

transfers were recorded in these towns, but none since 1840.

Early Instruments and First Officers

The first instrument recorded in the recorder's office was the appointment of John P. Rudder as circuit clerk on January 18, 1822. Gov. McNair then resided at St. Charles. Rudder's term of office was defined as "being during good behavior."

The same year Joseph A. Hopkins was appointed sheriff.

Three county judges were appointed, Thomas Houts, Andrew Ramsey and Richard Wathen.

John P. Rudder was handed the county clerk's job, also.

Cotton in 1822

No one need think that cotton came to Scott county within the past six or eight years. In 1822 a mortgage was made which was payable in cotton. The instrument was for \$45.

Slaves were transferred by deed the same as other property, lots or mortgages.

Good One on Joe Russell

John M. Cooper owned a large body of land and when he died the heirs had trouble getting an administrator. A St. Louis lawyer suggested Joe J. Russell, but Sallie M. Cooper, a daughter, objected "because Joe Russell was a monkey faced thief and had stolen everything that one Bethune had and would expose all the transactions of their father by giving them the worst possible look!" (Women to this day speak their minds.)

Charles H. Kew's Will

One of the early surveyors of the county was Chas. H. Kew, who, apparently had his peculiarities, and among them were his ideas of the ministry, which are shown in his will, a portion of which reads:

"First— It is my wish that my body be decently buried at the burying ground near and south of Mrs. Amanda Noye's farm and as near the grave of my father, Edward Kew, and my brother, Edward G. Kew, as circumstances may permit and further that such interment be made and done without the intervention or attendance of such of any priest, preacher or minster of the Gospel of any sect or denomination whatever, believing as I do, not that the Christian religion is false but that 90% or more of the preaching men and women of Southeast Missouri and even in the United States are making trade out of their religion and would abandon it if some other creed or profession proves better."

Another idiosyncrasy was shown wherein he wanted the executor to receive ten per cent instead of the usual five for handling the estate.

Schott a Visitor

L. A. Schott of Lambert and Harold Bollinger were visitors. Mr. Schott called attention of the club to the fact of Sandywoods' depopulation, there being 61 empty houses in the triangle from Commerce to Diehlstadt and back to Benton. Thousands of acres are idle and infertile. He wants some kind of reclamation project that will bring this part of the county back to its own. It was brought out that the insurance and loan companies will doubtless handle this matter by some means.

Dr. Haw Next Speaker

At the next meeting of the club Dr. U. P. Haw will tell of some of his experiences as a doctor, and these will doubtless prove as interesting as the three talks that have been previously made, by Lions Ray Lucas, Ed Tirmenstein and Ben Barworth.

\$1.50 was appropriated for charity.

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