

Morgan County Towns and How They Received Names

Versailles, county seat of Morgan County. Located by the legislature, December 23, 1834 on land donated to the county by Wyan and Galbraith, and the same act ordered the county court to appoint a commission to lay out the town. The commissioner selected was Street Thruston and under his direction the survey was made by Maj. William Monroe. The name was given by act of the Legislature and was for the palace near Paris, France.

Akinsville, named for Rev. Shannon Akins, the owner of the original town site.

Barnett, named in honor of a Mr. Barnett, who lived in the neighborhood and whose daughter married a Mr. Ratcliff who moved to King County, Washington. She is now living in a suburb of Seattle.

Boylers Mill, named in honor of James Byler and the name changed by the post office department in naming the post office.

Florence, first called Williamsville, but name changed to Florence about 1840.

Gladstone, named in honor of the great Prime Minister of England.

Glensted, founded by Joseph Milburn and named by him for the town of Glenstadt in Germany, by "Americanizing" the word.

Gravois Mills, located on stream of same name from which named. Gravois Creek, named from the great amount of gravel in its stream bed. Gravois - French for rubbish, rubble, whence gravel. Pike on his exploration trip up the Osage marked it Gravel River on his map.

Marvin named by Major H. L. Marvin, at one time chief engineer of the railroad built through the place.

Proctor, named for "Ben" Proctor, the pioneer settler on the creek on which the village is located. Proctor was acquainted with the art of making gun-powder in a crude way and he supplied himself and the pioneers with that necessary explosive. His face was scarred by an accidental explosion of gunpowder. He died some years ago in Benton county, Missouri.

Stover, named in honor of Col. John H. Stover, one time member of Congress from this district.

Syracuse, located in 1858 and first called Pacific City, but name changed to present one from Syracuse, New York.

Todd, named in honor of Jonathan Todd first postmaster.

OIL WELL NEWS

From Tri County Republican 8 December 1939

J. W. Simms and J. W. Anderson who are trustees of the Stover Petroleum Producers, on Tuesday of this week closed a deal with Mr. C. B. Teague, owner of the drilling rig recently set up here, to finance the first well on the Stover block of leases. The drilling contract is on an acreage basis and in no way affects progress of the Stover Petroleum Producers as regards other wells, as the local organization plans to expand their operations here.

Mr. Teague and his force began drilling again Monday of this week and it is expected that the work will now go forward rapidly.

Every land owner should cooperate, both with the company and the driller. A representative of the state geologist's office was here about ten days ago. He set the elevation figures at the well site at 1061 and the elevation at the Stover city well at 1038 feet.