

WHEN THEY CAME AND FROM WHERE THEY CAME

From 1830 to 1840

There are some who have placed the arrival of John Nave, William and Isaac Swiftes, Sears and Owens in the year 1831, but it has been impossible to ascertain this as a positive fact. They undoubtedly came, at least Sears, Nave and Owens, in the winter of 1831-2, or very early in the spring of the latter year. Joseph Fields settled on section 10. John F. Sharp, section 23; Peter Huntsmen, section 19, and Joel Milton on section 17. This was what was called the Fields' Settlement and all in Fields Creek Township, the township being named after Mr. Joseph Fields, the first sheriff of Henry County. Jonathan T. Berry settled on section 8, Windsor Township, this year. Esau Prewitt, of Kentucky, settled on section 5, Clinton Township, and Daniel Chitwood, a son-in-law of Prewitt, settled near by the same year. All the settlers of this year and the years preceding, and it might be said the year following, still found Boonville their nearest and best trading point. Among the troubles of those early days which the traveler found generally the most annoying was high water in the streams they had to cross. Whenever a heavy rain was experienced. When George W. and Pleasant Walker came to Henry County they were eleven days coming from Lexington, on the Missouri River, to section 16 in Fields Creek Township. For four days they lay on the banks of Davis Creek before they could cross at the ford, and when they reached Blackwater Creek, in Johnson County, they had to swim their cattle across. They had five teams, and felt somewhat anxious as to the result, but they crossed in safety.

township. Fields Creek was first named "Lake Creek," after one of its first settlers, George W. Lake, and is still the name found on the map of the government survey. But the citizens got to calling it Fields Creek, after Mr. Joseph Fields, the first settler who located on its banks in section 10. The stream enters the township near the center from the north, running southwest for nearly three miles, then south, passing into Clinton Township, and empties into Grand River. It has several small branches that waters the southern and northwestern portions of the township, Town Creek takes its name from Clinton. This stream rises in the northeastern part of Fields Creek Township, and its three branches unite and run nearly due south, passing near Clinton and emptying into Fields Creek about one-fourth mile from Grand River. In speaking of going to Clinton the people always called it going to "Town," and the name was thus given the stream. The township itself, like the creek of the same name, was named after Sheriff Fields.

Mr. Joseph Fields was one of its first settlers, and came early in the year 1832. He was afterwards the first sheriff of the county, receiving his commission from Governor Dunklin, and was dated August 4, 1835. Mr. Fields in the following March, [1836], was killed by his horse falling on him. While going from Clinton to his home, his horse stepped into quite a deep hole, which threw it and Mr. Fields, the horse being on top. He was found completely paralyzed, and died from his injuries. The year 1831, George W. Lake came and drove his stake on Section 20. He was

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November 28, 1835, Joseph Fields appointed Nathan A. Fields his deputy, and the appointment received the approval of Judge Charles H. Allen, judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

The judge had also approved the appointment of Fielding A. Pinnell as circuit clerk pro tempore. This latter was of record September 21, 1835.

There was no general election, it seems, held in August 1835.

Joseph Fields' commission of sheriff was dated August 4 of that year, and the county court appointed some of the justices and constables.

The death of the sheriff, Joseph Fields, left Nathan A. Fields acting sheriff for a few months, until the August election of 1836, when Robert Allen was elected. The sheriff and collector's office was one and the same until 1872, when the collector's office was attached to the treasurer's.