

HENRY COUNTY HAS FURNISHED EMINENT MAN IN SERVICE OF COUNTRY

(From newspaper article)

WRITTEN BY JOSEPH SENTER

ROUTON

1910

Copy of Original Newspaper Article - From
The Routons of Paris and Henry County, Tennessee
by Stephanie Routon Tayloe

HENRY

County Has Furnished Eminent Men in Service of Country.

By

JOE ROUTON

Superintendent of Instruction

1910

Henry County is one of the Northern tier of counties of West Tennessee, and was named in honor of Patrick Henry. The first white settlers came to the county in 1819. Some of the early settlers were: Joel and Willis Hagler, James Williams, William Wyatt, the Rev. Benjamin Peoples, the Rev. John Manly, Abraham and William Walters, James Hicks,

William Jones, Johannon Smith, Henry Wall, Reuben Bomar,

William Porter, Thomas Grey, Jesse Paschal, James and R. D. Caldwell,

Samuel Rogers, Adam Rome, Henry Humphreys, Louis and Samuel McCorkle, Alex Harmon, Col. Richard Porter, Hugh W. Dunlap,

John Brown, John Young, James and David S. Greer,

from whom some of our best families have descended.

The county was created by acts of the General Assembly of 1821. The first sitting of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was held at the house of Peter Wall on the first Monday in December, 1821. The first courthouse was built of logs in 1823.

Henry County embraces nearly 600 square miles of territory, and has a population of over 25,000, of whom the city of Paris claims about 5,000. The staple crops are corn, wheat, hay, tobacco and cotton, though with proper cultivation, almost any crop known to the temperate zone may be grown successfully. Farmers are taking advantage of new methods and machinery and are giving more care to the cultivation of paying crops and the breeding of better stock.

The L. & N. R. R. traverses the county from Southwest to Northeast, the N. C. & St. L. from North to South, crossing at Paris, where are located at the L.& N. shops.

The school system of the county is controlled by a County Board of Education, and the present condition and promising outlook of the schools give evidence of the efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties. The Board at present is composed of Hugh E. Tyson, Chairman; Dr. E. A. Travis, J. W. Stewart, J. W. Odom, James A. Gates, Joe Routon, Secretary.

The Lee School of Paris, Stanley Wright, principal, has an enrollment of over 600 pupils. The E. W. Grove High School, A. O. Bowden, principal, is progressing so rapidly that arrangements are under way to build dormitories to accommodate the increased attendance. These schools are under the superintendence of S. W. Sherill.

There are at present seven banks in the county:
The Commercial Bank, Bank of Henry and First National Bank of

Paris, the Peoples' Bank & Trust Co., at Henry; the Cottage Grove Bank & Trust Co., and the Union Bank at Cottage Grove, and the Farmers' Bank at Puryear, all doing a thriving business.

There are four weekly newspapers, two at Paris, the Post-Intelligencer

published by J. R. Rison and edited by Ross Rogers;

and the Parisian, published by J. Taylor Griffin, and edited by C. T. Crawford; the Henry Progress published at Henry by Dr. J. P. Sims, and edited by Leslie Sims; and the Home Advocate, published at Cottage Grove by R. A. Williams, and edited by Tate Ring.

The first paper published in Henry County was in 1829,
of which Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer was editor.

Paris, the capital of Henry County, is flourishing city of 5,000

inhabitants, the majority of whom are educated, refined,

cultured and hospitable. It is surrounded by rich agricultural lands, tilled by prosperous farmers, with telephone and rural route conveniences. The city has beautiful and well paved streets, water works and electrical lighting plants, churches, hotels and extensive and progressive business concerns of all kinds.

The present city officials are: J. M. Freeman, Mayor; John S. Dunlap, Recorder;

John C. Sweeney, City Attorney; M. W. Younkin, Superintendent of water and lighting plant; W. C. Johnson, Byron Looney, A. B. White,

R. L. Dunlap and W. W. Farabough, Aldermen.

John. W. Crockett, elder son of the famous David Crockett,

was a citizen of Paris, and was a Congressman?

from 1837 to 1841. Howell E. Jackson, one of the eminent sons
of Tennessee, also a resident of Paris, after filling other high
and honorable positions, became a distinguished Judge on the
Supreme bench of the United States.

Isham G. Harris, another distinguished son, able orator,

eminent lawyer, became successively Congressman,

Presidential Elector, Governor for three terms,

Volunteer Aide to Gen. A. S. Johnston in the Civil War,
and was for many years, until his death, United States Senator.

John D. C. Atkins, native and long resident of Henry County, successively State Legislator, Presidential Elector, Congressman, 1857, Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth Tennessee Regiment until elected Confederate Congressman, again in 1872 elected

United States Congressman serving in the Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Congresses, in 1884 he was Presidential Elector for the State at large, and in 1885 was appointed by President Cleveland as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

James D. Porter, one of the Trustees of the George Peabody Education Fund, whose home is in Paris, was twice Governor of Tennessee, President of the N. C. & St. L. Railway Co., and Assistant Secretary of State and Minister to Chili under the respective administrations of President Cleveland. Governor Porter was one time a Judge of his

Judicial Circuit, and also served his constituency in the Legislature, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1870. He served as Adjutant General and aided in organizing the Provisional Army of Tennessee. He then Gen. Cheatham's command and served during the war as his Chief of Staff.

Dr. E. W. Grove, the millionaire medicine manufacturer, once lived in Henry County, which is greatly indebted to him for his many magnificent gifts.

The Rev. Irl R. Hicks, the "storm prophet" of St. Louis, also lived in Henry County. The present county officials in Henry County are: James S. Aden, County Judge; James Sweeney, County Clerk; John R. Rison, Chancery Clerk; A. B. Trousdale, Circuit Clerk; D. T. Spaulding, Register of Deeds; T. H. Whitlock, Trustee; Joe Routon, Superintendent of Schools; R. H. Compton, Sheriff; J. B. Walker, Public Guardian; D. E. Bomar, Public Administrator; H. L. Lawrence, County Surveyor; Ross Rogers, Ranger; W. T. Snow, Sealer of Weights and Measures.

In the recent Democratic primary, M. H. Goldston and
W. T. Young were nominated respectively for County Judge
and Trustee to succeed the present incumbents whose terms of office will expire Sept. 1, 1910. The
Hon. John F. Cole of Paris,
represented this county in the lower house of the General Assembly. The Democrats of this Judicial
Circuit recently nominated the Hon. T. C. Rye, of Paris, for Attorney General. The Hon. Dudley Porter, of
Paris,
candidate for Congress, was Elector for the district in the last Presidential election. The Hon. John
Thomason, State Revenue Agent for West Tennessee, is a resident of Paris.