

was established, in 1823,* comprising the counties of Mackinaw, Brown and Crawford, and an additional Judge appointed, in the person of James Duane Doty, a young lawyer of Detroit, then only about twenty-three years of age. He had come to Prairie du Chien in the fall of 1823, for the purpose of making it his residence, and remained until after the following May term of his court. Soon after arriving at Prairie du Chien, and finding our mail matter came up on keel-boats, or by military express sent occasionally for the special purpose to Clarksville, Missouri, a village about one hundred miles above St. Louis, and the then nearest post office, Judge Doty made application to the Post Office Department for the establishment of a post office at Prairie du Chien, which was granted, and he was appointed post-master, with the privilege of expending the proceeds of the office for carrying the mail. The receipts for postage, together with contributions from the principal inhabitants, and officers of the garrison, enabled him to send Jean B. Loyer, an old *voyageur*, one trip to Clarksville during the winter, for which he was paid thirty dollars. When Judge Doty arrived to enter upon his duties as Judge, he brought me a commission as clerk of his court for Crawford county, which I declined to accept.

As there were then no attorneys here, and Judge Doty learning that I had at one time studied law, and had relinquished the profession for mercantile pursuits, suggested that I had better resume the practice of law, and kindly tendered me the use of his

* It is stated in Mr. Baird's Address, that it was at the 1823-24 session of Congress, that the new judicial district was established. It was done at the previous session, when an act was passed to provide for the appointment of "an additional Judge for the Territory of Michigan," and jurisdiction was given to the courts held by him over the counties of Mackinaw, Brown and Crawford, which included all of Michigan not in the Peninsula, the now State of Wisconsin, and the country north of St. Croix River and east of the Mississippi to latitude 49—now under the government of Minnesota. In the winter or spring of 1823, James D. Doty was appointed by President Monroe, the additional Judge. At the session of 1823-24, Congress changed the tenure of office of the Judges of Michigan from "good behavior" to the term of four years, and Judge Doty's re-appointment was announced in *Niles's Register* of Feb. 28, 1824. The first term of Judge Doty's court was held at Mackinaw, in July, 1823.

Seeing a discrepancy in dates in regard to this matter between Mr. Baird and Judge Lockwood, Judge Doty was referred to, to set the matter right, who has furnished the facts in this note.

L. C. D.