

noo, Hancock county, Illinois. In communications written to the News previously I have given dates and other particulars concerning these men, whose lives and testimony are so closely connected with the coming forth of the "Nephtie records," as the late David Whitmer styles the Book of Mormon, and rise of the Church of Christ in these the last days. The exact spot in Richmond where Oliver Cowdery breathed his last was also pointed out to me today; but the house in which he died has been taken down long ago.

Ray county was originally a part of Howard county, but by act of the legislature approved Nov. 16, 1820, to take effect Jan. 1, 1821, it was formally organized as a separate and distinct county, and named in honor of the Hon. John Ray, one of the delegates from Howard county to the convention which met in St. Louis, in June, 1820, for the purpose of framing a state constitution preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union. Buffalo, now extinct, situated on the banks of the Missouri river, was the temporary county seat until 1827, when the present site of Richmond was selected for the seat of justice, and a townsite surveyed that same year. In 1827 and 1829 a court house and a jail were built, both of logs. The jail which was finished in the fall of 1828 was the same in which Parley P. Pratt and fellow-prisoners spent the winter of 1838-39. It is thus described in the history of Ray county. "The jail was a log fabric of a very rude and primitive kind. The only entrance was a stairway, on the outside, leading to a solitary door that opened into a kind of arret, in the floor of which was a trap-door, or hatchway. Through this the prisoners, by means of a ladder, descended to the dungeon." This jail has long ago been removed and the site is now occupied by a blacksmith shop owned by a Mr. Powell. It is half a block east of the northeast corner of the present Richmond court house square, on the north side of the street. The log house, in which Joseph Smith the Prophet rebuked the guard was on the same street (North Main street) further west; but the exact spot where it stood, is not known by the present inhabitants of Richmond. The old Whitmer residence, where David Whitmer, the witness, died, is on South Main street one block east of the court house square. It is now occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Schweich. The house in which Oliver Cowdery died stood one block east of the Whitmer residence.

In the history of Ray county, I find the following:

"Ray county furnished a large number of soldiers for both armies in the late civil war who bore themselves bravely in some of the hard fought battles of the war, adding new luster to the military honors already won by the county.

"The number of volunteers from Ray county that enlisted in the southern armies is variously estimated at from five to eight hundred. A majority of this number enlisted under Gen. Sterling Price the first year of the war, 1861. \* \* \* The number of volunteers furnished by Ray county for the Federal army is estimated at about 1200."

This Sterling Price referred to in the foregoing is the same Price who treated Joseph Smith and fellow prisoners so cruelly while they were kept in chains in Richmond awaiting the "mock trial" under Judge Austin A. King. Treason was one of the charges preferred against the Prophet, who was as true and loyal to his country as any of the lovers of the Union possibly could be; but Price turned against his government and fought desperately during the civil war to overthrow the same.

ANDREW JENSON.

DE WITT, Carroll county, Missouri, Sept. 6, 1893.—I left Lexington Junction this morning and traveled by rail in an easterly direction forty-two miles to the town of De Witt, Carroll county, Missouri, the place which every student of Church history will remember as being inhabited by a large number of Saints in 1838. De Witt of today is a town of nearly seven hundred inhabitants; it is principally built on the top of a bluff, which I should judge is about 200 feet above the river bed below. Only a small portion of the town can be seen from the river, where the railway station is located. The place contains a number of stores, several churches, a bank, a number of gambling halls and saloon, and also quite a number of fine residences. On paper the town comprises quite an area of country, but only a small portion of the townsite is inhabited as such. As a reminder of the old river traffic two steamboats (the Aurora and the St. Elmo) lie at the wharf or landing, unable to move very far at present because of the shallowness of the water in the river. The Missouri at this point runs almost north, but immediately below and west it changes its course to an easterly and a few miles further down to a southeasterly direction. De Witt has one of the best landings in Carroll county, and before the building of the railway it commanded an extensive trade by the river; it is 84 miles by rail from Kansas City, 18 from Carrollton, the county seat, and 190 miles from St. Louis. There are several mounds in the neighborhood of De Witt, which indicate that at one time this part of the country was populated by aborigines.

During my stay here of a few hours I have been very busy conversing with settlers, none of whom, however, were here during the difficulties between the Saints and the Missourians in 1838. But from what they had learned years ago from those who did participate in the so-called Mormon war, they were able to point out to me the respective positions of the two contending parties during the fight, where the mobbers had their headquarters near a spring back of town, and the summit of a hill or high ground where our brethren had formed in line of battle to defend their rights as American citizens, and their wives and children whose lives were in constant jeopardy from the missiles of death with which the cruel-hearted mobocrats saluted the Saints during the siege.

A man by the name of Jonathan Eppler was the first permanent resident of that part of the country where De Witt now stands. He improved a farm along the Missouri river after

arriving in Carroll county in 1826 from Alabama. Eli Guthrie laid out the first town at this point and called it Elderport. He afterward (in 1837) disposed of his interest to Henry Root, who subsequently became a banker in Quincy, Illinois. This Henry Root, and another man by the name of David Thomas, also a landowner, induced the Saints (whose headquarters then were at Far West, Caldwell county, about 50 miles distant) to settle at De Witt; the opportunities offered them for getting homes there were very favorable. Consequently a number of Saints from Canada and other places bought town lots and farming lands of Mr. Root and Mr. Thomas, and were busily engaged in making improvements on the same when the mob in the month of October, 1838, (a few months after the first Saints had located there) came upon them and drove them away from their newly made homes. Joseph the Prophet, who visited them under these circumstances, gives the following interesting account of the expulsion of the Saints from De Witt:

"A mob commanded by Hyrum Standley took Smith Humphrey's goods out of his house and said Standley set fire to Humphrey's house and burned it before his eyes, and ordered him to leave the place forthwith, which he did by fleeing from De Witt to Caldwell county. The mob had sent to Jackson county and got a cannon, powder and balls, and bodies of armed men had gathered in to aid them from Ray, Saine, Howard, Livingston, Chnton, Clay and Platte, counties, and other parts of the State, and a man by the name of Jackson, from Howard county, was appointed their leader.

"The Saints were forbidden to go out of the town, under pain of death, and were shot at when they attempted to go out to get food, of which they were destitute. As fast as their cattle, horses and other property got where the mob could get hold of it, it was taken as spoil. By these outrages the brethren were obliged, most of them, to live in wagons or tents.

"Application had been made to the judges of the circuit court for protection, who ordered out two companies of militia, one commanded by Captain Bogart, a Methodist priest and mobocrat of the deepest dye; the whole under the command of General Parks, another mobber, if his letter speaks his feelings; and his actions did not belie him, for he never made the first attempt to disperse the mob; and when asked the reason of his conduct, he always replied that Bogart and his company were mutinous and mobocratic, that he dare not attempt a dispersion of the mob. Two other principal men of the mob were Major Ashby, member of the legislature, and Ceroll (Sashie) Woods a Presbyterian clergyman.

"General Parks informed us that a greater part of his men under Captain Bogart had mutinied, and that he should be obliged to draw them off from the place, for fear they would join the mob; consequently he could offer us no resistance.

"We had now no hopes whatever of successfully resisting the mob, who kept constantly increasing; our provisions were entirely exhausted, and we were wearied out by continually