

Meanwhile the population of Sparta had more than doubled that of Leon; business men came in. G. H. Ledyard opened the first store in 1853. Shortly after, S. D. Jackson opened a large establishment; and James Rathbun also. G. W. Milligan, the present popular physician, came in May, 1853. The same summer, the first school was taught in a board shanty, by Sarah Walrath; the average daily attendance was ten scholars. A sawmill was erected at Sparta and Leon about the same time, in the year 1854,—a Congregational Church was organized under the care of Rev. Mr. Avery, in 1856; about the same time, a Methodist Church was organized under the care of Rev. R. Langly. Each society has a large meeting house, a good Sunday school, and fine library. A Baptist Church was organized by Rev. L. Herrick and Elder Gustin; they have a good house for meeting, but no pastor.

Valley Lodge, No. 60, of Free Masons was organized in Sparta in 1854; the first officers were, M. McMillan, W. M., J. D. Damman, S. W., A. D. Soaper, J. W., R. H. McMahon, Treasurer, C. McClure, Secretary. Sparta Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was organized last May; the officers are, Morrison McMillan, H. P., A. H. Condit, R., Robert Langly, S., Thos. Dutcher, C. H., E. McBride, P. S. A Lodge of I. O. O. F. was organized last year; the officers are unknown to me.

The county of Monroe was organized in the year 1854. The first election was held in April of that year. The officers elected were, A. H. Blake, Judge, E. Walrath, Sheriff, F. W. Fish, Register of Deeds, J. H. Barker, Clerk of the Court, E. E. Shaw, Clerk of the Board, John Foster, Treasurer, A. B. Cornell, Dist. Attorney, and A. F. Childs, Surveyor. A post office was established in the year 1852, William Pettit, P. M. first six months; the postage amounted to \$7.84. The following statement, handed me by A. H. Condit, the Post Master, will show the increase up to this time: