

A DIRECTORY,

BUSINESS MIRROR,

AND

Historical Sketches

OF

RANDOLPH COUNTY:

WITH BRIEF NOTES OF THE PIONEER SETTLERS.

By E. J. MONTAGUE

ALTON, ILL.:

COURIER STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTING HOUSE.

1859.

S P A R T A .

The ground on which the City of Sparta now stands was originally purchased and owned by JOHN ARMOUR, an emigrant from Pennsylvania, who located upon it in the year 1826. He erected a small log house, and made a farm upon the ground. Anticipating the wants of the growing settlements around him, and being a man of enterprise, he erected and put in operation a tread-mill, which stood near the spot now occupied by the Mansion House. The erection of this mill was the "circumstance" to which the city owes its existence. ROBERT G. SHANNON, (who was then keeping a store one mile south of the embryo town,) seeing that nearer the mill would be a better locality for selling goods, purchased a small quantity of Mr. ARMOUR's land, and erected a small store house near the locality where now stands the large brick building known as "SHANNON'S Old Store House." Here he commenced that successful business career which so distinguished him through a long life, and which has left an enduring name in the annals of Sparta.

With a mill and a store as a basis for a town, the enterprising proprietor had his land surveyed into town lots, and proceeded to dispose of them at public auction. The first lot sold was purchased by SAMUEL

HILL, for the sum of four dollars. This sale took place in the year 1829, from which period the place may date its existence, as it commenced to improve and assume the character of a village from that time.



During the same year, **JAMES McCLURKEN**, whose name was intimately connected with the progress of the place for thirty years, built a house on the hill southeast of the town. In the same year, **LAWSON MURPHY**, another of the prominent citizens of the place, established a brickyard, and commenced making brick. About the same time, **CORNHILL BALLARD** built a shop, and commenced blacksmithing. **ALEXANDER CAMPBELL** established a carpenter shop. Several dwellings were erected in the same year. In the spring of 1830, **Dr. PYLES**, then a young man, came to the town and opened a school. The year following, **JAMES A. FOSTER** settled in the town, and has been a citizen ever since. **Dr. JOSEPH FARNON**, who has been the leading physician of the town and vicinity for many years, located in 1830. In 1833, **WILLIAM H. McDILL** opened a hotel. In 1834, **JOHN A. WILSON**, **JOHN LITTLE**, **JOHN GRAY**, **THOMAS GASTON**, and **JOHN W. SLADE**, became citizens of the town, and gave it quite an impetus for improvement. **SLADE & McCLURKEN** established a store—the second in the place.




The prospects of the town induced a steady increase of population and business importance. Sufficient progress had been made to establish the certainty of building a town, and the beautiful location and the rich farming lands around, which have since been reduced to a high state of cultivation, increased the inducements for persons to locate. In 1836, the town received a valuable acquisition in the person of **WILLIAM ROSBOROUGH**, who established the well known and exten-

sive mercantile house of which he is the senior partner. He opened his store first in the neighborhood four miles from Sparta, but seeing the advantages of the location and prospects of the place, he moved into town.


In 1837, the town was incorporated, and received the name of Columbus. The first Board of Town Trustees consisted of Dr. JOSEPH FARNON, LAWSON MURPHY, JOHN A. WILSON, JAMES A. FOSTER, and JOHN W. SLADE. A code of ordinances was enacted, and the town government put in successful operation. The first business transacted by the Board was imposing a fine of one dollar upon ROBERT G. SHANNON for the offense of leaving his wagon in the street during the night.

The brick School House, known in later years as "Sparta Seminary," was built in 1838, and though somewhat antiquated in appearance now, it was then a magnificent structure, far in advance of the times. It gave to Sparta her reputation for schools, which she has always sustained with high credit to herself, and advantage to the youth.

In 1839, a steam grist and saw mill was erected by  JAMES McCLURKEN. This gave an additional importance to the commercial interests of the place, and new improvements immediately followed. Mr. McCLURKEN had previously put in operation a cotton gin, which stood south of the town. Cotton was raised and shipped in considerable quantities from this county thirty years ago.

In the same year—1839—the "*Columbus Herald*" was established by JAMES MORROW. He conducted the paper nearly a year, and sold it to JOHN E. DETRICH. It was during the year 1839 that the name of

the town was changed from Columbus to Sparta, and Mr. DETRICH changed the name of his paper to "*Sparta Democrat*."




The first oil mill for the manufacture of castor oil was put in operation by JAMES McCLURKEN, in 1840. The manufacture of castor oil, and the buying of castor beans, formed an important item in the commerce of Sparta for many years. Oil mills were afterwards erected by R. G. SHANNON and WILLIAM ROSBOROUGH, and the farmers in the vicinity found a ready market at these mills for their castor beans, of which great quantities were raised.


In 1843, the members of the Associate Reformed Church commenced the erection of their spacious brick building, which was completed three years after. The congregation had been organized some years before, and the Rev. WILLIAM M. GRAHAM was the preacher. He was succeeded, in 1847, by Rev. DAVID McDILL, a distinguished minister of that denomination. Rev. JOHN F. STUART succeeded Dr. McDILL two years ago, and is now the pastor of the church.

In 1842, a Methodist Society was organized by Rev. M. MARTREE. A church building was erected in 1848, and the pulpit has been supplied by the various ministers appointed by the Methodist Conference.

A Baptist Church was organized by Rev. H. S. DEPPE, in 1854. A church building was erected the following year. Rev. J. B. CAMPBELL is the regular minister.



One of the most important additions to the business of Sparta, was the erection, in 1850, of a Woolen Factory, by the Messrs. McCLURKEN. It was constructed at a heavy expense, and has been in successful operation ever since. The present proprietor, Mr. THOMAS

 **McCLURKEN**, has made additions to its manufacturing capacity during this season, and now the wool growers of this and adjoining counties have a ready market for their wool.


Since 1853, two large merchant mills have been erected, each one with a capacity of producing two hundred and fifty barrels of flour per day. The construction of these mills was the work of joint stock associations, and the enterprises have given a fresh impetus to the raising of wheat, which is now produced as a staple crop.

At the last session of the General Assembly, Sparta obtained a City Charter, which went into operation a few months ago. At the Charter Election, the following city officers were elected :

JOHN A. WILSON, MAYOR.

ALDERMEN :

- First Ward.*—ROBERT GAMMELL and JOHN WATSON.
Second Ward.—MATTHEW McCLURKEN and HUGH KIRKPATRICK.
Third Ward.—J. F. McCANDLESS and JOHN W. McCORMACK.
Fourth Ward.—ROBERT J. HARMER and SAMUEL NIEL.
Street Commissioner.—JAMES LAUGHLIN.
Treasurer.—JOSEPH MCHENRY.
Assessor.—H. C. McCORMACK.

 A steady increase of all the concomitants of a town has marked the progress of Sparta from its commencement. Situated in the centre of one of the most fertile and eligible farming regions in Illinois, the town was surrounded by a class of industrious, enterprising and practical farmers, who have reduced the soil to a high state of cultivation, which has produced a healthy advancement in every department of commerce.

The young city now contains ten dry goods stores;

three grocery stores; one boot and shoe store and manufactory; three boot and shoe shops; two stove and tinware stores; three tailor shops; one jewelry store; three millinery shops; two confectionery stores; one bakery; two furniture stores; two saddlery and harness shops; two wagon, one plow, and four blacksmith shops; one steam barrel manufactory; two flouring mills; one saw mill; one woolen factory; three hotels; three churches; three school houses; one academy; two literary societies; one library; five physicians; three lawyers; four resident ministers.

SPARTA DIRECTORY.

A LLEN AARON M., merchant.
Abernathy Thomas, carpenter.
Aitkin James, carpenter.
Anderson Francis B., lawyer.
Anderson Noble, farmer.
Anderson William, shoemaker.
Askins William P., engineer.
Askins John, tinner.
Allen Andrew, teamster.

BROWN LEMUEL A. C., stove merchant.
Brown M. M., Rev., principal of Union Academy.
Brown Samuel, tinner.
Brown Kinsley, tinner.
Brown John Lyman, proprietor of "Herald and Press."
Brown Nicholas H., tinner.
Brown James C., carpenter.
Brown James S., miller.
Baird William M., carpenter.
Baird Reuben, do
Baird George C., do
Baty Francis H., trader.
Baily Reuben, keeps livery.
Baldrige William.
Brown Thomas.
Beaver David, furniture dealer.
Brunson Frederick, shoemaker.
Bascom Arthur W., teamster.

CAMPBELL LOUIS H., painter.
Clendenin Henry S., saddler.

Cowel William, cabinet maker.
Camp M., carpenter.
Chapman Hiram, shoemaker.
Caldwell William J., jobber.
Chalmers William G., saddler.
Caruthers Caleb, blacksmith.
Caruthers Finley, do
Calderwood Hugh, superintendent of Sparta mill.

DETRICH JOHN E., merchant.
Detrich Jacob S. furniture dealer.
Dickey James, laborer.
Dobbins John S., blacksmith.
Dobbins Andrew, wagonmaker.

EDWARD CROSLEY, spinner in factory.
Edgar William, book merchant.
Edminston Abner.
Eekuph.

FARNAN JOSEPH, physician and druggist.
Farnan James, physician,
Fairborn John, laborer.
Foster Robert L., expressman.
Ferris D. S., minister.

GARDNER HENRY, trader.
Gardner Nicholas, grocer.



SPARTA LIVERY STABLE.


D. RIGDON & CO.,

Would respectfully announce to the citizens of Sparta and the public in general, that they are now prepared to accommodate all who may favor them with their patronage. Having recently made large additions to their stock, they can now accommodate all with

**SADDLE HORSES,
TOP & OPEN BUGGIES,
AND
CARRIAGES,**

Of a superior quality, and on the most reasonable terms.

Persons wishing to be conveyed to different points, can be accommodated in good style, on the shortest notice.

 Horses stabled and fed by the day or week.

SPARTA DRUG AND BOOK STORE.

JOSEPH FARNAN,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN

DRUGS, MEDICINES,

PAINTS, OILS,



VARNISHES,

Lamps, Books,

WINDOW GLASS,

*Stationery, and Fancy Articles; Patent Medicines;
Paints, Oils, and Varnishes; Books and Station-
ery; Notions and Fancy Articles; Win-
dow Glass, of the best quality.*

Also, Paint, Varnish and Cloth Brushes; Candies, Spices, &c.
 Physicians and Country Merchants supplied at a very
small per cent. above St. Louis Prices. Prescriptions compounded
at all hours. Store on the corner of St. Louis and Broad streets.

Gardner Fayette, carpenter.
 Goddard J. H.,
 Goddard William B., carpenter.
 Gillebran Adam, laborer.
 Gammill Robert, miller.
 Gerred Hugh, lumber merchant.
 Gorsuch Elijah, boot and shoe merchant.
 Gorsuch M. G., physician and druggist.
 Gordon James, merchant.
 Gray James, baker.
 Gray John, tailor.
 Guthrie Hugh R., physician.
 Gutelius John F., inn keeper.
 Gray William.
 Grenslet E., cooper.
 Gobsan Robert, stone mason.
 Graham George, shoemaker.

HARMER ROBERT J., clerk of union mill.
 Hood Archibald.
 Hood James, merchant.
 Hood Robert, do
 Hood John.
 Hood William, mason.
 Hopkins Richard R., physician.
 Hudson John, salesman.

KIRKPATRICK JOHN, miller.
 Kirkpatrick Hugh, inn keeper.
 Klene Benjamin, brickmaker.

LONG ZACHARIAH, tinner.
 Lexton Matthew, teamster.
 Luther A. A.
 Lahmann Bartley, butcher.
 Lafferty Jesse, groom,
 Lawson Murphy, teamster.
 Lawson Mary A., confectioner.
 Lattimore Joseph, mason.
 Little R. B., merchant.
 Lindsy Samuel, wagon maker.
 Luther James M. C., cabinet-maker.

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Laird Isaac, cooper.
 Laird Martin, do

MAXWELL JAMES, teamster.
 Matlock William L., plasterer.
 Miller Andrew, jeweler.
 Miller James W.,
 Minner John W., ambrotypist.
 Monroe William.
 Morr w John B., teamster.
 Murphy William P., lawyer.
 Murphy David.
 Murphy John Calvin.
 Maxwell Thomas C., farmer.
 McMillan William H., farmer.
 McLain Theron, carpenter.
 McLain Daniel, do
 McCutcheon John M., expressman.
 McCandless James F.
 McCormack John W., blacksmith.
 McCormack Matthew S., merchant.
 McCormack William, inn keeper.
 McCormack Hugh C., merchant.
 McClurken Thomas, factory merchant.
 McClurken Matthew, farmer.
 McDonald Robert.
 McDill Robert.
 McDill Thomas, printer.
 McHenry Joseph, merchant.
 McHenry Robert, M., teacher.
 McHenry Francis.
 McKay John L., tailor.
 McMillan John R., teamster.
 McDonald Marshall, do

NEWSON ARCHIBALD.
 Newman Augustus, barber.
 Neill Samuel, harness maker.
 Neill John, blacksmith.
 Naylor Presley.

ORR THOMAS A. K., butcher and teamster.





**A SELEGT STOCK
OF
DRY - GOODS,
READY-MADE CLOTHING,
GROCERIES,
HARDWARE,
QUEENSWARE,
AND
CHINAWARE,
HATS AND CAPS,
BOOTS AND SHOES,
do., do.,**

Kept constantly on hand by the undersigned,

MAIN STREET, SPARTA,

FOR SALE

CHEAPER THAN THE CHEAPEST.

All kinds of Produce will be taken in exchange for
Goods at Market prices.

J. B PARKS.

Orr Craton, blacksmith.
Osburn E. James, painter.

PATTESON ROBERT F.,
keeps livery.
Parks James B., merchant.
Perkins Jeremiah C., keeps saloon
and variety store.
Perkins Ephraim, blacksmith.
Perkins Elias, do
Pawel James, oculist.
Pyles Lucius, carpenter.
Palmer P. W., cooper.

ROSBOROUGH WILLIAM,
merchant.
Rosborough Robert, salesman.
Raybron Francis, blacksmith.
Rea William, teamster.
Rigdon David, keeps livery.
Roseman Henry, merchant.

STEVENSON WILLIAM A.,
wagon maker.
Stormant H. C., carpenter.
Stuart John F., minister.
Spindle Edward J., laborer.
Sherlock Richard, teamster.
Smith Henry, tailor.
Stevenson William J., merchant.
Shannon John R.
Shannon James.
Shannon Moses F.
Skelley Alexander.

Skelley John, laborer.
Skelley William.
Skelley James, painter.
Simpson George, physician.
Shiner John, teamster.
Saunders James, carpenter.
Sanders Thomas, tinner.
Sanders George, wagon maker.

TAYLOR JOHN, justice of the
peace.
Taylor James H., merchant.
Taylor Hugh C., do
Telfard William, shoemaker.
Treat Joseph, laborer.
Taylor James, d'

WATSON JOHN, merchant.
Wood Sidney, carpenter.
Wilson Samuel.
Wilson Samuel, constable and
city marshal.
Wilson John A., postmaster and
mayor.
Wilson William F.
Wise Daniel, salesman.
Wolffington P., laborer.
Whitim George, barrel manufac-
turer.
Watson James, stone mason.
White Andrew J., cooper.

YONTZ JOHN, miller.

TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 6 WEST.—SPARTA.

BAIRD SAMUEL P., farmer.
Baird P., do
Beattie, do
Beattie J. M., do
Becket A. G., do
Blair John M., do

Blair J. H., farmer.
Blair D., do
Blair William, do
Blair James, do
Blair Alexander, do
Blackmore.