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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY





# DEEP ARE THE ROOTS

## They Seeded The Soil . . .

Our real historical monuments are the fine old homes and buildings that tell the history of our people. They are personal appealing records of the way people lived when our nation was young.

The collection that follows; old homes, centennial farms and landmarks, is an attempt to preserve the cherished memories and fragments of history they have recorded in the land we call home; Marshall-Putnam County.

Compiled and Edited by the Heritage Committee  
Marshall County Bicentennial Commission  
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## PREFACE

An aura of mystery, as well as of history, clings to the stones and timbers of every old house. A worn threshold stirs wonders and imaginings; what people passed here? One is inclined to believe we know something of the first inhabitants, through family connections, through a manner of living and relics of the times; a survey of the needs of the pioneers and the bounty which sufficed them. We see old pictures; perhaps cherish a scrap of old satin or lace; or gingham or calico; and we fit the wearers into reconstructed garments and suffice ourselves with the figments of imagination.

The once busy hands have long, long since been absolved from labor. But always some of their accomplishments endure. Things like timber and brick and bubbly glass; the enduring beauty of walnut and pine and oak and handmade brick; the clasp of wooden pegs and wrought iron nails; the style of architecture; an enduring bush of old-fashioned roses or a lilac tree. All things useful and used and enjoyed, beautiful in memory.

All these are cherished heirlooms or treasured memories. And among them, always a well-worn Bible. For the pioneers, bound on a long journey into an unexplored land, indulged themselves with companionship of a true friend, a leader, a sustainer; none other than God's holy Book.

This Bicentennial publication, a collection of history as it is available, is a non-profit venture based on interest in the homes of the founding fathers of Marshall and Putnam Counties. The compilation is both a salute to the first settlers and their successors who preserved their heritage, and an endeavor to instill appreciation of the heritage bestowed.

Many persons have been contacted for information concerning the Counties' old homes, their builders and the builders' descendants. Many responses have been received, indicating a general interest in the subject and a willingness to share their knowledge of family treasures.

The compiler of this book assumes no responsibility concerning the authenticity of material in this book. However, she is persuaded that the facts are as stated and that all information has been offered in good faith. She believes that a general understanding of the problems and achievements of the early settlers, as exemplified by structural examples of their homes will provide clues to the foundations on which these Counties were built.

Maud Uschold.

# PROLOGUE

Clouds smoked through the sky, thunder rolled and rain drummed on the taut canvass of the Conestogas; wind whipped riders like reeds in the saddle; streams rose hungrily to overturn and swallow the captive wagons and unseat the riders. But they came on, and on, moving ever westward. For always the sun shone after the storm and the buffeted travelers threaded their way toward the promised land. Always westward; west by north, west by south, but always toward the setting sun. Toward the promised land.

Vast verdant prairies, rolling plains, misty valleys and wooded hills where great trees laid trembling shadows on streams that sparkled in the sun; a land where fertile earth was to be had almost for the taking. Springs of cool water were abundant in the land and there was no thirst there, neither among men or beasts.

Heavy wheels creaked slowly behind straining, sweaty horses and oxen. Morning passed to noon and noon to night, and then came rest and food and sleep and talk of the day's progress and prayer for the coming day. Campfires glowed and dulled and embers died; and save for a wolf's lonely howl, and night birds crying under the stars, there was no thirst there, neither among men or beasts and weary settlers' snores.

O promised land, they came. In slender threads of motion they stitched their way across the land. Above them flocks of wildfowl clouded the sun, and startled creatures fled away. The travelers were not hungry for food was there on earth and in the sky.

The Conestogas, laden with all their worldly goods, swayed heavily as the settlers trudged toward the westering sun. Beset by fears and hopes and wonderment, these people set their strength against this alien but beautiful land. In a chosen place they would create a new life for themselves and for posterity. They would prevail against tempest and flood and ice and heat; against hardships, against the tough strength of horse-high buffalo grass that tore apart their puny plows; against the scourge of prairie fires that proved how wise these people were to build their homes near streams at the edge of the prairie sea of grass.

Only the very weak considered returning to their former homes. And few there were who brought no sturdy staff on which to lean; a support to them in the long watches of the night, a refuge in storm, a haven in trouble. It was the armor of the Lord, dimly read beside a hearthfire's glow in cabins redolent with timber fragrance; fresh cut walnut, oak and ash. It was a sturdy staff, available and reliable, the Holy Bible.

From the time they arrived the settlers held gatherings of neighbors miles apart, and The Book was opened reverently and the elders read the Word. When the prairie miles became dotted with homes, certain cabins were designated as places for worship. Later still, the circuit riders made their rounds from settlement to settlement, expounding the Gospel. Then the sun shown more brightly, tasks seemed lighter, as burdens were submitted to the strength of the Lord. The Good Book was not lightly laid aside. It remained as a guiding star to a people who had found their destiny.



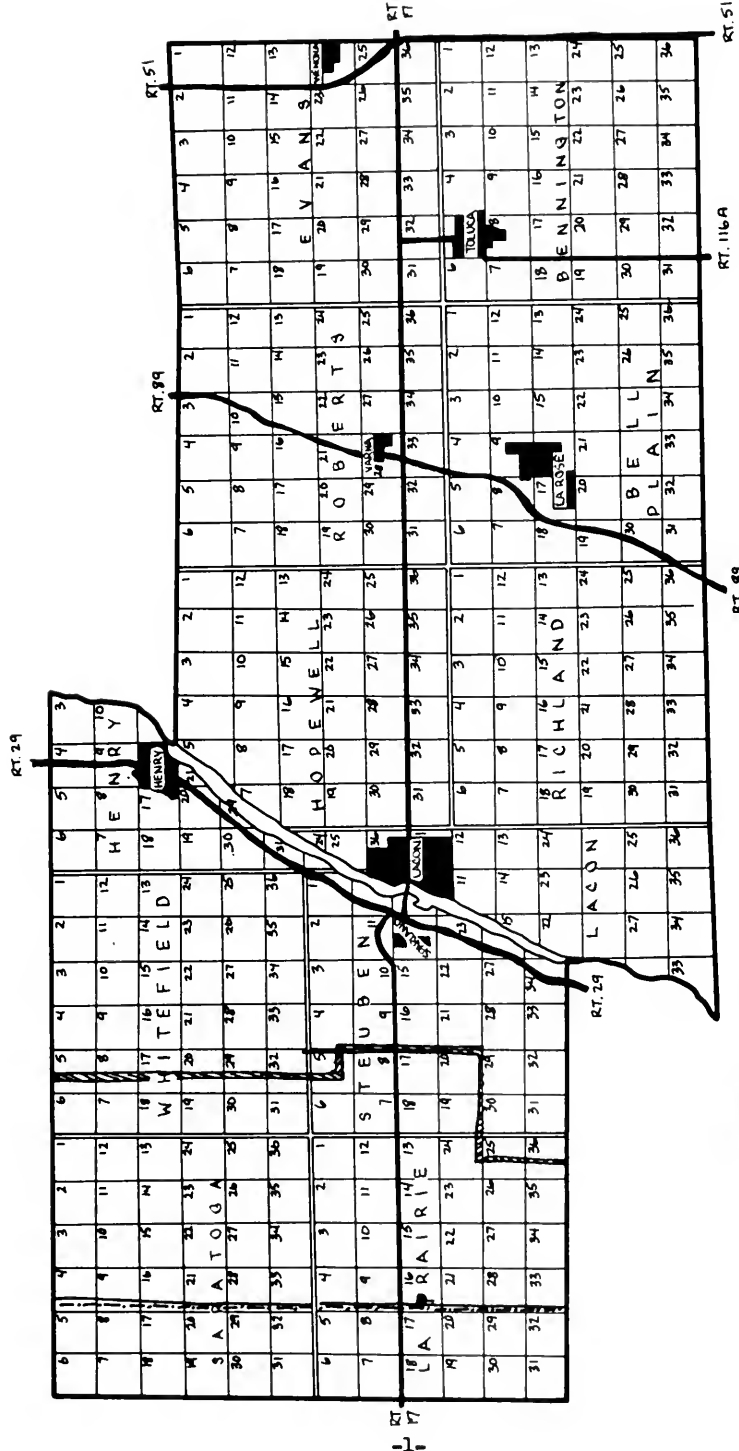
Harvests were small the first year. There was land to be tamed; cleared and broken to the plow. But the first small yields gave promise to bounty to come. It was land of milk and honey, tended by unceasing labor; sweetness often spread on bitter bread. The bread of toil, to which the settlers were accustomed; the bread of loneliness, even of homesickness for remembered homes now far away, renounced forever.

Between seedtime and harvest there was time to build, first rude cabins of logs and then, as time passed and opportunity offered, or was made, the settlers turned to better things, creating homes which served to supply comfort and convenience. Many of those houses remain to this day, in use by generations unborn when the foundations were laid. It is with such houses that this book is concerned. A surprising number of homes survived the years and, modified to need, still serve descendants of the pioneers.

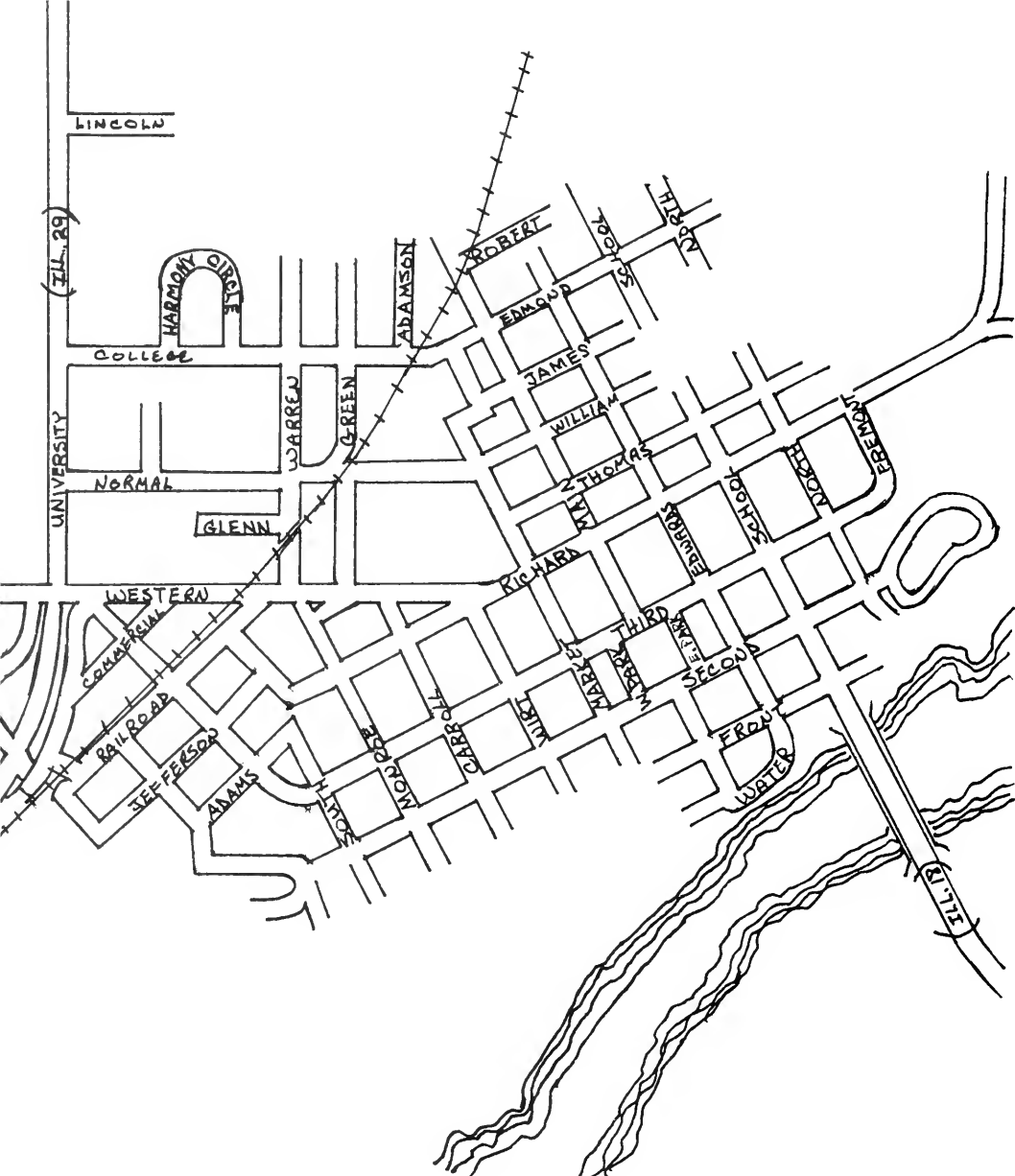
Maud Uschold.

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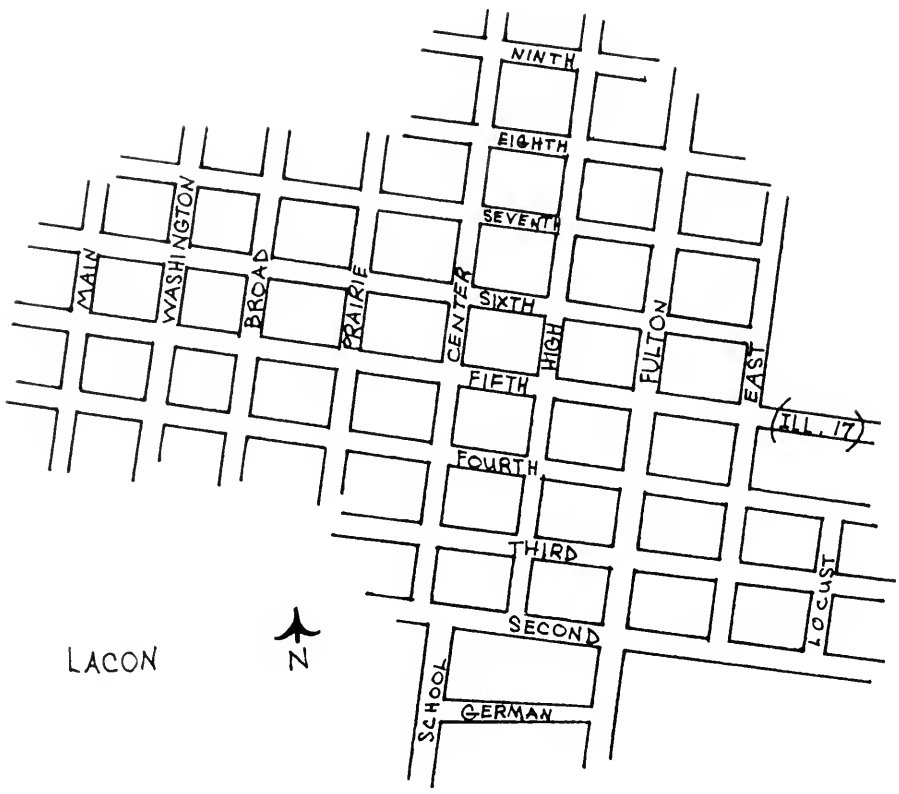


..... GALENA TRAIL  
 (OLD 1825 KELLIGS TRAIL)  
 ===== GALIANA CONC. ROAD - 1825

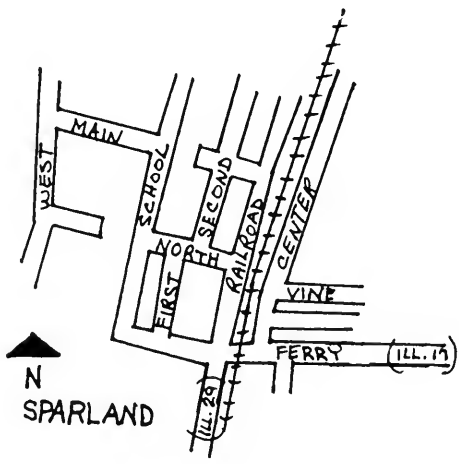


HENRY

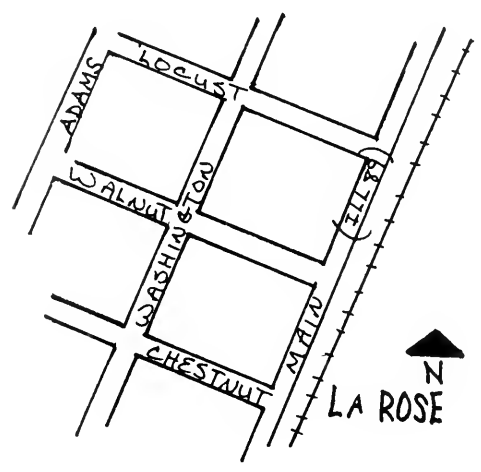
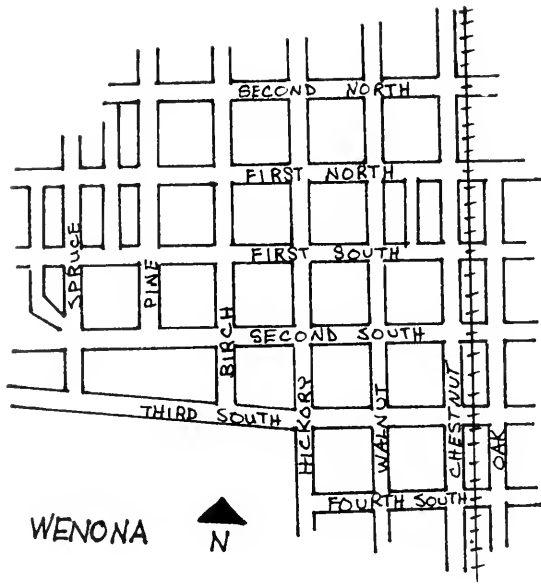




LACON



N SPARLAND



## PATTONSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Early records of the Pattonburg Christian Church are brief and often sketchy. The first families to settle around Pattonburg built their cabins near timber and it is believed that Crow Creek influenced their decision to build here. The pioneer families who settled in Marshall County traveled great distances over rough terrain to meet together to worship the Lord. They met in homes and sometimes in barns. They tried to attend services once a month at a Church located in Richland Township, near the present

home of Wayne Buck. The distance, however, was great and it was impossible for many to attend in winter months; so, in 1845, a group of fifteen persons met for the purpose of organizing a separate congregation nearer to their homes. The Church was organized May 10, 1845 at the headwaters of the Crow Creek. Records show members of the following families as charter members: Bennington, Polk, Taylor, Vanderwoort, Martin, Hester, and Hattan. The site at Pattonburg was selected as the place to build, and a fine brick building was built in 1856. This was called, "Liberty Church of Christ." This building burned, however, a few years later. The present Church building was erected in 1865. Records show that Reverend James Robeson was the first minister.

This building is a wooden structure that stands tall and stately, a short distance from the banks of Crow Creek. For many years baptisms were held in the creek; records show that ice was broken on numerous occasions so that this event might take place. A baptistry was later installed.

Throughout the years there has been extensive remodeling and redecorating, always in a continuing effort to improve and beautify the building that has been a hub of this quiet little community in Bell Plain Township. This Church is just as dear to us living today as it was to those who lived here over a century ago.

Among those who ministered to the Pattonburg congregation, was Sam Crabtree who preached during the Depression years, which were lean years for farmers of this agricultural community. Brother Sam offered encouragement to those of this small congregation and helped keep the Church active and growing at a time when it easily could have closed its doors.

The late Leon Appel ministered to this congregation during the late 1940's. He later was President of Lincoln Christian College. He was well-known throughout the Midwest for both his public speaking and preaching.

Milford Arndt, of Fisher, Illinois is minister at the present time, having served this congregation faithfully since 1953.

The Civil War still was five years in the future when Marshall County's unique "eight-sided house" was built. The ten-room, two-story house with full basement was built in 1856 by John Ramsey, a settler from Maryland, and great-grandfather of Mrs. Harry Tweddale, former owner of the house and its surrounding 140 acres located in Section 14, Richland Township.

The octagonal floor plan of the venerable farmhouse still is attracting visitors to the farm, about six miles north of Washburn. Choice of the unusual shape was without precedent so far as can be determined. Nor was there any particular functional reason for settling upon the odd shape. Ramsey apparently multiplied his building problems when he chose the unorthodox plan, because most of his materials had to be hauled from Chicago, over uncertain roads on wagons drawn by horses and oxen. A simpler plan probably would have been more economical in both construction time and materials.

The original foundation was of brick, which may have been made locally. It was replaced by concrete block in 1946 when the house was given a thorough overhauling and remodeling. Heavy support beams under the house are the old hand-hewn logs, probably hacked from huge butternut trees growing at or near the site. They appear as sound today as though installed a year ago.

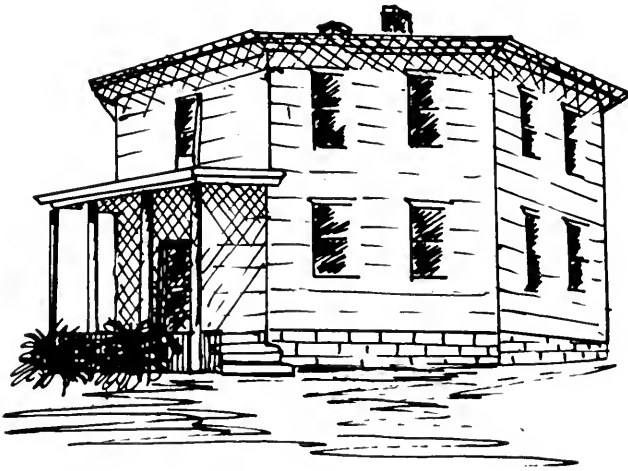
George Spangler, as tenant on the Tweddale farm lived there forty-seven years until his death in 1972, and his father, Ray Spangler, operated the farm fifty years before him. Since George Spangler's death, the farm has been purchased by his wife, Reinou, and his son, Douglas Spangler operates it.

When the Spanglers renovated the house shortly after their marriage, they covered it with asbestos shingles, replacing the original wood siding, installed a stocker-fed air furnace, and put a concrete floor in the basement. An outside stairway was added when the home temporarily was used as a two-family dwelling. The stairway and a small balcony became rickety, and the Spanglers decided to remove them.



A central circular stairway runs from basement to second floor and would be the only emergency exit. The rooms on both floors are laid out around the spiralling stairway, each of the eight sides of the structure lopping off a large corner of each room. All clothes closets in the house have been carpeted with large triangular pieces salvaged from the irregularly shaped floors. Furniture settings are no particular problem, for the rooms are large enough to permit a wide variety of arrangements. And the odd-shaped floor plans present a challenge to imagination and ingenuity not found in ordinary houses.

There has been much speculation over a small cupola erected atop the house sometime since its original building. Many have thought it was a lookout tower where anxious settlers may have watched for marauding bands of Indians. There is no record that any ever were sighted.



## STONIER BARN

Four generations have dwelt on the farm, section 35 and 36, in Bell Plain Township, three-fourths mile south of Pattonsburg community. Daryle and Betty Stonier, R. R. 1, Minonk, report that their great-grandfather, Joseph Stonier acquired the property about 1860. It was then owned by grandfather Charles Stonier, later by father, Floyd Stonier and now by them.

Joseph Stonier emigrated to the United States when he was twelve years old and from that time, imbued with the pioneer spirit, he was "on his own." He built up a farmstead through the years of which the barn, well over 100 years old, is still standing. Wood for the barn was hewed from trees on the farm. The original structure was put together with pins and pegs and had not a nail in it. Yet it stands straight and sturdy to this day. It was sheathed in metal some time ago to preserve the wood and is still used.

Another day saw other uses for the barn. Churches were not built until the matter of survival was secure. In the meantime people found common meeting places, like this old bank barn in the Pattonsburg community, across the road from the present home dwelling of the Stoniers.

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LAROSE

In 1865 when the boys came home from the Civil War, plans were being made by a group of German families in LaRose for their future religious life and education. Most were immigrants come to America. With few funds but great determination and love of God, they gathered in homes and schools for non-denominational services. By 1867, preaching was offered at Bennington Grove and near LaRose.

A congregation was organized in 1868. Among charter members were Henry Zilm, C. K. Schumacher, Adolph Schumacher, Casper Pries, William Schumacher, Henry Wink, Joseph Wink, John Sommerfield, Fred Zilm, and Daniel Koch. Today, the third, fourth and even fifth generations worship here. On Pentecost 1869, they decided to build a place to worship. A small church, 24 feet by 38 feet was built and dedicated in 1872. Teacher Kaepfel provided music on the little cottage organ he brought with him. This was the first church in LaRose and served the congregation for 26 years. In 1871, a new congregation was formed in Varna, but the same pastor served both churches until 1919.



With a church for worship and a pastor to serve their congregation, the members turned their energies to founding a school. In 1877 a building was erected. The pastor was also the schoolmaster. Land was purchased for a cemetery south of LaRose and the first organ installed in 1883. Before this time three men had been appointed at regular intervals to lead the singing at the services.

Always with an eye for expansion an entire block had been purchased with a view of larger buildings. The little church was sold and moved from its location and the present one was built, 30 feet by 40 feet with a tower, 10 feet by 10 feet, and a chancel and vestry 9 feet by 24 feet. A 1,400 pound bell was hung and still peals its invitation. The cost of the church was \$3,000.00; it was dedicated November 22, 1898. Clean, simple exterior lines, a traditional interior and a beautiful altar adorned with a statue of Christ, a gift from Pastor Behrens, make it even today a very beautiful building. No additions have ever been made to the original building.

The Depression years were a struggle to keep alive. Pastor Glock from neighboring St. John's was asked to also serve LaRose. He accepted and problems were solved and slowly the congregation began to prosper again. The parsonage

and all the lots except two were sold to Ed Gibbs in 1934 for \$2,500.00. In 1936, on one of the two lots, a new parish hall replaced the old schoolhouse. Ralph Kimpling was the main contractor and the men of the congregation helped. As usual the Ladies Aid was to furnish interior decorations. The First Trinity Hall echoed many good times until it too became too small.

In 1918 many men left to serve their country. The bronze cross on the altar is a memorial to all those who served; the baptismal font is in memory of one who did not return and the books of altar and lectern are in memory of another. In 1949, a two manual Wicks organ was installed. Also a series of remodeling jobs were done in the interior. In 1958, a new church hall was dedicated. While Trinity Lutheran has remained small we are grateful God has granted her loyal and faithful members to carry on His work.

Historic LaRose  
by Edith Theobald.



"Windwood," the home of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Ball, of Wenona, acquired its name from the constant sound of the wind in the many trees surrounding the stately old home at 310 West Elm. Standing on a gentle rise, far back from the street, and enclosed by formal hedge and many varieties of trees it is easy to comprehend how the slightest breeze is intensified, setting branches in perpetual motion.

Built in 1863 by Nathaniel Moore, a State Representative from this district, the house is a tribute to the days when handsome walnut and oak mill work, hand cut parquet floors and soaring ceilings were within the grasp of a local landowner and merchant, who had recently been elected to the state House of Representatives.

The homestead was purchased in the late 1880's by Charles A. Burgess (Mr. Ball's maternal grandfather), the younger of two English brothers who were engaged in the business of importing and breeding draft horses. The estate and barns then in existence were used as a breeding farm by Burgess Brothers, Inc. for many years.

To this home Charles brought his bride, Kate, daughter of the local physician and surgeon, Dr. Kendall E. Rich. Here their daughters, Lucy and Amy, were born and grew to young womanhood.

At the demise of Kate in 1939, Lucy, with her husband, Roscoe L. Ball and their children came to live at "Windwood." Their second son, George Charles, had resided with his grandmother, Kate, since the death of his grandfather Burgess in 1931.

Today, George and Rita Ball and son, Kevin, are the third and fourth generations of the family to call "Windwood" home.

Basically the house has changed very little through the years. The major structural changes being the enclosing of the front porch and the moving of an open stairway from the center of the house to the west end, to make possible more efficient heating when a furnace was installed at the turn of the century.

The stained glass windows are unusually beautiful as the colors are the seldom seen shades of rose, apple green, peacock and rich amber. The ceilings are ornate, yet graceful in effect with delicate relief festoons and garlands.

In the basement a brick "cooking fireplace" with crane and cast iron utensils was uncovered by Roscoe Ball in the early 1940's while making repairs to a scaling wall.

The dining room boasts a fireplace and suspended over a massive English oak table is a heavy brass light fixture with Quezal art glass shades. Much of the furniture is of the early Victorian era and of great sentimental value, having been passed from one generation to the next. The bedrooms are a veritable treasure-trove of family history since many of the appointments came from the Ball family homestead in Toluca which pre-dated "Windwood." The upstairs bath, reputed to be the first in Wenona, still has the clawfoot tub and large pedestaled lavatory.

Lest you acquire the impression that the house is a musty museum, let us hasten to say, that quite the reverse is true. The Ball's do indeed have a healthy respect for their home and the many treasures therein, but, the spacious rooms are alive with color and sunlight.

Mrs. Rita Ball.

This home is located in Wenona, Illinois at 218 North Hickory Street.

On December 28, 1865, William Stephenson purchased the lot from the railroad. It was sold to Jonathan Page in 1866 at which time the present structure was built.

Mr. George Dickey purchased the property from Adelia Ludhem in October of 1917. Payments were \$2.50 per month with \$2.62 interest charges...a far cry from the amounts we deal in 1976!

The Alvin Kerns Dickey family are the present occupants and owners.



FT. DARNELL  
1832  
BLACK HAWK WAR  
600 FT. S.E. STOOD  
LOG STOCKADE FOR PROTECTION OF  
PIONEERS  
ERECTED BY DARNELL AND JUDD  
DESCENDANTS  
1951

On June 21, 1951, this Wisconsin mahogany granite marker was dedicated by the people in Evans Township. The location chosen was the Cumberland Cemetery.

In a sealed box at the base of the marker is a History of the Fort, a copy of the June 21, 1951 issue of the Wenona Index, names of donors, a 1903 Indian head penny (70 years after the Fort was vacated), an Indian arrowhead found on Sandy Creek in 1933 and several commemorative stamps.

The actual Fort into which the pioneers brought their families and livestock for protection from a possible Indian attack was located on the Wilbur Mann farm. The Cumberland Cemetery was chosen for the commemorative marker because of its convenient location.

The well and one small brick building of the original Fort are still standing on the late Mr. Mann's farm. As you drive by the farm this small red brick structure is a sturdy, silent reminder of the steadfastness of our sturdy ancestors who bravely overcame the dangers they faced in establishing their homes in a new country.



## THE WILLIAM HUNT MEMORIAL TREE

Illinois was admitted to the Union as the twenty-first state on December 3, 1818, however, the settlement of the new state was rather slow. Until most of the Indians were pushed further west the pioneers hesitated in moving to the prairie.

Among the early settlers who came to Illinois was the William Hunt family. They chose to settle in the Wenona area along Sandy Creek. In the fall of 1863 their infant son, William, died and was buried in what is now known as the Cumberland Cemetery (about five miles northwest of Wenona).

A hundred years ago it was rather common practice for robbers to remove bodies from graves and sell them to scientists who did medical research. Not wanting this fate to befall their infant son, the Hunt family planted a Norway spruce tree to mark the grave site. The twin-spired tree grew tall and stately. When the fear of grave robbers no longer was a threat the family placed a marker on the grave. As the years passed, the tree grew and its massive trunk, like protective arms, has almost completely encased the small marker.

In September of 1963, the Marshall County Historical Society dedicated this tree in memory of the courage and compassion of the early settlers of our county.





Our home was the site of an old established business in Wenona started by James Hodge who was the contractor and builder. Our home was a planing mill which started on October 12, 1866. James Hodge, originally from Ohio, came to Wenona from Magnolia, Illinois in 1855. He established a lumber business and planing mill and went into the contracting business. Hodge had three associates, namely, R. Snodgrass, J. H. Taggart, and R. B. Work. They were not only contractors; they also manufactured window sashes, doors, blinds, molding, and dressed lumber to order.

The old planing mill, whose walls are 15 to 18 inches thick and made of brick, was owned and lived in for over 40 years by the Gus Beckman family of Wenona. It is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kupec who live there with their two children, Amy and David. It is a two-story structure with ten rooms, a full attic and a half basement. There is a ten-inch thick brick wall which runs through the center of the home from east to west. There are also five iron beams for support which are between the first and second stories. Three beams run north and south and two beams run east and west and are marked by five-pointed stars (eight in all) which can be seen on the exterior of the home. When the Beckman family excavated for a basement, they found buried an old boiler. The east room of the building was used as a boiler room by the planers.

The home is so solidly built that when it is windy and storming, its brick walls soundproof any noise, providing the doors and windows are closed. The occupants are sometimes totally unaware of the weather outside.

Mrs. Judy Kupec  
309 North Pine  
Wenona, Illinois.



The house at 120 1/2 Third Street in Henry has been owned and occupied by members of the Bickerman family since it was built in the 1860's.

The present owner is Mattie Bickerman Bogner (Mrs. Edward Bogner), 93, who is a granddaughter of Adam and Gertrude Dannanhold Bickerman, pioneer settlers of Henry Township.

The house was built by Theodore Bickerman for his mother, Mrs. Adam Bickerman, about 110 years ago.

The Adam Bickermans came to Marshall County around 1850 from Kentucky. He bought 80 acres in Henry Township, three miles south and west of the village of Henry, and eventually purchased a considerable amount of additional acreage. Adam was fatally injured by a team of runaway horses and died June 5, 1863, in his farm home at the age of 51 years.

Theodore was one of his six children. After Adam's death he operated the farm, his mother continuing to live there until he built the new house in Henry for her. She lived there until her death November 25, 1873.

The house was then bought by Joseph Schick and his wife, the former Veronica Bickerman, one of the other children of Adam and Gertrude Bickerman. Joseph and Veronica were married in 1866. Schick was an early grocer in Henry and later a cement contractor. He died in 1904. Veronica and her family occupied the house until they moved to California in 1927. She later died there.

Mrs. Schick sold the house in 1927 to Edward and Mattie Bogner. Edward died in 1969. Mattie, Theodore's daughter and granddaughter of Adam and Gertrude,

continues to live in the house. She does her own work and also carries on as a partner in the Bogner Machine and Parts Company, going daily to the office for a few hours of work on the books.

Although the house has been remodeled several times over the years and a new wing added, its original design is still recognizable. The interior has a walnut staircase leading from a front hall to the four-bedroom second floor.

Miss Florence Merdian.  
(Neice).



The land on which this house sits was purchased for \$50.00 in 1834 but it is believed that the house was built in 1854. The story is that two maiden ladies from North Carolina wanted to escape the Civil War by moving North.

Mr. Asa O. Hutchins, owner of a Henry clothing store, purchased the house in 1875. It was Mr. Hutchins who added the third floor game and billiard room and mansard roof and additions to the first and second floors.

After the death of Mr. Hutchins, Ella Jenness became the owner. She sold it to Robert O. Green on March 30, 1939 at which time it became a funeral home.

Upon his death, the house was sold to Robert B. Child, also a funeral director, and grandson of Mr. Green. Robert Child was killed in July of 1973 at which time, Joseph R. Child purchased the house and business. It is located at 516 Market Street, Henry, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Child.



The twelve-room Victorian mansion located at 906 College Street, Henry, is pictured as it appeared in the 1873 Plat Book. Few structural changes have been made since its construction in 1860 by Alexander Hoagland, a wealthy mill owner.

Mr. Hoagland spared no expense in building his fine home. It was necessary, however, to use domestic marble since the Civil War prevented the importation of Italian marble. The mansion originally contained six fireplaces. Only the kitchen fireplace has been closed over the years.

The lower floor consists of two large double parlors, a dining room, master bedroom, kitchen and pantry. A beautiful railed cherry bannister leads to the spacious second story.

The upstairs contains three bedrooms and a bath as well as three rooms for servants. The water of the upstairs bath was hand pumped to the second floor.

The property has been owned by a number of landlords since the time of Mr. Hoagland; Dr. Baker, the Jones family, Mrs. Josephine Townsend, and in the early 1900's it was acquired by the Brown family. After Mrs. Brown's death, in the early 1940's, the home was purchased by Mr. Paul Burkhardt, the present owner.

This house was built between the years 1888 and 1890 by Hiram Hunter who purchased the lot in 1888.

Two rooms were added to the back of the original house about 15 years later. The front porch was enlarged to its present size at that time.

The house has been occupied by two families. The Hiram Hunter family lived in the house until 1921, and the Lloyd Jones family since January, 1922.

The home is located at 813 Richard Street, Henry, Illinois.

The drawing below was made from an early photograph of the home.





This house at 503 Richard Street, Henry, Illinois was built of white pine about 98 years ago by Henry W. and Theresa Deboe Watercott.

Henry died in his thirties and Mrs. Watercott continued to live there after his death.

Upon her death, the house was sold to Charles Helmdollar, who lived in the house only a few years.

It was sold to Edwin Wiedman who occupied the home until 1969, when it was purchased by Mr. Henry Watercott's great-niece, Mrs. Louise Koehler and her husband, George.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Koehler.





In 1886, Julius and Elizabeth Watercott built this white frame Victorian home at 603 Richard Street, Henry, Illinois. It originally had one-story, the second floor was added in 1919.

Although Julius Watercott lived in this home until his death in 1924, his wife, Elizabeth, died before the house was completed. Julius never remarried. Julius's parents moved in with him to care for his only child, Edith. However, soon after the elder Watercotts moved into the home, Mrs. Watercott fell on the basement steps and was killed. Julius Watercott continued to live alone in the house until 1919, when Edith, now married to Edward Hoscheidt, and their family moved in with him. Edward and Edith Hoscheidt raised two children, Julius and Louise, in the home.

Julius Hoscheidt and his wife, Amelda, lived many years in a house directly across the street.

In 1941, daughter, Louise, her husband, George Koehler, and their four sons, George, Jr., Tom, Jim, and Jerry, moved into the family home. Mr. and Mrs. Koehler lived in the home until 1969, when Mr. Koehler retired from Watercott's Department Store, and son, Jim, returned to Henry to work at Watercott's. George and Louise then moved into the original Henry Watercott residence.

Their son, Jim, his wife, Judy, and two children, Ted and Julie, now live in the family residence at 603 Richard Street which has been occupied for 90 years by Julius Watercott and his descendants.

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Koehler.

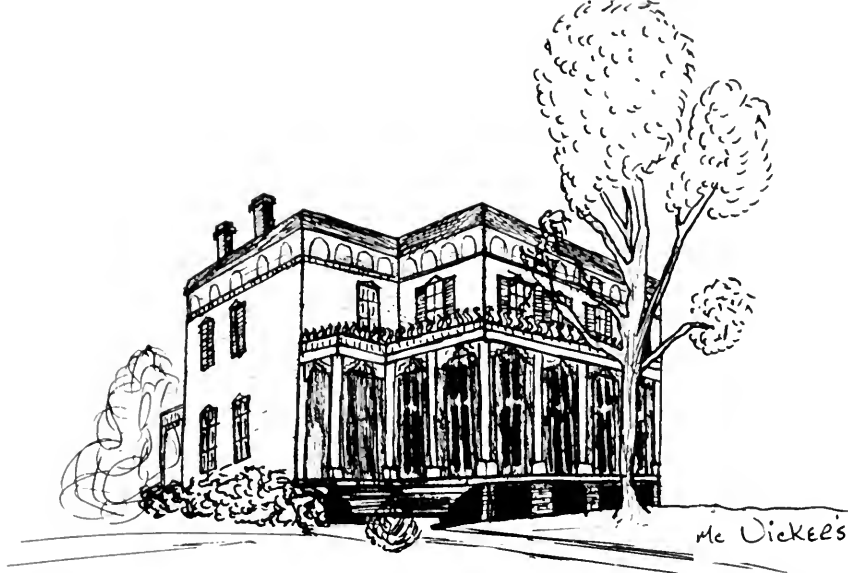
Frederick Story Potter, attorney, and his wife, Isabel House Potter planned this house to include the smaller house located on the south lot at 506 Carroll Street. Mr. Potter's father, Frederick Potter, was a retired shipbuilder from New London, Connecticut who enjoyed working with wood and he personally selected each board and supervised delivery. He designed the woodwork and each piece was numbered, as was each piece of lumber incorporated in the sixteen-room house. The entire frame has been assembled with wooden pegs. Not a single nail is used in the construction of the frame.

There were five bedrooms on the second floor, and a master bedroom on the first floor. Servants' quarters were on the third floor. Each bedroom had a marble topped lavatory and the master bedroom had a lead lined bathtub. The water supplied to those modern comforts had to be pumped by hand to a huge water tank on the third floor. The water to the bathtub passed through a stove that had to be started even in the summer. The water supply came from five cisterns that surrounded the old house. The Potter mansion boasted the first central heating system in the city of Henry. A large brick furnace supplied the steam for the radiators which are still in use today.

Five generations of the Potter family lived in the house from the time it was built in 1881 until 1962.

Mrs. Helen Potter Johnson.





The stately Victorian dwelling located at 513 Carroll Street, Henry, Illinois was built in 1860 by John and Elizabeth Purple. They owned the home until 1871 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kleinhenz. They lived here until the death of Mrs. Kleinhenz on August 25, 1880.

In 1890 the real estate was sold to John D. McVickers and wife. Mr. McVickers departed this life on June 20, 1912. After this Mr. and Mrs. Carl T. Eisen occupied the home until it was sold again to Thomas and Marie Seagraves during the early 1930's.

In 1938 it was again sold to James Brennan and his wife and son, James Edward Brennan. Mr. Brennan was a graduate of Worshom College of Mortuary Science in Chicago and he opened the Brennan Funeral Home in 1938. The funeral home was in operation at the time of Edward Brennan's sudden death on April 2, 1956. His wife, Margaret operated the business for a short time when she sold it to Gordon J. Ries. Mr. Ries, the son of the late John and Corriene Hofer Ries, a graduate of the Worshom College in Chicago, operates the business now known as the Ries Mortuary.

The graceful, curving staircase is located just inside the front entrance and each high ceilinged room was originally heated from marble fireplaces which are still in the original structure. A large chapel has been added to the original structure which can seat a host of visitors. The original structure has been decorated in impeccably good taste and you may find the finest of antiques throughout the funeral home.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Deryl Schertz was built in 1854 by Benjamin Lombard at the cost of \$75,000. Several families of carpenters and brick-masons came from the East to build the house. They built several more homes in Henry and some of the families settled in this area. Lombard, often referred to as a "land shark" lived in the home but ten years. He reportedly owned 30,000 acres of land in this part of Illinois.

The bricks for the 18 inch walls in the Lombard home came from a brick plant, two and one-half miles west of Henry. Twelve fireplaces were used in the fourteen room house, which had seven chimneys on the roof in addition to a widow's walk. The nine foot French windows have cherry frames and thresholds. All other doors, windows, and trim are made of pine. The 13 foot ceilings in the living rooms have plaster of Paris open filigree flower designs as a border. Each living room has a four foot floral medallion in the center of the ceiling with a hook for the chandelier. The original floors were six inch fir with carpet used in several rooms and on the curved walnut staircase.

The line drawing accompanying the story is the way the Lombard mansion, Rexhurst, appeared around 1914 before several structural changes were made.

After the Civil War, the property was sold a number of times and in the early 1900's it was purchased by a member of the Law family for his newlywed son and wife. At that time it was completely redecorated.

It was soon sold again and the owners in 1914 had a fire, reported to be arson, and the walnut staircase was ruined and considerable damage was done to the second story. After the fire the front curved staircase was closed off, leaving the servants' stairs from the kitchen area as the only access to the remaining second story rooms.

In 1919 the farm was purchased by John and Grover Kirby. John took the

tenant house and most of the land; Grover, the Lombard House and about 36 acres of land. In 1945 the second fire invaded the home, starting in the eaves, partially destroying the roof on the main part of the house. The excellent work of the Henry Fire Department with the help of neighbors hauling water in milk cans, saved the home. At this time the roof was redesigned, the widow's walk was removed along with the fancy roof brackets. The pillard porch which encircled three sides of the house was also removed.

In 1951 the Kirbys retired and moved to Henry, selling the property to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Daly. The present owners purchased the home and acreage in 1958. They and their five children have spent many happy hours in the repair, remodeling and restoration of this home.

Mr. and Mrs. Deryl Schertz.



### ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH HOUSE

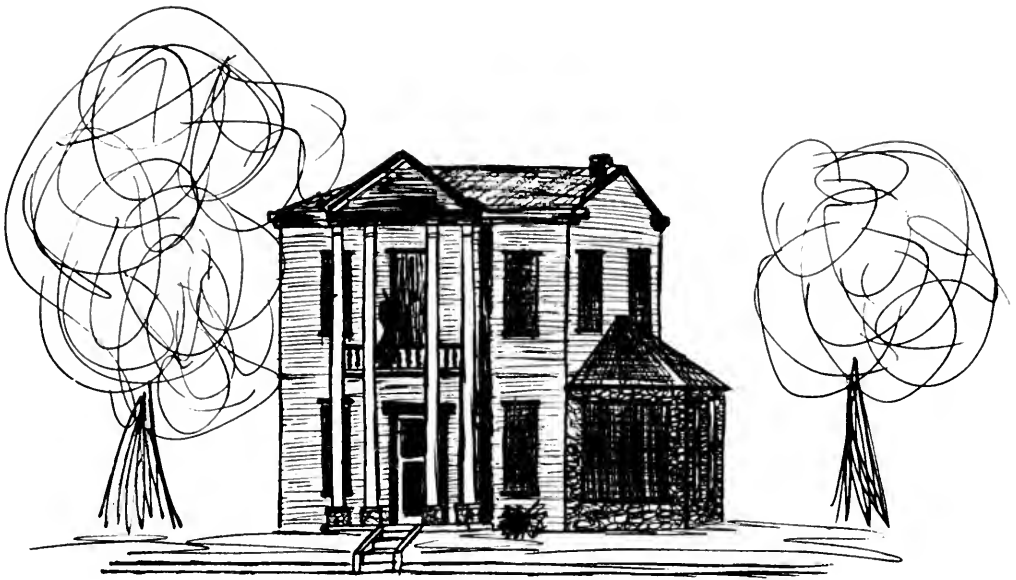
The old brick home at 1011 School Street, Henry, Illinois and presently unoccupied dates from the early 1870's.

In 1869, Father Heafy organized a new parish from the congregation at St. Mary's Church. The new church, St. Joseph's, was erected in 1872.

Father Heafy lived for a while in a rented house until a brick rectory on the west side of School Street was bought.

Apparently the house was erected in the early 1870's. It is a stately Federal structure.

Today this handsome old brick house stands empty and pitifully down-at-the-heels. Bushes and brambles almost completely hide the beauty that once so proudly greeted the passerby.



Mrs. Roland Mosely became the owner of the lot at 909 Second Street, Henry, Illinois in 1834.

It is believed the house standing today was built in the middle or late 1850's.

Elizabeth Fosbenner was an early owner of the home (1892).

The sturdy original solid brick walls have remained intact as the years have passed on. One of the few changes made to the over 100 year old structure was the addition of a corner sun porch about 1920.

In 1972, the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stowe purchased the home.

The house at 927 Warren Street, Henry, Illinois was commissioned to be built by Thomas Waterous, a lawyer. He bought the land on March 24, 1913.

The next owners were Theodore and Agnes Waterous who owned it from 1947-1965.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Shearer owned it from 1965-1972 until it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Henderson on February 22, 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Henderson.







In 1861, James Antrim purchased an 80 acre farm from a Mr. Booth. The land is located in Hopewell Township, Section 26.

In 1865, Mr. Antrim built a five room, two-story house. There were three bedrooms upstairs and two down. The hand dug cellar beneath the house was reached by an outside entrance only.

With the exception of a period of six years, Antrim ancestors have resided in the home and farmed the land.

Richard Antrim, James's youngest child, married and continued to live with his parents. James, his father, passed away at the age of ninety-four.

Richard became the owner in 1887. At Richard's death in 1948, his daughter, Ethel Antrim Green, and his son, Earl F. Antrim, inherited the farm.

In 1949 Earl purchased his sister's interest and has been the owner since. For six years, after Earl's mother's death (Clara Freeman Antrim), the Antrims resided in Lacon.

In the early 1920's, Earl and his wife, Velma Campbell Antrim, returned to the farm in Hopewell.

The old home is still intact with its old oak beams and original plaster. Several additions and porches have changed the appearance somewhat. It is located about five miles east of Lacon and one mile north of Route 17.

## LUNSFORD BROADDUS HOME

The home located on the brow of the Broaddus Hill, Route 17, about one and one-half mile east of Lacon, and presently owned and resided in by the Elmer Klein family is well over one hundred years old.

The original structure was erected before 1840 by Lunsford Broaddus who acquired the farm in Section 31, Hopewell Township, in 1834. One-quarter acre of the farm was deeded to James Hall and John Wier, School Trustees, in 1836. An interesting quote from the abstract reads:

"...for the purpose of a school which will also remain open for divine worship and free for any denomination Christians provided no damage is done."

The site was in the area of the present Marshall County Airport.

The old Broaddus home was left to Irving by his father, Lunsford. Irving married Ruth Forbes in 1863 and they reared a family of five; Savella, Cora, Mae, Walter and Nancy.

An important social event in Hopewell Township, 1883, was the marriage of Savella, Broaddus' eldest daughter. The following account appeared in the Lacon paper:

"On Wednesday evening last a large company of friends and relatives gathered at the Broaddus homestead to witness the nuptials of Miss S. Broaddus and Mr. J. K. Davidson. Nearly three hundred people were invited, and but few were absent. The house was tastefully decorated, two hearts being placed for the happy pair to stand under. Miss Broaddus is well and favorably known in this locality, and is an estimable and accomplished young lady, well fitted to make any man happy, and aid him in the joys and sorrows of life. She is now in her nineteenth year. Mr. Davidson is a young and rising farmer from Pennsylvania. He has resided in this locality for several years, and is much esteemed. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Tracy, at 8:20 p.m., Miss Davidson, the groom's sister, acting as bridesmaid, and Mr. F. Hancock as groomsman. The bride's trousseau consisted of cream-colored nun's veiling, trimmed in cream-colored satin, Spanish lace and natural flowers. The second day dress was plum colored silk. The groom wore the conventional black, and when the eventful questions were asked both replied in a firm and audible voice.

"Friends and relatives conspired to give them a pleasant start in the harness of wedded life, and it is our sincere hope that the car of Hymen may ever move smoothly and prosperously along. May their hearts never grow cold, their hearth fire never die out, and their larder always be full. Time fails us to tell of all the elegant costumes of the guests. The wedding march was artistically executed on the piano by Miss Hattie Mohler. After the ceremony we were shown the presents, which were many and costly, and all useful."

A detailed list of gifts followed, including a High grade Durham heifer, Mr. R. Broaddus; five dollar gold piece, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hall, Sr.

The Irving Broaddus heirs sold the farm in the 1940's and it was after this numerous changes were made in the old home. Today, the basement area and upstairs portion are unchanged. The old open porch surrounding the north and east of the house has been replaced by a sun porch. The four large west bay windows of the original dining room have been replaced by more modern windows.

A visit with the Kleins in this sturdy old farm home in its lovely setting recalls to us much of the early history of Lacon and Hopewell; early schools and Elisha Swan's first store. The family burial plots (east of Kleins) contain the names of many Marshall County's first settlers.



### THE CASEY HOMESTEAD

In the early 1860's William Vernay, a Hopewell Township early settler, wrote in "An Album of the Heart," a quatrain entitled, "To My Wife." Thus:

"Oh, the skies may bend above thee;  
Other hearts may seek thy shrine;  
But no other heart can love thee  
With the constancy of mine."

Mary Carr Vernay, the subject of this verse, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1808. In March of 1830, she married David Vernay and three years later, 1833, came to Hopewell Township with her husband, who came to work for John Strawn. Soon after his arrival Vernay bought 80 acres of land from John Cliff and the holding became the site of what is currently, in 1976, known as the Casey place, containing the original brick residence which still is the home of the Casey clan, Miss Johanna and Edward (Ted). Two brothers, Franklin, resides in Lacon which lies a mile west of the Casey residence on Illinois Route 17; and Charles W. Casey (Colonel, U. S. Army, retired) resides with his wife, Elizabeth Buck Casey in Carmel, California.

During the first season of his residence in the county David Vernay purchased the 80 acre claim and later added 60 acres northeast of the 80.

Two children were born to David and Mary Carr Vernay, William and James. William married Ellen Forbes and established a residence, site now unknown, north of the brick house. James moved to Kansas and contact with him was not maintained.

William and Ellen Forbes Vernay had a daughter, Nellie, born September 17, 1863. She died November 17, 1886. William Vernay died in October, 1865, leaving 80 acres of the farm to his widow and two year old daughter, Nellie. Five years after her husband's death, Ellen married her late husband's cousin, Charles W. Casey. They had three children, Clara (1871); Laura (1873); and

Wilbur (1879). Nellie Vernay died in 1866, leaving 80 acres to her mother and step-father.

During the years in which the foregoing events occurred Mary Vernay lived in the old brick home which, it is believed, was built in the 1830's. After her death in 1884, Charles Casey and family moved into the brick house. In the late 1890's, a frame kitchen was added, and in 1973, Ted and Johanna Casey added more space to the original building, a two-story wing at the north side which replaced the old kitchen.

When the William Vernays came to Illinois from Maryland the home they built reflected the Eastern style of architecture. It has withstood the ravages of time and storm and has been kept in excellent repair. The old brick undoubtedly is more staunch than much modern architecture. The house was of Federal style, very plain and simple, without fancy or elaborate paneling, moldings, or wood carvings. The unadorned pattern was suited to the frontier where tastes and tools were less sophisticated and limited materials were close at hand but expert craftsmen were scarce. Houses were largely devoid of ornament, with the exception of an occasional fanlight or horizontal transom. The Casey home has several of these. Simple gable walls and roofs incorporate chimneys for fireplaces at the east and west ends of the house.

The Nicholas Garrat house in Cahokia, Illinois, the oldest brick building in the state, built in 1800, is much like the Casey home in features and appearance.

The main part of the old brick house is constructed of sun-dried soft brick believed to have been made at the John Wier brickyard several miles to the southeast. The house has walnut door and window frames. Also doors of oak and yellow pine and seven-inch boards are used for floors, baseboards and window sills.

There are three fireplaces, now bricked over, all made of original small bricks. The brick house has six rooms, three on each floor. Square wrought iron nails were used throughout the house and basement timbers were put together with wooden pegs. Horsehair plaster was used to finish the interior of the fourteen inch walls.

The original part of the two-story home is the basic part of the structure and is in daily use. Some changes have been made, however. All inside doors retain their heavy iron locks and some still sport ceramic doorknobs. There remain some of the original windows with rough, bubbly glass.

Changes made in the original six-room brick have been limited to installation of a partition in a downstairs bedroom to convert a portion into a bathroom. This partition was made in 1930. Also in 1930, an L-shaped porch was replaced with an enclosed porch. Frames of the one-story kitchen and back porch were added to the north side of the house in the late 1890's.

In 1973, the old kitchen and porch were removed and replaced with a two-story four-room wing with attached garage. No changes were made in the old brick part except to convert a north window into a door opening into a large

closet which is part of the new wing.

The old mellow-hued brick thus furnishes the sturdy shell of a home modern in every convenience, and no winter wind nor summer sun affects the house built more than a hundred years ago by David Vernay, who came from Maryland to work on the John Strawn farm in Richland Township and remained to found a modest dynasty and family in Hopewell. He built well, with wooden pegs and wrought iron nails and laid foundations and walls of brick that promise to endure for untold years.

Maud E. Uschold.



The farm just east of Lacon about three miles in Section 33, Hopewell Township, and owned by the heirs of the last J. Foster Held contains one of Marshall County's oldest homes. The house was built by Lemmuel Russell about 1837 and is much the same today as it was almost 140 years ago.

The old stone foundation, soft brick fireplaces; one upstairs, one down; simple Federal style are typical of the early pioneer homes.

Lemmuel Russell was one of Hopewell's earliest settlers, having arrived in Putnam County with the Jessie Sawyers in 1831. He purchased two lots in Lacon, but finding it to be mostly Indian trails and a gloomy place with nothing doing he went to Pekin, Illinois for a short time.

He returned to Hopewell after the Black Hawk War and entered the land east of Lacon.

In 1833 he married Sara Ann Edwards. They reared a family of eight; Willis, Margaret Ann, Love, Sara, Lemmuel, Mary, Amanda and E. (?) Russell.

It is interesting to note here that Mrs. Foster Held has in her possession Lemmuel Russell's cane and a window pane from the old house with the words "Love Russell" scratched in the glass. This old farm home was the first residence of Foster and Annie Bellows Held after their marriage in the early 1900's.

A visit to the little country "Russell Cemetery" west of the house about two blocks reveals the graves of Lemmuel and Sara and several members of the family.



### THE OLD CIDER HOUSE

One of the first settlers to acquire land around Lacon was John Wier who came in 1832. He took title to land in 1833 which is still in the family. He built a log cabin above the present home of the Ralph Wier family. It overlooked the river. An old mulberry tree still stands by where the cabin stood.

The only remaining building is the cider house built in 1848 by John Wier and his sons, Henry and Dan. It stands behind the present barns and remains sound, built of hardwood lumber and foot-wide pine siding. Oak and walnut are in the beams and sheeting. It is a two-story building with a basement room for storage. It is entirely insulated with a brick lining. The soft red bricks were made from the clay pits on the farm and supplied many nearby farmers. The best known building remaining made from Wier brick is the Budd building, corner of 5th and Main Street, Lacon, which was constructed by Henry Wier for vinegar storage.

The cider house was the processing plant for the surrounding area when vinegar was a necessity for food and cleansing everything from kitchenware to human bodies. At one time 600 acres southeast of Lacon were in apple orchards planted by John, Dan and Henry Wier. There were seven cider presses made with 16" x 16" oak beams, 24 feet long. A wood-fired steam engine drove a line shaft with well greased hard maple blocks for bearings. It turned the presses and various other equipment. Large cisterns provided water for steam when the streams went dry in the fall.

The building is still a picturesque sight though acid vinegar put cider pressing out of business. The cooperage in Lacon supplied barrels for the vinegar which was shipped by boat down the Illinois River for cities in southern and eastern United States.

Mrs. Delight Wier.



## WIER CENTENNIAL FARM

The sixth generation of the Wier family is residing on and operating a tract of land bought May 10, 1832 by John Wier from Sam Hamilton and James Hamilton who had purchased it from the U. S. Government July 16, 1831. John Wier came by horses and wagons to Illinois from West Virginia because he was opposed to slavery. The purchase price was \$1.25 per acre. This Centennial farm is unique in that direct male descendants of John Wier have always resided on and operated the farm.

The home farm lies in Hopewell Township with a small strip extending into Lacon Township. The first purchase made by John Wier was 80 acres. It is the South half of Section 31 in Hopewell Township. The succession of title runs from John Wier to Dan B. Wier and wife who sold it to Henry E. Wier November 28, 1872. Conveyed by warranty deed to Frederick E. Wier and wife, December 11, 1888, it came to Charles Wier, May 18, 1960. Ralph Wier and sons operate the farm at present. The home farm grew to 440 acres with the addition of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 31.

Other land was bought and extensive orchards were planted. Dan Wier operated the Lacon Nurseries south of Lacon where Club 115 stands. He experimented with fruits and wrote for horticulture magazines and lectured on his findings. The Henry Republican, September 15, 1870 reports "D. B. Wier of this county is said to have the largest orchard in the state. It consists of over 200 acres of apple and peach trees and about 30 acres in small fruit. It will take 20 men two months to gather his apples." Again in 1871, October 26, "D. B. Wier of Lacon, one of the best entomologists of the country, informs us that there are three flights of chinch bugs this year, instead of two, as is usual, and the third brood is now preying on the fall wheat." In 1879, July 3, "Henry Wier's Orchard produced 4,000 barrels of apples last year."



The present house was built in 1898 and was remodeled to add the east half in 1917. It replaced the soft red brick home on the same site. Some of the original bricks fired by hand in the Wier brickyards still show in the basement walls.

There is a central hall leading to an open stairway to second floor. The living room has hardwood flooring of maple. Ten foot ceilings and a large bay window area make the house unique.

Mrs. Delight Wier.

A name that figures prominently in the early history of Marshall County is that of Joseph Babb. In return for service in the War of 1812, he acquired his first land in Illinois. Joseph was a native of Ohio. In the fall of 1831, the family left Lancaster, Ohio. The four-horse prairie schooner for the next four weeks and four days was "home" for Mr. Babb; his wife, Eleanor; three young daughters; and a son, Benjamin.

After arriving in Marshall County, Colonel John Strawn, an old friend of Joseph Babb in Ohio, kept the family at his house which was four miles east of the river near where Lacon is today. Joseph and Colonel Strawn began the search for a home site for the new family. In about two weeks' time the ideal spot upon a hill looking toward the river was located. As Mr. Babb put his foot down with emphasis he said, "Here I will build my house."

The first home was a sturdy cabin which was soon erected. The industrious family continued to develop their home site and make improvements. The Babbs established the first road from Columbia (Lacon) to their property; also the first road from there to Pekin, Illinois which was the nearest marketing place.

Joseph Babb died in 1835. It is interesting to note here that his dying request was granted. He wanted to be buried on the hill north of his home; he wanted "to be able to see the road and watch his friends go by." The family cemetery remains today. The graves of his wife, Eleanor; Benjamin and Nancy Babb; and their three young daughters are also there.

Along with the hardships involved in the settling of the new land, the family was often frightened and annoyed by the Indians who had extensive camping grounds in the river flats west of the hill where the Babb cabin was located. During the Black Hawk War the settlement was the scene of several alarms although no actual battles took place in the area.

After Joseph's death in 1835 his son, Benjamin, kept the business going and eventually became the sole owner of the entire property. Benjamin married Nancy Jones in 1857. Only two of their five daughters survived early childhood.

Their daughter, Estella Babb married Fred Collins of Lacon. In the early 1890's, Fred took his family to Chicago, Pittsburg and Youngstown, Ohio while working for Republic Steel. Fred's youngest child, son Walter B. married Charlotte Foulke in Youngstown and they became the parents of Walter B. and Richard Foulke Collins.

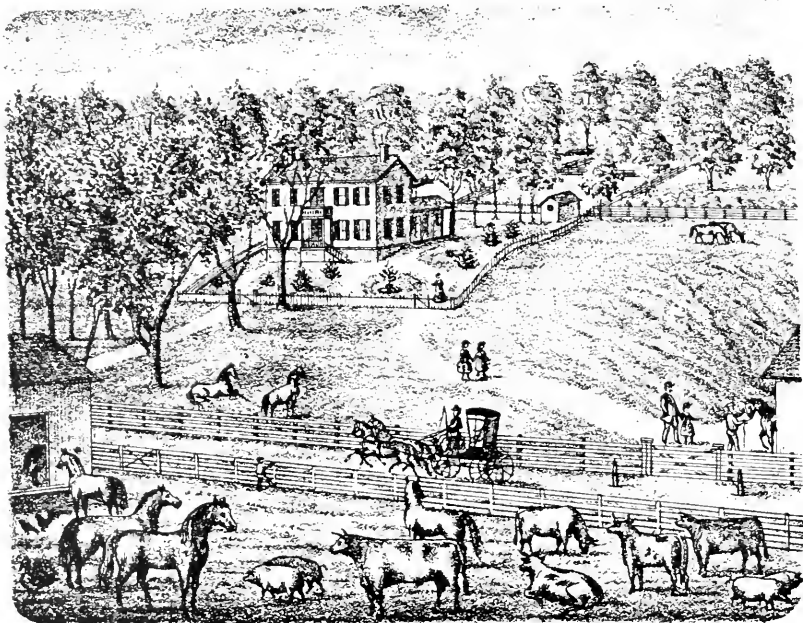
As these generations were growing up and rearing families, the Babb heirs retained ownership of the estate and rented the property.

In 1966 Richard Foulke Collins and his wife, Kathryn Ann (Ehlert) Collins from Cleveland, Ohio both graduates of Western Reserve University, returned to the homestead of his great-great-grandfather, located in Lacon Township about five miles south of Lacon on Route 26. They brought with them their son and two daughters.

The old family home which had been built around 1860 was remodeled and

modernized, however, its original lines are still discernible. The picture with this account was made from the drawing of the Babb place in the 1873 Plat Book of Marshall County. Although many of the trees are gone, fences and roadways changed, the house on the hill still stands; its heavy oak beams are solid and secure.

In 1976 the old home is the residence of Richard and Kathryn Collins; their son, Richard; and daughter, Mary Ann. Another daughter, Laurie; her husband; and a granddaughter, Jenny, reside in Peoria, Illinois.



FARM RESIDENCE OF M<sup>RS</sup> NANCY BABB, LACON MARSHALL CO. ILL.



#### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

There were no local Catholic Churches prior to the 1850's. A missionary priest came once a month to offer mass in the homes of the people. The earliest priest identified was Father Montoni. He traveled to Lacon, Herry, Camp Grove, Kewanee, Minonk and other small towns.

The first church between LaSalle and Peoria was built in Lacon about 1852. It was dedicated as Immaculate Conception Church with Father Montoni as pastor. The town donated land for the church building which was constructed of log and frame sections. Father Lynch became pastor in 1853. He died in 1856 and was buried inside the church. This church burned in 1856 and was replaced by a frame structure.

The building of the present church began in 1866 at a cost of \$13,000. With furnishings the cost amounted to \$16,000. Father John Kilkenny was pastor at the time. Final payment on the note was made April 5, 1869, just three years after the building was begun.

In 1878 the pastor, Father Powers, helped organize a school in a house just east of the church. Four Sisters of Mercy arrived to staff the school. There were 50 pupils; 21 girls and 29 boys which crowded the schoolrooms. It was torn down and a new school built, 27½ by 41 feet. The east half of the school was reserved for the girls and the other half for the boys. Each section had two downstairs classrooms and one upper story which housed a dormitory, recreation room and a chapel. It had a capacity of 120 pupils and was full.

In January, 1880, the school was incorporated by the Secretary of State in compliance with state laws as the Marshall County Industrial School. The school operated well until 1902, when the Bishop decided not to reopen it. The building was sold, part of it removed and the rest remodeled into a home by T. G. Breen.

Father Clifford became pastor in 1955. The Church was last remodeled in 1956. Steel beams replaced the wooden ones beneath the floor, a new heating system was added and the interior refinished. At that time, the body of Father Lynch was removed from beneath the floor and moved to the cemetery. His tombstone is still behind the east end of the Church. Another pastor, Father Campbell, who died in 1877, was buried outside the front of the Church. His tombstone was removed in 1975 when it became a hazard.

The Church is located at what is now 418 North Center Street, Lacon, Illinois.

(Church history was compiled in 1970, by John Wabel, Gene Dunn and Ron Lenz.)

Mrs. Kathryn Collins  
R. F. D.  
Lacon, Illinois.



The area of land known as Marshall County, Illinois was first settled about 1828. Within ten years, small groups of pioneers had established settlements. In January 19, 1839, this area became Marshall County, named after John Marshall, a well-known statesman. A board of commissioners was appointed and in turn, appointed three men from outside the county, to select a site for a court house. The settlement chosen was at Lacon and the deeds for same are dated June 4, 1839, lots 3, 4, and 5, Block 45. This was to include a jail.

Arrangements were made, contracts, bonds, etc. were drawn. Contractors White and Sheppard of Chicago were awarded the contract for the sum of \$8,000. Bond was accepted January 14, 1840. The Court House was to be 55 feet long by 40 feet wide; two stories; brick; roof and steeple to be framed, shingled with good walnut; twenty-two windows and one false window in front, twenty-four lights each of 10 by 12 inch glass; three outside doors and two back outside doors. Four columns in front, built in Grecian columns, Doric style. Flights of steps between two center columns were built. The contractors bound themselves to finish the job on or before January 1, 1841. At the September term of commissioners, 1840, R. F. Bell was ordered to procure two tin plate stoves for the Court House. Albert Barney was allowed ten dollars for making book cases for county records.

This Court House caught fire from a defective flue on the west side at 8:00 a.m. on January 5, 1853. The building and fixtures in the court room were a total loss. Books and papers and movable furniture were all saved. There was \$5,000. insurance which was collected. At the February 1853 commissioners meeting, plans and specifications were prepared and a contract was awarded to Comegys and Brother

and Card and Haggard. The building work was to be done and in the hands of the Board by November 1853. The original contract was \$7,050.50, alterations \$301.39, making a total of \$7,351.89. This Court House was built on the same location as the building that burned. While construction took place, a room was rented for \$125. a year to store the materials and supplies.

Through the years more lots were purchased; November 1, 1857, one lot from Ira I. Fenn for \$619.57; Lot 8, Block 45 from William Slowey, September 12, 1855 for \$700.

In the year 1881, the supervisors realized more and larger rooms were needed. At first the Court House had been heated by wood burning stoves. Many, many cords of wood were piled, sawed, split, carried inside and burned. Later, coal was used. Minor repairs were constantly being necessary. The old jail, which was just to the rear of the Court House, was removed and hitching racks for use of the public, was ordered immediately. It was decided to put an addition on the Court House. The front of the building was removed at a cost of \$35. The cost of the addition was to be \$13,916., filed December 5, 1882. The board of supervisors engaged Valentine Jobst as architect and superintendent. Specifications dated May 20, 1882. Detailed description of the inside doors is very interesting. The staircase leading from the first to second floor were to have cast iron steps with open risers, treads on the upper surface, corrugated pattern; all suitable wrought iron carriages to support the steps, and securely bolted together; the bannisters to have a hand rail of black walnut but the newels will be of light cast iron. The steps and hand rail are there today, exactly as described and used daily.

Some recent transactions that have involved changes and remodeling of the old building are as follows: In September, 1956, \$50,000. was budgeted for an addition. August 12, 1957 and again in September, 1957, bids were received for a one-story addition to the north. Harold Pribble's bid of \$37,500. was accepted.

In 1970 the court room was air conditioned. In June 1971, for \$6,000., the Lippert property was purchased to become a parking area. In July 1971, Winkler Construction of Lacon remodeled the Supervisor of Assessment's office for the sum of \$7,921.60.

Mrs. Florence Grieves  
Lacon, Illinois.



## FIRST NATIONAL BANK

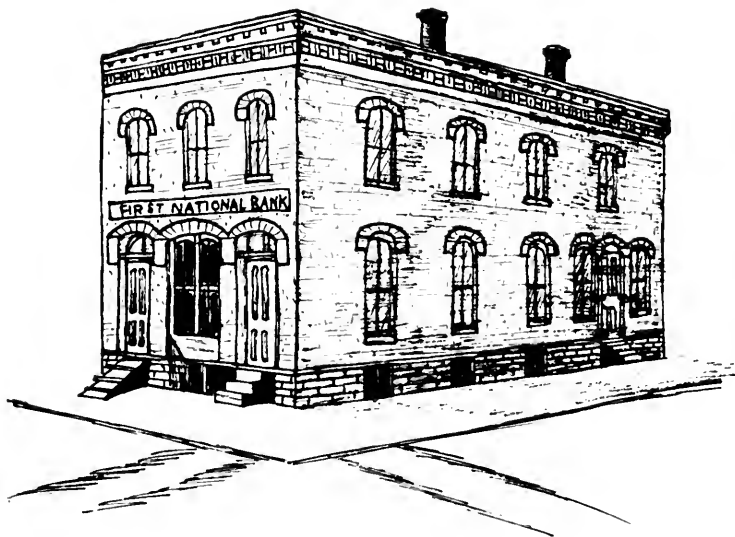
One of the oldest commercial buildings in Lacon is the former First National Bank building located on the northwest corner of Fifth and Washington Streets.

The structure was built by Colonel Greenbury L. Fort; the bricks having been hauled into town from Samuel Buck's kilns in Richland Township.

In 1899 an enlarged corner entrance and a plate glass window facing Fifth Street somewhat changed the original design.

Today the building houses Jean's Dress Shop and outwardly looks much the same as it did at the turn of the century.

The picture below was made from the drawing which was included in the 1873 Plat Book.



On the corner of Fifth Street at Fulton in Lacon stands a most interesting home built around 1850 by Edwards and Ann Whipple, possibly from Memphis, Tennessee. They had three children, and it is surprising for such a big house. The present owners, the Fords, are the only large family through its history to occupy the house, and there have been six owners.

The Whipples sold it at auction to Frances Chapman in 1876. She sold it to Cornelia Buchanan in 1886, and in 1926 Charles A. Riel, pharmacist, bought the place. In 1954, William D. and Lenna Blackburn had their name on the deed and September 3, 1959, Havadna Becker Ford bought it.

The rambling old, white house was built in elegant Georgian Colonial style and was remodeled about 1875 to the popular Federal style of architecture. The gables are in the Federal style and porches were added with all the white gingerbread trim typical of that era.

A formal garden was laid out in the Victorian manner, with geometric flower beds and walks. Originally the property was one-half block to Ida Street. Where Lenz Funeral Home now stands was a walnut grove. Some of the largest elms in Lacon had to be replaced by other shade trees, and the highway widening sacrificed two old sugar maples.

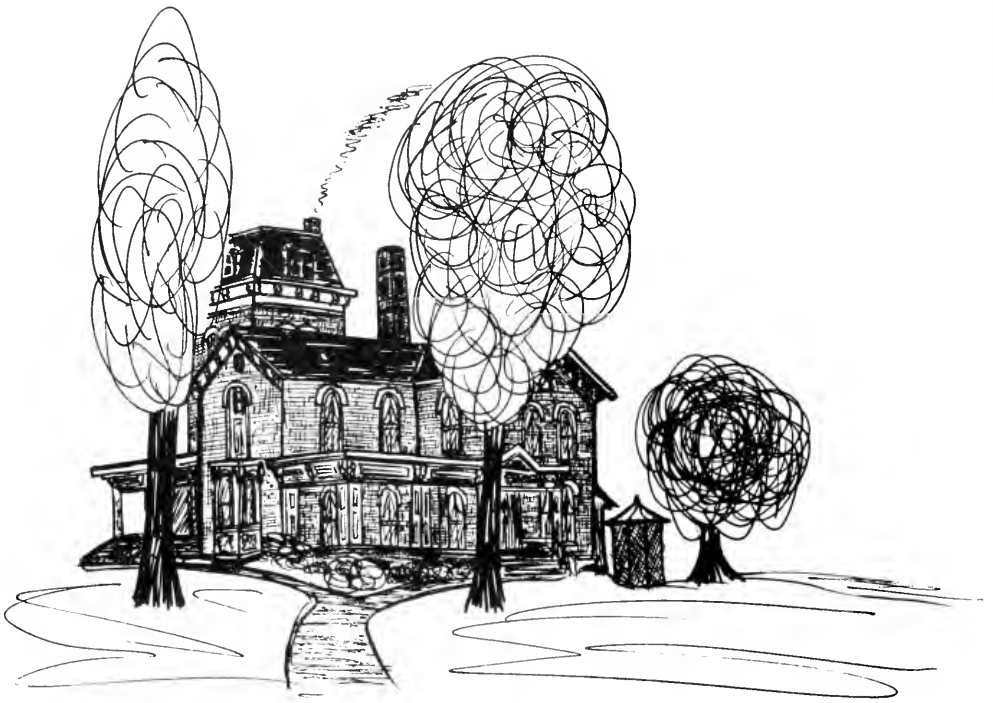
There has been considerable updating of the interior through the years. Hardwood floors were added. Fireplace mantels were replaced by those of the early 1900's fashion. French doors were used inside. The dining room floor is walnut and maple alternating. The flattened arch between the master bedroom and a dressing room is typical of Ohio style architecture.

One unique feature is a large round heat radiator in the front parlor, topped by a round plate of brown marble which supports a finely detailed piece of statuary in the "Rogers" style of two leading characters from the opera, Faust. This was a wedding present to Mrs. Buchanan from her groom in the 1870's.



In the latest remodeling, the original construction reveals old, handmade square nails, and some oak boards, four inches thick, twenty-four inches wide and eight feet long. One or two measure fourteen feet long. It took strong men to put those in place. Many interesting old bottles were found in the walls, attesting to the fact that two pharmacists had lived here. It has been suggested they were used to snake electric wiring through the walls when that modern convenience was added.

A prominent part of the exterior, now, is a red brick colonnade located at the back of the house leading into an herb garden. The present owner is a horticulturist who has uncovered much of the old black stone pathways of the once formal garden and has erected many rose trellises for her beautiful flowers.



Greenbury L. Fort was an early prominent citizen of Lacon. Shortly after the close of the Civil War, he constructed this elegant mansion at the corner of Ninth and Prairie Streets.

For many years it was the home of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Specht until it became the property of the Catholic Church in the 1940's. During this time it became a convent home for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

When the St. Joseph's Nursing Home was constructed in the 1960's, the Fort mansion was replaced by the modern structure which stands today at Ninth and Prairie.



"In September, 1856 the old jail having proven defective and inadequate to the wants of the county, H. L. Crane, N. G. Henthorn, and Edward White were appointed a committee to draft plans for a new jail and Sheriff's house.

"In December, plans and specifications were presented and bids invited.

"In January, 1857, Edward White received the contract to do the work for \$12,000. and H. L. Crane, N. G. Henthorn, and W. E. Cook were chosen a committee to superintend the work. It was done during that spring and summer, and as the records have it, duly 'excepted.'"

This account taken from Ellsworth's Record of the Olden Times is the first record of the stately brick home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Klinker and family of 118 North Center Street, Lacon, Illinois.

When the building served as Marshall County jail a wing to the east housed the cell blocks and the front portion provided living quarters for the sheriff.

Some interesting history of the days when the old brick home served as the sheriff's home is recalled by Mrs. Jessie Hexter. When her father, James Twist, became sheriff in 1886, she was just a year old. Her brother, Jim, was born there in 1888 and her sister, Sue, was fourteen at the time.

Mrs. Hexter recalls many incidents that happened as she grew up. She vividly remembers seeing encounters the "law officers" had as they brought prisoners into the jail. They entered the front door and down the long hall to the section housing the cells; six downstairs and several on the second floor.

One evening she and her mother observed a young prisoner in the yard and when approached by Mrs. Twist he informed her he was afraid (he was the only prisoner) and he had crawled through the "wicket" (small opening through which meals were passed). Mrs. Twist, feeling sorry for the young man, permitted him to spend the night in the sheriff's quarters.

One prisoner was a tailor and Mrs. Hexter told of the coats with colorful linings he was permitted to stitch while incarcerated. He gave the scraps of pretty material to the sheriff's little girls. These were prized playthings, enjoyed by the Twist girls and their friends, the Hacker girls, next door.

When the present Marshall County jail was built in 1905, the 1857 jail was sold to the Louis Lenz family. The back portion of the building was removed and the front part remodeled into a comfortable six room home.

The property was acquired by the late Arthur Winters and after his death the Robert Klinkers became the present owners.



In November of 1835, Samuel Rickey became the owner of 110 acres in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section one, Lacon Township (about five miles south of Lacon, one-half mile east of Route 26).

Samuel died in September, 1861 leaving a family of nine children, one being Charles E. Rickey. Since there was no will, it was not until 1881 that the estate was settled and the land purchased by Charles from his brothers and sisters.

Charles farmed the land until his death in July, 1930. An unmarried sister, Mabel, and one unmarried brother, Samuel, became the owners of the farm, after paying the remaining brothers and sisters.

In 1970, a great-granddaughter of Samuel Rickey, Anna Murrie (Wier) Lewis and husband Logan, purchased the farm from her Uncle's heirs.

The home on the property is not presently occupied. It is believed to have been built in the 1850's or 60's. An interesting landmark is a huge old burr oak tree used as a marker to designate the end of the Rickey-Coffman land. The tree and the distance from the house are mentioned in early records of the late 1800's.

A hand-dug, hand-bricked well, 98 feet deep, believed to be dug about 1916, still supplies water for the farm. Fresh water is drawn year around in an oaken bucket from the canopy-covered open well.

Mrs. Logan Lewis.

On the corner of Main and Fourth Streets, Lacon, is located a handsome, well preserved old commercial building. It is believed to have been erected about 1864. Edwin G. Brereton purchased the site, lots two and three, block four, in 1864.

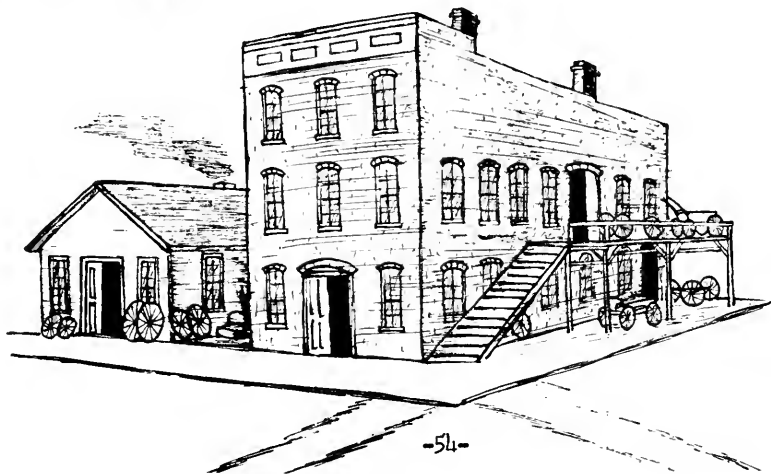
Some time ago, the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Miller found a letter from Chicago to the T and B Wagon Manufacturer dated January 21, 1864. The faded script makes reference to a shipment of buggy wheels and wagon parts. This no doubt establishes the fact that a carriage and wagon manufacturing business was operating in 1864 in the building still standing today.

Another discovery made when plastering was being repaired on the upper portion of the building, was the large wall drawings of various models of buggies, wagons and fancy surries. Unfortunately, since these were done directly on the wall, Mrs. Miller was unable to salvage the beautiful line drawings.

From the time lots two and three were first surveyed and purchased in 1837 they have changed hands many times and have been the location of various business ventures: wagon and carriage manufacturer, livery stable, Lacon Concrete Company, Lacon Woolen Mill storage and in recent years, B and D Lumber Company. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Miller, proprietors of Miller's Antiques.

The line drawing made from the picture in the 1873 Plat Book of Marshall County reveals the few changes that have been made to this old building. The large double doors on the second floor, right, where finished vehicles emerged are still intact. Other doorways, windows, walls and foundation are basically unchanged since 1864.

A visit with the Millers affords an opportunity to see another interesting "relic" uncovered in one of the lots; a small tombstone with the inscription, "Our Frankie, 1858." It is believed this site may have been the family burial plot of one of the early owners.







The handsome three-story house located at 405 North Washington Street, in Lacon is presently owned by Raymond Thielbar, Jr. Several years ago he converted the big three-story into five apartments; two on each of the first two floors and a single attic apartment on the third floor.

For more than sixty-five years the house was best known in the community as the McMurtrie House. Before that it was owned and lived in by the McMahon family.

The story of the McMurtrie House goes briefly like this: In 1880 Leonard Courtland (L. C.) McMurtrie, an attorney in Lacon who later became Marshall County State's Attorney, purchased the McMahon property which included on it a one and a half dwelling. It was purchased from Ed McMahon.

L. C. then had the house remodeled to suit his own tastes. He had the first floor lifted and a new first floor with ten and a half foot high ceilings built. The original first floor then became the second floor and an elegant cupola was added to the structure, actually a spacious attic with windows. The view from those windows over the river was magnificent.

The McMurtrie family were prominent Lacon people for years. The first McMurtries coming to Lacon from Peoria in 1846 and locating first in the south ward. The first Courtland McMurtrie came to the United States from Scotland. His wife, Zillah, was Canadian.

The remodeling of the house on North Washington Street was done by Francis Robinson, husband of Emma McMurtrie Robinson. The dates for the remodeling were furnished by Emma McMurtrie Robinson now of Ursa, Illinois. She was the daughter of L. E. McMurtrie.

It should be noted that there is something a bit unusual about the local history remaining in the now modern apartment dwelling as it stands in 1976. It seems that during the time the McMurtries lived there a transient painter roomed and boarded at the house for a while. To pay for his living he did some of the redecorating and painted local scenes on the walls of the halls. Most of the scenes he painted in a mural style have crumbled away or have been papered over. However one scene remains (in 1976) and, although dim, is still discernible and reflects a scene from the Lacon past.

Painted at the end of the hall on the first floor is a view of the picturesque old pontoon bridge that was flung across the river and served the west and east side traffic for years. The old pontoon bridge has been gone for forty years but its memory lingers in a dim painting in the old McMurtrie House at 405 North Washington Street.

Eleanor Bussell.



This fine old Victorian home was a familiar landmark in Lacon at the corner of Fourth and Prairie Street until destroyed by the tornado of 1942.

The home was built in 1863 by Judge Thomas M. Shaw, the son of George H. Shaw who lived in Roberts Township at the "Point" (Shaw's Point). Judge Shaw was married to Nellie Hirsch of Woodford County. He was an esteemed, capable lawyer and served as mayor of Lacon several terms.

Judge Shaw was the brother of Dr. Henry Tesmer's wife, Elizabeth. They were the owners of the Sparland landmark, the Tesmer House.



The house which stands at 715 German Street in Lacon is most familiarly known as the Robert's Home. Mr. Daniel Kress, an immigrant German carpenter, built the original six room home (three rooms up, three rooms down) in 1863.

In 1893, another immigrant, from Switzerland, Mr. Paul Robert came to Lacon and opened a jewelry store. He purchased the home on German Street and established the jewelry store which he operated until 1927. The business was the same location on Fifth Street, Lacon, as Hoppler's Jewelry Store today.

After Mr. Robert's death, his son, Jules, a professor of agriculture and science at Kansas State College, acquired the home. Through the years numerous changes were made; a new kitchen added, south porch enclosed, east and west porches removed, and a basement dug under the kitchen area. The main portion of the house with its interesting old horseshoe window to the south remains the same; the original glass is intact as Mr. Kress installed it back in 1863.

Since 1941 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Umbarger have resided in the home. They purchased the property in 1960. Mrs. Umbarger is an only great-niece of Mr. Paul Robert.

In recent years remodeling has been done to modernize the home. When excavating was done to enlarge the basement, Mrs. Umbarger was able to rescue many antique bottles that were uncovered. She highly prizes her unique collection.

One of the very oldest brick residences in Lacon is the old W. E. Cook homestead at the north edge of Lacon, 711 North Prairie Street.

Ellsworth's Record of the Olden Times contains the following information about the Cooks. "W. E. Cook was born in New York in 1809. He followed the hatter's trade and in 1838 moved on to Ohio where he lived for nine years. He came to Lacon in 1849 and the same year was elected to the office of County Clerk.

"One daughter, Belle, was married to S. M. Garrett. One son was George W. E. Cook who in 1873 still resides in Lacon. He has resided in the old homestead in the north part of Lacon which has been in the possession of the family since 1855. The brick part having been erected in 1837."

When the frame wing to the north was added is not certain, however, it was shown in an 1873 picture, the picture from which the below illustration was made.

Since it contained many rooms each with a fireplace, it is believed at one time it may have served as a hotel. Before coming to Lacon, W. E. Cook had been clerk in a general store and a hotel clerk, a business he may have continued in Lacon in the 1850's-60's. The residence is located just north of the old Chicago-Alton Railroad.

About 1914 the Henry Weers family moved to Lacon from Minonk via train and moved into the spacious residence they had purchased from the Johnsons. Heirs of Henry Weers recall contractors removing the fifteen or sixteen room north wing.

After the death of Mrs. Mary Weers the property changed hands several times and is now owned by Edward Wigand.





About ten miles west of Sparland on Route 17, Section 17, LaPrairie Township is the farm owned by Mrs. Hester Allen of Lacon.

The beautiful old Victorian home on the farm is believed to have been built by Zeniphon Wilmot in the 1850's. In 1847, Mr. Wilmot came to LaPrairie and purchased the farm. He began to improve the land, putting up buildings and planting trees. He maintained a large fruit orchard as well as operating a nursery. The many old cedars remaining near the house today are remnants of the once thriving business.

In 1902 the land and buildings were purchased by Mrs. Allen's parents, the Charles Collins. Until her marriage to the late Joseph Allen, Hester lived on the farm with her parents.

The present tenants of the farm are the John Ratcliff family.

## LEVI HOLMES FARM

Levi Holmes came to Peoria County, Illinois in 1843 from Herkimer County, New York. In 1844 he married Lucinda Hansell who had come to Peoria County from Boston. After their marriage, Levi and Lucinda came to Marshall County and farmed in what later became LaPrairie Township. In 1847 they bought 160 acres of land grant property located in Section 2, and built their home there near the southwest corner of the quarter section. Eight children were born to them, four died of diphtheria as infants, the remaining four being Morris, Milan, Ada and William. When the children were small, Lucinda would put them in a large "hog's head" (wooden barrel) for safekeeping while she did the family washing, lest they wander off and become lost in the tall prairie grass. That same prairie grass was the cause of much concern when prairie fires raged through it, threatening the buildings of the early settlers. On one such occasion, Levi started a backfire to protect his buildings. The fire spread to a neighbor's haystack and burned it. Levi was sued for \$400.00, a large sum in those days.

In later years, Lucinda often told the family about the many red deer and wild turkey she saw in the fertile prairie acres near the farm.

The first town meeting was held April 2 in 1850. Levi was chosen clerk of the meeting and was elected as the first assessor. The township was given the name of Fairfield at that meeting and went by that name until it was learned that another county in the state already had the name of Fairfield; the name was changed to LaPrairie in 1850.

One year the corn froze to the ground in July. Grain was hauled to town, often Peoria, by team and wagon. If the load became mired in mud along the way, there was little one could do except wait until another man with a good strong team of horses came along to help pull the load out of the mud, perhaps several days later.

Levi died in 1864 leaving Lucinda with the young family. In 1865 she married John McGillick. They had one son, George. Milan was twelve years old when his father died and he had to earn his own living from that time. He herded cattle for neighbors riding an Indian pony with no bridle. He recalled driving herds of cattle to market when the snow was so deep the tops of the fence posts were buried. He helped drive hogs to market "on the hoof." He remembered many encounters with rattlesnakes which were plentiful at that time.

In 1878, Milan married Mary Ann Marshall, and two years later built a home near the northeast corner of the original farm, several years later raising and enlarging the house to its present two stories. There they spent the rest of their years, raising a family of six; Alfred, Bessie, Harry, who is still living in Vancouver, Washington, Grace, Charles, and Irene of Lacon.

Milan enjoyed raising a garden, small fruit and apple orchard, and evergreens. Rarely a spring went by without a few new trees being set in the orchard or building lots. His wife shared his love of growing things. They lived to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in the home they loved, but the following spring Mrs. Holmes died, followed by Grace in 1940, and Milan in 1943. Irene, present

owner, who had lived with her folks, continued to live there until 1958. She now resides in Lacon, Illinois. Since then renters have lived on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Livingston (Connie Gray, granddaughter of Milan and Mary Ann Holmes) presently reside there.

The original buildings are all gone where Levi and Lucinda built their home. Lucinda left her home about 1910 to live with her youngest son and wife. It was left vacant for that time. Lucinda died in 1914.

Miss Irene Holmes.





The "Old Root House," long a landmark in LaPrairie Township, stands along the Old Galena Trail at the corner where it intersects with the Marshall-Peoria County line road (Section 33), two miles east of Lawn Ridge.

Historically, it stands on property deeded to Erastus C. Root in 1836. Erastus C. Root had come with his father, Jeriel Root, and brother, Lucas Root, from Roxbury, New York, via Ross County, Ohio. They arrived in Ohio by covered wagon in 1817 and remained there until 1830. In October 1830 their covered wagon train of ten wagons of pioneers crossed the Illinois on a ferry, landing at Peoria, Illinois, and then proceeded to Hallock, Illinois. His family later became the sole residents of Chillicothe, where they lived until buying the LaPrairie farm in 1836.

Apparently, a small log cabin thirteen feet square served as the home until it was replaced in 1837 by another log cabin eighteen feet square and one and a half stories high.

Lucas Root, a brother, bought this part of the farm from Erastus C. Root in 1842. Apparently, the log cabin was torn down and the original part of the present house was built in 1851. It was well constructed of brick, two stories with seven rooms and was heated with stoves. No major changes were made until 1914.

Lucas transferred the title of this property to his son, Jeriel, in 1878, who retained ownership until it became the property of his two sons, Lirnis and Norris, in 1902. In 1914 Lirnis became the sole owner. At that time he made a major remodeling of the house. Several rooms were added, new porches, a bathroom, and an acetylene generating plant was installed to provide lighting. Of course, a modern heating plant was also installed.

The Root family of seven children enjoyed a fine family relationship with their parents and contributed much to the family farming operation. All seemed well until the Depression of the early twenties made it impossible to make both

ends meet financially, and it became necessary to sell the farm. The Evans's of Peoria bought the farm in 1924, but Linus continued to operate it until his retirement in 1945. This completed more than 100 years of continuous occupancy and operation of the same farm by four generations of the Root family.

The farm is still owned by Mrs. Clara Evans who gave the Root house its second remodeling in 1968. It is presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gill and family, who have been the farm operators for more than 25 years. The present condition of the house speaks well of their husbandry.

The Root house has been more than a landmark to passers-by. It is symbolic of the past and present. It has witnessed good times and bad times; it has watched the change from Indian trails, wagon trains, stagecoaches, automobiles, airplanes to spacecraft. It has provided "a heap of living" for many people over this period of 125 years and appears useful for much more. It is appropriate this Bicentennial year to salute the "Old Root House" as another example of our great American heritage.

Lester E. Leigh.

WILLIAM SMITH FARM

This 160 acre farm in Section 23 of LaPrairie Township was purchased by John Davidson in 1853.

Adam Davidson, grandfather of the present owner, Mr. William Smith, received the farm in 1869.

In 1972, Mr. Smith received the Centennial Farm Award from Governor Ogilvie. The Smiths reside at 5102 Sunnybrook Drive, Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Smith.

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In 1827 there was a mail route which began in Peoria continued through North Hampton to Boyd's Grove, Milo, Providence, Eulbonas Grove, Dixon and on to Galena.

In 1833 the state road was established running from Peoria through North Hampton, Whitefield, Tiskilwa, Princeton, Dixon and Galena.

Both the trail and the coach road before 1833 followed the Blue Ridge Road. (See Marshall County map.)

Mr. Rupert Nurse.

## LAWN RIDGE

Lawn Ridge is located on the Marshall and Peoria County line in the southwest corner of LaPrairie Township. Mr. Ordway, the first postmaster, named the post office, and the name was adopted for that of the village. The first mails were carried by a small boy on a pony to and from North Hampton.

In 1880 its businesses consisted of a post office, two drug stores, one grocery store, one general store, a harness shop, two wagon shops, two shoe shops, three blacksmith shops, two restaurants, a cabinet ware store, a school, a barbershop, two hotels, a public hall, two churches, the Methodist and Union Presbyterian. Later there was a Congregational Church on the north edge of the village. Lawn Ridge also had a doctor. The Masons of the vicinity obtained their charter October 5, 1864 and were installed at once as Lawn Ridge No. 415. There were many houses in Lawn Ridge.

### The Underground Railroad

Lawn Ridge has always been noted for its advanced ideas upon the subject of human freedom. The first fugitive that passed through Lawn Ridge was brought by Dr. Cutler of Princeville under a featherbed. The next was a colored man who had been pressed so closely by pursuers that to escape their clutches he had to dodge under a bridge at Farmington where he remained hidden a day and a night. A friend of the cause then brought him to Lawn Ridge, one of the few places where a fugitive slave was safe. Escaping slaves were usually brought at night but went forward by daylight as there was little danger beyond this point.

Lawn Ridge once a lively town at the crossroads is no more. The Masons have moved to Speer, Illinois. All that remains are a few houses, a tavern and a tractor repair shop.

Rupert Nurse.



An interesting old home is located in Section 16, Richland Township. The house was built before the Civil War. It has been changed little since its construction.

Originally William Kunkle designed the house so the hired help had living quarters on the north side. The south and central sections were the sections occupied by Mr. Kunkle, his wife, a daughter of Timothy Owen, and their four children; Lincoln, Egenes, Nellie and Jennie.

William's daughter, Nellie, married George Kunkle and moved to a farm north of the home pictured. They reared a family of three and today the heirs of these three children own the farm. It is operated by R. Eugene and sons today; great-grandson and great-great-grandsons of William Kunkle.



The historical data of the West family within reach is that of 1870. It was in that year that Timothy West brought his family to the farm in Section 1 of Township 6 North, Range 10 West, Twp. 6N., R. 10W., and there set up their dwelling. This farmhouse, built in the early summer of 1870. They first settled in West, Illinois. They were the pioneers west and in developing the new area to come to this a valuable site for the building of mills situated upon water power. The first mill was on Crow Creek, to which they a "first" factory, a mill of water, a great of the first magnitude.

In a number of years, the West pioneers operated upon a grain mill and saw mill. It was a successful business, farmers and settlers within a forty mile radius were dependent upon their services.

In the latter part of 1870, they bought their mill from Dr. Savage. Timothy set up a water mill on the farm, being the only water mill in the area. It became quickly known and worked in the business for several years in connection with the factory.

The millings of the farm today are believed to be the original structures. The exact date of building is not known, however, the grandfathers, Jay, 1870, and great-grand, John, 1871 of the present owners were born here in the first year mentioned above. Materials and construction of the farm, on the creek three-quarters of the mile distance of the mill, are typical of the early 1870's. The old mill wheel under used came from the West's saw mill on Crow Creek.

In 1876 the farm is owned by the great-great-grandchildren of Timothy West, James T. West, and Harvey West and James A. West Bell. James being the first owner.



and much talked about fact of that period that from the Roderick Owen plow came the great improvement of the plow of this country which followed closely upon the installation of his plow. At the first Illinois State Fair, held at Peoria, I think it was in 1857, Roderick Owen was in the contest with his center draft plow, as he denominated it when it was awarded the first premium, the principal features of its merits being its total elimination of side draft and its exceeding all other plows in lightness of draft, by twenty-five per cent and I hold it a logical proposition to assure, today, that the same comparison would hold in this year of our Lord 1912 between the R. Owen plow and any other plow yet produced, as no other has yet materialized but is hampered indefinitely by the defect of side draft. Notwithstanding the fact that the plows of the present day are generally considered at a high state of perfection and exploited by their makers as perfect, the simple fact yet remains that the slogan of side draft is still heard throughout the land. And Roderick Owen is the only man, so far as the record saith, who has succeeded in eliminating that vexations feature totally from the plow.

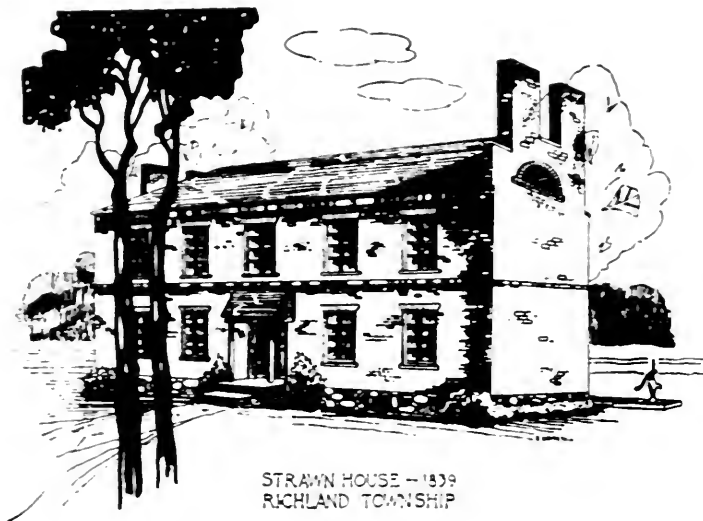
"About 1845, Roderick Owen moved from Lacon to Bureau County, Illinois where he established a plant for manufacturing his plows on an extensive scale. His plows always carried off first colors at all state and county fairs whenever on exhibition and were in first demand while on the market. When another genius arises and gives to this great agricultural country a perfect plow, a plow unhampered by a scintilla of superfluous draft, the plow that will navigate with the slightest need of a holder, we will throw up our hats and exclaim 'Shades of Roderick Owen.'

"I have in my possession one of his old advertising bills, dated 1852 which reads in part:

"Roderick Owen is manufacturing at his old stand near Tiskilwa, Bureau County, Illinois, a large assortment of the only real horizontal and perpendicular center draft plows that are made East or West, North or South. His plows are warranted to do the same amount of work with from twenty to fifty per cent less power than any other plow requiring only from 225 to 300 pounds draft as tested by the dynamometer & etc."

D. D. Owen,  
Lacon, Illinois.  
December, 1912.





STRAWN HOUSE - 1839  
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

John Strawn was a pioneer settler who came into the undeveloped Illinois River Valley from Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He came to the Valley by way of Hennepin, the patriarch of a fleet of three Conestoga wagons, arriving in the vicinity of Lacon in September, 1829.

He had previously visited the area in 1826, traveling out to the Illinois country by horseback to look over the land.

At his death on July 4, 1872 at the age of 61, he owned 3,500 acres of prime farmland, all of it lying on the eastern bluffs of the River and most of it in what later was named Richland Township. When Strawn and his family arrived here, the land he sought lay in the domain of Putnam County.

Directly aiding Strawn in his accumulation of Illinois land was his appointment in 1832 by Governor Reynolds to the rank of colonelship. The instructions that accompanied the appointment authorized him to organize the area between Strawn's Land or Columbia (later renamed Lacon) and the thriving little place of Hennepin situated 20 miles upstream.

The organization was for the protection from Black Hawk's marauding forces. Strawn, in addition to the prestige of a military title, received parcels of land in payment for his services. However, he saw no battle duty. He conducted drill on the court house lawns at Lacon and Hennepin.

The story has been handed down among his descendants that Colonel Strawn took his tasks of drilling the men seriously. He is supposed to put together his own uniform which included a Napoleon-type three cornered hat and which he wore when he drilled the farmers and organized them into companies and assigned the families to the nearest stockade.

Strawn was interested in land. He saw the wealth potential in the timbered

acres which ridged the Valley between Hennepin and Peoria. He chose to settle on Round Prairie some four miles inland from the island-studded River. He was also interested in convincing others of his good judgment of Illinois soil. He insisted, so it is told, that the land lying to the east of the River was superior to that lying on the west side of the county. When likely prospects came from the East with intentions of investing, Strawn became a real estate agent at once.

It is in the family lore that on one occasion he switched the wheels on the wagon which he was using to take prospective buyers out over the prairies. The switched wheels created the illusion of slightly rolling land as the wagon seemed to be traveling up a slight grade. The clever Colonel Strawn used the gentle roll to elaborate upon his sales talk.

His preference for the Richland Township lands has also been traced to the time he was a military leader. In the village across the River from Lacon was a small settlement later to be named Sparland. There was a flinty Vermonter named Franklin Ward Graves and his family squatting there. When the Graves family was told to go to a stockade south of Lacon and on the east side of the River, Graves informed Strawn he was "fixin' to raise corn, Indians or no." Strawn resented Graves and did what he could to lure prospective settlers and investors to the Lacon side of the County.

Strawn did not believe in banks and buried his money in various places. If anyone ever found those hiding places, it has never been revealed. He was awakened one night to find two men in his room. They ransacked the house, found very little silver and left in disgust, angered because they could not find as much as they were sure Strawn possessed. Family legends have it that money was secreted in the well (probably in the butter bucket) and in odd places about the barn and the blacksmith shop which he operated with his farming and real estate salesmanship.

Acknowledged as the first permanent settler of Marshall County, he was recognized as a Democrat in politics and possibly did not regard Abraham Lincoln too highly.

When Mr. Lincoln was riding the circuit of the Old Eighth Circuit between Metamora and Hennepin, he found against Strawn in a lawsuit.

Strawn built for his family a fine tall brick house in Richland Township (that is T29N, R2W). When it was completed in the mid-1840's it was considered a showplace for many years and it was widely recognized as "The Strawn House" known from Metamora to Hennepin.

Strawn imported some of the materials used in building the house but the brick he fired himself in kilns located on his property at the edge of the timber.

The door latches and the window panes were ordered from Philadelphia. Surely the window laces were from the East also.

The rafters were put together with hand-hewn walnut pegs, each about eight to ten inches long.

There were nine fireplaces in the house but they were not ornate, just

serviceable. Most of them had simple rubbed wood mantels. The flooring was wide and heavy, made in Strawn's own saw mill.

The style of the house might best be described as "Philadelphia Colonial," rectangular and tall. There were no side shutters to break the bareness of the brick but the window panes were thick and leaded.

The elegant showplace of the prairies was torn down in the early 1960's after having sheltered several families for a little more than one hundred years. The plot of land on which the house stood and which could be seen for miles, is now intensely farmed.

Eleanor Bussell,  
(A Strawn Descendant).



In Section 29 of Richland Township, Ralph Henry Strawn and his family represent the fourth and fifth generations of the Strawn family to own and operate this farm.

The land was first acquired from the Government by Colonel John Strawn around 1830.

The Colonel's son, John William, inherited the farm and built the first dwelling which is still standing today, well over 100 years old.

Mrs. Ralph Strawn reports that older family members recalled stories of how Indians reportedly helped build the old house. Rough hewn timbers, heavy stone foundation and a large open fireplace are features that help identify its age. These friendly Indians often came to the home of John William; sometimes bringing along their own fire wood.

After John William, the farm became Ralph William Strawn's and today is owned by Ralph William's son, Ralph Henry.

Just last year (1975), Ralph and his wife moved from the old home so it stands empty today. More modern homes of the fifth generation Strawns, Ralph's family, are nearby.

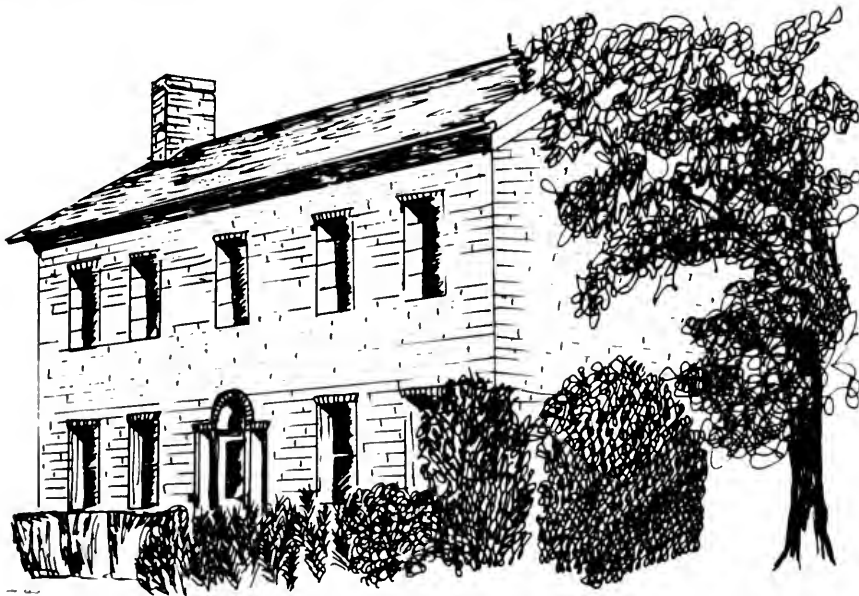
The farm is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Lacon and one mile south of Route 17.

Roberts Point was the name of a town that was planned on paper. Where else would be a logical place but the Carl Schulz farm which was formerly owned by Livingston Roberts?

Livingston Roberts was one of the first settlers in Marshall County coming in 1828. He followed the teaming business; making five or six trips to Chicago. The return trip brought loads of merchandise for the new settlement.

Evidently it was on one of these trips that the following happened to his wife who had remained at home. An Indian came to the house and asked for food. Mrs. Roberts told him he must wash his feet before eating. As he was doing this, she killed him with an ax. Then she hid the body. Other Indians came looking for him but she claimed he hadn't been there. This took place in the old stone house which was the Roberts' first home. This 20 foot by 26 foot home was built using the stones from the creek. It was heated by a huge fireplace and the wooden windows swinging outwards were the source of the fresh air that was needed.

Mr. Roberts built the brick home in 1841. The bricks were kilned a short distance away where red clay was available. The walls are solid brick and the thickest one is eighteen inches thick. Formerly there were six fireplaces but all have been sealed shut. The mantel from one fireplace is in the kitchen. There is a spiral gooseneck staircase in the hall and also a rose colored window. The front door is pictured in Betty Madden's book, Art, Crafts and Architecture in Early Illinois, as an entrance in a former inn near Wenona. (Varna didn't exist at that time.)





This house was called "Halfway House" as it was half-way between Springfield and Chicago. This was a stagecoach stop and people would stay overnight. The three-story barn had a lighted lantern in the cupola each night to guide travelers to the inn. Two or three barns have been rebuilt over the lower story because of fire. The remains of the lower story still stands. The stagecoach with four horses could drive into the barn and turn around there.

Mr. Roberts was a hospitable man and everyone was welcome. The house was a well-known stopping place for travelers and a noted landmark. Abraham Lincoln slept here many times and probably many more famous people.

The Roberts were friends of slaves and so the place was also part of the Underground Railway. The slaves were kept in the stone house during the day and they traveled at night.

The present owners are Carl and Tena Schulz. Carl was born in this house, and has never resided any other place. The home is located on Route 89 just north of Varna, Illinois.

Mrs. Tena Schulz.

One of the best known landmarks in Marshall County still standing is this old homestead built by George and Penelope Shaw west of Varna. It stands as strong and able to withstand the elements as when the pioneering family built it. Built of handmade brick its walls are two feet thick and there are no windows on either end. Great walnut beams felled from the forest surrounding the home support the two story residence. There are four large rooms each with its own fireplace and between the two spacious rooms downstairs and their counterparts upstairs runs a large center hallway. The woodwork in the home is walnut, much of it hand polished by the three girls and three boys born to that first family.

George Shaw's mother was a cousin of George Washington. His father had gone to school with President James Buchanan. George and Penelope came by canal boat and stagecoach in 1829. He brought with his young bride her Negro mammy who begged not to be left behind although he had freed his slaves before they left Kentucky. The mammy's grave was also in the family cemetery at Shaw's Point.

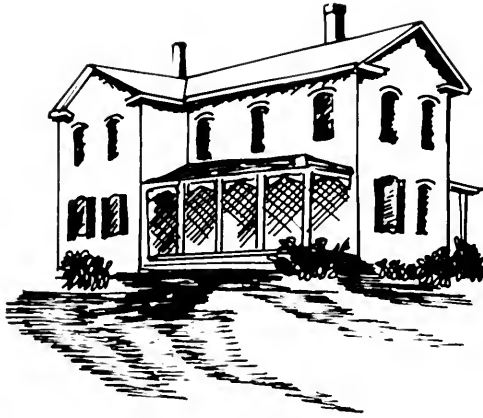
They chose a tract of government land inland from the Illinois River about eight miles. The trees grew this far onto the prairie and jutted out into the plain. It became known as Shaw's Point and a school carried that name also. It was built when their children needed an education and remained until consolidation left it vacant. Tom Shaw became a lawyer in Hennepin, and Elizabeth married a German immigrant doctor, Henry Tesmer. They built the beautiful, great house on the side of the hill in Sparland. Hal Shaw had gone to fight in the Civil War and was permanently disabled, but Tom carried on where George Shaw left off. He married and settled along the Illinois River and contributed much as Judge Shaw in one of the three Circuit Courts in the state, later going to State Legislature.



After generations in the Shaw's name, the house was acquired in 1936 by the O'Hern family of Peoria. The Sherman V. Carlsons of Varna lived there 26 years. Now it is the dwelling of the Richard Colesons.

The house itself has changed only slightly with the years. A room was added at the back of the house, the large brick fireplace removed, the walnut wood-work downstairs painted instead of painstakingly polished by six pair of small hands. But the brick walls stand as strong as the day they were laid...a monument to George and Penelope Shaw.





Thomas and Hannah Smalley Doyle came to Macon County, Illinois from Hunnington County, Pennsylvania in 1836. They moved to Peoria County in 1852 where Mr. Doyle died in 1877.

Owen Doyle, Thomas' son, was born in 1850. In 1871 at the age of twenty-one, he purchased the "home place" for \$56.25 an acre. This land is located in the  $W\frac{1}{2}$  of the  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, Saratoga Township. In 1890 he purchased the remaining half of the section.

Owen Doyle was a thrifty, hard-working farmer and he prospered.

In 1881 when Owen Doyle and Miranda Webber, daughter of pioneer A. P. Webber, were married the little Saratoga Church was crowded for the first recorded wedding which took place after the evening services. Guests attended from as far away as New York.

The happy bride and groom moved into the lovely new home which had just been built. Material had come from surrounding areas; the foundation stone from Joliet, and lumber from the plentiful supply.

To this couple, Owen and Miranda were born four children; Karl, Herbert, Bell and Marion. Marion Doyle Cronkrite, now residing at 910 Third Street, Henry, Illinois recalls the Sundays the family attended the Saratoga Methodist Church, one mile south of their home. Father, mother and four Doyle children made the journey to church in their fringe-topped surrey. The children walked to the Doyle School, one and one-half mile from home. This school, like all our colorful country schools, long ago succumbed to modern consolidation. The building was purchased and moved to the Howard Salisbury farm where it is presently used as a machine shed.

The original farm home constructed in 1881 is still standing today. A few minor changes have been made; it is not too different from the way it was when the newlyweds moved into it in 1881. Presently the Charles Rowe family live there and farm the land.

THE THOMAS DOYLE FARM

One-half mile south of the Saratoga United Methodist Church in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, Saratoga Township is located the farm owned by Mrs. Walter L. Bayne of 810 Green Street, Henry.

Mrs. Bayne's grandfather, Thomas Doyle, acquired the farm in 1864. His daughter, Matilda and husband, Joseph Clark, moved onto the farm in 1881. The home into which they moved was standing then and remains today quite different from its appearance in 1881.

Even though no record of the exact building date exists, it is believed to have been in the 1850's or 1860's.

Presently Mr. and Mrs. John Ryan reside in the home and farm the land.

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The Saratoga Township land, NE $\frac{1}{2}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 31, owned by John W. Hickey of Camp Grove, was originally the property of one Peter Bagley, who was granted this land by the U. S. Government in 1852.

He subsequently sold the land to William Gass, who sold it to Walter Cowan.

David Hickey purchased the land from Walter Cowan in 1867, and it has been in the possession of the Hickey family since that time, having been willed by David Hickey to his son, James P. Hickey.

John W. Hickey, the present owner and a son of James P., got possession in 1956 following the death of his mother.

The house that appears in the 1873 plat book was enlarged and remodeled by James P. Hickey in 1916. It is presently owned by Dorothea Hickey Hartley and her husband, Jack Hartley who purchased the house and one acre of land in 1956. John W. Hickey, who still owns the farm acreage, lived in the house from 1916 until his marriage in 1939. Dorothea Hartley is the youngest of the nine children of James P. Hickey, and was born and raised in this house and continues to live here.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hickey.

NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, Township 13N, Range 8E has been owned and operated by the Merrill, Wilson and Holmes family for 126 years. The present owner-operator bears all three of these names, Merrill Wilson Holmes.

The 160 acres situated in the tract appropriated by the United States Government, in the State of Illinois, for Military Bounty for the War of 1812, was patented March 5, 1818, No. 12921, to William Butlery, born in Wilton, Connecticut, shoemaker by trade, who was a Private in Captain Beachs' Company Regiment of Infantry, War of 1812. He died in Wilton, Connecticut, 1840, and his heirs also failed to pay the taxes.

In 1850, Merrill Wilson Holmes' great-great-uncle, John U. Morrill, born in Penobscot County, Maine, then of Marshall County, obtained the land by warranty deed from John Carpenter and wife of Bureau County for the sum of \$250. It was filed in Bureau County in 1850 and in Marshall County in 1852. John U. Merrill moved to the farm with a son, John, built a house, and improved the land. It took until October, 1854 for John Merrill to obtain an Abstract of Title through an Attorney in Fact, James Lombard of Suffolk County, State of Massachusetts, with Ben Lombard, Jr. as subscribing witness of Wilton, Connecticut. James Lombard paid the six Butlery heirs \$1.00 for this NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, Township 13N, Range 8E, and testified that this land had never been sold before. In June, 1855 John U. Merrill received a bill for \$600. to be paid before 1858 at 6% interest to the office of Ben Lombard, Henry, Illinois in consideration for such service.

A strip of land, six and one-half feet, was sold from the east side of the farm to a neighbor, Robert Schoffield, rather than remove the hedge precious for fencing purposes, set before the land was surveyed in 1853 by Thomas Patterson, County Surveyor, Marshall County.

John U. Merrill and his son, John, left Marshall County in 1872 when he sold the place to his niece, Mary Elizabeth Merrill Wilson, and husband, John Bruce Wilson for the sum of \$3,000. She came to Illinois with her parents from Boston, Massachusetts in 1857, married John Bruce Wilson in 1869 in Livingston County, and they lived in Whitefield Township, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 9, on his father's farm until they moved to their newly purchased Saratoga Township Section 8 farm in 1872.

They replaced the small original one and one-half story dwelling in 1894



with the large frame house presently standing. His father, James Wilson, a carpenter helped build the house and lived with his son and wife until his death in 1907. He came from Rising Sun, Indiana in 1851 to Crow Meadow, Henry Township, with his wife, Elizabeth Steward, who died in 1851, and their young son, John Bruce. Credit is given to him for building many of the bridges in Whitefield Township and some of the country schoolhouses.

The John Bruce Wilsons reared four sons and a daughter; Herbert, Oscar, Arthur, Clarence, and Jennie, all deceased except Clarence living in Mason City, Iowa. Jennie taught the Saratoga Center country school before her marriage in 1901 to Alfred W. Holmes, son of Milan and Mary Ann Marshall Holmes, and grandson of the pioneers, Levi and Lucinda Hansell Holmes of LaPrairie Township and the William Marshalls of Saratoga Township.

In 1910, the John B. Wilsons retired, and their daughter and husband moved with their two small daughters from the William Marshall farm, Saratoga Township, to her father's farm. They reared four children; Gertrude (Mrs. Hugh Beggs, Jacksonville, Illinois), Florence (Mrs. Herbert Nottage, Encino, California), Merrill Wilson, and Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Alvin Foster, R. R. 1, Henry, Illinois, Saratoga Township). Florence taught the Wilson rural school on this farm. In January, 1917, Alfred and Jennie Holmes agreed on a sum for the purchase of the farm from her father, John B. Wilson, and continued to reside on it until 1948 when they sold it to their son and wife, Merrill W. and Henrietta. Merrill was born on this farm and here has spent his entire life.

Merrill and his wife, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Downey Wherry, (whose grandparents were each pioneers in Senachwine Township, Putnam County), were married in 1937. They reared three children; Elizabeth (Mrs. Warren T. Townsend, Belton, Texas), Carole (Mrs. Josh Franks, Toledo, Ohio), and James Merrill (Vidor, Texas).

As Merrill watched "the lengthening streaks of yellow earth and silty deposits in the drainage ditches portray the insidious work of the farmer's greatest menace, erosion," in 1938 he began to contour farm. He worked in cooperation with L. J. Hager, Farm Adviser, and the Soil Conservation Department and the University of Illinois Extension Service, and also replaced the hedge, set by great-uncle John U. Merrill along the east edge of the farm, with a concrete dam. Merrill has continued the practice of soil conservation through the years.

None of the original buildings still stand except the main structure of the large machine shed which was the original barn. In the front yard is an ancient pine tree which was standing in 1872 when the John Bruce Wilsons moved to the farm. It was not damaged when a tornado hit the farm in 1965 that demolished the silo and damaged all of the farm buildings including the house. The same year lightning ripped bark from the top to the base of the tree, but it's strength survived.

The Wilson log country schoolhouse on the southwest corner of this farm was replaced in 1872 and remained open until 1952. The schoolhouse was sold and is used for a machine shed on the farm one mile north, tenanted by James Eble and family.

This farm proudly displays a Centennial Award received in 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill W. Holmes  
Saratoga Township  
Bradford, Illinois.

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#### THE QUINN FARM

James Quinn purchased this land, SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 6, Saratoga Township from Samuel Mooberry and Louisa in 1866, and lived there for a period before moving with his family to Henry Township. A son, Edmund the eldest, helped plant all of the maple trees around the house, north and west including the grove at the end of the lane. The trees were continuous from the house to the road, but some years later some were cut in the pasture area between the house and the grove at the end of the lane. Some of these grove trees are still standing.

In 1904 another son, Francis Quinn, acquired this farm and moved there in 1912 on March 14th when he married Minnie E. Downey, daughter of Henry and Henrietta Giltner Downey, and lived there until his death in 1939. Minnie and Annis, an adopted daughter, and Juanita W. Quinn whom the Quinns reared continued to reside there a few more years.

The present house was built prior to 1912, but was remodeled some since that time. Annis recalls helping Mrs. Quinn cook and serve noon meals to the workers who labored on the ditch which drained the Saratoga "Goose Lake" in 1931. The tile drains into the creek on the Quinn farm.

Annis inherited the land after the death of Minnie E. Quinn in 1948. Willard and Elsie Piper are the present tenants on the farm. The present owner, Mrs. Carl Bassler (Edna Annis Wherry Quinn Bassler) now lives in West Plains, Missouri.

Mrs. Henrietta Holmes.

WILLIAM KELLEY ESTATE

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kelley, both natives of Ireland, moved from a log cabin on a farm in Peoria County, Illinois, into a house on their newly purchased farm one-half mile north of the Saratoga Church in Section 22 of Saratoga Township, Marshall County, Illinois in 1868.

At that time the family consisted of five children: Anna J., John T., Richard, Robert A., and Andrew C. Soon Margaret E. and twin boys, Charles N. and William W. joined them.

The father of this young family was accidentally killed August 8, 1875 at the age of 43 years. On December 17, 1875, Charles, one of the twins, passed away at the age of three and one-half years. Anna passed away September 29, 1876, age 18 years and John passed away March 11, 1880, age 20 years. Mrs. Kelley's mother, Mrs. Jane Knilans, also a native of Ireland, passed away at the home of her daughter November 27, 1887, age 81 years.

With the help of Richard and Robert, Mrs. Kelley and her family continued to operate the farm.

Following the untimely death of Orrie Webber Kelley, Robert's wife, January 11, 1898, Mrs. Kelley, Margaret and William moved into Robert's home one and one-half miles south of their home. By that time Richard had married Harriet B. Cain and Andrew had married Ethel Tanquary and were established in their own homes.

After Mrs. Kelley's death from serious burns in 1904, the home place was owned by Margaret and William until Margaret's death November 5, 1935, when William became sole owner. He passed away in 1957.

In the early 1900's the land was rented out until 1912 when Reverend Andrew Kelley retired from the ministry and he and his wife returned to the farm where they lived until moving to Henry in 1920.

Since that time William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kelley; Ransom Kelley, a grandson; Ronald Kelley, a great-grandson; and Clarence Kelley, also a great-grandson and present operator of the farm have tilled the land.

Miss Mildred Kelley.

## LESTER LEWIS FARM

One hundred sixty acres, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, Saratoga Township, was granted to Charles Fisher, Soldier of the War of 1812, a Matross in Hobarts Company, Light Artillery, by the United States of America on January 3, 1818. The grant was signed by President James Monroe, and Josiah Meigs, Commissioner of General Land Office.

In 1868 after the land had changed ownership several times, Wesley Smalley Doyle purchased the west one-half of this NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 27 from Jacob Hammel and his wife, Margaret Hammel for \$50.00 an acre, and established a home. In those horse and buggy days over muddy roads, or behind "Old Dobbin" in the sleigh, Mary Ann Saylor, wife of Wesley Doyle, traveled many miles as a neighborly mid-wife to bring many new babies into this world. The Wesley Doyles lived on this farm until 1900 when their only child, Eva Doyle and her husband, Peter Lewis, and their eldest son, Lester Doyle Lewis, moved to reside here. Mrs. Peter Lewis acquired ownership of the land by deed in December, 1908 and continued to reside on it until her death in 1948 and her husband until his death in 1953.

In 1948, Lester D. Lewis, son of Peter and Eva Doyle Lewis, acquired the deed to the land. Lester, his wife, Zella Kimble Lewis, with their third and last child, Robert Edward Lewis moved to the farm in 1951, and Lester and Zella still reside there in this Bicentennial year, 1976. They have three children; Mrs. Martha Lammers, who with her husband are missionaries in Morioka, Japan; Ralph Kimble Lewis, an order coordinator for Uniroyal in Mishawaka, Indiana; and Robert E. Lewis, C.L.U. Chief Risk Appraisor for State Farm Life Insurance Company in Newark, Ohio. The six Lewis grandchildren have enjoyed many happy hours on the farm. The only other family member to live on this farm since 1868 was the Peter and Eva Doyle Lewis' second son, Lloyd. (See the following story.)

There have been many changes since the earlier days when the white man first settled in this area. The Galena Trail ran north and south a half mile west. Peter Lewis remembered when he could step across the branch of the Senachwine Creek running through this farm. It is now at least forty feet from side to side. This is a reminder of what is happening to the rich top soil. None of the original buildings remain on the farm now. The present house was built in 1925.

Across from the Lewis farm was the rural Doyle School named after Lester and Lloyd Lewis' great-grandparents, Thomas and Hannah Smalley Doyle who owned a farm north of the school site. It was one of the last to close in the township.

On the corner one-half mile west of the Lester Lewis farm was the Saratoga Post Office, a medical doctor's office, general store, and a blacksmith shop.

In 1972 the Lewis' received the Centennial award.

Mrs. Lester D. Lewis.

## LLOYD AND RUTH LEWIS FARM

In August, 1876, Wesley S. Doyle purchased the east half of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, Saratoga Township, Marshall County from Thomas and Charlotte Monier, except for the two acres given from this eighty acres to the Trustees of the Saratoga Methodist Episcopal Church in 1868 by William D. Lytle and his wife, Phoebe. (See Church story.)

In 1908, Eva Doyle Lewis inherited this tract of land from her father, Wesley S. Doyle, a widower.

After the death of Eva Doyle and that of her husband Peter Lewis, Lloyd Lewis, second son, inherited this 78 acres.

Lloyd married Ruth VanOstrand, lives in LaPrairie Township, and farms this land.

Mrs. Lloyd (Ruth) Lewis.

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## GEORGE B. HOWES ESTATE

In September, 1861, George B. Howes and wife, Katherine, purchased the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 7, Saratoga Township from a Thomas Chase.

A small portion of this farm played an important part in the development of this area. Fifty feet along the east side of the farm were sold to the Northwestern Railroad in 1901. It was after the building of the railroad that the village of Broadmoor began, and the elevator and grain business thrived. The farmers in the area now had a near outlet for their grain.

In 1904 the Howes farm was acquired by G. B. Howes' son, George B. In 1939 the George B. Howes' estate went to Ella, his widow and children; John R. Howes and Helen E. Howes Weygandt.

In 1954 the widow, Ella, and daughter, Helen, obtained the property. In 1968, Helen E. Howes Weygandt became the owner. Mrs. Weygandt replaced the original house by a new home in 1961.

The Franz Waldinger family reside there and operate the farm.



## THE WILLIAM MARSHALL FARM

William and Elizabeth Bryan Marshall came from England (probably in the 1840's) where William had been employed as a butler and Elizabeth had been employed as head housekeeper in the house of Lady Clan-Williams, Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria. William became a victim of tuberculosis, known then as "consumption." As a last resort, his doctor advised an ocean voyage. They intended going to Australia, but missed their ship while waiting for a grandmother to bring their son, Samuel, to the port to go with them. When the boy failed to come, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall departed on the first ship out, which was headed for the United States. They never saw their son again and he died before the age of 20.

The ship took them to New Orleans. They came up to Illinois by boat, and Mrs. Marshall worked for a time in a mattress factory in Peoria before moving to a farm in Valley Township, where their only daughter, Mary Ann was born. Mary Ann Marshall (Mrs. Milan Holmes) often recalled her girlhood to her family with recollections of the times she rode her horse over the hedge rows. In some places rows of these Osage orange still exist to form the fence lines between fields.

It is interesting to note here that records indicate Captain William Mann is credited with bringing the first Osage orange seeds here from Texas after the Mexican War. Mann came to Peoria, Illinois in 1848. Being unable to sell the seeds of the then unknown plant, Mann laid out his first nursery on the site of the present city of Normal, Illinois. Eventually the business spread to LaSalle and Marshall Counties.

John O. Dent who is said to have furnished Osage orange plants to farmers and stockmen is a name better known in Marshall County. The early prairies became crisscrossed with these sturdy hedges of Osage orange. The hedges' rapid growth made a fence impenetrable to man and beast and was preferred over the ungalvanized barbed wire which quickly rusted.

The corn crop was hauled by ox team to Peoria, the round trip taking about a week. Corn sold for ten cents a bushel. Later they came to Marshall County, Illinois, where they farmed for a short time before buying and moving to the farm of 160 acres in Section 35, Saratoga Township. They had to pay from 12 to 20% interest on money borrowed at that time. Chickens sold at \$2.50 a dozen. Mrs. Marshall kept boarders, raised turkeys, and chickens to help pay for the farm.

An amusing incident concerning Mrs. Marshall's turkey flock occurred one day when she discovered the whole flock lying, apparently dead, around the yard. Being a thrifty soul, she decided to pluck the feathers and at least salvage that much. Imagine her surprise when she looked outside sometime later, and saw the flock of naked turkeys walking around the yard. Evidently they had discovered and eaten fermented fruit that proved their undoing!

Elizabeth Marshall was always ready to go to the aid of sick neighbors to help in any way she could. Mr. Marshall eventually seemed to recover his health and outlived Mrs. Marshall.

After William Marshall's death, the farm went to the daughter, Mary Ann, who was then Mrs. Milan H. Holmes and living on a nearby farm. Eventually the Holmes' oldest son, Alfred, and his wife lived at and farmed the Marshall place until moving to Mrs. Holmes' folk's farm in northwest Saratoga Township. Charles Holmes moved there in 1914, a short time later the place was deeded to Alfred, Bessie Holmes Gray and Charles Holmes. The Gray's bought Alfred's share and have continued to own the South one-half of the 160 acres. It now belongs to their son, Charles E. Gray. The North one-half belonging to Charles R. Holmes was sold when Charles retired from the farm. The original house was torn down and replaced around 1918 or 1919 by Charles Holmes.

Mrs. Charles Gray  
R. R. 1, Box 148  
Sparland, Illinois.

## SAGA OF SARATOGA LAKE OR GOOSE LAKE

The following article written by Margaret Dewey appeared in the Henry News Republican on December 30, 1971.

"Many years ago, there was a huge body of water in Saratoga Township, Marshall County, located about three miles southeast of present day Lake Broadmoor. This water was designated on early plat books and maps as Saratoga Lake, and covered an area of considerably over 100 acres. (In comparison, the Lake at Broadmoor today covers some 30 acres.)

"Present day conservationists and advocates of ecology would have been delighted with this early paradise of hunters, trappers and fishermen. The slough grass was higher than a man's head, with wild geese, deer, cranes and other forms of wildlife in abundance.

"About 1870, a man by the name of Mr. Henry Seeley purchased several pieces of land both to the east and to the west of the Lake area, and moved to the farm (where George Stange lives today) about 1/2 mile from the east shore of 'Goose Lake.' Mr. Seeley made his home there for over ten years before moving to Henry, Illinois, where he died in 1896. His obituary stated that he was the largest man in the area, weighing over 275 pounds, and possessed a booming laugh that could be heard a block away. Judging from some of the newspaper items concerning him which appeared in the Henry paper during those years he lived near 'Goose Lake,' he must also have been possessed of a wonderful sense of humor.

"...Through the years much difficulty was encountered in trying to drain this Lake, to utilize the swamplike land for farming purposes, as well as to prevent flooded road conditions after heavy rains and snows. All efforts to achieve this proved unsuccessful however, prior to the organization in the late 1920's of the Saratoga Lake Drainage District. Commissioners, appointed by the County Court, ascertained just which lands in that area of Saratoga Township had water draining into the Lake, and assessed those farm owners for their share in paying for the Drainage project.

"The contract for draining the Lake with 48 inch tile was awarded to an Iowa man for approximately \$50,000. This was a huge sum of money for some twenty farmers to raise, especially when corn was down to 15¢ a bushel in those early Depression years.

"After the Lake was drained, the late Chris Beyer cleared the willows from the land, and Louis Stotler of Camp Grove remembers walking behind a plow and helping cultivate the old Lake bed prior to the planting of crops there. His father, the late Ike Stotler, helped Chris Beyer harvest the first crop from old Goose Lake that fall.

Many Saratoga residents, who well remember the Big Tile Project, as well as much of the bitter controversy concerning same, report that since that time there has never been so much water in the old Lake area, or clear across the road, as this year. The heavy spring rains flooded the area, and this was repeated in September when the excessive rainfall was breaking records again, and inundated

the crops standing in the fields.

They say that history has a habit of repeating itself, and that hunters are again in that area this fall. The subject of so much water draining into what was once Saratoga Lake, and what to do about, is being discussed again."



As a house is not a home until it is lived in; neither is a church a center of a Christian community unless it is entwined with the faith of its people. The early Methodist families who pioneered and broke the sod, set hedges for fencing, built humble homes, endured the hardships and privations of a lonely prairie, were in the early days of Saratoga Township these kind of people; deeply embedded with a Christian faith and desirous of the fellowship of worship in the participation of their faith.

About the time Saratoga Township was organized in 1857, Corydon Gillett, Archie McVicker, and Hugh McVicker formed and were leaders of the first Methodist Episcopal Classes, and affiliated with the Whitefield Circuit. George Scholes and Sam Divelbiss attended the quarterly meetings faithfully. These class members met in the Ray, Gillett, McVicker and Doyle School Houses. Later Thomas Kelley, Darby, and A. P. Webber were leaders. Interest increased and plans were formulated to erect a church. Funds were collected, and on June 12, 1868 William D. and Phoebe Lytle deeded two acres from their farm on the NE $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27 to the Trustees of the Saratoga Methodist Episcopal Church for a church and cemetery. The one room well built edifice was already under contract with Dryden and Russell; and was to be thirty-six by fifty feet with two entrances to the east and a porch. It was plastered, painted and furnished with pews and pulpit. October 11, 1868 was a "glorious day for Saratoga," when the new church was dedicated by Rev. J. T. Evans. The total cost of the church had expanded to the figure of \$2,835.00 and included a \$300. donation for hauling. Rev. James Cowden was appointed as the minister.

The first members recorded were Corydon Gillett, Alonson P. Webber, M. J. Webber, Hannah Carse, James E. Jones, Mary Jones, John Green, Kate Green, Thomas Kelley, Martha Kelley, Emily Darby, Sam Divelbiss and Rachael Divelbiss.

A cemetery was laid out with ninety-nine lots, and fenced in 1871. Twenty-five men were listed as helping haul lumber and posts and building the fence, and others contributed money. Thirteen soldiers who served in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II are buried in the cemetery.

The Saratoga United Methodist Church has always been a part of a circuit; in 1871 the Church became a part of the LaPrairie Circuit. The minister was housed in the parsonage there, and commuted by horseback and carriage. The Church gained in membership when the Brick (Presbyterian) Church closed around 1880 and the Whitefield Center Methodist Episcopal Church closed in 1914. In 1930, the Church ceased its relationship with the LaPrairie Circuit and became a part of the Wyoming Charge which was composed of Wyoming, Saratoga and Camp Grove. In 1938 after the Camp Grove Church closed, two more churches were added to the appointment and the Rev. C. Nicholas served four churches, including Castleton and Snareville. In 1939 with the Uniting Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church South, and The Methodist Episcopal Church North; the name was changed to the Saratoga Methodist Church. In 1945 the Henry-Saratoga Charge was formed and has remained a happy friendly relationship through the years. In 1968 with the Uniting Conference of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church, the name was changed to The Saratoga United Methodist Church.

Through the years this church has opened its doors to many community activities from singing and Bible Schools, study classes to homecoming celebrations and picnics, Farm Bureau and Homemaker Extension meetings, programs, suppers, family nights, weddings, showers, ice cream socials, plays, receptions, and a long list of many activities which have brought fellowship and pleasure to the people of Saratoga Township for over one hundred years.

Records and memories of the past well preserved in the hearts and minds of the people of Saratoga were transferred to written form in 1968 when the Church celebrated a Rededication of its Building, and a historical book was written which is still available to those who would like a more complete history of this rural agricultural community fellowship.

Even though the excitement of 1936 was a moment of great discovery when the Coleman gas lamp was replaced with a new Delco Light Plant, and rural electrification became a reality for the church in 1941; nothing has excelled quite as much as the faith of the Saratoga people who have given of their time and talent to keep their church building in the excellent condition it is today.

With an increase in attendance following World War II, extensive plans were started under the direction of Rev. C. Nicholas, and continued under Rev. D. Lemkau for remodeling. The basement was excavated, a new church foundation was built, the narthex built with a new entrance to the north, the ceiling lowered, the old coal stoves replaced with a furnace, the one classroom was divided, and the sanctuary was remodeled to include a divided chancel and new flooring.

Even though the Church has never had a large membership, it has always been and still is a stable congregation; about the same size in membership as when it first began, and today carries a membership of ninety-eight members with its present pastor, Rev. Prosper O. Tournear serving as the sixty-third minister of this active rural congregation. It has apparently been, and still is, God's will to relate to the people of Saratoga Township through the facilities and faith of the United Methodist Church of Saratoga.

In 1860 Alanson P. Webber obtained, for the sum of \$1,500., this 160 acres located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28, Saratoga Township.

It is thought that Mr. A. P. Webber moved here, in the present home, about 1866. It is not known for certain the exact date the house was built. It is one of the very few remaining old residences of Saratoga Township.

Some of the features which seem to indicate the age of the building are: rock foundation; slate roof; wide front door with glass panels along both sides, much like the more elaborate Georgian homes the early settlers remembered from their Eastern roots. Original six-inch wide board floors, ten-foot ceilings, and floor to ceiling windows are still in use. The smaller windows throughout the house contain the twelve lights, a popular design in many early homes. Through the years, some of the original house was removed and minor changes made in the front porch, however, basically the house looks as it did in the middle 1800's.

Alanson P. Webber died in 1902. His son, Allie, then lived in the home and reared a family. In 1905 he moved to Stark County and the farm was sold a couple of times.

In 1942 the farm was purchased by Fred and Alice Pyell. They lived here until Mr. Pyell's death in 1956. Mrs. Pyell continued to live on the farm until 1961. In that year she moved to Wyoming, Illinois where she resides today.

The farm is now operated by Mrs. Pyell's nephew, Donald Down, who along with his family reside in the old home.





This unique home is not quite antique by some authorities' standards, being built as recently as 1886. Robert Waugh built the house as a home for his family begun with Lina Stephenson whom he married in 1877. He was born in Selkirkshire, Scotland in 1838, came to the United States in 1850 to Ontario City, New York and Marshall County in 1853. He worked on a farm in LaPrairie Township for three years and farmed on his own account there until moving to Steuben Township in 1862 where he worked one year. Then he worked in Livingston County two years when he entered Baker's 1st Calvary of District of Columbia in January, 1865. Waugh served until December, 1865 when he was mustered out through diseases. He came home to peddle dry goods in 1867 and established his business in 1870, located next to (now) Franks' Hardware on Ferry Street. He carried a full stock of boots, shoes, and clothing and dry goods suitable to his trade. He was known as a liberal, reliable man. Robert and Lina, a native of Woodford County, had James, Joseph, Edith, Leslie and Robert.

Waugh lived above the store until 1887 when he moved into the octagonal house built earlier. He purchased the land from John Martin in February, 1886 for twenty-five dollars. Edith Waugh Monier, the late Mrs. Halsey Monier, remembered the day they moved into the house. She had been sent to the care of friends, for she was about three years old. When they took her home, it was the wrong house and she cried bitterly.

Working with Robert Waugh in his business was Andrew Aitchison. He was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland in April, 1857, and came to the United States when he was nine months old. He peddled goods from a wagon throughout the township. He lived with the Waughs above the store for a time.

Andrew bought the business in 1912, but in the meantime he married Elizabeth Jane Pringle in October of 1880 and they moved into the octagonal house about the same time as Andrew bought the store. He paid \$3,000. for the house and property in 1913 to Carolyn Waugh Dunlap. The Aitchisons had six children: Grace, b.



December, 1888; William, b. August, 1892; George, B. February, 1894; Dean, b. May, 1902; Fred, b. (?), and Nelle, b. (?).

The house was sold in 1973 to Gary D. and Nancy Hendrick Coker. It was in quite poor repair and now the long restoration begins. Gary is an illustrator with Caterpillar, while Nancy is a retired Montessori directress and artist. In June of 1974, Sara Jane was born, the first child born in the house in over sixty years. November of 1975 brought Joshua Hendrick Coker and a new era of history to the Octagon House on Steuben Township.

Mrs. Gary D. Coker.

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#### HERRIDGE HOMESTEAD

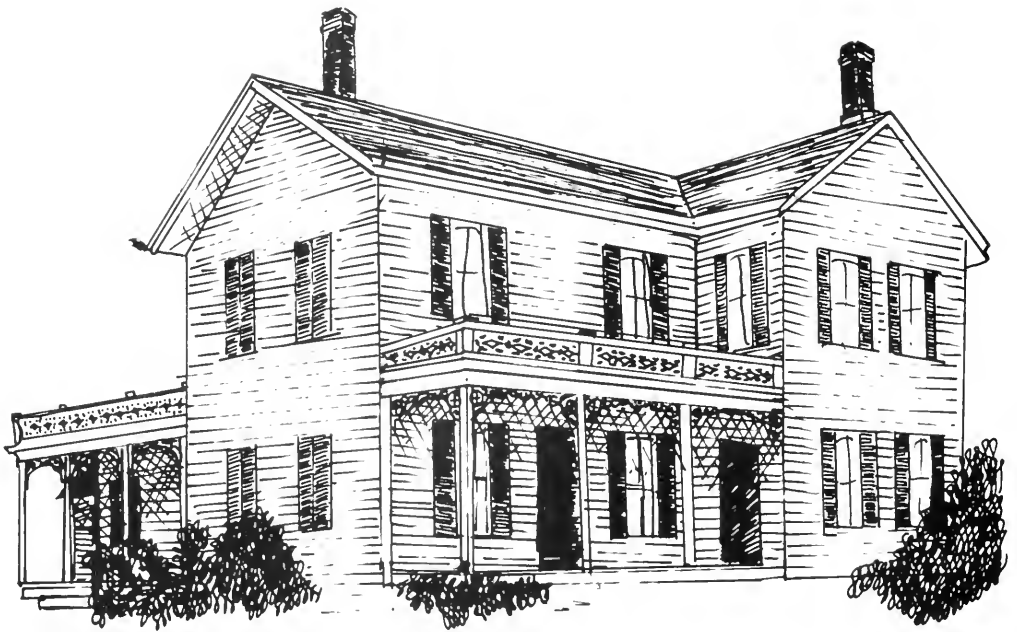
The house located on the farm four miles west of Sparland on Route 17, Steuben Township is over one hundred years old.

This dwelling is believed to have been built in the middle 1800's by Albin Gallup, an early settler in Steuben Township.

The farm was acquired by the Alice Herridge family in 1925.

The west portion of the home has changed little since it was built by the Gallups. A corner window with a window seat adds charm to the dining room of this modest home.

An original fireplace with delicately carved wooden mantel and mirror helps heat the living room of the present occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Herridge.



Mr. and Mrs. William Monier purchased the Oak Glade Farm in 1868 from Jabez Fisher, the old pork packer of Lacon.

William Monier was born on the Isle of Man, May 1, 1834, and came with his parents to America in 1850. It took 21 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a sailing vessel. The journey from New York to Illinois was up the Hudson River by boat, the Erie Canal to Buffalo, thence by the Great Lakes to Chicago. They came down the canal to LaSalle then by river boat to Peoria and settled near Brimfield. In 1857, the family moved to Saratoga Township.

Willmina Doran, who would become his wife later, was born in New Brunswick, Canada, July 5, 1841. In 1848, the Doran family moved to Boston. There they became acquainted with the Fisher family, who in turn persuaded them that the Illinois farming country had a promising future.

So in the summer of 1850, they came to Illinois by the same route that the Monier family came. They arrived in Lacon October 31, 1850. After living in Lacon that winter in a two room house with four adults and ten children, a little crowded by today's standards, they moved to Jabez Fisher's "Oak Glade Farm," the present residence of Halsey and the late Edith Monier, Robert W. and Myrtle Monier, Joe and Donna Monier, and their families.

On December 23, 1860, William Monier, age 26, and Willmina Doran, age 19, were married and began farming in Saratoga Township.

In 1868, William and Willmina Monier sold their 160 acre farm in Saratoga Township and purchased the 327 acre "Oak Glade Farm" from Jabez Fisher.

Now in 1976, Rodney Monier, the son of Robert W. and Myrtle, has an interest in a cow and calf herd on this farm. It is the fourth generation of Moniers to have a working interest in "Oak Glade Farm" and the fifth generation to live there.

The old horse barn that was built before Willmina Doran's parents moved to "Oak Glade" is still standing.

At the present time, Joe Monier's family lives in the house pictured. It was built by William Monier in 1878. The original home is basically like it was constructed ninety-eight years ago.

Mrs. Robert W. Monier.

#### NORIN-GUIGLER FARM

In 1889, Mr. Rathbun, an unmarried man, purchased 40 acres in Section 17, Steuben Township from Barsillia Ridgway and Rosetta, his wife, for \$1600.

Mr. Rathbun never married, and at his death in 1921 his property, consisting of several farms and property in Chillicothe, Illinois, was inherited by his several nieces and nephew. This nephew, John Norin, died less than a year later and thus his holdings then came into the possession of his four daughters, Julia (Norin) Guigler, Alverna, Mary, and Ida Norin.

The four were co-owners of this acreage and another acreage until the late 1930's when Alverna sold her holdings to one of the sisters. The three remaining sisters owned the property until about 1964. At this time the two younger sisters, Mary and Ida, sold their share of the farm to the oldest sister, Julia. All other farms and rental property had also been disposed of from time to time.

This last forty acres was owned and occupied by Julia, the remaining family member until her death in 1971.

At the present time, it is owned by her three remaining children, a son, Walter Guigler, and two daughters, Alba McDonald and Mary Lou Winkler of Lacon. A grandson, Gary Guigler, also shares in this acreage.

Since its purchase in 1889, it has been continuously occupied by family members, with the exception of a short time when it was rented during a two-year period.

Today's occupant, Larry Guigler, is a son of Walter Guigler, one of the present owners. None of the original buildings remain today.

Mrs. Alba McDonald.

Methodism has played an important role in the Sparland community for more than a century. In 1837 the Rev. Zodac Hall of the Central Illinois Conference traveled through here and organized the First Methodist Society. The members were the Thompson, Tanquary, Drake and Watkins' families.

Preaching services were held in the Samuel Thompson cabin, just west of the present site of Sparland. One year later a log cabin house was built in which the second Sunday School in Marshall County was organized. Children from many Protestant families attended; some walked while others came from Lacon crossing the river in canoes.

In 1845, Frank Smith, a young man of nineteen was sent to serve the Henry Mission. He preached in Henry, in the Thompson School and in the home of John Hammett on south Yankee Street. The first Quarterly Conference recorded was held in 1847 when Rev. W. C. Cummings preached in the schoolhouse and in the cabin of George Sparr.

The next year, under the leadership of Rev. J. K. Kirkpatrick, money was raised to build the Bethel Church. Asa Thompson was given a contract to erect the building on his farm; this farm is presently owned by Ezra Rumbold. Specifications called for a stone foundation, oak or walnut frame, oak sheeting and pine shingles. It was to be built in a substantial manner and at a cost of \$650. The Presiding Elder, Rev. Horey, dedicated the building December 1, 1849. Trustees of the church were John Hoskins, James Tanquary, Jehiel Watkins, Leonard Timmons and I. Q. Tanquary. Great revival meetings were held every winter, sometimes lasting as long as six weeks.

In 1857, J. T. Wilson began preaching in the village of Sparland every Saturday evening. The name of Washington Gehr appears as the first class leader.



In February, 1864, the trustees, E. R. Hurlbut, Zelmon Johnson, S. H. Williams, James Callen, W. E. Gehr, Charles Savell, A. J. Baughman and Samuel Tuttle purchased Lots 6 and 7 in Block 3, Cotton's Addition to Sparland, from John Y. Cotton and Sarah Cotton for the sum of \$150.

In 1867, Reverend William Leiber was sent to this charge and he spent a year raising the money to build the Sparland Church in 1868. Two years later the parsonage was built. At this time the Whitefield Church was also a part of this charge.

Bethel Church was now considered to be located too close to the Sparland Church and not centrally located for its own membership, so it was moved one and one half miles farther west in 1875 and located on a site owned by James Bussell. In a few years a vestibule was added and new windows, furniture and decoration made it adequate for the increasing membership.

Sparland church members were growing and a parlor, belfry and bell were added at a cost of \$700. During the pastorate of Rev. Franklin Rist, the church underwent a complete remodeling at a cost of \$2,700. and the parsonage was modernized for \$2,000.

Men of high ideals and great vision served the Bethel-Sparland charge.

In keeping with the times, Bethel Church joined forces with Sparland in 1922 and the old Bethel Church stood as a silent tribute to her many years of faithful service until 1932 when it was torn down and the material used to enlarge the Sunday School room and build a kitchen for the Sparland Church. At this time church services were in the morning with Sunday School in the afternoon.

In 1928 the Sparland and Henry Methodist Churches were put on one charge.

From 1932 to 1940 the church was at its peak in Sunday School and church attendance. The county award for high Sunday School work was won for several years in succession.

A member of this church has been serving as a missionary in Chile. Miss Lucille Jacobs has been in South America for the past thirty-five years.

In 1944, Sparland, LaPrairie Center and Blue Ridge joined together as a three point charge.

On Easter Sunday, 1953, new pulpit furniture was dedicated in memory of those who have meant so much in building the Kingdom of God.

A new organ was purchased in 1957, in 1961 a new heating system was installed. These improvements have added to the beauty and comfort of the old building which continues to serve well since 1868.

Currently the church is served by the Reverend LaRoss Fistler.



The handsome brownstone house, which for nearly one hundred years stood as a landmark in the village of Sparland (where the Shell station is today), was known by all the local folks as the Tesmer House.

The house on the hill was built in 1869 by an eastern financial tycoon, John Y. Cotton. Mr. Cotton brought a St. Louis architect to Sparland to design his new home. The splendid home patterned after those found in the Chateau country of France was erected. Mr. Cotton realized his dream of transporting a hillside in France to Sparland on the Cotton Hill overlooking the Illinois River.

After the completion of the home it was sold to an immigrant German, Dr. Tesmer, who had recently married Lizzie (Elizabeth) Shaw, daughter of George and Penelope Shaw, the owners and builders of one of Marshall County's best known landmarks, the old brick home at Shaw's Point just west of Varna.

In the late 1950's the heirs of Dr. Tesmer sold the property. The old home was torn down and the site became the location of a service station.



As visitors enter Sparland from the east on Route 17, a familiar landmark to their left is the "Whiffle Tree Place."

It was constructed by Frank O'Leary for his residence when he acquired the 40 acres of reclaimed river bottom land around 1890.

In the early 1930's, Mr. Charles S. Jackson, a wealthy Chicago mortician and insurance executive purchased the property. He remodeled and redecorated the home into his summer home and hunting lodge. Because of Mr. Jackson's interest and love of fine trotting horses the name "Whiffle Tree" (singletree) was chosen for the house at this time. He was the owner of many prize trotting horses. Racing friends, entertainment stars, and sports figures were often guests of the Jacksons for duck hunting on the Illinois River.

Miss Elizabeth Hexter recalls the times she assisted the famous Joe Louis when he stopped in Hexter Brothers Department Store in the early 1930's.

After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson (they had no children) the property was left to Mr. Marshall Byumm of Chicago and eleven years (1965) ago, the Larry Wilkins family purchased the farm. Their five daughters have grown and today Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins reside in Whiffle Tree Place.





This beautiful old brick residence is still standing today in Section 6 of Whitefield Township.

It is over one hundred years old, having been built before 1873.

Presently it is the home of Mrs. Ethel Doyle.

The 80 acres of farm land now owned by George E. Mattern has been in the Mattern family since October, 1874. It is approximately seven miles west of Henry and about three miles east of Whitefield Corners.

The earliest record of its ownership goes back to February 10, 1818 when Theopolus Doekman (or Dockhome) became owner of the original quarter of 160 acres of which the Mattern farm was at that time a part, according to the records at the Lacon Court House. He deeded the property to John Abbot June 3, 1818. Following John Abbot, the owners were:

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aaron Crane -----                  | January 4, 1819               |
| John West -----                    | July 25, 1819                 |
| Lyman C. Smith -----               | September 9, 1842             |
| David C. Davis -----               | December 10, 1842             |
| Ben Shelton -----                  | November 1, 1848 for tax deed |
| William H. Mann -----              | January 25, 1850              |
| Richard Lloyd -----                | June 18, 1867                 |
| John Mateer and Isaac A. Green --- | December 17, 1867             |

The quarter then was divided February 20, 1868. John Mateer got the  $S\frac{1}{2}$  and Isaac A. Green, the  $N\frac{1}{2}$ . Evidently the property had not been paid for by October 24, 1874 so Richard Lloyd still held the deed. George Peter Mattern then purchased the property on that date, October 24, 1874, from Richard Lloyd.

When George Peter Mattern died in 1898 at the age of fifty-four, Edward B. Mattern, their adopted son, who was now twenty, farmed the land for his mother, Karoline until Edward's oldest son, George Edward was twenty-one years old in 1921. Mrs. George Peter (Karoline) Mattern had moved to the town of Henry in 1910. Her son, Edward B. purchased a farm near the then town of Whitefield in 1921. George Edward, George Peter and Karoline's grandson, then took over the farming of the Mattern homestead. In April, 1926 George Edward bought the farm from the only heir, Edward B. and his wife, Anna.

It was on this farm that eleven of the twelve children of Edward B. and Anna Mattern were born. It was also on this farm that Edward B. took up the trade of taxidermy, self-taught by mail, through the "Northwest School of Taxidermy" of Omaha, Nebraska. From what had started as a hobby on this farm grew to a full time business after moving to Henry in 1924.

George Edward, who had begun his farming as a bachelor in 1921, was married to Gertrude Kapraun in January, 1925. To them were born seven children, all raised on the old homestead.

George Edward and Gertrude and their three oldest children lost almost all of their belongings when their large farm house burned in March of 1929. A chimney spark caught on the shingles early on a windy morning causing the house to burn to the ground. At the time, the youngest of their three children was just one month old.

Kind neighbors, the Henry Merdians had an empty house just north of the Mattern property. They sold it to the Matterns who had it moved onto the foundation where the burned house had stood.

The farm at one time was quite a place with white picket fence across the front along the road. It had in addition to the big house, two barns, a crib, two silos, a machine shed, a large hog house, a large chicken house, a brooder house for baby chickens, and a workshop which also housed taxidermy equipment. There were four huge maple trees and a box elder tree lining the front yard along the road; six nice tall pines and about four cherry trees in the front yard. In the back yard were more trees, including an orchard and a grape arbor. A huge beautiful maple tree shaded the southeast corner of the house near the summer kitchen. Of course when the house burned this tree was a part of the fire's toll. Age and time have taken their toll of the original homestead as it does all things - human and otherwise. And the fire did its share. The place has few of its original buildings and trees left as it used to be in the 1900's.

Mrs. Virgil Bogner,  
Great-granddaughter of  
George Peter Mattern.



## LANDERS-SEARS FARM

In the early 1800's Thomas Landers immigrated to the United States from Tipperary, Ireland. He first settled in the East and after a few years set out to seek his fortune in the "New West." He was employed in the construction of the early railroad and it was this connection that brought him first to Putnam County.

He served in the Civil War and after returning to Illinois, he purchased land.

In 1866 Thomas and his wife settled on a farm located in Whitefield Township. They reared three children; Dennis, Kate and Mary. Thomas passed away in 1932 at the age of ninety-one.

Dennis, the only son, farmed the land and later acquired the farm which now consists of 276 acres in Sections 2 and 11, Whitefield Township. Dennis married and became the father of two daughters who own the farm today. They are Miss Mary Ann Landers and Mrs. John (Eleanor) Sears of Henry.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haun are presently living on the farm.

Mrs. Eleanor Sears.

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## CLARK SWIFT FARM

Philander Swift was born in Rochester, New York in 1800. He came to the "New West" in the early 1840's, making the journey by wagon, before his son, Clark, was two years old. When the family reached Marshall County, they settled in Whitefield Township. He had been engaged in merchandising in the East, however, he gave his full attention to agricultural pursuits when he came to Marshall County.

Philander died in 1865, leaving a widow and eleven children. His son, Clark, who was nine at the time of his death, upon becoming of age purchased the "homeplace." Later, he purchased 80 acres in Section 5 of Whitefield Township. Clark married Electa Fosdick. Two children were born; Bertha and Merton. Merton married Miss Jennie Wheeler of Putnam and continued to live on the old home farm.

Merton and Jennie had two sons, Percy and Clare. Percy's daughter became Mrs. Edwin Noder of Henry. Presently, Mrs. Noder and her son, Larry, are the fifth and sixth generations to own and operate the Swift farm.

There are no buildings existing on the land presently.

Mrs. James Harmon  
(daughter of Mrs. Noder).



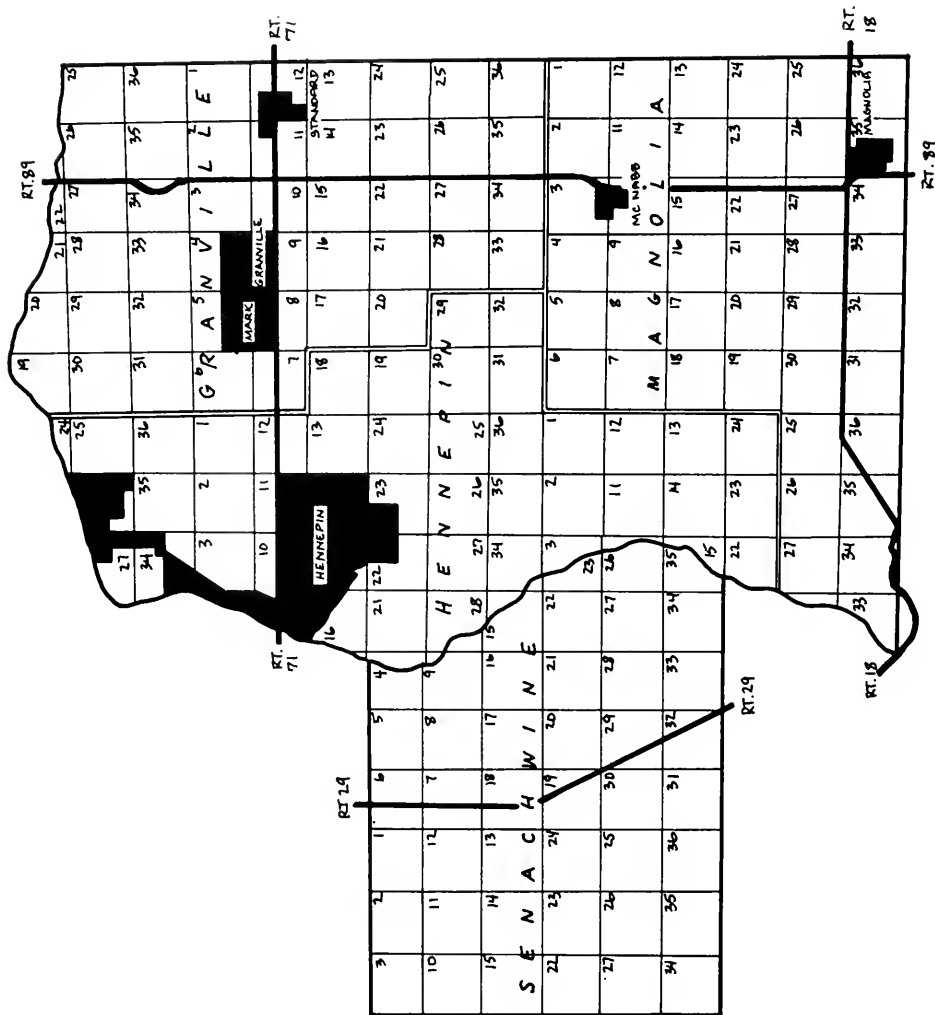
Richard Waughop, born October 8, 1830, owned and operated a farm in LaPrairie Township. Being a very religious man he drove several miles to attend services regularly at the Christian Church in South Whitefield. In 1865 he sold his farm in LaPrairie and in order to be near the church of his choice bought a quarter section of land in Whitefield Township across the road from the church. Mr. Waughop and his wife, the former Mary Catherine BonDurant, with their two children, Clara B. and Isaac W., moved into a small house located on this farm. It was here two years later their second daughter, Marcie A. was born.

Mr. Waughop planted many trees of different varieties to beautify the farm and about 1870 he built the big barn and the large frame house, now owned and occupied by his granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Earle Blackwell. It was in this house Mr. and Mrs. Richard Waughop's second son, Richard Leslie was born August 18, 1872. He lived his entire life of 78 years on this farm.

Richard Leslie acquired ownership of the farm from his father. His wife was Miss Estella Deck of Henry, and it was in this same house their three daughters, Irma (Mrs. Flavil Bland) of Bethany, Illinois; Vada (Mrs. Earle Blackwell) residing on the home place; Miss Verla Waughop of Peoria, Illinois; and a son, Richard William, who died in infancy, were born.

After the death of her father, Richard Leslie Waughop, Vada Waughop Blackwell became the third generation owner of the farm, and, like her father, has thus far, lived here all her life, and proudly displays her Centennial Farm sign near the road at the end of the lane of maple trees planted by her grandfather, Richard Waughop, more than one hundred years ago. The farm is located in Section 28 of Whitefield Township.

Mrs. Earle Blackwell.







The original Hopkins house on this site was built by Joel Willis Hopkins, son of William, the first Hopkins to own the farm, in 1854 at a cost of \$4,099.04. It is believed the carpenters were from Bloomington, Illinois and were boarded by the family while building the house. In 1904 from June to the last of September, Malcolm Brothers of Normal, Illinois worked at repairing and remodeling the house at a cost of \$4,322.50. Archibald Wilson Hopkins, son of Joel Willis Hopkins, was the owner at that time. In his dairy he says, "Our ladies thought it a long time to be mixed up with flies, dust and shavings." At that time the one story north end of the house was moved to Granville, Illinois and became part of a smaller house there. A new kitchen, back pantry, woodhouse and cob house were built on. The porch off the dining room was removed and that room enlarged and a larger porch built off the north side of the dining room and the west side of the kitchen. There was a long narrow porch on the east side with doors off the back hall, kitchen and woodhouse. Three things that especially delighted Mrs. Hopkins were the yard square and deep wood box on casters that could be filled in the woodhouse, and when wood was needed for the kitchen range pulled up to the kitchen door to get the wood without going outside. Clean cobs for a quick fire she considered a luxury, and the fact that the big icebox was built into the pantry between the kitchen and dining room, and it had an opening onto the back porch so the iceman could fill it without tramping through the kitchen was a joy. Another pride and joy was the white wood floor in the kitchen. A corner cupboard for dishes and at the other end of the room bookcases with drawers below were built in the dining room, and the room had a plate rail where they could put special dishes, among them a huge turkey platter and turkey plates.

The house was remodeled again in 1955 by the next owner, Joel Willis Hopkins, son of Archibald. Coat closets and an outside door took one side of the room in the back pantry. The wood and cob rooms, no longer needed, became a storage room with cupboards and a powder room and a door opening into the back pantry. The east porch was incorporated into the house. Part with the pantry and a small kitchen which had been made from an office off the dining room became a large kitchen with area for washer, dryer and mangle, and one for breakfast table and chairs. The rest of the porch and big former kitchen became a big office with fireplace, something the house had never had. Since the death of Joel Willis Hopkins in 1972 the Ronald Bruchs, who help farm the land, have been living in



the house.

### Items of Interest about the Family

In 1835 William Hopkins bought the claim of Alexander Laughlin. In early September he left Red Oak, Ohio "with his wife, nine children, ten head of cattle, and thirty head of sheep." One big four-horse prairie schooner carried the household effects, and a two-horse spring-wagon, then an object of curiosity in the neighborhood, made a comfortable place for the wife and little ones. At Funk's Grove, near the present site of Bloomington, Illinois, they were delayed for some time by high water. William and part of the family finally moved on leaving the older boys with stock to follow as soon as they could. When grass for the cattle had given out, the boys moved to new pastures but with condemning consciences and a feeling that if their father had been there he would not have allowed it. Reaching their new possessions, they lived in a wagon until a rude cabin could be built. That same fall a better cabin was erected and the first was used for a stable. After a few years a frame house was built. This was moved away in 1845, when William built a much larger and better house where he lived until his death in 1848. These houses were west of the present house built by Joel Willis Hopkins near the intersection of Silverspoon Road and Route 89.

Archibald Wilson Hopkins was much interested in animals and for his own enjoyment and that of anyone who cared to come and see them in April of 1904 began to collect animals - first for a park west of the house, and later for one on the east side across from the home of his sister, Martha, Mrs. Sidney Whitaker. The first were three buffalo purchased for \$1,014. from Howard Eaton of Wyoming, the stock coming from the northwest part of Montana. In November he bought three moose; a bull and two cows for \$722. of Alex Gorley, Rolling River, Manitoba. The moose did not do well and neither did antelope. In the course of time he added four kinds of deer, elk, zebu and a pair of yak. One of these parks was maintained until the last twenty deer escaped in 1975.

Archibald Hopkins always kept some rail fences in use so that people of the younger generations might see what formerly was in common use. There used to hang on the porch of the house an iron triangle which he said called Abraham Lincoln to dinner at the Cecil Hotel in Hennepin when he came as a lawyer.

This farm land and home are located in Section 35, Granville Township, just east of State Route 89.



Thomas Ware was one of the first settlers in Granville Township. He and his wife came from Massachusetts in 1833 and settled here, claiming 375 acres of land. He built a home in Granville.

About 1870 he built a new and larger house, using part of the old one for the kitchen.

His son and daughter, William and Mary, were the last of the family to live on the homeplace. When William died in 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Joel H. Whitaker acquired the house and surrounding land. They still live in the home, and what is now the garage is part of the original home.

Most of the nails used were the old type square ones. The woodwork is a soft type, presumably pine. The original floors are four inch wide boards, and horsehair was used in the plaster. The outside walls have brick linings and the inside doors all have white porcelain knobs.

Mrs. Joel Whitaker.



In 1832, people by the name of Waugh built this home at High Street between Front and Second Streets and ran it as a hotel. For years afterwards it was a hotel also. When Mrs. Simington ran it, they baked their bread in a brick oven in a separate building. There was also a slaughterhouse in place of the porch which was added on in 1905. The construction of the Hotel was solid walnut siding.

"Hennepin's Hotel Cecil Was Once One of the State's Most Elegant Hotels" from the Henry News Republican by Robert Leslie Brandstatter.

Many people of Putnam and Marshall Counties can remember the days of the famous Hotel Cecil in Hennepin which was run by the very capable owner, Mrs. Florence Church.

The building presumably had its humble beginnings in 1832 as a double log cabin. In the basement of the present building the cross beams, which are simply logs with one side hewn flat for the floor to rest on, gives reason to believe that this was the former log cabin building, or a part thereof.

Although the building was most widely known as the Hotel Cecil, it had previously been known under other proprietors as: The Hennepin House; Paxson House; The King Hotel; The Commerical House in 1891 under the proprietorship of Louis C. Rousseau, and was run as the Hennepin House with the owner being Mr. Simington.

#### Remodeled

In April of 1905, the Hennepin House was offered for sale along with the livery barn and several lots for \$1,000. by Mrs. Rebecca Simington. Mrs. Florence Church, the daughter of one of Hennepin's illustrious citizens, Mr. Jasper (Jap) Cecil, bought the entire place. Following the purchase several months of extensive remodeling, costing over \$4,500. were carried out.

Part of the rear of the building was torn down, which was formerly a long two-story section of narrow rooms used to bed down carriage drivers. The old slaughterhouse on the main street just to the east of the main building was also razed. It had formerly been a butcher shop and was vacated when a new building was built one block to the west.

The barn was completely remodeled, and stocked with all types of feed. One of its features was a crude type of "air conditioning" which merely consisted of sliding windows on each side, allowing cross ventilation in hot weather. This was quite modern for a barn to have sliding windows, even though they were only about 10 x 14 inches in size.

Water was piped into the hotel from the artesian mains, and a gas plant for "brilliant illumination" was installed. On September 29, 1905, the building was officially opened as the Hotel Cecil. A crowd of some 200 guests from surrounding towns attended the opening despite rainy weather.

### Opening

The main event of the evening was the oyster supper which was served for 25¢ per plate. Music was provided by the Hennepin band, and a tour of the remodeled hotel brought the conclusion of the evening. Many of the guests from out of town remained all night, returning to their homes the next morning. The account, as reported in the Putnam Record, printed in the neighboring building, related the following description of the building:

"While some trivial things, in the hurry of getting the house ready for this opening, were forgotten and will be added later on, yet everything was sufficiently complete to convince those who were in attendance that the Cecil Hotel is one of the most elegantly furnished hotels in the state outside of Chicago. The office and parlor are in the front part of the house and both are very newly equipped and furnished. Next comes the dining room which is very commodious and finished off in the best of (illegible). Mr. and Mrs. Church's living rooms are over the office, while the remainder of the upper floor is apportioned off into (illegible) rooms, carpeted and supplied with elegant and costly furniture."

### T. R. Signs Register

Many illustrious and famous names are to be found in the five registers still preserved. However, perhaps the one of the greatest fame was of a man, whose signature has long since been lost, as the remaining records start in the year 1907. Abraham Lincoln, who was later to become the President of the United States, stayed in the Hotel, before it was known as the Cecil, while conducting a trial in the Putnam County courthouse. The exact date of Lincoln's first stay has not been definitely established, but he was in Hennepin trying cases in 1845, 1850, and 1856. It is presumed that it was on one of these occasions, or in this general period of time.

Perhaps the most famous men other than Abraham Lincoln, who stayed at the Hotel Cecil were: Theodore Roosevelt, Barney Oldfield, and DeLoyd Thompson. Mr. Roosevelt signed the register on October 22, 1907, and it shows that he had dinner, and stayed overnight in room 7. All original room numbers still remain today. Room 7 is a large room at the south end of the hotel directly above what was used as a pantry. It was one of the largest and nicest rooms available. Roosevelt gave his address simply as Washington, D. C. Lastly the entry is marked "Paid."

Mr. Oldfield and Mr. Thompson left a small leaflet with their pictures on it

advertising the National Implement and Vehicle show at Peoria, September 28-October 8, 1915. They had come down the Illinois River on one of the steamers to do some fishing and hunting at Hennepin. Mr. Oldfield was known as the world's speed king and Mr. Thompson was billed as the "World's Aerial Wonder," by flying upside down.

#### Era Ends

Other registers from the hotel list many prominent men, many Illinois statesmen, boat visitors, and also has numerous entries showing trial juries were kept overnight during court. The Alumni of the Hennepin High School held their banquet at the Hotel Cecil in 1912. Many similar entries too numerous to mention are to be found.

In 1936, after 31 years as proprietress of the Hotel Cecil, Mrs. Church offered the entire grounds and buildings for sale. John Brandstatter, Sr. bought the building and has resided there since. Thus came the end of an era for Hennepin, which has not had a hotel since.

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#### OWNERS:

Waugh  
Rousseau  
Paxson  
Simington

---Totaling 73 years.

Church (Cecil), 1905  
Brandstatter Sr., 1936  
Brandstatter Jr., 1958

---Totaling 71 years among three owners.

John Brandstatter, Jr. is the present owner of the grounds and buildings which he purchased from his father, John Sr. in 1958. Again the old hotel was remodeled and divided into apartments, all of which are occupied.

John Brandstatter, Jr.

The Putnam County Historical Society Museum, located on High Street in Hennepin, Illinois, is one of the oldest homes in the county and is believed to have been built in the early 1830's. Before the Village of Hennepin rented it to the Historical Society, it was known as the Telephone Building since it housed the Hennepin Mutual Telephone Company.

It was built by James W. Willis and wife and later sold to Burton Ayres. Ayres sold it to G. W. Ventioneer, when it was believed to have been used as a hotel. At the courthouse in Hennepin, the second transaction on the house dated July 2, 1836 and May 2, 1837 involving George W. Ventioneer, proves to be an interesting item:

"Oh, Yes -- The cheapest bargain ever sold in Hennepin. The subscriber offers his hotel for sale. It is situated on High Street, between Front and Second, in the best part of town for business. For any person who may want to make an investment in town property, here is a chance for a splendid speculation, as I am determined to leave this country and go south."

James Ventioneer, Hennepin, Ill.  
May 16, 1837

The Tri-Township Home Extension Unit has begun restoration of the sitting room as it would have been in the Victorian era. Furnishings include a yarn weasel, spinning wheel, settee and high chair. The settee is from the Pulsifer House which was the first home built in the village of Hennepin.

The museum, open a few hours each week during the summer of 1976 and officially dedicated September 28, 1976, is open for visitors.





The first courthouse for Putnam County was a large wooden building erected in 1833. In 1838 the present building was constructed at the cost of \$14,000.

In 1893 a two-story brick, iron-roofed addition to the north side of the courthouse was added. It was "twenty-four feet north and south by thirty-four feet east and west, the first story to be fireproof and divided into two vaults, the second story to be in one room and suitable for a grand jury room, the outside of said addition to be the same style of architecture as the courthouse."

This beautiful old structure is still in use in 1976. It claims the distinction of being the oldest courthouse in use in the state of Illinois.



The farm now owned by Irene E. Zenor, located in Section 15, Hennepin Township, one mile east of Hennepin, Illinois on Route 26, has been owned by the same family since 1832.

In 1832, Grandfather Housen K. Zenor (grandfather of Irene) entered (homesteaded) the land and built a log cabin on it. In 1837 Housen K. Zenor and his father, William H. Zenor went to Springfield, Illinois and purchased the land from the government for \$1.25 per acre. The original sheepskin patent signed by President Van Buren in 1837 is still in possession of the present owner.

The original farm consisted of 160 acres, however, more land was acquired through the years. The first home was a log cabin. During these early years, Indians were often seen near the cabin but caused no trouble.

In 1835, Housen K. married Flora Morrow Patterson, and soon after they built a one-room brick house with a ladder leading to the upper room. It is still a part of the present building. As their family grew, a main addition was added with four large rooms downstairs and five bedrooms upstairs. A kitchen was added later adjoining the brick part of the house.

William H. Zenor used to ship potatoes and a few hams and shoulders to St.



Louis, Missouri by steamboat. The prices ranged from 7¢ per bushel in 1855, to 12½¢ in 1862. The main price during those years was 7 or 8¢. A logbook that he kept of the things he shipped is still in the family.

About five acres of pasture land, northeast of the house, is virgin soil, and has never been broken by a plow.

Housen K. Zenor and Flora Patterson Zenor had ten children. Their youngest son, Harley B. Zenor, took over the farm after his mother died in 1902. His father had passed away in 1870. Harley B. paid off the other heirs, and became sole owner of the farm. He married Charlotte (Lottie) Greiner in 1896, and to this union three daughters were born; Flora Bernice (Smith) of Morton, Illinois, Helen Lucille (Wacaser) of Pontiac, Illinois (now deceased), and Irene Elizabeth. Irene is the present owner. She lived there until 1970 when she moved to Pontiac, Illinois to be with her sister. The house has been rented since that time.

The land has been farmed by Geno and Herman Christini for the past nineteen years, and their older brother, John, farmed the land for fourteen years before his death.

In the late 1940's enclosed porches were built on the north and east side of the house. (The view of the house pictured was made from an old photograph.)

In those days, babies were delivered in the home, and an interesting fact is that Harley and his three daughters were all born in the same room of the house. According to some records, William H. Zenor's wife's mother was the first nurse of George Washington.

Irene E. Zenor.



George Griffith and Sarah came from Cadis, Ohio, to Putnam County, Illinois in the year 1836. The family at that time consisting of the sons; Isaac, George and John, and the daughters; Sarah, Mary Jane and Ruth.

The second marriage added to the family; Hiram, Franklin and Belle. The family at the time of repairing consisted of Lydia, the second wife, and her children; Franklin and Belle.

The brick residence on the old homestead was erected in 1843. The bricks for the walls and the lime used were both made on the premises. George Merritt and R. Haley laid the brick. The carpenters were Asa Cunningham Macomber and Smith. The plastering was done by Peter Howe.

Franklin Griffith succeeding to the old homestead had it enlarged by the erection of a second story during the year of 1873.

"The bricks for the enlargement were made by McCaleb and Woolson Croft of Lostant and were hauled by Arthur Swaney during the year 1872. The following mechanics were employed on the work. Brick layers, John Reley and Samuel Parker of Henry, Illinois, J. W. Stubbles acting as 'Brick Clerk' and J. Clemens as 'Mud Clerk' for the occasion. Carpenters E. & J. Spencer of Magnolia, with George Keller Cook and George Spencer as assistants. The lath were laid by George Spencer. The plastering was done by Samuel Parker, assisted by Joseph Lowe, both of Henry. Painting by Barney Swaney.

"Aware of the interest attaching to such trifling events, after the lapse of years, and when those thus actively engaged in skillful labor, shall have passed away, this record is made, and on the 16th day of October, 1873, placed in the walls of the building near the upper story hall window pointing south. Where, should it ever be found in years to come the finder may satisfy a proper curiosity by learning something of the owners and the parties employed in the erection of the building.

Signed: Lydia Griffith."

This interesting account was discovered in the wall when work was done on the old home.

My father, Frank Koehler, bought the farm from Frank Griffith and we moved from LaSalle County to the present home in 1912. My father paid \$300. per acre for the 47 acres which seems reasonable now but wasn't at that time.

My father had only had the opportunity to go through the fifth grade in school and was going to be sure my sister and I went all the way. All through the history of the home, school has been important to those living there. Students found here a place to stay when bad weather made it impossible to get home.

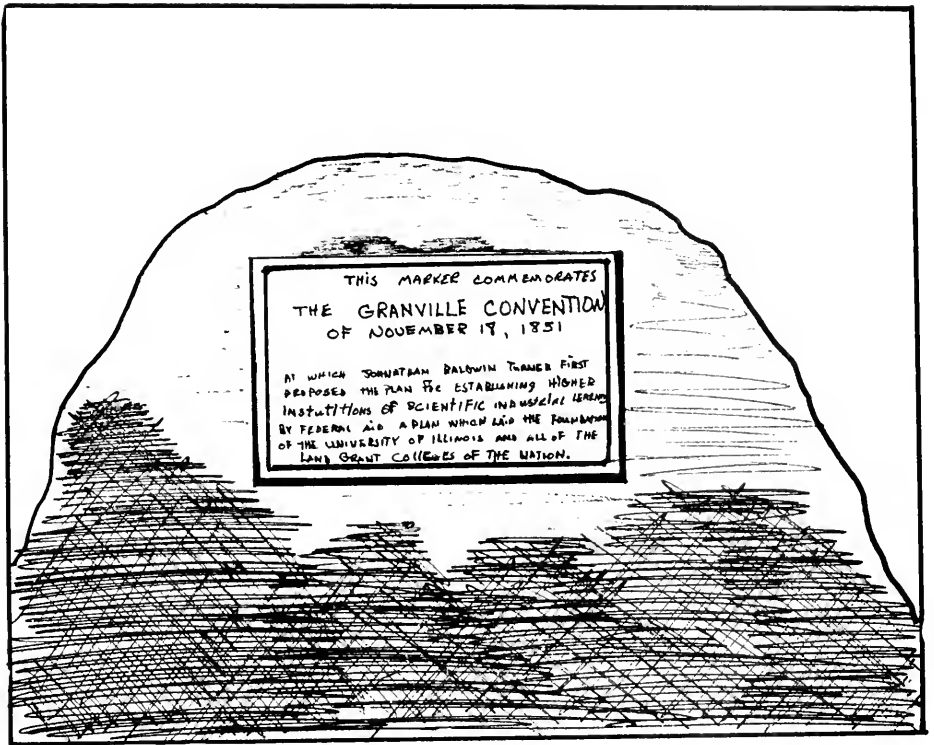
In 1952, the farm became mine at the death of my mother.

There are four bedrooms and a half bath upstairs, a living room, dining room, kitchen, den and bath downstairs. A closed porch makes another room. There is a full basement and attic.

One of the landmarks is the old oak tree near the east entrance.

This home is located about one and one-half miles south of McNabb and one-half mile west of Route 89 (near the John Swaney School) in Section 16, Magnolia Township, Putnam County.

Mrs. Dorothy Ashdown.



THIS MARKER COMMEMORATES

THE GRANVILLE CONVENTION

OF NOVEMBER 18, 1851

AT WHICH JOHNATHAN BALDWIN TURNER FIRST  
PROPOSED THE PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING HIGHER  
INSTITUTIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL LEARNING  
BY FEDERAL AID A PLAN WHICH LAID THE FOUNDATION  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND ALL OF THE  
LAND GRANT COLLEGES OF THE NATION.

## JOHNATHAN TURNER MEMORIAL

Records indicate that as early as 1844 the farmers of Putnam County banded together to form an organization to further their interests in agriculture and cultural pursuits.

On February 23, 1846 Buel Institute, the oldest agricultural Society in Illinois, was organized. The discussions at their meetings included a wide range of subjects relative to farming interests. This organization is given the credit for first suggesting to the United States government the establishment of a Department of Agriculture.

In 1851, at one of these meetings, Professor Johnathan B. Turner proposed the idea of federal land grant colleges. The idea took root and led to the establishment of our vast system of land grant universities which have made possible an industrial university education for many young people throughout the world.

In the fall of 1923, the people of Putnam County recognized the contribution of this great believer in industrial training for youth by dedicating a memorial plaque on the grounds of John Swaney School near McNabb, Illinois.



The Courtland Condit family came from New York State to the Senachwine area of Putnam County, Illinois in the fall of 1836. Shortly after the Condit's arrival, this New York style house was erected. Descendants of the family tell us the house was built circa 1837.

It remained in the Condit family until it was given to Senachwine Township in 1972 by Courtland's great-granddaughter, Mrs. Elsie Condit Miles.

Given with the stipulation it be used "for the local branch Library or some historic purpose" it immediately became home to the local Library and has been named "The Condit Memorial Library."

Much work has been done to restore the structure and much more remains to be done. An Illinois Bicentennial grant of \$2,000. has been matched by the local community and these funds made it possible for the new wood shingle roof like the original.

The Condit Memorial Library is located on the south edge of the village of Putnam.

## GILTNER FARM

The farm originally known as the Giltner farm has remained in the ownership of the same family for five generations. The farm consisting of 160 acres is located one mile south of the village of Putnam in Putnam County along what is known as the Bluff Road. This road runs parallel to Route 29 and the Rock Island Railroad line from Putnam to Henry.

According to the records in the Putnam County Courthouse, James Giltner bought said farm from Benjamin Lombard in 1856 for \$4,000. Mr. Giltner married Henrietta Rommel of Saxony, Germany and being a carpenter by trade he built a large two-story house with a large porch extending across the entire front of the house. This house was erected on a hillside between the tillable acreage and the timberland.

Mr. and Mrs. Giltner were the parents of five children; Sarah E. (Mrs. Samuel Case), Henrietta (Mrs. Henry Downey), Abraham (who died in infancy), Anna Eureka (Mrs. Durbin Downey), and Mary Jane (Mrs. William Drake). Two of the daughters, Henrietta and Mary Jane, lived most of their lives in Senachwine Township.

Mary Jane married William Drake of Putnam, son of Jeremiah Drake. He was one of the early settlers of Senachwine Township and has descendants down to the fifth generation living in the same community. They were the parents of two children; Jerry Giltner, who died during the flu epidemic of 1918, and Ardis Mae who married William C. Greek of Henry, Illinois.

In July, 1900, the Giltner farm was given to Mary Jane Drake by her parents. The same farm became the property of Ardis Drake Greek when her mother passed away July 10, 1958. The son of William and Ardis Greek who is William Drake Greek married Dorothy Kief of Lacon, Illinois. They are the present owners of the farm where they reside with their three children; Cyrena Anne, Tyler Kief, and Nathaniel Drake.

Through the years three homes were erected on the farm. The first home was built by the Giltners, the second by the Drakes and the third by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Greek.

In 1857 Senachwine Township was divided into seven school districts. As was the custom of the time a farmer or landowner in each district set aside land for the building of a one-room school. Consolidation of the school districts caused the abandoning of the one-room schools in the township.

During the time the Giltner School was used, Henrietta Giltner, who married Henry Downey, was one of the early teachers. She was educated in the Henry Seminary. Her daughter, Henrietta Downey, also taught the same school. This building was located at the top of the hill on the south boundary of the farm and was close to the first home built on the farm. These early schools ran for a six or seven month period. The basic subjects taught were reading, writing and arithmetic.

Mrs. Ardis D. Greek.

LAKE THUNDERBIRD CHAIR TREE

A beloved Indian Trail Tree, commonly called a Chair Tree, was dedicated and preserved for posterity at Lake Thunderbird Sunday, June 3, 1973. This dedication was made possible by the interest of the Putnam County Historical Society and the generosity of American Central Corporation, the developers of Lake Thunderbird.

The memorial reads:

The Senachwine Tree

This Indian Trail Marker is Dedicated to Potawatomi Chief Senachwine and to the Lake Thunderbird Property Owners Present and Future Who Seek Out the Joys of Nature and Make Them Part of Their Lives.

Putnam County Historical Society  
American Central Corporation  
Lake Thunderbird  
June 3, 1973

Mrs. Barbara Cold, staff representative of the corporation, told of research she had done concerning the tree. From studies she made in the map room of the research library of the Cook County Historical Society's head-



quarters on Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, she estimated the Oak Trail tree to be over 200 years old.

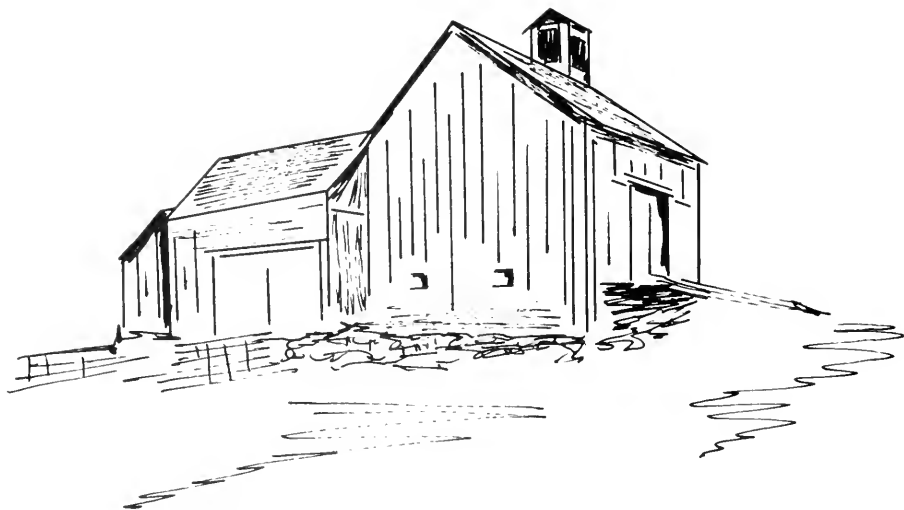
She said Indians used to bend saplings down and anchor them with leather thongs. After thirty years the leather would rot, but by that time the tree would have rooted and started growth on its way to becoming a trail tree. Indians marked trails in this manner, making a trail tree about every four miles.

The tree at Lake Thunderbird was one of several used in marking the trail from Hennepin on the Illinois River to Nauvoo on the Mississippi River, Mrs. Cold said.

The dedication speaker was Durley Boyle, Hennepin attorney. Lloyd Wheeler, Putnam County Historical Society President, gave a welcome and remarks were made by Mr. Robert Pfeifle, Public Relations Director for American Central Corporation, the developer of Lake Thunderbird.

Mrs. Elizabeth Leigh.





The Louis family has lived in Senachwine Township, Putnam County, Putnam, Illinois from 1860 to 1976.

Mathias Louis was born at Saarbwig in Rheinisch, Prussia, January 20, 1822. He landed in New York in the spring of 1847, after a sea voyage of 66 days. His first summer was spent in Pennsylvania. That fall he decided to try Wisconsin. There being no railroads to the west or northwest in those days, river and canals were the most popular means of travel. He traveled by canal and river, going down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, getting about as far as Peoria, Illinois when the river froze over, suspending travel. He then traveled by foot and stage to Chicago. He was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin the summer of 1848 and was troubled with illness while there. In the fall or winter of 1848 or spring of 1849, he returned to Illinois, settling in Henry. He was farm boss for Benjamin Lombard until 1857.

Mr: Louis married Rosalinda Ludwig, who gave birth to five children; Michael, Otto, Emma, Henry and Charles.

In the spring of 1859 he leased what was known as Dry Hollow Farm of the late Robert Davis.

In 1860, he purchased 160 acres in Section 30 and 240 acres in Section 29, Senachwine Township from Benjamin Lombard. He also owned 20.54 acres in Section 16 which later went to the school district. Mathias died April 2, 1895 at the age of sixty-three. Henry Charles Louis bought the farm August 17, 1895.

A most interesting structure on the farm, still standing today, is the four-story barn. It was constructed on a hillside site in 1897. The heavy stone foundation and wooden peg construction have withstood the years of use. Horse drawn

hayracks entered the barn via a north ramp, the hay was pitched off, the empty rack left via an east ramp. The "hay pitchers" got a rest when the wooden track and fork pulled hay into the upper level. This wooden rack was later replaced with a metal one.

Henry married Henrietta Seichter and they were the parents of four children; Martha, Otto, Hilda and Clara. Henry died November 6, 1914 at the age of forty-three of tuberculosis. The farm was left to his wife and children.

Otto J. Louis bought the farm March 23, 1944. He married Florence Bogner and they made their home on the homestead until September 15, 1975 when they moved to Henry, Illinois after purchasing the Leo Klein residence at 1115 Second Street. Their children are Cecelia (Hartwig), Norbert and Evelyn (Smooode).

Norbert married Marilyn Fulton on June 7, 1958. They purchased a plot of ground from Charles and Chauncey Read, and built a new home in 1963-64 where they resided until December 27, 1975 when they moved to the Louis homestead. They purchased the land (15 acres) where the farm buildings stand.

Norbert and Marilyn are the parents of five children; JoVonna, Julie, Fulton Joseph, John and Jereen. These children are the fifth generation to live on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Louis.



The Putnam Christian Church had its beginning with the early settlers who brought the Restoration movement with them. During the early years worship services were held in schoolhouses and homes.

The first structure to be built was the present building, a wood frame completed in 1866. This building measured fifty-two feet by thirty-two feet by eighteen feet with a vestry of eight feet and a belfry.

Heat was provided by two hard coal heaters. Kerosene lamps provided light for evening services.

In 1899 an addition, twelve feet by twenty-eight feet was added to the back of the building, housing a below the floor baptistery, also kitchen area and Sunday School class space. In 1955 an annex, thirty feet by thirty-two feet was added to the north side. Then in the winter of 1972-73 a new modern kitchen was added to the west of the annex.

The seating over the years changed from hand hewn straight pews to opera type seats to our modern ones. All pulpit furniture is new and all floors have been carpeted in recent years.

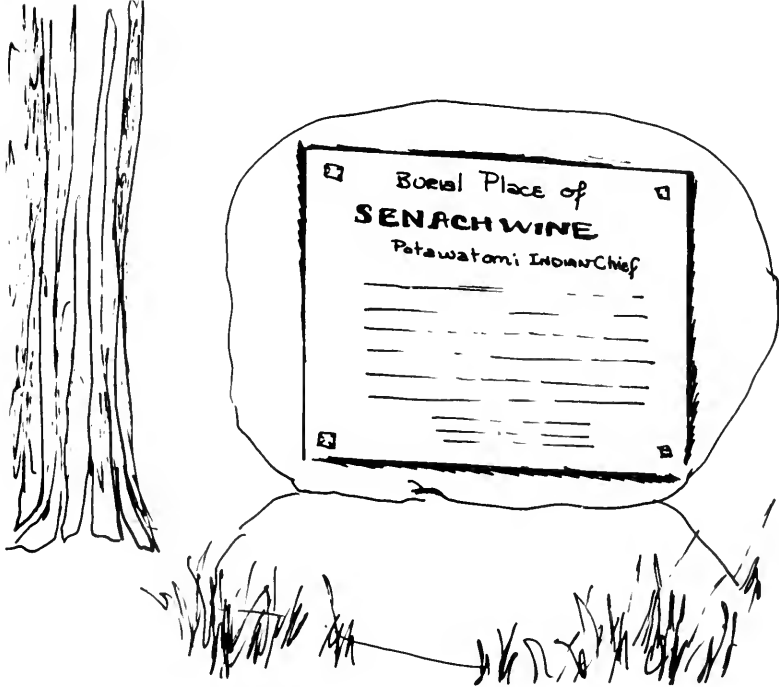
The heating system gradually improved to a hot air, coal-burning furnace, then to natural gas which came to Putnam in 1964.

In 1899 a gas machine gas lighting system was installed. This was followed

by the Coleman Lantern and then electricity which came to the village around 1930.

By 1955 a pipe organ was installed by Frank Yarrington soon to be replaced by a much bigger one in 1960-61.

The present pastor, Dan Cameron and wife reside in the church parsonage. This is the small green shingle house just south of the church. The present congregation represents about forty-five families.



#### CHIEF SENACHWINE AND INDIAN MOUNDS

On the brow of a high knoll, overlooking a portion of Lake Senachwine and the Illinois River valley lies an Indian burial ground known as Indian Mounds. This is located one-half mile north of Putnam, Illinois on the Wheeler farm.

A row of burial mounds following the contour of the wooded knoll, extending from north to south, for a distance of over 1,300 feet make up the burial ground of the mound builders. The mound builders were Indians who once lived at the foot of this hill.

Through research, it is believed the original mound builders erected the serpentine mounds for burial purposes and in succeeding years, the Potawatomi Indians migrated to this section, recognizing the mounds as a sacred object and appropriated it for their own purposes.

The grave of the famous Indian Chief Senachwine, an apostle of peace, who died in 1831, is a part of this burying ground. He was the last Indian to be buried there, as the white race was moving in and pushing the Indians west.

His grave is the highest mound, located at the head of the chain, at the north side of the row, marked with a large boulder on which is an inserted memorial plaque, placed there by the Sons of the American Revolution in 1937.

James Tallioferro was the first white settler to come to Senachwine Town-

ship in March, 1835 and make a claim on the site of the former Indian village. He settled on what is now known as the George Wheeler farm north of Putnam, Illinois.

Mr. Tallioferro had bought the farm from the government in 1835 and kept it until 1888 when he sold it to George Wheeler's father, Vurlina. Before leaving, he asked George to accompany him to the mounds on the hill where Chief Senachwine was buried along with some other members of the Potawatomi tribe. He pointed out the grave of Senachwine and told him that when he came to the farm in 1835 there was a red cedar pole with strips of leather wrapped around it on the grave, and a stake at each end of the grave as markers. Mr. Tallioferro requested George Wheeler to take care of and permanently mark the grave, so Mr. Wheeler later placed two large boulders on the mound.

Mr. Tallioferro also related to Mr. Wheeler that the Potawatomi Indians continued to visit the Chief's grave for at least twenty years after his death. They brought venison, other foods and a supply of wampum which they placed on the grave. He estimated the village in the valley below the mounds had at some times 400 to 500 wigwams.

Senachwine Township, a lake, a creek, and a school are named in honor of Chief Senachwine.

When George Wheeler bought the farm he acquired many interesting articles left behind by James Tallioferro in a house he formerly occupied. In an old trunk he found a letter from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, dated August 13, 1872, inquiring from Mr. Tallioferro if there were eighty-seven notches on the pole marking Chief Senachwine's grave, since that was presumed to be his age at death. Also, he asked about the pole set on his grave and if his death was in 1831.

#### Chief Senachwine

At a council in old Indian Town (Tiskilwa), chiefs of the Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Winnebago, and Chippewa had gathered in 1830. They had been listening to a speech by Adam Paine, a missionary. They had also heard a plea from Black Hawk for the Potawatomis to join him in exterminating the whites. Senachwine, one of the leading chiefs of the Potawatomis listened, then arose and delivered his famous speech urging the other tribes not to join Black Hawk in his plan. The Potawatomis followed their chief's advice and did not join.

#### Senachwine's Death

About a year after his famous speech to Black Hawk, Chief Senachwine was riding into his home village. As he raised his hand to speak to his people, he died instantly. In deep mourning for their chief, his three wives with their numerous children and grandchildren, painted their faces black, and accompanied by the whole village in deep mourning, carried his body to its final resting place. The burial was in line with Senachwine's request, on a hill overlooking the valley and village of Senachwine.

In the summer of 1931 the Wheeler farm was visited by John G. Prasuhn and

C. K. Corwin from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Mr. Prasuhn gathered sand and dirt from the Indian mounds to use in constructing an authentic replica of a mound builder's grave in the museum. Mr. Corwin was an artist who painted the Wheeler background scene of the mounds. This replica of the mounds is still on display at the Field Museum.

In 1933, an Indian mound on the hillside was opened by a group of students from the University of Chicago, under the direction of Dr. Faye Cooper Cole, noted anthropologist at the university.

Mr. Wheeler was invited to exhibit Indian relics at the Century of Progress International Exhibition, Chicago, in 1934. Mr. Wheeler's exhibit of Potawatomi Indian relics was on display at the south Block House of Fort Dearborn. The display included arrowheads, spears and ornaments. It was the center of attraction on the anniversary of the Ft. Dearborn Massacre August 16. In appreciation for his loan of the Indian relics, Mr. Wheeler was presented a Citation by the Century of Progress President, Mr. Rufus C. Dawes.

The Sons of the American Revolution, George Rogers Clark Chapter of Peoria, Illinois, dedicated a memorial plaque at the grave of Chief Senachwine on the George Wheeler farm, Sunday, June 13, 1937. The plaque was attached to a large boulder which has marked the Chief's grave for many years. This honor to the Chief was arranged through the efforts of George W. Hunt, a Peoria attorney but formerly a resident of Putnam County where he had served as County Superintendent of Schools and States Attorney. He enlisted the assistance of the Peoria County Historical Society, the Illinois Historical Society and many others in securing data pertaining to the early Indian history of this area.

A very interesting and colorful program was witnessed by some 2,000 people attending the ceremonies. Attorney P. G. Rennick of Peoria gave the principal address, calling attention to the reputation of Chief Senachwine as an honest, charitable, peace-loving individual whose influence was largely responsible for the mutual understanding between his people and the early settlers of this area. Paul M. Angle, librarian of the Illinois State Historical Library, gave a short address. Fifteen Indians from the Potawatomi Indian Reservation at Mayetta, Kansas, some of them direct descendants of Senachwine, were in attendance. They were dressed in colorful garments and performed tribal rites and Indian dances. The pipe of peace was lighted and passed to Attorney Hunt who received it on behalf of the white race.

#### Plaque Inscription

BURIAL PLACE OF SENACHWINE

POTAWATOMI INDIAN CHIEF

"Resistance to the aggression of the whites is useless; war is wicked and must result in our ruin. Therefore let us submit to our fate; return not evil for evil, as this would offend the Great Spirit and bring ruin upon us." ---Extract from his speech to Black Hawk June, 1830, at Indian Village.

Erected by S.A.R. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Peoria, Illinois, June 13, 1937.



During June of 1938 and again in June of 1939, the Sons of the American Revolution observed Flag Day by visiting the Wheeler farm in honor of Senachwine. The 1939 observance was a public event with many people enjoying a colorful program put on by eleven Indians from the Potawatomi Reservation, Mayetta, Kansas, during their two day observance.

### Senachwine Pioneer Days

From May 30 to June 2, 1968, the citizens of Senachwine Township, with fewer than a hundred families, commemorated the Sesquicentennial of Illinois with a very outstanding four day observance called "Pioneer Days" in the village of Putnam.

On June 2, the concluding event was an Indian program held on the hill near Chief Senachwine's grave on the Wheeler farm. Eleven Indians from the Potawatomi Reservation at Mayetta, Kansas, attended this sesquicentennial event at Putnam. Among them were three direct descendants of Chief Senachwine; Henry Claybear Nahgombe; his sister, Jasetta Wahwassuck; and their 90 year old mother, Mrs. Lisa Claybear Nahgombe.

### Program

"Star-Spangled Banner".....Henry-Senachwine Ensemble  
Vocal Solo - "Indian Love Call".....Mrs. Phyllis Finfgeld  
Remarks.....Lester E. Leigh, M. C.  
Senachwine's Reply to Black Hawk.....Congressman Robert Michel  
    Introduction of three descendants of Senachwine  
    and eight other members of the same tribe.  
    Exhibition of Dances and Tribal Ceremonies.  
Concluding Remarks.....Congressman Robert Michel  
Taps.....David Dewey

In 1972 several members of the Wheeler family visited the Potawatomi Indian Reservation at Mayetta, Kansas, to talk to the direct descendants of Chief Senachwine; the Nahgombe, Mrs. Jasetta Wahwassuck, and Mrs. Minnie Harrison, the oldest living descendant of the old chief. Mrs. Harrison showed the Wheelers many family keepsakes, including Chief Senachwine's picture, his peace pipe, etc.

For many years George Wheeler maintained on his farm a small museum exhibiting his lifetime collection of Indian artifacts.

## GEORGE SPARLING FARM

George Sparling came to the Senachwine area in 1840, at the age of twenty-one, working as a carpenter. Most of the first year was spent working for John Harrison. After helping build the first frame business building (the Bradley store) in Henry, Mr. Harrison found himself unable to pay Mr. Sparling's labor bill, so he settled the debt by deeding a farm to him. Hennepin Court Records state that the  $W\frac{1}{2}$  of the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28 was deeded by J. Harrison to George Sparling, February 3, 1842 for the sum of \$300. Soon after, Mr. Sparling made this farm his home, and it remained the center of operations in the Senachwine area for many years. The property has remained in the family continuously and is presently owned by a great-grandson, L. Gill and others.

Mr. Sparling spent much of the 1842 season working for other early settlers in the community, and in January of 1843, he married Adeline Morgan from Connecticut. He began farming for himself at this time and found that he could supplement his farming operations by operating a fishery on Lake Senachwine. He soon found that this was one of the best fishing areas in the vicinity and soon learned to make the operation more profitable by initiating the use of a seine. The system of seine fishing had been demonstrated to him by an ex-missionary who had seen it operated in the Sandwich Islands. The fishing business proved more profitable than farming and this enabled him to expand both operations considerably. He eventually acquired some 800 acres of land, part of which was for farming and the rest to expand the fishing business. This worked out well until the Henry Dam was built and the lake water raised enough to make the fisheries unprofitable.

After fishing became unprofitable, the Walnut Grove Resort was established at the Lake's edge on property he had acquired from Putnam County in 1852. Fish chowder which he popularized at his resort became a favorite food at socials and suppers. It was often served at money raising events and church affairs. It was popular because it was unique in the Senachwine area. When he expanded his fishing operations he had purchased from Putnam County 240 acres, N.E. Section 28 and  $S\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E. Section 21 for the sum of \$72. Most of this area is still owned by the family and access to the Walnut Grove Resort is via private road running through the middle of the farming area, east and west from the township road to the lake area. There are no longer any of the old farmstead buildings standing.

George Sparling lived a long life of success and adversities, passing away in Henry, Illinois in 1894 near seventy-five years of age. It is appropriate that we give recognition this Bicentennial year to the family for continuous ownership from 1842 through 1976, as a noteworthy and unusual occurrence.

Lee Gill and others are the present owners of this Centennial farm of 240 acres in Sections 21 and 28 of Senachwine Township. Mr. Gill is the great-grandson of George Sparling. Another great-grandson, Lloyd Wheeler, has for many years managed this property for the owners. The farmland is presently operated by Robert Wheeler, a great-great-grandson, who is the son of Leslie Wheeler another great-grandson of Mr. Sparling.

Mrs. Lester E. Leigh.



ELSIE WHERRY HOME

This farm home has been owned by the same family since it was purchased by William Wheeler and wife in 1874. The exact date this home was built is not known. It is known that the two-story part with a lean-to kitchen area at the back was here in 1874. Before 1900 the lean-to kitchen was torn away and a long one-story addition was added to the north along with other extensive changes in room arrangement and so forth.

Hand hewn timbers are visible in the basement; the basement walls are brick. The original floors were five inch soft pine and the woodwork is oak. The house has two stairways. This was planned so hired help and family would be separated. In recent years a doorway has been cut so all the second story is available from either stairway.

By 1900 the house had a lighting system called "Gas Machine Gas." The gas was purchased by the barrel and was stored in a cistern-like dugout at the east side of the house. This gas was forced throughout the house through small pipes coming into the rooms. The outlets used a mantle and had a pretty glass shade. By turning a small spigot near the mantle and holding a lighted match above, the mantle was lighted, producing a lovely pure white light. Pressure to force the gas through the pipes came from a weight arrangement in the basement. This weight arrangement consisted of a round metal tank about five feet in diameter and three feet deep. The tank was filled with large stones and rocks. By a hand turned pulley fastened to one inch thick wire cables the tank was hoisted to the ceiling. It lowered only as the gas was used so did not need raising too often.

Another first for this house in the community was the furnace, steam and fired with wood. This was long ago changed to hot water. The heating fuel changed to coal, then oil and finally gas as the natural gas line came by the place in 1966. The huge pantry with its flour and sugar bins, dry sinks and so forth have long been gone.

In 1893 a self-flowing artesian well was dug and is still in use. This provides a water system in the house as well as cool fresh water the year around at four stock tanks.

John Wherry and wife (Atha Wheeler) bought the farm in 1926 from the Wheeler Estate. Since their death in the early 1960's the farm is owned by their two daughters; Elsie Wherry who continues to live in the house and Zelda, Mrs. L. R. Daniels who with her husband moved to Henry in 1966 being actively engaged in the farm operations all their married years. The farm operations now are carried on by their oldest son, Ralph Daniels, wife and son, John who reside in the second house on the farm.

This home is located about one mile north of Putnam, Illinois and approximately two blocks east of the Lake Thunderbird sign on Route 29.

Elsie Wherry.

## WHERRY CENTENNIAL FARM

Elijah Perkins and wife, Rachael Wherry, purchased 160 acres, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 34, Senachwine Township, Putnam County, from Andrew Chambers and wife, in December, 1851 for the sum of \$640. After improving it the Perkins sold the farm in 1867 for the sum of \$4,600. to her brother, William Wherry and wife, Matilda Perkins, whom he married in 1844. Rachael, William, and John were three of the seven children of William Wherry, Sr. and wife, Mary Niel who emigrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1812, and to Bureau County in 1837. The story is that young John rode a horse from Ohio to the new home in Illinois.

In 1868 William and Matilda sold this land to his brother, John and wife, Malinda Perkins, married in 1845, who had established their home in Senachwine Township, a very short distance away. They reared six children, William, Mary Amy, John Jr., Jesse, Rachael Ann, and James Madison.

In 1888 John Wherry granted the right and privilege to Fred I. Beers to prospect for coal on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34. The agreed price was \$10.

In 1892 the son, James Madison Wherry and his wife, Janetta Rich, daughter of Washington and Selina Rich, whom he married in 1877, purchased this farm from the heirs of his father's estate. The James Wherrys lived on another of his father's former farms nearby, and eight children were born to them, John E., Carrie, Charles Austin, Earl, Losta, Amy, James, and Eva Janetta.

Charles Austin Wherry married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry W. and Henrietta Giltner Downey on February 8, 1910, and established their home on this farm. Elizabeth taught the Bracken rural school one-fourth mile from this place prior to her marriage. Three daughters were born to Charles and Elizabeth, Helen, Mrs. Lloyd Sipe, Toluca, Illinois; Henrietta, Mrs. Merrill Holmes, Bradford, Illinois; and Annis, the baby, adopted in 1917 after the death of Elizabeth by Francis and Minnie Downey Quinn, now Mrs. Carl Bassler, West Plains, Missouri. Helen and Henrietta were reared by their grandparents, the Henry Downeys. Charles moved from the farm in 1919.

James M. Wherry deeded the east half of this NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 34 to his son, Charles Austin Wherry in 1937. After his death in 1964, and that of his wife, Mathilda Braun Heilstedt whom he married in 1934, Helen Sipe and Henrietta W. Holmes inherited it. No buildings remain on this farm today.

The west half of this 160 acres was given by James M. Wherry to another son, Earl Willis. The Centennial award was presented to the owners in 1972.

Mrs. Henrietta Holmes.



Wayne Leland Winship of Putnam, Illinois is the present owner of 320 acres of farmland in Senachwine Township of Putnam County. James M. Winship, great-grandfather of Wayne, purchased the original 240 acre tract from James Giltner on March 17, 1868.

James M. Winship was born in New York State on October 2, 1825 and was brought by his parents to Bureau County in 1832. He married Mary Ann Read in 1850.

In 1852, he traveled west by wagon train to the gold mining regions of California and returned in 1853. During this time, his wife stayed with her parents. Later, in 1876, he traveled east to the Philadelphia Exposition and also visited relatives in several eastern states.

In 1868, James M. Winship moved to Senachwine Township in Putnam County where he purchased the farm upon which he resided continuously until his death. He passed away on May 9, 1903, leaving an estate of over 300 acres of rich and valuable farmland.

James O. Winship, a son of James M. and Mary Ann Winship, was born on July 21, 1852. James O. was married in 1878 to Mary Frances Downey. One of their sons, Walter W. was born on April 4, 1879.

Wayne L. Winship, born on May 14, 1918, is the son of Walter W. and Minnie Puttcamp who were married March 22, 1906 in Princeton, Illinois. Wayne L. married Berna Mae Jacobs on February 18, 1951 in Sparland, Illinois. One of their sons, Harold Leland, born September 25, 1957, represents the fifth generation of the Winship family who has been or will be engaged in farming on the original tract of land purchased by James M. Winship.

A branch trail of the Galena Road runs along the bluff directly behind the homestead that James M. Winship built over 100 years ago and which now houses the fifth generation of the Winship family.

The Winship farm and home are located in Senachwine Township, one and one-half miles north of Putnam, Illinois on Route 29.

Mr. Michael W. Winship.

ADDITIONAL CENTENNIAL FARMS IN MARSHALL AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

as reported to the Committee

| <u>OWNER</u>                              | <u>LOCATION</u> (TOWNSHIP) |
|---|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Dorothy Rae                          | Bell Plain                 |
| Elijah E. Perry                           | Bell Plain                 |
| Wilbert and Anabelle Griffin              | Bell Plain                 |
| Verle Kolb                                | Bell Plain                 |
| William Hattan                            | Bennington                 |
| Mrs. Ray Litchfield                       | Bennington                 |
| Harold and Gallette Beckwith              | Bennington                 |
| Mrs. Emma (Schmillen) Schook              | Bennington                 |
| Mrs. Loretta Lutz                         | Evans                      |
| Harold and George Gallup                  | LaPrairie                  |
| Cliff and Ruth Marshall                   | LaPrairie                  |
| Eugene S. Turnbull                        | LaPrairie                  |
| Carl and Mary Webber                      | LaPrairie                  |
| Charles Scoon Heirs                       | LaPrairie                  |
| Elizabeth Scoon                           | LaPrairie                  |
| Mrs. Margaret Green                       | LaPrairie                  |
| George Aitchison Heirs                    | LaPrairie                  |
| Mrs. Hester Allen                         | LaPrairie                  |
| Mrs. Mary Casey                           | LaPrairie                  |
| Mrs. Gertrude Green                       | LaPrairie                  |
| Wayne Ehringer Heirs                      | Hopewell                   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Buck                   | Richland                   |
| Janet Stateler Heirs                      | Roberts                    |
| Elizabeth B. Jones                        | Roberts                    |
| Mr. Robert Kelly                          | Saratoga                   |
| Mrs. Pearl Swearingen                     | Saratoga                   |
| Mr. Leslie Harrison                       | Saratoga                   |
| Viola Rezab                               | Whitefield                 |
| Roger Rowe                                | Whitefield                 |
| Philip and Julia Edgerley                 | Granville                  |
| August Kunkel                             | Granville                  |
| Mr. and Mrs. Edward Holly                 | Granville                  |
| Mr. Galvin Real                           | Senachwine                 |
| Mrs. Helen Sipe and Mrs. Henrietta Holmes | Senachwine                 |
| Mr. Francis Quinn                         | Senachwine                 |

Widely known as the Church on the Hill, Boyd's Grove Church is located four miles east of Bradford, Illinois. It came into being in 1851 when six families who had been holding meetings in their homes agreed to organize a church. The name was taken from a settlement to the north called Boyd's Grove.

The first building was erected on the present site at a cost of \$800., the lumber coming from the land nearby the stone for the foundation from a quarry near Sparland. Quoting from a paper prepared in 1881 and speaking of the 1880's, "Those were the good old days when Methodism was distinctive. The men and women sat apart. The people came in wagons, sometimes drawn by oxen. No one rode in buggies or carriages for they had none. The fasts on the Friday before quarterly meetings were enjoined. A sentinel was always placed at the Love Feast Door. We had no music or choirs. The preacher first read the hymn which was a very impressive part of the service...The shoutings were occasional and the 'amens' frequent...A Methodist who did not attend class and kneel down to pray was no Methodist at all...."

On August 27, 1919 lightning struck the church and it was totally destroyed by fire. A new building was dedicated June 19, 1921 which with periodic improvements stands today. The 125th anniversary of the congregation was observed June 27, 1976 with a traditional chicken dinner, homemade ice cream served at the social hour and the afternoon program was presided over by Orval Crooks. Pastor of the Church is Rev. Frank J. Rider who lives in Bradford and is also pastor of the Leet Memorial United Methodist Church there.

(Taken from newspaper story by Oral Holler.)





Acknowledgment ...

This publication could not have been possible had it not been for the willing help, dedication, and talents of the following who helped research, write and edit material:

Maud Uschold, Delight Wier, Lester and Elizabeth Leigh, Henrietta Holmes, Eleanor Bussell, Wayne Buck, Nancy Russell,

Helen Anske and June Younger, Lacon Public Library.

We wish to acknowledge a debt of gratitude to the many folks in Marshall-Putnam County who have assisted in the undertaking of this Bicentennial project. We recognize our collection by no means, includes all the homes and locations that have "sown the seed and put down roots" in our land, however, we trust those who wish to learn about the history and foundations of our past will find interesting information and enjoyable reading. It is our hope, too, that these efforts may preserve for generations to follow, a small part of our rich heritage.

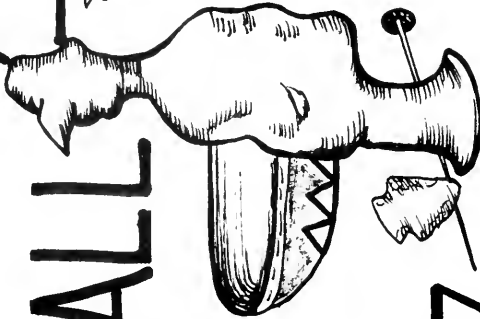
Johanna E. Casey.

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