

**HISTORY OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.  
FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES, DOWN TO THE  
PRESENT, 1876; WITH AN ACCURATE  
ACCOUNT OF THE SECESSION MOVEMENT,  
ORDINANCES, RAIDS,  
ETC., ALSO, A COMPLETE HISTORY OF ITS  
"BLOODY VENDETTA"**

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History of Williamson County, Illinois. From the Earliest Times, down to the Present, 1876; With an Accurate Account of the Secession Movement, Ordinances, Raids, Etc., Also, a Complete History of Its "Bloody Vendetta" by Milo Erwin

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**MILO ERWIN**

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From the Earliest Times, Down to the Present,

1876

With An Accurate Account of the Secession Movement,  
Ordinances, Raids, Etc., Also, a Complete History of  
Its "Bloody Vendetta," Including All Its Re-  
condite Causes, Results, Etc., Etc.,

—BY—

M I L O E R W I N

Attorney at Law

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"Mine be the friend, less frequent in his prayers,  
Who makes no bustle with his soul's affairs,  
Whose wit can brighten up a wintry day,  
And chase the splenetic dull hours away."

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MARION, ILLINOIS

1876

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

F. B. I.  
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THE HERRIN NEWS  
HERRIN, ILL.

TO THE  
LIBRARY

### BY WAY OF EXPLANATION.

"Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain always a child; for what were the life of man did we not combine present events with the recollections of past ages?" This, said Cicero many ages ago. No community is without a history, and, few, it will be agreed by those of you fortunate enough to peruse the following pages, have to offer such an interesting history as this one written now nearly forty years ago of Williamson county. Its author, Milo Erwin, was, in his time, one of the county's most eminent lawyers. Many stories are told about the excitement the publication of this book caused. It is now republished for the first time, and with no other intention whatsoever than to enlighten the present generation of the turbulent period through which this community has passed. In behalf of the well known families connected with the terrible vendetta which is here related it should be said that they are now among the best families in the community and some of the persons named are counted at present, good citizens who have lived down all odium that once attached to their names. The fact that there has in recent years been a great demand for copies of this rare work of which now

probably less than half a dozen copies are in existence has led us to republish it. Without claiming any credit whatever except that of preserving in a new edition this valuable portion of our county's interesting history, we have here reproduced the book practically word for word just as its author wrote it, even following as far as practical the general make up and style of typography. It is a piece of writing well done and as Charles Dickens would say, "our unhallowed hands shall not disturb it."

HAL W. TROVILLION,

EDITOR OF THE NEWS,

December 1st, 1914.

Herrin, Illinois.



TO  
WILLIAM WALLACE CLEMENS  
MY FRIEND,  
BECAUSE THE FRIEND OF MY COUNTRY  
THIS VOLUME  
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED,  
AS A SLIGHT MEMENTO OF THE EVER-INCREASING  
REGARD I HAVE FOR HIS PUBLIC SPIRIT,  
PRIVATE VIRTUES, AND SOLID  
LEGAL ATTAINMENTS

THE AUTHOR.



## Prefatory Address to the Young Men of Williamson County.

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### GENTLEMEN:

I have now written you a history of your own county, to show you the advantages of civilization, and to give you contentment. It is a "home-spun" book written by a "home-spun" author.

The state of society which I have depicted is fast fading from the memory of men, and will soon live only in history. You come upon the scenes of life at an eventful and glorious age of the world, when the opportunities for individual progress are so hopeful. We are the citizens of a common country, and share an undivided interest in her weal or woe; and it may be well for us to look back to the past, on the bright side of misfortune; but we must trust to the future, "Though gloomy and cheerless,

Prowls the dark past like a ghost at our back."

We have lived in the shadow of the gray hairs of our fathers. They have battled long and well to give us a country to live in, and we are the rich inheritors of all the glorious results of their self-denial and patriotic devotion. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the high destiny for which they offered themselves a sacrifice to common dangers