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PAST AND PRESENT
OF
GREENE COUNTY
MISSOURI

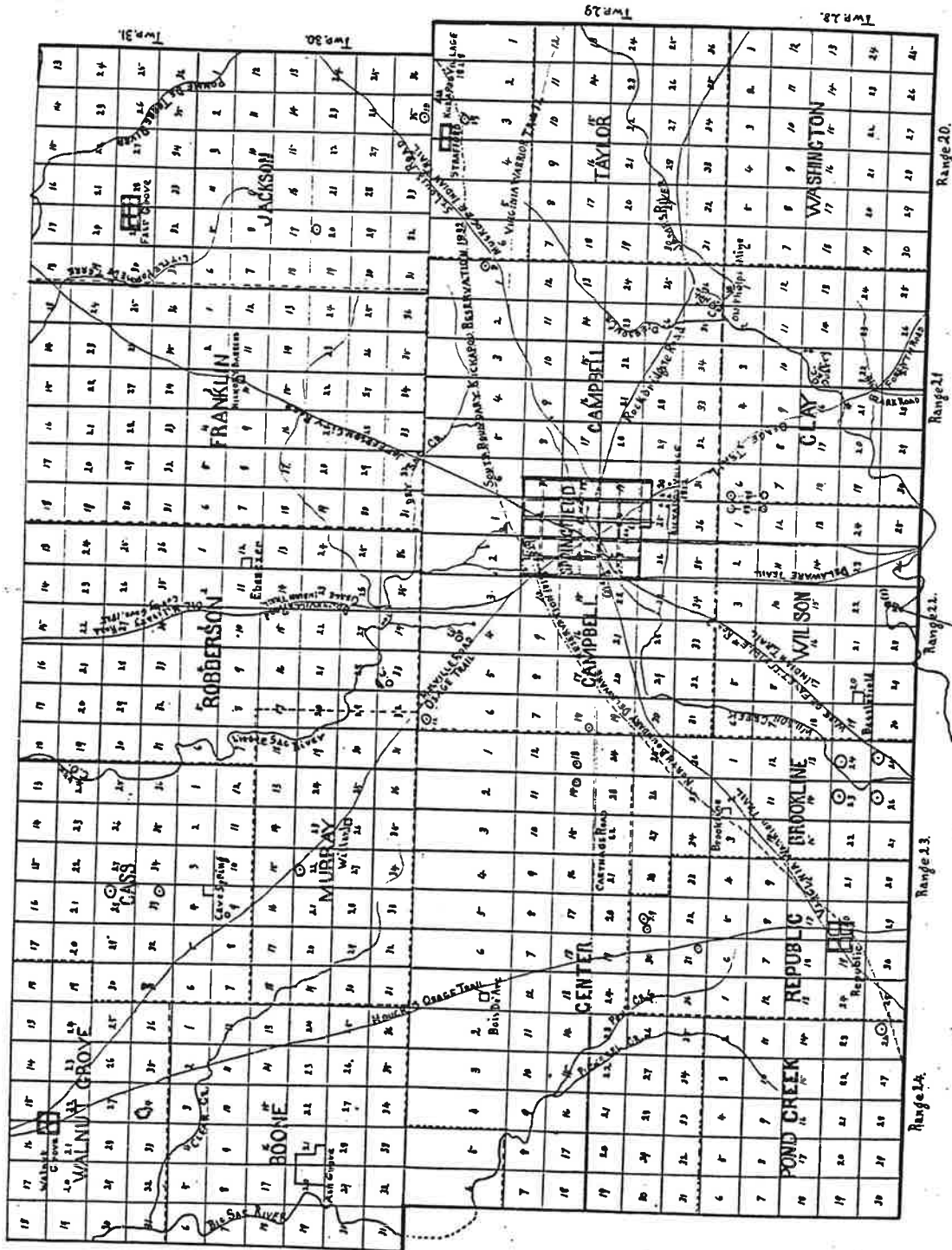
Early and Recent History and Genealogical Records
of Many of the Representative Citizens

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AND
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1915
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INDIANAPOLIS



MAP OF GREENE COUNTY
 Showing early roads and Indian trails,
 villages and mounds.
 Drawn by A. M. Hisswell.
 Aboriginal title by Edw. M. Shepard.

LEGEND.
 (O) Indian Mounds
 (---) Indian Villages
 (---) Early Roads
 (---) Indian Trails
 (---) Sectional Boundaries
 (---) Township Boundaries

See also
 Belknap Village
 1818
 by George Washington Belknap, 1818.
 by John Smith, 1818.
 by John Smith, 1818.

for different tribes of Indians, is a well-established fact. They liked to camp near water, and the numerous springs within and close to the present city limits were popular places for the location of villages. The Jordan, Jones and Country Club springs on the southeast; the natural well, the Lyman, Kickapoo and Brewery springs on the south; the cotton mill spring, the Puller spring, the Doling Park springs, the Ritter springs on the west; the Fulbright spring on the north, and the Sander spring on the northeast, all bear evidence of having been the sites of Indian camping grounds.

Both the Melville road and the Bolivar, or Boonville, road, essentially outline the two old Osage trails into Greene county. The "Wire," or Fayetteville road, follows, in the main, one of the Indian trails to the southwest down Wilson creek and the James river to one of the White river hunting grounds. It is probable that the Delawares and Kickapoos followed a trail that passed due south of Springfield about a mile west of the "Wilderness" road. The Osages, it is certain, followed another trail to their hunting ground on the White river, a road now partially outlined by the Chadwick branch of the Frisco railroad, past Sequiota Park (Fisher's Cave), through Galloway along the road to the ford below the bridge which crosses the James, to about a mile south of the bridge, where the old Linden road begins, following the latter in a general course southeast toward Chadwick, then down Swan creek to Forsyth, or the mouth of Big Beaver creek.

Another Osage trail branched from the beginning of the Linden road southward down to Bull creek and on to the White river.

The writer has endeavored to outline these trails, Indian mounds, villages and early roads on the accompanying map.

Keemile and Wetmore* state that the Creeks, or Muskogees, and the *Chasseurs du Bois*, of Louisiana, hunted along the Niangua river, which abounded with beaver, making it probable that they passed from the southwest along the Virginia Warriors Trail through what is now Springfield, and thence north by a route now followed by the old Jefferson City road.

The Bolivar, or Boonville, road followed the old Osage trail, as indicated on the map, and was known among the first settlers as the "old road," or the "military road." It extended from Palmyra, on the Mississippi,* through Boonville, Springfield and Fayetteville, Arkansas, to Fort Smith, and was the chief route of travel from the upper Mississippi to Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. It was regularly located and cut out to the legal width by Act of March 7th, 1835.

* "Gazetteer of Missouri," Keemile and Wetmore, 1837.

* "History of Benton County," James H. Lay, Hannibal, Mo., 1876, p. 15.

of twenty acres is now being turned into a city park, with a beautiful lake of several acres. Mr. Daniel B. Miller only survived some nine years, dying in 1839. Samuel Lasley came to Greene county with Daniel B. Miller and settled on Little Sac at the crossing of the Bolivar road. Spencer O'Neil, who had been one of the first men to take up claims in the Indian country, and had been forced to move away with the others in 1822, now returned and settled in the southwestern part of the county. Many of his descendants are citizens of Pond Creek, Republic and Brookline townships to the present day.

Joseph Rountree, born in North Carolina in 1782, first emigrated to Tennessee in 1819, and afterward to this county, in 1831. He brought with him to his new home a family of seven sons and three daughters. From that day to this the name Rountree appears with great frequency and honor in the records of Greene county. Probably no one name shows to any better advantage than this. This large family, it is recorded, made the latter part of their arduous journey to Greene county through a deposit of snow of the remarkable depth, for this latitude, of eighteen inches.

A PIONEER'S JOURNAL.

Among the treasures of the Rountree family there existed for many years, and probably exists today, a journal kept by Joseph Rountree of his journey from the east into Greene county. It is given here, as printed some thirty years ago, and is a priceless record of the strenuous life of pioneer days. Beginning with the arrival upon the eastern shore of the Mississippi at Green's ferry in Illinois, this journal reads as follows:

"Thursday, December 23, 1830—A cloudy day. The ice was very thick in the river; we went to Kaskaskia; the ice nearly quit in the river in the evening; at night it rained and froze over. Our expense was 37½c.

"Friday, 24th—A wet morning. We prepared for crossing the river after breakfast; we removed our family to Peter Robert Derousse's, at the lower ferry on Sunday last—a very respectable gentleman with a peaceable family; we found the ice so thick and wide on the other side that we could not land, and had to go down the river more than a mile, where we got a landing, and it took till about an hour in the night before I got my wagon and family over; we had to make five trips; we went about three miles and camped, and had a merry night. Expense \$5."

That touch, "had a merry night," is exceedingly suggestive. One would think that a long and dangerous day's work, ferrying the turbulent Mississippi five times, would have been but a poor prelude for a night of merriment. But these pioneer folk were not of the stuff that deplores and whines over the difficulties in their way. They had at last crossed the Mississippi; they were in Missouri, if only at its farthest bounds, and they proceeded to make merry

over dangers past and to rejoice over their arrival in the hither edge of their promised land.

"Saturday, 25th—We started early; proceeded to Ste. Genevieve Town; Mr. Beard had to get a skein mended; my family stayed with a very friendly French family, Bovie by name; in the evening we went on eight miles and camped at Mr. Bell's. Expense \$1.62½.

"Sunday, 26th—A cloudy, cold day. We traveled on and about two o'clock Mr. Beard's hind axletree broke at Mr. Moreare's. We traveled 14 miles, and camped at Mr. Barrington's. Expense, 62½c.

"Monday, 27th—I went to Mr. Donaldson's; found them well, and our wagon waited for Mr. Beard's and then went on; camped at Mr. Baker's; traveled nine miles today. Expense \$2.56¼.

"Tuesday, 28th—The day was clear and cold. We traveled on very well; found that the fore bolster of Mr. Beard's wagon was broken. We came through Mine a' Burton and got a new bolster; encamped at Mr. Tucker's; it began to snow before day. Expense 62½c.

"Wednesday, 29th—This day was snowy, rainy and freezing; we started and broke the tongue out of Mr. Beard's wagon; made a new tongue and traveled 7 miles and encamped at Mr. Compton's. Expense \$1.

"Thursday, 30th—Started on and it was snowy and freezing; last night it snowed; we had only got one mile this day when Mr. Beard's wagon turned over in a branch and got the most of my goods wet; we had to take up camp and dry our things; it continued snowing. Expense 62½c.

"Friday, 31st—This day we packed up our wagon and started about twelve; traveled 7 miles. Expense \$1.96¼.

"Saturday, January 1st, 1831—A clear, cold morning; it moderated a little; we proceeded and crossed the Cotway (doubtless this is meant for the "Fourche a' Courtois"), Huzza and Dry creeks; traveled about 13 miles and encamped on the ridge between Dry creek and the Merrimack. Expense \$2.75.

"Sunday, 2d—Cloudy; we started early; it rained very hard this day and thundered; we crossed the Merrimac; traveled 16 miles; encamped at Massey's iron works. Expense 56¼c.

"Monday, 3d—Last night it rained, sleeted and froze all night; this morning it began to snow; we continued in a cabin we had took up in; it snowed all night. Expense 62½c.

"Tuesday, 4th—A cold day; snow very deep; continued at the cabin all day. Expense \$1.19.

"Wednesday, 5th—A clear, cold day; Mr. Beard took his load about 4 miles to Mr. St. Clair's, and we deposited it there and returned to the cabin. Expense 66 2/3c.

"Thursday, 6th—Clear and cold; Mr. Beard took his departure for home; we continued in the cabin; in the evening Sidney (Ingram) and me went for

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to look us out a place for to make a camp near St. Clair's; we concluded on a place, returned in the evening and brought home Junius and Lucius, who had went to another cabin on the Dry Fork of the Merrimac the day before. Expense \$5.

"Friday, 7th—We began to prepare for making our camps; but in the evening Joseph Phillabare (Philabert) came on and we concluded to go on with him; so we left the cabin and came on to St. Clair's and stayed all night. Expense 62½c.

"Saturday, 8th—We started about 10 o'clock and proceeded up the bad hill with some difficulty; the day was cloudy and cold, the snow was deep and it snowed some more, but we traveled 18 miles. Expense 18¾c.

"Sunday, 9th—Quite cold; traveled 17 miles. Expense \$1.43.

"Monday, 10th—Cloudy and cold; we proceeded and crossed Rubidoo (Robidoux); traveled 15 miles. Expense 37½c.

"Tuesday, 11th—This morning it was very snowy; we discovered that Mr. Philabare had one of the skeins of his wagon to get mended; so we stayed in camp until nearly 12, and then traveled about 12 miles and encamped at Stark's. Expense 81¼c.

"Wednesday, 12th—Cloudy and cold; we traveled on slowly on account of the snow; crossed the Osage fork of the Gasconade and traveled 14 miles. Expense 18¾c.

"Thursday, 13th—A cold day, but we traveled on pretty well; passed Eastwood and traveled 18 miles. Expense 37½c.

"Friday, 14th—Last night it snowed very hard; we encamped at the Indian Grave branch; the snow increased in depth four or five inches; we traveled with a good deal of difficulty; we passed Tygart's. Traveled 20 miles. Expense 50c.

"Saturday, 15th—It continues to snow; the day is most intolerably cold; we proceeded on our way and after traveling six or eight miles we met Joseph H. Miller and Lemuel Blanton coming to meet us. Great joy! We went on to Robert Patterson's, twelve miles, and got lodging for the night in his house, the first night's lodging in a house since we left the cabin at Massey's Iron Works. Expense \$1.25.

"Sunday, 16th—Today was extremely cold; snowed a little; we proceeded and got to Joseph A. Miller's between sunset and dark; found the people about the prairie all well, and glad to see us all arrive safe. Traveled 23 miles."

Compare that journey with one over practically the same route, from St. Louis to Springfield. Instead of more than three weeks, over rough, hilly roads, in cold, and flood, and snow, the traveler now lies down in his comfortable berth in a palace sleeping car, goes to sleep at 10 o'clock at night in St. Louis and awakes next morning in Springfield!