Location of Public Building.

the county line. On the 12th of February, 1808, the whole of No. 9 (Pinckney) was included in Lewis County. On the 5th of April, 1810, the line east of the river, beginning as before at the east corner of Champion, ran thence to S. W. corner of a lot in 11th W. and 21st N. ranges, subdivisions of No. 5; thence E. between 20 and 21, northern ranges, to S. W. corner of lot in 10 W., 21 N. range; thence N. between 10 and 11, to S. line of lot No. 4; thence E. to 808-9; thence along 808-9, to lot 857; thence to S. E. corner of 857 and 809, to N. E. corner of 851; then W. on line of lots 851 and 850, to S. W. corner of 850; thence N. E. along line of lots to St. Lawrence County. On the 2d of April 1813, the present line between the two counties was established, by which this county received considerable accessions from Lewis in the town of Wilna. By an act of March 17, 1815, the several islands within the limits of this state, in the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, lying in front of this county, were attached to it. By several acts the sovereignty of small tracts on Stony Point, Horse Island, Galloo Island, Tibbet’s Point, and Carlton Island, has been ceded to the United States, for the purpose of erecting light houses, the state retaining concurrent civil and criminal jurisdiction therein.

The governor, and council of appointment, accordingly designated Matthew Dorr, David Rodgers, and John Van Bentheusen, commissioners to locate the site of the court house and jail; and a section in an act, passed April 7, 1806, provided that their expenses should be audited by the comptroller, and paid by tax upon the counties. The portion paid by this county was $205. How faithfully their trust was executed, it may not be our duty to enquire; but in Lewis county, they were openly charged with having come predetermined in their choice, and an affidavit was procured from one who had overheard their conversation, in which this fact was distinctly indicated. As matters have since settled down, their decision here has doubtless been productive of the greatest benefit to the county, although the precise locality has always been somewhat inconvenient on account of its distance from the business part of the village. This question of location was not settled without the most active efforts being made by Brownville to secure the site; but the balance of settlement was then south of Black River, and the level lands in the north part of the county were represented to the commissioners as swampy and incapable of settlement. Jacob Brown, finding it impossible to secure this advantage to his place, next endeavored to retain it, at least, north of Black River, and offered an eligible site in the present town of Pamela; but in this he also failed. The influence of Henry Coffeen is said to have been