

The Esarey Family Holds Centennial Reunion.

Held At Branchville September
1, 1910.

The Esarey Centennial Reunion, held at Branchville on September 1, 1910, was a noteworthy meeting of the older people of the northern part of Perry County as well as from the southern part of Crawford County. It was attended by about 1,500 people. The committee on arrangements consisted of John C. Esarey, James J. Esarey and Jonathan D. Esarey.

Never were so many Esareys and their relatives together at one time. Among those present were Messrs. John T. Esarey, of Richmond, Mo., and Jonathan Esarey, of Hardin, Mo., who had never met any of the Indiana Esareys. Their features, however, would easily have betrayed them as of Esarey origin. Besides the numerous Esareys and relatives there were also such of the older citizens as Uncle Samuel Aders, within a few days of his 80th birthday, who had walked from his home near Bristow. He was born, reared and now lives on the same section of land. He is as spry as a cricket. He knew well Jonathan Davis Esarey, the ancestor of the Branchville Esareys. He came often to Jesse C. Esarey's old horse-mill,

arriving before daybreak—early enough to waken up the family. Also present were Hon. Jesso Cunningham, of Celina, George Davis, Hon. Charles T. Myler, and Peter Curl, of West Fork, Thomas Burr and James Faulkner, of Doolittle's Mills, Edward McNaughten, of Marengo, George T. Jenkins and Jacob Sandridge and wife, of Sulphur, August Schrader, of Oriole, (who has never gotten fat since he fasted at Andersonville) Thomas F. Cady, of Leopold, Joseph and John Hubert, of Apalona, August Andrews, Maurice Rint, Jacob Faulkenborough and Louis Dupaquier, of St. Croix, Uncle Jim Faulkenborough, of Eckerty; also Grandma (Sallman) Esarey—in her 83d year, Phoebe McCutcheon, widow of John McCutcheon, Mary Goldman, widow of John Riley Goldman, of West Fork, Sarah Sprinkle, widow of William Sprinkle, Kate Walker, widow of Asbury W. Walker, Josephine Perrot, widow of Constant Perrot, of St. Croix, Minerva Bouham, widow of David Benham, of Mt. Carmel, Ill., and Catherine Farmer, and aunt of the late T. J. Gibson, of Evansville.

The exercises were opened with a song by the West Fork choir, James Smallwood, leader, after which an address was delivered by Logan M. Esarey, Dean and Professor of History in Winona College, on the subject of "The His-

tory of the Esareys". After explaining the hardships and trials of pioneer life, he said that the archives of Pennsylvania show that one member of the family, James Esarey, served with the provincial troops in King George's war, enlisting in 1745. He gave his birthplace as Euglaud. His home at that time—1745—was in Rudnor township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, a Welsh settlement near Philadelphia. Two Esareys served in the Pennsylvania militia during the Revolution. The descendants of them, a numerous family, still reside in and around Philadelphia. Members of this family about the time of the Revolution or soon thereafter emigrated to Kentucky, coming doubtless by the "Wilderness" route, through East Tennessee, as it had been opened by Boone. Some of them evidently settled in Tennessee, as there is a family in that region.

John Esarey, who was born July 5, 1744, is known to have lived in or near where Louisville now stands about the beginning of the 19th century, where he was for a time engaged in making salt. After spending about ten years there he came on west crossing the Ohio river at the mouth of Little Blue river, near where Alton now stands. He blazed a trail to Oil Creek and located near where the church now stands. He was not a settler and after remaining here about two years he moved on to Knox county, where he remained about two years, thence moving to Edgar county, Illinois, where he built a mill and remained many years, and probably died there in 1828. He was the father of a numerous progeny, the older ones marrying and remain-

ing in Kentucky. One of his daughters married Richard Willott and settled just across the river from Rono (now Magnet). Three of his children married and remained in Perry county. One of these, Jonathan Davis Esarey, married Sarah Shaver, a daughter of Jacob Shaver, a veteran of the Continental army. This Jonathan Davis Esarey was the ancestor of the Perry County Esareys. He was the father of twelve children. His son, Isiah Horton, was represented at the reunion by Mrs. Peter King, of Lasher, James Esarey, of Alton, and Daniel Esarey, of McLeansboro, Ill., and their families. Nancy Allen, wife of Benjamin Carmickle, was represented by Benjamin Carmickle, her son and family, another daughter, Sophronia, was represented by Thomas Milner, of Terra Haute. Hiram Esarey was represented by his daughters, Elvira Esarey and Nancy Allen Horton, and by the families of Jane Frakes and Mary Ann Frakes. Another son, Jesso Clark, was represented by Mary Ellen Ewing, John Clark Esarey, Sarah Miller, Jonathan Davis Esarey, Mark Hiram Esarey, Felix Ewing Esarey, Susannah Frakes, and William Darlington Esarey, and family of Samuel Walker Esarey. John Esarey, the youngest son of Jonathan Davis Esarey, was represented by his children, Francis, James, Jonathan, John Andrew, Henry, Alto, Minerva Borseburgers, Thomas Dodman, Porter Horton and their families, and the children of Malinda Dubaquier.

The youngest son, Jesso, of the original John Esarey, moved with his father to Illinois, and later moved to Missouri. He was the father of a large family, Elvira (married James H. Shackelford), Amanda (Daniel Rhodes), James, Justin, John, Thomas, Jonathan, Niles, and Saptor Patrick. Of these Saptor Patrick Esarey was represented by his son, Jonathan, of Hardin, Mo., and Judge Niles Esarey, by his son, John T., of Richmond, Mo. (Jesse Esarey's children, Amanda, Justin, John and Jonathan moved to California.

In the afternoon John W. Ewing, of New Albany, recently prosecuting attorney of the third judicial district, and son of John and Mary Ellen (Esarey) Ewing, spoke at length and very interestingly on lives and traits of the Esareys. George T. Jenkins, Charles F. Myler and Jesse Cunningham were called upon and they told of many personal reminiscences of the family of Jonathan Davis Esarey. These talks were highly appreciated by all present. Solomon H. Esarey, Assistant Reporter of the Supreme Court, spoke of the problems of the future, emphasizing the necessity of the conservation of the public health, and of its necessity of more popular means of direct voting on legislation by the people themselves.

It was agreed that the next Centennial Reunion would be held at Branchville 2010.

S. H. E.