

the business community. These were enough to fill the needs of those days.

Dr. Peter **Green** was elected to the State Legislature at Vandalia and soon began his quest to have the county seat moved from its present site at Maysville in the southeast corner of the county, to Louisville. Flora was not yet started and other settlers wanted the county seat closer to the center of the county.

In the winter of 1841, a petition was circulated to move the county seat to the Gobel Mill - Louisville area. Another petition not to move was circulated at the same time. Dr. **Green** was given both petitions to present at Vandalia, the capitol. The story goes, that by the time he arrived at Vandalia, somehow the names on both petitions had mysteriously been pinned together on the petition to move the county seat to the Louisville area. As there appeared to be no opposition, the motion was allowed by the Legislature to move the County Seat to Louisville, on May 5, 1841.

Many of Louisville's first settlers were buried near the old mill in what is referred to now as the 'lost graveyard' which was located about four blocks south of the courthouse. The graveyard was partially plowed up in 1870 and markers were lost. A new cemetery was established west of the old, bordered by what is now Route 45, just across from the North Clay High School.

Around 1842, a group of settlers in Clay county formed a group called the Clay County Regulators. Their purpose was to catch hog and horse thieves. Their leader was Captain Ira **Grimes**, whose streak of vengeance soon got the better of him and he led the group into more vigilante actions. We do not know if there were Louisville men in the first organization, but there were in the re-creation of the Clay County Regulators in the 1970's as they pursued more peaceful means.

The first brick building erected in Louisville was the old courthouse. A brilliant but rather unscrupulous man named Samuel **Slocum** had the contract to build it. It is said that he paid most of the men in whiskey, not considered a vice in those days, and generally his men were just a little overdrawn. If they got too well paid to work, a few days to dry out would get them back on the job. The old courthouse turned out to be surprisingly straight and true, all things considered.

The buying and selling of liquor was prohibited by law in Louisville in 1855, but the vote wavered in later years before citizens again voted the town dry.

The A.F. & A.M. Lodge was granted a charter in Louisville in 1856. The 1880 Census shows Louisville to have a population of 514 residents. It took 120 years for the town to double that figure.

In 1883 organizational papers for the Village of Louisville were filed with the Attorney General's Office of the State of Illinois. Three or four years later, Louisville was duly registered with the state. There is a gap of information from that point to 1897; some old books were either lost or burned which might have included that ten year period. Rumor has it that one of our more emotional