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Daviess County, Missouri

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Abstract: A short historical essay on Daviess County, Missouri, which occupies an important place in Latter-day Saint history.

DAVISS COUNTY, MISSOURI.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

Daviess County, Missouri, the temporary home of quite a number of Saints in 1838, lies immediately north of Caldwell County, and the topographical features of the two counties are nearly alike. Daviess is 24 miles square and comprises 576 square miles or 368,640 acres of land, of which 359,317 acres are subject to taxation and cultivation. About two-fifths of the area consists of timber land and three-fifths of prairie. Its timber lands are rich in every variety of growth and its prairies are beautifully rolling and with a drainage almost perfect. The wild grasses grow luxuriantly, and wild fruits are numerous and grow in reckless profusion. The wild grape and plum are found in abundance, but all this is giving way to cultivated orchards, meadows of timothy and blue grass pasturage. One great feature of the uniting of timber and prairie is that it is so diversified in its range over the county, that there is not a farm which cannot have its supply of woodland, as well as prairie. The Grand River, one of the principal rivers of Missouri, runs diagonally from the northwest to the southeast corner of the county, and has almost its entire length, beautifully sloping banks; the bottom lands have no superior in richness and productive qualities. There are many rich valleys lying along the banks of the different streams irregular in form, but rich in all that makes a farm valuable and home life comfortable. It is this topographical feature of the county, with its undulating surface, its perfection of drainage and its al-

titude high above malarial influences, which gives to Daviess County her greatest charm. A life-giving and invigorating atmosphere makes life enjoyable and home pleasant there.

The soil is very fertile; the chief products of the county is Indian corn, oats, wheat, potatoes, fruits, butter, wool, pork and live stock. Its manufacturing consists of flour and lumber mills, wool-carding establishments, etc.

The southwestern branch of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Ry., passes through the county from southwest to northeast, and the Wabash line passes through from northwest to southeast, following the general direction of Grand River. These two trunk lines, owned and operated by rival corporations, give active competition for the carrying traffic of the county.

In 1840 Daviess County had 2,736 inhabitants; in 1850, 5,298; in 1860, 9,606 and in 1870, 14,410. In 1880 the county had 19,145 inhabitants, distributed in the various townships as follows:

Benton Township.....	1,875
Colfax Township.....	1,167
Grand River Township.....	1,652
Harrison Township.....	756
Jackson Township.....	1,505
Jamesport Township.....	1,369
Jefferson Township.....	1,372
Liberty Township.....	988
Lincoln Township.....	846
Marion Township.....	1,520
Monroe Township.....	869
Salem Township.....	982
Sheridan Township.....	967
Union Township.....	2,332
Washington Township.....	945

The five principal towns of Daviess County are: Gallatin, the county seat, with a population in 1880 of 1,141; Jamesport with 608; Jameson with

405; Pattonsburg with 399, and Winston with 304 inhabitants.

HISTORY.

Up to 1830 that part of Missouri which now comprises Daviess County was the undisturbed home of the Indians—a home with which they were loth to part, and which for years afterwards they continued to visit and occupy as hunting ground. “It was a migratory field for the restless buffalo; the elk and the bear roamed its wooded hills; the deer and the wild turkey made it their home; the valleys and the uplands were filled with smaller game; fish sported in the cool, pellucid waters of the rivers and creeks; and in shady nooks and near bubbling springs the aborigines built their wigwams. It was a paradise for the hunter, and the red man was the lord of all.”

In the spring of 1830 the first white settlers trod the soil of what is now Daviess County. Hunters and trappers had plied their vocations through this Grand River country as early as 1826, but no log cabin reared its front until the spring of the year above mentioned. It was a grand country for game and wild honey, and venturesome spirits passed to and fro ere the Indians had ceased to be jealous of the encroachments of the whites. The first man who raised his cabin within Daviess County was John Splawn, and with him was his son, Mayberry Splawn. The cabin was erected near the spot where the Rock Island depot now stands, but was soon after removed to what was known as Splawn's Ridge, about three miles east of Gallatin, and near what afterward became the town of Millport, and just south of the site of that old but now plowed up town. They came

in January, 1830. Who built the second cabin has not been determined, but it probably was raised soon after the above date. The third cabin in Daviess County was put up by John Tarwater, who settled on Section 34, in Township 59 of Range 27, just above the mouth of Honey Creek. Stephen Roberts settled the same month. These men were the first settlers in the county and came in January and February, 1830, followed by Daniel Devaul and others in April of the same year.

Quite a number of other settlers came in 1831. Among them were Josiah and Jesse Morin, who settled what afterwards became Millport and were merchants there. That year also, Robert P. Peniston, sen., a Kentuckian, settled in Daviess County, and built the first house in Millport. His only grown up son, Wm. P. Peniston (who afterwards became so notorious for his persecutions of the Saints), and a negro by the name of Jake, put up the house. Robert P. Peniston also built the first mill in the county. In 1834 Adam Black, who subsequently took an active part in bringing trouble upon the Saints, settled in Jamesport Township, together with several others.

During the Black Hawk war of 1831-1833, most of the settlers abandoned their homes in Daviess County and went southward, but nearly all returned after peace was restored. New settlers also came in, and a town began to make an appearance around the site of what afterwards became Peniston's Mill and later Millport.

The life of the settlers of 1830 to December, 1836, when Daviess County was organized as an independent

municipal corporation, was a season of many privations and hardships. Up to that time Daviess was a part of Ray County, and under its civil jurisdiction the pioneer pre-empted and staked his claim, but the county was not surveyed until the winter of 1836-1837, and was not open to entry until 1838.

The history of Daviess County, published in 1882 by Birdsall and Dean (a Kansas City firm), in commenting upon early life in that part of the country, says:

"The pioneer erected his cabin upon his claim and the neighbors came from miles around to help him. They gave him the right hand of fellowship and a warm welcome, and the new settler felt at home at once. The latch-string hung on the outside, and what the cabin had was at the command of the traveler or neighbor. Corn was their principal article of food, and the wild game furnished the meat for the family. A cow was generally secured, and the pioneer then was happy as well as rich. Store goods were not often seen. Dressed deer skins served for the men's clothing, and moccasins for their feet. The pioneer's wife did the making, and spun and wove the home-made cotton for herself and daughters. Eight yards were sufficient, and a dress would last for a year or two. Sometimes a piece of gingham found its way west, but few had the wealth to purchase such costly material. An extra quality and color of homespun was the general Sunday meeting dress of the women of that day, and when the men wanted to put on style, they purchased an article of cloth called Kentucky jeans. But the dress of deer skin and a coon skin cap was all the rage in those early days for solid wear. The cabin, with either a puncheon or earthen floor, and chairs and table, was the regulation style. The fireplace took up nearly one end of the cabin, and the chimney was made of sticks and the best Daviess County mud. Now and then a cup of coffee, sweetened with honey, the product of a lucky find in the shape of a bee-tree; a juicy venison steak, or a piece of turkey, and corn-bread made of cracked or mashed corn, composed the steady week-day and Sunday diet of the old pioneer.

"The first few years, before Millport had either a habitation or a name, it was a pretty serious affair to 'go to store.' The store was

situated down on the river, at either Richmond, Liberty, Platte City or St. Joseph, and the customers came from the northern wilds of Ray County. The old pioneer loaded his ox-wagon, and with a little honey, a few venison hams, deer, mink and coon skins, and 'such kind of truck,' started in the fall for one of these far distant towns to lay in his winter supply. To go and return, the distance was from 160 to 180 miles to travel, and part of the way the roads were not all a traveler could wish for. There were 'slow' places found and here and there a hole without a bottom, but when they couldn't go around them they took their chances and went through some way. The purchases consisted of a little coffee and tea, perhaps a calico dress, some flour for company, and a jug to meet the spirit of any joyful occasion that might arise, or for a medicinal dose to benefit a deranged system. The historian will mention right here that the latter article was not used in those days for intoxicating purposes. The old pioneer was the advance-guard of civilization, but he left it to a later, and by some called a more cultured era, to introduce whisky as a beverage, and to furnish to this higher type of civilization the 'common drunkard.'

"A few years later these trips paid a little something beside expenses. Merchants made their wholesale purchases at the same towns, and the settlers hauled these goods back at the rate of sixty cents per one hundred pounds. Thus loading both ways and paying them something for the trip.

"Settlers flowed in and the year 1834 found many new-comers. Those who came in 1831 felt as though they were living in a populous country. Miles between cabins had been greatly reduced, and 'raising-bees' were becoming common and were greatly enjoyed. A new-comer cut the logs for his cabin, hauled them to the ground ready to put up, and then the neighbors came from miles around, and the way that cabin went up in a square shape, capped with weight-poles, was a 'caution to slow coaches.' And they sang at their work:

"Our cabins are made of logs of wood,
 "The floors are made of puncheon,
 "The roof is held by weight-poles,
 "And then we 'hang off' for luncheon.

"This was followed by a 'swig from the little brown jug' kept especially for the occasion, and then with a hearty shake of the hand and a 'wish you well' the neighbors left the new-comer to put on the finishing touches to his cabin himself. And this was a 'raising-bee' in the older times."

By an act passed by the Missouri

legislature and approved Dec. 26, 1836, Daviess County was first created; Caldwell County was organized at the same time. (See page 689.) The first election in Daviess County was held at the house of Elijah Frost, April 29, 1837. The first circuit court in the county was held in the log house of Elisha B. Creekmore, one mile from where the court-house of Gallatin now stands. Court opened in July, 1837, Judge Austin A. King presiding, and Thomas C. Burch acting as prosecuting attorney. Daviess County was then a part of the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

In 1837 the Saints, who were fast filling up Caldwell County on the south, began to extend their settlements into Daviess County, but it was not until the summer of 1838 that they located there in large numbers. The history of Daviess County, in speaking about those "Mormon" settlers, says: "It is but just to say that they (the Mormons) were an industrious, agricultural people, or at least that portion of them who located in the country round about the 'Stakes,' as these settlements (Far West, Adam-ondi-Ahman and De Witt) were called by them."

James M. Hunt, in his "History of the Mormon War," says:

"Early in 1837 Daviess County began to have an influx of Mormon immigrants. Their settlements were mainly south of Grand River. They had one settlement on Lick Fork, near the Weldon Settlement. Here a Mormon by the name of Bosley, and a widow by the name of Ives, besides others whose names are not remembered, settled. This part of the country, which is now Harrison Township, up to this time was being settled principally by Kentuckians. * * * Further up the river and in what is now Monroe Township, the Mormons formed another settlement—this was on Marrowbone and Honey Creeks, close to

where Uncle Hardin Stone then lived. Here Perry Durfey, Roswell Stevens, Henry Belt, the Daleys, and John D. Lee, settled, and others also came in, whose names are not remembered.

It would be well to state here that at this time all the lands in Daviess County, excepting Colfax Township, were subject to pre-emption, not having as yet been brought into market. Colfax Township had been surveyed at the same time Ray and Caldwell Counties were, and was therefore in market. Here another settlement of Mormons was made, composed principally of a better class who were able to purchase their lands and improve them.

"Elijah Groves, a Mormon preacher, entered the land and settled the place on which Benny Rowell died. Levi Taylor entered and settled the lands on which old Uncle John Castor died, and John Freeman settled a part of the same lands. A man by the name of Swartwout entered land now owned by Robert Castor; James Bingham entered lands now owned by Squire Kelso and Gurney Brothers. The old man Woodland settled the lands on which Madison J. Benson now lives. John L. Butler settled on the ridge north of John Castor's. Charles McGee entered and settled the lands now owned by E. Kuhns and M. W. Young. * * * There were other Mormon families in this settlement.

"Another settlement (Adam-ondi-Ahman) was made on Grand River just below the mouth of South Big Creek. * * * Lyman Wight and other Mormon notables settled here. * * * Other Mormon families were scattered here and there over the county, but these were the only settlements. Excepting the settlement in Colfax Township, the Mormons were generally of the poorer class, in many instances not having a team with which to cultivate their lands, while on the other hand the Missourians, the then settlers of Daviess County, were generally men who were in good circumstances, the most of them having large herds of horses running on the prairies, and so kindly disposed were they toward the Mormons that they permitted them to go to their herds and select any animal they chose, with which to cultivate their fields, furnishing them with provisions to be returned only when they (the Mormons) had succeeded in raising enough for themselves."

The first power of attorney recorded in Daviess County was one bearing date of Oct. 3, 1838, and ex-

ecuted by Levi Taylor and Ann Taylor, his wife, both Latter-day Saints. It authorized Abram O. Smoot (now President of the Utah Stake of Zion) "to obtain possession of a certain lot of negro men and women," the property of parties named.

The first deed recorded in Daviess County was one executed by Francis C. Case and Mary Case (witnessed by W. W. Phelps and W. Waterman Phelps), conveying "the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 58, Range 29, containing 40 acres more or less; and also the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 58 of Range 49, containing 40 acres," to Elisha H. Groves, a member of the Church, for a consideration of \$2,060. This deed is dated Jan. 13, 1838.

The first marriage certificate recorded in Daviess County was filed by a Latter-day Saint and reads as follows:

"I, Elisha H. Groves, a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hereby certify that I solemnized the bonds of matrimony between Enoch Riggs and Ann Littlefield, both of the county of Daviess and State of Missouri, on the 27th day of May, 1838. As given under my hand this 21st day of August, 1838. ELISHA H. GROVES.

"R. WILSON, Recorder."

As the history of the persecutions of the Saints in and their final expulsion from Daviess County is given in connection with the history of Caldwell County and in the article on *Adam-ondi-Ahman* (page 45-48), we will here only make a few extracts from the above mentioned history of Daviess County, in which the author says:

"The first outbreak (of difficulties between the Saints and the Missourians) was at an election in August, 1838. (See page 598.) The Mormons were in favor of John A. Williams for sheriff and William P. Pen-

iston was indorsed by the Missourians. The latter, it must be admitted, began the row. A man by the name of Richard Weldon first commenced to abuse a Mormon preacher and finally knocked him down. The blow was uncalled for, but it seems there were a few rough characters in favor of a fight and they got it. The Mormons rushed for a pile of stakes, and grabbing these they made a vigorous onslaught. There was one man stabbed with a knife and some twenty or twenty-five others pretty badly hurt, but none were killed. The Mormons at Far West heard that a large number of their people had been killed, and they came over two hundred strong to look into the matter. This trouble laid the foundation for the succeeding troubles, and the people refused to live quietly with the Mormons around. Adam Black, who lived in what was then Grand River Township, now Jamesport, and who was a justice of the peace, made a statement under oath, before John Wright and Elijah Foley, fellow justices, that Joseph Smith and others to the number of 154, exacted from him about Aug. 8, 1838, a written promise to support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, and not to support a mob, nor attach himself to any mob, nor to molest the Mormons. To answer this charge, Smith, Wight and others were arrested and recognized to appear for trial. Other disturbances followed and a deputation of citizens from this county (Daviess) called for assistance. Major-General David R. Atchison, at the head of a portion of the 3rd division of militia numbering about one thousand men, came to the scene of troubles, and found the Mormons and citizens in battle array and dispersed both parties, and reported to the governor that no further depredation was to be feared from the Mormons.

"At this time disturbances also occurred in Caldwell and Carroll Counties. The citizens determined to drive the Mormons out of the State; the Mormons refused to go. Representatives from Daviess County informed General Atchison, on Sept. 10th, that they held a Mormon prisoner in custody, and that the Mormons held John Comer, William McHoney and Allen Miller, prisoners, as hostages. Certain citizens and Mormons of Carroll County petitioned the governor from De Witt, stating the committal of lawless acts against them, among which was an order to leave the country, giving them until Oct. 1st, and they asked interference and relief. This petition was dated Sept. 22, 1838.

"The appearance of the soldiers, ordered

by the governor to look after the trouble in Daviess County, was always met by the Mormons with every appearance of peaceful intentions on their part. They were the ones that were in trouble, not the Gentiles. All the reports to the governor, from Generals Parks, Atchison and Doniphan was to the effect that the Mormons were peaceable and had no hostile intentions.

"Hostile feeling, however, culminated rapidly. The citizens, in the absence of the military, gathered their forces together over in Carroll County and on the night of Oct. 1, 1838, invested De Witt, the Mormons asking for protection and acting on the defense. They reported, also, that a portion of their assailants were on the march to Daviess County with one piece of artillery, and General Atchison wrote that nothing 'but the strongest measures within the power of the executive will put down this spirit of mobocracy.' This was in the month of October.

"The Mormons resisted, and in their turn plundered the store of Jacob Stollings in Gallatin, removed the goods and burned the store and other buildings in Gallatin and Millport. Many brutal acts were committed on both sides. * * * The citizens were now in dead earnest, and the Mormons equally so. It was war and the destruction of property on both sides, and Governor Boggs issued orders to General John B. Clark, placing him in command of the forces necessary, with instructions that he was in receipt of information of the most appalling nature, 'which entirely changed the face of things, the Mormons being in armed defiance of the laws, that they must be treated as enemies, and be exterminated or driven from the State if necessary for the public peace—their outrages are beyond all description.' (See page 705.)

"In obedience to this order General Clark, associated with General Lucas, proceeded to the seat of war, and, without much resistance, disbanded the armed forces of the Mormons, received their arms and took Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Hyrum Smith and fifty other leading Mormons prisoners, to be tried on various charges—high treason against the State, murder, burglary, arson, robbery and larceny. These men were examined before Austin A. King, then judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of which Daviess County was a part, at the session of the court in November, 1838, at Richmond, Ray County. At this examination some were discharged for lack of evidence, but Joseph Smith, (Sidney Rigdon,) Lyman Wight, Hyrum Smith, Alexander McRae

and Caleb Baldwin were held for trial and committed to the Clay County jail. It was for guarding these men that Daviess County had to pay the jailers \$480. Not, however, until the justice of the claim had been decided by the court in session in Caldwell County. The property taken by the Mormons was returned by them, and the war was at an end.

"The Mormons began leaving at once, and continued until all were gone except a few who gave up their associates rather than their property and who had friends among the citizens. Many sold out for what they could get, others left being unable to sell at all. Their leaders were prisoners, their means of defense as well as offense were taken from them, and the order of the governor caused some twelve thousand of them to be driven from the State. The official statement of the number killed and wounded on both sides in this Mormon war was officially stated as 'forty Mormons killed and several wounded, and one citizen killed and fifteen badly wounded.' Messrs. Smith, Rigdon, Wight and other comrades in jail at Liberty took a change of venue to Boone County, and the Daviess County officers started with the prisoners to their destination in Boone County. Some of the prisoners having no horses, William Bowman, the first sheriff of Daviess County, furnished the prisoners three, and they left in the charge of William Morgan, the sheriff of the county. The sheriff alone returned on horseback, the guard, who accompanied him, returning on foot or 'riding and tying' by turns. The sheriff reported that the prisoners had all escaped in the night taking the horses with them, and that a search made for them proved unavailing. The people of Gallatin were greatly exercised and they disgraced themselves by very ruffianly conduct. They rode the sheriff on a rail, and Bowman was dragged over the square by the hair of his head. The men guilty of these dastardly acts accused the sheriff, Morgan, and ex-sheriff, Bowman, of complicity in the escape of the Mormon leaders; that Bowman furnished the horses and that Morgan allowed them to escape, and both got well paid for their treachery. The truth of history compels us to state that the charges were never sustained by any evidence adduced by the persons who committed this flagrant act of mob law. The prisoners arrived safely on the Illinois shore and there they are left to again found a city (Nauvoo, Illinois), and to be once more driven from the land of their adoption. Joseph and Hyrum Smith were afterwards killed by an

Illinois mob, June 27, 1844, and two years later the Mormons were expelled from that State, and, under the leadership of Brigham Young, made their home on the banks of the Great Salt Lake, and Utah became their Eden, and is still their home."

With the exception of the statement in regard to the house-burning in Gallatin and Millport by the "Mormons," the above extracts are in the main correct.

GALLATIN.

Gallatin, the county seat of Daviess County, "is situated upon a portion of the highest ground in the county, and surrounded on all sides by a range of highlands, thickly studded with timber on three sides, while on the south and southwest is seen a beautiful landscape of high and rolling prairie, dotted here and there with residences, orchards and shady groves. It lies west and southwest of the Grand River, about one mile from the latter point, and is laid out upon a succession of hills, with intervening ravines, and covers about three-fourths of a section of land." It is 45 miles south of the Iowa State line, 455 miles from Chicago, 252 miles from St. Louis and 72 miles from Kansas City. It is also 60 miles northeast of Liberty, Clay Co., about 50 miles north of Richmond, Ray Co., and the same distance northeast of St. Joseph.

Gallatin was first settled in 1837. On Sept. 13th of that year the town-site was laid off and its metes and bounds given. In December following the site was surveyed into blocks and lots. The first sale of town lots took place Jan. 8, 1838; one of the first houses built was the store of Jacob S. Stollings, and during the year (1838) about half a dozen cabins were built altogether. These were all, with but one exception,

burned during the "Mormon" difficulties in October, 1838. The first election in Gallatin took place Aug. 6, 1838. It was on that occasion that the difficulties commenced between the Missourians and the Saints in Daviess County. (See page 592.)

Another event which brings Gallatin into some degree of prominence in Church history is the mock trial held over Joseph Smith and his fellow-prisoners in April, 1838, when they had succeeded in getting a change of venue from Clay to Daviess County. (See page 459.) In relation to this trial the history of Hancock County says:

"The circuit court met in April, 1839, and at this time came up the Mormon difficulty. On the second day of the session the grand jury brought in the following indictments, and prompt action was taken in their cases. It was this taking a change of venue by all the defendants to Boone County, which resulted finally in their escape from William Morgan, then sheriff, and his guard, who took charge of the prisoners to convey them to the Boone County jail. (See page 460.) And it was that escape which so incensed the people of Gallatin against the sheriff when he reported their escape, that caused the said sheriff to be rode on a rail, and William Bowman, the first sheriff, who had furnished the Mormons horses, to be dragged around the public square by the hair of his head and otherwise maltreated. The following were the persons indicted, all being Mormons, and what crime the indictments charged them with. The grand jury returned into court and presented the following indictments:

"The State of Missouri vs. Joseph Smith, jun., et al., indictment for riot.

"The State of Missouri vs. Caleb Baldwin et al., indictment for arson.

"The State of Missouri vs. Caleb Baldwin et al., indictment for burglary.

"The State of Missouri vs. Joseph Smith, jun., Lyman Wight, Hyrum Smith, Caleb Baldwin et al., indictment for treason.

"The State of Missouri vs. Joseph Smith, jun., Lyman Wight, Hyrum Smith, Caleb Baldwin and Alexander McRae, indictment for treason.

"The judge of this court having been counsel in this cause; and the parties herein

not consenting to a trial thereof in this court; but the said defendants, Joseph Smith, jun., Lyman Wight, Hyrum Smith, Caleb Baldwin and Alexander McRae, objecting thereto, for the reason that the judge of this court has been of counsel in this cause: It is ordered by the court here that said cause, as to the said Joseph Smith, jun., Lyman Wight, Hyrum Smith, Caleb Baldwin and Alexander McRae, be removed to the circuit court of the county of Boone, in the Second Judicial Circuit, in this State. It is further ordered by the court here that the sheriff of the county of Daviess do, and he is commanded, to remove the bodies of the said Joseph Smith, jun., Lyman Wight, Hyrum Smith, Caleb Baldwin and Alexander McRae to the jail of the county of Boone aforesaid, and there deliver them to the keeper of said jail, together with the warrant or process by which they are imprisoned or held."

Gallatin was incorporated as a city in 1857, but its growth was slow until 1870, when the first railway was built through Daviess County. Its population in 1860 was but 448, and in 1870 about 600. During the last few years Gallatin has more than doubled in population, and nearly all the fine substantial brick buildings, which now adorn the city, have been erected during the last 15 years.

ADAM-ONDI-AHMAN.

The site selected May 19, 1838, by the Prophet Joseph and a number of other brethren for the building of a city, to be called Adam-ondi-Ahman, consisted of four sections of land—two miles square, lying on both sides of Grand River—namely Sections 25 and 36, in Range 28, and Sections 30 and 31, in Range 27, all in Township 60. Shortly afterwards the town site was surveyed. (See pages 45-48 and 438.) The remains of the ancient altar mentioned in the history of Joseph Smith (see page 438) are yet to be found on the top of the hill, about two hundred yards east of the old Lyman Wight residence in the southwest quarter of

Section 30. It is about 5 miles northwest of Gallatin, on the north side of Grand River. The notorious Adam Black, who acted so treacherously to the Prophet Joseph and his brethren in 1838, was the original settler on the northeast corner of Section 30. He settled there in 1834, but sold out his claim to Vinson Knight before the difficulties (See page 441.) The history of Daviess County says: "Di-Amon (Adam-ondi-Adman) was laid off by the Mormons in acre lots and extended two miles square. It had a few permanent buildings, of which but one remains, and is now occupied by Sarah McDonald, widow of the late Major McDonald; this house was originally built for Lyman Wight. At the time the Mormons surrendered there were many temporary buildings, generally covered with rawhide. After the Mormons were driven from Di-Amon, Dr. John Cravens established a new town within the limits of the old one and called it Cravensville. This place for a long time disputed with Gallatin for the county seat; and when there were only 280 taxpayers in the county, 93 petitioned for the removal of the seat of justice to Cravensville, but the petition was rejected by the county court. This town at one time had ten or twelve dwelling-houses, a number of stores and about sixty inhabitants."

MILLPORT,

A town mentioned in Church history as the headquarters of the mob who drove the Saints from their homes in Daviess County in 1838-39, was located on what is now known as the Stephen Smith farm, at a point three miles due east of Gallatin, across Grand River, and between that stream and Big Muddy Creek,

on Section 23, Township 59 of Range 27. The municipal name of the township is Union. The distance between Millport and Adam-on-di-Ahman, both on the east side of Grand River, was about seven miles.

Millport was first settled in 1831; it was the first town in Daviess County, and up to 1837 the only one. Among its first settlers was Robert P. Peniston, who built a horse mill there, and laid it off as a town in 1836. It took its name from Peniston's mill, the only place where the pioneers of Daviess County could obtain meal or flour nearer than Richmond, or Liberty, Clay County.

"Going to Liberty, after meal," says the history of Daviess County, "or to pour the corn in a hole burned into a log and pound it, was rather up-hill work, so that the enterprise of Robert P. Peniston in putting up a corn-mill was viewed with delight. When that mill was finished it changed the whole aspect of the country. The cars of this day were not hailed with more joy or looked upon as advancing the interests of the people more than that corn-mill. Not only that, but the town of Millport came into life when that mill was completed. Josiah Morrin and his brother opened the first general store. John A. Williams is reported to have opened the first grocery store. Lomax & Jacobs kept a general store; so also did Worthington & Co.
* * * Milford Donaho, an expert rifle shot and mechanic, had his blacksmith shop there, the first in the county, and this was the way Millport, the first town within

the limits of Daviess County, started. It became noted for miles around. The old settlers who lived nearly as far east as the line of Sullivan County came to this mill to grind their corn and do their trading, and Millport flourished."

The first post office in Daviess County was opened at Millport in the fall of 1835, but after the location of the county seat at Gallatin, the office was moved to that town.

In 1835-37 Millport was the centre of a large trade, and contained, when at the height of its glory, ten dwelling-houses, three stores, a grocery, blacksmith shop, horse-mill, post office, etc. It was at the time of its existence the largest settlement of Daviess County, but in the summer of 1837 it received its death-blow by Gallatin being selected as the county seat, and it never revived after being burned during the "Mormon" difficulties in the fall of 1838. "And now," says the history of Daviess County, "where once the metropolis of Daviess County stood, nothing is left to tell the tale. Waving fields of grain have grown and are growing where, in the early days, it was fondly hoped a town would be built that would extend its borders and its influence and become, as it then was, the centre of trade for a vast circle of country. Trade came to Millport from the distance of 40 miles, but within a circle of from 15 to 30 it was the headquarters. The population was south and west of the river, and that is why Millport that was, is not now, but is gone forever."