

family connections, exceed any other family in this section.

The first frame dwelling in Buffalo Grove was erected by Wm. Merritt, in 1836. This building now stands near Hon. Z. Aplington's new residence, at the north end of the town of Polo. The first frame building was a store built by John D. Stevenson, who brought the first stock of goods in this section, in 1835. In 1836, Messrs. Wales, Hunn & Co. brought another stock in here.

The first blacksmith's anvil ever used in the Rock River country is now in the possession of Hon. Z. Aplington of Polo, himself a blacksmith, to whom it was presented by the venerable John Dixon.

The settlement of the country progressed but slowly from 1827 to 1846. The land sales occurred in 1842-3, and nearly all the money in circulation was paid out for land. Men were selected to bid off whole townships for the settlers, and had anybody bid over \$1.25 per acre, they would have been in imminent danger of being shot by the pioneers.

The early settlers had much difficulty with their claims. The claims were made by each one's staking out such land as he wanted—as the land was not yet in market. A claim committee was elected, regulations adopted for the government of the settlers, the clerk of the committee keeping a record of the different claims made. The Government had surveyed the land into townships, and the people subdivided it for themselves. The first committee clerk was William Illingworth, who was succeeded by Zenas Aplington. The claim committee were often

called upon to remove men who had "jumped" claims. An old settler relates an amusing story of a claim fight between V. A. Bogue and F. Cushman on one side and H. Wales and O. W. Kellogg on the other side. Bogue and Cushman had drawn a lot of rails to the "disputed territory," intending to fence the land and thereby secure its possession. Learning that this had been done, Wales and Kellogg proceeded to remove the rails, Kellogg carrying with him a "shillalah." While they were loading up, Bogue and Cushman arrived at the scene of operation. Bogue commenced throwing the rails off the wagon, while Cushman "pitched into" Kellogg and knocked him down. Wales took up the reins and started on a run with his team, Bogue following and throwing off the rails as fast as he could. Kellogg, as soon as he was knocked down, promised to leave the premises if he should be left alone. He started for his coat, which was lying on the grass near by, beside which lay his shillalah. Picking it up, he gave Cushman a sound rap over the back. Cushman then ran to a pile of rails, and by flourishing a huge rail about Kellogg, ended the fight. The quarrel about the claim was finally settled by arbitration.

At the first session of the Legislature held after Lee county was separated from Ogle, a half range of towns was taken from Carroll county and added to Ogle county on the west.

Work on the Illinois Central Railroad was commenced in this county in 1852. As the work progressed, and the prospect of its being finished became a certainty,

business at a rapid rate. The contract was made on one million seven hundred and when the work was completed the town was the town. The town was the town.

In the town of Polo, the paper was published. The paper was published.

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Hon. owner of the name, in the town of Polo, the paper was published. The first J. B. M. R. Webb.

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*See advertisement.