

Township Organizations.—The original organization remained, with regular change of officers, until 1850, when by virtue of an act of the legislature, approved by the chief executive of the common-wealth February 12, 1849, providing for the organization of counties and townships when a majority of the legal voters of a county at any general election should so determine, by vesture of power in three commissioners, organized and established boundary lines by which the county of Lee was divided into ten civil townships.

Paw Paw Township, embracing the three eastern political townships, Nos. 37, 38, and 39 N., R. 2 E., of third meridian.

Brooklyn Township, embracing the three political townships east of the third principal meridian, Nos. 37, 38, and 39 N., R. 1 E., of third principal meridian.

Hanno Township embraced No. 19 N., R. 11 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

Lee Center Township, embracing No. 20 N., R. 11 E., of the fourth meridian.

Bradford Township, embracing No. 21 N., R. 11 E., and the S. 1/2 of No. 22 N., R. 11 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

Hamilton Township, embracing No. 19 N., R. 10, 9, S E., of the fourth principal meridian, and No. 20 N., R. 8 E., and the S. 1/2 of No. 20 N., R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

Amboy Township, embracing No. 20 N., R. 10 E., and the N. 1/2 of No. 20 N., R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

Tremont Township, embracing No. 21 N., R. 10 E., and the S. part of No. 22 N., R. 10 E., of the fourth principal meridian, in Lee county.

Dixon Township, embracing No. 21 N., R. 9 E., and that part of No. 22 N., R. 9 E., of the principal meridian, which is situated and lying in Lee county.

Palmyra Township, embracing that part of No. 22 N., R. 8 E., that is in Lee county; also that part of No. 21 N., R. 8 E., that is S. of Rock river.

Palmyra Township, embracing that part of No. 22 N., R. 8 E., that is in Lee county; also that part of No. 21 N., R. 8 E., that is N. of Rock river.

Prior to July 2 of the same year the name Wyoming was substituted for Paw Paw, and China was substituted for Tremont.

During 1855 the following townships were organized and added to the original list, making in all thirteen townships, namely, May, Willow Creek, and Marion. In 1857 Hanno was discontinued, being superseded by Sublette. The same year Harmon was organized, which was followed in 1859 by the creation of a new township called

Reynolds, after an early settler of that township. One township was added in 1860, known as Nelson, and in 1861 the board of supervisors created three new civil townships, Alto, Ogle, and township 38, political survey, which received in 1862 the name of Viola. Since that date Ogle has been eliminated from the list and two added, Ash-ton and South Dixon.

In February, 1871, the town of China was divided, and a new township called Nachusa was created out of the territory composing the W. 1/2 of T. 21, R. 10; and also extending north on the same line through T. 22, R. 10 E., of the fourth principal meridian to the Ogle county line, being the W. 1/2 of the

present township of China.

In February, 1872, the town of Dixon was divided and a portion thereof was added to the town of Nachusa, commencing at or near the center of Rock river, at or near the center of Sec. 10, T. 22, R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian, at the point where the line dividing the E. 1/2 and the W. 1/2 of said Sec. 10 strikes the center of said Rock river; thence south on the half section line to the center of Sec. 34; thence east to the center of Sec. 35 in the town and range aforesaid; thence south to the center of Sec. 2, T. 21, R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian; thence west 80 rods; thence south to the north line of South Dixon. Effort has been made to have a portion of Nachusa thrown back to Dixon township, but the committee to whom it was referred reported adversely and asked to be released from any further consideration of the matter. This leaves the county of Lee, at this writing, with twenty-two civil townships, fifteen of which are divided according to the political survey, while seven in the N.W. 1/4 of the county were created irrespective of the political townships.

Source: History of Lee County, H.H. Hill & Co., 1881, pages 70-71

Township to Change Name China Changes to Franklin Grove April 2

By Diane Markel
Staff Writer

DIXON — China Township will become Franklin Grove Township as of April 2.

Tuesday the Lee County Board voted 19 to 8 in favor of the change. Under state statute, county boards may change township names.

In the October of last year, Ivan Hullah of Franklin Grove brought the possibility of a name change to the attention of the Lee County Executive Committee. He had petitions for the name change with more than 550 signatures. As of July 15, there were 875 voters in the township.

In October Lee County State's Attorney Linda Giesen told the committee the name change was possible if the majority of registered voters in the township were in favor of the change, and if the name is not being used in the state of Illinois. Giesen verified the name Franklin Grove was not being used for another township in the state.

In November the question went before the Lee County Board. Then Chairman Jim Jones, District 2, Ashton, asked that a public meeting be conducted on the issue.

Hullah was back before the Lee County Board on Tuesday, and so was China Township Supervisor William Brierton, who has gone on record as being opposed to the name change.

Hullah told the county board members the change was needed for name recognition.

"We think it is progress," he said.

There is no cost for the change; he said. He went to Ogle County to inquire about the cost for Nachusa and Oregon townships when they merged in 1993, and was told there was no cost. The associate director of township officials also was contacted and said there was no cost.

County board member Beverly Power, District 2, Franklin Grove, said the estimated cost to change signage and letterheads for the township is \$1,000. She said she thinks that is a bargain.

Brierton said the township would like to see the question returned to the township and put on the ballot.

However, Lee County Board Chairman Jim Seeberg, District 2, Ashton, said that if the question were on the ballot it would be advisory, not binding. It also would cost the county money to put the question on the ballot.

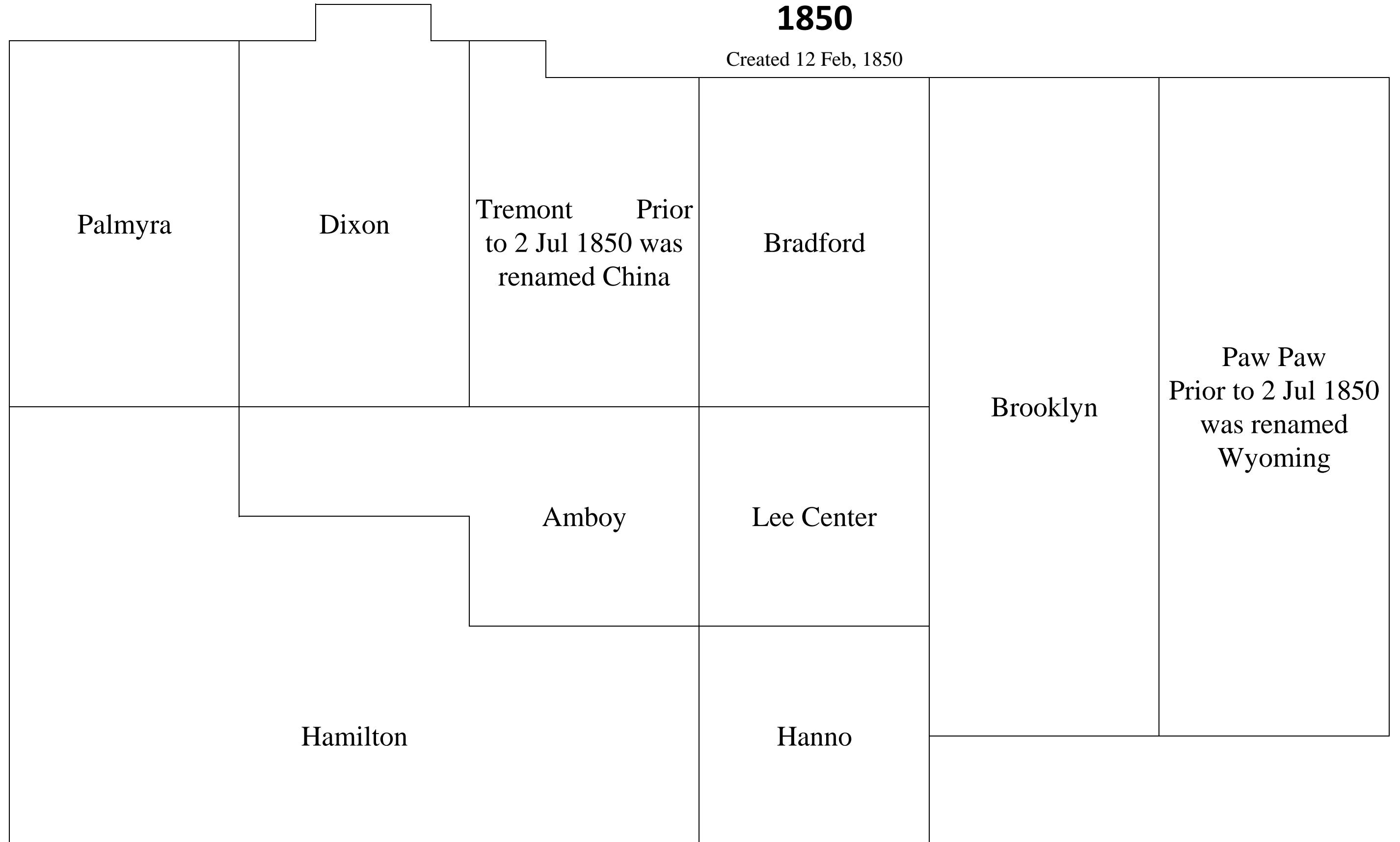
County board member John Nicholson, District 2, Franklin Grove, said most townships are identified, by the name of a town of consequence in the area. He said he researched the name China, and the suggestion came from an early settler. He said he would like to see the name changed to Franklin Grove, and the cost is minimal.

Brierton said he did not have a public meeting on the question in December because he thought people would be too busy to come. After some further discussion, Power called the question. After the vote, Hullah thanked the board.

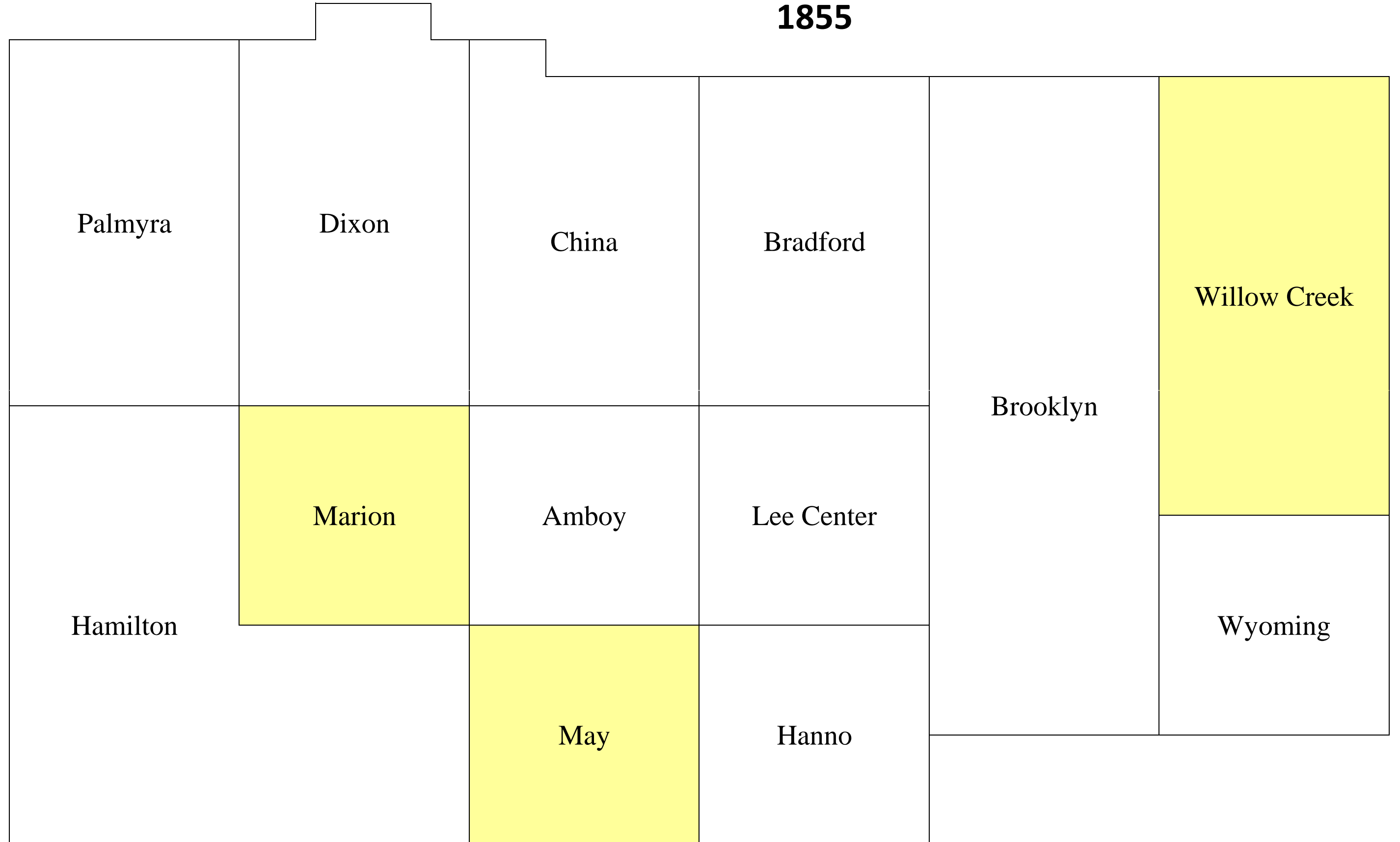
Source: Dixon Telegraph, 23 Jan 2003, A1/2

1850

Created 12 Feb, 1850



1855



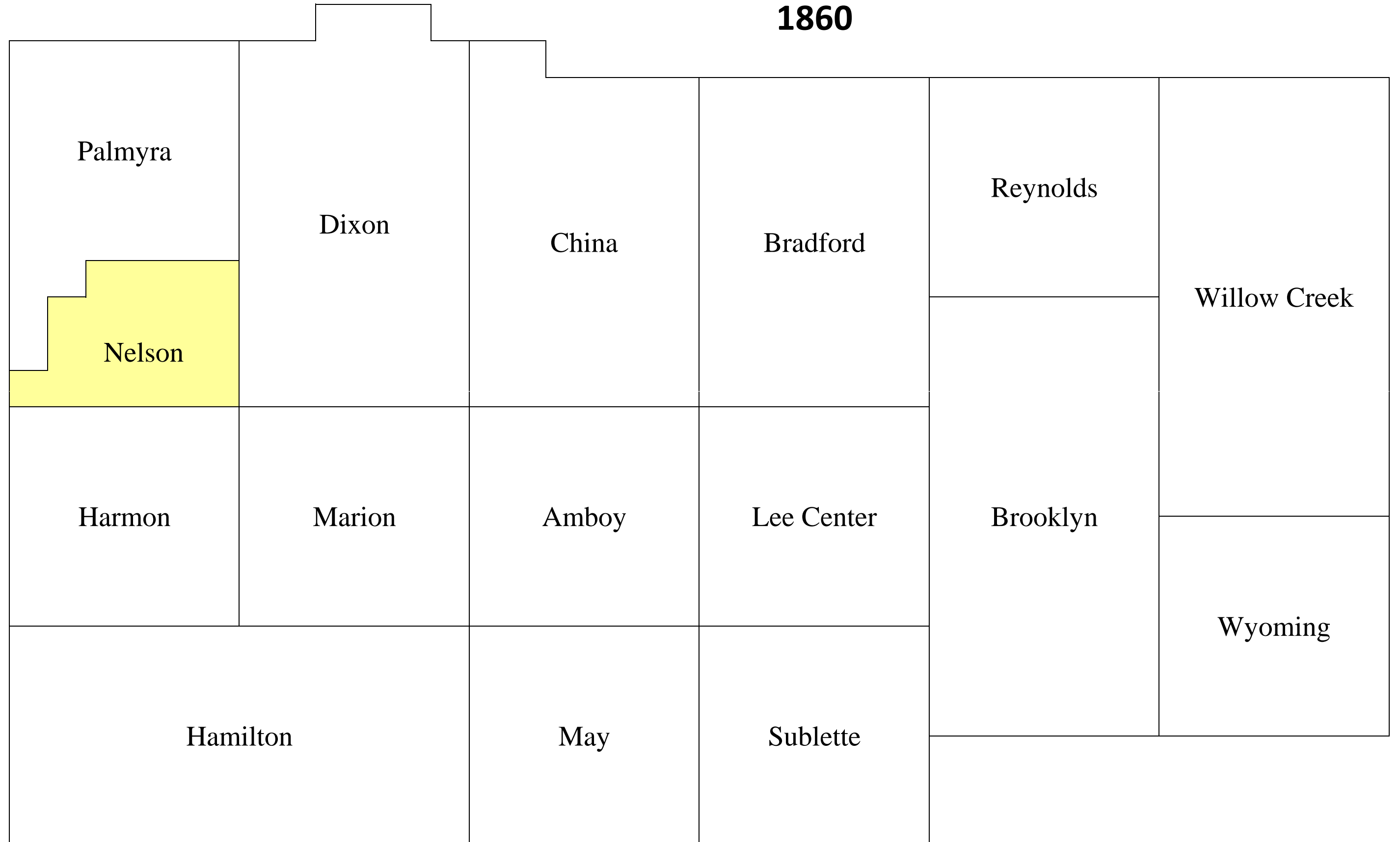
1857

Palmyra	Dixon	China	Bradford	Brooklyn	Willow Creek
Harmon	Marion	Amboy	Lee Center		Wyoming
Hamilton		May	Sublette		

1859

Palmyra	Dixon	China	Bradford	Reynolds	Willow Creek
Harmon	Marion	Amboy	Lee Center	Brooklyn	Wyoming
Hamilton		May	Sublette		

1860



1860

Palmyra	Dixon	China	Ogle	Reynolds	Alto
Nelson			Bradford	Viola	Willow Creek
Harmon	Marion	Amboy	Lee Center		
Hamilton		May	Sublette	Brooklyn	Wyoming

1863

Palmyra	Dixon	China	Ogle	Reynolds	Alto
Nelson			Bradford		
Harmon	Marion	Amboy	Lee Center	Viola	Willow Creek
Hamilton		May	Sublette	Brooklyn	Wyoming

1872

Palmyra	Dixon	Nachusa	China	Ashton	Reynolds	Alto
Nelson	South Dixon			Bradford		
Harmon	Marion	Amboy	Lee Center	Viola	Willow Creek	
Hamilton	East Grove	May	Sublette	Brooklyn	Wyoming	

1880

Palmyra	Dixon	Nachusa	China	Ashton	Reynolds	Alto
Nelson	South Dixon			Bradford		
Harmon	Marion	Amboy	Lee Center	Viola	Willow Creek	
Hamilton	East Grove	May	Sublette	Brooklyn	Wyoming	

2003

Palmyra	Dixon	Nachusa	Franklin Grove 2 April 2003	Ashton	Reynolds	Alto
Nelson	South Dixon			Bradford		
Harmon	Marion	Amboy	Lee Center	Viola	Willow Creek	
Hamilton	East Grove	May	Sublette	Brooklyn	Wyoming	