

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Interesting Career of a Prosperous, But Generous Man.

The history of the family is interesting. The ancestor came to America with a party of Hollanders in the year 1670, and in an attempt to land off the Jersey coast the vessel was shipwrecked and nearly all of the party perished. The woman who is the ancestor of the family, together with her husband, reached land, but the husband was later killed by Indians. She was taken and delivered to the settlement of what was then New Amsterdam for a ransom, and afterward married the man by the name of Stout to which the members of the family trace their ancestry. The genial host at yesterday's gathering arrived in Sangamon county Oct. 5, 1836. He came with his parents and brothers and sisters to Sangamon county from Fayette county, Kentucky. They stopped at the home of Alexander Jones, who was very ill with fever at the time. They made their journey in primitive fashion, with team and wagon. They crossed the Ohio river at Louisville, Ky., and the Wabash at Vincennes. The father purchased the farm from Mr. Jones and there they began their life in Illinois. Philemon Stout resided in the same old log cabin for forty-four years, and then he moved to their present and more modern home in which he now lives with his happy old mate. The old cabin now stands. Beaten by the winds and storms of many winters it has finally, like the owner, begun to give way. The doors

and casings were of walnut. When asked to give some of his experiences while a resident of this county, Mr. Stout said: "I was 15 years of age when we landed here. Wolves and rattlesnakes were as thick and plentiful as the birds are to-day. The greatest drawback to our comfort was the ague, some of the family being ill with it most of the time. St. Louis was the nearest market and we hauled our grain there. I helped break the sod with a wooden plow and a team of oxen. I only attended school four weeks after coming here, but had attended the district schools in Kentucky for some time before."

Uncle Philemon said the massive oaks that furnished an abundance of shade for the people yesterday were but saplings when he arrived in Sangamon county, and he had watched them grow until now many of them are seventy and eighty feet high.

Mr. Stout was married to Melissa Shoup in 1848. She died two years later and he was remarried July 29, 1870, to Emma Brassfield, a native of Menard.