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VOLUME XIII NUMBER 2 SUMMER 1981



STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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PIONEER TRADING IN EARLY CENTRAL ILLINOIS
THE GORDON AND THORNTON COMPANY, SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS
MARCH 10, 1835 TO JUNE 15, 1836, SHELBY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Helen Cox Tregillis, Box 392, Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

Somewhere northeast of the present public square-designated as the Lincoln Square by the County Board in 1922-was the original site of the Gordon-Thornton Store of 1835/36 in Shelbyville, Illinois. Shelbyville, only seven years old at this time, was the hub of this area in the early days. Her population boasted fifty families, contained six stores, some smithys, and some mills. The roads came through in five different directions during this trade period. Heaviest traveled was probably the road from Vincennes, Indiana, on southwestward to Vandalia, St. Louis way.

The winter of 1835-6 apparently was a turning point in population as the traffic increased. Early winter travelers would buy their supplies before moving on in better weather.

The merchants, John S. GORDON and William F. THORNTON, purchased most of the store stock in St. Louis as evidenced in their store journal. For the year period one large purchase of supplies would be sufficient. GORDON and THORNTON served as bankers--lending, depositing, etc. Infrequently they would sell stagecoach passenger tickets. Local government officials purchased supplies for the county.

Local residents and travelers would take in merchandise, usually game, produce, or furs for credit on other supplies. The merchants would buy outright or give credit. Store hours were kept Monday through Saturday. Customers usually paid most of their bills during the end of the year as shown by the many payments received. A daily record was kept of the transactions—merchandise items frequently listed and credit customers named. Receipts on the left were opposite of the debits on the right. Shoppers during that year had these items as a choice:

Yard Goods	Kitchenware	Food	Clothing	Books & stationery
spool cotton 12¢ twill cotton cotton muslin 6¢ yd. calico spool cotton feathers thimbles 6¢ silk needles 12¢ ribbon lace linen pins 12¢ cotton plaid bombazette buckram spun yarn	baskets 50¢ iron \$1.75 knives brooms 20¢ coffee mill \$1. soap crocks 25¢ jugs 25¢ plates skillets tumblers wash pans 37¢ tin cups 18¢ bowls buckets kegs cups & saucers brimstone	coffee 50¢ 1 salt 12¢ tea eggs 25¢ doz oysters 31¢ figs liquorice butter plums almonds apples rice 12¢ duck wine 50¢ starch mackeral whiskey 25¢	fur hats \$4.50 handkerchieves 25¢	cards ink paper 25¢ spelling books 37¢ ink stand primers 18¢ Murry's reader pencils pencil points books chalk readers testaments blank books almanacs Misc. sundries
gingham cambric blue twill French linen ticking shirting button 18¢ indigo scissors 50¢ knitting needles thread 12¢ hooks & eyes 12¢	salt cellar blue stone	pepper 12¢ cinnamon 12¢ cassia 6¢ alum peppermint ginseng spice madder calument cream of	edicinal & Toiletries astor oil amphor ateman's drops 18¢ alts ombs 12¢ oium 25¢ naving brush & soap oothbrushes ainine aragoric agnesia 12¢	jewsharps 12¢ flax seed tobacco 12¢ cigars 6¢ copperas 12¢ beads blacking snuff pipes necklaces blankets gimblets 25¢

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Hardware and Tools

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oi		hammers	bridle bits 62¢	salt peter shovels	chains \$1.25 bridles

CUSTOMERS: MARCH 10, 1835 TO JUNE 15, 1836

ABBOTT, Isaiah ABBOTT, James ABBOTT, John ABBOTT, William ANDERSON, William ANDERSON, Peter ARMSTRONG, John ARNOLD, William AUSTIN, Benjamin R. AUSTIN, Elisha AUXER, Benjamin BAILEY, Charles BAILEY, Harrison BAILEY, Joseph BAKER, Evan BAKER, James
BAKER, John A.
BAKER, John A. BAKER, Joseph, Sr. BALL, Jordon
BALLENTINE, J.J.
BANNING, A.
BANNING, Benony
BANNING, Benony BANNING, C.M.
BANNING, Jeremiah BANNING, Fraizer BANNING, Mashack BANNING, Thomas BANNING, William
BANNING, Fraizer
BANNING, Mashack
BANNING, Thomas
BANNING, William
BASIE, Edmond Dr.
BASYE, M.M.
BAUGHER, John
BAUGHER, Thomas
BAXTER, George
BECK, James E.
BECK, James E. BECK, John F. BECK, Larkin
BEELER, G.H.
BELL, Alfred
BELL, John
BELL, Thomas
BENNIT, R. estate
BENNETT. Austin
BENNETT, Austin BENNETT, Thomas
BENNETT, William G.
BERRY, Davis
BIVINS, Leonard
BLACK, Bill
BLYTHÉ, Thomas J.

BOHART, Jacob BONE, A.M. Estate BONE, Barnett BONE, John C. BONE, John Jr. BONE, John Sr. BONE, Thomas A. BONE, William BOWEN, Nancy BOWEN, Thomas BRADY, T.J. BREWER, Henry COCHRAN, Charles COCHRAN, James COCHRAN, John Sr. CONN, H.H. CONNER, Zasepsen COOK, John CORBIN, Isaac CORLEY, Bryant CORLEY, J.C. COTTINGHAM, Bartley COULTER, Isaiah

COWAN, William B.

COX, Milton CRAIG, John CRAIG, Robert CRANE, William H. CROCKER, Hiram CROCKER, John
CROCKER, William
CROUSE, J.
CURRY, James E.
CUTLER, James
CUTLER, John BRADY, T.J.

BREWER, Henry
BREWER, Jacob
BRISCO, Moses
BROWN, Mrs.?
BRUCE, B.W.
BRUSTER, Jonathon D.
BRYSON, Elisha
BURROWS, Dick
CAIN, Russell
CALVERT, Rolls
CARFELLD, James
CARRET, James
CARRET, James
CARRET, James
CARRET, James
CASEY, Levi
CASEY, John
CASEY, Levi
CALDRAR, James
CHANDLER, Lona Jr.
CHATHAM, John
CLAIRAGE, John
CLAIRAGE, William
DANIEL, William
DANIEL, William
DANIEL, William
DANIEL, William
DANIEL, William
FRANCISCO, Daniel
FRAZIER, William
FRAZIER, Albert
FRAZIER, Albert
FRAZIER, John
FRAZIER, John
FRAZIER, John
FRAZIER, John
FRAZIER, William
FRUIT, James
FUGASON, John
GAFFON, ?
GEESLAR, E.
GILSTRAP, David
GOODE, Nathaniel
GOODE, Nathaniel
GOODE, Nathaniel
GOODWIN, James
GOODE, Nathaniel
GOODWIN, James
GORDON, John S.
GORDON, Martin
GRAHAM, James
CLARK, James
DOYLE, ?
CLAWSON, J.L.
COCHRAN, James
DUNCAN R
CREEN, James
DUNCAN R
GREEN, Felix
COCHRAN James
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DRAKE, William

DUGGER, William

DUNCAN, R.

DUNNING, Henderson

EARP, Daniel

EARP, Simon

EARP, Westley

EARP, William

EDWARDS, Gideon

EDWARDS, J.W.

ELAM, John

GREAM, Martillas

GREEN, Ama

GREEN, James M.

GREEN, William, Jr.

GREEN, William, Jr.

GRIFFITH, Abram

GRIFFITH, John

GRIFFITH, John

GRIFFITH, Joseph

GUYN, Amos

HALE. William ELAM, John ELAM, Mathew

ELLIOT, David ELLIOT, Jacob ELLIS, Enos ELLIS, William EMMIS, T. EMMIS, T.
EVEY, Edward
FAIRLEY, Wesley
FEARMAN, Henry
FISHER, David, Jr.
FISHER, David, Sr.
FISHER, George W.
FLEMING, Peter
FLEMING, Samuel
FLEMING, William A. FLEMING, William A. FRANCIS, William FRANCISCO, Daniel FRANCISCO, Daniel
FRAZIER, Albert
FRAZIER, B.F.
FRAZIER, Greenbury
FRAZIER, John
FRAZIER, William
FRUIT, James
FURGASON, John
GAFFON, ?
GEESLAR, E.
GIBSON, Joseph HALE, William HALES, John HALL, John, Sr.

ELDER, H.M. & I.

JOHNSON, H JOHNSON, I

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HELTON,

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HENSON, HERROD,

HILL, Wi HILSABEC HOOD, J. HOOPER, HOOPER, HOOPER, HOOPER. HOOPER, V HOOSONG, HOPKINS, HOUSE, T. HOUSH, Th HOWARD, J HOWARD, R HOWSE, Jo

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BALL, Freston D.

BALL, Sameal

JOHNSTON, Alexander

JOHNSTON, Janea P.

JOHNSTON, John R.

BAMILTON, John

SHAW, Caleb SHERILL, Alexander SHERILL, William SHORT, James SIETZ, M. SILER, Benjamin SILER, William SILVERS, Edward SILVERS, George SIMS, D.B. SIXSON, Free SKIDMORE, Michael SMITH, Addison SMITH, Allen SMITH, Henry SMITH, Isaac SMITH, James F. SMITH, John B. SMITH, Letton SMITH, Mary SMITH, Robert SODUSKY, Julia SOUTH, Andrew SOUTH, Henry TINDALL, Mary
SOUTH, Samuel TODD, John H.
SOY, John TOLLY, James
SPAIN, John TOLLY, Robert
STAMPS, ? TREWITT, Littleton SOUTH, Samuel STANDERFORD, Archibald TRIMBLE, J. (STANDIFER) TROWER, T.B. STANDIFER, Jeremiah TURLEY, William STONE, Oliver TURNER, Charles STORM, John STORM, Lally STORY, Moses STRAIN, David STRICKLEN, Warren G. VAUGHAN, William, STUART, James SULLIVAN, William VAUGHN, G.A.

SWAFFORD, Jacob T. TACKETT, John TACKETT, William TALBOT, ? TARROUT, N. TEMPLETÓN, John TEMPLETON, Robert TEMPLETON, William TENISON, R. TERINTINE, Daniel TERRY, Reuben TETRICT, A. TETRICT, Charles THOMAS, William, Esq. WAGGONER, Stephen THOMASON, George THOMASON, John THOMASON, Richard THOMASON, William THORNTON, M. THORNTON, W.F., Co-owner of store with J.S. GORDON TINDALL, John TURNER, John TURNEY, Morgan VAN WINKLE, Ormsby VAUGHAN, James W. Estate

VENTERS, David VERDIN, James WADE, Obediah WADE, William WAGGONER, Amos WAGGONER, Elijah WAGGONER, George WAGGONER, Gilbert WAGGONER, Isaac WAGGONER, Jacob WAGGONER, Joel WAGGONER, Lisby WAGGONER, Russell WAKEFIELD, Allen WAKEFIELD, Eli WALDEN, Benjamin WALDEN, Hugh WALKER, Deacon WALKER, Samuel, est. WALKER, William WALKINS, David WALLACE, Alfred WALLACE, Jacob WALLACE, William WALLER, Eli WALLER, Evan WALLER, Joseph, Sr. WARD, James O. WARD, John WARD, William, Sr. WARNER, Davis & Co. WARREN, John WARREN, Joseph WARREN, Peter WATERS, John WATSON, ? WATKINS, David WEEKS, Allen

WEBB, Mrs. WEBB, Noah WEEKS, Allen WEEKS, Bazel WEEKS, J. WEGAR, Elizabeth WEGAR, John WEGAR, Thomas WHARTON, Eli WHITE, Daniel WHITFIELD, Willis WHITSON, Charles WHITTEN, Jonathon WILBORNE, James WILKINS, ? WILLIAMS, H.L.H. WILLIAMS, Isaac WILLIAMS, Jesse WILLIAMS, Joseph WILLIAMS, Phananda WILLIAMS, Thomas H. WILLIAMSON, William WILSON, James WILSON, Samuel WIMBERLY, William WOMACK, Green WOMACK, Levi WOMACK, William WOOLEN, Eli WOOLLEN, Edward WOOLLEN, L. WORTMAN, Elizabeth WORTMAN, Mr. WRIGHT, D. WRIGHT, John A. WRIGHT, Levi WRIGHT, Reuben WRIGHT, Samuel WRIGHT, William

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STORE EXPENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS

Counterfeit Money Received - July 3, 1835, quarter; April 27, 1836, dollar CLINKINBEARD AND LAUX - September 2, 1835, received \$5.00 on bill Postage - April 14, 1835 to Vandalia, 14¢; April 14, 1835, to St. Louis O. AND A. PRENTICE - June 8, 1835 paid \$10.00 on bill Real Estate - November 4, 1835, taxes on RHEMAN lot, \$1.20; December 14, 1835 received \$1.25 real estate taxes John SMITH & BROS. - December 4, 1835 received \$700.00 on bill; April 16, 1836 received \$56.00 on bill SMITH Shop - April 26, 1836, paid \$3.75 on bill Traveler - March 12, 1835, customer paid in cash Wagon - July 28, 1835, paid \$37.00

Editor's Note: This work was dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Shelby County Courthouse, 1880-1980. This book is on file at the Illinois State Historical Library, but may be purchased from Mrs. Tregillis for \$7.00 if further information is needed. Only the names have been extracted for purposes of this article in the ISGS QUARTERLY, those which appear in pp. 3-31; the transactions and payments appearing have not been included except "Store Expenses and Miscellaneous." The time period is from March 10, 1835 through June 15, 1836. Copyright date is January 3, 1980; permissic 1 to ISGS has been granted by Mrs. Tregillis, the author, compiler, and abstracter, to print portions or all of the information contained in the booklet.

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Summer, 1981

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