

(Excerpts)

PAST AND PRESENT

—OF—

NODAWAY COUNTY MISSOURI

Volume I

ILLUSTRATED

1910

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PREFACE.

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men that have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Nodaway county, Missouri, with what they were one hundred years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin prairie, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the incentives, hopes, aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. The work has been in the hands of able writers, who have, after much patient study and research, produced here the most complete biographical memoirs of Nodaway county, Missouri, ever offered to the public. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of this county whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Nodaway county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "Past and Present of Nodaway County, Missouri," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our efforts to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.

STATE SENATORS—(Continued).

1880—John Daniel (D).....	1896—E. H. Miller (D) Maj.. 1,081
1884—Lyman A. Parcher	1900—William E. Stubbs.....
1888—M. McKellop (R) Maj.. 26	1904—J. W. Peck (R) Maj... 369
1892—Shutts (D) Maj..... 8	1908—J. W. Peck (R) Maj... 84

STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

1846—Thomas A. Brown.....	C. D. Cook
1848—W. Cock	1884—C. Anthony (D).....
1850—Thomas A. Brown.....	McCoy
1852—Joseph Nichols	1886—J. T. Daniel.....
1856—Dr. P. H. Talbott.....	1888—John B. Kildow, Maj... 216
1858—Dr. E. T. Davis.....	1890—E. W. Bishop (D).....
1860—Amos Graham	A. W. Florea (D).....
1862—Alonzo Thompson	1892—Buholts (D) Maj..... 27
1866—William A. Jones (D)..	1894—James La Favor, Maj.. 401
1868—William A. Jones (D)..	1896—Vanderhoef
1870—William A. Jones (D)..	1898—J. Nicholas (D) Maj.... 202
1872—S. K. Snively (R).....	1900—Chas. J. Colden.....
1874—Updegraff (D)	1902—C. J. Colden.....
1876—A. P. Morehouse (D)..	1904—J. H. Lemon (R) Maj.. 316
1878—Ellis (D)	1906—J. H. Lemon (R) Maj.. 106
1880—C. A. Anthony (D)....	1908—J. H. Lemon (R) Maj.. 84
1882—A. P. Morehouse.. ...	

COUNTY CLERKS.

1845—Amos Graham	1884—John S. Miller
1860—B. G. Ford.....	1886—Miles McNeal (D).....
1866—Joseph Jackson (R)....	1888—Miles McNeal (D).....
1868—Joseph Jackson (R)....	1890—Miles McNeal (D) Maj. 664
1870—Joseph Jackson (R)....	1892—Miles McNeal (D).....
1874—Joseph Jackson (R)....	1894—Jacob Yaple (R) Maj... 385
1878—John S. Miller (D)....	1896—B. C. Halley (D) Maj.. 685
1880—John S. Miller (D)....	1898—T. S. Cordill (D).....
1882—John S. Miller	1900—Nicholas

During that summer the Democrats held rousing political meetings and a grand rally at Maryville, which was attended by members of the party from all points of the compass. The old-time spirit of Democracy that had prevailed before the war was rekindled.

The opposition—the Republican party—was not asleep either, but made a stirring canvass. This political party also held a rally at the county seat. While it seems there was no well-defined plan for canvassing the county by either party, as has been the almost universal custom since then, yet both parties had prominent speakers supported from outside and their addresses stirred the voters to a lively interest. It was in that “after the war” campaign that the Republican party were aroused by speeches from B. K. Davis, M. G. Roseberry, A. B. Cornell, Spence Stark and others. The Democratic speakers included such strong men as A. P. Morehouse, Lafayette Dawson, Stephen Morehouse, Perry H. Talbott and several others.

The total number of votes cast at that election (1868) was one thousand six hundred and ninety-one. The Republican party won and elected the entire ticket by majorities running from three to five hundred.

The following year, the Democrats kept alive their organization and established a Democratic paper.

Before the opening guns of the campaign of 1870 had been heard, there had grown up a discontent. One faction chafed under the sting of political prescription. This faction was soon known as the Liberal Republican movement. It drew unto itself all men who were opposed to the original Republican party. This party was in favor of the constitutional amendments being submitted to the people at the 1870 election. The Republicans split on this issue and A. B. Cornell, editor of the *Maryville Journal*, formally opposed the amendments and in consequence there was a new paper started—the *Maryville Republican*—edited by M. G. Roseberry. This paper advocated the main issues of the Republican party and favored the constitutional amendments. That year there were but two parties in the field in Nodaway county—the Republican and Liberal Republican. The contest was spirited; both parties stumped the county and foreign speakers faced one another from both sides. The result was a vote on governor: J. W. McClurg (R.), one thousand; B. Gratz Brown (D.), nine hundred and ninety-five. Congressman I. C. Parker (R.) was ahead in this county by eight votes.

We have seen above how, in September, 1873, Rev. Adelhelm Odermatt, O. S. B., became pastor of St. Mary's. His first care was to pay off the debts, then to organize a good school. For that purpose he secured, in September, 1874, several Benedictine Sisters from the Swiss convent Rickenbach, half of whom, however, went to Conception the year after. Those remaining in Maryville were joined by others from Switzerland in 1880. They erected a small convent near the church, but some years later moved to Dakota, where they have now flourishing establishments. Having built up a good school, Rev. Adelhelm started to erect a new church. Rt. Rev. Bishop Hogan laid the cornerstone on the second Sunday of October, 1878. One year later the basement was finished and dedicated on the second Sunday of October, 1879, for temporary church purposes by the Rt. Rev. Abbot Frowin. In June, 1881, Rev. Adelhelm Odermatt resigned the pastorate of St. Mary's to found a new monastery in Gervais, Oregon, where he still resides as prior of Mt. Angel Abbey.

His place in Maryville was filled by the Rev. Anselm Ineichen, O. S. B., who has held the position ever since. One of his first official acts was to prepare for death on the gallows the two parricides, Albert and Charles Talbott, who had not been members of any church, but wished to die as Catholics. They were executed on July 22, 1881. It was the first legal execution in Nodaway county. When Fr. Anselm took charge of the congregation it counted one hundred fifty-five families. But in October, 1881, about eighty Irish families separated from the mother church to establish a parish of their own. Yet in spite of the crippled state of the congregation, the zealous pastor succeeded in finishing the church, which was dedicated on November 20, 1887. From that time on St. Mary's remained in the same flourishing condition till to the present date. Though the church was in the course of time finally frescoed, and the old Sisters' convent was at considerable expense remodeled into a commodious parsonage, the parish is free of debts. It counts four hundred twenty members.

Arkoe. He entered a claim and improved a farm several years, but about 1860 sold and moved to Kansas. In 1842 Thomas Groves came from Tennessee, settling on section 6, township 63, range 35. Hiram Groves, a brother of Thomas Groves, emigrated from Tennessee in 1842 and preempted the southwest quarter of section 18, township 63, range 35. He sold five years later to Alfred Jones, who came from Rush county, Indiana, arriving April 13, 1847. In 1882 he remarked that the only crop failure he had in all those years was in 1860. When he came he saw no elk or buffalo, as they had all disappeared before that date. One buffalo was chased across the Missouri river on the ice, where the White Cloud ferry was located. The river was heavily frozen and teams with large loads easily crossed. A buffalo was pursued by hunters into Nodaway county and the animal was killed about four miles west of the Jones farm. Mr. Groves saw many elk and deer horns strewn along the prairies and in the groves. So thick were these bones that no modern mower could have mowed a swathe evenly over the prairies. He related how he had more than once killed five deers in one day. At times he hunted deer at night time, his child carrying a lantern, and he, going carefully beside the child, would see the eyes of the deer glisten and shoot them. He stated that at one time he counted fifty-six deer and at another time thirty-three. The tame turkeys and wild ones often fought, and in some other instances the tame birds would take up with the wild ones and then follow them off; he lost four flocks of domestic turkeys in this manner. This pioneer also told of how Doctor Talbott, who was murdered by his sons a few years later, had caught otter sufficient in number to make for himself a fine large overcoat. With much interest was also told the story of bee trees and wild honey, which was produced in great abundance on account of the great numbers of prairie wild flowers which made the best grade of honey.

Another noteworthy point brought out by pioneer Groves was that of the unlimited cattle range and how cattle would fatten on the native grass, and deer, fattened on the same kind of grass, would, when hung up a short time, look as white as a dressed sheep. The cattle were turned out on the range in the spring and no more attention paid to them until the season for a "round up" in the fall, when each pioneer would claim his own and drive them home. Corn left out in the shock was generally half destroyed by deer and wild turkey.

Another prominent settler in White Cloud township was Isaac Newton Prather, who came from Kentucky in 1841 and located two miles west of the

TOWNS OF WHITE CLOUD TOWNSHIP.

Bridgewater was located on land originally owned by O. A. Howard, who cultivated it as a farm. At a very early day there was a mill built on the One Hundred and Two river by J. B. Cox, and this was the site later chosen for Bridgewater. In 1870 Page, Warren & Phelps, contractors of the Branch railroad, bought the Howard tract of land and upon it laid off the town. The river at this point makes an elbow towards the west. At this bend in the river were constructed two railroad bridges within one thousand feet of each other, with a county bridge located between them and from this fact comes the name Bridgewater. Here William Elrod & Son built the first house in the town and in it they opened a general store. A postoffice was established and John W. Walker was appointed postmaster. Nelson Wilson also added a general stock in 1871.

But the life of Bridgewater was doomed to fate, because Dr. P. H. Talbott (later murdered) had granted the right-of-way to the railroad through his land, on conditions such as necessitated another town site nearby, and that place was called Arkoe.

ARKOE.

Arkoe is about one mile to the north of old Bridgewater, which was abandoned on account of the new railroad station. Dr. P. H. Talbott and S. K. Snively laid off the town of Arkoe September 15, 1874, and Judge John Brady surveyed the plat. The Doctor found the name "Arkoe" in the book entitled "Twenty Thousand Fathoms Under the Sea." Nelson Wilson moved a building from old Bridgewater to Arkoe and in it opened a general store this being the first building in the place. The second building was erected in 1875 by W. G. Turner. The third building in the town was a dwelling erected in 1876 by C. A. Dewey. In 1877 Dr. W. M. Sinms erected an office building. In 1875 a lot was donated to James Buckridge by Mr. Snively, upon which he built a blacksmith shop. The first postmaster at the new town was Nelson Wilson.

Early in the town's history S. K. Snively erected a wind engine in the village, near his store, which forced the water from a living spring, or stream that flows a few feet below the surface in the rocks, into a tank for the use of the public.

With the passing of the years, Arkoe has come to be a thriving village and now has a population of about one hundred and twenty-five. It has the following business interests, and society functions:

Banking—The Arkoe State Bank.

Lodges—Woodmen of the World.

Churches—Methodist Episcopal, Christian.

Physicians—Dr. D. G. Smith.

Restaurant—N. A. Lawrence.

Mayor—Dr. D. G. Smith.

General Dealers—A. P. Bolin, R. W. Bridges.

Hotel—Mrs. Z. T. Clement.

Lumber—N. J. Vickery.

Grain—Leet & Wamsley.

Stock dealer—James Blagg.

Milling—C. B. Shipps, feed and saw mill.

Blacksmiths—C. W. Rose, F. C. Ware, C. B. Shipps.

The postmasters serving here have included Nelson Wilson, Scott Snively, H. T. Colter, J. F. Moberly, and the present postmaster, A. P. Bolin.

CHAPTER XXXV.

CRIMES AND CELEBRATED TRIALS.

In every community of all civilized, as well as uncivilized parts of the globe, there have been great crimes committed from time to time, and the laws of the nations have sought to mete out justice as an example and warning to others. Nodaway county has not been worse in this regard than many another county in Missouri, or in other states in the Union, but a few such crimes have been committed and the trials of some have been undertaken by lynch law, and it is the more brutal and shocking of these crimes that this chapter will deal with.

The subjoined cases are known as the McAlpin case, the Tansey tragedy, the assassination of Nicholas Leehmer, the Hogan homicide case, and the famous Talbott brothers case, in which they were hanged for the murder of their father, Doctor Talbott, of this county. These were all rare cases of extreme interest and of inexcusable cause, hence will be recorded here; but only the synopsis of each can be given, for space and propriety forbid all the blood curdling details brought out in the long-drawn-out trials that followed the arrest of the defendants. They doubtless all received justice at the hands of the law, or in other instances at the hands of an excited mob of citizens from this and other counties. These cases will be recorded in the order in which they occurred.

DR. TALBOTT MURDERED BY HIS SONS.

The crime of parricide is one of the most reprehensible known to the annals of history. A well known, deserving physician of Nodaway county was killed in his own home, in a thickly settled community, by members of his own household on September 18, 1880, thirty years ago, and the revolting crime still remains vivid in the minds of all now living who had knowledge of the terrible tragedy.

Dr. Perry H. Talbott was shot at his home, about seven miles to the south of Maryville, by his sons, who also had accomplices in the plot. The Doctor was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1827, graduated at Starling Medical College of Columbus, Ohio, in 1849, and the following year came West to seek his fortune. He finally located in this county, having first crossed the plains to California in 1852. He was a typical border doctor, one possessed of much ability and a good education. He was, however, fond of cards and sports. He was frequently seen in this section riding or driving a gray mule. He rose rapidly in his profession and accumulated much property. He represented this district in the Legislature in 1856-57, and during the Civil war espoused the Union cause and was a surgeon in the Twenty-fifth Missouri Regiment. After the war he took up politics and was several times a candidate before congressional conventions, but without success. He

became a Greenbacker and believed in the labor movement. It may be said that his mind was not on his family as a good father's should be; he neglected his sons and allowed them to grow up as they pleased, ungoverned and uncared for. His home became an arsenal of firearms and all of his children were familiar with their use.

On the day previous to his death at the hands of his children (as the evidence brought out) he had been attending the county fair at Maryville, returning home in his buggy about six o'clock in the evening. He was shot by an assassin that night at nine o'clock through the window. Upon his return from Maryville, he found a professional call awaiting him and went at once to visit a sick child. He came back and in his room was showing his son Albert the copyright for a book that he was publishing. The wife had retired in a nearby room and he sat in his shirt sleeves by the bed, while the son was sitting beside a table near by, his arm on the window sill. A shot was fired from the direction of the window and took effect in his breast, the ball passing clear through his body and drew blood on the calf of the wife's leg, then entering the plastering. The ball weighed an ounce and a half and was large enough to have filled the barrel of a shot gun. The Doctor's hand being up to his breast at the time, his fingers were partly shot away. He fell, saying to his wife, "Belle, My God, I am shot." He survived until the next day at about two o'clock and was conscious up to within five minutes of his death.

The sheriff of this county was then Henry Toel and the the prosecuting attorney was W. W. Ramsay. An inquest was held and the verdict was that Doctor Talbott had come to his death, assassinated by some unknown person. From the very start the family had been suspicioned. The knife marks on the ill-shaped ball were hard to explain away. The seeming coolness of the entire family was another point that tended to cause suspicion on the part of the general public. Then came a rumor from the Talbott mansion that the house had been attacked by armed men, an entrance made, a battle fought, revolvers and shotguns had been emptied at short range. But there was no evidence of all this rioting, save the dead man and the single bullet hole in the ceiling.

About this juncture there appeared a man named Jonas V. Brighton, a detective from Kansas City, who soon had the confidence of the two sons of the Doctor. They told him the story and admitted their guilt to him. In the meantime other evidence had been ferreted out and warrants were made out for the boys' arrest. This was performed by Sheriff Toel, Hosea Tor-

rance and Nicholas Jones; the hired man, Henry Wyatt, was at the same time arrested. The prisoners were taken to Maryville, where the preliminary hearing was held October 27-28, 1880, and resulted in all three being bound over on the charge of murder in the first degree, while the wife of Doctor Talbott was held under a bond of one thousand dollars. The grand jury in November failed to find a bill against the wife, but held the other parties for trial. The trial consumed ten days and excited more interest than any case ever held in northern Missouri, representatives of the leading dailies in Chicago, Cincinnati and New York being present to report the evidence. The defense was ably conducted by Lafayette Dawson, Thomas J. Johnston and M. G. Moran, while the prosecution was conducted by the prosecuting attorney, assisted by John Edwards and Scribner R. Beech. At request of the defense, the case was tried before Hon. John C. Howell, of another judicial district. The case went to the jury and two hours later it returned its verdict as follows: "We the jury, find the defendant, Charles E. Talbott, and the defendant, Albert P. Talbott, guilty of murder in the first degree."

The Judge in his sentence made use of the following paragraphs: "This is no time for speech making, but rather for solemn thought and melancholy reflection. No doubt the defendants are sufficiently impressed with the gravity of the situation. If they are guilty—and they know whether they are or not—I can only recommend to them that they heartily repent of their crime, and have washed from their souls the foul stain produced by this awful violation of human and divine law."

The Judge then asked the defendants if they had any legal reason why the judgment of the court should not be pronounced on them, to which each responded: "I have; I am not guilty of the charge." His Honor continued: "The jury says you are guilty, and therefore it is considered and adjudged by the court that you be taken hence to the county jail of Nodaway county, and confined therein till the 25th day of March, 1881, and that on that day you be taken thence by the sheriff to the place of execution, and that you be hanged by the neck till you be dead, and may God have mercy on your souls."

The Judge—manly man that he was—broke down and wept; strong men cried and women shrieked aloud. The agony of the mother was indeed terrible. She clung to her sons and would not be torn from them. Albert's coolness forsook him and he too wept bitterly; his mother and his affianced both must be bidden a long farewell. Charles was perceptibly moved, but to no great extent.

The end had not yet come. A motion for an appeal to the supreme court was made and granted and the boys were placed in the jail at Savannah. But

when the decision was rendered which affirmed the lower court, they were placed in the jail at St. Joseph, and within a few weeks a plot was discovered by which they expected to make good their escape. Great efforts were made to gain executive clemency, but all they procured was a respite of sentence to July instead of June, when both suffered the penalty of their crime.

This was a prominent case in crime's record book, for Doctor Talbott was a popular physician, had resided here thirty years, had made a clean record and accumulated wealth.

Henry Wyatt, while jointly indicted with the defendants, had been granted a severance in the trial and was introduced by the state and gave the principal testimony, detailing all the plots and plans preceding the murder.