

Sr., was then justice of the peace for the county, and he administered the oath of office to the new justices. (He had been commissioned by the governor November 22, 1820, as justice of the peace for Sniabar township, then in Cooper county, but now Lillard county.) Young Ewing was the first clerk of court; his bond was given for \$1,200, with Wm. Y. C. Ewing and Joel Campbell, as securities. This was at the April term. The January term had done no business except to record the justices' commissions and swear them into office.

The first case in this court was a motion of Abram McClelland, April 23, 1821, for letters testamentary on the last will of Amasa Crain, deceased. Mr. McClelland, David Ward and Abel Owens entered into bond in the case. The will was proven by the oaths of John Tharp, and John Walker, and the record says: "Ordered, that Lilburn W. Boggs, [afterwards governor of the state, 1836 to 1840,] Richard Edmundson and Wm. E. Aikman, who being first sworn, do appraise all the slaves and all the personal estate to them produced of Amasa Crain, deceased, and make due return thereof according to law."

The same day Wm. Y. C. Ewing, Thomas Fristoe, Joseph Irwin, Abel Owens and Samuel Evans, were appointed commissioners of the school lands of the county; and it was "ordered, that all persons who have improved school lands shall be allowed to occupy the same so long as to reap the benefits of three crops, including those that have been made or received by said improver."

April 24, 1821, John Dustin was appointed surveyor of Lillard county, he "having been examined in presence of the court, as to his qualifications," etc.

July 24, John Stapp was appointed to be president of the court. After this, the court proceeded to make up the first bill of county expenses, thus:

To Adam Lightner, for furnishing the circuit court with houses two terms, 3 days each term, at \$1.50 per day.....	\$ 9.00
To Adam Lightner, for furnishing county court with houses two terms, at \$1.25 per day, 3 days in all.....	3.75
Markham Fristoe, deputy sheriff, as per account filed.....	5.50
Markham Fristoe, deputy sheriff, as per account filed.....	1.00
Wm. R. Cole, as per account filed.....	5.00
Abner Graham, " " ".....	1.00
George W. Parkerson, " " ".....	1.00
Wm. F. Simmons, " " ".....	2.00
John Stapp, county court justice, 4½ days.....	9.00
James Lillard, " " ".....	9.00
John Whitsett, " " ".....	9.00
Total.....	\$55.25

October 23, 1821, Braxton Small was appointed deputy clerk of the county court. The first report of the tax collector was made on this same day, when there appeared to be due the county, from Markham Fristoe, the collector, the sum of \$83.70. The court ordered him to pay \$50 of it to the county treasurer within fifteen days, and the balance at the next term of court.

March 12, 1822, John Duston, James Bounds, and James Lillard were bonded in the penal sum of \$2,000, as commissioners to select the most suitable place whereon to erect a court house and jail, and to let contracts for the buildings.

The first record, in regard to an election in the county, occurs under date of July 9, 1822. At this time, Solomon Cox, Legard Fine, and James Lillard, Jr., were appointed judges of an election to be held at Mount Vernon, in Tabbo township; and Julius Emmons, David Ward, Thomas Swift were appointed judges of an election to be held in Sniabar township, "at the place of preaching near Henry Renick's."

At this election, which occurred in August, Jesse Hitchcock was elected constable for Sniabar township, and James Bounds, Jr., for Tabbo township.

It is noticeable, that in the earliest official county records Tabo is sometimes spelled *Ta Beau*; and Sniabar is nearly always spelled *Sny E. Bairre*. [See Township History of Dover and Sniabar township, for origin of the names Tabo and Sniabar.]

March 12, 1822, James Bounds, John Duston, and James Lillard were appointed commissioners to select a town site for the county seat, and let contracts for suitable buildings. They selected the site, and laid out the town of Lexington (old town). The contract to erect public buildings was let to Henry Renick, and on June 27, 1825, appears an account of \$875.15 paid him on the job. There are small items of payments, for jail and court house, scattered along in the county records, for two or three years, so that it was never known just how much this building did cost. It was a poor job, anyway, as the facilities for obtaining suitable materials for such a structure were then very meagre.

November 23, 1825, appears another entry of \$467.41½, paid Renick on construction of court house; and the same day the building was accepted, and commissioners discharged. This building was occupied for county purposes a few years, but proved to be unfit and unsafe, and on July 24, 1832, the county court "Ordered that James Fletcher be appointed commissioner to sell the court-house of this county, except the rock foundation, as follows: The brick, in four parcels, and the shingles, planks, and timbers, in one lot, etc. The sale took place August 1.

The county then rented accommodations for some years. The August term of court was held in Benedict Thomas' house. In 1835 Messrs.