year since 1850, when they met in convention from time to time, and these were men who had voted for Bell, and men who had voted for Douglas, and even men who had voted for Breckinridge. Upon the secession of South Carolina and other Southern States, however, many changed their view. Indeed, there was nothing certain about the sentiment of men in those days, but one thing — they were liable to change! Secessionists one week became Union men the next, and *vice versa*. There was withal a universal hope that civil war might be averted.

Already the best men of the country feared for the fate of the republic. Northern fanatics and Southern fire-eaters were striving to rend it assunder. The former did not want to live in a country (so they said) whereof one-half depended for prosperity on the begetting and bringing up of children for the slave market, and so the constitution which permitted slavery was denominated an instrument of infamy, and the flag of the stars and stripes was denounced as a flaunting lie. The fire-eaters of the South were blustering and complaining that their "rights" had been or were about to be trampled on by the North, and therefore they were for seceding and breaking up a government which they could not absolutely control.

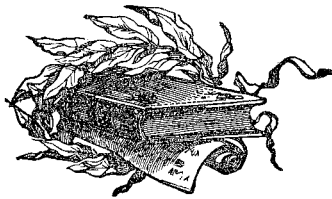
A majority of the people of the county, it is safe to say, believed that the interests of Missouri were identical with those of the other

slave-holding states, but they were in favor of waiting for the development of the policy of the new administration before taking any steps leading to the withdrawal of the State from the Federal Union. "Let us wait and see what Lincoln will do," was the sentiment and expression of a large number. A respectable minority were in favor of immediate secession.

"INCENDIARY TALK."

An incident which happened near the close of the year is thus related by Mr. Holliday in his "Sketches":—

At the circuit court, on the fourth Monday in November, 1860, the slaves belonging to the estate of George Gaines, deceased, were sold at the court-house door, and during the sale there was a little Dutchman who was about half drunk, and who swore it was not right to sell negroes. Although he talked very broken, the bystanders understood enough to think he was saying something about the Divine institution of slavery, and he was arrested, taken before a justice of the peace, and had to give bond for his appearance at the next court, or go to jail to await the action of the grand jury at the next term of the circuit court. His was an indictable offense under the statutes of Missouri, which said that if any person should say anything in the hearing of a negro calculated to make him rebellious or insubordinate, such person, on conviction, should be sent to the penitentiary for a term of not less than five years. The Dutchman gave bond for his appearance, but did not appear; if he had, he would have stood a good chance for the penitentiary, for the negroes were not allowed to swear whether they heard certain remarks or not, and men were convicted on the testimony of prosecuting witnesses who swore they "believed the negroes heard," etc. This was the way such trials were generally managed.



## History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri - Link Page

PREVIOUS...SHELBY IV: HISTORY OF THE COUNTY FROM 1840 TO 1850.....666

NEXT.....SHELBY VI: HISTORY OF THE COUNTY DURING 1861.....695

GO BACK TO THE ELECTRONIC INDEX PAGE...