

Why should I search a county history?

- They provide clues about your ancestor.
- They are readily available.
- Information may not be found elsewhere.
- Find out about your ancestor's environment and neighborhood.
- Find a biographical sketch of your family!

Biographical Sketches

- Many times unindexed.
- Family history back to the original settler in the county.
- You may find out about siblings and where they settled.
- You may find out about the children and what happened to them.
- Political, social, and religious affiliation may be given.

He was a Mason

First wife died 12 February 1880. Married Mrs. Clara M. Campbell, 15 September 1883

Religious Affiliation: Baptist

Portrait and Biographical Record


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was appointed one of the Commissioners to locate a new Indiana school, which, by the way, he was not only through this, but at his death was mentioned in a eulogistic way. Some time past age Mr. Bates, in full vigor, was active down, but was with the firm of Bates, 1884, and the middle of the century both out. He was a man of strong convictions, however he appeared to be right he did not regard the matter any right suitable to the nation.

1894

He was a Mason

Died 20 March 1894



What else is in a county history?



History of Boone County, Missouri, 1882

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Typhoid Fever

Two large fires

Names of Newspapers

New Era and Washington Register

Ohio State Register

Fayette County Herald

The News

Hotels

Ira B. Henderson opened the first hotel in Cassopolis, Michigan in a double log cabin in 1831.

In 1832 Eber Root and Allen Munroe were licensed to open taverns.

History of Cass County, Michigan [1882]

BYERS.

Ira B. Henderson was the first man who entertained "the wayfarer and the stranger" in Cassopolis. He opened a hotel in a double log cabin in 1831. In the following year Eber Root and Allen Munroe were licensed as tavern-keepers by the township authorities, who "considered taverns a necessity and the appliances of good moral character and of sufficient ability to keep a tavern." Mr. Root erected a frame building where the Cass House now stands, and Munroe became landlord of the house built by Elias B. Sherman, which is still standing upon its original site back of the county offices. This was known as the Eagle House. Root's hotel is at present the place of the mill of Matthew Lindsey, and still lones in fact from the name, "Eagle Hotel." It was moved away from its original site in 1867, when the Cass House was built by M. J. Baldwin.

Eber Root built a second hotel upon the ground where now stands the Baptist Church. It was destroyed by fire in 1820, at which time it had ceased to be used for hotel purposes, and was occupied by a number of families.

In 1820, Samuel Graham set up the building, now occupied by Myers Brothers with a stock of dry goods, and carried on the hotel business in it for about seven years.

Miscellaneous

MISCELLANEOUS

The first marriage was solemnized between William Aurley and Jane Kendall, of the town of Boone Ward, Boone and Ward, on the 10th day of May, 1811. The bridegroom was the son of the late John Aurley, and the bride was the daughter of the late John Kendall. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Thomas McGarraugh, who was then settled in Boone Ward, and afterwards served his country as associate judge and representative.

James F. Boyer and George Sharrette were the pioneer brickmakers in Boone Ward, the first year 1811. The construction was ordered by the late John Aurley, who was then settled in Boone Ward, and afterwards served his country as associate judge and representative.

Richard Douglas, of Chillicothe, and one of the first practitioners at the University, on the 10th day of May, 1811, was in charge of the building, and was assisted by the late John Aurley, who was then settled in Boone Ward, and afterwards served his country as associate judge and representative.

From: *History of Fayette County [Ohio]* (1881)

First marriage: William Aurley and Lucy Kendall

First Blacksmith: Patrick Kerran

First Physician: Thomas McGarraugh

Pioneer Brickmakers: James F. Boyer and George Sharrette

First Merchant: D. McCoy

Counterfeiters infested the county!

State Lunatic Asylum

Missouri Legislature passed an act providing for the location of an asylum for the insane in February, 1847

Several counties were prospective locations. Fulton County subsidized the largest sum in money and land and was selected as the location.

"This was a sore defeat to the people of Boone County . . ."

which were not adapted to the purposes of a public house, a hospital, or a school, and the University, on the 10th day of May, 1811, was in charge of the building, and was assisted by the late John Aurley, who was then settled in Boone Ward, and afterwards served his country as associate judge and representative.

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

In February, 1847, the Legislature passed an act providing for the location of an asylum for the insane in Boone County, Ohio. The following gentlemen were elected commissioners: James M. Gentry, G. W. Williams, G. W. Carter, John S. Smith, and John S. Smith. The commissioners were to select a site for the asylum, and to report to the next session of the Legislature. The commissioners reported to the Legislature on the 10th day of May, 1847, and recommended the site of Boone County, Ohio, as the location of the asylum. The Legislature passed an act on the 10th day of May, 1847, authorizing the commissioners to purchase the land for the asylum, and to erect the building thereon. The land was purchased for \$100,000, and the building was erected in 1848. The asylum was opened for the reception of the insane in 1849.

Man in a well

From: *History of Boone County [MO]* (1882)

A MAN IN A WELL.

On Monday, September 4, 1841, a very singular and distressing accident occurred in Columbia, the memory of which still lingers in the minds of our older inhabitants. The one story brick house which now forms the site of the first residence of Robert L. Todd was built and occupied as a residence by G. D. Foster, one of the contractors of the University. While the building was in progress he dug a well in the yard about 20 feet deep and had it walled, but of very inferior and unsuitable stone. It had been walled for some time, and it being observed that the wall at the bottom had become out of place, the father-in-law, Stephen St. John expressed the intention — from which Mr. Foster attempted to dissuade him — of going down into the well to examine more closely the nature of the breach. About one o'clock, however, Mr. St. John, after letting a small stone into the well in a bucket descended himself, leaving Mr. Foster at the top of the well to render any assistance he might desire. Mr. St. John had nearly reached the point he wished to examine before the rock at the bottom began to give way and fall into the water. Observing this, he attempted to escape by catching the rope to the top, but was unable to do so for the well above him commenced caving in, and in a moment closed over and formed an arch above him. The news of the singular accident spread through the town and a large number of people collected at the top of the well. It being ascertained by calling him that Mr. John was still alive, the work of mounding the dirt and the rock was soon commenced and proceeded with speed and energy. As the workmen descended they found with astonishment the ground of the ill-fated man. After raising him about 40 feet of earth and stone — a labor of about six weeks

Indexes

- Check available indexes. They may be separately published. Those in the county history are rarely every-name indexes.
- A reprint of the county history will usually have a newly-added, every-name index.
- Check the USGenweb county page. The index may be online.

Tips

- Read the township portion of the history where your ancestor resided, even and especially if there is no biographical sketch.
- Read the general county history section
- Check the portrait listings. The portrait of an individual may not be near the biographical sketch.
- Search the surnames of the spouses.

Online Sources for County Histories

- Most, if not all, county histories published before 1923 are online.
- Google Book
- Heritage Quest
- Family History Archive
- US Gen Web

From the *History of Cass County, Michigan* [1882]



Samuel Colyar was raised in North Carolina. He removed to Logan County, Ohio, and from there to Penn, Cass County, in 1831.

In the fall he went after his family, which consisted of his wife and fourteen children, ten of whom came with him.

Assisted in establishing and maintaining the Baptist Church, of which he was a member.

Family History Archives



<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>

