

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. Each member, at the time of signing the Constitution, shall pay to the Secretary the sum of 25 cents, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Society, and the further sum of 25 cents at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE V.—OF MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The Society shall hold at least one meeting annually, in the town of Warsaw, on such day and at such place in said town, as the Secretary may designate by printed notices in some public newspaper, for the space of thirty days previous to the time fixed upon for any such meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. The main object of the Society is the completion of a correct history of the county, all the meetings of the Society shall have this object in view, and it will be regarded as the duty of each member of the Society to furnish the Secretary, at his earliest convenience, with a written statement, reciting all facts within his knowledge concerning the early settlement thereof, or he may embody the same in an address to the Society, which, after its delivery, shall be filed with the Secretary.

SECTION 2. The Society may select any resident of this county or of an adjoining county to deliver an address at the following meeting upon some subject pertinent to the Society, but no expense shall be incurred for such address unless a price of admission is charged.

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MEMBERSHIP.

On motion of Hon. James S. Frazer, those knowing themselves to be old settlers under the Constitution, are requested to come forward, subscribe their names and pay the initiation fee of 25 cents; at the same time they were requested to give the date of their settlement in the county. The following persons complied with the requirements of the Constitution and became members:

- Benjamin Bennett.....1833
A. C. Cory.....Sept., 1833
Elkanah Huffman.....March, 1833
Mrs. Alfred Wilcox.....Aug., 1832
Mrs. Regina Leedy.....1833
Jacob Smith.....
David McClary.....March, 1833
Rudolph Eyar.....
Benjamin Yohn.....April, 1833
Mrs. Elen Barnes.....
Isaac Tibbits.....*1827
P. L. Runyan.....
Joseph Blodgett.....June, 1833
David Angli.....July, 1880

- James H. Bishop.....April, 1833
Thomas Thoms.....Oct., 1828
James Hawk.....April, 1840
W. Lightfoot.....Oct., 1834
Benjamin Suttin.....April, 1834
Reuben Abbott.....Sept., 1834
John Cook.....Oct., 1834
Norris Jarrett.....Oct., 1834
George Middleton.....Aug., 1834
John Knowles.....April, 1834
Hiram Hall.....Oct., 1834
F. W. Warner.....Oct., 1834
Peter Cook.....Oct., 1834
William Kelly.....Oct., 1834
Crawford Knowles.....Oct., 1834
William Frush.....Oct., 1834
William C. Stephenson.....Oct., 1834
C. W. Gay.....Oct., 1834
W. B. Wade.....March, 1835
David Ripley.....April, 1835
Robert Blain.....Sept., 1835
Ehud Webb.....April, 1835
Abraham Bates.....April, 1835
Catharine Bates.....March, 1835
Isaiah J. Morris.....Oct., 1836
John Denham.....June, 1836
Henry Berst.....April, 1836
Samuel Daniels.....Jan., 1836
Amor Jeffries.....Sept., 1834
Hiram Berst.....1836
Mariah T. Berst.....1836
David P. Young.....Feb., 1845
Ephraim Davis.....1835
John S. Doko.....April, 1837
John S. Smith.....1837
Christian Sarber.....Oct., 1838
Solomon W. Ford.....June, 1836
Solomon Nicols.....Nov., 1837
Maj. James Guy.....May, 1836
A. W. Holbrook.....May, 1836
Alfred Wilcox.....Nov., 1837
Mary Jeffries.....1844
Martha Y. Webb.....Aug., 1835
John W. Dunnook.....Sept., 1837
Joseph Rupe.....1835
John Powell.....March, 1835
John Makenson.....Oct., 1836
Daniel Groves.....Sept., 1836
Robert McNeal.....May, 1836
Jacob Stinson.....Sept., 1838
Margaret Scott.....April, 1837
George A. Summerville.....May, 1837
Henry P. Kelly.....Oct., 1834
Philip Lash.....Sept., 1834

- E. G. Eddy.....Oct., 1844
A. D. Pittenger.....Nov. 6, 1844
John K. Leedy.....May, 1844
Eliza Williams.....1836
H. F. Charles.....June, 1844
Christian Correll, Sr.....1837
James T. Stinson.....1846
A. Deandorf.....Sept., 1842
B. Popham.....1844
Wesley Carpenter.....April, 1833
Margaret Popham.....1836
Orville C. Holbrook.....1847
James Straw.....Oct., 1845
Moses J. Long.....1846
George R. Thralls.....1838
E. Long.....1846
George A. Tibbits.....1842
Thomas Jameson.....1837
E. Moon.....1844
Mrs. Caroline M. Frazer.....1844
A. J. Mershon.....1841
James Myers.....1838
Sol. Arnsbarger.....Oct., 1848
Isaac Mickey.....1849
Z. T. McGrew.....March, 1848
B. Catteman.....1844

* Noble County. † Elkhart County. ‡ Allen County.

"It took about an hour to get down all the names, and it did a person good to see with what anxiety the persons entitled to do so pressed forward to have their names recorded by the secretaries."

OFFICERS.

It being settled who were members and entitled to vote, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: David Rippey, President; William C. Graves and William Felkner, Vice Presidents; George Moon, Treasurer, and Reuben Williams, Secretary. Whereupon the Society adjourned to meet at the Fair-Grounds at 1 o'clock P. M.

AT THE FAIR-GROUND.

The beautiful Fair-Ground was in excellent condition for a picnic, thick shade covering almost every foot of the inclosure.

SPEECHES.

The assembly was called to order by the President, and old settlers were called upon to make speeches.

P. L. Runyan reviewed the past with much feeling. "The old man eloquent" awakened a wish in others to add their experience. He was followed by Mr. Tibbits, of Noble County, in a humorous speech, exciting much laughter. David Rippey, Harvey Vaneman, Christian Correll, John Mahemson and a number of others followed with happy remarks. James H. Carpenter reminded the audience that one of the first and most enterprising citizens had not been heard from. He referred to old Peter Warner, who built the first mill in the county, also the first church, and out of his own funds—at the time of this meeting said to reside in Iowa. Rev. O. V. Leamon took pleasure in saying that Peter Warner was a good man. David Rippey praised him, and said that he was in needy circumstances. Rev. Mr. Leamon proposed a contribution, and started it with \$1, and quite a number joined him. The Society soon after adjourned. The foregoing was furnished by William C. Graves.

HISTORY OF KOSCIUSKO COUNTY.

On the third leaf of the holograph-will, is inscribed the following attestation: "At a Circuit Court held for Albemarle County, the 12th day of May, 1819.

"This instrument, purporting to be the last will and testament of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, deceased, was produced in open court, and satisfactory proof being produced of its being written in the hand-writing of the said Kosciuszko, the same was ordered to be recorded, and thereupon, Thomas Jefferson, the executor thereof named, refused to take upon himself the burden of the execution of the said will.

"Teste: JONAS CART, C. C." So that it was not until almost two years after his death that Mr. Jefferson put the will to record; in palliation for this, however, it will be remembered that Mr. Jefferson's advanced age forbade him assuming such a task. So much for the memory of the noble Pole, and the way he wrote his name.

In the latter part of his life, he retired to Switzerland, where he died October 16, 1817, aged 61 years.

POSITION.

Kosciuszko County lies in the northeast part of Indiana, and is south of the Michigan State line twenty-three miles, and west from the Ohio State line forty-five miles.

BOUNDARY BY COUNTIES.

On the north by Elkhart, south by Wabash and Fulton, east by Noble and Whiteley, and west by Fulton and Marshall.

MEETS AND BOUNDS.

At the session of the General Assembly of 1834-35, the boundaries of Kosciusko County were defined and established as follows, to wit: Beginning at the northeast corner of Section 3, Township 34 north, Range 4 east, thence east with the line dividing Townships 34 and 35, distance twenty-one miles, thence south eighteen miles to the correcting parallel; thence west with said parallel one and three-fourths miles to the northeast corner of Township 31, Range 7 east, thence south on the east line of Townships 31 and 30, Range 7 east, nine miles to the southeast corner of Section 13, Township 30, Range 7 east, thence west, the center of said Range 30 eighteen miles, thence north six miles, thence east between Townships 30 and 31 three miles, thence north six miles, to the correcting parallel at the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 31, Range 4 east, thence east with said correcting parallel, one and one-fourth miles, to the southwest corner of Section 34, Township 32, Range 4 east, thence through the center of Townships 32, 33 and 34, Range 4 east, eighteen miles to the place of beginning. Area, 558 square miles; bounds verified by Ellis Kiser, Civil Engineer for the company.

ADDITIONAL—WATER.

The county is watered by Tippecanoe River, and numerous lakes which it drains, and by Turkey Creek. The former rises in the northeast, and flows in a southwestern direction, to the Wabash River. Turkey Creek rises in Nine-Mile Lake, and leaves the county at the north. Bel River flows through the county, for a short distance, in the southeastern corner.

The principal lakes are as follows: Nine-Mile Lake, in the northeast corner, the largest in the county, being five miles long and over two in width. Tippecanoe Lake, Eagle Lake, Little Eagle Lake, Pike Lake, Center Lake (joining Warsaw), Barber's Lake, Hoffmann's Lake, Beaver Dam Lake, Silver Lake, Hidingger's Lake, Palestine Lake, Yellow Creek Lake, Wadde Lake, Wawbees' Lake (corrupted from Waw-wa-esse). There are also numerous lagoons and small streams. The topography of the county is well adapted to agriculture and fruit culture. The climate is peculiarly pleasant; and the heat of summer is modified by the numerous water courses and lakes, and the same modifying influence is found in winter, the more intense cold being absorbed by the water. The railroad facilities secure easy transit to the large cities of the East, West, North, and South, and afford equal facilities for shipping to and from those and intermediate points.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY.

This county was named by Hon. John B. Chapman, after Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a young Polish noble of distinguished family and large estate, who, having not very long before been graduated from the French Military School at Versailles, appeared in America, and offered his services to Washington in the cause of American freedom. This philanthropic daring it was, doubtless, attracted Mr. Chapman as he read the narrative, and he could overlook the little episode—a love affair at home, whose sequel was disappointment, and had impelled the young Pole to leave his native country; this inspired his philanthropic spirit, and his innate love of liberty pointed to the conflict then raging out in the New World, as the fittest place to seek forgetfulness of self in working out the good of others. In order that he might battle for freedom in America with a clearer conscience, one of his earliest acts had been to liberate the serfs upon his ancestral estates. On reaching America, he was cordially received by the Colonial commanders, and assigned by Washington to a position as his Aid-de-camp. That he fought courageously throughout the conflict; that he was the warm personal friend of Washington and Jefferson; that he was Commander-in-Chief of the Polish army in the famous uprising of Poland in 1794; and that he was defeated and thrown into prison by the event of the disastrous battle of Maceowicz, are all matters of history. But there are, perhaps, few now living who are aware of the fact of his having left behind him in America a testimonial of his fervent love of liberty; so enthusiastic that it takes the colors of poetic beauty, and as eminently characteristic of the man, as was his famous reply to the Emperor Paul, who, on his release from prison, wished to restore him his sword: "I have now no need of a sword, since I have no longer a country."

And now, notwithstanding no less authority than the poet, Thomas Campbell, has stamped the noble Pole as among the first patriots of earth, and given to the world those beautiful lines,

"Hope for a season, bade the world farewell, And Freedom smothered when Kosciuszko fell."

We will have to correct his mode of spelling the name of the county, and hint at the propriety of legalizing this change, for to continue to mis-spell the name of one whom we so much admire, is to admit greater ignorance than can be passed by in silence. Read the following record: In the Clerk's office, of the Circuit Court of Albemarle County, Va., hidden away among dusty records, lies a budget of time-stained documents, which bears the inscription—"Wills, 1819." In this packet has slept, buried and almost forgotten for more than fifty years, the will and testament of Thaddeus Kosciuszko. It is a holograph, and genuine beyond doubt, as attested by Mr. Jefferson himself. The chirography is clear and bold, and the paper whereon it is inscribed is still well preserved, although bearing unmistakably the marks of its antiquity. The will was written by Kosciuszko in 1798, on the occasion of his visit to America during that year, when, having been released from prison by the Emperor, Paul I, of Russia, he came to renew his old associations, and, perhaps, in Poland, if possible, to forget for awhile his sad recollections of his later sorrows in Spain, in the company of such of his transatlantic comrades of the Revolution as then still survived. The will reads as follows:

"I, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, being just in my departure from America, do hereby declare and direct that, should I make no other testamentary disposition of my property in the United States, I hereby authorize my friend, Thomas Jefferson, to employ the whole thereof in purchasing negroes from among his own, or any others, and giving them their liberty in my name; in giving them in an education in trades or otherwise; and, in having them good neighbors, good fathers or mothers; and, in their duties as citizens, teaching them to be defenders of their liberty and country, and of the good order of society, and in whatsoever may make them happy and useful. And I make the said Thomas Jefferson my executor of this.

" 6th day of May, 1798.

T. Kosciuszko."

ORGANIZATION AND SETTLEMENT.

The lands lying within the present limits of Kosciusko County, were ceded to the United States October 27, 1822. The President of the Commission, on the part of the United States, was ex-Governor Jonathan Jennings. The agent for the Indians was Gen. John Tipton. The principal chiefs were "Flat-belly," "Waw-wa-esse," and his brother "Musquabuck." The treaty was about three miles from the present site of Rochester, in Fulton County, on the south bank of Tippecanoe River, three-quarters of a mile from where the Michigan Road crosses the stream. The treaty was ratified January 21, 1823. The county boundary was established February 7, 1825, and the county organized in April, 1826.

General Election—Judges' Certificate—We do hereby certify the foregoing poll-book, of an election holden in Leesburg, on the 4th day of April, 1836, for the purpose of electing county officers for the county of Kosciusko, is correct and true, viz.: The number of votes are annexed to each candidate's name, and are here enumerated: Samuel Stooky, G. W. Royce, Elisha Boggs, Judges; Benjamin Johnson, John G. Woods, Clerks. April 4, 1836.

The poll-books enumerated 219 votes by name, including candidates. The first and subsequent officers will be found tabulated in another part of this work.

The seat of justice was at Leesburg, until Commissioners, appointed for locating the county seat, decided on which place the officers with their records removed a few months later. The Court met there, for the first time, on the third Monday in March, 1837, at the house of Jacob Lozier. The name Warsaw was given to the county seat by Hon. John B. Chapman, after the metropolis of Poland. It will be remembered, that this city became noted, in the first place, on account of the diet being transferred to it from Cracow in 1856, and from 1703, when it surrendered to Charles XII, it became a prey to wars, and on down to September 8, 1831, was the field of contest and blood. And while we do not institute a comparison in the contests of that day, over the city of Warsaw, it will nevertheless appear, on reading the account of the clipping question or the contest for county seat, that our Warsaw was the subject of bitter controversy for a prolonged period; so bitter, that perhaps only the mighty arm of the law saved for a contest from a sanguinary determination of the question; happily a peaceful end came to all this; and the eligibility of the site has reconciled all parties, and the county is prosperous.

Kosciuszko County was hitherto attached to Elkhart County for judicial purposes [see Acts of the General Assembly, State of Indiana, A. D. 1831] and known by the name of Turkey Creek Township. In anticipation of the cession of the Indian lands within the present limits of this county, a large number of pioneers, with their families, were waiting in the nearest organized counties, principally in Elkhart, for news of the ratification of the treaty of 1832, which would open this region for settlement, and when the news was received, made a general rush for Turkey Creek Prairies. The roads were lined with "movers," many arrived the same day. It is therefore manifestly incorrect to name any one as the first settler, as some writers have done. True, it has been generally conceded that Thomas Hall was in advance of all others, so far as the region south of the Elkhart River settlement is concerned, but Mr. Hall located first and tarried for a time on Turkey Creek, just over the Elkhart County line, and did not come within the limits of this county until after a number of families; and it is true that two white settlers came here several years in advance of the settlement, before the lands were open. These were Dominique Rousseau and Henry Ossam; they had permission to trade with the Indians. Ossam resided on the north side of Bone Prairie, and Rousseau at the lower end of Little Prairie. To understand, however, that these traders were not regarded as merchants, settled there, we have only to note the fact admitted by the pioneers, that W. B. and I. R. Blain are credited with being the first who established a store, on the north side of Bone Prairie, which was in the fall of 1834. They came from Greenfield, Ohio, and subsequently removed from their first location to a lot of ground leased of Levi Lee, on account of its more central location in the settlement; this was the first store established for trade with the white settlers, and around it the present village of Leesburg grew. The second store was established at the same place by Judge Comstock and Metcalf