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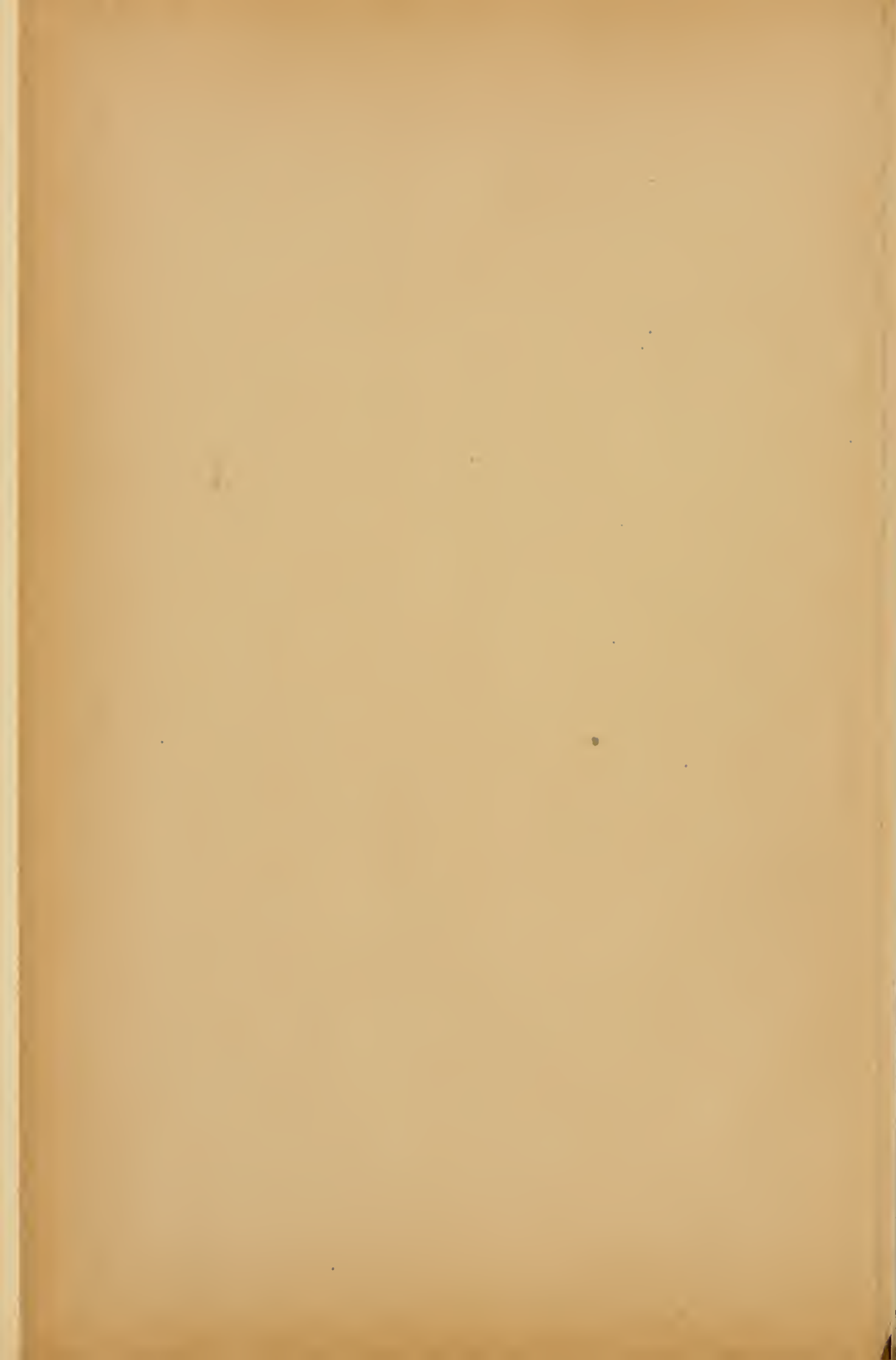


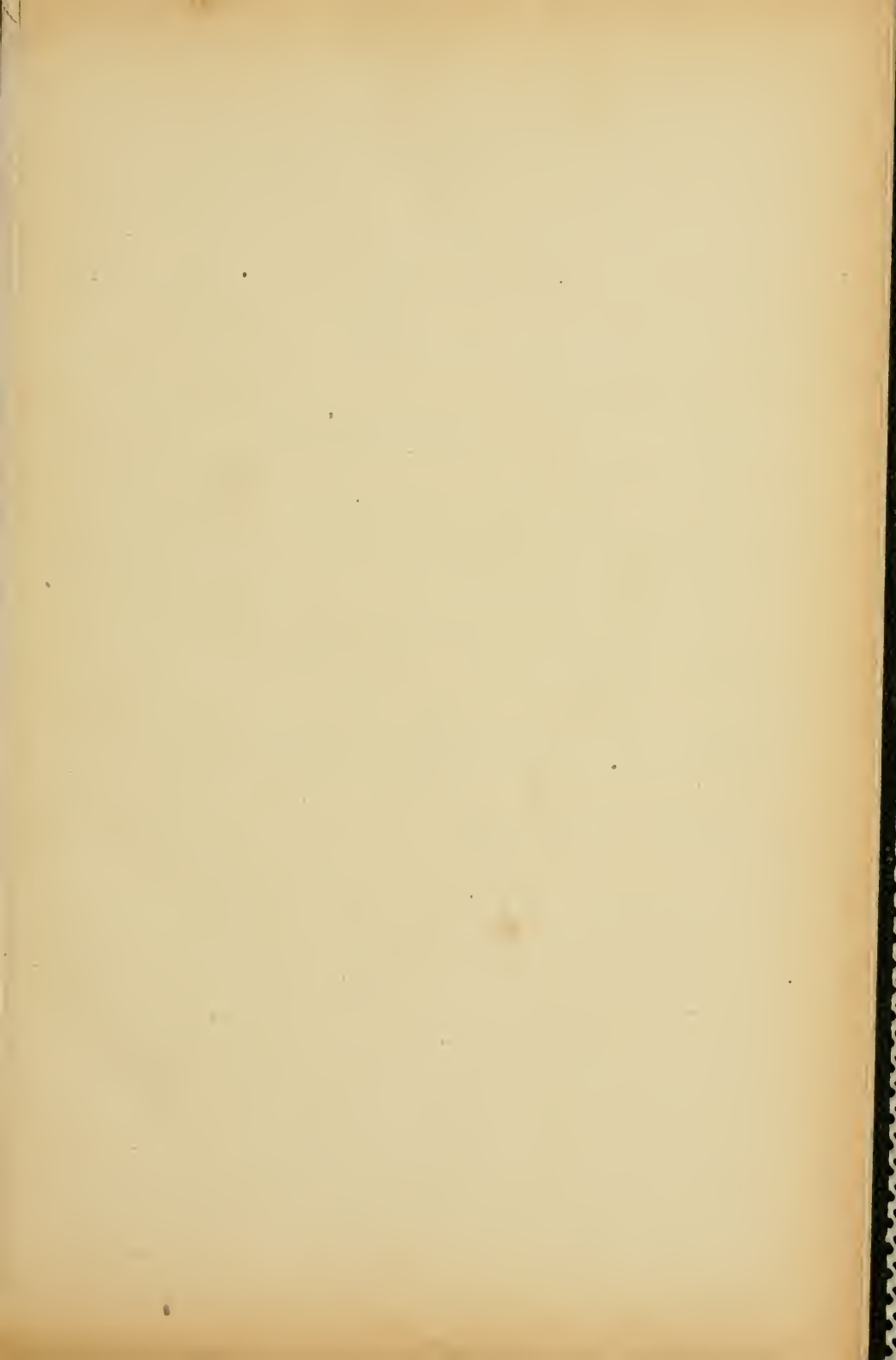












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# History of Dwight,

FROM 1853 TO 1894.

Compiled and Published by Messrs. Dustin & Wassell,  
editors of DWIGHT STAR AND HERALD.

## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP, ETC.

[The reader should bear in mind that in many cases the matter for this history was written in 1878 and people who are spoken of at that time may be deceased or moved away, but are spoken of in the present tense.—Ed.]

There is nothing more astonishing to the professional traveler, or even to the staid "old fogy" New Englander who has never been beyond the shadow of his own sterile hills, than the startling rapidity with which the Great West has been developed and settled. As if by magic, towns, cities and villages have sprung up from the rank prairie grass and unfolded in grandeur and magnificence. Yesterday, where the tall grass waved in the wind and myriad wild flowers bloomed, and spent

and views it as a matter of course. A conversation overheard on the train, a day or two ago, between a couple of old gentlemen, awakened this train of thought and called up these reflections. One of them was from Western New York and the other was a native of Massachusetts, but both now live in Illinois. Said one, "It is the most astonishing thing in the world, this amazing growth and development of the Western country." "Yes," said the other, "down East, where I came from, there is the old road along which we went to school, and the rock where we kicked off a toe nail; the chestnut stump that stood by the side of the road, etc. In ten years we find them just as they were in our school days. There is the rock where we stubbed our toe, and the old chestnut stump by the roadside; nothing is changed. But here in the West, what changes take place in that period! Let us be absent from our neighborhood for ten years,

"Their sweetness on the desert air;"

to-morrow, as it were, finds a city or village laid out, and buildings going up at a rate to startle anybody but a wide-awake Westerner who has been born and bred to this spirit of enterprise,

and when we return we find nothing familiar; everything--almost the face of nature itself--has changed." Thus it is, that where, a few years ago, was a wilderness, unbroken and undisturbed save by wild beasts, to-day are the most flourishing farms, villages, towns and cities.

The iron road and the iron horse of George Stephenson were destined to alter not only the face of the country, but also its social position and material wealth. It was during these times that Jas. C. Spencer, now of Wisconsin, and T. C. Meyer, formerly of New York, drove through this country surveying the present railroad from Chicago to St. Louis. For seven days they had to camp out in this immediate neighborhood, and during the journey Mr. Spencer had his legs so severely frosted that at one time it was feared amputation would be necessary. But their efforts were ultimately crowned with success and in the summer of 1854 the first engine passed over the road. Mr. A. West, who died a number of years ago, helped to wood up that engine when it stopped here, and we find that it was appropriately named after the enterprising James C. Spencer. At that time the town consisted of two small shanties and a tank for the engines. One of these shanties had been occupied by a man named Stevens, who butchered for the men working on the railroad, and the other had been occupied by a man named Morgan, who boarded them. Jas. Morgan afterwards resided in the neighborhood of Pontiac. Mr. Morgan has since lived on the Alton railroad, and has been most of this time in its employ, and is now section foreman at Streator.

In September Mr. John Campbell erected a temporary building just south of the depot, as a railroad dining

station. The noon train from Chicago stopped for dinner, and the St. Louis train for supper. H. Cornell bought him out in the spring of 1855, and soon after the dining station was changed to Bloomington, and Mr. Cornell built the first hotel on the ground where his present one stands.

That winter was one easily remembered on account of its intense cold and protracted length. A great storm burst over the country and snow fell till it covered the land two feet deep; the thermometer for a period of six weeks averaged from 25 to 30 deg. below freezing point; and the few residents in this locality felt the bitter weather in all its severity. The trains were snowed in for several weeks and the passengers were furnished food by the poor settlers. It became necessary to smash up the car seats to keep fires burning in the cars. It was during this great storm that quite a large delegation of Illinois legislators had been on a visit to Joliet to inspect the site for the removal of the state penitentiary from Alton, and when returning were blockaded by snow about three miles southwest of Dwight for several days, and were finally taken to the farm house of Major Thos. C. McDowell, (now James Brown's residence,) and from there to Morris in sleighs, reaching Springfield via La Salle, Bloomington and Decatur and for six weeks no trains were run from Bloomington to Joliet. Many farmers in the surrounding neighborhood lost their cattle, and thus they were cramped and hindered at the very commencement of their pioneer life. The snow was on the ground till May when the farmers went to planting corn; but by this time other families were moving into the settlement, and it soon became evident that a village was about to be



formed here. At this period the prairie was infested more or less with wolves, and when the settler looked out of his door in the clear bright morning light he could often see large herds of deer pasturing not far from his little homestead. The locality now known as the town of Dwight was then a precinct, and it was not till the 21st day of January, 1854, that the plats were laid out and the town in which we live and which many have learned to love, was created.

Like all the prairie land, this township was not settled for more than twenty years after settlements had been made in the groves of timber and along the water courses in the county. John Conant came from Rochester, Ohio, in 1854, and settled on the north-east quarter of Section 8, which is conceded to be the first settlement in Dwight Township, outside of the village of the same name. He put up a frame building, which is still standing in a good state of preservation, though its builder has "mingled with the clods of the valley." He died a few years ago, at an advanced age. Mr. Conant was the first Postmaster at Dwight, and the first Justice of the Peace after township organization. The next year Nelson Cornell came to the neighborhood and put up a house on Sec. 5. Thos. Little settled near Cornell soon after. He sold out, ten or twelve years ago, and removed to Wilmington, where at present he resides.

The first sign of a town was indicated by the elevation of a telegraph pole with an inverted tin pail nailed on the top. This served as a landmark and a guide to surveyors engaged in surveying the Chicago & Mississippi railroad, (now the C. & A. road.) When the first few houses were built here, the neighboring farmers and residents styled the

incipient village "Western New York;" but that name was soon destined to pass out of sight and give place to a better one. We have never been able to ascertain why the town was not named after its founder and original proprietor of the land, R. P. Morgan, jr., unless it was that Mr. Morgan was too modest and too generous to name it after himself.

Henry Dwight, jr., of New York, was a brother engineer of R. P. Morgan; he came out West and embarked and lost his then large fortune in the construction of the railroad. He was a man of enterprise and great public spirit, and it was in his honor and to commemorate his deeds that R. P. Morgan gave his name to the town in which we live.

It was on the 6th of August, 1853, that Mr. Morgan deeded the right of way to the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad Company through the present site of Dwight, and other lands; reserving by covenant that "should he lay off the former tract, the present site of the town, into town lots, to make safe and suitable crossings wherever the line of said road intersects the streets that may be laid out on said road." And in consideration of the right of way granted, the company covenanted to "erect and keep up station houses and other necessary depot buildings," where they now stand, on the North east Quarter of Section Nine, Town Thirty, North, Range Seven, East of Third Principal Meridian.

In the fall of 1853 Mr. Morgan caused the original town plat to be surveyed, and on the 30th of January, 1854, formally dedicated and recorded it in the following words; "To be known as the town of Dwight, and the streets and alleys described on the plot are hereby donated to the public."

James McIluff, in 1854, bought the northwest quarter of Section 18 on which he had some ten acres broken very soon after his purchase. This, it is claimed, was the first "breaking of prairie" in Dwight Township. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and came to his farm the next year after this plowing, and settled permanently. He occupied his farm for a number of years, then removed to the village, where he served as Postmaster during the Presidential term of Andrew Johnson. He still lives in the village of Dwight, and served several terms as police magistrate and justice of the peace.

In 1855, James C. Spencer, of New York, began improvements on his farm adjoining the present village of Dwight. He was born on the Hudson River, below the city of Albany, and was a lineal descendant of Hon. Ambrose Spencer, once Chief Justice of the State, and, through his mother, of George Clinton, first Governor of New York and Vice President of the United States, and of DeWitt Clinton, also Governor of New York and the projector of the Erie Canal. He owned about 1,200 acres of land here in a body and came to the place as an engineer of the railroad company. Mr. West, mentioned in this chapter as one of the early settlers of Dwight, broke the first prairie, on Spencer's farm. It was on this farm that the Prince of Wales made his headquarters for a few days, in 1860, as noticed further on in these pages. Mr. Spencer at present lives in Milwaukee, and is Vice President of the Davenport & Northwestern Railroad of Iowa, and Consulting Engineer of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad.

Henry A. Gardner, then a resident of Joliet, who owned 1,000 acres of land east of the village, commenced im-

provements on it this year. He was originally from Massachusetts, and he and Spencer and R. P. Morgan, the latter more particularly mentioned in the history of the village, were civil engineers in the employ of the "Chicago & Mississippi Railroad Company," as the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Road was then called. Mr. Gardner was employed as rodman on the Great Western Railroad in 1836, under Morgan, and soon advanced to Junior Assistant. He was engaged, at different periods, as a civil engineer on the Hudson River Railroad, the Harlem Railroad and the Mohawk & Hudson River Railroad. In 1845, he came West and accepted a position on the Illinois & Michigan Canal, and in 1853 was employed, as above stated, in constructing the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad from Joliet to Bloomington. He located his lands near the present village of Dwight, when making the railroad survey, and also settled his family here. After spending some time on his farm, he was called to a position on the Hudson River Railroad. At the time of his death, July 26, 1875, he was Chief Engineer of the Michigan Central Railroad. The following statement, made a short time before he died, shows his excellent business qualities: "I never had a bill, approved by me, returned for correction or explanation during my professional life." He has left behind him a family of able representatives.

Another of the early settlers and substantial men of the neighborhood was Benjamin Chester. He settled here in 1860, and was originally from Connecticut, and sprung from a good old Revolutionary stock. He died in 1868, and his son, Wm. P. Chester, who appeared fully capable of the management of their large farm, followed his father to

the land of rest in October, 1869, leaving a sister, Miss Hannah Chester, the only surviving member of this excellent family.

C. Roadnight, from the 'chalky cliffs' of Old England, settled 3 miles south the village in 1857, on what is known as the "Davis Farm." A man of extensive means and of fine education, he soon obtained the pseudonym of "Sir Charles," a name that ever after clung to him among the democratic citizens of this "blarsted country." He undertook to farm on the English style, but it did not result very successfully. In this country, and particularly in the great West, where there are men who own farms nearly as large as the British Empire, and on which there is annually wasted as much, perhaps, as is made on the largest English farms in a single year, there is little attention paid to scientific farming, and, indeed, in the great every-day rush, it seems that the farmers have actually no time to devote to the science of the business. Mr. Roadnight was, for a number of years, General Freight Agent of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, a position he filled with entire satisfaction.

This includes a number of the early settlers of the township outside of the village of Dwight. From this period forward, the influx of emigrants was too rapid to further admit of individual notice in the history of the town, but there are those whose histories are identified with the village, and in that connection will receive proper mention. The country around the little village rapidly filled up, and the new railroad, when completed, was an inducement, to people in search of homes, to bring them to this section, and soon not a "forty" nor "eighty" was left untenanted.

Like all portions of a new country

the main historical importance centers in the cities or more important villages. It is so in Dwight Township, and very few items of interest, beyond the mere fact of settlement, have occurred outside of the village limits. There are, however, one or two instances that belong in the township history, and will be given in their proper order.

Some notice of a murder that occurred but a few miles from the village of Dwight, and is a part of the history of this township, may be given in this connection. A Prussian nobleman, by name Alvin V. Panwitz, had settled a few miles from the village, where he was murdered on the 23d day of January, 1872, by his German serving man, Frederick Schafer. Panwitz was a man who drank to excess, and on the day of his murder had drawn some money remitted to him from the old country, and as usual got drunk. Late in the evening, he and his man, together with Conrad Reinmiller, started for home in his sleigh, but owing to the violent quarreling of Panwitz and Schafer, Reinmiller left the sleigh. After they had arrived at home, it seems their quarrel was renewed, and while Panwitz was lying on the bed, Schafer struck him with a monkey wrench several blows, which ultimately resulted in death. His victim was buried in a compost heap near the stable and for three days Schafer hauled corn to Nevada, when, having aroused suspicion against him, he dressed himself in his late master's clothes (whom he strongly resembled, it is said,) gathered up all the valuables he could get his hands on, and started with the team for Chicago. Detectives there were notified, and soon discovered him in a stable trying to dispose of the horses for a small amount. He was at once brought back to the village of Dwight,

and after a preliminary hearing sent to Pontiac, where, in due time, he was tried and sentenced to eighteen years in the Joliet prison.

In Dwight Township, as in all prairie country, the people were often exposed to the terror and danger of prairie fires; many lost property, and came near losing their lives. Referring again to the history of Dwight, already quoted from, it says of these terrible fires: "Nelson Cornell was out hunting one day on the east side of the town, and when returning saw an immense prairie fire approaching. In order to save his life, he burnt the grass in the place where he was, and stood on the hot ground while the larger fire swept by him, nearly suffocating him with smoke and ashes." Thus the early settlers of the prairies were often in danger of losing, not only their property, but their lives.

When the county was divided into election precincts, before township organization, Robert Thompson, living in what is now Nevada Township, was

a Justice of the Peace in this "Election Precinct," and was the first to exercise the functions of that office here. John Conant was the first Justice after township organization. The first constables were B. Losee and W. H. Ketchum; the latter was also Collector, and Isaac G. Mott was the first Supervisor. The township officers in 1878 were as follows; Hugh Thompson, Supervisor; John Thompson and W. H. Ketchum, Justices of the Peace; Joseph Ford, Assessor; Joshua Sibley, Collector; C. M. Baker, Town Clerk, and Francis Carey, School Treasurer.

The first birth in the township was a child of Thos. Wilson, the Railroad Agent, about 1854, and died in about six months, which was also the first death in the village. The second death was the wife of Alexander Gourley. She was taken sick and died at Mr. West's in 1855. She was buried in the German Settlement. The first marriage of which we have any account is Elon G. Ragan and Maria West, who were married February 19, 1856.



## CHAPTER II.

## VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

One of the most important, and, perhaps, deserving of precedence, even among our republican people, who have little veneration for royalty, but a good deal of curiosity perhaps, was the visit of the Prince of Wales to this country, in 1860. All who read the public journals of the day are familiar with the main features of his tour of the United States, and it is only necessary to state here, that the Prince, en route from Chicago to St. Louis, stopped here for a few days shooting. From a work entitled "Past, Present and Future of Dwight," published by The Dwight Star, we extract of the royal visit. Speaking of the events of the year 1860, the author says: "This year was remarkable for nothing, as far as we can learn, except the visit of the Prince of Wales. The theory of the divine right of kings has long since been exploded, and is now thrown aside by all intelligent people. Yet, if the theory has gone, of the practices which it involved remains. There seems to be a natural craving in the minds of many to see a royal personage, even if it only be a second cousin. The strangest part of it is, that such a desire should be manifested in our own country, the acknowledged land of independence and the home of republican thought and feeling. It is true, however, that our countrymen, and women especially, have a

great reverence for foreign nobility, and the visit of the Prince of Wales, and later the Duke Alexis, confirms the statement. That this state of things exists is not surprising, but it is sad. It would seem that if a tribute of praise or meed of honor is due to any man, it is to him who has wrought noble deeds for his country; it is to that man who, laying aside all selfish ambition and worldly fame, devotes his faculties, his energies, his life to the welfare of our common humanity.

\* \* \* \* \*

"During his progress through our country, the Prince of Wales met an enthusiastic reception. His visit to this neighborhood was expected, and the residence of James C. Spencer was prepared for his visit. The household furniture was taken away, and special furniture, sent ahead by the Prince's party supplied its place. A crowd of citizens gathered on the edge of the railroad opposite Mr. Spencer's residence and waited for the Prince's arrival. It is mournful to be compelled to state that no triumphal arch had been reared; no town band was there with pleasant music, no leading citizen to present an address of welcome to the youthful scion of royalty. \* \* \* \*

About 27 minutes after 6 p. m on September 22, 1860, the Prince of Wales arrived at this town. He was at once

escorted to the residence of Mr. Spencer, where he remained during his stay here. He came to this neighborhood for the purpose of shooting, and had not been many minutes at the farm before he called loudly for his gun and announced his intention of having some sport that evening. He only shot one bird a little screech owl, and that was enough for the time being. The next day was Sunday, when the Prince and his suite attended divine service at the Presbyterian church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. P. D. Young. The Prince was much pleased with the service, and, in consequence, made a donation to the church. The next day, the party, numbering some twelve or fourteen gentlemen, commenced shooting in downright earnest. One day they shot from the train, and had such success that over two hundred quails and chickens were bagged. The Prince was then 19 years old, and had a good appearance. He was looking remarkably well and enjoyed excellent health. His spirits were always good and his manner uniformly genial. He was very much pleased with our country, and expressed himself eminently satisfied with his visit to Dwight. His stay was short; he came on Saturday and went away on Wednesday. The last day he was here, he planted an elm tree on Mr. Spencer's farm, and it has now grown to large proportions. Those who are curious about such matters can walk up to the residence and see that elm tree for themselves. Mr. Miller was living on the farm at the time of the Prince's visit, and has communicated many items of information to us."

"The first night, one of the principal attendants on his Royal Highness made an unpleasant and uncalled-for remark to Mr. Miller. That gentleman turned

round quickly and said, 'If you'll just mind your business, I'll mind mine.' It is also related how Mr. Roadnight drove up one day in rattling style, and, sitting in his vehicle, called, 'Ho, there!' No reply was vouchsafed the challenge; and when it had been unsuccessfully repeated, the irate Englishman put his whip to his horses and told the Prince to 'go' somewhere, but history does not state positively the place. Mr. Miller says the party behaved themselves with great decorum during their stay, and as the town is also reported to have done the same, we may safely congratulate ourselves on having entertained the heir to the throne of England with satisfaction and credit.

"As to the tree planted by his Royal Highness, and referred to in the foregoing extract, we had the curiosity natural to a "Brother Jonathan" and paid the tree a visit. So impressed did we become with its royal greatness, that we mechanically lifted our "tile" and bowed low to its waving branches, while with awe we plucked a leaf which we bore away as a relic. Spencer's place where the Prince was entertained, is or was known as "Renfrew Lodge", and is half a mile north of the village.

The following recently appeared in the Youths Companion and will be of interest to all.

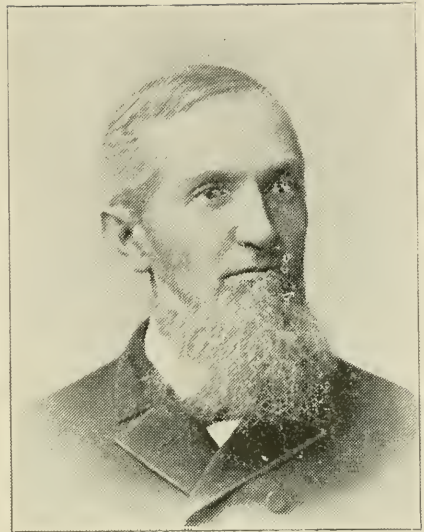
#### A PRINCE ON THE PRAIRIE.

BY GRACE GREENWOOD.

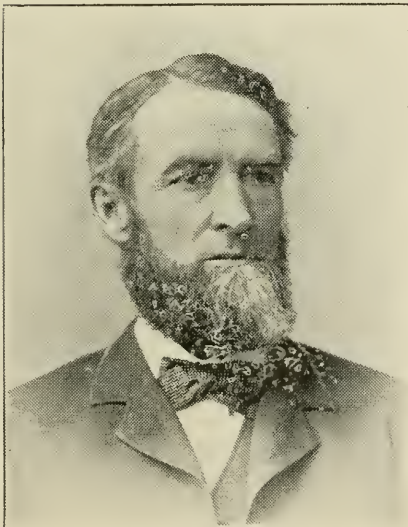
In the town of Dwight, Illinois,—a place of late years famous in connection with the "gold cure" for dipsomania,—there stands a certain commodious cottage which has a bit of royal history attached to it. Under its modest roof the young Prince of Wales was entertained in 1860, while on a shooting expedition—a pleasant little episode in his American tour.



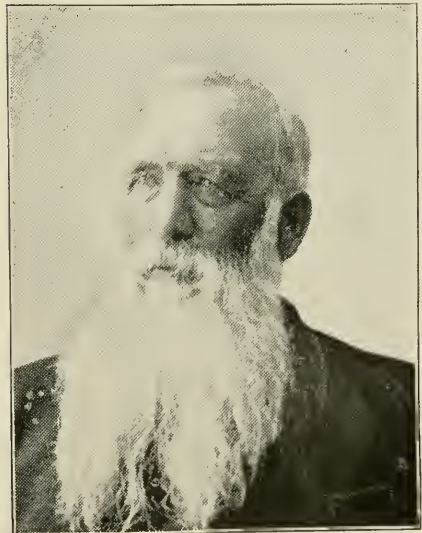
Col. Richard P. Morgan.



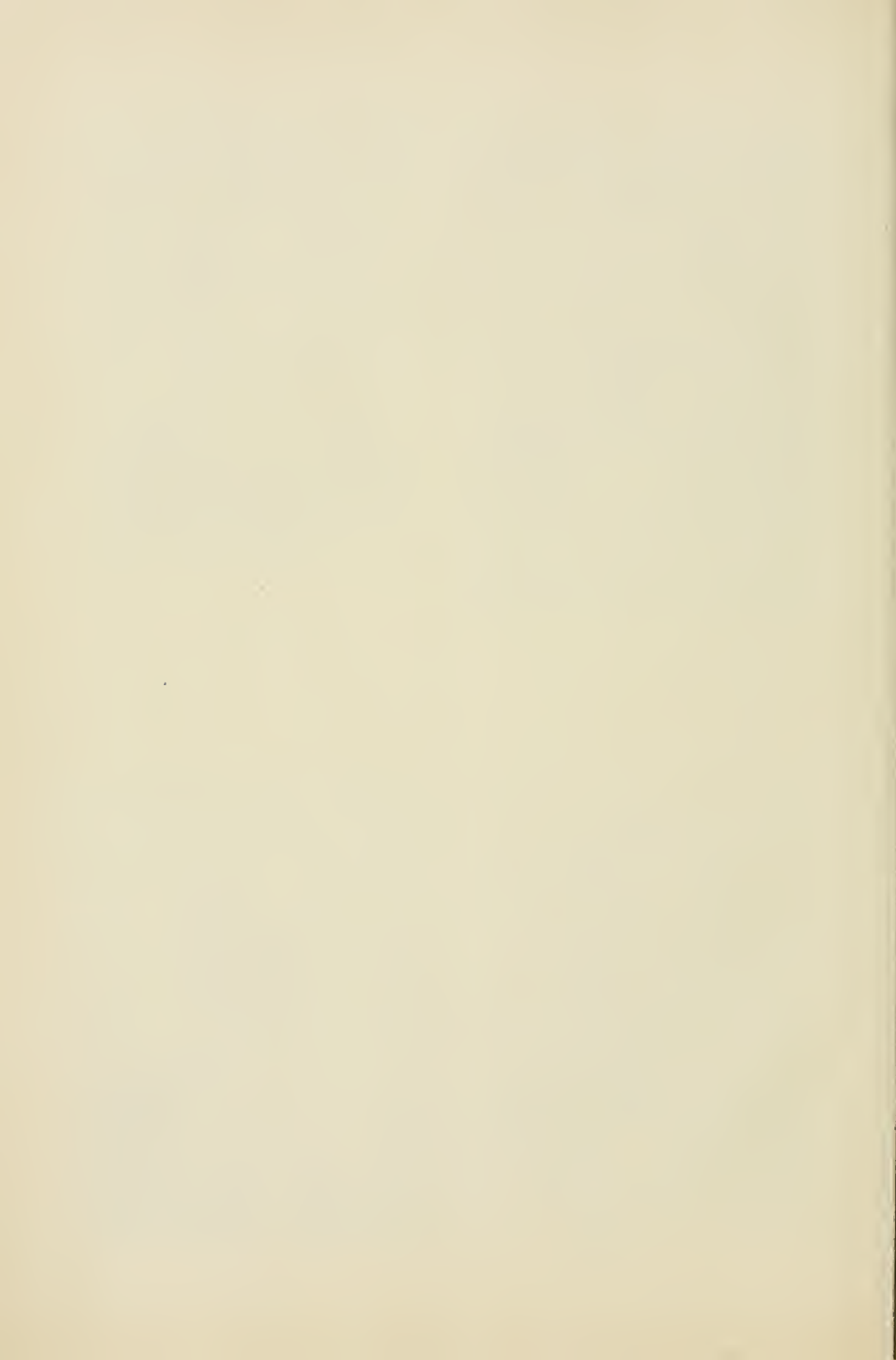
David McWilliams.



W. H. Bradbury.



Geo. Conant.





This house, standing on the edge of Grande Prairie, had been for some seasons occupied only as a hunting lodge by the owner, Mr. James Spencer, of Chicago, and his brothers, all ardent sportsmen. Often they had guests, including many English army officers and tourists who had brought letters to the Spencer family, and were eager for the sport then to be found on our plains as nowhere else.

Mr. Spencer's tract of almost virgin prairie, with the vast level stretches beyond it, constituted a natural game preserve—if "preserve" that could be called which was open to the world and walled by the horizon only.

The long bush grass of the prairie, with wild vines and flowers, afforded rare hiding-places for birds, and as proof of the then great variety of such game stands the record that on one day in October, 1858, the Spencer brothers and their guests killed prairie chicken, quail, snipe, woodcock, plover, wild geese, wild turkeys and ducks!

In the early summer Mr. Spencer received from high social sources an intimation of the honor designed him. It was an invitation to invite the Prince of Wales and party to his modest lodge for a little shooting. It seemed that the fame of the American gentleman a courteous and considerate host and that of his shooting lodge for well-guarded privacy, as well as excellent sport, had been carried even to Windsor.

When the plans for the visit of Albert Edward to America were being discussed, the boy pleaded for a little shooting on a Western prairie, as a relief from tiresome receptions and parades. The queen and prince consort consented on condition that "Bertie" should be received at the Spencer Lodge for a few days in the month of

August, and while there should be under the immediate personal care of his host.

#### DRAWBACKS TO ENTERTAINING ROYALTY.

Mr. Spencer appreciated the compliment, but could not at first bring himself to accept it. He was a quiet business man, averse to publicity. Moreover, he shrank from the serious responsibility of guarding the English heir-apparent, in house and hunting field, at a time when Irish Orangemen and Ribbonmen were rioting in Canada, and when Fenianism was being organized in the States.

Pressing letter and messages came to Mr. Spencer from English and Canadian friends interested in the prince's tour, but it was not until the lad himself was hourly expected in Canada, with his heart set on prairie chickens, that, moved by a sportsman's sympathy, Mr. Spencer's resolution gave away, and he set about the necessary and somewhat difficult arrangements for so unusual an event as a royal visitation in a primitive prairie town.

There were those in this republican country who envied "the Spencers" the privilege of entertaining Queen Victoria's son, but the honor had its drawbacks.

From the first, great care and management had to be used to keep the time and the whereabouts of that little sporting frolic a profound secret, lest enterprising reporters from the big cities should be early on the field, 'lying low' in the prairie grass, or as amateur sportsmen stalking the royal game.

Again, the party was rather royally considerable for one republican family to look after. There were two "governors" of the prince, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle and General Bruce; Lord Lyons, British Minister to Washington;

the Earl of St. Germain; two extra lords, Eliot and Hinchinbrooke, college friends of the prince; two equerries, Major Teesdale and Captain Gray; one physician, Doctor Acland; a London Times reporter and an Illustrated News artist. Added to these were a lot of English servants, with special men for the hunting field.

Dwight was then a small village, and nearly all supplies for the lodge had to be brought from Chicago, seventy-five miles away. Marketing would have to be done in the city every morning and sent down by an early train.

Only a limited number of the royal party could be accommodated at the lodge. For the others, suitable quarters must be provided in the neighborhood. To look after the comfort of all, and to train and direct new servants, mostly rustic, Mr. Spencer found that a hostess would be indispensable.

He was a single man; but happily he had a married sister who, though still very young, was equal to the emergency, being a lady of rare executive ability and fine social tact. This lady went down from her city home from time to time, and quietly put the lodge and its annexed cottages in order, as though for the coming of the ordinary guests of the shooting season.

If people asked questions—well, the secret had to be kept. She knew that for these aristocratic guests no special etiquette was to be observed. While in the States they were to dispense with courtly form and ceremony, and to drop all lordly airs,—if they ever had any,—thus sparing our republican feelings, while gaining a good time for themselves.

The prince himself was kindly to shed his grandest titles,—about a score of them,—retaining only that of Baron Renfrew. To their American host the

members of the party were to be simply English gentlemen, mostly elderly, headed by a nice young collegian, the nicest and youngest of them all.

#### PRINCE ALBERT EDWARD ARRIVES.

In August the Prince of Wales reached Quebec, and was received with raptures and revels of loyalty. After a triumphal progress through his mother's dominions he neared the Land of Promise at Niagara, where he beheld that slender propechly of the great suspension-bridge—the wire of the ropewalker Blondin, with Blondin on it. Reaching the States, he paid brief visits to Detroit and Chicago, unimportant towns, on his way to Dwight.

Chicago was then in one of its transition states—rising from mire, as ten years later it rose from ashes. From the wonderful new waterworks, to which they had been conducted by the mayor and other officials, the prince party were whisked off by Mr. Spencer to Dwight, by way of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad.

After reaching the lodge, most of the guests were content to rest on the piazza and enjoy the evening breeze from off that great prairie surging softly in the sunset light, like a sea of gold. But the prince, intent on business, almost immediately called for his gun, and dashed out into the grounds.

A valet, two gentlemen of the Spencer family and a lord or two, followed in hot and armed pursuit. Soon there was a cheerful popping of guns, and a whirring up and fluttering down of hapless birds, set upon when just about turning in for the night. The little party returned in the darkling twilight with some fine specimens of prairie chickens, Albert Edward wild with delight over his share, and bound to have it cooked for dinner.

Only the prince, his governors and

physician had rooms at the lodge though all the gentlemen of the party met there for meals. When, an hour or two after dinner that evening, Mr. Spencer was preparing to conduct the two equerries to their quarters,—the cottage of the village schoolmaster, just outside the lodge-gates,—the irrepressible prince asked permission to go also, and carry a lantern.

Arrived at the house, they were all invited into the little parlor, where sat the schoolmaster and his wife—she rocking an obstinately wakeful baby. To the surprise of the young gentlemen, the royal arrival was still unknown to the dominie, who began questioning his neighbor as to the rumor that the young Prince of Wales was “going to shoot somewhere on some prairie in Illinois.”

“I do not expect him, for my part,” said Mr. Spencer.

“Well, so I thought,” continued the schoolmaster; “he’s too grand for a place like Dwight, I suppose. I wonder what sort of a young fellow he is anyhow. Not as handsome as his father, judging by the pictures in the papers. Pretty well educated for a prince, I guess, but I don’t suppose he knows much about the higher mathematics.”

During this conversation the subject of it was the only one of the visitors who perfectly kept his countenance—a royal lesson, early learned. When his equerries had rather hurriedly retired, he gravely took leave of Mr. Spencer, bidding the innocent schoolmaster and wife good night, and not forgetting the baby. But well away, he laughed heartily and long over his “first call in the States.”

The next day was Sunday. The entire party accompanied host and hostesses to church—a Presbyterian one, the first house of worship built at Dwight.

To the surprise of some of his hearers, the republican pastor prayed for the Queen of England and the royal family. It was not democratic, perhaps, but it was Christian and hospitable, and may have given a certain comely youth in the Spencer pew a pleasant home feeling.

In no other way was the presence of royalty and high nobility noticed in that simple “meeting-house” on the edge of the great prairie. After service all passed out quietly and decorously—no staring, no delay, no hanging about the doors. Mr. Spencer has always been proud of the behavior of his neighbors on that occasion—so unlike that of fashionable New York worshippers, who a month or so later, almost mobbed the poor young prince in old Trinity.

#### DAYS OF ROYAL SPORT.

On Monday the carnival of sport began. Hunters and dogs were driven to grounds at some distance, where the party, increased by a number of famous American sportsmen familiar with the prairie, was divided into four detachments.

The Prince of Wales, closely accompanied by the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Spencer, was to be always twenty minutes in advance of the others—a regulation thereafter sternly enforced by the two governors. This, boys, is the free and independent way in which a young crown prince goes a-gunning!

The precaution was perhaps doubly necessary, for not only, in their excitement over novel game, might those young collegians, Lords Eliot and Hinchingbrooke, shoot a little wildly, but the prince himself, in his boyish eagerness, might, while “putting up” a flock of prairie chickens, bring down an equerry or two.

As it was, he hit nothing but fair



game, and he hit that astonishingly often. Mr. Spencer, who was one of the shots of America, and who recognized no royal road to the honors of the hunting-field, was surprised at his exploits—almost as much surprised as the young fellow himself, whose skill, or luck, seemed to increase from hour to hour. Knowing he had to compete with the crack shots of the prairies he was put upon his mettle to prove himself worthy his associates and opportunities.

It was a great day for international sport. The weather was perfect, the scent fine, the dogs of the lodge were pronounced admirable for training and intelligence, and all returned to their quarters in the evening safe and sound, laden with glory and game.

Another time the party took a train to new and even richer hunting grounds where all day long the birds fell about them like autumn leaves before a gale. The prince, being the young lion of England, was of course awarded a generous share in this success. He was royally happy. At last he had found something in this big, rough New World worth coming for.

However far they may have tramped through the thick prairie grass, under an August sun, it was a cheerful company that sat down to dinner at the lodge—sat long and ate "like hunters." Among the young men, seated by themselves, there was usually going a good deal of "chaff." One of the college boys, being a stammerer, was too often the victim, but took all in good humor. The prince had to take his turn.

One night, over the coffee, he was chaffed about a big lot of birds he was to send to England—it being insinuated that he made a miscout, to enhance that day's glory. Snatching a candle from a candlelabra, he ran out to the

game storehouse to go over them again, taking a witness with him, and soon returned triumphant, having gained one by the count.

One evening there was even unusual laughter at that hilarious table over a cartoon in Harpers' Weekly, representing young Albert Edward, returned to Windsor, presenting a pretty Yankee bride to the queen. The prince, most amused of all, exclaimed, "I'll send it to my mother!"

Though these were merry fellows all, their merriment was restrained within certain bounds by refined taste and that respect for elders which is one of the finest characteristics of well-bred English youth. It is only the exception we find pilloried in Punch.

The elder members of the party are remembered by their entertainers as exceedingly genial gentlemen—with perhaps the exception of the Duke of Newcastle, who was usually haughty, reserved and austere enough to stand for the traditional type of a great English nobleman. With a stern sense of duty, and small sympathy with the light-heartedness and light-headedness of youth—especially of youth under the shadow of the throne—he sometimes acted as a killjoy for his fun-loving charge, never hesitating to administer a reproof when he thought it would be wholesome.

I remember hearing from the late Mr. Sumner an instance of this which occurred during a call on the royal party in Boston. In the course of a political talk between him and the Duke of Newcastle, the character and career of Mr. Gladstone coming under discussion, the Prince of Wales, who had been listening quietly, broke in with, "Yes, Mr. Sumner, Mr. Gladstone is one of the foremost men in English politics"

"Tut, tut, Loy! What do you know about English politics?" said the awful governor.

What heir of an American railroad king would have stood such a snubbing? This heir of a hundred kings flushed and was silent. He "look it out," however, the next night at a delightful ball, where he said to his pretty partner:

"I don't have half enough of this sort of thing, you know. I hope to come to America again some time, without my nurses."

I believe there is a melancholy tradition at West Point of the prince being sent to bed at the very hour he was expected in the ball-room.

To return to Dwight. Whatever the fascination of the hunting-field, the prince and his party observed with scrupulous punctuality the hour for dinner—always giving themselves time to dress properly for that solemn English function.

All seemed to keenly relish their repasts, and little wonder. There were two accomplished cooks in the kitchen, who prepared for them in many delicious ways the first venison of the season and fatted prairie fowl, as well as the choicest fish and domestic meats. Of course the best vegetables and fruit in the market were provided, while fresh butter and eggs were made and laid for them daily.

Yet their anxious little hostess says she was "much comforted" by hearing that the prince and his party afterward declared the best dinners they had in America were at "the Spencer Lodge."

The royal party took everywhere with them their wines, as well as bath-tubs. The only lights ever used about the Prince of Wales were wax candles—gas being considered unwholesome and

oil lamps dangerous, as well as democratic.

There were other precautions taken for the young man's safety—unobtrusive, but never relaxed. At Mr. Spencer's place all looked after his comfort and security—men, women, small boys and those faithful guardians, the dogs.

The only one of the household who was evidently free from care was the object of all this solicitude. He never seemed to feel his nearness to the grandest throne in the world.

#### HOW THE PRINCE APPEARED.

The family who entertained him at Dwight thirty-three years ago have still very clear recollections of his appearance and manner. He was slight then, and had an abundance of soft brown hair. His face was as now, Guelphic of contour, but attractive in color and expression. His blue eyes beamed with good humor and a great joy in life. He seemed quite free from self-consciousness—was never brusque or impatient or arrogant toward his associates, while to laboring men and servants he was singularly considerate.

Even at that early age he showed the fine social tact for which he has since been distinguished, and the memory of names and faces which he seems to have wisely cultivated.

In place of regal dignity he had the social defence of perfect courtesies. If he encountered rough men in the hunting field, they were not rough to him nor were they unduly familiar, even when after handling his game, he stopped to wash his hands at the pump in the yard, or when on the tramp, he laughed with them over some ridiculous Western story.

To this day he keenly enjoys American humor, with all its absurdities and

wild extravaganeies. To those who knew him best during that visit he was always the same good-natured, unassuming Eng'ish boy, and even now that he is more of a grand personage than ever, being a grand father and a 'mighty hunter"—having chased tigers on elephant-back in India—they cannot believe that all the endearing traits of the lad who shot small game at Dwight with such content have dissappeared from the character of the man.

The result of his last day's sport was so astonishing that the prince, over his huge pile of birds, lamented the necessity of moving on, saying, "I would like to stay here shooting for a month longer; its the only real fun I have had in America."

That evening he almost overwhelmed his hosts with thanks for their kindness to "so troublesome a guest, and paid a grateful compliment to his young hostess, whose deft management had made them all so comfortable at the lodge. He ended by shyly placing in her husband's hand "a little souvenir" for her.

It was a besutilul jeweled bracelet bearing his arms and motto. She received also from him a fine engraved portrait bearing his autograph, and an album containing portraits of his family party. To Mr. Spencer he later sent a valuable token of remembrance. He was not mean—young Albert Edward.

On the last morning of his visit he planted a tree before the house, which, at the host's request he christened "Renfrew Lodge." Then with corteous adieux to all, not forgetting the dogs, he departed with his suit for St. Louis, from whence, that nigh, there came from him a homesick telegram.

With the going of those pleasant guests silence settled on the lodge and

a listless, let-down feeling on the hearts of its inmates; yet they were not without comfort in the thought that their anxious care had kept all harm from that boyish, genial Baron Renfrew, heir to the throne of England and all her mighty dependencies.

There are a few interesting items in connection with the visit of the prince we have secured that have never been published, which we present:

James Spencer was an expert huntsman and had a reputation far and wide and it might be said that his reputation was one cause that brought the Prince to Dwight. Mr. Spencer accompanied him on all his hunts and was very much pleased with him. The riding about the country was done in a two seated buggy belonging to Col. R. P. Morgan. The buggy was about the "finest in the land" at that time. Col. Morgan then resided and owned the residence (Hahn property) now occupied by the offices of the Keeley League, which was considered a very fine house in those days, and it was a common occurrence for deer and wolf to be close to the house, and we understand, in one instance deer was shot on the grounds.

During the Prince's visit Col. Morgan entertained Lord Lyon, then British council to the United States, and the Duke of Newcastle, and representatives of the London Times, New York Herald and other large newspapers.

The Prince gave a dinner once a day and Col. Morgan was always an honored guest. The Prince at the time and after his departure made many gifts in remembrance of kindnesses shown him, one in particular that has been given us that deserves special mention. The prince called Col. Morgan into his



room one day and presented him with handsome gold shirt buttons, sleeve buttons and vest buttons, saying in substance that he wished him to accept them as a slight token of his respect for him and for kindnesses extended to the royal party. The case containing the buttons presented to the Colonel bears the manufacturers' name as follows:

R. & S. Garrard & Co.  
Goldsmiths, Jewelers, Etc.,  
to the Queen,

His Royal Highness, The Prince Consort  
and all the Royal Family,  
Panton Street, London.

A very fine photograph of the Prince

was presented by him to Mrs. Morgan, which is now in the possession of Ed. Morgan, of Bloomington, Ill.

While the recollection of the oldest inhabitant does not recall the time when the Colonel was seen wearing these gorgeous gold trimmings of royalty, it is needless to say that he prizes them very highly.

This chapter will close the reminiscences of the royal visit and we shall now proceed with the history of more democratic people and things and probably more interesting to our readers.

## CHAPTER III.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE VILLAGE.

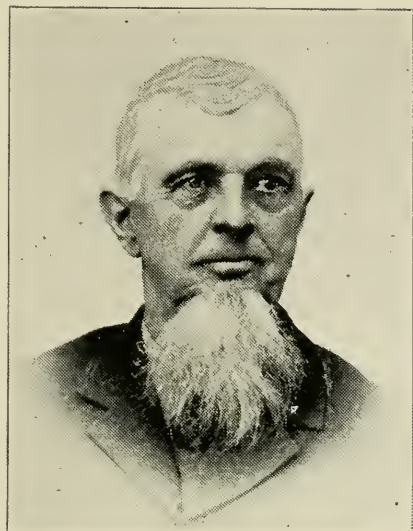
## THE VILLAGE OF DWIGHT.

"When first this village D. was thought,  
 The friends of D. some others fought,  
 To give a little name, and birth  
 To homes of clay, and joyous mirth.  
 This settled, and a sign they placed  
 To guide the weary wanderer to rest:  
 A hickory pole of twenty-two feet,  
 A rust pan did gracefully o'erleap."

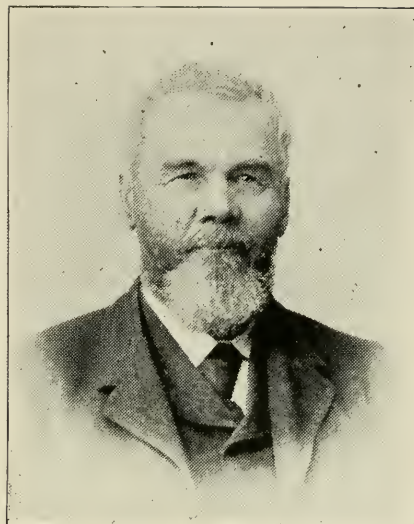
Dwight is situated on the main line of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, at the junction of its Western Division, and is about seventy miles from Chicago, and twenty miles from Pontiac, the county seat. It is a place of about 2,000 inhabitants, is the third in size, and one of the most important shipping points in the county. The repair shops and the round house of the Western Division of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad are located here, as well as the headquarters of the bridge builders of the main line. The tank men were stationed here when they moved their headquarters to Bloomington. A large number of men employed by the two roads live in the village of Dwight, and have all their interests centering here.

Dwight was surveyed by Nelson Buck, deputy County Surveyor, for Amos Edwards, the regular surveyor of the county, in the fall of 1853, for R. P. Morgan, Jr., Jas. C. Spencer, John Lathrop and J. and K. W. Fell, who owned the land on which it stands. The

original town embraced the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 4; also the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter, and the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 9, Township 30 north, Range 7 east of the Third Principal Meridian, and on the 30th day of January, 1854, was dedicated by Mr. Morgan, and the plat admitted to record. The following are his dedicating words: "To be known as the town of Dwight, and the streets and alleys described on the town plat are hereby donated to the public." It was named for Henry Dwight, of New York, who was a capitalist, and furnished the money to build the road from Joliet to Bloomington, known now as the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad. He is said to have lost a fortune in the construction of this road, and as a compliment to him, and in honor of his noble deeds, his name was given to the new village, which, in spite of efforts to change it, it has ever since borne. In this year (1858) considerable excitement was caused by an effort on the part of some citizens to change the name of our town. There was a leading politician here named Tom Little, known more familiarly as "Jersey." He and some others (who formed a clique which he led) tried to have the name changed to "Beckman," the name of a county in New York State. R. P.



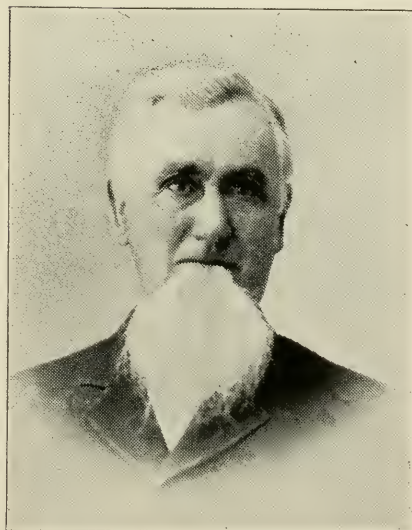
Geo. Z. Flagler.



James Smith.



Nathan Baker,  
(and grandchild.)



W. H. Conrad.



Morgan and his party worked for the name of "Dwight," whilst a third party toiled in behalf of the euphonious appellation "Dogtown." The excitement, we are told, was intense, and R. P. Morgan's party were ultimately successful, winning their point by a single vote.

We are told that the very first indication of a town was the raising of a telegraph pole, with a tin pan nailed on top, which served as a landmark and guide to the surveyors engaged on the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, or, as then known, the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad. The history of this great railroad, one of the leading roads in the State of Illinois, is so well known that any notice of it in these pages seems almost superfluous. The enterprise was begun in 1853, under the style of the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad Company, with the intention of building a railroad from Joliet to Alton. The road was located by Oliver H. Lee, Chief Engineer of the company, and the work pushed forward under the supervision of Assistant Engineers R. P. Morgan, Jr., H. A. Gardner and Jas. A. Spencer, with such vigor and dispatch that on the 4th day of July, 1854, the first passenger train passed over the new road. Since that event, its history is so familiar to all as to need no comment here. Suffice to say, it is one of the advantages that has made the village of Dwight what it is—a fact of which its citizens are aware, and appreciate accordingly.

In 1869, the Western Division of the C. & A. R. R., which leaves the main line at Dwight, was begun and completed, and trains running over it in 1870. This makes Dwight quite a railroad center.

The first house or cabin in the village of Dwight was built by a man from

Morris, whose name is now forgotten. It was a frame building, 16x24 feet, one and a half stories high, erected on Lot 8, Block 18, in 1853, and was built originally for a store or a kind of supply depot for the railroad hands, and finally passed into the possession of Dr. Hagerty.

The first permanent residence erected in the village was by Augustus West, on Lots 18 and 19, in Block 7, and was completed in June, 1854. Mr. West came to the State in 1853, and early in 1854 came to Dwight, and beheld the sickly village of forty years ago grow up into a prosperous young city.

In 1854, John Campbell put up a temporary eating house, which was the first place of public entertainment the village knew. The trains stopped at it for dinner and supper, which arrangement was continued until 1855, when it was purchased by Hiram Cornell, who came from New York, and who conducted it as a hotel for some time. The following story is told of him during his first winter as "mine host." He had a barrel of whisky (without which the Western hotel was never found in those early days), and from some cause, wholly unaccountable, it "froze up" during the first cold snap, nor could he get it near enough to the fire nor the fire hot enough to thaw it out; and so it remained until Spring came with its warm days. Cornell remained in this little shanty until he built the "Dwight House," the first regular hotel in the village, in 1855. Since the erection of this hostelry, many changes have taken place in the hotel business, as well as in all other lines represented in Dwight.

On the first of August, 1854, the railroad was opened through from St. Louis to Chicago, and it has ever since been in



operation, excepting the period of snow blockade in the winters of 1855-6.

The village thus established was destined to grow. The sanguine expectations of promoters are not always crowned with success, but it was evident from the first that Dwight was going to be a village of some pretensions. Gradually it settled up, first one and then another finding a home within its boundaries.

It was not long before the population began to increase in another way, and in January 1855 the first child was born here to a daughter of Mrs. N. Riggs, of Dwight. Time passed quickly away, and the people were busy in improving the town, and others kept moving in.

The first regular store was built by David McWilliams, in 1855. It was painted white, and, like the telegraph pole surmounted by the tin pan, before alluded to, served as a way mark to all in search of the new village. It is said that the first sale made by Mr. McWilliams, after opening a store here, was a lawn dress pattern, which the workmen presented to the wife of the Station Master of the railroad. The store seems to have been a house of general accommodation, and was used as a place of worship, and also as shelter for the new comers of those early times until they had found a permanent place to lay their heads.

A few other stores were in operation and one hotel invited the attention of weary and hungering humanity. In neighborhoods contiguous to Dwight coal was found, and after years saw towns spring up which owed their existence and sustenance to the coal beds. The more rapidly the surrounding country filled up the more rapidly must the town grow. And it is not surprising therefore that when the Prince of

Wales visited the neighborhood in 1860, but a few years after the formation of the town, it was a thriving village of about 400 inhabitants, and having about one hundred buildings. The reporters of that period who communicated information to the New York papers were gifted men, and spoke in high praise of the town, its surroundings and its inhabitants. We are not surprised at this, for we have always noticed that when a man speaks well of us, he is an intelligent and a gifted man.

The year 1854 was a memorable one in our history; for with it came some of the most prominent men who have resided here. It was in this year that John Conant, Esq. emigrated from Rochester, Ohio, accompanied by Geo. T. and Henry F. Conant. The latter died here Sept. 22, 1858. Mr. Conant was a man of facts, a strong total abstinence man and a Congregationalist by profession. He served that body as Clerk for thirteen years in the church to which he belonged. He was an officer in the war of 1812 and belonged to the same regiment as Grandfather Rockwell, but was not detailed for service, yet he helped the soldiers on their way to Boston. In politics he was a strong Republican: but, like every right minded and honorable man, he always regarded the rights of others as sacred as his own.

The following brief personnel of Mr. Conant we take from a sketch of Sabbath School Organization by David McWilliams, Esq.: "Father Conant was a man of large physical frame, weighing I should suppose at least 240 pounds, a large well proportioned man in all respects, possessed of more than ordinary talent, with a large share of good common sense entering into all his plans. Plain as to his appearance and with

the modesty and diffidence of a bashful lad, it was always very embarrassing for him to preside on any public occasion and for this reason declined to act as our first Sunday School Superintendent. He was our first Postmaster, first Justice of the Peace, and a man whose well balanced life was such as to command the respect and veneration of all that knew him. He was a man well adapted for a new country; his parents having been pioneers in the Western part of Massachusetts when he was a mere lad, and when arriving at manhood emigrated to the wilds of Ohio, which was a vast wilderness at that time, and then when in the decline of life came to this new country and helped to mould its institutions."

One of Mr. Conant's daughters had married Mr. Cutler, who resided in this neighborhood.

The cholera made its appearance this year and was anything but a welcome guest. One young man died, and a man who kept a shanty grocery moved to the German settlement, where it is said he died also. Mr. Colgate was taken with it, but Mr. Cutler took him to his house and attended to him, so that he afterwards recovered. Mr. Cutler had had experience in this department when he was steward in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum of Columbus, Ohio.

It was in this year too, that Major McDowell came to this town from Hollidaysburg, Pa. He had resided in that city for some time, where he had successfully carried on the banking business. He purchased several thousand acres of land in this vicinity, and became one of our most prominent and active citizens. He was a man of large heart and generous nature. When the country was visited with that ever memorable snow storm, which blocked up the

traffic on the railroad between this place and Odell, some hundred and fifty passengers were brought to this town for shelter and sustenance. Provisions were low at the time and the town was composed of only a few buildings. There was the station house, John Campbell had a small eating house, Mr. West had a house, there was a small house where Dr. Hagerty's family lived a small boarding house for railroad hands, and a grocery shanty with two families living in it; these composed the town of Dwight. Major McDowell promptly despatched his team to the town and took a number of the ladies into his house, where he entertained them, and made them comfortable during the terrible storm. The above is spoken of in another place but this is a different account.

The town was fast running out of provisions and famine stared them in the face; but the storm abating a little, word was sent to Morris, and the good people of that town sent two sleigh loads of provisions to the aid of the people.

'Squire McIlduff came from Cassville, Pa., to this town in the same year as Major McDowell, and claims to have plowed the first furrow in Dwight. He also drove the first stock to this town. He afterwards built a small house on his farm and has been a resident of Dwight ever since.

In 1855, the population of the little village was augmented by the arrival of Hiram Cornell and wife, George Flagler and family, W. H. Clarkson and family, Isaac H. Baker and family, David McWilliams, S. L. H. Ramsey and family in June; also Jeremiah Travis and family in August; and in the fall of the year Wm. H. Ketchum and family, B. Losee and family, and Dr. J. H. Hagerty. The latter graduated at

the University of Pennsylvania in 1852. and was a prominent physician, and practiced his profession here until 1863, from which time until his death, September 1, 1873, he acted as consulting physician only. The others were of the solid citizens of the village.

Dr. Hagerty was a man of cultivated refined tastes, and helped largely to build up the present educational system in Dwight. In the early days of his practice he had calls from all parts of the county and was in general request.

Hiram Cornell bought out John Campbell's eating house, and built the first hotel in the town, known as "The Dwight House." David McWilliams built his store in the same year. It was painted white, and when the farmers, coming from a distance caught sight of the white building, they made tracks accordingly. Early in March of 1855 Mr. McWilliams began the erection of a building for a store, size 20x32, two stories high. A few loads of lumber were hauled on the vacant corner opposite the Methodist church, on Mazon avenue, but it seemed so far away from the depot that he was prevailed upon to change his location to the place where the postoffice and bank building now stands. He soon added 40 feet in the rear of it, and 24 feet in the front, as well as filling up the sides. So his old store occupied 32x96 feet, and thus remained until 1876, when he erected the building now occupied by McWilliams & Smith, and soon after the old store was torn down and the present postoffice and bank building erected in its place. The first article of merchandise sold by Mr. McWilliams in Dwight was a shilling lawn dress. The store served also as a place of worship, a shelter for new comers until they "pitched their tents," and, in fact, as

a place of refuge in those early times.

Prairie fires were frequent at this period, and many persons lost property, some nearly losing their lives. Nelson Cornell was out hunting one day on the east side of the town and when returning saw an immense prairie fire approaching. In order to save his life he burnt the grass where he was and stood on the hot ground while the larger fire swept past him, nearly suffocating him with smoke and ashes.

The first Sunday School was organized in April, 1855. John Conant was elected superintendent, but as he refused to serve, John Routzeng was elected in his place.

The first appointment for a religious meeting in Dwight was in the house of Nelson Cornell. It was just before the great storm. A few people gathered but no preacher put in his appearance. Those who attended meeting at that time did so either at the log school house on the Mazon creek, or at Eber Stevens' barn. Local preachers or exhorters supplied the congregation.

The first public religious services held in this town were in a building afterwards occupied by J. J. Gore, on Lot 17 Block 6. It was used before the building was really finished, and thirty-seven persons attended the first school service on May 15, 1855. The following are all of the names of those present that we can now ascertain: D. McWilliams, Sec'y., John Conant, Mrs. Conant, Samuel Cutler, Mrs. Cutler, Henry Conant, Miss Meltina Earl, Henry and George Cutler, Robert Thompson and several members of his family, John Routzeng, Simeon Lutz, J. Travis, Augustus West, N. E. Lyman, and Ashley Bentley. The first sermon actually reached in the town was preached over the store of D. McWilliams on the second Sunday in June, 1855, by the Rev.



A. D. Field, of the Rock River Conference. While here that gentleman formed the first religious society in the town; it was composed of six members.

We take the following from the Livingston county history of 1878, regarding churches:

As already noted, the first sermon preached in Dwight, was by Rev. A. D. Field, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1855. His circuit, known as the "Mazon Circuit," embraced all that tract of country south of the Illinois River, and extending from Morris to Avoca Township. The society was organized with six members, viz : Simeon Lutz, John Routzong, Isaac Baker, Isabella Baker, David McWilliams and Jeremiah Travis. John Routzong was appointed leader of the class. The Rev. Mr. Field preached a few times during the summer, and at the next meeting of the Conference, two ministers were appointed to the "Mazon Circuit," and Dwight became one of the regular preaching places. From this time forward, there was preaching every alternate Sunday in the school house, then just built. In 1862, the society was struck off from the Mazon Circuit, and Rev. O. W. Pollard appointed to the charges of Dwight, Odell and Pontiac. The society erected their first building in 1858, was dedicated in July of that year by the Rev. Dr. Kidder, of Evanston. About 1862-63, the society had so increased in numbers as to necessitate the enlargement of their building, and it was lengthened twenty feet. For nine years they worshiped in this building, when their present elegant church was erected, at a cost of \$16,000, under the pastorate of Rev. E. D. Hall, and dedicated in October, 1867, by Rev. Dr. Eddy, then of Chicago. It is a handsomely finished edifice, is capa-

ble of seating about 500 persons, and the society numbers 260 members, with Rev. C. W. Ayling as pastor. The Sunday school of this society was organized at an early period, and is in a flourishing condition. Mr. McWilliams was the first Superintendent, a position he held for thirteen years in succession. The present Superintendent is Mr. Meneely.

The Presbyterian Church society was organized in Dwight in 1856, the next year after the Methodist. The original members were three males and five females, and their first place of worship was the school house, in which they continued to hold their meetings until the next year, when the church now occupied by the Danish Methodists was erected, on lots donated by James C. Spencer and R. P. Morgan. This was the first church built in Dwight, and cost originally \$2,620. The pulpit was filled by various ministers irregularly, until 1869, when Rev. L. F. Walker was called to the charge. In the Fall of 1871, he was succeeded by Rev. W. L. Loyd, who filled the pulpit until 1873. The Elders of the church were Hugh Thompson, Robert Thompson, James George, James Paul and John C. George. The property was sold by the association through S. T. K. Prime, about two years ago to the Danish Methodist society. Rev. Wilhelmsen is the pastor and the organization is in a flourishing condition.

The next society organized was the Congregational. December 1, 1865, the first sermon was preached in this faith, by Rev. J. A. Montgomery, a student from the Congregational Seminary of Chicago. Their meetings were held in "Gerson's Hall." On the 12th of January, 1866, a 'council of delegates' from the neighboring churches was convened, and invited to give advice re-

garding the permanent organization of a church, and eleven persons identified themselves with the congregation. In 1867, an effort was made to build a church, the lots procured, and the building commenced. In January, 1868, their present elegant church was dedicated, free from debt. The total cost of the building, grounds, etc., was \$5,425. Rev. J. A. Montgomery was pastor from the first organization of the church until 1873, when he accepted a call to Morris, and the pulpit was afterwards filled by Rev. W. C. Rogers and several others, with about one hundred and fifty members. It has a flourishing Sabbath school, with an attendance of about one hundred and fifty, of which Miss Florence Thompson is superintendent. The present pastor is Rev. E. F. Wright, who is accomplishing excellent work in this community.

The Baptists made the next effort, but have not, from some cause or other, flourished as some of the other denominations have done.

The German Lutheran Church was built in 1867, and cost \$1,400; has about fifty members, and a flourishing Sunday school. Rev. Mr. Schleitweig, of Cayuga, was the pastor for a time.

The German Evangelical Association, or Albright Methodists, have a handsome little frame church edifice, 22x30 feet, which cost about \$1,500. The

minister is Rev. Geo. Schwartz, and the society has a good membership. A Sunday school, with an attendance of about forty children, is carried on.

The Danish Lutherans have a pretty little frame church, built a few years ago, which has a large and flourishing membership. The pastor is Rev. Bekker.

There is also a Roman Catholic church in the village, with a membership of about fifty families. Their church is a neat and tasty little building, put up at a cost of about \$1,500. The present pastor is Father Moore.

In 1858 a circumstance occurred which materially affected the interests of the town. For a period of several weeks it was cut off from all mail matter and from all communication with the outside world, except by way of Morris. The cause of this is to be found in the famous quarrel which existed at that time between Governor Mattison under his lease of the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad, and Hamilton Spencer and the bondholders of the same road. The difficulty at first appeared to be a serious one, and all traffic was suspended during the time above indicated. The difficulty ended by the road passing into the hands of the bondholders, an event which largely conduced to the welfare and prosperity of Dwight.



## CHAPTER IV.

## REMINISCENCES OF WAR TIMES.

It is well known that politics and political sentiments have such an effect on the minds of men, as to cause many to lose sight of the nobler influences which actuate our being. And in this great country which boasts of such an unrivaled tract of territory it is perfectly natural that the people should be distinguished by such names as Northerners and Southerners. But when we come to consider that a great difference existed between the two in thought, feeling, social law and commercial enterprise, it is not to be wondered at that the harmony of Union was roughly shattered in the way it was. Without entering into any lengthy discussion of this subject we may safely say that according to the old state of things, Union could never have been successfully maintained. But in the present aspect of affairs, with the new and grandest policy adopted, with the feeling of hearty sympathy which is rapidly gaining ground, we see a noble, a splendid future, not only for the South, but for the United States of America.

Although the difficulties existing between the Northern and Southern States had been rankling for years, and although it was evident to the far seeing politician that war must necessarily follow, yet when the storm burst upon us in all its fury, the North was comparatively unprepared for it.

But if we were not in such thorough readiness as we might have been, one thing is certain, we had men enough, and men of the right stamp, too, to fight the battles of "Union" and "Freedom." When it became known, therefore, that the South had rebelled, and that the government was in need of recruits, the men from northern cities, towns, villages and even farms laid down the implements of industry and took up the deadly weapons of war.

Contemplating that eventful period in our national history, the mind is filled with many ideas of a painful character. Now that the flush of victory and the bitterness of defeat have become things of the past, we may calmly and dispassionately consider one of the many phases of that terrible war.

One of the most awful thoughts in connection with the subject, is that the hand of brother was raised against brother, father against son, and neighbor against neighbor. As we remember that all the pleasant and beautiful feelings connected with happy social life were rudely dashed aside, and the tenderest and holiest ties that bind us together in brotherly love were fiercely broken, it brings before us a scene of fearful horror and profoundest woe.

But while we mourn over the awful character and natural consequences of

the Rebellion, we have reason to be grateful for its happy and beneficent results. There can be no doubt that war was necessary under the circumstances, and there can be no doubt that it was necessary for this great country to purge itself of the cause of slavery, and show itself to the civilized world as the great, the glorious, the free Republic of United America.

At the very commencement of the war the town of Dwight took a lively interest in the national proceedings. Our town has always been Republican and loyal, and in the hour of the Government's need our citizens came boldly to the front at the call of duty.

But during this period, however, a large amount of enthusiasm was developed here, as in many other places as well; and in the years 61-62 the interest and excitement which prevailed in the town, took a definite form, when some of our citizens cheerfully gave up the pleasures of home and nobly consecrated themselves to the service of their country. It is something very worthy of note that the thirteenth military company to report in the state of Illinois was from Dwight and vicinity and Col. Morgan and David McWilliams went to Springfield to tender the same to the governor.

In the summer of this year Company B was organized, under the call of President Lincoln for six hundred thousand men, at Dwight, Livingston Co., Ill., by Samuel T. Walkley, and was mustered into the service of the United States, at Pontiac, Ill., on September 8, 1862, forming a part of the 129th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

It must not be supposed that this Company contained all the men who went from Dwight. Some enlisted in other regiments, and fought bravely for their country. But as Company B,

the only Volunteer Company organized here, it is with that one this history has to deal.

A correct list of the officers and privates, with an account of what become of each man, has never yet been published.

The task of preparing such a list for publication has, however, now been successfully accomplished; and as it forms a most important and interesting part of the history of our town, we here present it to the reader:

COMPANY "B" 129TH REGIMENT, ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

REGIMENTAL AND STAFF OFFICERS.

Henry Case, Colonel.

A. J. Cropsey, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Thomas H. Flynn, Major.

H. C. Johns, Surgeon.

Darius Johnson, 1st Ass't Surgeon.

Wm. H. Walters, 2nd Ass't Surgeon.

Thomas Cotton, Chaplain.

John McWilliams, Quarter Master.

Phil. D. Plattenburg, Adjutant.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Samuel T. Walkley, Captain.

George W. Gilchrist, 1st Lieutenant.

Elihu Chilcott, 2nd Lieutenant.

NON-COMMISSIONED.—SERGEANTS.

Homer A. Kenyon, 1, assigned to duty in Inspector General's Department 3rd Div. 2nd Corp.—Returned.

William E. Swift, 2nd, discharged, Jan. 1, 1863.

Northrup Riggs, 3rd, promoted to 2nd Sergeant — Returned.

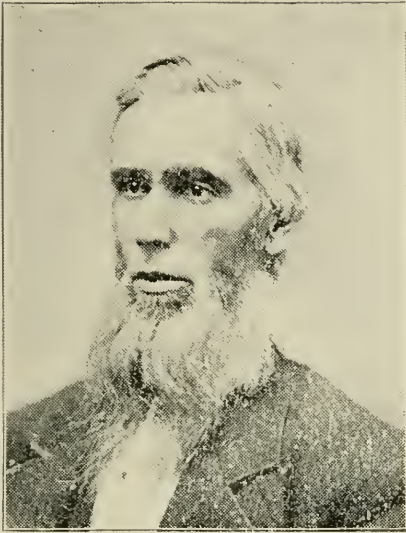
Leander B. Morgan, 4th, discharged Jan. 29, 1863.

Francis M. Angle, 5th, killed March 19, 1864, at Averysboro, N. C.

CORPORALS.

Peter Garten, 1st. Returned.

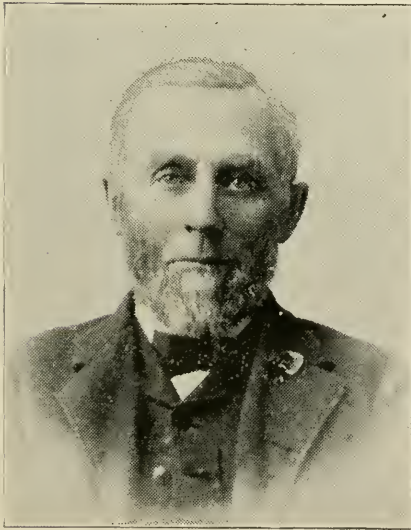
William R. Snyder, 2nd. Returned.



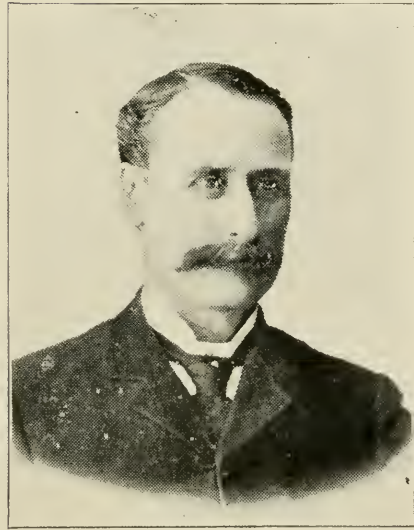
W. H. Ketcham.



Jacob Christman.



E. H. Kneeland.



Roger H. Mills.



Daniel W. Gallup, 3rd. Returned.  
 August Becker, 4th. Returned.  
 John N. Staley, 5th. Wounded in right breast July 20, 1864, before Atlanta.  
 Samuel Persels, 6th. Discharged March 2, 1863.  
 John O. Collister, 7th. Died at Fountain Head, Tenn., Jan. 8, 1863.  
 Charles G. Atwood, 8th. Died at Gallatin, Feb. 6, 1863.

## MUSICIANS.

William A. Randall, Fifer. Discharged April 26, 1863.  
 Charles M. Rawlings, Drummer. Captured in N. C., and was afterwards exchanged as a prisoner of war.

## NON-COMMISSIONED.

(List at the close of the War.)

## SERGEANTS.

Homer A. Kenyon, 1st.—Returned.  
 Northrup Riggs, 2d.—Returned.  
 Francis M. Angle, 3d.—Killed.  
 Peter Garten, 4th.—Returned.  
 Wm. R. Snyder, 5th.—Returned.

## CORPORALS.

Daniel W. Gallup, 1st.—Returned.  
 Samuel McGooden, 2d.—Returned.  
 Henry Vanderburg, 3d.—Shot in the leg, which was amputated.—Died at Vining station, Ga., July 20, 1864.  
 August Becker, 4th.—Mounted Scout.—Returned.  
 John N. Staley, 5th.—Mounted Scout.—Returned.  
 Chas. A. Gwin, 6th.—Wounded at Resaca, Georgia.  
 Joseph D. McDonald, 7th.—Returned.  
 James Wilgus, 8th.—Returned.

## MUSICIANS.

Charles M. Rawlings.—Drummer.—Returned.

## PRIVATEES.

Austin, Rufus H. Mounted scout. Returned.

Bintzenburger, Ludwig. Deserted Oct. 6, 1862.

Borin, William H. Discharged March 13, 1863.

Broadbent, Joshua A. Discharged Feb. 16, 1863.

Bochtler, Joseph. Wounded. Ret.

Beach, John F. Deserted from Nashville, Tenn.

Butler, Charles S. Mounted Scout. Wounded in right knee in front of Atlanta. Returned.

Barry, Martin. Returned.

Broughton, James. Died at Mitchellville, Tenn., Dec. 8.

Bennett, Edward C. Returned.

Borer, Fidel. Mounted Scout. Returned.

Bradbury, Wm. H. Chief Clerk in Gen. Judah's Headquarters, Dec. 3, 1862. Returned.

Brandenburger, Rudolph. Lost left arm July 20, 1864, in front of Atlanta. Returned.

Caldwell, William I. Discharged March 16, 1863.

Currier, Lewis. Returned.

Cann, John. Mounted Scout. Lost right arm July 20, 1864, in front of Atlanta. Returned.

Charles, William. Discharged March 11, 1863.

Dick, Anton. Discharged March 19, '63.

Fuller, Richard. Hospital cook. Discharged from General Hospital.

Flaherty, Thomas. Mounted Scout. Returned.

Flynn, John. Returned.

Fullerton, John. Mounted Scout. Wounded. Returned.

Fuge, Patrick. Severely wounded in the thigh. March 19, 1864, at A verysboro, N. C. Returned.

Griswold, David M. Discharged April 26, 1863.

Gwin, Charles A. Promoted to 6th Corporal. Returned.



Gray, Samuel S. S. Died at Bowling Green, Ky., Nov. 30, 1863.

Hoffman, William. Killed June 15, 1864.

Hand, Ira W. Mounted Scout. Wounded in right thigh at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. Returned.

Huntley, Asil. Returned.

Hall, Benjamin W. Discharged on account of sickness.

Judd, Curtis J. Promoted to Sergeant-Major. Returned.

Ketchum, John L. Mounted Scout. Wounded June 15, 1864. Died in General Hospital at Chatoanoga, Tenn., June 26, 1864.

Koehnlein, Charles. Regimental Carpenter. Returned.

Lore, Robert C. Mounted Scout. Returned.

Lower, Eli L. Returned.

Legnor, John. Discharged May 9, 1863.

Lewis, Henry A. Wounded in right leg July 20, 1864, before Atlanta. Died.

McWilliams, John. Discharged and appointed Quartermaster.

McFee, Henry L. Appointed Wagon-Master Feb. 4, 1863. Discharged.

McKenney, Edwin. Mounted Scout. Discharged.

McGooden, Samuel. Promoted 2nd Corporal. Returned.

McDonald, Joseph D. Promoted 7th Corporal. Returned.

McCartney, William. Returned.

Mihm, Albert. Wounded in head. Died.

Miller, Conrad. Deserted Oct. 6, 1863.

Morrison, David. Mounted Scout. Returned.

Neilson, Peter I. Returned.

Pfefferman, Stormens. Returned.

Pratt, James R. Mounted Scout. Discharged.

Pratt, William H. Discharged June 2, 1863.

Rawlings, Thomas E. Transferred to Telegraph Corps. Returned.

Reinmiller, Carl. Returned.

Randall, Jerry. Wounded on June 22, 1864, and subsequently died.

Rogers, John H. Discharged March 13, 1863. Returned.

Reed, George W. Mounted Scout. Captured, and exchanged as prisoner of war. Returned.

Randall, George W. Died at Gallatin, Tenn., Feb. 21, 1863.

Sullivan, John. Deserted Sept. 25, '62.

Stevens, Eugene R. Discharged from Gallatin, Tenn.

Schneider, Ludwig. Discharged, March 2, 1863.

Saddler, Nicholas. Returned.

Shepherd, James. Discharged March 13, 1863.

Schumm, John G. Mounted Scout. Returned.

Smith, Manning. Returned.

Shrimpton, Eber. Wounded on March 19, 1864, at Averysboro, N. C. Returned.

Stahl, August. Mounted Scout. Killed June 15, 1864.

Sanford, Israel J. Colonel's orderly Sept. 8, 1862, and subsequently discharged.

Vandenburgh, Henry. Promoted 3rd Corporal. Died.

Wykes, Charles. Mounted Scout. Died in hospital at Nashville, Tenn.

West, Wareham E. Returned.

Wilgus, James. Promoted 8th Corporal. Returned.

Many of the above named soldiers have since died, moved away and quite a number prominent residents of Dwight and vicinity.

The history of this company during the war is full of interest, and if our space would permit we would willingly give a detailed account of their wan-

derings; but, as in many other instances, being compelled to condense our information, we shall only give a brief resume of their adventures.

After being mustered in at Pontiac, Ill., on September 8, 1862, they proceeded by rail to Jeffersonville, Ind., and then crossed the Ohio River to Louisville, Ky. From there they marched to Shelbyville, Ky., still marching toward Frankfort, Ky., which was reached on October 8th.

On October 11th the march was again continued, and on the 13th the small town of Rough-and-Ready was reached. October 17th they camped at Danville after a march of twenty miles. The next point was Harrisburg; from thence to Crab Orchard, back to Danville, thence to Harrodsburgh, back again to Danville, on to Perrysville, and at last, after a weary march they reached Lebanon. A few days at this point, when they were ordered to Bowling Green, and then marched on to Mitchellsville, Tenn., where they remained some time.

The occupation of the soldiers until February 2, 1863, was guard and camp duty, foraging, skirmishing, etc.

On February 2 they camped at South Tunnel, two miles north of Gallatin, Tenn. The next move was to Richland, from whence the whole regiment marched to Fort Thomas, which was reached on June 22. Nothing of interest occurred until August 21, when they marched to Nashville, where they remained, with occasional changes until February 24, 1864, when at 8 o'clock in the morning they, in company with several other regiments, marched to Lavergne, a station on the Nashville & Chatanooga railroad.

From thence they marched to Murfreesboro, Tenn. February 20 they left Murfreesboro and marched to Shelby-

ville, thence to Tallahoma, on to Orchard station, then Andrew station, passed through Stevenson, still on the march to Bridgport, thence to Belleville, thence to Whiteside station and finally reached the Lookout Valley on March 10, after passing through immense hollows and passes.

On May 2 they received marching orders again, and at once proceeded to the front.

On May 15 fighting began in real earnest in the neighborhood of Buzard Roost, and the men began to face and to feel the stern realities of war.

At Resaca they won their first laurels by nobly advancing on one of the enemy's forts under a murderous fire. Urged on by their general, the line broken, they threw themselves on the enemy, and in a few moments dislodged him.

The victory was grand, not, however without great loss. The regimental flag was riddled by seventy-five bullets, and the bearer was shot in the hand, and afterwards killed. The next fight occurred on May 19 at Cassville, where, after a brief struggle a victory was obtained.

On May 25 the terrible battle at Dallas or Burnt Hickory commenced. It was not, however, until the 29th that the engagement became general. The enemy were defeated.

On the 2d of June marching was recommenced, and on the 13th Big Shanty station was captured. From this time fighting was the order of the day, the enemy being gradually driven back.

On July 20 another bloody battle was fought and victory gained at Peach Tree Creek.

During the latter part of June the 129th was at or near Kenesaw mountain, and while there the skirmish lines were so close together they had to be

changed after dark and then at great danger. The cannonading during the nights at Kenesaw was a very fine sight.

July 3 near Marietta the brigade was corraled in a peach orchard and a rebel battery opened on them and the boys all had a close call, and never will forget the occasion.

On July 22 the regiment arrived within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of Atlanta. The bombardment of this city was now commenced. After a good deal of hard fighting the enemy evacuated the city, and on September 1, 1864, the Union troops took possession of it.

On September 16 marching was again resumed, and early in the morning they reached their former intrenchments before Atlanta, where they encamped.

On October 1 they marched to the Chatahoochee River, where tents were pitched, log houses built and breastworks formed.

On October 27 a mock election was held, when Lincoln received a large majority, the number being 286 for Lincoln, 31 for McClellan and 1 for Joe. Hooker.

On November 13 marching was again resumed, and after a long, tedious and wearisome march, they arrived in front of Savannah.

On December 21, after some hard fighting, this city was taken amid great rejoicing.

On January 29 the march through South Carolina was commenced.

On February 6 Columbia, the capital of Georgia, was reached, and taken on the following day.

On the 18th the march was again resumed, and after passing over a long stretch of country, the enemy was met at Ayerysboro, where some fighting and winning was done as usual.

The march was continued to Goldsboro, near which place they were allowed to remain and rest, after a most difficult and arduous march of five hundred miles.

April 11th found them once more on the march, and at Smithfield heard the news of Lee's surrender at the Appomattox Court House.

April 17, the rumor, afterwards confirmed, of President Lincoln's assassination, was current. The first news caused indescribable joy, the second, indescribable sorrow.

April 28, orders were given to prepare to go North, and on the 30th, marching was accordingly commenced.

On May 24, after a rapid and somewhat tiresome march, Washington was reached, and the men began to feel themselves at home once more.

On June 7th, after a service of two years and nine months, all but a day, they were duly mustered out of the United States service by Captain Beecher, Mustering Officer of the Division.

June 11th, Chicago was reached. Here they were paid off after a little waiting, and taking the friendly cars, at last gave up the tedious, toilsome marchings, and soon arrived at home.

Not all who went forth returned again; some alas! were laid low and this world knew them no more; others in hospital mourned the loss of limb or health.

But as long as the great Republic lives; as long as Illinois maintains her loyal love of Union: so long will the glorious 129th, be remembered, and their deeds enshrined on historic memory.

We have thus placed upon historical records not only the names of Company B, but also a brief sketch of their

marches, deeds and sufferings whilst they were absent from home.

Such a chronicle, however brief, is replete with interest, and we doubt not will touch a tender chord in many a heart, kindle feelings and awaken memories that have lain dormant for years.

While their soldier brethren were thus away fighting the battles of our country, the enthusiasm at home was almost indescribable. The citizens as a rule felt themselves called upon to do something, and if they could not go to the war in person, they could at least help those who had thus devotedly sacrificed comfort, friends and life in the cause of their common country. The feeling developed itself in the organization of societies of different kinds. In 1863 we find a number of men gathered together in this town under the name of "The Union League." It was a political organization, having political objects in view, yet at the same time, dispensing charity according to its means. In this neighborhood it numbered over 200 members, and over 1000 in the county. There can be no doubt that the influence this society exerted over the people was immense. They helped to carry the elections; they worked ably in behalf of Republicanism, and indeed acted as a sort of Home Guard while their brethren fought on the distant battle field.

Mr. S. T. K. Prime was the president and we expect in the next chapter to publish a short review of those troublesome times at home from Mr. Prime himself.

In the same year we find another society organized here, of a different character. It was composed of ladies and was called "The Ladies Loyal League." It was established on June 5, 1863, in H. Eldredge's house over his

store. The parties who organized this effective band of laborers were S. T. K. Prime, S. Cutler and J. G. Strong. The object of the society was to raise funds for hospital and sanitary purposes. The ladies met once in every two weeks for the space of two years, and during that time accomplished a large amount of good.

Their first purchase was that of a cow, which was sent to the hospital at Springfield for the benefit of the wounded soldiers there.

The next step was to make weekly consignments of butter and vegetables to the same hospital.

In the course of their labors this society raised over \$700. Many means were resorted to; tableaux were performed, oyster suppers were given, and each attempt to raise money was cheerfully responded to by the enthusiastic citizens.

At no period of our history as a town have we enjoyed so much harmony and prosperity as during the period of which we are writing.

The people seemed to be of one mind; popular thought and feeling ran in one direction and our town, always loyal, was, at this exciting and crucial period, devoted to the best interests of our country.

We find the following named men were in other companies than "B" in the 129th Ill. Regt.:

Earl H. Kenyon, Co. A. 129th.

Benjamin Thompson.

The 129th was brigaded with the 102d and 105th Ill. Inf., and the 70th Indiana and 79th Ohio. The brigade was commanded by General "Pap" Ward, of Kentucky, who after was promoted, by General Harrison, afterwards president of the United States. The Colonel of the 102d was Colonel Smith, of the 129th, Col. Case, 105th, General Daniel



Dustin, of Sycamore, Ill., 70th Indiana, Colonel Benj. Harrison, 79th Ohio by Col. Doan.

Many other brave soldiers went from this community, but we are unable to obtain their names.

We are indebted to Colonel J. B. Parsons for the following list of soldiers from these parts who died through wounds, disease and other causes during the war and from disease since the war. We also give company and regiment, where and when they died, and where buried, as far as possible.

#### ROLL OF HONOR.

S. H. Kyle, Co. C, Regt. 129th Ill. Inf., died at Bowling Green, Dec. 1, 1862 and buried in McDowell Cemetery

H. A. Collister, I, 20th, Atlanta, July 22, '64, Atlanta.

B. J. Wait, D, 27th, Post Helena, Aug. 20, '63, Post Helena.

James Weldon, H, 55th, Shiloh, April 20, '62, Viana, Ill.

J. L. Ketcham, B, 129th Ill., Chatanooga, June 25, '64, Chatanooga.

E. B. Bartholic, I, 20th Ill., Ft. Donelson, Feb. 15, '62, Ft. Donelson.

F. M. Angle, B, 129th Ill., Taylors Creek, March 16, '65 Taylors Creek.

Charles Spencer, C, 129th Ill., Bowling Green, March 25, '62, Bowling Green.

J. W. Kyler, D, 39th Ill., Dwight, Ill., Oct. 24, '61, McDowell Cemetery.

Erastus Stevens, D, 127th Ill., Vicksburg, May 52, '63, Vicksburg.

Samuel Saltmarsh, G, 36th Ill., Kenesaw Mountain, June 19, '64, Kenesaw Mountain.

Samuel Adams, D, 127th Ill., Paducah, Dec. 1, '63 Paducah.

Euos Morris, C, 129th Ill., Peach Tree Creek, July 20, '64, Peach Tree Creek.

F. L. Kimberk, I, 55th Ill., Atlanta, July 22, '64, Atlanta.

Henry Houston, A, 129th Ill., Gallatin, Feb. 14, '63, Gallatin, Tenn.

Thomas Hughes, J, 55th Ill., Shiloh, April 6, '62, Shiloh.

August Stahl, B, 129th Ill., Resaca, June 20, '64, Resaca.

J. P. Gantzert, F, 55th Ill., Shiloh, April 6, '62, Shiloh.

Israel Parker, D, 127th Ill., Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, '64, Kenesaw Mountain.

C. H. Chandler, G, 36th Ill., Perryville, Oct. 14, '62, Perryville.

Merwin McLane, D, 39th Ill., Folly Island, July 3, '63, Folly Island.

C. E. Atwood, B, 129th Ill., Gallatin, Feb. 6, '63.

J. F. Bennett, D, 127th Ill., Atlanta, July 28, '62, Atlanta.

G. W. Randall, B, 129th Ill., Gallatin, Feb. 21, '63, Gallatin.

G. A. Sarvis, C, 129th Ill., Peach Tree Creek, July 20, '64, Peach Tree Creek.

D. D. Ellis, D, 39th Ill., Deep Run, Aug. 16, '64, Deep Run.

R. C. Parker, D, 127th Ill., Viana, Nov. 8, '63, Viana, Ill.

John Paxton, D, 127th Ill., Gardner, Dec. 29, '62, Gardner, Ill.

James McGinnis, D, 127th Ill., Dallas May 30, '64, Dallas.

William Clark, K, 14th Ill. Cav., Andersonville, August 9, '64, Andersonville.

Edward Slattery, I, 55th Ill., Shiloh, April 7, '62, Morris.

Patrick O'Neill, H, 55th Ill., Shiloh, April 6, '62 Shiloh.

E. I. Train, D, 129th Ill., Chicago, Oct. 31, '62, Chicago.

Amos Parker, D, 127th Ill., Mulligan Bend, Nov. 14, '63, Mulligan's Bend.

F. H. Chappel, D, 127th Goldsburý,—Goldsbury.

William Peterson, D, 137th, Ill., Altona, July 28, '64, Altona.

Edwin McKinney, B, 129th Ill, Bowling Green, Sept. 2, '62, Bowling Green.



- S. S. Gray, B, 189th Ill., Bowling Green, Sept. 2, '63, Bowling Green.
- Jerry Randall, B, 129th Ill., Nashville, July 3, '64, Nashville.
- J. H. Cornwell, G, 129th Ill., Gallatin, Feb. 25, '63, Gallatin.
- Charles Wykes, B, 129th Ill., Nashville, Feb. 15, '64, Nashville.
- Frederick Rockwell, I, 20th Ill., Ft. Donelson, Feb. 16, '62, Ft. Donelson.
- L. V. Flagler, I, 20th Ill., Cairo, Oct. 22, '61, Birds Point, Mo.
- E. H. Kenyon, A, 129th Ill., Fountain Head, Jan. 6, '63, Fountain Head.
- Henry Vanderburg, B, 129th Ill., Vining Station, July 29, '64, Vining Station.
- J. O. Collister, B, 129th Ill., Fountain Head, Jan. 8, '63, Fountain Head.
- I. G. Mott, K, 129th Ill., South Tunnel, April 12, '63, South Tunnel.
- William Hoffman, B, 129th Ill., Alatoona, June 15, '64, Alatoona.
- James Broughton, B, 129th Ill., Mitchellsville, Dec. 8, '63, Mitchellsville.
- G. W. Randall, B, 129th Ill., Gallatin, Feb. 21, '63, Gallatin.
- Henry Shafer, I, 20th Ill., Big Black, Jan. 1, '64, Big Black, Miss.
- Aaron Van Pelt, D, 127th Ill., Paducah, Dec. 1, '63, Paducah.
- John Kennedy, H, 55th Ill., Shiloh, April 5, '62, Shiloh.
- J. E. Still, D, 127th Ill., Vicksburg, May 25, '63, Vicksburg.
- Charles Howland, D, 127th Ill., Greenfield, Oct. 29, '63, Greenfield.
- Harrison Miller, J, 20th Ill., Raymond, May 12, '63, Raymond, Miss.
- Silas Bunker, ..... Shiloh, April 6, '62, Shiloh.
- Felix Koehnlien.
- G. T. Sillett, D, 127th Ill., ..... .
- Henry Parker, D, 127th Ill., ..... . Sept. 22, '63.
- Geo. Pearce, . . . , 104th Ill., Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, '64, Kenesaw Mountain.
- Robt. Parker.
- T. J. Atwater, I, 20th Ill.?
- Cary Peterson.
- W. D. Lindsey, D, 127th Ill., ..... . May 9, '73, ..... .
- Leander Ellis, I, 36th Ill., Stone River, ..... . Stone River.
- Patrick Welch.
- Joseph Shelly.
- H. H. Atwood.
- S. W. Kenney.
- Robert Mease.
- Ralph Miller.
- George Brown, D, 127th, Jacksonville, ..... . Jacksonville, Ill.
- George Johnson.
- B. W. Hall, B, 129th Ill.?
- Bruce Welsh.
- Elijah Parker, I, 46th Ill., Dwight, Ill., Feb. 14, 1879, Conant Cemetery.
- Absalom Thomas?
- Stanley Small, D, 127th Ill., Dakota, ..... . Dakota.
- Franklin Small, G, 36th Ill.?
- A. S. Green, B, 4th Ill. Cav., Memphis, Tenn., ..... . 1863, Memphis, Tenn.
- I. H. Stevens.
- Geo. Austin, D, 127th Ill., ..... . Jan. 31, '63, ..... .
- G. R. Goodspeed, D, 127th Ill., ..... . Jan. 14, '63, ..... .
- H. P. Brayton, D, 127th Ill., ..... . Jan. 8, '63, ..... .
- Ashbury Preston, D, 127th Ill., ..... . Jan. 28, '63, ..... .
- E. H. Greene, D, 91st Ill., Brownsville, Texas, June 17, '64, Brownsville, Texas.
- C. S. Ingraham, D, 52d Ill., Springfield, March 2, '65, McDowell's Cemetery.
- G. O. Cutler, D, 39th Ill., ..... . Sept. 11, '63, ..... .
- J. W. Phinney, D, 127th Ill., ..... . Aug. 13, '63, ..... .

Cushman Small, . . . , 36th Ill., Atlanta, Jan. . . , 1864, Mazon, Ill.

Isaac Carson, G, 36th Ill., Danville, Va., Feb. 16, '62, Viana, Ill.

R. E. Atwood, D, 127th Ill., Viana, discharged Jan, 20 '63 for disability.

Joseph Wilmott, I, 55th Ill., Paducah, Ky., April 15, '62, Paducah, Ky.

William Kirtan, H, 17th Ill. Cav., Glasgow, Mo., Aug. 17, '64, Glasgow, Mo.

M. D. Scott, F, 138th Ill., Dwight, March 6, '67, McDowell Cemetery.

Orson Spencer, C, 129th Ill., Nevada, Aug. 14, '66, McDowell Cemetery.

Anton Dick, B, 129th Ill., Dwight, . . . . . Conant Cemetery, Dwight.

E. H. Banks, G, 69th Ill., Davis Island, June 28, '62, Newburg, N. Y.

Isaac Wheatley, D, 105th Ill., Dwight, Oct. 2, '86, Union, Ill.

Abraham Fox, I, 47th Ill., Round Grove, July 6, '83, Round Grove.

W. T. Cumberland, 4th Independent Ohio Cav., Girard Kansas, Dec. 25, '78, Oak Lawn Cemetery.

J. S. Harrison, C, 44th Ill., Dwight, March 31, '76, Oak Lawn Cemetery.

Chas. Koehnlein, B, 129th Ill., Dwight, June 2, '84, Oak Lawn Cemetery.

N. W. Davis, I, 20th Ill., Vicksburg, Miss., July 7, '80, Vicksburg, Miss.

S. H. Kenney, 4th U. S. Regulars, Chicago, Sept. 19, '87, Oak Lawn Cemetery.

Hiram Miller, H, 52d Ill., Dwight, April 57, '88, Oak Lawn Cemetery.

Martin Kennedy, B, 12th N. Y., Dwight, May 14, '88, Dwight Catholic cemetery.

J. C. Schneider, A, 80th N. Y., Nevada, Ill., Feb. 3, '90, Oak Lawn.

Niles Christensen, H, 89th Ill., Dwight . . . . . Conant. ?

W. H. Gillispie, K, 34th Ill., Good-farm, . . . . . Oak Lawn.

Christopher Yates, H, 127th Ill., 1892, Oak Lawn.

After the war there were many old soldiers who had served in regiments from other states, and from Illinois, located in Dwight, and were among our best business men. While this history is dealing with old soldiers and the patriotism of the community a short sketch of the Dwight Post No. 626, Grand Army of the Republic, Woman's Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans may be of interest.

The old veterans of this community had been debating the proposition to organize for some years, but it was not until the 17th day of May, 1887, that the organization was completed. For the information of all we will publish the proceedings of the first meeting in full, which gives the names of all members, the first officers, etc., as follows:

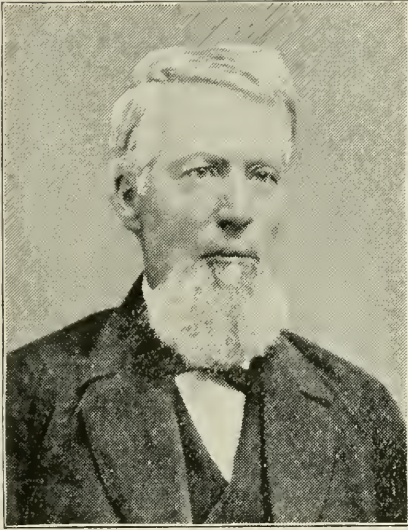
Headquarters Post No. 626, G. A. R.  
Dwight, Ill., May 17, 1887.

Due application having been made and permission having been granted for the organization of a Post of G. A. R. at this place and a meeting having been called for that purpose.

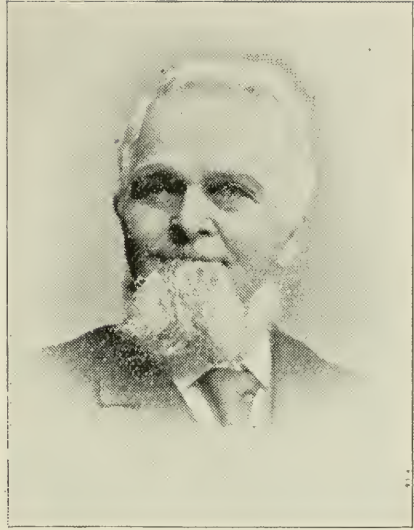
Said meeting was held at I. O. O. F. Hall in Dwight on Tuesday evening, May 17, 1887.

The following named persons answered to roll call:

Spencer Eldredge, John F. Schumm, Eugene R. Stevens, George W. Kyler, Christopher Yates, Joseph Mc Baker, Lawrence F. Abbot, John C. Lewis, John C. George, Jesse L. Slyder, James Williams, Moses McLean, Henry Fox, William B. Brown, Ira M. Parker, Martin Seabert, John Buffham, James B. Parsons, Henry Spellman, Alfred O. Walso, Henry E. Russell, Alexander L. Leach, Martin Wilks, Lewis Seeger, Charles McClary, Thomas Commeford,



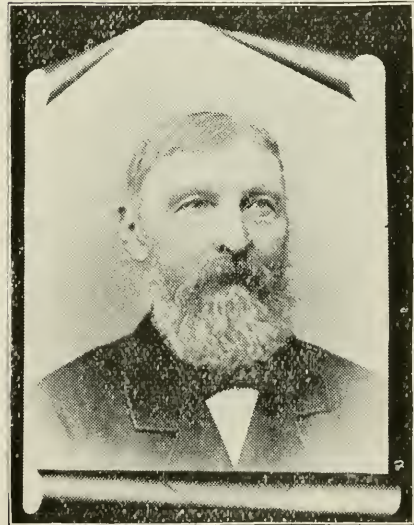
James Brown.



John Vickery.



David Riling.



Geo. W. Boyer.





William Constantine, Charles F. Sheldon, John Casey, Henry Turnbaugh, Frank W. Ford, Jeduthurn Weller, Simeon T. Lockhart, Stormens Pefferman, Levi C. Webster, Ezra Harney, William H. Gillispie, Sypreon P. Small, William Browning, William McMahan, Aaron Pricket, George W. Boyer.

Who each having paid their fee were duly mustered in Post No. 626, opened by Comrades S. A. Oliver, Mustering Officer Bartleson Post No. 6, Joliet, assisted by John R. Lang, of No. 6, Bartleson Post, and the following officers:

H. H. McDowell, S. V., Post No. 105, Pontiac.

John A. Hoover, J. V., Post No. 105, Pontiac.

Alvin Wait, Chap., Post No. 105, Pontiac.

John T. Wilson, O. D., Post No. 105, Pontiac.

Frank Hebert, O. G., Post No. 6, Joliet.

George Eberhart, I. S., Post No. 6, Joliet.

George A. P. Cummings, Adj., Post No. 6, Joliet.

Thompson Martin, Sgt. M., Post 305, Gardner.

A. F. Small, Surg., Post No. 305, Gardner.

John Hull, Q. M., Post No. 305, Gardner.

Constituted the body of special meeting of Dept. of Ill.—for the purpose of mustering Post No. 626.

After mustering, the election of officers being in order, the following persons were elected, as Temporary Chairman, John C. George; Adjutant, Spencer Eldredge.

Nomination and election of officers being now in order, James B. Parsons was nominated and elected Post Commander by acclamation. The Post

Commander having taken the chair, the following officers were elected for the remainder of the year as follows:

Henry Fox, S. V. C.; Eugene R. Stevens, J. V. C.; Laurance F. Abbott, Surg.; Moses McLane, Chap.; John Buffham, Q. M.; John C. Lewis, O. D.; Christopher Yates, O. G.; all being elected by acclamation and then duly installed, when the following officers were duly appointed:

Spencer Eldredge, Adj., Frank W. Ford, Sergt. M.; John C. George, Q. M. S.; who were then duly installed.

Resolution by Comrade Fox for the appointment of a committee on by-laws. The Commander appointed Henry Fox, Spencer Eldredge, John C. Lewis, as such committee.

The Commander, in behalf of Post 626, G. A. R., tenders hearty thanks to visiting comrades for their presence and kindly assistance.

Motion was made and seconded that this Post meet one week from to-night to complete organization and other business. Carried.

The Commander appointed as a committee the following comrades: John C. Lewis, John C. George, Henry Fox, Christopher Yates and Eugene R. Stevens, on Memorial services.

There being no further business Post No. 626 was adjourned.

SPENCER ELDRIDGE, Adjutant.

At the second meeting the Post was named Dwight Post No. 626. Col. J. B. Parsons was reelected commander for three terms, when Henry Fox was elected. This was followed by the election of Comrades John Buffham, J. C. Lewis, Wm. Brown, and at present the methodist minister, a very patriotic gentleman, C. W. Ayling, is the commander.

Comrade Simon Call was admitted as a member May 24, 1887. Samuel H. Kinney, June 21, 1887.



Thomas Weldon, Daniel J. Graham and Francis M. Davis were admitted July 19, 1887.

Homer A. Kenyon August 16, 1887.

Enoch Allen, C. E. Foesterling, J. N. Pearsoll, Sept. 20, 1887.

Joseph L. Borer, Jan. 20, 1888.

Thos. Huggins, March 20, 1888.

The first decoration day proceeding the Post took part in was in May 1888, and the occasion was a grand one.

The first inspection was held July 17, 1888, Captain Hoover, of Pontiac, was the inspector. Comrade Harry McDowell made a speech and a pleasant time enjoyed. Capt. Hoover also inspected the Post in 1889 and 1890.

Gideon R. Petry was admitted Feb. 19, 1889.

The installation in Jan. 1890 was made public and the Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans were present and were installed and a supper served afterwards.

G. A. Seymour joined in March, 1890.

The Post, W. R. C. and S. of V. went to Morris Decoration Day, 1890, to assist in dedicating a grand soldiers' monument.

Wm. I. Crittenden joined in November, 1891.

Martin Reinhart joined Feb. 16, 1892.

Geo. W. Reed and D. B. Walker joined in May, 1892.

James C. Parker joined October 18, 1892.

Samuel H. Howe joined in April, 1892, by transfer.

Curtis J. Judd, Manning Smith, A. G. Huey and Northrup Riggs joined in July, 1893.

It will be seen by the above that the membership of the Post from the first has been quite large. Many of the old comrades have died, and others moved away, and many are still with us. There are quite a number of old soldiers in

this community who should join the Post.

The Dwight Relief Corps was organized in September, 1889, with a good membership, and they have accomplished much good. Mrs. Henry Fox was president until January, 1894, when Mrs. S. H. Howe was elected and holds the office at the present time.

The Sons of Veterans was organized July 16, 1889, in Grand Army hall, there being sixteen members, Jos. K. Buffham was elected the first captain, H. F. Boyer served two terms, W. G. Dustin, one, and Orville Brown is the present captain. The sons have always taken part in Decoration Day exercises and have shown their patriotism in many ways. Other sons in this community should join them.

#### THE MILITIA.

The actual soldiering of many during the war had made many anxious to play soldiers and in 1876 a militia company was formed. The main part of the following we take from a recent history:

The village of Dwight is distinguished for the honor of having been military headquarters of the Tenth Battalion of Illinois National Guards, Lieut. Col. J. B. Parsons, commanding. The battalion was organized August 15, 1876, composed of companies from Dwight, Odell Pontiac, Streator, Joliet and Marseilles. The field officers elected then were J. B. Parsons, of Dwight, Lieutenant Colonel; L. C. Miles, of Streator, Major. Staff appointed: L. C. Mitchell, of Joliet, Surgeon; Rev. J. F. Culver, of Pontiac, Chaplain; J. B. Fithian, of Joliet, Adjutant, and C. J. Judd, of Dwight, Quartermaster. The battalion reorganized and some of the companies attached to other commands, while two new companies were added to the Tenth, whose headquarters still remain at Dwight. Under re-

organization, it was composed of the following companies: Parsons Guards Co. E, (formerly Dwight Guards;) Pontiac Guards, Co. A; Wenona Guards, Co. B; Odell Guards, Co. D; Fairbury Guards, Co. C. The battalion officers were: J. B. Parsons, Dwight, Lieutenant Colonel, commanding; J. K. Howard, Odell, Major; H. E. W. Barnes, Fairbury, Surgeon; Rev. J. F. Culver, Pontiac, Chaplain; C. J. Judd, Dwight, Adjutant; Cadet Taylor, Wenona, Quartermaster. The entire command, except the Wenona Guards, was of Livingston county. They were armed with the uniform breech-loading Springfield rifles, of the Prussian pattern. The companies were well drilled and ready

to meet a foe at a moment's warning.

The Dwight Guards, a company of the Tenth Battalion, was organized June 20, 1874, and its first officers were: J. B. Parsons, Captain; S. H. Kenny, First Lieutenant; S. M. Witt, Second Lieutenant. Upon the organization of the battalion, Capt. Parsons was promoted to its command, and his old company, the Dwight Guards, by a company vote and as a token of esteem for their late Captain, changed the name of the company to "Parsons Guards," which name was retained. Their officers afterward were as follows, viz.: S. H. Kenny, Captain; S. M. Witt, First Lieutenant; J. H. Lloyd, Second Lieutenant.

## CHAPTER V.

## IN TIMES OF PEACE.

As was the case all over the country, times were lively in Dwight after the war. Many of the old soldiers came back, and others from different parts of the country came and settled in the pretty little prairie town. The business of the town picked up greatly and the town grew and was prosperous. There was plenty of money in the country in 1866—lots of greenbacks. The soldiers had been paid off, and other debts of the government paid in greenbacks and everyone had money. The business of the country achieved a veritable boom and business was good until 1873, when there was a relapse, but the conditions were soon overcome by proper legislation of the party in power.

While we hear from old residents that there were many newcomers in Dwight in 1866-7-8, it is impossible to get all their names, and indeed the information we can gain from histories or the people, is very vague regarding those prosperous times. The histories we have skip over this period with no particular notice. It was not until May 5, 1868, that the first newspaper was issued in Dwight and from the close of the war until that time we shall have to omit much of what we feel sure occurred of interest to all, simply because we have no data to go

by. In the chapters that follow of personal reminiscences and biographies will be written much that will cover the omissions made in the history proper. We have in our possession, through the kindness of Mr. D. McWilliams, Dr. Keeley, Major Judd and others, many copies of newspapers of an early date, and also a very good history of the village, from 1872 to 1885, containing the history of local elections as far as obtainable, kindly furnished us by Hon. O. W. Pollard, which will appear in the history later on. From the first number of "The Star," which was 6x9 inches in size, we quote Charlie Palmer's salutatory, as follows:

"It has been rumored for some time past that Dwight was to have a large weekly newspaper, but as the expected Journal has failed to make its appearance and rather than have the community disappointed(?) I have concluded and do present herewith to the people of Dwight and vicinity, the initial number of the new Weekly Journal, which, with all proper deference and modesty, but with no small amount of agreeable anticipations, I have ventured to make to the people a small weekly offering which may be a source of satisfaction and delight in hours snatched from the engagements of business and requirement of public life. With no intentions or

desires of creating undue expectations as to the future of this Journal, but merely in justice to myself, would say, that the first number is not as complete as I intended it should be.

In conclusion permit me to say that Dwight may never have cause to be ashamed of the first number of "The Star."

Later in the history we propose to "tell the story," of the newspaper business in Dwight to date, but in this and some chapters to follow, we shall make numerous quotations from this lively little paper which made its first appearance as above.

We learn that close after the war an effort in the line of temperance was taken in our midst, and that Mr. J. M. Smith, (of whom we shall speak more at length further on) was one of only two members of the town board at that time and the village was carried for temperance. Under what kind of an organization the town was at that time we cannot learn, but it was a fact so we are informed.

The first authentic report of municipal elections we take from "Fifteen Years of History" as follows:

The municipal election of the spring of 1869 resulted in the triumph of candidates who represented a constituency whose chief aim was to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within the territory over which the village had jurisdiction. The members of the Board were J. G. Strong, president; W. A. Mott, J. M. Smith, Simon Wait. G. Z. Flager and Henry Eldredge. The other officers were L. G. Pearre, clerk; A. Brubaker, treasurer; J. M. Smith, poundmaster; C. M. Libby, constable and supervisor of streets. This Board represented a cause which was then unpopular. It was, because of this, exposed to such unfavorable criticism

and compelled to encounter all through the year much opposition. While it was an office anything but pleasant to its occupant it was at that time one whose duties were such as to require much labor and time in their performance. They discussed, carefully considered and passed no less than twenty-six ordinances, all of which the clerk was required to record. These ordinances constitute the frame-work and contain the principal features by those which we have since been governed. A special charter had been previously obtained, distinguished as the "Princeton Charter," and the attempt was made to deal with the liquor traffic in accordance with its provisions. This led to the adoption of an ordinance entitled "Liquor Selling," which is as follows:

"Section 1. Be it ordained by the Town of Dwight, That any persons who shall sell, barter or exchange ale, porter, beer, wine, brandy, rum, gin or whisky, or any spiritous, vinous, malt, fermented, mixed or intoxicating liquor, or any mixture part of which is any of said liquors within the corporate limits of said town, or within one mile thereof, or who shall, upon the sale, barter or exchange of any goods, chattels, wares, merchandise, property, chose in action or upon any promise, contract or agreement, expressed or implied, deliver or furnish or cause to be delivered or furnished, or knowingly suffer to be taken or received any brandy, rum, gin, whisky, ale, porter, beer or wine or any other spiritous, vinous, malt, fermented, mixed or intoxicating liquor or any mixtures part of which is any of said liquors, shall be considered and adjudged guilty of a nuisance, and every such person shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit and pay to said town of Dwight the sum of



not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each and every offense, and be committed to the county jail of Livingston county, Illinois, until such fines and costs be paid or otherwise discharged by process of law.

"Section 2. The giving away, by any person or persons within the corporate limits of said town or within one mile thereof, of any of the aforesaid liquors with a view to evade any of the penalties provided in Section 1 of this ordinance, shall be deemed and adjudged likewise guilty of a nuisance and be punished with a like fine and imprisonment, in default of payment as is provided in said Section 1.

"Section 3. All penalties and fines provided for by this ordinance shall be recovered by an action of debt or by warrant and before the police magistrate or justice of the peace of said town or county.

"Section 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication."

The ordinance shows the radical nature of a temperance reform then sought to be accomplished by resort to legal methods. Not only the selling, but the giving away of intoxicants to be used as beverages was prohibited by the enactment of heavy penalties for so doing. We can imagine how emphatic were the terms used by those not favoring such a course in denouncing an attempt of this kind.

Another ordinance entitled "Sale of Liquor for Special Purposes" was passed the object of which was to make it convenient to get all kinds of liquor needed for medicinal, mechanical and sacramental uses. G. W. Gilchrist was appointed to see that demands of this nature were met.

The president was authorized to secure the services of an attorney, the

payment of whom should not, however, exceed two hundred dollars. Twenty-five dollars were voted L. G. Pearre for compiling ordinances, W. M. Brayton and S. M. Witt are appointed extra police for August 12th and N. T. Gaylord and S. M. Witt for September 13th. Near the end of the September month S. M. Witt succeeds C. M. Libby as constable and supervisor of streets, Joseph Gerson was granted a billiard table license, C. L. Palmer authorized to publish thirty copies of ordinances, R. P. Morgan Jr., W. H. Bradbury and J. A. Turner appointed to assess damages claimed by reason of the building of a certain waik, deeds for the two parks ordered prepared for the signature of R. P. Morgan, Jr., the east park rented to W. H. Ketcham, he agreeing to keep fence in good repair and seed the ground. That there was considerable litigation this year is evidenced by the fact that \$370.20 were collected in the way of fines and \$219 were paid out as lawyer's fees.

Among the local events of the year of 1869 were the commencing of work on the western division of the C. & A. railroad, the building of the engine house, the admission of L. G. Pearre to the bar, the entrance of the Dwight Star upon its third year in an enlarged form with its appearance much improved, the erection of a dwelling by Wm. Walker and one by Leander Morgan, the refitting of J. A. Turner's hotel and an addition to that kept by Hiram Cornell, the construction of a fine residence by Rev. J. A. Montgomery, also by Dr. Baker, the departure of Father Duun, of the Roman Catholic church, and the call extended to Rev. L. F. Walker by the Presbyterians, the removal of Col. R. P. Morgan, Jr., and family to Bloomington, the occurrence of the great fire taking place at the



corner of Franklin Street and Mazon avenue, destroying fourteen buildings and entailing a heavy loss upon several of our citizens, the death of Wm. Chester and the marriage of Daniel Hurley to Margaret Sands and the much-talked of Kankakee & Illinois River railroad.

1870-'71.

The canvas of the election returns made this year possesses considerable interest as showing the reaction suffered by the Princeton charter movement and the relative strength of parties divided upon this single issue. The candidates and votes received by each are as follows:

License—C. S. Newell, 121; J. H. Hagerly, 120; L. F. Slyder, 118; R. C. Adams, 120; G. M. Hahn, 119.

Prohibition—O. W. Pollard, 27; O. Potter, 26; Henry Flaherty, 27; J. B. Parsons, 26; N. Burnham, 26; David McWilliams, 25, J. C. Cook, 1.

W. S. Sims, being on both tickets, 160 votes.

This gave the Anti-Princeton Charter ticket an average majority of ninety-three votes. It was, as it appears, almost a Bull Run defeat to the no-license advocates. Prohibition legislation had not proved a success. This was not to be attributed to a lack of reasonable effort on the part of those selected to lead in the battle or to their incompetency, but to the fact that the bulk of the community had, for a year or two preceding, acted more from impulse than from any well-settled principles concerning prohibition as the only method that promises to relieve a suffering people from the curse of drunkenness, and the disorders and oppressive taxation that always attend the traffic in intoxicating drinks. The other officers were L. G. Pearre, clerk; H. T. Newell, treasurer; John Devoe, poundmaster; J. C. George, constable;

S. M. Witt, constable and street commissioner; J. L. Dunlop, attorney. Having no power, as a Board, to nullify the charter under which, as a village organization, we were operating, there could be no repeal of its prohibitory ordinance and a substitution of one authorizing the issuing of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors. We have here presented the singular anomaly of a village having a prohibitory law and at the same time having a Board composed of members that had been elected by a large majority and yet known to be strongly opposed to enforcing it. Whatever may have been the cause or causes, there is no denying the fact that this was at that time, with the greater part of the people, an obnoxious temperance law. This Board was not, however, inclined to suffer liquor to be sold without let or hindrance, or to let the disorderly go unrebuked or unpunished. If opposed to prohibition, it was far from favoring free whisky. According to the views entertained it was far wiser to aim to regulate and tax what it seemed impossible to prohibit and thereby secure a handsome revenue to the village. Chapter 5 of the ordinances was amended so as to read to-wit:

"Section 4. The town constable shall arrest any persons whom he may find drunk in the streets of the town or in way disturbing the quiet and peace of the town and detain such person until he can be taken before the police magistrate or other justice of the peace of said town for trial and punishment, as provided by the ordinances of said town.

"Section 5. The town constable shall, upon view of the commission of any offence against the ordinances of said town, with or without process, arrest all persons engaged in the commission of such offence and take such person

before the police magistrate or other justice of the peace in said town for trial and punishment or detain such person until he can be taken before the police magistrate or other justice of the peace as aforesaid."

The amendment is presented, as it leads to an inference that the appearance of men upon the street in an intoxicated condition was of such frequent occurrence as to demand of the Board an act in the form of an ordinance, making it the duty of the village constable to arrest, with or without process, drunken or disorderly persons and take them before a competent court.

Chapter 8 of the ordinances, which made it unlawful to "sell, barter or exchange or give away distilled, vinous, malt or fermented liquors," was amended, so as to make the penalty for each violation to be "not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars" instead of "not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars."

This, of course, lessened the risk of dealing in liquors, but the dealers were given to understand that they must pay fines for the privilege of selling. If they would not do it voluntarily recourse would be had to law, as the prohibitory ordinance remained unrepealed. It amounted, virtually, to an unofficial permit to sell liquor with an implied agreement on the part of the saloon keepers that they would pay fines in lieu of license fees. It is inferred, however, that the fines were not paid as cheerfully as the board had a right to expect, as a resolution was carried by which the attorney was instructed to prosecute defaulting saloon keepers promptly once a month. Several suits were commenced and in the month of February settlement was made by the attorney with six saloon keepers for

fines due, which the board voted to ratify. The license fee for operating billiard tables was fixed for \$5 a month, instead of \$8, and licenses were issued to Joseph Gerson and S. Goldsmith.

During this year a census was ordered and L. W. P. Wilmot was engaged to perform the task. This report possesses some interest, as it indicates the size to which the village had attained, the number of buildings and inhabitants. It is as follows: Number of inhabitants, 1,044; dwellings, 212; families, 120; white males, 537, white females, 501; colored males, 4; colored females, 2; males foreign born, 109; females foreign born, 75; number attending school, 225; number that cannot read, 11; number that cannot write, 37; number of electors, 243.

Under the head of local events mention may be made of J. C. Lewis's purchase of a fine residence; the birth of Jas. G. Strong, Jr.; the completion and occupancy of Wm. A. Sargeant's hardware store, also Wait's new store, both located on Chatham Row; the visit of Gen. Grant and party, accompanied by Gov. Palmer, of this state, and the editor of the Star to Chicago; the enlargement of the Dwight Star into a four-column paper; the departure of Rev. Jas. W. Haney, of the M. E. church, and the arrival of Rev. G. M. Irwin, his successor; the organization of the Dwight Temperance Union; the building and occupancy of a new brick store by John Potter; the death of Anna V., eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Dunlop; the marriage of J. Sears and Mollie Coon; the departure of R. S. McIlduff with a view of locating in Missouri; the resignation of Rev. L. F. Walker, of the Presbyterian church; the Dwight Star's enlargement for the fifth time; the appointment of Col. R. P. Morgan,



Four Generations of the Bartholic Family.

*(Col D. B. Bartholic bears the reputation of being the oldest man in Dwight.)*





Jr., to a place on the Board of Railroad Commissioners; the election of Hugh Thompson to the office of supervisor; and the closing out sale of W. H. Sargeant to John Potter. The year had been a measurably prosperous one and all were very hopeful concerning the town's growth. Valuable improvements were talked of for the approaching summer.

1871-'72.

The election returns are presented in full that they may be compared with those of the previous year. The comparison will show that though the no-license party had been nearly overwhelmed the year before it comes forward to the polls with its numerical strength more than tripled.

License—C. S. Newell, 92; J. H. Hagerly, 82; W. S. Sims, (on both tickets), 160; E. R. Stevens, 91; G. M. Hahn, 92; Daniel Smith, 87.

Prohibition—O. W. Pollard, 81; D. McWilliams, 78; O. Potter, 80; J. C. Hietzel, 80; J. B. Parsons, 79.

This gave the successful party only an average majority of eight against ninety-three the preceeding election. This result indicates that there was a return of former sentiment in favor of prohibition, or at least a growing desire that there should be a more vigorous prosecution of those who persisted in selling ardent spirits without legal authority for so doing.

The other officers on the staff consisted of L. F. Slyder, clerk; H. T. Newell, treasurer; S. M. Witt, marshal; J. I. Dunlop, attorney; Wm. Taylor, pound master. The Board, as soon as it was fairly organized, instructed its attorney to institute proceedings at once against all persons guilty of selling intoxicating liquors as a beverage within the corporate limits of the village. It took similar action in the early part of July

following, making its instructions more imperative by adding that such persons "be prosecuted to the full extent of the law." Not being satisfied, evidently, with what it had done towards bringing guilty parties to an account, near the end of this same month it ordered that its attorney "prosecute without further delay." The Board is found, in September, insisting that more must be done to remind saloon keepers that they were lawbreakers and that the community demanded that they should pay the penalty. Judgments were obtained against four saloon keepers. Another difficulty was now experienced in getting these parties to settle. Overtures were made which were probably accepted, though no minute is made of it. During the two years fines to the amount of \$1,824.15 were collected. The records show nothing more that possesses any interest.

The search for locals belonging to this year has resulted in ascertaining the occurrence of some events, such as the building of fences around both parks; the marriage of Mr. H. Donaldson, of Gardner, to Miss Mary Banks of this place, and Mr. Stephen Hall to Miss Anna Austin; the taking possession of the McPherson House by John Stafford, one of the most enterprising and popular landlords Dwight ever had; the marriage of Mr. J. M. Smith to Miss Octavia D. Burnham, of Normal, and that of Mr. Manning Smith and Miss Kate Baker; the celebration of the Fourth of July in the grove of W. S. Sims, J. I. Dunlop, Esq., acting as the president of the day, Hon. W. N. Pierce, of Grundy, being the orator and Miss Frank McClure the reader of the Declaration of Independence; one attractive feature consisting of a tastily-decorated liberty car, the goddess of liberty



being personated by Mrs. Thompson; the venture of Chas. Dittus in the hotel business by taking charge of the Dwight House, Hiram Cornell retiring; the re-engagement of Prof. C. I. Gruvey as principal of the schools, and the great Sunday school picnic in Round Grove, in which all the Sunday schools of the townships of Broughton, Round Grove, Dwight and Union join. During this year J. C. Hetzel puts a brick addition to his store; Mr. Elisha B. Ketcham marries Miss Jennie Losee, Clark & Goedert take possession of their new shop; the new firm of Thompson & Porter is announced; the Renfrews compete with base ball clubs of other towns, some unknown person fires a bullet into the house of Wm. H. Conrad in the evening while the family are sitting at a table reading; Rev. W. L. Boyd, of Pennsylvania, receives a call to the pulpit of the Presbyterian church, many of our citizens go to Chicago to witness the ruins and meetings are held to raise money, food and clothes for those who had lost their all in the great fire; 131-900 bushels of oats and corn shipped by our grain dealers; Henry Petitt is injured by the fall of a bank vault; Mr. Theodore Elcessor marries Miss Eliza Franklin; Azro Norton dies; Alvin V. Panwitz, a Prussian nobleman and tenant of R. C. Adams, is murdered by Frederick Shafer, both having been on a drunken spree; the firms of Baker & Smith, druggists, and Ford & Gilbert are dissolved; the dealers in agricultural implements, in their zeal to make sales, send out wagons at a distance of twenty-five miles with a view of check-mating each other in disposing of plows and cultivators; the C. & A. railroad threatens to remove the depot building one mile out of town in revenge for some adverse decision of the Supreme Court; the mother of L. G. Pearre is

removed by death; Mr. Harvey Bentley, of Chicago, marries Mrs. Eliza Patrick, and the lovely little daughter, Alsie, of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gardner, is taken away, being three and a half years old; the elaborate and interesting articles of S. T. K. Prime, prepared expressly for the Star, were read and appreciated; the sermons of the pastors received eulogistic notices and those laboring in the public school were frequently praised for their efficiency and faithfulness. The year will be remembered as one during which there was comparatively little sickness and few deaths.

1872-'73.

C. S. Newell, president, G. M. Hahn, W. S. Sims, J. H. Hagerty, Daniel Smith and E. R. Stevens, as trustees, were inducted into office by subscribing to the usual oath. Whether there was another set of candidates is a question upon which the minutes throw no light as no record is made of any canvass of the election returns.

From other sources, however, it has been ascertained that there was two tickets with results:

New board—Curtis J. Judd, 50 votes; A. Brubaker, 48; Jesse Diffenbaugh, 49; Wm. Walker, 47; D. McWilliams, 41; Hugh Thompson, 47.

Old Board—Chas. S. Newell, 116 votes; E. R. Stevens, 119; W. S. Sims, 124; J. H. Hagerty, 118; Daniel Smith, 115; G. M. Hahn, 117

C. L. Palmer was elected clerk, S. M. Witt was made marshal, H. T. Newell, treasurer, and Wm. Taylor poundmaster. It was voted to dispense with an attorney. Lewis Kenyon was employed to collect a certain claim. The question of sinking a well for the benefit of the farmers coming long distances to market their products and make their pur-

chases, appears to have been agitated considerably, and resulted in the presentation of a petition signed by fifty persons praying that some action be taken that would eventuate in securing a good artesian well. Later an opportunity was offered, and the levy of a tax not exceeding \$2,000 was authorized. Nothing, however, exists to-day indicating that the contemplated project was ever accomplished.

The contract to build a bridge across the creek where Franklin and James streets intersect each other, was let to A. C. Barnum for \$26. The Legislature of this state to be credited with enacting a wise law which was to go in force the first of July of this year. Any city or village could be incorporated under it by taking the prescribed legal steps. It sanctioned the local option plan as the wisest disposition to be made of the liquor traffic. The board issued a call for an election to be held the 23d of July, to ascertain by ballot whether our citizens would prefer to retain the organization they had or to become organized under this general act of incorporation, which would confer upon the trustees to be elected annually, the power to either prohibit or license the sale of intoxicants. Four votes against and seventy-two votes favoring a new organization was the result of this election. The Board proceeds to exercise the powers which the new organization conferred.

An official notice was served upon all who had heretofore engaged in liquor selling to desist until each should have put up an approved bond of \$3,000, and shall have paid to the treasurer \$200 as a fee. It was voted that all persons so complying should be given a license to sell for one year. Thus Dwight became a license town and the last vestige of the Princeton charter measures was

blotted out. Every movement having moral as well as political ends, has its friends. So it was with this one, and there were those who mourned the death of this organization that at first had promised so much and were fearful of the results of the new departure in the way of treating the temperance question. The great State of Illinois has been so well satisfied with the local option temperance law then enacted that it has been willing to let it remain unchanged. It is undoubtedly the best that can be had till the people all over the State are so thoroughly indoctrinated with prohibition principles that it will not only make the enforcement of a prohibitory law possible, but probable. The minutes do not give the names of those who were granted licenses, but the report of the finance committee shows that \$832.50 for licenses and \$303.20 for fines were received.

A thorough examination of all the ordinances and passing and publishing them with a view to their being published in pamphlet form, in connection with the general act of incorporation, was a work done by this Board which entitles it to the gratitude of all succeeding administrations. This year did not pass without events worthy of being chronicled as reminders of past scenes. Strangers will read them without interest and perhaps without profit. Not so, however, with those who have by a long residence become identified with the history of Dwight. In these as well as in those of every other year may be traced the comical, the tragical and the serious. Henry Newell's house is entered by burglars causing the inmates no little fright; Jesse Snyder purchases Snyder & Co.'s bankrupt stock; W. H. Bradbury makes a trip to England; Dr. J. Payne

opens a dental office; the McPherson House undergoes some valuable improvements; a Grant and Wilson club is formed; Nathan Baker erects a two-story dwelling house; Rev. R. G. Pearce is appointed to the pastorate of the M. E. church; Col. J. B. Parsons receives the first car of anthracite coal ever brought to town; Newell Bros. engage in the lumber business; Mr. Benj. B. Dow marries Miss Jennie Devoe, of Nevada; Smith & Foesterling build a two-story blacksmith shop with a public hall above; Burwin Losee, one among the first settlers of the place and for several years constable, is suddenly killed by a runaway team while sitting on the porch in front of McWilliams & Judd's store; B. B. Dow while in the attempt to couple cars receives injuries requiring the amputation of one toe and two fingers; Mrs. H. A. Gardner removes to Joliet; the horses all over the county become unfitted for service by a contagious disease called epizootic; Mr. J. H. McDonald is made the husband of Miss R. J. George, and Mr. Geo. L. Taylor is united in marriage to Miss Emma C. Goodman; Samuel H. Kenney obtains a patent for a car starter; Miss Frank McClure takes charge of one of the departments of the public school; Borin & Baker form a co-partnership for dealing in live stock; C. S. Newell goes to Joliet to engage in the manufacture of metallic cornices; during Christmas week corn brought 19 cents per bushel; a Christmas tree was erected on the lamp post of the McPherson House on which was hung a present for nearly every business man in Dwight, the gifts being of a character to cause a good deal of merriment; at the Christmas tree entertainment of the Congregational Church, E. H. Kneeland read an original poem. It is too good to be lost, and well merits a

reproduction. It is given now as it was printed in the Dwight Star:

## I.

Far to the south the genial sun  
Has his autumnal journey run,  
And from the groves where summer shone  
The robin and the thrush are gone:  
And all the forests, brown and bare,  
With naked arms the tempests dare.  
The summer streamlet's noisy flow  
Is muffled deep in ice and snow;  
Its gentle murmur low and sweet,  
Scarce heard beneath its winding sheet.  
The time of frosts and storms is here;  
Stern Winter rules our Northern sphere!  
A warrior grim and fierce is he,  
Who marches from the northern sea,  
And all our hills, and vales and glades,  
With conquering footsteps now invades:  
And southward still his cruel host  
Far towards the tropics huris his frost!  
A monarch he of cruel soul,  
Who makes his throne beside the pole,  
And guards it well from human touch,  
With bars no human can approach.  
No force that man has ever sent,  
Could scale his icy battlement.

## II.

Again we hail the joyous morn  
On which a Hebrew child was born—  
Unknown and lowly, yet whose name  
Has filled the world with more than fame.  
Poor, in a manger damp and cold,  
Yet never prince with hoards of gold—  
With realms on land and fleets at sea,  
Had fraction of such wealth as He.  
Tho' frail and weak, no potentate  
In all the wide earth's mightiest state—  
Whose conquests made all others dim,  
Could match in royal power with Him.

## III.

Whence was His wealth—in secret mine  
For Him did gems unnumbered shine?  
For Him alone in heaps untold  
Had Nature store exhaustless gold?  
No! no; all gems and gold above,  
Unmeasured by aught else—His love.  
And he is rich who feels its tide—  
And poor to whom it is denied—  
Tho' all the treasures of the seas,  
With all the circling shores, were his.

## IV.

Where was His power? Did Jesus boast  
Of marshalled field and countless host?  
Or march in triumph o'er the plain  
Exultant at the heaps of slain?  
Where was his power? The force that lies  
In tender tones and tearful eyes;  
The force that fears no battlement,  
Because it is Omnipotent.  
The love whose sweet inspiring breath  
Filled all His life, and crowned His death—  
In Calvary's suffering and despair  
For those who slew Him breathed a prayer.  
The love that knew no change nor loss  
From Bethlehem's manger to the cross;  
That sought no sect, that knew no creed,  
But human guilt and human need.  
Such love be ours—we need it sore,  
In dying much—in living more.

## V.

It took Him from His lowly bed,  
It poured its radiance where His pathway  
led,



It bore Him thro' a life of poverty and scorn  
And robbed Him in all glories on ascension  
morn.

## VI.

Draw near O man, and touch His garment's  
hem,  
And wear with Him the priceless diadem;  
He, who, all hate and self has sacrificed,  
Like Him, in love shall be imparadise.  
For His TRUE follower lives another Christ.

Anything like a complete list of news items for this year will require the mentioning of other occurrences. Ed. Newell, son of C. S. Newell, goes to Springfield to act as page in the Senate; D. McWilliams rebuilds his banking office destroyed by fire over vault in burnt district. At this period the Grangers' movement was at its height, farmers' club meetings were frequent, but the effort to dispose of the middlemen was not a success; Hiram Cornell again becomes landlord of the Dwight House; Stafford's Minstrels give a performance which elicited enthusiastic and flattering comment, the troupe being composed entirely of home talent; Pappy Howe dies at the age of 76 years; B. B. Dow recovers from his severe injuries and takes charge of the railroad office at Nevada. The pen of the chronicler is laid down to rest a week before beginning the next chapter.

It is evident that there was but one ticket at this election, as the average vote cast for the six successful candidates was 166. In the absence of any statement to the contrary, it is fair to infer that either the community was pleased with the administration of affairs for the year just closed, or no other candidates were brought forward for the reason there was no probability of electing them. Unopposed and with the unanimous approval, it would seem, of all who voted, W. S. Sims, E. R. Stevens, R. C. Adams, H. Thompson, N. Riggs and John Stafford were elected village trustees. The honor of

presiding was given to W. S. Sims. C. L. Palmer being elected clerk, held the office a portion of the year, and was succeeded by W. H. Bradbury. The other officers were James McIlhuff, police magistrate; S. M. Witt, marshal; J. B. Baker, treasurer, and Wm. Taylor, pound master. For the office of treasurer there was quite a scramble. There being some fifteen hundred dollars in the treasury may have had something to do with the ardent desire to have the place. There were no less than four earnest and persistent applicants, one proposing to receive and disburse the village funds for nothing; two offered to do it for twenty-five dollars, and the other for what had been paid during the twelve preceding years, or what the law allowed, which was 2 per cent on all monies passing through the treasurer's hands. Each applicant had his friends and able advocates. Button-holing, wirepulling, a free use of threats the art of persuasion, earnest pleadings, the usual tricks of factions, misrepresentation and abuse, in fact all the methods resorted to in fierce political contests were adopted. It was a State political campaign in miniature. One faction argued that it was the duty of the Board to run the affairs of the village on the most economical plan possible; that a penny saved was as good as a penny earned, and threatened if the Board did not give the office to the man who would perform the duties for the least money, they would prosecute the members of the Board and seek to recover by law any amount that might be paid a treasurer in the way of compensation during the year. The other party, with equal warmth and determination, argued that the principle of offering responsible, salaried offices, either national, State or those of a municipality, to the lowest bidder, was in



itself wrong. It threw wide open the doors of political jobbery and bribery, and that this course, if followed would put all the offices in the hands of scheming and wealthy politicians, to the exclusion of the poor man, however worthy and competent. Either from prejudice, inclination, favoritism, or through the influence of the latter arguments, Dr. J. B. Baker received the appointment, and was paid at the end of the year \$61.50.

It will be seen that no less than eight persons were authorized to conduct a saloon business. With striking consistency and commendable forethought, a committee was appointed to procure plans and specifications for a brick calaboose, for where saloons exist jails become an absolute necessity. In October the purchase of a pair of handcuffs, policeman's belt and club, for the use of the marshal, was ordered. The donation of Col. R. P. Morgan, Jr., of thirty feet of ground for a street by the depot, connecting East and West streets, was accepted, and an ordinance making it a public thoroughfare was passed and ordered published. The receipts for fines were \$18, and for licenses \$2,272.80. No other matters of interest are to be discovered in the minutes for this municipal year.

The principal local events are named about in the order of their occurrence, though for want of space dates are omitted. The year is remarkable for the number of marriages. Richard Rowe returns to Dwight and opens a flour and feed store on Mazon avenue. Dr. Morgan builds a new dwelling on the same street. Cadwallader & Rhodes erect a new elevator. Mr. Geo. T. Pettett marries Miss Susan Baker. Mrs. Sorohoma Witt, mother of S. M. Witt and Mrs. J. G. Strong, dies, aged 74 years. Rev. F. B. Hargreaves preaches

a farewell sermon in the Presbyterian church, and accepts a call from the society in Union. J. A. Cavanaugh builds a new elevator at Nevada. Walter Bladen constructs an elevator, being the fifth one in town. The death of Cephas Foster occurs. Dr. C. C. McCabe delivers his popular lecture, entitled, "Bright Side of Life in Libby Prison." Prof. Wilson is engaged for another year as principal of the public school. Mr. Frank W. Ford and Miss Mollie J. Scott consent to a nuptial union. The friends of C. J. Judd give him a reception, presenting him with a fine picture, Dr. L. E. Keeley making the presentation speech. Little Willie, son of Nathan Baker, is removed by death. J. G. Strong erects a brick bank on East street, with offices in the second story. A farmers' picnic is held at S. T. K. Prime's. Daughter of W. S. Sims becomes sick unto death. Dr. J. H. Hagerty, after five and a half months illness, at the age of 50, dies, causing universal mourning throughout the locality where he was so well known. The Plymouth, Kankakee & Pacific Railroad Company, from which our people had anticipated so much, found to be insolvent, and like many other railroad bubbles, vanishes into thin air. George Z. Flagler engages in the lumber business. Mr. Robert Thompson and Miss Sarah Hibbard, of Barnsville, Ohio, consent to be made one. Rev. Montgomery preaches his farewell sermon and accepts a call from Morris. Rev. Father Hanley receives injuries caused by a runaway team. Rev. R. G. Pearce, of the M. E. church, removes to Fairbury, and Rev. M. V. B. White succeeds him. The marriage of Mr. C. L. Palmer and Miss Mate E. McClure is announced by the papers with hearty congratulations from the editorial fraternity. Mr. Samuel Thompson and

Miss Maggie Porter are joined in wedlock. Meetings are held in many places by the anti monopolist party, under the leadership of S. T. K. Prime. Mr. Hermon Kenyon and Miss Emeline Davis, of Joliet, present themselves at Hymen's altar. Mr. John D. Ketcham and Miss Lizzie Johnson take on themselves the marriage vow. The village paper reports also the marriage of Mr. C. M. Baker and Miss Lizzie Weagley, and Mr. Jasper W. Philips and Miss Lucy E. Scammon. J. B. Parsons and J. C. Hetzel form a co-partnership and purchase the hardware stock of Orson Potter. Hon. Schuyler Colfax lectures under the auspices of the I. O. O. F. There appears in the Dwight Star a history of Dwight, its past, present and future, covering a period of twenty-years, from 1854 to 1874, ably written, and afterwards printed in fine style in pamphlet form. C. J. Judd withdraws from the firm of McWilliams & Judd, and Manning Smith succeeds him, and the new firm of McWilliams & Smith occupy at once the just completed brick store, the largest and finest ever erected in the place. The Dwight Star swells and enlarges for the eighth time. Mr. John C. Poole and Miss Lillie D. Mott make mutual pledges, resulting in the tying of another nuptial knot, the same event happened to Mr. Garry Wallace and Miss Jennie Potter. Captain E. R. Stevens and Dr. Baker make a trip to Cuba. It remains to mention a sensation, caused by the finding of the dead body of one Peter C. Jensen, a Dane, in the stable of John Smith. So the year, like every human life, ends with a tragedy.

1874-75.

During the winter the temperance question was earnestly and persistently agitated. A number of public meetings were held in all the churches, at

which its many phases were considered. Those favoring prohibition at this time were greatly in the minority. It had taken time to recover from the disastrous effects of crushing defeats. They were conscience-stricken that they had suffered their cause to be lost sight of altogether at the last election and now felt it to be a duty to form a party, though small, yet one which might in time, by the growth of a temperance sentiment, become sufficiently strong to elect a board that would repeal all license ordinances and put a stop to all traffic in intoxicants.

The advocates of license had for two or three elections been enabled to present themselves as a solid phalanx at the polls, but now there was a division in their ranks which foreshadowed a defeat. One part favored a very high license and few saloons, which, it was thought, might be made respectable and acceptable even to the temperance people, save those who expected and exacted too much, and the other was in favor of making a saloon license the same it had been. The high license faction, thinking it could control the vote of the entire party, put a set of candidates in the field who were in advance pledged to make the license fees very much higher than they had ever been. Those composing the rebellious and dissatisfied element did not wheel into line as had been anticipated, but gave the prohibition ticket the benefit of their votes, concluding they had rather take their chances of making illegal sales under a prohibition administration than to be compelled to see the entire traffic go into the hands of a few who had made enough out of it to be abundantly able to pay, if required, one thousand dollars annually for the privilege of selling. The entire temperance ticket was elected, the candi-

dates being O. W. Pollard, president; Oliver Slocum, Timothy Driscoll, Hugh Thompson, Isaac H. Baker and J. J. Gore, trustees; Willis Finch, clerk. The latter served only a part of the year and was succeeded by J. Coe. J. H. Coe was made marshal and served a few months, and on his resigning Elwell Collins was appointed to fill the vacancy made. W. J. M. Stevens was chosen poundmaster and J. I. Dunlop was employed as attorney. Propositions for the treasurership were presented and much of the ground by way of discussion traveled over the year previous, was gone over again. Those taking an economical view to the exclusion of all other considerations were victorious. John Thompson was made treasurer on his own proposition to perform all the duties of the office for FIVE CENTS. The victory of the real friends of temperance was more in appearance than in reality. The disaffected of the license party who had been the means of giving them the election, were not disposed to assist in enforcing a prohibitory law, but, on the other hand, were determined to embarrass the Board in every possible way. They had not voted for the triumph of temperance principles, but simply to take revenge on some of the prominent leaders of the license cause, the one to which they had no intention of forsaking. A majority of all the voters were not in favor of closing all the dram shops. The temperance people were taken by surprise by seeing their ticket elected. They were not prepared for it and were in no condition to give a prohibition Board the support that was indispensable to make it a success.

The newly elected trustees found themselves in the pitiable plight of being compelled to attempt to force upon the people not only what they did not

want, but, moreover, what they were determined they wouldn't have. This year's administration, so far as temperance legislation was concerned, was a failure, as many at the start saw it must be. It served, however, one good purpose, in demonstrating the supreme folly of attempting to enforce a prohibitory temperance law unless there is public sentiment sufficiently strong to back it up. Temperance principles must first be enthroned in the hearts of the people before they can be successfully crystalized into either a national, State or municipal law.

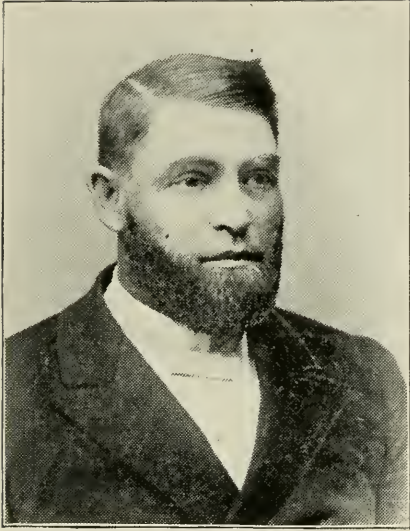
The purchasing of 500 feet of hose, at a cost \$582.50, was ordered, the citizens subscribing \$199 for the purpose. A new hose cart and nozzle was added to the fire apparatus, and the calaboose was repaired. The ordinary expenditures for the year were \$2,225.92.

The local happenings of this year were quite numerous, and it would be an agreeable work and easy task to expand an account of these so as to occupy several columns of closely printed matter, the absolute necessity of brevity forbids the attempt. Rigid adherence to the plan as originally contemplated will allow simply a mere reference to events, trusting to the reader's ability to recall all the attending circumstances.

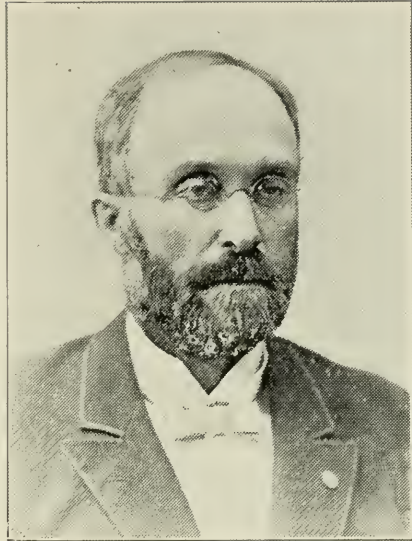
The Odd Fellows celebrated on Sunday the fifty-fifth anniversary of the introduction of their order into this country, followed on Monday by festivities.

F. B. Hargreaves, James H. Funk and W. B. Fyfe delivering addresses. Mr. Goedert is wounded badly in the head by the bursting of a grindstone. Dr. L. E. Keeley becomes the surgeon for the Chicago & Alton Railroad. The grangers establish an agency for shipping farming products and purchasing implements and goods, ap-

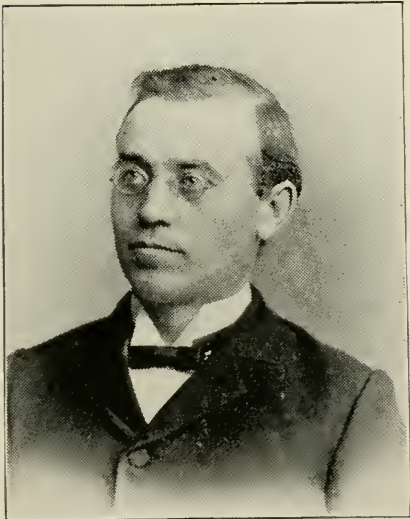




Rev. C. W. Ayling.



Rev. E. F. Wright.



Rev. R. H. Wilhelmsen.



Dr. C. H. Barr.





pointing John Waters their agent. Mr. C. M. Baker marries Miss Nellie Adams. John C. Poole is injured on the railroad; the Dwight Guards organize, commissioned officers being J. B. Parsons, captain; S. H. Kenny, first lieutenant and S. H. Witt, second lieutenant. John Parsons and wife return from Kansas, after several years absence. The Dwight Star reaches its seventh year. Wm. Scully, the English land owner, accompanied by John Scully, his nephew, visits his farming estate near this town, occupied by thirty-five tenants, making Henry Fox formerly of Pulaski, his agent. C. F. Deihl is engaged as principal of schools at a salary of \$1,350, his daughter assisting, he having had twenty-seven years experience as a teacher. Henry Shapland is killed by a stroke of lightning. In the single month of June 394 cars of grain and 18 cars of live stock are shipped from this point. On the 4th of July the Catholics hold a festival, realizing \$360, and the Germans hold a picnic in Hahn's grove. Rev. Hargreaves delivers a lecture on the "Pontiac Fire," and Rev. DeLong on the "Comet." W. H. Tison and wife, of Savannah, Ga., become the guests of D. McWilliams. Ten thousand head of hogs shipped from Dwight in one year. Chas. S. Newell, Ed. Gooding, E. R. Stevens, Mrs. C. S. Newell and Miss Alice Dwelley join in an excursion around the lakes, visiting Niagara Falls. Lou Trunnell completes a miniature railroad engine. D. McWilliams and wife go to Eaton Rapids in search of health. Jesse Diffenbaugh erects a two-story brick dwelling. A military picnic and firemen's tournament are held August 4th, old Capt. Rockwell, a veteran of the war of 1812, receiving marked attention. Hon. J. G. Strong, in behalf of the

ladies, presents a banner to the Dwight Guards and F. B. Hargreaves replies for the latter, both addresses being of high order. Zane Turner is injured by the premature discharge of a cannon. Mr. John Graham marries Miss Armina Clarkson. Mrs. Parsons erects a new millinery store adjoining that of Henry Eldredge's. Obadiah Staley suffers the loss of an ear, and has his shoulder dislocated, by being caught in a thresher. F. B. Hargreaves makes his debut as a lawyer. Rev. M. M. Longley is called to the pastorate of the Congregational church. Mr. Hillersheim purchases half interest in the business of J. C. Hetzel. Newell, Judd & Sims form a co-partnership for conducting a lumber and grain business at Pontiac. Mr. John L. Gallup marries Miss Malvina C. Whitlock. The Catholic Total Abstinence Society parade the streets, listen to an address and hold a picnic. Cadwallader & Rhodes sell their elevator to Wm. B. Sargent for \$3,600. L. G. Pearre and R. Speer McIllduff form a partnership for the practice of law. W. H. Robbins sells his business to J. Coe. Rev. M. V. B. White is seriously ill for several weeks, his pulpit in the meantime being supplied by Rev. O. W. Pollard. Eugene Baker purchases the dwelling of Rev. Montgomery. Mr. Danforth Q. Jordan marries Miss Nellie Hobbs. Hon. J. G. Strong, senator, spends the winter in Springfield. Wm. S. Sims and family move to Pontiac. Miss Lulu Couse dies at the age of 18 years. The grangers attempt to run a store and do away with the merchants and grain dealers fails. Leander Morgan takes charge of the Spencer farm. The marriage of Chas. M. Chase and Miss Isa H. Weymouth is announced. The arrivals at the McPherson for several months averaged eighty per week. H. A. Kenyon increases the number of

papers taken 400 per cent. and publishes a forty page book. A. L. Leach opens a new photographic studio. An Old Times festival is held at the residence of J. G. Strong, supper being served up in old style dishes, and the participants dressed in antique costumes, so as to personate several characters of by-gone days. W. H. Robbins builds a store at the south end of East street. The Militia Cornet Band and Amateur Minstrels give entertainments. Conrad & Co. convert their cooper shop into a barrel, bucket and butter tub factory, putting in a new engine and suitable machinery. Col. R. P. Morgan, Jr., sell a quarter interest in his elevator to the railroad for \$10,000. All the churches unite in union meetings, lasting seven weeks. The death of Mr. John Sargent, a thrifty farmer and well and favorably known, occurs. The principal of schools reports 175 males and 175 females enrolled as scholars, and an average attendance of 271. The death of Dr. Morgan is reported. Mr. Levi Reeder joins Miss Adaline Young in marriage. The marriage of Mr. Edward Merrill and Miss Alice C. Dwelly is also announced. The coal trade for the winter averages 100 tons per day. C. M. Bakar becomes the proprietor of a drug store. Frank W. Davis' letter from Cuba appears in the village paper. F. B. Hargreaves delivers a lecture entitled "Gilded Edge." H. A. Kenyon has a long seige of inflammatory rheumatism. J. B. Parsons is elected supervisor.

1875-76.

The temperance Board were, for reasons easily gathered from the preceding chapter, glad to vacate their seats and make room for those who had by a very large majority been elected to succeed them. They had been asked to perform an impossibility, and because

of their failure to do so had been exposed to the sneers' and scorn of the outspoken enemies of prohibition and were compelled to be content with the lukewarm and indifferent approval of its professed friends. Eugene Baker, president, R. C. Adams, E. R. Stevens, Benjamin Wait, Horace Cadwallader, and Alex. McKay, trustees, and C. M. Baker, clerk, were inducted into office by observing the usual forms. John Thompson was continued in the office of treasurer and W. J. M. Stevens in that of poundmaster. S. M. Witt was appointed marshal, E. Collins, assistant marshal, Robt. Bell, street commissioner, O. Slocum, chief fire marshal, J. B. Parsons, first assistant and J. F. Skinner, second assistant. In August Thos. Weldon succeeds S. M. Witt as marshal.

As so many of our citizens demanded the licensing of the sale of liquor, the Board proceeded to carry out their wishes in this respect. Saloon licenses were fixed at \$300; fees for billiard, bagatelle, pigeon hole, pareppa and similar tables at \$10. Licenses were granted to not less than eight saloons. This year's history of village affairs is remarkable—very much so for expenditures and improvements. In no previous year had there been formed plans for the benefit of the public of such magnitude, and improvements made of such extent and involving such an outlay of money. They are startling when compared with those of either former or subsequent years. From the treasurer's report \$10,681.70 were paid into his hands, and at the end of the year there was a balance on hand of only \$434.65, which shows that the amount of \$10,247.05 were paid out during the year; deducting from the latter amount \$2,334.15 as rebate on taxes it leaves \$7,912.90 as the amount actually

paid on account of expenses incurred. Add to this \$1,998.00 for bonds and orders issued, which were reported unpaid, the sum obtained will be \$9,910.90; deduct from this \$662.01 of debts paid which had been contracted by the previous Board, there remains \$9,248.89 as the total outlay for the year for corporation improvements and expenses, excepting \$1,092.88 paid for roads and bridges in township. To meet the bonds and orders reported by the finance committee as outstanding, there were uncollected fines, delinquent taxes and cash on hand in the aggregate amounting to \$1,307. The receipts for saloon licenses were \$2,283.30. This Board is to be credited with several valuable measures, among which was the establishing of a fire department, resulting in the formation of the Good Will Fire Company, and the Hook, Ladder and Truck Company. A hook and ladder truck, hand engine, several hundred feet of hose, hook and ladder wagon, rope hooks, and rope ladder, &c., were purchased at a cost aggregating nearly \$1,100. The fine and commodious building standing in the East Park, and since used as a council chamber, calaboose and engine house, costing about \$1,600, was constructed this year, and during the same period there were 9,700 feet of sidewalk, thirteen hard wood, and six pine crossings built, 3,500 feet of ditching and 2,110 feet of grading done, besides many other minor improvements, such as new street lamps, the procuring and framing of the large map of the village, which now adorns the walls of the City Hall, &c.

This year Dwight had one preacher to every 350 inhabitants, one doctor to every 320, one lawyer to every 350, and one saloon to every 250, showing that a higher estimate was put on a dram shop than either of the three profes-

sions, and that the people then would sooner be deprived of either preacher, lawyer or doctor, in fact, all the three, than of the presence of a saloon. The standing disgrace and the blighting curse of a grog shop was not at that time as clearly seen as now.

Work on J. C. Hetzel's new residence, fronting East Park, was commenced; Dr. L. E. Keeley purchases old town house for \$130, to be moved and converted into a dwelling; Miss Anna Clark dies of consumption; the Dwight Guards, in charge of Capt. J. B. Parsons, go to Chicago to compete for a \$150 banner, to be awarded to the best drilled company; in boring for water Geo. Conant obtains a gas well, which discharged sand and water at the rate of one gallon a minute; one thousand persons, it was estimated, visited this well in one day; Decoration Day was observed in West Park by appropriate and impressive services held on the afternoon of Sunday, May 30; the Dwight Guards appeared in full uniform on the march from their headquarters, keeping step to the beat of the muffled drums and the plaintive strains of the Dwight Cornet Band; the day was beautiful, and the attendance very large; the order of exercises consisted of music, unveiling of the monument on which were inscribed the names of the many fallen heroes who went into their country's service from Dwight and adjoining townships; the reading of the roll of honor by H. A. Kenyon, Esq., and intensely thrilling addresses by Revs. M. M. Longley, M. V. B. White, C. H. DeLong, and O. W. Pollard, and a poem by W. H. Bradbury, Esq.; the addresses were what the occasion called for, eloquent tributes to the memory of the brave and patriotic dead, these carefully prepared orations, as they were historic as well



as eulogistic, ought to have been preserved, but were not.

The poem prepared expressly for the occasion, having been printed at the time, is now reproduced:

Where Lookout Mountain lifts his head  
To gaze on lovely Tennessee,  
And Chicamauga's silver thread  
Gleams 'midst the rugged scenery:—

Where Dallas' Woods grow green and brown,  
Beyond Burnt Hickory's fatal plain;  
And Kenesaw's twin summits frown  
O'er landscape marred with battle-stain:—

Where Oostenauala's streams arise,  
And Chattahoochee's waters lave  
Bright banks where Georgia's beauty lies—  
The red mound marks the soldier's grave!

Not there alone! But far and wide,  
From fair Virginia to the West,  
Our heroes' life-blood swelled the tide  
Poured at the Nation's grand behest!

To them this monument is reared,  
An emblem of their scattered graves:  
Here let their memory be revered;  
Here let us mourn our fallen braves!

These votive flowers and Emerald wreaths,  
Bedewed with tears and fraught with sighs  
Are tributes which the heart bequeaths—  
A sweet, yet sacred sacrifice.

Let us rejoice that our brave boys  
Fell not in ways of sin or crime;  
But boldly fighting for the cause  
Of home and country—death sublime!

The South wind's fragrance—laden sighs  
Waft odors from the land of flowers,  
Where sleep our heroes 'neath the skies  
Of summer suns and vernal showers.

These floral offerings catch the scent,  
And richer grows the rare perfume,—  
(In fancy's thought together bent),—  
Like precious sweets of heavenly bloom.

God heal the wounds of war-worn lands:  
The battle-blights, the scars of strife  
Are gently covered by His hands,  
'Till seared earth glows with wonted life.

So doth He also heal our hearts  
With hopes of heaven beyond the tomb;  
The "oil of joy" for grief imparts,—  
"Garments of praise" for robes of gloom.

"Beauty for ashes" shall be given;  
And fairer flowers and brighter wreaths  
Shall deck the patriot's brow in Heaven  
Where Peace the sword forever sheaths!

Oh, may our blood-bought Union stand!  
And never, never, shall it fall  
While Truth and Virtue fill the land  
And sweet Religion binds us all!

Capt. Wm. P. Bartholic and wife go to New Orleans; C. S. Newell and family move to Joliet; the Congregationalists give a strawberry festival, the table waiters dressing in the costumes of the different nations; Prof. Diehl is re-engaged as principal of the public schools; Mr. John A. Gallup, father of Daniel, Orrin and Ralph Gallup, dies, aged eighty years; Miss Mary Eldredge gives a musical concert, which was pronounced an enjoyable, refined and altogether recherche affair; the German Evangelical church, located on the corner of Delaware and Washington streets, was completed and dedicated; the Fourth of July was celebrated in superb style, Hon. J. G. Strong being president of the day, the Declaration of Independence was read by Miss Franc McClure, an oration delivered by Hon. J. W. Strevelle, and the presentation of prizes awarded to the successful competitors in the various games was made by F. B. Hargreaves, Esq., in speeches brim-full of glowing rhetoric, wit and humor; L. B. Gleason, Esq., of Goodfarm, passes from earth; the M. E. church, after undergoing repairs amounting to \$1,800, is re-opened with impressive services, Rev. Briggs, D. D., of Evanston, delivering the morning and evening sermons, assisted by Mr. Solomon Thatcher, of Chicago; this society was organized in June, 1855, with six members, David McWilliams, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Baker and Augustus West being four of the number; Mr. H. A. Gardner, father of George, Richard, Henry and James Gardner, and for

many years a prominent railroad official, and whose family had for a long time resided one mile east of Dwight, comes to his death in Chicago; he is still remembered for his public spirit, great energy and many virtues; Hugh Thompson and Horace Cadwallader start on a trip to California; Symes, the butcher, falls into an unconscious state, from which he fails to recover; the Baptist hall is purchased by O. Slocum and converted into a dwelling; Mr. Bradford purchases Mr. Hillesheim's interest in the firm of J. C. Hetzel & Co.; the residences of Henry Fox, T. C. Cook and O. W. Pollard are completed and occupied; Rey. Havermale becomes the pastor of the M. E. church; the Western Postal Review, published by H. A. Kenyon, postmaster, makes its appearance; the bank of J. G. Strong suspends; John Geis, the cigar manufacturer, takes possession of his new store; Mrs. Travis and Mrs. Wm. H. Ketcham are thrown from a buggy while out for a pleasure ride and barely escape serious injuries; J. M. Baker occupies 'D. McWilliams' old store, putting in an assortment of furniture and doing the business of an undertaker; Rev. Dr. Rabe becomes a resident of Dwight, and takes charge of the Union Presbyterian church; Wm. Estes buys hardware stock and business of J. C. Hetzel; the Dwight Cornet Band meets weekly for practice and favors the visitors with ravishing music on many evenings during the summer months; Robt. S. McIlhuff, Esq., marries Miss Mary J. Paul; in December the village trustees take possession of the new town house; Drs. Andrews and Keeley amputate limb for Wm. Sharp; the oratorio of Esther is given under the management of Prof. Dangforth, several young gentlemen and ladies of our village taking part; Mr. L. D. Coppock and

Miss Phoebe P. Riggs are united in marriage; Strong & Strong engage in insurance and real estate business; Benj. George, brother of James and John George, is removed by death; H. Cadwallader buys back the Farmers' elevator; a petition signed by twenty-eight merchants pray the Board to pass an ordinance protecting them from traveling auctions; Mr. Lorenzo A. Hamlin and Miss Mary A. Libby lock arms in matrimony, the Good Templars organize; A. H. Haynes purchases Sam Shiffer's livery and feed stable; married, at the M. E. church, Mr. James H. Foster and Miss Hattie L. Slyder and Mr. Myron Tambling to Miss Emma Slyder, attended by Miss Franc McClure as first bridesmaid and Miss Tambling as second bridesmaid, Dr. L. E. Keeley as first groomsman and Capt. J. B. Parsons as second groomsman; James H. Harrison, one of the early settlers, and for some time railroad agent, closes his earthly existence; W. H. Robbins sells his store building to Charles Losee, and goes with his family to Fort Scott, Kan.; during the fall of this year our merchants did a more extensive business than ever before or since for a single season.

1876-77.

The officers this year were Eugene Baker, president; E. R. Stevens, W. A. Ketcham, R. C. Adams, A. McKay and William Walker, trustees; C. M. Baker, clerk; Thos. Weldon, marshal; Elwell Collins, special policeman; John Thompson, treasurer; F. Rattenbury, pound master; O. Slocum, chief fire marshal; J. B. Parsons, first assistant and H. A. Kenyon second assistant, and J. I. Dunlap, attorney. Saloon licenses were fixed at \$300, and licenses were granted to ten in all—making three times as many saloons as bake shops, and three times as many grog shops as meat

shops. Druggist's permits granted to C. M. Baker and Geo. A. Seymour. W. J. Tait was employed as extra police. The purchase of a new hose cart was made. The gross receipts were \$5,841.48; total expenditures for all purposes, \$5,510.61; received from saloon licenses, \$2,606.95, and from fines \$114.

In the marriage institution from which comes the home, lies the foundation of every benign, prosperous and stable government. Such is the case, not by accident, but by the appointment of man's all wise and benevolent Creator. In this belief, Mr. Robert McKay and Miss Belle Porter, and Mr. William Douglas and Miss Mattie Stafford take upon themselves the marriage vow. The M. E. church gives a Centennial tea party, many of the attendants dressing in accordance with the fashions prevailing in 1776. Prof. Diehl, having managed the education of the youth with so much satisfaction, is retained as principal of the schools. David McWilliams goes to Baltimore, Md., on a six weeks' absence as a delegate to the General conference. This is the legislative body of the M. E. church, and to be made a member of which is the highest honor that can be conferred upon its laity. Its sessions are held quadrennially, at which time the bishops, editors, and missionary secretaries of this denomination are appointed, also the managers of its great publishing houses. A number of our citizens visit the Centennial at Philadelphia. A juvenile temperance society is formed. W. H. Bobbins returns to Dwight. Matthias Shiffler sells his property west of the Presbyterian church to L. D. Rutan, and with his son John, moves to Kansas. An educational column in the Dwight Star is conducted by Prof. C. F. Diehl. Thos. J. Johnson purchases the dwelling of J.

D. Ketcham. Miss Caroline Chester, after a long illness, dies, aged 69 years. The annual school report shows 465 pupils enrolled for the year. Mr. Merret Carr marries Miss Alice Young, and Mr. George N. Flagler, Miss Lettie Saltmarsh. At the age of 38 years, Mary E., wife of DeWitt Scutt, dies. Orson Potter's family move to Bloomington. Mr. Stephen Morrison, a native of Maine, and a resident for several years, goes to "the undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." A county Sunday School is held in Dwight, J. F. Culver acting as its president. Grandmother Dunlop, who came to this place in 1857, a good woman and a stunch Presbyterian, after a pilgrimage of 86 years, departs for her home on high. W. H. Ketcham and Nettie, his daughter, visit the Centennial. A McKay receives injuries about the head, caused by a runaway team. A Hayes and Wheeler club is formed. Mr. I. George passes away. The Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrate. Daniel Smith puts a valuable addition to his house fronting Prairie avenue. Newell, Judd & Sims dispose of their lumber interests at Pontiac. A. E. Gould builds a fire proof store room back of his store. S. T. K. Prime becomes campaign reporter for the Chicago Tribune. The census of Dwight is taken, which shows a population of 1,400, making an annual increase of 100 for several consecutive years. The Congregational church undergoes repairs. Thomas Adams, formerly a farmer in Highland, but at this time a resident of R. I., visits Dwight. Kiplinger's large building is completed, and his hall dedicated to the public. The 10th Battalion meets at this point for a drill, and goes through the maneuvers of a sham battle for the amusement of the large crowd in attendance,



Col. J. B. Parsons commander in chief. The dwelling of J. H. Coe is destroyed by fire. Two men are sent to Joliet for a term of years for attempting to rob the store of McWilliams & Co., having been caught in the act by the night policeman, Elwell Collins.

A. E. Harding, Esq., of Pontiac, marries Mrs. Mary E. Haynes, and H. E. Windsor, of Marshall, Michigan, Miss Mary Eldredge. H. A. Harris sells his stock of goods to Gagahan Bros. Hon. John A. Logan discusses the political situation, and the Lombard Glee Club favors the assembled audience with campaign songs. Mr. B. A. Buck and Miss Libbie Estes consent to pass under the matrimonial yoke. Mrs. Lettie Banks, the mother of Mrs. Leander Morgan, dies, having attained the remarkable age of 95 years. Wm. H. Amos opens a new hotel. Mr. DeWitt Scutt marries Miss Maria E. Collins, and Mr. E. W. Barkle, Miss Bettie Tuttle. The name of S. T. K. Prime appears as associate editor of the Western Postal Review. The churches all join in holding union meetings, under the direction of C. M. Morton, Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., of Illinois. A great religious interest is awakened and so many people were in attendance that it was found necessary to hold overflow meetings. Members of the churches were sent out into the country daily to hold religious services in school houses and private dwellings. Rev. Longly, Havermale and DeLong, the regular pastors, protract the meeting some nine weeks at an expense of \$353, and as a result all the churches receive valuable accessions.

The marriages of Mr. Frank Foltz and Miss Emma Foster, Mr. Lou Trunnel and Miss Maggie McGonigal, Mr. Isaac Drew and Miss Sarah J. Johnson, Mr. James Knox and Miss Mary

Patterson are reported. Mr. S. T. K. Prime becomes editor of the agricultural department of the Chicago Tribune. Edward, James and Nellie McWilliams return from school at Evans-ton. Jas. W. Sayers moves to New York state. Mrs. Harriet, the wife of Capt. Rockwell, born in 1890, falls asleep in death. John Campbell spends part of the year in Dwight. Edward McWilliams takes charge of Prime academy. Misses Nettie and Emma Ketcham give a New Year's party, the guests numbering thirty. W. J. Tait is added to the police force. Mr. D. Mason and Miss Loretta Pool marry. In the *Lighting Bug*, a manuscript paper edited by Miss Sarah Snyder about the year 1861, the following lines are found:

As I was walking out one day,  
And thinking of a plan  
Whereby I might a process stay,  
I met a curious man.

His face was sharp—his eyes were keen—  
His lips were firm and rigid!  
He was the strangest man I'd seen—  
He put me in a fidget.

"Young man," the stranger said,  
"Tell me—and mind you tell me right—  
Where lies in truth and verity  
The little town of Dwight?"

With cheerfulness I pointed straight  
Over the shoulder right;  
"In that direction lies the great  
And growing town of Dwight!"

"The church and mill's tall spires explain  
Her upward aspirations;  
While education rears her fame  
For all denominations."

"The public parks" I said "denote  
The laws of health prevailing;  
While medicines and doctors too,  
Are ready for the ailing."

"The taverns rear their spacious front  
For all who seek their shelter,  
The landlords, kind, as is their wont,  
Will treat you well for 'spelter."



"The stores are large, and well filled up  
With everything required;  
The turnpike roads, and bridges too,  
Are much to be admired."

"Hold! Stop!" says he, "I've heard enough;  
I've been a luckless wight;  
I've struggled long thro' smooth and rough;  
But now I'll stop at Dwight."

"This is the place where enterprise  
Expendis and is repaid;  
Where business grows and morals rise,  
And schools are ready made."

"What tho' times have been hard and dull.  
And things have not gone right;  
The season's bounteous lap is full  
Of blessings for your Dwight."

He ceased. I pressed with warmth his hand  
And said: "I think you're right;  
You never will regret the stand  
That you will make at Dwight."

Mr. Walbridge and Miss Jennie E. Ray take upon themselves the marriage obligations, likewise Fremont Vickery and Miss Nettie Johnson; also Mr. John Turnbaugh and Miss Mary Virginia Springer. John Vickery meets with an accident, by which some injuries were received. The Brass farm of 640 acres is sold to Mr. Davis, of Henry, for \$18,000. Mr. W. J. Thackery and Miss Nanna A. Foster, Mr. J. J. Knudsen and Miss Bine C. Mahler (Dewy,) Mr. Chauncey Keck and Miss Adelaide Cornell, Mr. Zane Turner and Miss Mary Burkhart are married. The Y. M. C. A. organize, and under the auspices of the same, Hon. Schuyler Colfax lectures. Rev. C. H. DeLong preaches his farewell sermon, and severs his relation with the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. C. Bradford celebrate their china wedding. E. T. Miller purchases an interest in the business of Henry Eldredge. The death of Charles S. Newell occurs April 9, 1877, and resolutions of respect were passed by the village Board and spread upon its record. He having been a

trustee for several terms, and was quite prominent in town affairs.

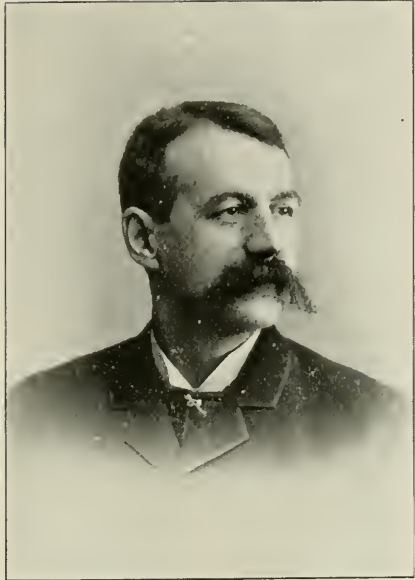
1877-78.

As indicated in the last chapter the license party had ceased to be a unit. Some of its members, as the year before insisted upon a high license and few saloons as the only method by which liquor traffic could be relieved of its objectionable and offensive features and made respectable. Others denounced what they were pleased to term a liquor monopoly, a wealthy saloon aristocracy, and contended with equal persistency for a low license and for the granting of the same to any and all wished to deal in ardent spirits. The only issue at this spring's election was whether a high or low license Board should be put in power. A thorough canvass was made by each faction and nearly the whole vote of the corporation was obtained, there being 243 votes polled. The fact that seven thousand ballots were printed shows that a vigorous fight was arranged for. It devolved upon Eugene Baker, president, and A. McKay, W. H. Ketcham, Henry Fox, O. Slocum, Chas. Crandall, trustees, to bear the burden of administrat- ing the affairs of the village for this year, and upon C. M. Baker as clerk to record the doings of the Board. To Wm. M. Stitt was given the office of marshal, H. Eldredge that of treasurer, Levi Wood was appointed poundmaster and F. B. Hargreaves as village attorney. The names of John Shiffer, E. Collins and Ab. Potter appear as hav- ing served some portion of the year as night police. The election returns show that James McIlduff was re- elected to the office of police magis- trate.

At no time have our people been so completely given up to the strange delusion that the sale of intoxicating



James Kelagher.



Walter M. Weese.



George L. Kern.



E. T. Miller.



beverages was indispensable to the growth of the town, and that its prosperity would always be increased in proportion to the number of saloons that could be maintained. It was honestly supposed that the liquor traffic in so many hands was sure to draw an immense trade that would enrich the merchants and make Dwight a lively and thriving place. Every well wisher of the town's present and future welfare should, it was urged, by his vote, if he had one, legalize the dramshop business and by his voice, pen and influence, seek to encourage and foster it. Some fancied, because of the presence of eleven saloons, that our greatness was assured and that we ought to proceed herewith and annul our village charter and organize as a city, dis-tricting the town into wards and electing a bona fide mayor and aldermanic council. An election was ordered for Tuesday, Oct. 1, and two sets of ballots were prepared, one for and the other against a city organization. Twenty citizens said by their votes, let there be a change in our governmental machinery, and one hundred and twenty-eight said the present organization was good enough.

This Board passed an ordinance taxing dogs one dollar per year, and one requiring all male citizens twenty years old and under fifty, paupers and idiots excepted, to labor on streets and alleys three days or pay in lieu thereof one dollar per day; also one providing for the payment of the fire company for drilling and keeping the fire apparatus in good condition. Shirts, belts and uniforms were purchased for the firemen and a triangular fire alarm was mounted on a frame in the rear of the town house. This Board passed a compensating ordinance, which allowed each trustee \$2 for every regular meet-

ing attended. The repairing of the building of H. Cornell, partially torn down to stop the progress of the great fire on West street, was authorized. The receipts for fines were \$69, and those for licenses were \$2,597.50. The fiscal statement puts the expenditures at \$5,510.61.

During the municipal year the following marriages were published: Mr. J. W. Watkins to Miss Emma C. Paul; Mr. Chas. M. Cyrus to Miss Columbia V. Frame; Mr. Roger Mills to Miss Sarah Burns; Mr. Frank Brubaker to Miss Nettie Scutt; Mr. Edwin C. Kirkendall to Miss Elizabeth Cornell; Mr. Alfred N. Chariton to Miss Georgia A. Boardman; Mr. Theodore Lessor to Miss Kate Patterson; Mr. Samuel Thompson to Miss Eliza J. Wiley; Mr. John Darman to Miss Mary Congdon; Mr. Conrad Semental to Miss Christena Hahn; Mr. Orville M. Butterfield to Miss Lydia Susie Bell.

The deaths reported were Mrs. Eliza Comissiong, aged sixty-two years; Mrs. Ward Kenyon, aged thirty-one; Mrs. Lucy A. Kenyon, aged thirty-three; David Barton, aged sixty-three; Mrs. R. P. Morgan, Mrs. Mary Ann Turnbaugh, aged fifty-one; Wm. Morris, aged sixty; John W. Dunlop, aged fifty-three; John B. Monahan, aged forty-two; Margaret Heinan.

The building of L. D. Rutan, occupied by Gahagan Brothers, the millinery establishment of Mrs. H. Cornell, the Clifton Hotel, occupied by O. Lee, and other wooden structures were destroyed by fire. At a military festival a sword is voted to Major C. J. Judd as a recognition of his soldierly qualities, a parasol to Miss Nellie Hibbard as the handsomest woman present, a chromo to Miss Emma Strong as having the best arranged table, and a cane to C. L. Palmer as the handsomest man, presen-



tation speeches were made respectively by H. A. Kenyon, J. G. Strong, and W. H. Bradbury. The Y. M. C. A. hold meetings every Sunday. The name of the Dwight Guards is changed to that of Parsons Guards. The Dwight Star enters upon its tenth year. Mrs. C. S. Newell returns to this place. The Dwight Commercial, edited by C. M. Cyrus, enters the field as the competitor of the Dwight Star. The Adams Cornet Band gives open air concerts. Col. J. B. Parsons celebrates his thirty-eighth birthday anniversary, the Parsons Guards, Dwight Fire Company, Renfrew Hose Company, Hook and Ladder Company, Adams Cornet Band, and the City Council participating, and all East street being illuminated in the evening. Father Hanley bids adieu to his people. Thomas Flaherty seeks a place of business elsewhere. The Parsons Guards are ordered to Braidwood to assist in quelling a riot. Rev. M. M. Longly, pastor of the Congregational church, preaches his farewell sermon. This society organized with eleven members in 1866, and at this time enrolled 115 members. The Cemetery Association is formed, with H. A. Kenyon as president. The Salem church, four miles north, is dedicated. Rev. Rogers is called to be pastor of the Congregational church. The Y. M. C. A. lease the Good Templars' hall for the winter. Miss Anna Kenyon is presented with a gold cross, set with pearls, as a token of appreciation of her services as organist of the Congregational Society. Spencer Eldredge rents the big elevator, and engages in the grain business. William Walker's planing mill is destroyed by fire. Daniel Gallup sells his milk business to Isaac Austin. The remains of Samuel V. Vickery are brought from Kansas and buried in the new cemetery, his body being the first

interred there. Daniel Gallup removes to Cambridge, Md. The Dwight Star for the ninth time appears in a new dress. J. P. Chase rents his farm and moves to Chicago. Nels Mickleson opens a grocery store near Hetzel's building. The Methodists give their pastor, Rev. E. P. Hall, a surprise party, leaving \$73. S. M. Witt is presented with an elegant silver watch and chain by the Hook and Ladder Company. The temperance wave strikes Dwight. R. W. Crampton is engaged to deliver several temperance lectures. George Woodford, of Pontiac, visits our community, and by his public appeals and personal efforts succeeds in inducing seventy-five drinking men to reform. These, headed by a brass band, march to the M. E. church, where an enthusiastic meeting is held. The Dwight Reform Club is organized with Eugene Baker president, D. McWilliams treasurer, Rev. Rogers, chaplain, H. A. Kenyon, C. J. Judd and others executive committee, Henry Fox and others, finance committee. During this great temperance revival more than 800 sign the temperance pledge. A. L. Thompson moves to steel City, Neb. A temperance lunch room is opened in McWilliams' old store, conducted by F. M. Chambers. The drama "Saved" is presented in Kepplinger's hall by the Pontiac Dramatic Club, our ladies giving the members of the club a banquet.

The Reform Club seek to purchase a library and establish a reading room, nearly \$500 being subscribed for that purpose. The brick stores, with halls and offices above, of Miller Bros. and D. McWilliams are commenced. Rev. Omalvena closes his labors with the Presbyterian church. An anti-tobacco society is formed, with Rev. E. P. Hall president, and S. M. Witt vice-president. The Reform Club rent D. McWilliams'

hall, and purchase fifteen dozen chairs; its meetings are made very interesting, and all are attended by large numbers.

1878-79.

As the time of the annual election of the village trustees drew near it became difficult to predict with any certainty who the successful candidates would be. There were three tickets, titled respectively "anti-license," "people's" and "workingmen's," the last two representing the factions into which the license party had become divided. The winners for municipal honors were E. R. Stevens, Jno. Thompson, R. C. Adams, W. H. Ketcham, Wm. Walker and J. C. George. The new Board organize by making John Thompson president. It fell to the lot of C. M. Baker to see that the records were properly kept. Wm. M. Stitt was chosen marshal, and Ab. Potter night police. A. McKay, by the authority of the Board, assumed the responsibility of receiving and disbursing the village funds. The title of chief fire marshal was conferred upon K. S. Sedgwick and that of first assistant upon J. B. Parsons and second assistant upon H. A. Kenyon. Two petitions, signed by ladies and children, were presented to the Board, one praying that no saloon licenses be granted, and that no billiard or pool table be authorized. Both of these petitions were summarily laid upon the table. For this action some were disposed to censure the Board in unmeasured terms; but not with much reason for so doing. These trustees represented a constituency, and this constituency favored the licensing of saloons and gaming tables. They, by refusing to grant the prayer of these well meaning and conscientious women and children, simply carried out the wishes of a majority of the voters and those to whom they were indebted for

their election as trustees. This action of itself was no disrespect to the petitioners, especially as it was known that the members of the Board were not expected to do anything of the kind and were not personally in sympathy with the movement to either prohibit the sale of liquors or the operation of such tables as were named in the petitions. It would have been, however, wise and much more respectful, to have voiced a refusal to grant the requests made in polite and suitable language instead of tabling the petition in such an unceremonious manner.

During this administration the fine iron bridge spanning the creek at the East side school house was built. The records show nothing more outside of the usual routine of business. The expenditures are placed at \$4,263.03.

The year of Dwight under consideration was in several respects one of the happiest and brightest in its history. At no time has there been such an effort to break the usual distressing monotony of village life by the multiplication of social gatherings and the preparation of numerous public entertainments. The Good Templars' organization, connected with which were many choice young men and women, was in a very prosperous condition. The Bed Ribbon Club, then in a highly flourishing state, had a large membership, among which were skillful musicians, poets, able writers of prose, amateur dramatists and actors, accomplished readers and entertaining speakers. The Friday night literary exercises given in the hall of the Reform Club and on special occasions in that of Good Templars' will never be forgotten by those that attended them. Amusing, delightfully entertaining, and of an elevated and elevating tone, their beautiful effects and influence for

good can hardly be estimated. They served an excellent purpose in developing and utilizing for the good of the public the more than ordinary talent which has never been the good fortune of Dwight to possess. These were green oases in the dreary march of life. They were looked forward to with delight, and they are now looked back to as the most pleasant episodes of the life spent in the little prairie town, whose history is well worth preserving, because of the noble spirits who have participated in its affairs. It would be a delightful service to put in the way of republication the many literary gems prepared for the entertainments referred to and other occasions belonging to this year. The necessity of hydraulic condensation in preparing these chapters forbids it. Room, however, will be given for a few. Those of Wm. H. Bradbury, the poet laureate of Dwight, are too good to be lost. Below will be found his poem entitled "The Tide of Bloom:"

From the tropical climes, rich in boundless profusion

Of color and verdure and sweet perfume,  
Sweeps up toward the north with a welcome intrusion,

The freshest of flowers—the great tide of bloom!

Led on by the sun, like the waters of ocean,  
It joyfully follows its God in its course;  
Thro' the higher zones circling in fragrant devotion,  
Now creeping in softness—now rolling in force.

Upward and onward, with colors all glowing,  
The blooming tide tumbles o'er orchard and lea;  
And out in advance is the dashing spray throwing  
A beautiful robe o'er the naked peach tree.

While northward away! are the early tints trending,  
Here fuller and richer the young blossoms shine;  
The almond flowers clustering round slender boughs bending,  
And delicate lilacs of fragrance divine!

The hyacinths, tulips and bleeding hearts follow—

And drink from the current their own vivid hues,  
As warmer streams shoot from each valley and hollow,  
And purple and yellow and crimson diffuse.

As the sun beckons on,—mounting higher and higher,  
The floral tide deepens in color and tone;  
'Till the laughing land, decked in her gorgeous attire,  
Flames forth as the bride of the tropical zone.

Carnations and pansies, and lillies and roses,—  
Verbenas, sweet-williams and peonies red,—  
Steeped in the bloomy flood, each flower discloses

Its beauty and fragrance—so soon to be shed.  
With the sun at its highest, the tide at its turning,

Sweet-peas and tube-roses exhaling perfume,  
And scarlet and crimson in dark bushes burning,  
And gardens aflame, mark the zenith of bloom

The gay gladiolus, with ruddy sword waving  
O'er rich portulances of carmine and gold,  
In the high flood of summer their petals now laving,  
Suffused with deep color, their brilliance un-fold.

But the ebbing tide tells toward the end of September

The tale of lost beauty too soon on the wane;  
Yet asters and zenias may bid us remember  
The brightness of summer, lamented in vain.

While the tide's at the flow let us seize on the treasure,

Enjoy its rare colors and richest perfume;  
The beauty of nature was made for our pleasure,  
How thankful we are for the great "Tide of Bloom."

Dwight was then favored with an organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, also a juvenile society, both of which held their meetings in Red Ribbon hall.

The Reform Club purchase a piano. A. Dernbach occupies his new barber shop on West street. S. T. K. Prime reports the condition of crops in different parts of the country for the benefit of the readers of the Dwight Star. Wm. Scully, the great Irish land owner, visits this place. Joe Mason, a grand good



fellow, leaves the employ of A. E. Gould and seeks a situation elsewhere. The Parsons Guards appear in new uniform, consisting of light blue pants, dark blue blouse and cap. The Red Ribbon Club elects a detective committee for the purpose of prosecuting saloon keepers who sell to minors or persons while in an intoxicated condition. Several were detected, found guilty and fined. The Congregational society make great preparations for a Fourth of July festival and literary entertainment, occupying the halls of the Reform Club and several offices on the same floor, the latter were converted into a temporary art gallery. Eloquent addresses were delivered by C. L. Palmer, H. B. Hargreaves and others, which were published afterward. On this occasion Miss Anna Kenyon, the church organist, was presented with a rocking chair and three tidies of patch work composed of ninety blocks, on each of which was the name of some lady member of the society. Rev. Rogers makes the presentation speech and H. A. Kenyon responds. The poem of Wm. H. Bradbury, read on this occasion, many will be glad to see in type again:

## DWIGHT IN 1928.

Dropped from above by the big balloon  
That rushes by each afternoon,  
A stranger came from a distant land;  
His hair was bleached and his face was tanned,  
At the City Hotel he touched a spring  
Which wrote his name in a twinkle-ing.  
A glance at the open register's date  
Showed Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-eight.  
And now you'll wait awhile before  
I'll tell you the name the stranger bore—  
For I didn't look at the book very close;  
It was not good manners, just under his nose.

After dinner he sat in his chair,  
And piked his teeth with an anxious air.  
"What a conductor," muttered the man;  
"I wanted to go to Bloomington.

But he dropped me here, did the young galoot,  
And sent me down in a parachute.  
I thought I was nearing a forest of trees,  
And never expected streets like these;  
And such big buildings—I can't tell 'em,  
Hid by the cottonwood, maple and illum."

All looked strange, but still there were  
Tokens of things familiar.  
"This can't be Dwight!" at length he cried;  
"That's what they call it," quick replied  
The host, who smiled as Landlords do,  
As he marked the room Two hundred and two.  
"Well!" said the guest, "I once lived here,  
In times gone by, full fifty year,  
Then I was young and sly, and gay.  
Now I am old and turning gray,  
Nobody knows me, but I once knew  
Lots of men here." The landlord grew  
Quite interested, and he said:  
"The men you knew are probably dead.  
Charley Stafford—A fat old person—  
Once kept this house, then called the McPherson.

A merchant owned it—a rich old chap  
Whose property covered half the map  
Of what was known as the village once.  
(He always watched for the main chance,  
He left to the church several millions,  
And the Methodists called him 'Saint McWilliams.'

Gould, Hetzel and Eldredge followed suit:  
Plodding merchants of good repute.  
About Dr. Keeley? the actual fact is  
That he got rich on his country practice.  
I knew him well! By the old stone mill  
He grew quite fat, and never was ill."  
"Enough of him!" said the stranger guest,  
"Tell us something about the rest,  
Judd and Parsons and Strong and Brad.,  
Bakers and Thompsons and Kenyon and Cad."  
"Well! General Parsons of the millish  
Kept his command in good condish;  
But he lost his life in a Commune riot,  
Since which he's been remarkably quiet.  
His name appears in the Patriot's list—  
Brave boy, was Jim! and very much missed.  
Major Judd married a prim old maid  
Who brushed his clothes and combed his head,  
Of this great State he was Adjutant General.  
And all the troops here went down to his funeral.

Strong grew rich and jolly again,  
And died a stout old congressman.  
Brad. wrote poetry more and more,  
And got to be a terrible bore;  
Died of Astronomy on the brain—  
'His loss was our eternal gain!'



Postoffice Kenyon kept that place  
 And always won the political race.  
 Cad. went west for change of air,  
 And died a Kansas millionaire.  
 Bakers and Thompsons spread all over,  
 Children and grand-children thick as clover.  
 Palmer, the printer, went last week;  
 Died of enlargement of the cheek,  
 Which began growing in early youth--  
 Plain to all but himself, forsooth!"

"Give us a rest," said the man; "I think  
 It is just about time to take a drink."  
 "No liquors now for inhibition,  
 We're living under Prohibition  
 To distil or not; that was the question  
 Decided at last fall election.  
 None to be made or sold or drank,  
 For all of which we have to thank  
 The Red Ribbon flag that's now unfurled  
 O'er the soberest country in all the world.  
 The guest, disguised, turned his eyes,  
 And saw some bottles with surprise.  
 "Oh," said the landlord, with a laugh,  
 "That's nothing but our Phonograph;  
 The bottled talk of great men gone,—  
 Sweet souvenirs! Shall I open one?"  
 He drew the cork and it went round;  
 Forth from the inside came a sound—  
 Rapid and rasping—as long as he'd let it.  
 "That's what I'm telling you; don't you forget  
 it!"

Have I no rights here? that's what I meant;  
 Royal old rooster!—don't care a cent.  
 "Hold!" said the guest. "That's our friend Joe,  
 I've heard of him oft—he wasn't slow!"  
 The landlord then, with purpose cruel,  
 Opened a bottle marked Neilsen & Newell.  
 O'ercome with memories the guest shed tears,  
 Rushed from the room and stopped his ears,  
 A bottle of "Lewis" lay up on the rack,  
 Ready for use when he got back.

After supper he strolled around  
 And viewed the once familiar ground.  
 The mill was mossy with decay,  
 And dwarfed by buildings tall and gay.  
 The "Strips" were parks with iron gates,  
 The railroads ran not a train but "freights"  
 For passenger traffic went by balloon,  
 Night and morning and afternoon.  
 Large as cathedrals loomed the churches,  
 With grand and towers and spacious porches.

Oaklawn Grounds were green and sweet,  
 Offering a calm and cool retreat.  
 Distance a mile from the city limits,  
 Time by the air car, just three minutes.  
 Here, midst the fragrance of flowers rare  
 Stabs and obelisks pierced the air.

Former inhabitants all were there.  
 Sleeping beneath the solemn trees,  
 'Till God shall show them His mysteries!  
 Town Boards, School Boards, Supervisors.  
 Profligate and stingy misers;  
 Lazy folks and early risers;  
 Mother and daughter, father and son,  
 Gathered together, one by one!  
 Epitaphs gave of the dead below  
 List of virtues set up for show.  
 Phonographs treasured the precious tones  
 Of old John Smith and young Bill Jones.  
 Photographs shown on the face of each tomb,  
 Glowing with faces of life-like bloom.  
 Said the guest, quoting against his will,  
 "The dead, the dead, are living still."

He saw his relations scattered around  
 In every part of the burial ground.  
 Sabbath School teachers of goodness and truth,  
 And Pollard the faithful old friend of Youth,  
 Playmates of childhood, all dead long ago:  
 Lay under the grass where the roses blow,  
 He thought of them, and of by-gone years,  
 And his heart dissolved in a flood of tears.

Hastening back to the City Hotel,  
 He asked the amount of his little bill.  
 "Now," said he, "Landlord, here's your money;  
 Put your mouth to the telephunny,  
 And tell the night watchman to check the bal-  
 loon up,  
 And I'll start off as soon as its moon up."  
 He mounted the tower for his midnight trip,  
 And soon was scooped by the big air ship.  
 I looked at his name in the book again,  
 And read "Bones Thompson, from Japan."

George Woodruff, the father of the  
 Red Ribbon Club, delivers an address.  
 Nathan Baker and wife make a trip to  
 Ohio and Pennsylvania. Rev. Mont-  
 gomery spends a Sunday with his old  
 parishoners. Mr. Carl Miller marries  
 Miss Delia Hainsfurther. Meetings  
 are held and entertainments given in  
 behalf of yellow fever sufferers. 244  
 kegs of beer are shipped into this place  
 during the month of August by saloon  
 keepers. Mr. George K. Chase marries  
 Miss Ella E. Buel. R. Gallup and fam-  
 ily return from their visit to the east  
 shore of Maryland. The marriage of  
 Mr. Al. T. Jones and Miss Mary Wil-  
 liams occurs. Mrs. J. M. Baker is  
 struck by the engine of an incoming

train, resulting in her death. Horace Cadwallader, at 32 years of age, dies at Sterling, Kan., where he had gone in search of health. He was a man of sterling integrity, fine business qualifications, and highly esteemed by all who knew him.

A. Course dies at Salina, Kansas, being 48 years of age. He was formerly a resident of our village. Rev. B. F. Tallman becomes pastor of the M. E. church. Sixty bodies are removed from the old cemetery to Oaklawn. Mr. H. E. Good and Miss Lizzie Allison are joined in wedlock. Mrs. Eva Maria Hahn, mother of G. M. Hahn, passes into the beyond. H. A. Kenyon, postmaster, occupies new rooms in the new brick building on East street. C. J. Judd writes from Pueblo, Colorado, several instructive and interesting letters for the Star. The Exchange Bank, now Bank of Dwight, takes possession of new quarters. The remains of Frank W. Davis, in charge of C. J. Judd, are brought from Pueblo, Colorado, for interment at Oaklawn. He died December, 7, 1878, of nervous consumption, at the age of 31 years. He was a young man of extraordinary business talent and enterprise. F. B. Hargreaves lectures in a large number of places during the winter. Mr. and Mrs. D. McWilliams visit the East. Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Baker celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. Francis Carey, whose poetical talent was in much demand for both solemn and festive occasions, contributes the following at an entertainment given by the Reform Club:

#### THE OLD MAID'S STORY.

In imagination, not long since, I lifted the latch  
 And had a nice chat with a funny old hatch.  
 Since then I have another call made,  
 This time on a good-natured, good-looking old  
 maid.

We talked, I should think, for nearly two hours,  
 'Bout her birds, and her cats, and her flowers.  
 Then I ventured to ask her would she tell me  
 Why so long she continued an old maid to be?

Her answer was, "Some folks might, I'm afraid,  
 Call me a crabbed and cross old maid,  
 Because at thirty I cannot claim  
 Somebody's care and somebody's name.

"Of beax I've had plenty, but never the one—  
 Some folks say I'm too cross to be won;  
 But old maids never think it too late  
 If only at last they find the right mate.

"And I'm sure I'd rather an old maid be  
 Than marry any man that ever I see;  
 For they are awkward and homely and cross,  
 And never so happy as when they can boss.

"They pretend to be loving, and gentle, and  
 sweet,  
 And make pretty bows as they pass on the  
 street;

But when they're at home, I do declare,  
 They're selfish, and ugly, and cross as a bear.

"'Tis true there is once in a while a man  
 That seems to be nearer perfection's plan;  
 But all such are spoken for already, you see,  
 And only the crooked ones left for me.

"Well, I'm not discouraged at all with life,  
 E'en though I may never be somebody's wife.  
 I believe when for true love you are mating,  
 It pays to wait, though long be the waiting.

"And if I never find the right one, you see,  
 I'll die an old maid as sure as can be;  
 No one shall say, 'She has gone the woods past,  
 And taken a crooked old stick at last.'

"But if the right one should e'er come along,  
 At the wedding I'll bid them sing the sweet  
 song,  
 Beginning, 'This is the way I long have sought,  
 And mourned because I found it not.'

The letters of H. A. Kenyon, written during his sojourn in the West, are published and read with pleasure. The Odd Fellows conduct the funeral of W. T. Cumberland. Robt. Thompson dies, aged 72 years. He came to this country in 1854, was supervisor for eight years, and was the first Justice of the Peace of Dwight, being elected to this office in 1855. Wm. Estes celebrates his birthday anniversary, Francis Carey furnishing an appropriate poem. The

Knights of the Round Table celebrate their tenth anniversary at the McPherson, several local bards in their numerous productions appearing at their best Miss Julia Gould visits Mrs. Patrick, at Martinet, Wis. J. A. Turner disposes of his worldly effects and takes up his residence at Fort Hays, Kansas. R. S. McIlduff purchases the house of Eugene Baker. Bert Adams goes to Watertown, N. Y., on a visit. John Watson, a fine genial gentleman, meets his death. Mr. Frank B. Chester marries Miss Emma T. Strong. The marriages of Mr. David Duncan and Miss Julia Potter and Mr. James B. Austin and Miss Nettie Boyer are also reported. Miss Marion F. Kenyon dies en-route home from Colorado, where she had been taken by her father in the hope of saving her life, aged 17 years. Her amiable character, and the sad circumstances connected with her death, caused great mourning in the community where her short life had been spent. J. M. Gibbs sells his farm and seeks a home in the growing West. Mr. Henry Bloom marries Miss Eliza Kern, and Mr. Darwin Stevens Miss Cynthia A. Harrison. Thus it is seen that the year was very fruitful of events, some that were indeed sad, others that caused much joy to many hearts.

1879-80.

By the then residents of Dwight the discussions and addresses during the winter of 1879 will probably never be forgotten. The entire community was aroused upon the question of temperance as never before. The persistent agitation of the temperance question which had been kept up for several months, and the new discovery of the right of the village to control the sale of alcoholic stimulants as a majority voted, resulted in the election of a prohibition Board, consisting of David Mc-

Williams president, J. C. Hetzel, Hugh Thompson, A. McKay, John Tierney and Spencer Eldredge. On these men was imposed the unpleasant task of seeking to make Dwight a temperance town by the enactment and enforcement of a prohibitory law. There was a general feeling that at last the dark night of drunkenness had dissappeared and the day of prohibition had dawned, and that it would be a long time before its sun would set.

J. G. Strong was elected clerk, but on moving to Yankton, Dakota, was succeeded by S. W. Strong. S. M. Witt received the appointment of marshal, Henry Eldredge, treasurer and J. E. Hutchinson that of poundmaster. J. H. Coe was made night police, and was, after a few months, compelled to resign on account of poor health, and was succeeded by E. Collins. Saloon keepers were officially notified that their licenses had, upon the organization of the new Board, expired and that they would not be renewed. A prohibitory ordinance was passed and duly published.

The year, it will be seen, was quite eventful. Mr. Manning Smith occupied the Slocum house. Fred Rhodes was successful in passing an examination in his legal studies preparatory to an admission to the bar. O. W. Pollard was elected president of the Red Ribbon Club and Albert Calkins secretary. D. McWilliams added a two-story bay-window to the south side of his residence. Silas Adams was made conductor of the accommodation. Wm. Fox went to Lincoln to accept a position in the land office of Wm. Scully's agent. The Red Ribbon Club adopted a new constitution and by-laws. Rev. J. N. Hill was installed as pastor of the Presbyterian church, Rev. Rabe delivering the charge. W. H. Bradbury



Chas. L. Romberger.



Frank L. Smith.



Wm. H. Ketcham.



J. C. Lewis.





prepares the following poem for an entertainment given by the Reform Club:

In humanity's history and in our own lives  
We find there is something that always con-  
trives

To pierce thro' our armor, In the slang of the  
day,

To sell us for nothing or "give us away."

When Satan beguiled our grandmother Eve,  
And told a false tale "with intent to deceive,"  
She longed to know secrets, like girls of our day,  
And thus curiosity "gave her away."

When Abel's success roused the anger of Cain,  
[No chance had poor Abel to rise and explain]  
The murderer's hand was uplifted to slay,  
And passionate jealousy "gave him away."

King Pharaoh was greedy of slaves and power  
Just as the South was and is to this hour:  
But the water, went back on him one fatal day:  
'Twas the avarice of tyrants that "gave him  
away."

The noble and valiant had each their beguiler—  
Cleopatra for Anthony—for Sampson Delilah;  
Aspasia for Pericles—all fell a prey  
To the sweet snares of beauty that "gave them  
away."

The Romans who conquered almost the known  
world,  
From the top peak of fame to the bottom were  
hurled.

Refinement and luxury with them had full sway,  
But indolent luxury "gave them away."

The Greeks and Egyptians, Assyrians and Jews,  
The great Aryan races and ancient Hindoos,  
Once proud in their might, now are prone in de-  
cay;

'Twas the death of their virtues that "gave them  
away."

But amongst our own folks: That young fellow  
there

Is smart and good looking, and got up with care,  
He is putting on style—just mark the display!  
For pride and conceit join to "give him away."

That young woman, too—(young lady I mean)—  
Is pretty—she knows it and likes to be seen;  
She dresses and powders, looks smiling and  
gay;

Alas! 'tis her vanity that "gives her away."

The business man also, is greedy of gain,  
And nothing attracts that does not contain  
A dime or a dollar, or a promise to pay;  
We know it is avarice that "gives him away."

The loafers we see are the other extreme;  
They lounge about town or sit still in a dream,  
With cigars in their mouths every hour 'in the  
day;

'Tis tobacco and laziness "gives them away."

But the chief of all causes productive of ills  
Is the drinking of liquors that ruins and kills.  
We may do what we please, or debate as we  
may,

Yet whiskey's the worst thing to give us away.

And now my few verses approach termination;  
They have not come up to my own expectation;  
But I shall feel satisfied if you'll only say  
That they are not so bad as to "give me away."

On Sunday morning, June 8th, a great fire occurred, destroying Duffenbaugh & Co.'s elevator and every building from Hetzel's corner on East street to Miller Bros. brick building. It originated back of McKay's harness shop, but how remains a mystery. The total loss was put at \$43,350. George Kepplinger started a new foundry. Fred Rhodes accepted a position in the freight office of the C. & C. railroad, Pueblo, Col. Fourth of July was celebrated; S. T. K. Prime acted as president of the day, Rev. J. N. Hill delivered an oration and Francis Carey read a poem, which is here reproduced:

Let the flags unfurled to the breezes fly!  
'Tis America's day--grand Fourth of July!  
Birthday of a nation great and free,  
Rocked in the cradle of liberty.

Let the nation rejoice from east to west—  
Home of freedom and land of the blest;  
The north and the south their homage pay,  
Unite to honor this glorious day.

Let men of wealth and men of toil,  
Where'er their homes on this fair soil,  
Rejoice in the freedom our fathers gave,  
That knows no master and no slave.

Ah who can fitly words employ  
To fully tell a nation's joy?  
For people meet this day to celebrate  
In every hamlet, town and State.

With flags and drums and cannon's roar,  
The crowds collect from shore to shore.  
With pealing bells and merry shout  
The day's rung in and day's rung out.

And thousands have met in other lands,  
From Britain's Isle to Africa's sands,  
To tell their friends round all the earth  
Their love for this land of home and birth.

And children's children in their day  
Will join as now their love to pay  
To those who e'er for freedom fought,  
And untold blessings with it brought.

Thus we may prize what to us is given,  
Best, freest land this side of heaven.  
Our homage with our thanks arise  
Like sweetest incense to the skies.

On the same day the Presbyterians gave a festival and the people were favored with a presentation of "Pinafore" Rev. Rogers preached his farewell sermon. The Good Templars gave a lawn social on the grounds of J. G. Strong. The Pinafore Company visited Odell and Pontiac upon invitation to do so from leading citizens of those places. Miss Mate Magee was invited to a position in a store in Joliet. Frank Chester returned from a visit to New York. Jasper Philips sold his farm and moved to Nebraska. Leander Morgan made a visit to New York to greet the friends of his youth. Wm. Estes sold his stock of hardware to J. W. Strevell. Howard Slauson, Edward Adams, Thos. McIlduff and Harry Diefenbaugh attended school at Champaign University. A. McKay occupied a new brick harness shop. S. W. Strong and L. G. Pearre formed a law partnership. The ladies of the M. E. Church gave a harvest home supper, Dr. Keeley improving the occasion by tendering a banquet to the members of the Pinafore Company. I. H. Baker & Son, Miss Lizzie Burger and Thos. Liddcott took possession of new brick stores erected on the burnt district on East Street. Rev. Dr. Hartley accepts a call to the pastorate of the Congregational church. Rev. B. F. Tallman is returned as pastor of the M. E. church. Misses Stella and Mary Dow left for a

home in Cedar Falls, Iowa. An attempt was made to burglarize the house of J. Christman. A lyceum course was arranged, consisting of ten or more entertainments. Mrs. T. M. Wright returned from a visit to Pennsylvania. D. G. Henshaw, night operator, moved to Streator. Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Witt celebrated their fifteenth marriage anniversary and were made the recipients of numerous presents. Alfred Miller purchased the dwelling of Dr. Keeley. J. C. Hetzel's brick stores are completed. N. Mickleson occupying the one on the north and E. M. Merrill the one on the south. Francis Carey bought a residence of A. E. Gould. Rev. Dr. C. Hartley delivers a series of lectures. J. C. Hetzel opened a new bank. J. I. Dunlop died of consumption. He was a man of good natural talent, a lawyer of no mean abilities, and, had he been favored with early educational advantages, would have risen to a place among the most eminent of the legal profession. His death was regretted by many. Rolla Calkins accepted a position with Maxwell & Co., Bloomington. W. H. Bradbury left, after a residence of several years, for his new home at Topeka, Kansas. His pen was a potent force for good and his place has never been filled in this community. A banquet was given in his honor by the County Bar Association. James Dunlop obtained a clerkship in a store at Eddyville, Iowa. S. T. K. Prime commenced his valuable book entitled "The Model Farmers and Their Methods," doing the work principally in Chicago. Joseph Baker entered the employ of D. McWilliams & Co. The marriages of Mr. Frederick Gillispie and Miss Nellie A. Lees, and Mr. Michael Kime and Miss Eliza Schumm were reported. The fortieth birthday of L. G. Pearre was celebrated. William Ketcham cele-

brated his nineteenth birthday and Misses Emma and Nettie presented him with a gold watch chain. Wm. Stitt moved to Kansas. Mr. B. C. Sinclair and Miss Melinda Lee were married. The Dwight-Chenoa Mining Company was organized. Leander Morgan celebrated his sixty-fifth birthday. Eugene Baker moved to Chatsworth. This gentleman for a number of years took an active part in village affairs and his removal was much regretted by the citizens.

1880-81.

The friends of temperance had a strong desire to try, at least for another year, the plan of prohibiting the sale of liquors. If all had not been accomplished that was expected in demonstrating the practicability of prohibition, yet it was reasonable to hope more could be done in the year to come. One short year, it was urged, was not a fair trial of this method of dealing with the liquor traffic. The license party on the other hand, argued that as under every prohibition administration a good deal of liquor had been sold clandestinely in spite of all the efforts of the village officials, to prevent the same, it were far better to license saloons outright and secure thereby a handsome revenue that could be used in building sidewalks, in paying the salary of a marshal, the cost of litigation and the usual expenses of a well regulated municipality. Both parties made every possible exertion to win and much rancor and bitterness entered into the contest. As was the case the year previous, many of the ladies became deeply interested and on the day of the election took possession of the fire engine room, where free lunches were furnished till near the time of closing the polls. The canvas of the votes showed that Henry Fox, president, John Geis, Wm. Doug-

las, Geo. Z. Flagler, Orrin Gould and Wm. Walker, trustees—the candidates of the license party—had been elected. Of all the defeats experienced by the friends of prohibition this one was the most disappointing and galling. A large audience gathered at the appointed time and place. Several addresses were made, the aim of which was to reconcile the afflicted to the situation of affairs till the new year should close, and to encourage them to hope that by a patient and preserving use of proper means their day of triumph would surely return.

O. W. Pollard made a sarcastic arraignment of the liquor traffic and indicated how Dwight, by licensing saloons, was to become responsible for a share of its baneful effects by ironically suggesting a series of open letters to be authorized, properly signed and published by the incoming Board as representing a majority of the voters of the village.

1881-82.

The work of creating a temperance sentiment in a community where the liquor traffic has been legalized for years sufficiently strong to warrant success in an attempt to enforce a prohibitory law, is one that requires time, patience and perseverance. The first efforts, as the experience of every locality where a temperance reform on this line has been attempted shows, will probably fail. There were four trustees to be elected—one more than there would have been had not Mr. Wm. Douglas changed his residence. Two of the old license board, Henry Fox and John Geis, held over in accordance with the provisions of a new State law. O. W. Pollard, DeWitt Scutt, Henry Eldredge and James B. Parsons were the successful prohibition candidates, receiving an average ma-



majority of 38 votes. C. J. Judd, on the same ticket, was elected clerk. The new Board organized by making O. W. Pollard its president. S. M. Witt was appointed marshal and E. Collins night police. David McWilliams offering to perform the duties of treasurer and allow the village one-tenth of one per cent on all disbursements for the privilege, was appointed to this office.

The M. E. church built a new parsonage, opposite the residence of O. W. Pollard, on Prairie Avenue. S. T. K. Prime established his Crop Bureau in Dwight. M. Kern opened a grocery on West Side. Miss Mary Dow took charge of Prime Academy. The Commencement week of the High school was made unusually interesting, Rev. G. Huyser lectured on Sunday evening and Dr. Adams on Tuesday evening; on class day an original poem was read by Miss Edith Kneeland; the graduate's program consisted of an essay on "The Difficulties of Life," by Anna Baker, an oration on "Thrift," by John P. McWilliams, an essay on "The Good and the Beautiful," by Alice Rattenbury, an oration on "Labor the Basis of all True Progress," by Fred Wood, an essay on "After Many Days," by Alice Paul, an oration by Edith Kneeland on "Student's Privilege," and an address and presentation of diplomas by Prof. Hubbard. Miss Kneeland's class day poem, written in view of a tree planting ceremony, is reproduced:

May these young roots grow deep and wide,  
These branches spread on every side,  
And year by year the perfect stem  
Still higher lift its diadem.

Here future birds on airy wing  
Shall build their summer nests and sing;  
Sunbeam and shadow play "hide and go seek"  
Thro' the summer day—thro' the summer week,  
While soft June breezes shall join their play  
And romp thro' the foliage the livelong day.

Not always, not always, the sunbeam warm  
Shall smile on these branches—in the cruel  
storm  
Of the lonely night they shall writhe and twist,  
These boughs shall be drenched in the winter's  
mist;

December winds go moaning low  
Thro' branches loaded with ice and snow.

But where is the prophet, whose words shall re-  
veal

The burdens of woe, and the treasures of weal,  
Which the restless years in their flight shall  
bring

To this young group?

They shall go as others have gone before  
In youth, in mid-life and gray fourscore,  
Some struggle with grief, some rise unto fame,  
Some be loaded with honors, some die without  
name.

When fifty eventful years are past,  
And the one or the two who linger last,  
With cheeks where time has laid his finger,  
With heads where all the winters linger,  
With tremulous hands and footsteps slow  
Among life's early scenes shall go.

They will come to this memorial tree  
And perhaps may remember you or me—  
The eyes may be dim, but this group shall seem  
As it stands to-day in this spring-time scene.

D. McWilliams having been appointed a delegate to the World's Conference of the M. E. Church, which was to be held in London, accompanied by his wife, visited England, Ireland and Scotland and many parts of the Continent. H. T. Newell offered to the public his new and valuable book of "Statistics and Common Facts." John Tierney tendered his resignation as Road Master on the C. & A. R. R., and was succeeded by Timothy Driscoll. Union meetings were held in the park during the warm weather. Geo. Taylor sold his Highland farm and purchased a farm of Wm. Rhodes, one mile south of town, paying \$7,200. Joseph Salzer accepted a position with Miller Bros. Mr. James Goodman and Miss Jennie Hess were married. Wm. Prime attended school at Mt. Forrest, John P. McWilliams at Evanston, and

Harry Diffenbaugh at Champaign. A memorial service was held in the West Park in honor of the dead President, James A. Garfield, the preparations for which were elaborate and in excellent taste and the occasion drew together an immense audience. Col. R. P. Morgan, Jr., acted as chairman of the day, Miss Artie Pollard personated the Goddess of Liberty, and Father Halpin and Capt. J. H. Rowell delivered eloquent addresses. Ella Strong, of Yankton, visited our place. Major Paul's family occupied residence west of Congregational Church. Mr. Wm. Eaton and Miss May Ross were united in the bonds of wedlock. Mrs. Lewis Kenyon spent the winter east. Rev. Lee became pastor of the Congregational Church. John Vickery visited the home of his boyhood in England. K. S. Sedgwick sold his residence to Nelson Mickleson, preparatory to his removal to Kansas. Lucy Barnum took charge of the Riling school. S. T. K. Prime occupied one of the houses of L. G. Pearre during the winter. J. H. Turner was badly scalded by the blowing out of a plug in a steam boiler in Conrad's planing mill. The L. E. Keeley Co. began shipping their cure for drunkenness and the opium habit to Australia. Evans Owens left for his new home in Colorado. T. C. Cook returned from a visit to Ohio with a new wife. Mrs. Hagerty spent the winter among friends in the east. Thomas McIluff returned home from Leadville, Col. Mr. Edward Adams and Miss Lizzie M. Baker were married. Mrs. Mary Payfair, an old resident, was found dead in her bed, having lived to the age of 70 years. The marriages of Mr. Corydon Gould and Miss Mary E. Buren, and Mr. Chester Smith and Miss Mattie Johnson were reported. The small pox made its appearance,

which created great alarm, several houses were quarantined and a pest house was put in order on the outskirts of the village, there were several victims, two of whom died. Col. R. P. Morgan, Sr., at the ripe age of 93 years, passed away, he had in the course of an eventful life been identified with nearly all the great railroads of the country. Nelson Cornell died, aged 62 years, he came to Dwight in 1854 and occupied a position, for a number of years, with the C. & A. R. R., he took and completed successfully, several large contracts for grading, the last one being a contract with the I. I. & I. railroad, the anxiety and labor attending which probably caused his death. Mr. Wm. Wykes and Miss Carrie Clarkson married. Chas. Crandall receives injuries by attempting to alight from a train. I. N. Gray wrote a number of practical articles which were published in the Dwight Star. Mr. Frank Gibbons and Miss Ella Stapleton were united in marriage. Rev. John Ker, of Ireland, occupied the pulpit of the M. E. church. E. Barr, of Goodfarm, died of heart disease, he had been a resident of Goodfarm for many years and had taken a prominent part in its affairs, His death was much regretted. Allen, a promising lad, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Potter, came to his death after a short illness. Mr. Mart S. Hazleton and Miss Jennie French were joined in marriage. Eugene Seymour was seriously injured by the accidental discharge of a pistol in his own possession. Col. R. P. Morgan, Jr., returned from a business trip to Colorado and New Mexico. Mrs. Theodore Ellsessor was removed by death. Mr. and Mrs. John B. Weagley celebrate their golden wedding. The community was plunged into deep distress by the sudden and accidental death of Wm. H. Ketcham,

he was born in 1821, came to Dwight in 1855, held offices of trust during nearly all these years, was a prominent member of the Odd Fellows and had a host of friends.

1882-83.

The campaign preceding the election which marks the beginning of this year, was in a number of respects more exciting and interesting than any former ones had been. It was opened by the publication of some circulars, succeeding each other at weekly intervals, the design of which was to present in the briefest manner possible some of the reasons why prohibition, which has been made such a success in suppressing liquor selling, preventing any public exhibition of drunkenness and in securing quiet and good order, should be tried another year. Some persons, in the interest of the license party, ventured to publish a circular which was intended as a reply to the little temperance sheets, and to set forth some reasons why prohibition should be abandoned and the liquor traffic reopened. This printed document was entitled "Common Sense," and was the first venture of the kind the license party of Dwight had ever made; and, as a matter of history, it may be stated the attempt has never since been repeated. This printed effort of the friends of license incited the managers of the temperance movement to publish a twelve column paper, bearing the name "Good Sense." A number of copies were issued, and during the week prior to the election it made its appearance daily. On the evening previous to the day of election the license party gathered at the hall to listen to an address by Judge Lynch, of Lincoln, while an audience filled the M. E. church on which occasion addresses were delivered by F. M. Fanning, Revs. P. A.

Pool and W. E. Miller, and H. A. Kenyon, O. W. Pollard and others. C. J. Judd, I. H. Baker and R. P. Morgan, the prohibition candidates, were elected by an average majority of 27 votes. O. W. Pollard, Col. J. B. Parsons and Dewitt Scott having been elected for the long term, held over. Hugh Thompson, on the prohibition ticket, was elected clerk, receiving twenty-six more votes than the opposing candidate. The new Board organized, making O. W. Pollard its president. S. M. Witt was continued in the Marshalship and Elwell Collins retained as night police. David McWilliams was appointed treasurer and L. G. Pearre was employed as village attorney. Franklin street was extended to the I. I. & I. railroad. An ordinance prohibiting the use of toy pistols and percussion caps for the amusement of children, was passed. Measures looking to the removal of the big elevator and thereby lessening the fire risks, were adopted. At a request of a majority of the tax payers, Philip Weicker was allowed \$200 as damages sustained by the tearing down of his residence with a view of stopping the further progress of the great fire on West street. S. M. Witt resigning, in the fall, his position, E. Collins was appointed to succeed him. During the winter the scarlet fever prevailed, several deaths resulting therefrom and its presence caused considerable alarm. The extent of the disease was greatly exaggerated in other localities, and many persons were deterred, through fear, from coming to the place to transact business, whereupon the Board authorized the issuance of 500 circulars setting forth the facts. The expenditures for the year were \$3,119.64. Mr. Luther Benson, of Ind., the author of "Fifteen Years in Hell," and at that time a popular temper-



ance orator, lectured in the M. E. church. The Ladies Society of the Presbyterian church organized, Mrs. S. T. K. Prime, President; Mrs. Jas. Paul, Sec.; and Mrs. J. C. Lewis, Treasurer. Union services of the several churches were held in West Park on Sunday afternoon during the summer months. John P. Campbell married Mrs. Tait. Lucy Barnum gave an exhibition at the close of her school at Prime Academy. Edward Cline succeeded C. M. Baker in the drug business. Rev. Father Halpin, after a residence of five years, dissolved his connection with the Catholic society of this place, his departure was much regretted by all our citizens. The S-I offices were moved to Kankakee. An Archery club was formed, quite a number joining. Col. J. B. Parsons resigned his position in the army. Chas. Stevens' dwelling, in Goodfarm, was destroyed by fire. In August the great fire on West street occurred. Amos' hotel, Spey's bakery, Kern's building, Kern & Scott's grocery stock, Koehler's building, Dernbach's barber shop and Geis' cigar shop were destroyed. Philip Weicker's store and dwelling was torn down to arrest the progress of the fire. The two elevators and the freight house, water tank and depot of the C. & A. R. R. were all on fire at the same time. It required great exertion on the part of the citizens to save these buildings and to prevent the destruction of all the business houses of the village. The Renfrews played a match game of ball with the Reds, of Streator. Charlie Fenn accepted a position with Miller Bros. L. G. Pearre was nominated by the democrats for the office of county judge. S. M. Witt was elected sheriff. Chas. Payfare moved to Joliet. Francis Carey rented his house to Adam Dernbach and with his family moved

to Chicago. Mike Kern erected a brick building on the burnt district. Mr. W. A. Chamberlain married Miss Emma Ketcham. W. H. Amos and family moved to Gliddon, Iowa. Edward and Nellie McWilliams made a trip to Europe, spending most of the summer on the continent. Johnnie Fenn, a very promising young man, was accidentally killed by the caving of a sand bank. Col. Wyatt, of Lincoln, delivered a temperance lecture in West park. S. M. Witt moved to Pontiac to enter upon his duties as sheriff, and was succeeded in the marshalship by E. Collins. John Geis purchased the residence property of T. W. Wright. Rev. Wm. R. Scott, of the Presbyterian church, preached his farewell sermon. Mr. Edward T. Metz married Miss Buranna Losee. Rev. Lee, of the Congregational church, resigned his charge and moved to Joliet. Mr. U. Gault married Miss Alice Hamrick. Orrin Gould died at the age of 73 years, he came to this place in 1855, was a man of industrious and temperate habits, upright in all his dealings, and during his residence here held several offices. S. W. Strong received the appointment of deputy sheriff and changed his residence to Pontiac. Col. J. B. Parsons sold his coal and ice business to J. D. Ketcham. Theodore Clark died of consumption. J. H. Lloyd sold his farm and moved to Missouri, where he engaged in a general mercantile business. Pollard & Buck dissolved partnership and the latter continued the hardware business. Eleven deaths resulted from the scarlet fever scourge; Miss Nellie Gallup, a beautiful and popular young lady, and Miss Laura Thompson, a graduate of our high school, and four of the family of T. J. Johnson were of the number. Mertie Clarkson, Sophia Hanson, Capt. John Stafford, Mrs. Francis Carey and



Mrs. Mart Hazleton were removed by death. The Methodists held a memorial service in memory of the scholars of the M. E. church Sunday school who had died as a result of the epidemic and other causes. The Good Templars disbanded after several years of efficient work in the interest of the temperance cause. Mr. Lawrence Roe married Miss Gordon, and B. H. Groll married Miss Hannah Kleppine. The firm of Gore, Losee & Austin dissolved. The National Fire Escape Co. organized with a capital stock of \$10,000, the object being to introduce Dr. Payne's fire escape. The Presbyterians gave an entertainment, the principal feature of which was the broom brigade. Dr. L. F. Abbott located in Dwight. Levi Reeder leased the Cornell house and livery stable. Hiram Cornell took charge of a hotel in Braidwood. The marriage of Mr. Alvi Barnum and Miss Nellie Stormer was reported. D. D. Lewis retired from a position as clerk in the store of D. McWilliams after a continuous service of over 23 years. Waters & Hawthorne dissolved partnership. I. H. Baker retired from the furniture business after an experience of a quarter of a century. John Gallup purchased Mr. Huey's interest in the tile factory. A. Dernbach purchased Tierney's residence property on Franklin street. J. A. Spencer introduced his new hay press. Mr. and Mrs. D. McWilliams visited the Hot Springs, Ark.

1883-84.

The temperance party felt so confident of a victory at the spring election for this year, that many public meetings for the purpose of agitating the question were thought not to be necessary. It was assured that a large majority of our citizens were so well satisfied with the manner in which the

affairs of the village had been administered, that no change would be desired. The license party, on the other hand, adopted the plan, from which it never entirely deviated, save in one instance, which was to make a quiet and thorough canvass, yet at the same time to appear to have no particular interest in the results. They sought to keep the temperance people quiet by appearing indifferent themselves. The results of the year previous, as set forth in a former chapter, had convinced them that in a bold and candid discussion they had no shadow of success. The sly and deceptive scheme came very near giving them the victory. For once, at least, the friends of temperance were caught napping, and not till the opening of the polls on the day of the election did they begin to realize to what an extent they had been deceived by the seeming unconcern and inactivity of the enemy. One of the prohibition candidates was defeated and the other two, J. J. Gore and Hugh Thompson, were elected by bare majorities of one and two votes. The license party achieved a partial triumph in the election of C. D. Chalfant as village trustee. Harry Diffenbaugh, who ran on the temperance ticket for clerk, was elected. The board, as organized, stood as follows: R. P. Morgan, President; C. J. Judd, I. H. Baker, J. J. Gore, Hugh Thompson, C. D. Chalfant, Trustees.

Elwell Collins was employed as Marshal; A. McKay received the appointment as treasurer and L. G. Pearre was engaged as village attorney.

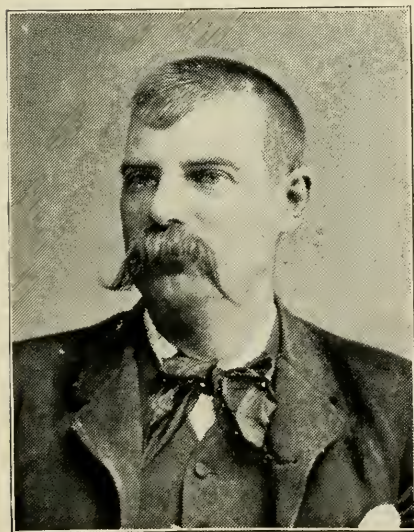
The year's administration was a success. Good order prevailed and no litigation was found necessary. The big elevator was declared a nuisance and its removal was demanded. The expenditures for the year were \$1,705.13, the smallest amount of any other year.



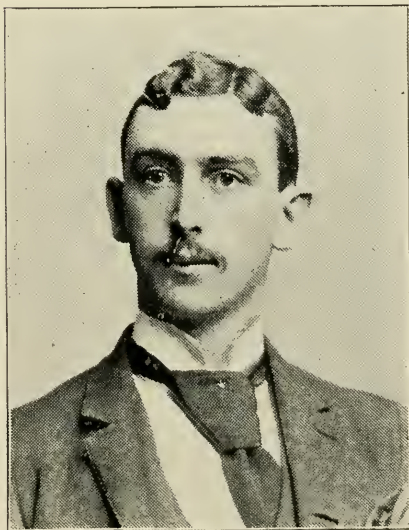
Ed. Mezger.



Dwight C. Morgan.



Ed. Losee.



Orville Brown.



The treasurer reported cash on hand to the amount of \$2,035.64. Bert Adams became cashier in People's Bank. L. J. Trunnell took charge of the McPherson House. Henry Eldredge sold out his business. Rev. P. Leenhouse became pastor of the Presbyterian church. The Star closed its fifteenth year, only omitting six issues for this long period. Mr. Wm. Spencer married Miss Della Morrison. John P. Weagley came to his death, aged 73 years, having been a member of the M. E. church over 60 years. Mrs. McGovern passed away. A. B. Dunlap organized the McDowell Cemetery Association. L. G. Pearre was appointed Master in Chancery. Jas. Egbert Clarkson was removed by death. Mr. Freeman Spencer married Miss Carrie Parker. Henry Eldredge, after having resided in Dwight twenty years, left the place for a permanent home elsewhere; he was a valuable citizen, had been school director several times, a member of the village Board, town treasurer, and was an active and useful member of the Congregational church and carried away with him the best wishes of the many who had known him. Mrs. Frank Chester bade her friends adieu and sought a home at St. Marys, Kansas. Wm. Chamberlain occupied a house of Mrs. Wm. Ketcham. Prof. Hubbard having closed his fifth year as principal of our schools, departed to take charge of the Washington schools. Carl Miller left for a trip to Europe, in search of health. Prof. H. D. Fisk was engaged to teach our youth. The Presbyterians gave a Gypsy Operetta. Thos. Liddicott sold his residence property to G. L. Kern. Henry A. Elkins, the famous artist, made this place his home for several weeks, giving a select few the benefit of his marvelous skill in painting. J. Knudsen purchased the

Hubbard-Thompson property. A McKay sold his harness business to Leach & Reeb. The M. E. church celebrated the Fourth of July on an extensive scale; Rev. C. O. McCulloch delivered the address, Harry Diffenbaugh read the Declaration of Independence and the ladies conducted a fair and festival during the day and evening, the gross receipts amounted to \$265. Mrs. Goedart's house was burglarized of \$25. Mr. T. C. Chandler married Miss Lettie Lewis. D. D. Lewis was summoned from earth; he was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Oct. 25, 1819, came to this place as early as 1857. "In him the community lost a good man, a sincere friend and a valuable citizen." Thos. Liddicott moved to Beatrice, Neb. Aggie McIlduff visited Denver. Carrie Smith went to Pueblo. A. B. Dunlap was suddenly taken from earth; he was born in Steubenville, Ohio, Sept. 25, 1832, came to this locality in 1852 and was much respected for his sterling good qualities. Capt. Wm. Bartholic celebrated his 27th wedding anniversary and was presented with a gold-headed cane by the members of the Round Table. Henry Morgan visited the east. Hugh Thompson and family departed for Raymond, Dakota. John Smith delivered a lecture which was much praised as a literary and oratorical effort. The school directors and their wives, and all the teachers visited the Joliet prison. The Congregational Sunday school held a picnic, clam bake and fish chowder in Leander Morgan's grove. Cora Walker and Edith Kneeland attended school at Normal and Wm. Gore and John Smith at Abingdon. The remains of Cory Houston were brought here for burial. A banquet was given at the McPherson in honor of H. T. Newell on the eve of his departure, with his family, for a resi-



dence in Los Angeles, Cal., he had been a resident of the place twenty-five years. Dr. Rabe purchased the residence property of H. T. Newell. Wm. Walker's planing mills were enlarged for the manufacture of Spencer's hay presses. Rev. Jameson occupied the house of Mrs. S. Morrison. John McWilliams accompanied the family of H. T. Newell to California. Rev. E. S. Wilson became pastor of the M. E. church, Rev. P. A. Cool moving to Galva, Ill. Chas. Fallis, after studying medicine at home for two years, attended lectures at the Physicians and Surgeons College, Chicago. Major Judd and family took up their abode with Mrs. Gardner at the Gray mansion. Daniel Smith came to an accidental death at Streator; he was 58 years old and came to Dwight in 1857, and the records show that he had been a member of the village board; he was a peacable, kind man and much respected. John A. Fikes sold his farm and moved to Kansas. J. W. Watkins and Bert Adams purchased the banking business of J. C. Hietzel. Mr. Samuel Wilkinson married Miss Maggie Baker. L. G. Pearre was killed by a collision of railroad trains; his death produced great sorrow, having been a popular member of the county bar for several years. The village records contain the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, Our Heavenly Father has taken from us our fellow-citizen and friend, Lemuel G. Pearre.

His life, as a husband, father, citizen and friend was characterized by those sympathies and acts which are only found in a good husband, a good father, a good citizen and a good friend. He had, at a comparatively early period of

his life, attained to high position as a lawyer and public officer, and also in public estimation, for his professional and official merit and personal worth: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dwight this expression of our regard for him be placed upon the Village records, and published in the Dwight Star, and a copy furnished the bereaved wife and family.

Rev. Leenhouse, of the Presbyterian church, resigned his charge. The M. E. church became lighted with a new set of chandeliers. J. W. Watkins purchased the Judd cottage, on Morgan avenue and J. R. Oughton the Little property. Alvin Small died, aged 79 years. Charles L. Romberger, an attorney, located in Dwight. The Congregational church held a series of protracted meetings. Mr. Samuel Boyer married Miss Jennie Lower. Dr. M. Palm became a citizen of this place. Mr. Will E. Pringle and Miss Allie Rattenbury were joined in marriage, also, Mr. W. M. Mullen and Miss Maggie Dunlop, also, Dr. Langhaus and Miss Ollie Pearre. Samuel Lower, after several years of residence in Cabery, returned to this place. Joe Salzer severed his connection with the firm of Miller Bros. The remains of Albert Calkins were brought from Bloomington to this place for burial. He was an exemplary young man and his death was the cause of much sorrow to his acquaintances. The remains, also, of William Kelagher, an old resident who died in Texas, were brought to this, his old home, for interment. D. McWilliams was nominated as Presidential Elector by the State Republican Convention. W. S. Metz, Esq., of Odell, delivered a fine temperance lecture in the M. E. church.

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE PAST TEN YEARS.

1884:85.

As the term of three corporation trustees expired, and as two selected for the long term at the beginning of the year previous had moved to other localities, it devolved upon the citizens to elect five new trustees. C. J. Judd, C. M. Baker, Edward McWilliams, J. B. Parsons and O. W. Pollard, all prohibition candidates, were elected by a handsome average majority of twenty-seven votes. C. L. Palmer was elected clerk. The board organized by making O. W. Pollard president. John G. Fox was employed as village marshal. A. McKay received the appointment as treasurer. Some suits were instituted during the year against parties for selling intoxicating liquors, though such attempted violations were few in number. Under the supervision of J. B. Parsons, chairman of the committee on streets and alleys, a number of valuable improvements were made. The old fences about the two parks were taken down and new ones erected instead. The trees in the West Park were trimmed. A fine lot of substantial hitching-posts, with railings attached, were put up at convenient places. The town house was painted within and without, several streets were graded, and many new ditches made; \$1,971.37 were expended on streets and alleys.

The total expenditures for the year were \$2,904.72. To Geo. A. Seymour a permit was granted to sell intoxicating liquors for medicinal and mechanical purposes. The usual routine business was transacted, outside of which nothing of any importance was done which has not been already mentioned.

T. C. Cook ended his earthly pilgrimage. He came from New York State, had been a resident of Dwight for several years, and was a man of industrious and economical habits. John Grosh also died. He was an old resident, having lived in this part of the county thirty years, and in the village twenty years. He was a German by birth, and possessed the frugal habits characteristic of his race. E. L. Wilson accepted a position with Miller Bros. Judd Williams erected a large livery barn south of Water's brick shop. J. C. Lewis' birthday anniversary was celebrated by a surprise party gotten up by his wife and daughter Bertie. Rev. Jameson severed his relation as pastor of the Congregational church and departed for Huron, Dakota. Prof. H. D. Fisk was engaged for the second year as principal of the schools. Dr. Babbage married Miss Amelia Simmons. Sarah Clarkson opened a select school in the basement of the M. E. church. The commencement exercises of the

high school were pronounced excellent, equaling, if not surpassing, former ones. The graduates were four in number. Jennie Rattenbury delivered the salutary and an essay on "Beauty of Mind Endures Forever." Annie Fox chose for her subject, "He Helps the World who Helps Himself." Effie Baker selected as a theme, "The Mould of every Man's Fortune Lies in his own Hands." Jennie Payne discoursed upon, "What Shall the Harvest be?" Prof. Hubbard delivered an address on "Our Public Schools," and Prof. H. D. Fisk, as principal, addressed the graduates and presented the diplomas. Dr. M. Houston located permanently in the place. Mr. D. D. Schott married Miss Addie V Potter. Chas. Koehnlein died while temporarily residing in Dakota, and his remains were brought here for burial. Mrs. Silas G. Adams was suddenly called from earth. She had many friends, and her death caused much sorrow. The remains of the wife of J. B. Travis were brought here for interment. She had lived in the place at an early day and was favorably known by the first settlers of this locality. John Vickery was injured by a runaway team. Mrs. M. I. Tracy Cutler delivered a lecture in the M. E. church to a large audience on "Women Under the Christian Dispensation." The Fourth of July was celebrated on a grand scale. There was a liberty car containing thirty-six young ladies, and several handsomely decorated wagons representing the different business houses. A spacious stand was erected on the grounds of East school-house. Music was furnished by the Dwight Cornet Band and Glee Club.

D. McWilliams acted as president of the day. Prof. H. D. Fisk read the declaration of Independence, and Rev. E. S. Wilson delivered the oration. The la-

dies of the Congregational church ran a dinner and refreshment room, realizing as net proceeds \$100. The Odd Fellows arranged for an excursion over the 3-1 railroad to Kankakee. Mr. Wm. Goldencrown married Miss Maggie Banks. Henry Hollmeyer purchased the Spencer residence. John P. McWilliams returned from California after a year's absence. Mrs. Dr. McLean was adjudged insane, and was taken to the Kankakee asylum. A company was organized to manufacture and sell Huey's patent pyrometer, an instrument for registering the heat in either tile or brick kiln. The Morgan Joint Co. organized for putting on the market Col. Morgan's patented rail coupling. Rev. Barnes was called to the Congregational church. Julia Gould visited friends on the Pacific Slope. Dr. Palm returned from a visit east, bringing with him a new wife, and decided to make the place a permanent home. Mrs. Maggie J. Wilkinson, the daughter of Isaac H. and Isabella Baker, died after an illness of several months duration. Mrs. E. D. Green, after attaining a good old age, passed into the beyond. Mr. W. T. Prime married Miss Alice Paul. Chas. L. Romberger entered the marriage state and occupied a cottage on Seminole street west of Prairie avenue. Mr. John H. Biles joins in marriage Miss Belle Cameron. Mrs. Della Spencer died in Chicago, and her remains were brought here for burial. Mr. Wm. C. Bartholic was married to Miss Angeline E. Robinson. From the Star office the first number of the Congregational review was issued, under the management of Revs. Longley and Smith. Rev. Barnes preached the Thanksgiving sermon, all the churches joining in the service. E. D. Green terminated his long life. Frank Bar-

num, while out hunting, received an ugly wound in his shoulder and breast by an accidental discharge of a gun. D. McWilliams, as a delegate, attends the Baltimore Centennial of the M. E. church. The Methodists provide a Christmas entertainment for the Sunday school children. The Odd Fellows gave an entertainment, part of which consisted of an address by J. H. Funk. The Dwight Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle was formed, and O. W. Pollard was chosen president and John P. McWilliams secretary. The death of Hannah Chester at Pueblo, Col., was announced. Mr. Nelson Mickelson was married to Miss Maggie Smith. Chas. Fenn returns from Poughkeepsie, after several months attendance at a commercial college. The marriage of Mr. Silas G. Adams and Miss Susan Goedert was reported. The School News, an educational journal, edited by Professors Fisk and Tombaugh, was issued from the office of the Star. Mr. Joseph Salzer and Miss Lizzie Christian were joined in wedlock, and a similar event happened to Mr. Edward Darman and Miss Dunlap; also to Mr. R. F. Doherty and Miss Bertie Lewis, and to Mr. D. P. Mills and Miss Sarah C. Boyer, and to Mr. John A. Perry and Miss Annie R. Cameron.

The winter was pronounced the coldest known in this latitude. The roads leading into town and the railroads were blockaded with drifts of snow to such an unusual depth as to make traveling impossible for several days in succession. The destruction of the orchards, as a consequence, was very great. Edward Bunting and Miss Ann Essington took upon themselves the marriage vow. Mrs. Judd Williams died of heart disease. Wm. E. Fenn purchased the S. Eldridge property. I. C. Magee and Richard Shapland, with

their families, sought new homes in the West. The friends and members of the Congregational society visited Braidwood as the guests of Mrs. Hiram Cornell. The Methodists conducted a protracted meeting of several weeks' duration. C. J. Judd rented the old Strong residence. The roof of the old stone tank was burned on Sunday. H. A. Kenyon completed his sixteenth year as postmaster. Rev. Barnes delivered a temperance lecture at a union service held in the M. E. church. The ladies of the Congregational society tendered Mrs. Jordan, on the eve of her departure for Bloomington, a complimentary banquet at the residence of R. C. Adams, and presented her with an elegant easy chair as a token of the high esteem in which she was held. The marriage of Len Hahn and Miss Sophia Seagert took place at the German Lutheran church. David McWilliams and wife visited in New Orleans. Eugene Flagler and John Potter, Jr., purchased the hardware store of John Potter. Dr. H. G. Thole, after a long illness came to his death. He had for a number of years been a practicing physician of the homœopathic school, and made a success of his profession. The young people, prior to the spring election, held a temperance meeting, the several churches joining. C. R. Tombaugh, John Smith and Wm. H. Ketchem orated, and Misses Kelly and Conant read appropriate selections. Several young ladies organized an anti-slang society.

The successful candidates in the election of village trustees for the year 1885-6 were O. W. Pollard, A. Brubaker and R. P. Morgan, Jr. C. L. Palmer was elected clerk, and Spencer Eldredge was elected police magistrate. O. W. Pollard, president; Edward McWilliams, Chas. Baker, R. P. Morgan, Jr., C. J. Judd, A. Brubaker and C. L. Pal-



mer, clerk, constituted the board for the year named. John G. Fox served as marshal, and Alex. McKay performed the duties of treasurer.

The board granted Miller Bros. permission to erect wooden buildings in fire limits. A very strict amendment to Chapter 50, regulating the selling of liquor by druggists, was passed. The fire ordinance was amended so that wooden buildings could be erected on lots from 1 to 12 in block 15, provided they were covered by corrugated iron. Resolutions instructing street and alley committee to keep the well back of the McWilliams block in good condition. The appropriation for this year was \$3,000. It was during 1885 that one Julius T. Edwin came to town, rented the Gould store, now owned by Phillip Weicker, and opened a peddlers outfit of jewelry, silverware, etc., etc. Edwin procured a license from the village clerk. After this, however, the merchants of the village came to the conclusion that their rights were being trespassed upon, and they made a complaint to the village board, who then closed Edwin up. This seems to have aroused Edwin's ire and he sued O. W. Pollard, Richard P. Morgan, Jr., Curtis J. Judd, Ed. McWilliams, Chas. L. Palmer and John G. Fox, all village officers, for \$10,000 damages. The case was tried in the circuit court in August and the officers were beaten, but not badly. Edwin got one cent damages, and costs were put upon the defendants. The defendants, however, were virtually acting for the village, and the village paid the costs, which amounted to about \$500. The occurrence caused considerable excitement at the time, and was the source of much amusement and chaffing at the expense of the men sued. They only did what they thought was for the best interests of

the home merchants—they were protectionists.

There was \$2,053.49 cents in the treasury at the close of the year. The principal local events we are forced to omit, being unable to find any record, the files of all newspapers published in Dwight, having been destroyed by the fire of October, 1891.

Miss Minnie Cook, of Wilmington, Ill., was united in marriage to Dr. C. H. Barr, March 11, 1884, at the brides home.

One happy marriage left out in the regular place occurred in 1879, that of Miss Dora Carr to Wm. Losee.

1886-7.

At the spring municipal election, the no-license candidates were elected by an average majority of about thirty. E. T. Miller, John Leach and Frank Ford were elected trustees, Geo. Baker, clerk; John Thompson, police magistrate. The newly elected officers were qualified by Notary Public J. C. Hetzel. The new board was composed of President. O. W. Pollard; Trustees, Morgan, Brubaker, Ed. McWilliams, Miller, Leach and Ford. A. McKay was elected treasurer again. Elwell Collins was elected marshal for the year. The last circus of any note visited Dwight in August of this year. At a meeting of the village board held August 18, extra police were appointed, on account of the large amount of fruit and melons, etc., being stolen from our citizens. \$2,000 was appropriated for the expense of the village this year. A. McKay resigned Nov. 9, 1886, he having been elected county treasurer, and W. H. Ketcham was appointed in his stead. The Edwin case, spoken of in the last chapter was supplemented by a case for damages instituted by Mrs Edwin, the man's wife, for damages. This was

settled by paying her attorney's fees and the costs of the case. In April L. A. Naffziger was appointed treasurer, W. H. Ketcham having moved to Kansas. There was \$2,209 left in the treasury this year. This was a remarkably quiet year. We are at a loss for the local events for the same reason as last year.

Mr. Isaac Wheatley died on Oct. 6, 1886. He was an excellent citizen, and served faithfully in the 105th Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the war.

1887-8-9-90.

At the spring election two no-license aldermen were elected by only two majority—a very close call, and one of the candidates, A. Brubaker, was defeated by Geo. N. Flagler by five majority. The candidates were: No-license—A. Brubaker, J. A. Spencer, C. M. Baker. License—John Geis, John Dennehe, Geo. N. Flagler. John Smith was the no-license candidate for clerk and defeated Jas. Kelagher by 10 majority. The board was composed of C. M. Baker, president; trustees, Leach, Ford, E. T. Miller, Spencer, Flagler. This election was the closest for a number of years, and only spurred the no-license people on to renewed action. J. B. Parsons was elected village treasurer this year, and immediately qualified and presented his bond. James B. Austin was elected marshal for the year. The C. & A. road was granted permission to erect their present water tank. John H. Smith resigned as clerk to take effect July 1, he moving to Kansas. J. W. Baker was elected by the Board to serve out the unexpired term of Mr. Smith. This year the 4th of July was celebrated in a gorgeous manner. There was quite a number of cases of scarlet fever in town in August and the board ordered the names of the afflicted to be published

in the DWIGHT STAR as a precautionary measure. The amount appropriated this year was \$2,500. A fire company of twenty members was organized this year. Isaac Perry was elected first assistant chief and Phillip Eyer second assistant. During the year the present hose carts and hook and ladder truck were purchased, and one double crank hand engine, 300 feet of hose, rotary steam pump, and everything complete for a very good fire outfit. The total cost was \$1,945.

The handsome Hagerty block was built in 1889, which was certainly a very valuable improvement to Dwight. The first stone sidewalk in Dwight was laid by the Hagerty brothers at this time.

During this year, our quiet village was thrown into a frenzy by a murder. Otto Boigk shot A. Strufe in the latter's home in Dwight. Boigk was a son-in-law of Strufe's, and he and the father-in-law did not get on the best, on account of family troubles. Mrs. Boigk went home to live and Boigk went to see her but was refused admittance. He went away and purchased a revolver at one of the hardware stores and went to the house again. It was at this time, during a quarrel, that Boigk's anger overcame him, and he shot Strufe in the stomach. From the wound received Strufe died the next day. Boigk attempted to escape, but was caught by John Lightholder near Odell and brought back. Lightholder got a reward of \$25. Boigk was given a preliminary hearing before Squire Thompson and bound over to the grand jury and taken to the county jail in Pontiac. The trial was reached later, and Boigk was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to two years in Joliet penitentiary. Some thought the sentence light while others thought otherwise.

The vote in the spring election of

1888 resulted in the election of C. J. Judd, no-license, for president of the board, by a majority of four votes, over Eugene Flagler—126 to 122. D. B. Stevens and Jessie Dieffenbaugh, no license, defeated John Dennehe and John Geis, and as between W. H. Taylor, no-license, and Chas. Crandall, the result was a tie—125 each. The latter was decided by drawing lots—Crandall winning. For clerk L. A. Naffziger defeated J. C. Buchanan by eleven majority. The new board now stood four no-license and two for license, with a no-license president. This was the closest call in a number of years before or since. This was the first election under the changed state law, and the president of the board was elected direct by the people instead of by the trustees, and the board was increased to seven thereby, and C. J. Judd was the first president of the village. Jas. B. Austin was again elected marshal, police and night watchman, and he was required to clean crossings and light the lamps—all for \$40 a month. J. B. Parsons was again elected treasurer. This year one of the excitable events was the row the marshal had with John Murphy. Murphy sued Austin and a bill for costs of \$220.85 was not allowed. \$2,600 was the amount appropriated for the year. During this year the license was given free in many cases where the entertainments were given under the auspices of home societies. It was during this year that the present license ordinances—Chapters 63 and 64—were passed. There were \$2,539.10 left in the village treasury at the end of the fiscal year.

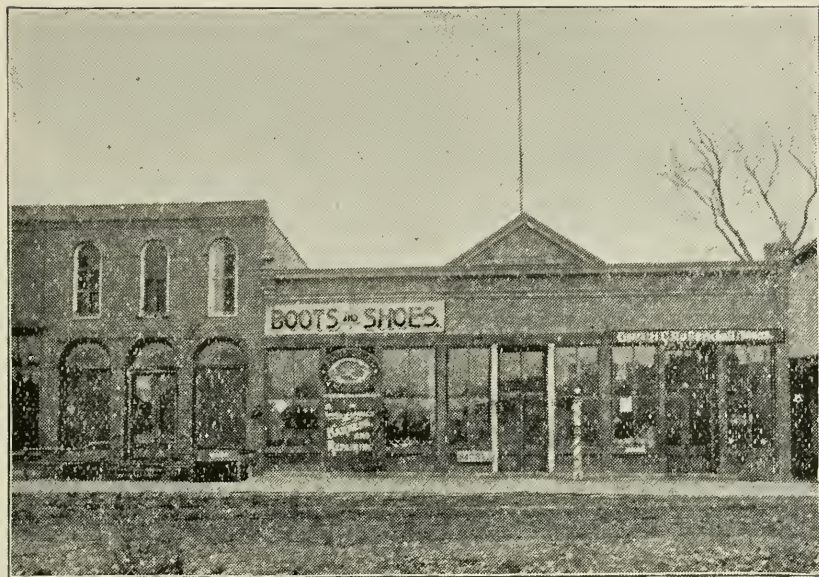
At the spring municipal election in 1889 the vote cast was larger and showed the population of Dwight was increasing rapidly. The total vote cast was 272. C. J. Judd, no-license, and

Eugene Flagler, license, were the candidates for president again, the former receiving 141 votes and the latter 128. For trustees Jens Knudsen, F. A. Lakin and L. H. Martin—no-license—opposed Jared Williams, John Geis, and Wm. Walker—license. The former were elected by from ten to twelve majority. It was a hard fought battle. The no-license candidate for clerk, L. A. Naffziger, was defeated by L. D. Plummer, the vote standing 133 to 136. The new board was as follows: President, C. J. Judd; trustees, D. B. Stevens, Jessie Dieffenbaugh, Charles Crandall, Jens Knudsen, F. A. Lakin, L. H. Martin; clerk, L. D. Plummer. This was really the last hard fought election for license. The business of the village went along about as usual.

It was during this year that L. D. Plummer, who had been forman with the North Star, started the Dwight Herald, which flourished for a while. C. A. Stuck had purchased the Dwight Star the year before and had changed the name to North Star, which was not relished by many of our citizens, and Plummer was requested to change the name of his paper and he did, from Dwight Herald to Dwight Star and Herald, at the same time assuming the original volume and number, it being claimed that Stuck had no right to it after having dropped the original name Chas. Palmer, the original owner and founder of the Dwight Star, was of the same opinion and wrote a long letter requesting Plummer to make the change and thereby perpetuate the original name. As before stated this was done, and thus the present name. We make this statement so that many who have wondered at the combination of names may understand the circumstances.

L. A. Naffziger was appointed village





Hagerty Block, East Side.



Dwight Passenger Depot.  
(Keeley Hall in the distance.)





treasurer, and James B. Austin was again elected marshal, etc. During this year the business of the Leslie E. Keeley Co. forged ahead wonderfully, and people generally, after viewing the results, began to have confidence in the great discovery of our townsman, which was destined to revolutionize the world on the question of inebriety being a curable disease. The company built a fine fire-proof vault and made other improvements during the year. Only \$1,800 were appropriated for the maintenance of the village this year, there being a large balance in the treasury. H. L. Hagerty laid a stone sidewalk in front of the handsome Hagerty block, which was built the year prior. Mrs. H. Cornell built an addition to her hotel property on West street. The question of electric lights was first brought up this year. There were \$2,184.55 remaining in the treasury at the end of fiscal year in 1890.

As the time came around for the village election in 1890, a daily paper was issued under the management of W. G. Dustin, who had previously edited the Dwight Star and Herald with L. D. Plummer. The paper was called The Messenger and was conducted on a more conservative plan than municipal election papers had been in former years. The management proved to the voters that it was for their financial as well as moral interests not to have saloons in our midst. There was no personal abuse and the paper received a warm support from the business men. The result was that there was a small landslide, every no-license candidate being elected by about sixty majority. C. J. Judd's careful management of municipal affairs made him the logical candidate for president. John Geis was nominated in opposition. The former was elected by fifty-one majority. Jesse Diffen-

baugh, J. B. Bell and Samuel Lower were the no-license candidates for trustees, against Ed. Dittus, Daniel Morris and H. E. Seigert. The former were elected by 56, 59 and 55 majorities, respectively. Andrew T. Doherty was elected clerk over Geo. L. Kern by 73 majority. This was the last village election where the lines were tightly drawn on the license or no-license question, many of the best men in the license party acknowledging that Dwight was much better off without saloons, and at the present time many of our influential citizens who were formerly license men, are now staid workers on the other side, and never want to see Dwight cursed with saloons. As soon as this fact was apparent the no-license men joined hands with them and a number have served the city faithfully and well as trustees. John Thompson was again elected police magistrate. His majority was 73. This board went to work with a will. The village was fast becoming a city and must assume city ways. Improvements were needed. The old fashioned oil street lamps didn't give near as good lights as they used to, and something had to be done. The new board was: president, C. J. Judd; trustees, J. B. Bell, Jesse Diffenbaugh, Jens Knudsen, F. A. Lakin, Samuel Lower and L. H. Martin. L. A. Naffziger was again appointed treasurer, and Jas. B. Austin marshal. Decoration day was duly celebrated, probably more generally than heretofore on account of a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic being organized; also a Sons of Veterans Camp and Woman's Relief Corps. The village board attended in a body. Rev. Eignus delivered a splendid oration, after which the procession marched to the different cemeteries and decorated the graves of the fallen heroes. The matter of sewers for Dwight

first came up at a meeting of the village board. July 22, 1890. A petition by C. L. Römberger and others, asking an appropriation of \$500 to defray the expense of surveys, etc., was read. It was also about this time that the question of electric lights and water works began to be agitated, and action regarding the sewer matter was deferred. August 21, 1890, a public meeting was held, which unanimously decided, "That it is the public sentiment of this meeting that an electric light system be adopted for the village of Dwight." At a meeting of the village board August 26, a resolution was passed authorizing the judiciary committee to make a contract for electric street lighting for five years, the cost not to exceed \$720 a year. The resolution was passed. This year \$2,900 was appropriated for the city's needs. September 12 propositions were received by the village board from electric light companies. The Thompson-Houston company got the contract, and an ordinance was passed Sept. 23, giving a franchise for five years. The STAR AND HERALD office was moved to the Zimmerman building on Mazon avenue and the building from which the Leslie E. Keeley Co., and moved to Seminole street where it now stands. Dec. 9 The Leslie E. Keeley Co. made

application to the board for a permit to build a brick hotel on West street (the present Livingston). The permit was granted and work commenced almost immediately, and hurried to a finish. This might have been said to have been the commencement of Dwight's first and last "boom." A strong petition was presented to the board to do away with requiring home entertainments to pay license, but it came to naught. The franchise for electric lighting was assigned to H. E. Seigert, Feb. 10, 1891. The balance on hand at the end of the fiscal year was \$2,445.35. At this time in the "History of Dwight." we arrive at the time when all was excitement and bustle. The remarkable success of the Keeley treatment was known the world over, and our city was filled with strangers. As we have previously written, we were unable to get many of the local events of the past few years on account of all files of local papers being destroyed by fire Oct. 10, 1891. In Nov. 1890 A. R. Zimmerman, a printer who had been employed by C. A. Stuck, got possession of the Dwight STAR AND HERALD office, and we have the files from that time and therefore give the principal local events from that time to Jan. 1, 1895—certainly the most important history of our city.



## CHAPTER VII.

FROM NOV. 1890 TO JAN. 1, 1892. CULLED FROM DWIGHT STAR AND HERALD.

The first issue of the STAR AND HERALD under the management of A. R. Zimmerman was Nov. 15, 1890. In October 1890 Dr. Houston and family moved to Joliet, Dr. Oakshett buying his practice in Dwight. The C. & A. did a business of \$74,000 from their Dwight office. Robt. Mayes loses two fingers while running a circular saw in Joliet. The K. P. annual ball Thanksgiving was a great success. The coal shaft ghost stalked through Dwight. Miss Jones gives an elaborate entertainment under the auspices of the G. A. R. John H. Finch, of Nevada, half brother of Freeman Spencer, died at the age of 22. The Ys gave a very fine entertainment consisting of fan and maypole drill, recitations and music. W. G. Dustin superintended the drill, and after the entertainment the young ladies presented him with a handsome rocker. Orrin Gallup sells his Union farm to Matthew Ross. J. G. Strong sells 210 acres known as the Hurlbut farm. Steven Knudsen buys the Duesler farm in Round Grove. Will Losee buys a three legged chicken. Gene Baker, formerly of Dwight, is elected county treasurer. Frank Stuck, brother of the editor of the North Star, met a horrible death at the 3-1 crossing. He jumped from the Hummer, which

was going about thirty miles an hour, and was drawn under the wheels and instantly killed. Miss Katie Williams and W. H. Luther were married Nov. 25, 1890. Rev. F. W. Merrell preached the Thanksgiving sermon. Henry Turnbaugh and family moved to Iowa. John C. George moved to Pontiac, having been elected county clerk. Katie Ida McCarter dies at the age of 15 years. A lecture course under the auspices of the Y. P. S. C. E. was a feature of the winter's entertainments. Dr. Hansen, of Chicago, opened the course with a very interesting lecture. Rev. Dr. McClish delivers his splendid lecture on "Man" at M. E. church. Henry C. Hollmeyer died, at the age of 65 years and 11 days. Mrs. Lillian Ray Stuck, wife of the editor of the North Star, dies at the age of 26 years. Johnnie George goes to work for his father in the county clerk's office. L. D. Plummer finds employment in Chicago and moves to that city. Sadie Barnhardt dies at the age of 5 years and 7 months. S. T. K. Prime meets with a great reception during his visit east. James Paul, an old and respected citizen, died quite suddenly Dec. 6, 1890, at the age 83. Lillie Kate Harding dies at the age of 7 years. N. N. Mickelson builds a handsome new residence. The Christ-



mas holidays in 1890 were duly celebrated in Dwight, and prosperity and good will seemed to predominate.

The year 1891 is one which will long be remembered by the residents. It was this year that the little prairie city sprang into prominence the world over on account of the great discovery of Dr. Leslie E. Keeley. "Dwight" and "Keeley" became household words and the fame of our honored townsman was great. The year was the time of many of the substantial improvements and remarkable growth in population. Many sensible acts and many foolish ones adorn the history of the year. The results of the boom were good and bad. Many people made money, and some lost. The fault lay with the "boom," and no individual should be charged up with any bad results. It was like all booms. Some people lost their heads and their pocket-books, others, more cool-headed and experienced, took advantage of circumstances and made money. The price of property went away above reason and still there were plenty of buyers and sellers. The last owner got left for the time being. After the boom subsided, as it were, people began to count the cost, but found it not great. While a few individuals lost, Dwight had about 700 more population, and was much improved by the addition of fine brick blocks, an elegant depot, opera house, hotels and many handsome, modern, comfortable dwellings. Public improvements, such as water works, electric lights, etc., were here to stay. So much for 1891 in this line.

Among the many interesting items we note the following. Col. and Mrs. J. B. Parsons celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary. J. C. Lewis' mother dies in New York. Leta Sheldon, of Campus, dies. "National Keeley Club"

organized, and constitution and by-laws adopted. This was probably the first real organization, although the patients had organized locally at W. M. Weese's blacksmith shop some time before. The objects are to more closely ally the patients and help in lifting up fallen humanity. Under the name of "Keeley League" it is now one of the solid temperance organizations of the world, and the membership numbers about 25,000. Thus another national organization sprung into existence from our prairie city. The masonic installation and banquet was a great affair this year. Early in the year the electric light was turned on for the first time in Dwight, and it was highly appreciated after using the old oil street lamps for years. Howard Huey was made agent of the C. A. road here. Mrs. Steven A. Goodman died Jan. 12 of heart disease. A successful revival was held in the M. E. church in January. The first public joint installation of the G. A. R., W. R. C. and S. of V. took place in January and was very successful. The organizations have followed the same course since, and are in splendid condition at the close of this history. The STAR AND HERALD publishes interviews with citizens regarding electric lights and they are considered good. Albert Fisk and Miss Ewing were married Jan. 23. Len Hahn and Gus Keim dissolve partnership in the meat business, and the latter returns to his old home in Ottawa, Ill. J. C. Lewis buys the Hetzel property. W. G. Dustin purchased a half interest in the STAR AND HERALD Feb. 15, 1891, and became editor, which position he has held ever since. Frank Bunting and Gertrude M. Haynes were united in marriage Feb. 13. Thomas Gogley and Lizzie Hanlon were married. D. McWilliams purchased the James C. Spencer farm just in the

edge of Dwight, containing 473 acres, for \$25,000 cash. It is known as the "Prince of Wales farm." F. A. Haise buys the Cleveland property and erects a handsome residence. The order of Eastern Star becomes an important society of Dwight. Mrs. Anna K. Rutan and W. E. Finch were married in Chicago. Miss Maggie Sloan dies Feb. 17. Mrs. De Voir, of Bloomington, and Dr. M. McLane were married. The first annual "write-up" of Dwight appeared in the STAR AND HERALD of Feb. 20. The issue consisted of twelve pages and nearly every business man of Dwight was represented. Five thousand of these papers were sent over the country, and attracted much attention to Dwight. The edition was illustrated. The "Accommodation" only runs to Dwight. Simon Nelson freezes to death while intoxicated. Memorial services to the memory of W. T. Sherman were held in M. E. church in February. Robt. Martin moves to town. B. A. Buck purchases the Kenyon homestead property. Losee & Brown purchased the business of Will Losee. Albert Barr and Chet Gould open a steam laundry next to the STAR AND HERALD office. The Chicago Tribune began to open its columns to any one who has taken the Keeley cure to testify to the facts regarding the the cure. Dr. Milton R. Keeley and Miss Jennie Buckingham were married Tuesday, March 10, at the home of the bride's parents at Decatur, Ill. Annie Lower and Kate Brown form a partnership for dressmaking. Mr. Steven Parmenter dies suddenly. Will Losee buys a half interest in Hans Rosendall's cigar store. Augusta Kern and F. B. Dougherty marry. Daniel Gallup dies at Pomona, Cal. Mrs. Leach, mother of John Leach, dies March 27. Sarah Rielly and Gus Lawson are married. Lida M.

Menaugh and T. E. Gillispie follow suit. Roller skating was a "craze." Mrs. Lizzie Travers, only daughter of Geo. Keppinger, dies. A public meeting was held April 10 to agree or disagree on a union ticket for municipal election, which was productive of much good. W. G. Dustin was chairman. Remarks were made by Col. R. P. Morgan, Major C. J. Judd, Rev. F. W. Merrill, C. A. Stuck, G. S. Baker, J. P. McWilliams, A. R. Zimmerman, Jesse Diefenbaugh, Dr. Rabe, John Geis, J. B. Bell, James Kelagher and others. The meeting resulted in there being only one ticket in the field, as previously stated in this history. The spring township election resulted in the election of E. T. Miller, clerk; James Kelagher, assessor; Mr. Young, collector; Geo. B. Ketcham, road commissioner; B. A. Buck, school trustee. At the municipal election the following officers were elected unanimously: John Thompson, president; W. H. Taylor, D. B. Stevens, and John Leach, trustees; Andrew Doherty, clerk. Dr. Palm was elected president of the school board and John Pettett, John Geis and J. R. Oughton members. Sam Lower demolishes the old blacksmith shop on Mazon avenue and erects the handsome Pennsylvania House. Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Lakin move to Sandwich, Ill. W. H. Cool is made C. & A. agent at Dwight. Thos. Weldon purchases the Deale property on Seminole street. Major C. J. Judd retires from the village board, having served faithfully in every capacity for ten years. The first banquet ever given under the auspices of the Bi-Chloride of Gold Club was in an Alton dining car April 20, 1891. Miss Kunigunda Euzner and Carl Tock were married April 19. Hetzel & Romberger dissolved partnership, and the Hetzels, who were so long residents of Dwight, left for their fu-

ture home in Englewood, Ill. Geo. W. Patton delivers the annual address to the Odd Fellows. Real estate transfers were made right and left at right and left prices. Edward Kemeys Henry is buried in Dwight April 28. Miss Emma T. Patterson dies at the age of 20 years. Hershall Hagerty weighs mail for the government. James Austin retires from the office of marshal and Robt. Orr took his place and occupies the position yet. The handsome "Livingston" was opened in May. DeWitt Miller and Ame Orr open a restaurant. Edward and James McWilliams cross the ocean. David McWilliams breaks ground for his handsome residence. The Leslie E. Keeley Co's offices are moved into the opera house, which they purchased, and J. D. Ketcham purchased the former office, and ground was broke for the present handsome laboratory. Dwight base ball team defeated the Wilmingtons. The Keeley League meets in Keplinger's hall in May. Mrs. J. M. Reeder died and is buried in Highland township. O. B. Stanton buys the lease of The Livingston of L. J. Trunnell. The graduating class motto for '91 was "Purity," and the names of the graduates were as follows: Misses Maggie Kern, Mildred Gould, R. May Morris, Minnie E. Barr, Marcella Ferguson and Mr. Fred de Clercq. Prof. Fisk was principal and Miss Krohn assistant. Rev. P. M. France presented the diplomas. May 28 a business men's meeting was held in the town house and a permanent committee consisting of the following gentlemen as representatives of the people were elected: C. L. Romberger, chairman; J. C. Lewis, S. T. K. Prime, B. A. Buck and David McWilliams. This committee accomplished much good for Dwight, and their successful efforts were highly appreciated.

The next evening a monster meeting was held in Keplinger's Hall presided over by S. T. K. Prime. Among the speakers were Dr. Keeley and Hon. O. W. Pollard. This was the most enthusiastic meeting ever held in Dwight. It's final results were good, but nothing as to what was expected. A permanent Business Men's Association was organized in May. Another important meeting was held about this time, the results of which will stand as monument for all time to come. We refer to the visit of the Chicago & Alton railroad officials and a meeting of prominent citizens with them in their private car. The officials present were T. B. Blackstone, president; C. H. Chappell, general manager; T. M. Bates, superintendent of transportation; K. F. Booth, chief engineer; O. M. Richards, superintendent; John B. Drake, director. The citizens of Dwight present were the citizens committee as previously mentioned and Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, Major C. J. Judd, J. R. Oughton, Hon. O. W. Pollard, Col. R. P. Morgan and W. G. Dustin. The permanent result of this meeting is the handsome new depot. There is none nicer in the state. Decoration Day was duly celebrated. Rev. P. M. France delivered the address. Miss Edith Kneeland and Dr. O. P. Hanson marry. Miss Kate Steichen and N. L. Mamer do the same thing. Friday night, June 12, was the great "Jollification" in west side park. The citizens committee make their report, the thirty one acre park was presented and the band played "Annie Rooney," and everybody was happy. Dwight had been in an uproar some time. Outsiders tried every way to get The Leslie E. Keeley Co. to move away, but the company purchased the Hahn farm, the McPherson house property and other places, and the people made



up their minds the company would stay. John Stern dies suddenly June 8. At a meeting of the village board June 9, a resolution was passed asking Geo. C. Morgan to come to Dwight. He came and presented his views on water works, which would have been adopted and saved the people lots of money, only for the selfish motives of some of those interested in making some money out of the town. The Illinois legislature appropriated \$2,500 to the Keeley Institute for the use of afflicted people who were unable to pay for treatment. Religious services were held Sunday mornings in June by the Keeley League for the first time. This beautiful custom has been continued ever since. Dr. and Mrs. Leslie E. Keeley sailed for Europe June 24. Hon. J. C. Nicolay, of Washington, D. C., visits Dwight. The Keeley League occupy Presbyterian church. Sam Boyer starts a livery. Carl Miller and Ben Weber visits faderland. The sub-district convention Epworth League met here. Hamilton Spencer meets sudden death in Chicago by being struck by a cable car. Mrs. Robert Mays died June 19, after a long illness. Miss Della Butler and Frank Currier, Mrs. Kate Brown and F. L. Evans, John Weicker and Maggie Euzner get married all in one week. Fourth of July was celebrated on a large scale and the city was literally filled with people. Col. Nate A. Reed, Jr., delivered a patriotic address. The merchants display was the finest ever in Dwight. Hunt Cutting opens a cigar store. Miss Lula Harris and Everett Kenyon marry in July. Mr. James Chariton dies suddenly July 14 at the age of 83. O. W. Pollard attends the funeral of his mother in Rhode Island. Bishop Merrill addressed the Keeley League July 12. James Goodman erects a fine residence on Mazon avenue which

was afterwards purchased by Rev. E. F. Wright, who resides there now. Ketcham & Smith, two young Dwight men, become large and enterprising real estate dealers. They moved into their present handsome office in July 1891, and have built up a large business in real estate in all parts of the country. John P. McWilliams lays out Renfrew addition to Dwight into blocks and lots. Elsie Potter and Harry Harrison marry. Will Ketcham builds a handsome residence in Renfrew—his present home. Andrew Baker dies in August. Walter Scott goes into the ice business. W. E. Fenn builds a fine residence on Wau-pansie street. Mrs. Walter Maitland, mother of Dan Shearer, and Samuel Loudon, died in September, the former at the age of 72, and the latter at 92. Rev. France leaves Dwight for Linden, Whiteside county, where he accepted a pastorate. He will do good wherever he goes. Hahn Bros. sell their meat business to Rowe & Horr. Morris' barber shop is burglarized in September. Tuesday morning, Sept. 8, Prof. H. D. Fisk passed away. He was a splendid man. His widow and family reside in Dwight yet. Mrs. Ellen Gould dies in California in September. John H. Smith marries Miss Lucy Aumann in Kansas. A. T. Jones erects a fine residence on Delaware street. Rev. A. M. Conard comes to Dwight M. E. church, and Rev. F. W. Merrill goes to Rock Island. Miss Mary Weller and Frank Lower are married in September. Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Weldon celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding Sept. 13. Rev. Flavius Brobst visits Dwight and speaks to the Keeley League. J. D. Bevans opens a clothing store for McWilliams & Smith. James Harrison, of Goodfarm, dies Sept. 19, at the age of 71. Miss Amelia Portz and Levi Me-Lane wed. Col. A. C. Babcock, of



Chicago, visits Dwight and the Keeley Institute, and was very much pleased with his visit. Harry Lawrence opens a cigar store. The proprietors of the Star and Herald purchase the Gardner Journal. J. R. Oughton pays \$39,000 for the Mills section. Saturday morning, Oct. 10, the last great fire in Dwight took place. The fire caught in the engine hose back of the old Kepplinger block about 9:30 o'clock, and as all the buildings in the row were wooden structures, everything was gone in about two hours. Following were the losers: Star Herald, North Star, Geo. Kepplinger, Thos. Perry, Barr & Dame, Mrs. Koehnlein, M. Rinehart, Mrs A. Strufe, John Crocker, Leslie E. Keeley Co., Ketcham & Smith, Mrs. Gertie Kayler, John Thompson, Jens Jacobsgaard, Sam Lower. It was not long before the present Kepplinger block, Mazon, Deifenbaugh, Mrs. Koehnlein, Strufe house were erected, as at present—a grand improvement on the old tumble down buildings. The Star and Herald moved into Williams' carpenter shop, bought a new outfit and never missed an issue. Albert W. Barr died Oct. 11 at the age of thirty-two. James Funk, the well-known politician, moved to Iowa. Mrs. Alice J. Carthy and Oscar Mulford, Miss Hattie Garrett and Wm. Mikesell are married in October. The Empire Steam Laundry goes into business on Mazon avenue. Martin Seabert erects a fine residence on Mazon avenue, where he resides at present. Major McClaughry visits the Institute. Dan Morris' new home in Renfrew is finished and occupied. Witt & McKay go into the restaurant business. Miller Bros. are robbed two consecutive Saturday nights in November. J. R. Oughton's brother dies in Chicago. The club reaches the 2,000 mark in January. The

Keeley League is incorporated. Robt. Willmot erects a cottage on Delaware St. The Star and Herald office is moved to East Delaware street. Miss Katie Doherty and Geo. E. Goebel are married in Joliet in November 1891. Trustee Jesse Diffenbaugh resigns at a meeting in November. Miss Grace Kneeland and T. W. Davis were married Thanksgiving day. R. H. Mills suffers a painful accident by catching his hand in a cornsheller. John Dunlap goes into the laundry business. Mrs. Dr. Broughton and family arrive in Dwight in December. Thos. Blair & Co. were a new plumbing firm. Grandma Loudon dies in December at the age of 87. Patrick Burke dies from the effect of injuries received in a runaway. Mrs. Cynthia Potter dies age of 75. McConnell & Real purchase Judd Williams livery business. C. A. Stuck moved to Odell in December. Frank Reser moves here from Gardner. The Keeley Co. erects a handsome modern building corner of Washington and Chippewa streets for the accommodation of lady patients. Mrs. Dr. Oakshett dies Dec. 12. Dr. Keeley delivers an address at the Auditorium in Chicago Dec. 18. The last Star and Herald in the year was a large one and assisted greatly in advertising Dwight. Wm. H. Gillispie died Dec. 12 at the age of 58 years. H. H. Cutting sells his cigar store to Sargent & Bassett. A brass band is organized. Little Mary Ethel Adams dies.

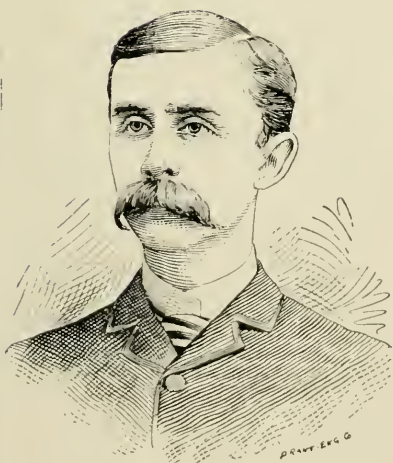
The year we are about to close—1891—will be remembered by the residents of Dwight as long as they live. We have included such news as was at our disposal in as compact a form as possible, and if we have left out anything of importance the reader will have to forgive us and make the best of it, the same as we have tried to do.



Frank A. Haise.



Geo. N. Flagler.



D. B. Stevens.



John Geis.



## CHAPTER VIII.

1892.

The year 1892 was ushered in with as bright prospects as it was ever the fortune of any city to possess. Business was good in all its branches among our merchants, and the business of The Leslie E. Keeley Co. had become very large, and there were over one thousand patients here for treatment. The world had become convinced of the genuineness of the cure. Dr. Keeley had fought the same battle that all advanced scientific men have to fight, but not like some of them, he had lived to realize his dreams and see his great discovery accomplishing the desired results. Dr. and Mrs. Keeley came home from Europe in November, and when they arrived in Dwight a sight met the doctor's eyes that we feel sure he never can forget. Over one thousand men met him at the depot and gave such a welcome as few men ever received. He had worked for years on his great discovery and spent many anxious years in watching its effect. Let us draw a curtain over his feelings at this time. One thing Dr. Keeley did discover very quickly, and that was there was no sewerage and no more prospect of any than when he went away. And it was plain to him that with our population almost doubled, with the same sanitary conditions in existence as before the increase, that serious results would fol-

low. Something had to be done. Promises had been broken. Shortly after this branch institutes were started. Another citizens' committee consisting of R. P. Morgan, Chas. L. Romberger, W. H. Ketcham, C. J. Judd and J. C. Lewis was appointed to co-operate with the village board, and an elaborate report was made which is undoubtedly still on file. Dr. Keeley and a party of friends visit Bloomington. Among the new residences in Renfrew are those of M. C. Starrett, W. H. Howe, Jet Weller. Phillip Miller erects a fine house on Franklin street. Chas. L. Romberger issues a very good map of Dwight. Dr. Ubellar, dentist, locates here. Sewerage and arc electric light ordinances are passed by the village board early in January. Miss Nora Griffith and N. Porterfield were married. W. E. Austin purchases the meat market of Rowe & Horr. The first test of the new water works was made January 12. C. A. Hill & Co. go into the restaurant business. Dr. Keeley lectures in Milwaukee. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller celebrate the eleventh anniversary of their wedding. The "Hummer" commences to stop at Dwight. Mrs. Nelson Cornell dies at Moberly, Mo., Jan. 3, at the age of 68. The Dwight express office is robbed of \$3,000 Jan. 20. Edward Young passes away at the age of 73. A fire depart-



ment is organized with Dr. Milton R. Keeley as chief. Fire districts were established as follows: 1st. All that portion of the city south of Mazon avenue and east of Prairie avenue. 2nd. All that portion west of Prairie and south of Mazon. 3rd. North of Mazon and west of Prairie. 4th. North of Mazon and east of Prairie. The districts are the same now. Miss Emma Clarkson is married at Denver to Eugene Kreigh. Dr. Keeley speaks in Kansas City. Wm. Bartholic builds a handsome residence in Renfrew. Captain Harry Inasley purchased the right of the Keeley remedies for Colorado. Nathan Baker was elected collector to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Young, deceased. Grandma Martin dies in Indiana at the age of 76. Mrs. Ann Standen-Pettitt died Jan. 26 at the age of 76. Miss Eva Brown and Mr. Reed, of Chicago, are united in marriage Jan. 26. Geo. Kern's store is burglarized. Hill & McCabe get the sewer contract. Mr. Henry Pettitt follows his beloved wife to the great beyond at the age of 78. An article in the Star and Herald in February gives complimentary notice of new residences on Waupansie street: Philip Weicker, O. C. Jensen, F. A. Haise, D. B. Stevens, Ed. Harrison, J. S. Fifield, W. E. Fenn, the Typewriters Home and the Roe and Wilson residences. They all added greatly to Dwight's beauty. Keeley Institutes were established in Russia Sweden and Norway. Dr. Keeley speaks in Philadelphia. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Miller lose a ten year old son by death. J. R. Oughton buys the Durston and Hinkey farms—760 acres. The Danish society erect a new parsonage in February, and Rev. Bekker is installed as regular pastor and is here yet. During the week commencing Feb. 15, was held the first national meeting of what is now the Keeley League. The Dwight

Star and Herald, with commendable enterprise, issued a daily paper during the week, which was profusely illustrated and contained the report of the convention and the usual local news. There were present many brilliant men and the convention was a success. Col. Nate A. Reed, Jr., well known in Dwight, establishes the Banner of Gold, a literary paper devoted to the Keeley cure and Keeley League. A co-operation creamery company, was organized. It is still running under the supervision of a competent man, Mr. Lowe. Miss Carrie Kime and James Semark were married in February. Dr. Palm and family move east. They returned, however, and are now permanent residents, Dr. Palm being health officer. S. T. K. Prime was called to Washington, D. C., in February to testify before the senate committee in relation to dealing it futures. Mr. Prime is acknowledged to be one of the best posted men in America and his writings and crop information furnished newspapers has made his name and that of Dwight known for years all over this country. Sam Houston leaves Dwight and never came back. The Keeley League adopts the present club button. The League commences to give entertainments and is ably assisted by home talent. This feature is continued to the present time with great success. Stevens & Losee erect a frame business building corner Prairie avenue and Delaware streets. The Leslie E. Keeley Co. receive favorable propositions to move away. The special assessment feature of the sewerage matter causes considerable dissatisfaction. The Leslie E. Keeley Co. erect a handsome two story brick business block on West street, which is at present occupied by J. C. Lewis, Barr & Davis, Dr. Barr and C. L. Romberger. The Artesian Laundry, near Spencer's

hay press factory, is a new business venture. It is at present owned by Wright & Co. John Heimer and Mary Comisky are married. Dr. Keeley lectures at Joliet. August Michales and Miss Barbara Junsie are married in March. Lewis Pfefferman and Miss Hannah Finnegan, of Round Grove, marry. Palmer & Smith buy out Stevens & Losee's meat business. Rev. H. M. Cole accepts the pastorate of the Congregational church. The Benedicta Literary society gave a fine literary entertainment at high school building. The Star and Herald contains a complimentary notice of the improvements on different streets. The St. Louis Limited was put on the C. & A. road but Dwight was not in it. It never stopped here. The North Star, owned by C. A. Stuck, moved to Odell and since then there has been but one printing office in Dwight—the Star and Herald. The authorities inspect the new passenger station. The enterprising residents of Mazon avenue extend water mains as far west as the school house. H. T. Loper leases the Mazon and starts a very fine restaurant. Frank Haise moves into his handsome new residence in March. A. Brubaker builds a handsome home next to the Haise residence and moves in later. R. D. Gregg, a prosperous farmer of Round Grove, moves to Dwight. Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson dies. Dr. Florence Thompson graduates from the Chicago dental college. She is now having a prosperous practice in Dwight. Mr. McCaulley goes into the jewelry business. A. J. Diefenbach & Co. open their new tonsorial parlors on Mazon avenue. Mrs. Thos. Harford falls and breaks one of her arms. Mrs. Jno. W. Northrop gives a concert in Kimball hall in Chicago for the benefit of the Keeley League. The money made did much good and provided many a man

with necessaries while in Dwight. Miss Johanna Crandall dies. She was a sister of Chas. Crandall. Miss Hattie Jeffries, aged 16, dies. The Dwight amusement club is formed. The township caucuses were held with the following results: Democratic—Supervisor, J. Thompson; town clerk, Fred Liggitt; assessor, James Kelagher; collector, Nathan Baker; commissioners, Jacob Christman, John Gammil; trustees, J. M. Burnham and G. S. Baker. Republican—Supervisor, R. H. Mills; town clerk, E. T. Miller; assessor, Roscoe Gould; collector, Robt. Dunlap; commissioners W. H. Taylor, Thos. Weldon; trustees, G. Brown and G. W. Boyer. Following were the winners after a hot contest: Supervisor, John Thompson; clerk, E. T. Miller; assessor, Kelagher; collector, Dunlap; commissioners, Taylor and Weldon; trustees, Brown and Boyer. Carl Reinmiller and Miss Ella Butler are married at the residence of O. W. Pollard. The question of a new crossing occupied the minds of the people. General Daniel Dustin, father of the editor of the Star and Herald, dies at Carthage, Mo., March 30. Albert Bros. open a meat market. Harrison & Curtis buy out Stevens & Losee's grocery. The Dwight high school celebrate Arbor Day. A lawn tennis club is formed with Prof. C. E. Schlabach president. The first anniversary of the club was celebrated April 1. Rev. DeWitt Talmage visits Dwight in company with Dr. Keeley, and speaks to the patients April 20. Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Haise celebrate the tenth anniversary of their wedding. At the spring municipal election two tickets were placed in the field—a "Citizens" and "Anti-license." Henry Fox headed the former and Chas. L. Romberger the latter. Mr. Romberger was elected by an overwhelming majority and made as

good, if not the best president the board ever had. He was an inveterate worker and his work was well done. The candidates for trustees on the former ticket were J. Kelagher, J. Stewart and E. T. Miller. They were defeated by B. A. Buck, John Geis and G. N. Flagler and F. A. Haise defeated H. McLane for clerk. This was a splendid business board throughout. A Brubaker was elected president of the school board, and N. N. Mickelson and E. T. Miller members. J. Guardenier's jewelry store was robbed in April. The North Star for a short time came to Dwight after removal, but in the latter part of April gave up the ghost. Dr. Barr moves into the new Keeley block, and W. J. Hagerty and Alex. McKay start a fine restaurant in the Hagerty block. J. A. Webster buys out Walter Scott's coal business. The Star and Herald prints the portraits of the mayor and new board of trustees. The arc electric lights are turned on and work like a charm. Mr. Wheeler, republican candidate for governor of Iowa, visits Jas. Brown's fine farm looking for blooded horses. He found them. Mr. Reinhart opens a pop factory. A. Brubaker is elected village treasurer. Little Jennie Mills, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Mills, died May 2. J. W. Epperson disappears. Dr. W. L. Barnes, dentist, locates here. The delegate train from Chicago to the republican state convention stopped at Dwight about thirty minutes and visited the Keeley Institute, and were much pleased with what they saw. Dr. and Mrs. Leslie E. Keeley left Dwight May 13 for a tour in Europe. The fourth anniversary of the Y. W. C. T. U. was celebrated at the home of the Misses Fifield. A brilliant reception was given at the new club hall and the Hahn residence—the new home of the Dwight Keeley League. Dr. R. Brough-

ton is presented with a handsome charm. Dr. Keeley lectures in Brooklyn just before sailing for Europe. Mr. Addison Wood died May 14. Jacob L. Peterson and Miss Annie K. Peterson wed in May. Chris. Skafgaard was married in Chicago in May. Bailey Gower and D. B. Walker announce themselves as candidates for the nomination for legislature in the Star and Herald. The contract for the present handsome opera was let in May. Austin Gibbons becomes a candidate for the office of member of the state board of equalization. The Leslie E. Keeley Co. lent the new village board \$4,000 to help them pay running expenses, and charged no interest. Frank L. Smith announces himself a candidate for the nomination as circuit clerk. He made a short, hustling canvass, and was only defeated by a small majority in the convention. Dr. W. H. Weld and Miss Millie Winkler are married in June. N. Nomenson opens a grocery store in Frank Ford's building. A good male quartet take the name of "Dwight Star and Herald Quartet." S. T. K. Prime is banquetted at the Mazon. J. C. Lewis moves his jewelry store to Keeley block.

The 12th annual commencement exercises of Dwight high school are held in M. E. church June 2. The graduates were Misses Bessie Baker, M. Elta Calder, Fannie Connor and Clay D. Parker and Chas. A. Simmons. Prof. Schlabach presented the diplomas. The motto was "Rowing, not Drifting." The class day exercises were also very interesting. Geo. Reed buys the Empire Laundry from Dame & Dunlap. Decoration Day was duly celebrated in Dwight and there was a large turn out. Rev. Conard delivered the address. Mrs. Mary H. Hunt, the great temperance advocate and W. C. T. U. lady visits Dwight and speaks to the League. W-



G. Dustin, Frank Smith and A. R. Zimmerman attend the national republican convention at Minneapolis in June. An ordinance was published in the Star and Herald in June creating and defining the office of street commissioner. Dwight C. Morgan and Miss Minnie B. Dart are married in California June 20. Col. R. P. Morgan and family were present. Mrs. J. C. Lewis died June 25 after a long illness. Engineer Bellows is killed by an accident on the branch and Fireman James Reeder was badly injured. The latter recovered and is now residing in Lacon. The Star and Herald issues a red, white and blue Fourth of July edition.

The Fourth of July was celebrated with great pomp in 1892. Hon. John I. Blair was the orator, and the eagle was turned loose in good old style. Col. R. P. Morgan is engaged by the railroad commissioners of California for an important mission. Howard W. Kelly and Miss Josephine M. Kennedy are married at the residence of Joseph Burnham in July. James Prickett and Miss Gertrude Jeffries marry in July. Mrs. Chas. M. Baker returns after a severe sickness in Milwaukee and Chicago. The summer of 1892 was excessively warm, the thermometer often reaching 100 in the shade. The Knights of Pythias picnic at Wilmington in July. Rev. R. Wilhelmsen, a progressive Danish minister, organized a Danish M. E. society in Dwight, and purchased the old Presbyterian church. The society is in a flourishing condition and Rev. Wilhelmsen is still the beloved pastor. Hon. H. K. Wheeler, of Kankakee, republican candidate for congress, visits Dwight. A. W. Kern and Peter Kern purchase the grocery business of Geo. L. Kern. The latter purchases the restaurant business of Milt Witt. Chas. L. Romberger, the enter-

prising real estate dealer, moves into his present handsome office in Keeley block. Miss Calahan and Mr. McCarty marry in July. The Renfrew Lodge stock farm, owned by John P. McWilliams, becomes an important business feature of Dwight. A Cincinnati female base ball club play with the Dwights and beat them. Frank Losee hangs himself in J. D. Ketcham's barn while temporarily insane. The Dwight Investment Company was formed in August by about a dozen of Dwight's enterprising citizens. They purchased the building owned by the Empire Steam Laundry company and transform it into a fine hall, which is still being used for dancing parties, etc. Mr. and Mrs. John R. Oughton sail for Europe August 19 and spent several months abroad. John Pettitt goes to Denver with the St. Bernard drill corps and enjoyed a splendid visit. Zimmerman & Dustin sell the Gardner Journal. R. C. Adams, an old and highly respected citizen of Dwight, died in August. Frank L. Rozelle conducts a revival in M. E. church in August. Professor Schlabach moves to DeWitt, Iowa, and enters a school there. He was subsequently elected county superintendent of schools, which position he now occupies. Chas. L. Romberger and F. W. Vickery attend the Knight's conclave at Denver with the Joliet commandery. S. T. K. Prime addresses a hard roads convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. Bennett, author of "Sweet Bye and Bye," visits Dwight and gave the history of the beautiful hymn in Congregational church to a large audience. Mr. John Conrad dies in August at the residence of his brother, W. H. Conrad. McConnell and Real dissolve partnership, the former retiring. J. A. Hayes commences injunction proceedings against the Dwight sewer. The



case was won and lost by the city and finally Mr. Hayes came out ahead. Among the improvements during the summer, the Star and Herald of August 27 notes those of J. B. France, A. Brubaker, Tock Bros., Peter Beuhler, Miller Bros. store and W. H. Conrad. H. T. Loper sells the Mazon restaurant. Dr. and Mrs. Barr visit relatives in the east. Mrs. J. P. Weagley, mother of Mrs. D. McWilliams, Mrs. C. M. Baker and Mrs. F. Connor, passed away in August at the age of 82. Miss Anna Jeannetta Koehnlein and Chas. B. Elliott, of Chicago, are married Sept. 1. Miss Sophia Rhode and Geo. Sayers are married at Verona. Miss Anna M. Beier and Jens Knudsen were married the latter part of August. Jas. B. Austin and family move to Nebraska in September. Liggitt & Penn dissolve partnership. Dr. and Mrs. Leslie E. Keeley arrive home from Europe in September and receive a warm reception.

Sept. 15, 1892, the second meeting of what is now known as National Keeley League met in Dwight for a four days session. The meetings were held in the new opera house, it being the first meeting ever held in that handsome building. S. T. K. Prime delivered the welcoming address. Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, Hon. John V. Farewell, Opie Reed, Col. Nate A. Reed, Jr., Albert Hyde, Charles Eugene Banks, John I. Gillispie, Judge Arnold and many other prominent gentlemen delivered addresses, and letters of regret were read from Miss Frances Willard, Gov. Jos. Fifer, Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, Mayor Washburne, R. W. McClaghry, Gov. Peck, of Wisconsin, and many others. The Star and Herald issued a daily.

Col. J. B. Parsons attends the national G. A. R. encampment at Washington, D. C. Miss Anna Nelson and Ed.

Hahn are married in September. The Haney family had a reunion at the handsome new residence of Geo. S. Baker in August. Dwight Lodge Modern Woodman organized in September and are flourishing at this time. John Dillon opens the new opera house with "A Model Husband." Every seat in the house was taken. Hon. A. J. Lester, of Springfield, delivers a republican speech, and the republicans organize a marching club and visit neighboring towns during the campaign. The democrats organize a campaign club. Miss Kate Lyons and Cameille Ribordy are married in October. The Congregational society purchase a new pipe organ. Dr. H. S. Tanner, the world renowned faster, visits Dwight and speaks to the Keeley League. The "Doll Drill" was a very pretty home entertainment in October. Senator J. G. Strong, of Kansas, visits his daughter, Mrs. Frank Chester. Mrs. J. L. McKinley commits suicide while insane. Francis Murphy, the great temperance advocate, visits Dwight as a guest of Dr. Keeley. Hon. R. S. McEllduff, Hon. C. Snow and C. S. Darrow deliver political speeches in October in Dwight. Congressman Payson speaks in Dwight. Mrs. Blackmore, of Pontiac, inspects the Dwight Relief Corps. Miss Lillie Abbaduska and Frank Barnum were married in Odell in October. Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Weese visit relatives in Canada. Henry Slauson, who came to Dwight in the fifties, passed away early in November. Miss Jennie Simmons and Chas. P. Herr are married in Chicago in October. All was excitement during the month of October and up to election day in November. Both great political parties did their best and the result was the will of the majority and had to be satisfactory. Everything, almost, went democratic. The Woman's

Auxiliary Keeley League was organized in Dwight in November. Miss Della Pearre and Theodore Hayes were married Nov. 2. Miss Maud Smith and Jas. McKay were married in November in Pontiac. Miss Kate Long and John Thompson are married in Joliet in November. Christopher Yates, the well-known veterinary surgeon, died in November. Steven Goodman's little daughter, Hattie, also died. Quite a number of aspirants for the postoffice commence operations. The 3-1 express messenger is robbed of \$2,000. E. E. Fenn & Co. and Sargent & Bassett trade businesses. L. A. Naffziger was appointed special assessment collector. S. T. K. Prime was made general western secretary of the National League for good roads. Col. R. P. Morgan makes a report on all railroads in California and receives great praise from the state authorities. The Star and Herald issues a large holiday number in December. A charming merchant's carnival was given in the opera house in December for the benefit of the high school. Miss Mildred Rabe and Leonard Howlett were married Dec. 23 at the home of the bride. They still reside here and Mr. Howlett is a valued employe of The Leslie E. Keeley Co. The

fire company was called out on account of a fire in the coal houses back of the Keeley League hall, which was quickly extinguished. The "malt" cases attract considerable attention. "Malt" proved to be beer in disguise, and Mayor Romberger and the town board were elected on a strict no-license ticket. The parties selling the stuff were arrested and the first cases were appealed, but the mayor kept right after them until no bonds could be gotten and the law breakers were glad to quit. L. B. Rake and family move to Iowa. The military drill given in the opera house in December was one of the prettiest entertainments ever given in Dwight and was repeated later on. Mr. John Ferguson, of Campus, formerly of Dwight, died on Christmas day. Christmas entertainments were given in Congregational, M. E. and other churches, and the holidays seemed to be happily passed in Dwight. John Thompson's house caught fire and was nearly destroyed. Miss Rebecca Burkhart and George Hoffman were married in December. Wykes & Co. go into the ice business. M. H. Coole, formerly Dwight agent for the C. & A. railroad, died at a hospital in Chicago. The year 1892 ended with the people of Dwight, generally, prosperous and happy.



## CHAPTER IX.

1893.

The year 1893 opened with bright prospects but no "boom" on. Although there was not that wild demand for property which there was previously, the price was found to have increased nearly double what it was three years before, and for desirable property, remains about the same to this day—1895. In two years our little prairie village has blossomed into a city in importance and the main business streets, with the handsome buildings and new passenger station presented a prosperous appearance, and many were the compliments paid Dwight by people passing through on the Alton trains. In the night the streets were almost as light as day, and the hundreds of electric lights in The Leslie E. Keeley Co.'s buildings and other business houses, gave our city the look of prosperity and enterprise. The effects of the "boom" were still bad, but those who were unfortunate braved it through and during the whole time there was not a business failure.

Among the more important things which transpired in January was the great interest taken by the people in getting factories to locate here, and encouraging some coal company to sink a shaft here. J. A. Hayes, a prosperous farmer living in the edge of Grundy county, thought he had coal under his land and the business men raised mon-

ey and assisted him in prospecting, but it came to naught. Hon. O. W. Pollard, who had been very sick for some time, recovered so much that he was able to be out, and his many friends were much gratified. Early in the year Col. and Miss May Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Morgan returned to Dwight after a long sojourn in California. The Dwight Star and Herald office moves into the present commodious quarters, adds an eighteen horse power boiler and a steam heating apparatus and becomes one of the leading country printing plants in the state. Mrs. Martha E. Dunlap dies in Chattanooga, Tenn. Mrs. Wm. Rhodes, an old resident of Dwight died at Eldorado Springs, Mo. Miss Grace Gregory and F. W. Liggitt are married at Normal, Ill., the home of the bride. Mrs. Ida B. Cole is appointed national secretary of the national W. A. K. L. W. J. Hagerty and Alex. McKay dissolve partnership. Miss Maggie Lawler and Wm. Christian are married. James Brown purchases 25,000 bushels of corn for feeding purposes. Erasmus Gould dies in Kansas. The W. A. K. L. receive a benefit from the production of "Young Mrs. Winthrop." Peter Gutel is killed by an Alton train about a mile and a half south of Dwight. Early in January about forty witnesses from Dwight attend the



Postoffice Force During the Boom.



Joe Miller.



Carl Miller.





sewer trial at Pontiac. A very heavy snow storm the first week in January. The sewer case was won by the village for the time being. Miss Minnie Aherm and Frank L. Smith are married Feb. 8. The night before Mr. Smith was tendered a reception at the Scott House by many of his bachelor friends. Miss Lizzie Burkhart and Martin Hoffman are married Feb. 8. Louis Falk gave a concert at Congregational church for the benefit of the organ fund. Little Mamie Lightholder dies. Mrs. Wm. H. Gillispie dies Feb. 5. L. Rake and family move to Iowa. Aaron Prickett moves to Iowa. Mayor Romberger makes a successful stand against the malt venders in Dwight and cleaned them out in good order. After the second arrest they could not get bonds and were forced to get out of town or settle up at any cost. McWilliams & Smith's store is burglarized. The 22nd day of February is celebrated in a fitting, patriotic manner by the high school. Miss Maggie A. Austin and Robert Maye's are married Feb. 20. John R. Oughton's fine imported dog, Heather Lad, takes first premium at the Chicago Kennel Club bench show. This was followed by a steady run of winnings in the dog shows of the country. At the present time—1895—Mr. Oughton has one of the first and most valuable kennels in America in Dwight. They are under the charge of Ame Orr. On another page we present a picture of Heather Lad, the \$6,000 dog.

The churches celebrate Temperance Sunday appropriately the last Sunday in February. Gregg & Starrett go into the feed business at the old Hart stand. Later Mr. Gregg sold out to Martin Seabert, and at present—1895—the firm is Starrett & Seabert. George Fox dies in Kansas. A barn in the rear of Dr. Palm's house on Chippewa street is de-

stroyed by fire. March 9, in the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Eldredge tendered a reception to Mr. Eugene V. Debs, who was about to leave for his home in Terra Haute, Ind., after having taken the bi-chloride of gold treatment. This was before Mr. Debs was leader of the greatest railroad strike ever known. One of the guests of the evening was the accomplished literary light, Eugene Field, who was here for the tobacco treatment. The latter took part in an entertainment at Congregational church and a club entertainment about this time, reciting some of his pretty poems. Col. Richard P. Morgan and Dwight C. Morgan are appointed consulting engineers by the Railway and Warehouse Commissioners of Illinois. Miss Bessie Huey and H. F. Adams are married March 22. Marshall P. Wilder, the great lecturer, visits Dwight and gives an entertainment.

At the township caucuses held the following were nominated: Republican—clerk, E. T. Miller; assessor, R. H. Mills; collector, Thos. Harford; commissioners, Frank Chester and Wm. Christiansen; justices, M. Wilkison and Henry McLane; constables, Thos. Jenkins and O. C. Jensen; trustee, Jno. R. Radcliffe. Democratic—clerk, E. T. Miller; assessor, James Kelagher; collector, Benj. Bell; commissioners, Peter Heinen and Wm. Christiansen; justices, J. B. Barth and Wm. Lester; constables, Thos. Jenkins and Chas. Hearing; trustee, Jno. R. Radcliffe. Following were the winners: clerk, E. T. Miller; assessor, Jas. Kelagher; collector, Thos. Harford; commissioners, Frank Chester and Wm. Christiansen; justices, M. Wilkison and Henry McLane; constables, Thos. Jenkins and O. C. Jensen; trustee, Jno. R. Radcliffe. The Star and Herald publishes an interesting letter from S. T. K. Prime from California.

Father Halpin dies at Odell. John Stack dies.

Following were the nominations for the municipal election in April 1893. Citizens—H. Fox, president; J. W. Sargent, A. M. Bartholic, E. P. Hahn, trustees; G. L. Kern, clerk. Anti-License—Chas. L. Romberger, president; D. B. Stevens, Roger Mills, Geo. S. Baker, trustees; F. A. Haise, clerk. The campaign was a hot one, and while not divided exactly on the license question, there was a feeling that it would be safer to elect the straight anti-license ticket, and there were some men on the citizens ticket who had been license men heretofore. The principal question was, however, that of public improvements and how they should be made and paid for. Mr. Romberger had made a splendid official but the taxes and special assessments had been levied under his administration and he was blamed by many who did not want license but were simply dissatisfied. Mr. Romberger did not want the office, but after accepting the nomination made the run but was defeated by H. Fox by twelve majority. The remaining part of the anti-license ticket was elected by good majorities. Miss Cora McCarty dies. J. E. Schobey dies at his home in Union Hill. N. N. Mickelson purchases the Dwight Art Company. John D. Ketcham dies. A. Rowley also dies. Miss Nora A. Taylor and Wm. H. Ketcham were married April 19. The Keeley League Club house is burned. Rev. Wilson, a former pastor of Congregational church, is frozen to death in the west. Patrick Confrey dies in May. Dwight Driving Park Association organizes. An interesting letter is published in the Star and Herald regarding S. T. K. Prime's visit to California. Miss Lavinia W. McKay and J. A. Spencer were married May 17.

Mrs. C. A. Staley dies. Mrs. Jacob Burger dies. Mrs. Metske passes away.

May 1, of 1893, the "Great White City" opened in Chicago, and Dwight people generally visited some time during the six months. The Star and Herald published many interesting articles regarding the grand exhibit. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hagerty lose a little girl baby. Mrs. George Short dies. Decoration Day is duly celebrated. The commencement exercises were held in the opera house the evening of June 6. The graduates were Misses Addie Fenn, M. Mabel Thompson, Dora Kern, John O'Malley and Frank Ford. The first convention of Illinois State Keeley League and Auxiliary meets in Dwight in June. There were delegates present from all over the state and an excellent time enjoyed. Mrs. W. W. Wood died in June. Miss Lucy Stockwell and J. C. Lewis are married in June in Minneapolis. The Keeley League conduct the Fourth of July celebration this year, and it was a grand success. Hon. Thos. W. Golden, of Janesville, Wis., was the orator of the day. Miss Mattie E. Wright and B. M. Chubb are married in July. Ex-alderman Benj. Bell dies July 20. Rev. J. A. Fisher becomes pastor of Congregational church. Geo. Burns dies. Edward Murphy, son of Francis Murphy, visits Dwight and speaks to the League. Count Fr. Berg and son, of Sagnitz, Riga, Russia, visits Dwight. Miss Linna E. Seabert and Willard S. Brown are married Sunday, Aug. 6, in Chicago. Miss Sarah M. Clarkson and Dr. Chas. H. Gardner are married August 13. Fred Steffin's barn burns for the third time. Steven Knudsen, of Round Grove, is accidently killed. Aug. 20, 1893. J. F. Wassell purchases the interest of A. R. Zimmerman in the Star and Herald, and the business continued to flourish under the firm name

of Dustin & Wassell. Henry Eldridge dies very suddenly in Chicago. The third annual convention Keeley League met at Central Music hall in Chicago in September. They were welcomed by Mayor Carter Harrison, and all vised world's fair on "Keeley" day. Dwight postoffice was burglarized. Rev. C. W. Ayling comes to the M. E. church in Dwight in September 1893. Miss Mary Terwilliger and Orville Brown are married Oct. 5. Miss Frances Costello and David McKenzie were married Oct. 4. Miss Nettie Cunliffe and Frank Stevens were married at the residence C. W. Ayling. S. T. K. Prime and Major C. J. Judd make a tour of the east. Dr. C. H. Barr and Walter M. Davis form a partnership in the drug business under the firm name of Barr & Davis. Col. R. P. Morgan is appointed one of the receivers of the Northern Pacific railroad, and took active management of the property. Miss A. M. Anderson and O. P. Anderson are married. October 16 the horrible accident occurred at Emington by the explosion of dynamite, in which five men lost their lives and several were injured. Those killed were Chris. Eyer, one of the well-known firm of Eyer Bros., deep well sinkers, and Dan Eyer, a brother, and Fred Eyer, a cousin, and James Cornwall, of Dwight, and C. E. Fowler, of Emington. Chris. Shearer, a cousin of the Eyers, from Olney, John Brown, James and Wm. Wylly and John Kennedy, of Emington, were badly injured. Many business houses and residences were badly damaged. A reception was given to Rev. C. W. Ayling and family by the M. E. congregation. Miss Nellie E. Jeffries and E. G. Phillips, of Janesville, Wis., are married Oct. 16. Many old Dwightites visit Dwight during the summer, having come to Chicago to visit the great fair, also many eastern

relatives of people here come west. Miss Erminia Elfrieda Baker and Dr. William Leonard Barnes were married Oct 29 as the home of the bride. They now reside in Syracuse, N. Y. Joel B. Luther purchases the hardware business of W. J. Sargent & Son. Louis Schaeffer, of Chicago, an experienced hotel man, takes charge of the Livingston. He is still a resident of Dwight. Miss Inga Jacobsen and S. S. Green, of Chicago, are married November 4. Word was received of the marriage of Miss Estella Krohn, a former teacher in the Dwight schools to E. J. Healy. Rev. Fisher resigns the pastorate of Congregational church. He is now pastor of the First Congregational church in South Omaha. Sunday, Nov. 19, the Columbia hotel on Mazon avenue was burned. It was the property of B. R. Griffith. James Goodman gets his fingers mashed while coupling cars. The "Temple of Fame" was given by the ladies of Congregational church. John Pettit had a piece of tin extracted from one of his legs, which had been imbedded there for seventeen years. Miss Josephine Lembrich and Anton Deifenbaugh are married in November. The W. A. K. L. give a fair in December one evening and cleared over \$200. The Dwight Star and Herald issues a handsome holiday edition, presenting many half-tone portraits of citizens and pictures of residences and public buildings. There was a great demand for the paper, and thousands of them were sent away. Miss Anna McClary and W. O. Cook are married Dec. 20. The Christmas holidays were celebrated in a beautiful manner by the churches and the W. A. K. L. The usual trees and entertainments were given, and the W. A. K. L. looked after the poor by having a tree at the club house and invited all the poor children, and distributed hundreds



of warm shoes, stockings, cloths, etc., and the local members of the Keeley League sent the little ones to the Ketcham house for dinner. The Star and Herald published a series of Christmas stories for the little ones which were of much interest. Philip Clover's

family have a re-union. Sad news was received of the death of Mrs. P. M. France, wife of a former pastor of the Congregational church. The year 1893 closed with "Peace on earth and good will to man."



## CHAPTER X.

1894.

This year opened with everyone in our community as prosperous as could be expected considering that the times were what is termed "hard." The liberality of Dwight citizens generally was displayed during 1893 and 1894 in a manner very creditable. No one suffered in our midst and never will if the people know it. As the writer has said many times, "Dwight generally has the most liberal people he ever saw." Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Baker celebrate the twentieth anniversary of their wedding. Mr. Richards, of Streator, buys the Payne farm. Hon. O. W. Pollard, Hon. David McWilliams, Miss Artie Pollard and Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Miller visit in California. Anton Deifenbach purchases the Livingston titorial parlors of Gus Levi. An article was published in the Star and Herald showing that The Leslie E. Keeley Co. was paying one-third of the whole tax in Dwight township. The Dwight Cornet Band is organized with Prof. Evans as leader and instructor. Miss Marcella Ferguson and John Kennedy were married January 31. The Dwight G. A. R. Post presented the Dwight Sons of Veterans Camp with a handsome silk flag in February. Miss Susan Real and Ed. Christman are married Feb. 6. Miss Nora Burke and Simon Rhode Feb. 5. S. Bergman, brother of Dr. Bergman,

died in February. Dr. Milton Keeley is made surgeon of the Fifth Regiment, I. N. G., with the rank of Major. Miss Lulu Cole passes away Feb. 11, after a long illness. Mrs. Henry Burke dies Feb. 14. The Dwight high school celebrated Washington's birthday. Miss Anna Chalmers and John L. Burnham are married Feb. 21. Dr. C. H. Barr is appointed surgeon of the Alton road. James Kelagher is appointed postmaster the last of February. His portrait will be found elsewhere in this work. Peter Sands dies March 5. Miss Jennie Brubaker and C. T. Ingraham are married March 7. Dwight Morgan finishes his first report of the railroads of Illinois. The sad news is received of the accidental death of Wm. A. Chamberlain in Kansas. The remains were brought to Dwight for interment. Wm. E. Austin is found dead in bed, supposed to have died of heart disease. Herman Overbeck dies suddenly. J. D. Rutan dies in Iowa. Edwin Mezgar & Co. purchased the elevator so long run by Jesse Deifenbach. Edward O. Reed announces himself in the Star and Herald as a candidate for the republican nomination for sheriff. He afterwards received the nomination and was elected by a large majority. Hahn Bros. make improvements in their elevator. Miss Carrie M. Branson and James E.

Gregory are married in Pontiac March 27. A new train is put on the Alton between Bloomington and Joliet. Rev. E. F. Wright is engaged as pastor of the Congregational church, which position he still holds, and is beloved by his flock.

As municipal election time came around there were two parties in the field. Neither one was for license, but one ticket was under the name of "Anti-License," and the other "Citizens." The caucuses were held and the following nominations made: Anti-License—F. A. Haise, president; Eugene Flagler, John Geis, L. A. Naffziger, trustees; Frank L. Smith, clerk. Citizens—H. Fox, president; Samuel McLane, Ed. Hahn, M. Starrett, trustees; Henry McLane, clerk. After a sharp canvass the following were elected: F. A. Haise, president; Samuel McLane, L. A. Naffziger, Eugene Flagler, trustees; Frank Smith, clerk. The board was an excellent one and did good work.

The township nominations were made as follows: Democratic—W. H. Ketcham, supervisor; George Baker, town clerk; L. J. Trunnell, assessor; J. Diefenbaugh, collector; Jacob Christman, commissioner; J. Gammel, trustee. Republican—R. H. Mills, supervisor; E. T. Miller, clerk; Wm. B. Brown, assessor; L. Reeder, collector; Wm. Christensen, commissioner; A. B. Conant, trustee. The whole Republican ticket was elected by an average majority of 118. Mrs. Mary Ivens, mother of Bert Ivens, died in Chicago and was buried in Dwight. Claude W. Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Thompson, of Union, dies in April. Nicholas Minster, father of Mrs. Geo. L. Kern, dies at his home in Ottawa. James Kelagher takes the postoffice and appoints John Doherty chief deputy.

Dick Thornton goes into partnership with DeWitt Miller in the restaurant business. Capt. Geo. H. Wentz, former sheriff of Livingston county, dies. Miss Maggie Kelly and Joseph J. Ribordy and Miss Lizzie Kelly and John F. Comeford were married in April. Miss Maggie Morrissey and James Haggerty are married.

The spring school election in 1894 was the first one in some time that had caused much excitement. Two caucuses were held, the first one nominating Col. R. P. Morgan for president of the Board of Education, and Mrs. C. M. Baker and Mrs. A. G. Huey for members of the board. The other caucus nominated A. Brubaker for president and John Pettett and W. H. Doty for members. Then some friends of V. S. Wright nominated him, and there were three tickets in the field. The ladies took advantage of their rights and turned out in great numbers and voted. The result was the election of A. Brubaker, John Pettett and Mrs. C. M. Baker. There were 522 votes cast in three hours. Some of the old members of the town board were sued for a bill by the Massac Iron company. The case was afterwards settled. The Star and Herald commences to publish the contents of this history. The Dwight Odd Fellows celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary of the order. Thos. Morrissey dies in April. The Scott House is moved to the grounds where it is at present located. Dr. W. H. Weld located in Dwight for the practice of medicine. Later he moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Moody quartette gave an entertainment in the Congregational church. The Dwight school gave a very excellent exhibit of practical work which was of very much interest. At the first meeting of the new board Robert Orr was reappointed marshal

and street commissioner, Wm. Miller night watchman, Dwight Mills engineer and B. B. Buck village treasurer. Commander Ayling, Comrades Williams, Parsons and Mesdames W. G. Dustin, Williams and Austin visit Rockford as delegates to the state encampment of G. A. R. and W. R. C. The second-hand store is robbed. Mrs. G. W. Boyer celebrates her sixty-sixth natal day, May 11. Prof. W. T. Wilson resigned the superintendency of the Dwight schools. Prof. J. H. Meneely was engaged in his stead. He is the present superintendent and is an excellent instructor. His portrait will be found in this book.

C. R. Tombaugh for county superintendent of schools, Col. J. B. Parsons for county treasurer, Fred Duckett for county clerk, C. M. Barickman for judge, O. F. Avery for judge, C. H. F. Carrithers for judge, announce their wishes in the Star and Herald. "Ye Olde Folks" concert, given at M. E. church, was a very entertaining affair. Decoration Day was celebrated as never before in Dwight this year. Rev. E. F. Wright preached the memorial sermon and Rev. C. W. Ayling delivered the oration in Oak Lawn cemetery. There were thousands of people present from miles around. Mrs. Robert Liggett dies at her home in Normal, May 2. The funeral was held in Dwight, her home for so many years. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller lose a little child by death. The fourteenth annual commencement of Dwight high school was held in the opera house. "Light" was selected as the motto, and the graduates were: Misses Mary Fifield, Marie E. Petersen and Emma A. Groll. Prof. Nilson conferred the diplomas. J. M. Owen dies after a severe illness. Children's day was appropriately celebrated by the churches. Gen. Smith D. Atkins visits

Dwight. Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, Major C. J. Judd, Mrs. Dr. Blaine, Mrs. Dr. Barr, Mrs. W. G. Dustin, Mrs. W. T. Prime, Mrs. Anna Barr, Mrs. Gertie Kaylor, Judge W. S. Arnold, W. T. Prime, J. J. Miller, Willard S. Brown and W. G. Dustin attend the state convention Keeley League at Bloomington. Mrs. Alf. Baker celebrates her fifty-fourth natal day, June 16. Mrs. Sarah Sterrett dies suddenly June 22. Her remains were taken to Pittsburg. Jesse Snyder visits his son in Denver. The Star and Herald issues another patriotic, red, white and blue paper in honor of July 4. A. B. Conant receives a very severe kick from a horse. Bert Ivens and family move to Chicago. The great strike is on and for a few days no trains moved. The whole country was paralyzed, and the result was the greatest strike ever known. The hardware store of B. A. Buck was burglarized. Miss Nellie Cunliffe and Alex. Cupples, of Chicago, were married June 27. July 4 was celebrated in the grand old way in 1894. The city was crowded with people and everybody stayed in Dwight whether they wanted to or not, for the great strike was on and no trains were moving. The parade was very nice, there being several hundred school children in line, each carrying flags. The president of the day was Mayor F. A. Haise, Marshals D. B. Stevens and Ed. McWilliams. Misses Lizzie Winkler, Emma Barr and Myrtle Wheatley represented red, white and blue, on horseback. Rev. C. W. Ayling was the speaker and delivered a splendid address. The exercises passed off very pleasantly from early morning to late at night. About 7 o'clock in the evening John Geis's cigar store caught fire, but was immediately squelched by the fire company and the great worth of the water works was once more demonstrated. Miss Estella J. Flagler and

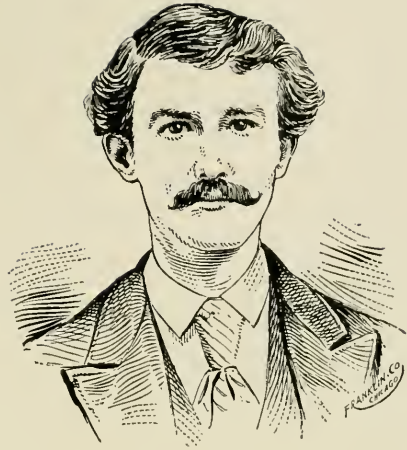


Everett B. Lewis were married June 30. Mrs. John Thompson passes away July 7, after a long illness. B. A. Buck attends the Democratic congressional convention at Streator, where Hon. Robert Gibbons was nominated. The Leslie E. Keeley Co. purchases the J. A. Hayes farm for \$21,000 and sells it to J. R. Oughton for \$14,000, and thus the sewer question was settled forever. The following gentlemen attended the Republican county convention as delegates: C. L. Romberger, R. H. Mills, Ed. McWilliams, Will Bartholie, Thos. Weldon, Joseph Burnham, Frank L. Smith, J. C. Lewis, E. H. Kneeland, Orville Brown, Ame Orr, Martin Seabert, H. F. Adams, Lee Reeder, R. D. Gregg. As is well known Dwight's candidate, Col. J. B. Parsons, was nominated at this convention and subsequently elected county treasurer by a large majority. D. McWilliams, C. L. Romberger and W. G. Dustin attend the congressional convention at Streator. Capt. T. C. Fullerton was nominated for congress and afterward died suddenly, and Hon. Walter Reeves, of Streator, was nominated and duly elected. Col. Parsons, J. F. Wassell, Frank Smith and W. G. Dustin attend the Republican State convention at Springfield. Jacob Christman has two horses killed by lightning. The Star and Herald publishes a very interesting letter written by C. J. Judd from Nantucket, July 28. Mrs. Morrison, mother of Mrs. C. G. Barr, dies July 26. Following were the delegates elected to the Democratic county convention: S. T. K. Prime, John Thompson, L. J. Trunnell, Peter Heinen, J. Christman, Phil Shrimpton, D. C. Morgan, M. C. Starrett, Geo. N. Flagler, John Geis and John Korreect. They were instructed for R. F. McHuff for judge and John C. George for clerk, (two former Dwight

men) and carried their point, but the candidates were defeated at the polls. R. H. Mills and W. G. Dustin attended the senatorial convention at Wenona. Miss Louise de Clercq and Samuel C. Jennings were married August 1. Miss Louise McWilliams spends several months abroad. Major Milton Keeley is called out with his regiment during the great strike. Dr. and Mrs. Leslie E. Keeley enjoy a pleasant trip to Alaska. H. A. Kenyon accepts the position of manager of the Leslie E. Keeley Co.'s business. Mr. Leonard Howlett erects a handsome house on Mazon avenue. Mrs. Charles L. Romberger comes home in August after a severe illness in Chicago. H. W. Reed, son-in-law of Mrs. Koehnlein, dies in August in California. Dwight Mills resigns in August and Freeman Spencer is appointed engineer of the water works. Major R. W. Hendershot, the original drummer boy of Shiloh, visits Dwight and gives an entertainment. Austin Gibbons, W. H. Ketcham and E. T. Potter attend the Democratic senatorial convention at Minonk. Congressman Thomas J. Henderson, of Bureau county, and Judge Henry Mayo, of La Salle county, candidates for congress, visit Dwight. The Dwight Gun Club is organized August 16, and the following officers were elected: President, J. R. Oughton; vice president, H. F. Adams; secretary and treasurer, C. V. Bower; executive committee, George Tate, Robert Orr and the officers named; captain, Doc Hause. The club is in a flourishing condition and hold regular shoots. Prof. J. H. Meneely, of Dwight, was granted a perpetual certificate for teaching. Miss Fowler, of Evanston, occupies the M. E. church pulpit with ability Sunday, August 19. J. A. Webster and family left for their old home in New York to reside there perma-



Robert Thompson.



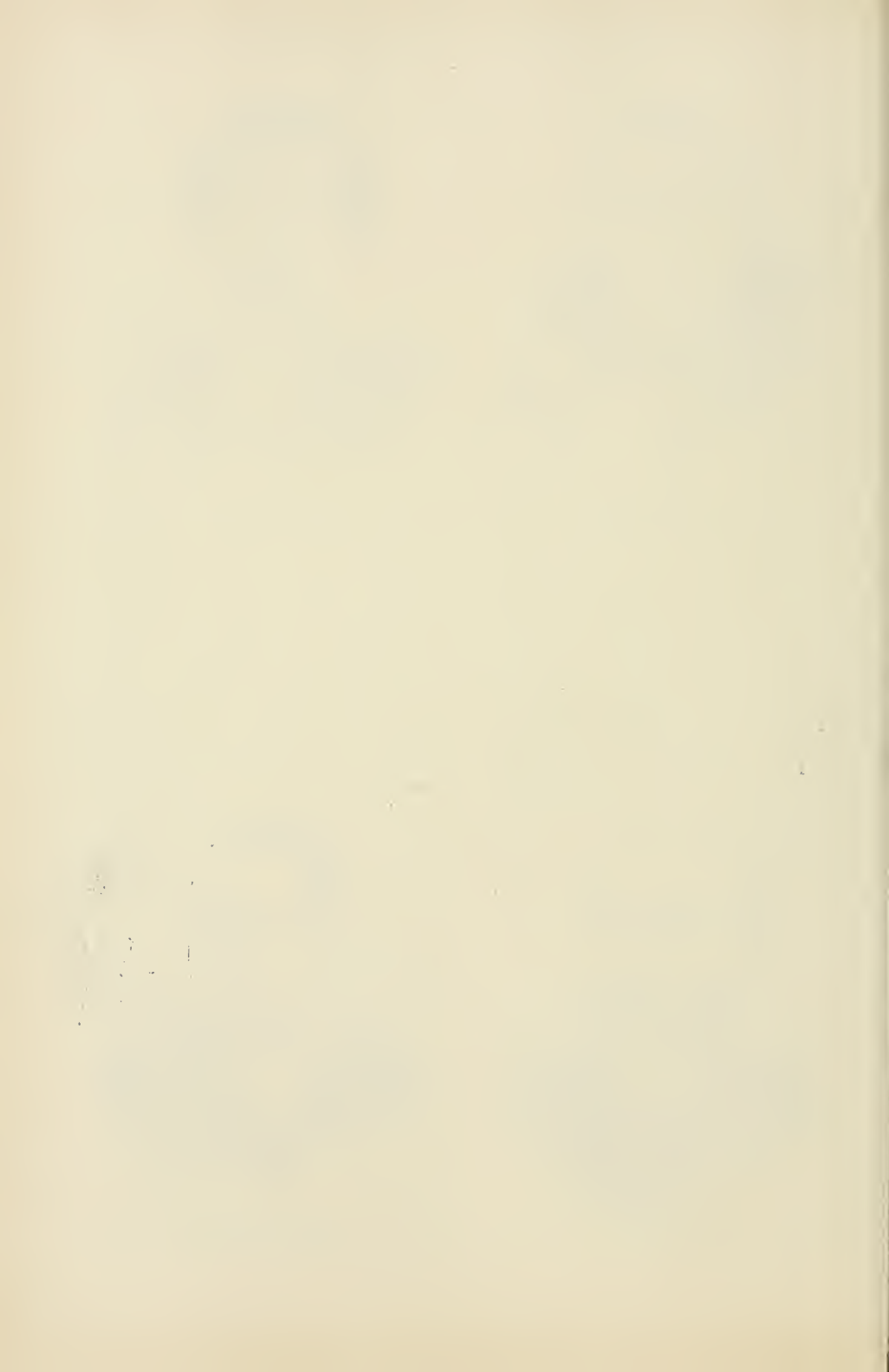
Levi Reeder.



B. A. Buck.



W. H. Taylor.



nently. Col. R. P. Morgan makes valuable improvements in his beautiful home. The Congregational Sunday School picnic in Vickery's grove was a very pleasant affair in August. The Dwight Board of Education issue a pamphlet of rules and regulations. They have been a source of much good. The Star and Herald presents views of the Dwight school houses. They are also presented in this work. Miss Artie F. Pollard and Mr. W. N. Fisher were married September 6, at the home of Hon. O. W. Pollard. They reside at the home of the groom in Attleboro, Mass. R. D. Gregg sells his farm one mile from Dwight to Dr. Palm for \$111 per acre. Uncle James Smith visits relatives and friends in the east, Jesse Snyder visits his son in Denver; E. H. Kneeland visits Niagara Falls; Thomas Fallis visits his old home in Ohio; all old and honored citizens. Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, Major C. J. Judd, Judge W. A. Arnold, J. J. Miller, and W. G. Dustin attend the National Keeley League convention at Colorado Springs and enjoy a splendid visit. A man named Sullivan, from Chicago, was run over by the cars and lost an arm. The Illini Club was organized September 11, and has conducted a course of lectures since, which have been a source of much interest to the club and citizens generally. Prof. J. H. Meneely was elected chairman and Will J. Leach secretary. The Modern Woodmen of Dwight, Gardner, Mazon and Verona have their first annual picnic six miles north of Dwight and enjoyed a very pleasant day considering the weather. State Chaplain E. F. Wright, of Dwight, delivered a fine oration. Miss Jean Cantner and Judge W. A. Arnold were married September 19, at the home of the bride at Monticello, Ill. They reside in Dwight at this time. L. A. Rutan, of Staplehurst,

Neb., visits his old home here. Frank Travis, formerly of Dwight, is killed by the cars in Chicago. Mrs. J. A. Austin passes away September 18, after a long illness. Miss Eliner Jensen and Herbert Palmer, of Janesville, Wis., are married September 18. They reside in Janesville. Miss Kate Foersterling and Henry Seagert are married September 16. They reside in Dwight. Dr. Keeley lectures in Tabor Opera House in Denver and meets with an ovation. Rev. C. W. Ayling attends the M. E. conference and is returned to Dwight, which was a gratification to his many friends in Dwight. He is here at the close of this history—1895. A large number of Dwightites go to Pontiac to listen to Senator Cullom speak. Also a number go to Peoria or Springfield and hear Governor McKinley, of Ohio. The Dwight Amusement Club give the "event of the season" in Lyceum hall in September. Quite a number of Dwight Democrats go to Chatsworth to hear Mr. McVeagh, of Chicago, speak, and to Streator to listen to Vice-President Stevenson. John McWilliams takes some of his best horses to the state fair and captures some prizes. The barbers decide to close up Sundays. D. McWilliams takes a pleasure trip to Maine and other eastern states. He gives \$10,000 to the church extension fund of the M. E. conference. James Austin visits Dwight from his home in Nebraska. W. H. Bradbury, of Topeka, Kansas, visits Dwight and meets his old friends. His portrait will be found in this history. Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon lectures in Dwight in October. Mrs. Wm. Reeder passes away October 8 after a long illness. Mrs. Paulsen and Patrick Coyne wed in October. Miss Ellen O'Connor and George Mullen are married in Chicago October 7. W. G. Dustin was elected one of the vice-presidents of the



Illinois State Republican League. Rev. E. F. Wright is elected chairman of the Congregational association of this district. Mr. and Mrs. H. McLane visit in Nebraska. The sixth annual reunion of the 129th Illinois volunteer infantry was held in Fairbury. Major Judd is the historian and reads a splendid paper. H. A. Kenyon and N. Riggs are also present from Dwight. The Star and Herald published a full report. On the evening of October 18 Thomas Comford, an old resident, lost his life while crossing the Chicago & Alton railroad tracks on Chippawa street. He was in a milk wagon at the time. The funeral was largely attended, the G. A. R., of which the deceased was a member, attended in a body, also the Sons of Veterans and the Woman's Relief Corps. Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Prime celebrated the tenth anniversary of their wedding October 15. Capt. Gibbons speaks in the opera house. Hon. Walter Reeves and Hon. George Torrance speak in the opera house. The C. & A. have quite a serious wreck near the hay-press factory. A number of freight cars are smashed. J. D. McCarty is quite badly injured and dies October 20. The family moved here from Odell. The widow subsequently started the Home Bakery in Dwight. Harry Diffenbaugh, of Washington, Kansas, visits his father and friends here in October and November. The general election campaign in Dwight was quiet and good natured. The result was about the same all over the country—a Republican land slide. The village was divided into two voting precincts for the first time and nearly 600 votes were cast. Major McLaughry delivers his celebrated lecture on "Crimes and Criminals," November 8, under the auspices of the Illini Club. The grandest campfire ever held in this part of the country

was held in Dwight, November 13, 1894. It was held in the opera house, which was crowded. National Commander Thomas G. Lawler, of Rockford, and Quartermaster General J. W. Burst, of Sycamore, Capt. O. F. Avery and W. H. Jenkins, of Pontiac, and Mr. and Mrs. Lockett, of Forest, were present. The program was excellent and the speeches full of patriotism. The campfire was repeated shortly after with marked success. After the campfire the citizens of Dwight gave the distinguished visitors a banquet at the Livingston, at which one hundred plates were spread. Col. R. P. Morgan acted as toastmaster.

Miss Mary Triplett, of Budd, and Emil Karmie, of Nevada, were married at the M. E. parsonage November 10. H. T. McLane sends the Star and Herald an interesting letter from Nebraska. The Congregational Association held a fellowship meeting in Dwight and met with much success. One of the most important transfers made in this locality was brought about. Major C. J. Judd purchased the well-known Bertholy Home of S. T. K. Prime and son, and they in turn purchase the elegant home of Major Judd in Dwight, the latter having moved to Chicago with his family. H. A. Kenyon purchased the handsome property known as the "typists home." Spencer Eldridge purchases the G. S. Baker home on Chippewa street. The district convention of the Epworth League was held in Dwight in November, and many were present from neighboring counties and towns. The meeting was a very interesting one. Among the distinguished visitors was Bishop Merrill. The family of Henry Tombaugh in Iowa suffer from the effects of a cyclone.

The Star and Herald announces that all the paper will be printed at home.

which is a sure sign of prosperity. The Gun Club held a very interesting shoot Thanksgiving day. A township Sunday School convention was held in Dwight December 9, and was very successful. Miss Martha McAllister and Henry Christman are married in Odell November 30. Mrs. Mary Foot and Jared Williams were married at the bride's home in Missouri, November 27. Martin Wilks, an old and respected citizen and Grand Army man, dies November 27. Frank McAllister, of Odell, formerly of Dwight, passed away in Odell December 3. The Star and Herald publishes a series of letters from Pontiac, which create much interest. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Boyer return from several months' visit to their old home and neighborhood in Pennsylvania. Rev. F. W. Merrill, a former pastor of the M. E. church, now (1895) at Rock Island, delivered his lecture, "Dreams and Dreamers," at M. E. church. The reverend gentleman received a warm reception here. The first annual tournament of the Dwight Gun Club was held December 27 and 28 and was a success. Miss Clara A. Hibner and Peter J. Young are married at the home of the bride December 17. The doll fair given by the Y. W. C. T. U. at M. E. church, was a very pretty and successful affair. Freden Lodge, D. B., give their annual masquerade with their usual splendid success. The Alton railroad issue an order that no man who works for them shall go in a saloon or drink intoxicants. Sarah Knudsen and Hans C. Sorensen, Miss Anna K. Oleson and Andrew Boek, and Miss Jennie

Mahannah and Ed. Pfefferman are married in December. The I. I. & I commence moving passenger trains and carrying mail in December, and their efforts meet with flattering success. A pretty cantata, "King Winter," was given at the M. E. church for Christmas. The Congregational church also had a very pleasant entertainment, and all the churches celebrated the holidays for the children in some manner pleasing to all. Revs. Swanson, of Odell, and Wright, of Dwight, Congregational pastors, commence the publication of a handsome monthly newspaper, called The Outlook. Miss Stevens and Mr. H. D. Gillispie are married in December and afterwards visit in Kansas. Many young people going to school away and people employed in other places, came home during the holidays, and the "gladdest of the year" seemed to be spent appropriately by all.

We now near the close of this history, having given the important historical facts as far as was in our power to do so. It is not necessary for us to state that we have not gotten everything that happened encased between these covers, or even all the important events. There were some years it was impossible for us to get any reliable information, and we simply repeat that we have done the best we could, and submit our work for your kind consideration. Many interesting "personal recollections" will follow, and other matter.

Yours truly,

DUSTIN & PRIME,  
Publishers.

## CHAPTER XI.

## FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.

## LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

In Dwight, Ill., in the afternoon of February 2, 1880, fifteen ladies met with Mrs. Hetzel in her home to organize a society to be known as the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Congregational Church. The plan of organization was this: A lady could become a member of this society on the payment of an initiation fee of 25 cents, and pledge herself to assist in whatever work the society should engage. To recompence her for three hours' work per week, receive credit for five cents, and if she should be absent, or present, and work for herself, she must pay a fine of 5 cents to the society.

The object of this society in the minds of all, was to do that work, for aid of the church, which presented itself. The first object in the minds of some, was to raise funds to purchase a bell for the church. The charter members were the following ladies: Mesdames Adams, Brubaker, Cornell, Cadwallader, Cary, Eldridge, S. Eldridge, Estes, Hartley, McClure, Newell, Jordan, Parsons and Pool. Mrs. Hartley was elected president; Mrs. Jordan, secretary; Mrs. Hetzel, treasurer. The latter retained the office ten years, and on her retiring Mrs. Adams was elected and still continues in office.

In these years many ladies have

joined the society and have withdrawn only to engage in work in new fields, while but three have severed the tie to join the society angels. For the first years of its existence this society followed so close the scriptural injunction, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth," that they kept no records, save of moneys raised and expended. Nothing was said of the money given to buy back the cow taken from a poor woman for debt, nor of the boxes of clothing sent to sufferers from fire, flood and famine, and yet each box represented money as well as hours and days of weary work, and often a great sacrifice of strength. Not one word as to where applied. In 1886 the ladies, believing their business policy to be defective, appointed a committee to draft a constitution. The report of this committee, by a full vote, was adopted. Since which time one hour each week is devoted to business which is duly recorded for future reference—a great help to poor memories. Now, the fifteenth year of this society's existence has nearly closed. Fifteen years organized to aid the cause of Christ. Let us see if it has, and how it has, met its obligations. You will say, on first thought, that it has failed in one of its first objects. It has purchased no bell. We declare that in these fifteen years

it has purchased many bells, the tones of which are not audible to human ears, for, only by God, and the angels, are they heard.

These ladies seem never to shrink from any strain to nerve or muscles, but take up with cheerfulness whatever work is offered them, from the scrubbing of the church to the tying of eighteen comforts for one of our leading merchants. During these years, and by these means, have they been enabled to help at different times to pay the pastor's salary, and for six years paid all the incidental expenses of the church, contributed quite a sum to the organ fund, and last, but not least, paid many old debts, of their own choice, although in no way were they responsible for them. The society's membership has never exceeded thirty-five, and yet it has raised in these years \$2,520.42. The greatest amount ever raised in one year being \$282.54, and the least \$72.95. Along with this hard work has come much of brightness and pleasure, as the yearly anniversaries show, at which times the honorary members of the society (namely, the husbands) are invited to a great spread and the hours are spent in feasting and merriment. The present list of officers are the following ladies: President, Mrs. J. C. Lewis; vice-president, Mrs. B. A. Buck; secretary, Mrs. John Koehler; treasurer, Mrs. A. E. Adams. Executive Committee—Mesdames Baker, Spencer, Doty, Adams and Buck.

On these ladies you may call if you have any piece of work you want done, from that of the artist to the cook or nurse.

#### MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Dwight Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the M. E. church is at present in a very

prosperous condition. It was organized in May, 1889, with a membership of sixteen. Since that time the interest has been constantly increasing, new members being added until there are now enrolled fifty-eight. Meetings are held once a month, at which very interesting and instructive papers are read on different fields of missionary work, and thus the members are all interested in the work of helping send the gospel to foreign lands, the purpose of the organization' \$125 being sent this past conference year. The officers are as follows: President, Mrs. Manning Smith; first vice-president, Mrs. Darwin Stevens; second vice-president, Mrs. John Leach; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Frank Haise; recording secretary, Miss Luella Stevens; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Bell.

#### EASTERN STAR.

Dwight Chapter No. 166, of the order of the Eastern Star, was organized October 31, 1890, with thirteen charter members.

This order was instituted to afford a larger reign of peace and love upon earth, to erect a shrine where the burdened heart could pour out its sorrows and distress find relief.

The Eastern Star is closely related to the Masonic fraternity, and although related to it by the dearest ties, yet it is no part of the dearest order. But woman's heart beats responsive to the same inspiration that prompts man to noble deeds, and seeks through the Eastern Star to become a co-worker with the Masonic brotherhood. And it is for this purpose that we assemble in our chapter room.

During the five years of our existence many pleasant evenings have been spent together, several banquets spread and picnics enjoyed, each one binding



the sisters more closely together.

The officers have secured for themselves an elegant set of robes, which adds greatly to the interest of the work.

We congratulate ourselves upon having in our number one proficient in drill work as Brother John Pettett, who, with untiring zeal, has taken much pride as well as given much labor in drilling a Floral Team, "second to none in the state."

Death has entered our chapter room and severed two of the "links in our golden chain." Thus twice has this order been called upon to perform our beautiful funeral ceremonies, the floral star being formed at the graves of Sisters Alice Oakshett and Johanna Crandall. Two have gone from us by demit to other fields of labor, making the present membership forty-two, with peace and harmony prevailing. The stated time of meeting is the second Friday of each month. The officers are, Worthy Matron Margret Leach; Worthy Patron, Rev. C. W. Ayling; Associate Matron, Emma Taylor; Secretary, Nora Goodman; Treasurer, Delia Miller; Conductress, Anna E. Buck; Assistant Conductress, Ella Doty; Warder, Matilda Pettett; Guard, Mr. Petersen; Adah, Anna Bovik; Ruth, Maggie Palm; Esther, Rose Miller; Martha, Estella Baker; Electa, Lucy Crandall; Chaplain, Nellie Romberger.

A STAR.

ILLINI CLUB, NO. 950, LYCEUM LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

This society enjoys the distinction of being the latest organization, of a social or literary character, in Dwight.

The idea of having a boys' literary society, modeled after those in our colleges and academies, originated and has long been a pet project in the minds of some young men of the village, and, at the beginning of the present school

year, these boys, with the help of the principal of the Dwight schools, succeeded in bringing together seventeen young men who organized themselves into a literary society, their purpose, as declared in the preamble of their constitution, being to give the members of the order a thorough drill in parliamentary procedure and the art of public speaking, and to create and encourage among themselves an interest in the principal questions of the day. Later the society was organized into a local lodge of the Lyceum League of America, of which the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt is the national president, adopting as their distinguishing title the old Indian name for Illinois—Illini.

The Illini has met with nothing but the best wishes and encouragement of our people, the Sons of Veterans kindly allowing them the use of their hall for a month free of charge. In return the society has given the people of Dwight and vicinity a course of five lectures, which, if not delivered by the most eminent men in the profession, has certainly offered, for the money invested, extraordinarily generous returns. Whether or not the society will realize the hopes of its founders, it is yet too early to determine, but certain it is that, interfering with no other occupation of its members, it has given them something to occupy their spare time, and from which they may derive both pleasure and profit. The ultimate success of the project means a step forward in the practical education of America's future voters.

Following are the officers: President, John Goodspeed; vice president, Chadz Bell; recording secretary, Charles J. Perry; corresponding secretary, Will J. Leach; treas. Will Geis; marshal, Howe Parker.

All visitors are welcome.

## Y. P. S. C. E.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Congregational church, of Dwight, was organized February 12, 1887. The late Prof. H. D. Fisk, was the first president, Rev. Mr. Wilson, pastor. The Endeavor society has for its motto, "For Christ and the Church," and its object, to help young people to live nearer to Christ, to assist the pastor of the church in his work, in every way possible and to promote the principles of good citizenship. Also seeks to cultivate a spirit of friendliness and sociability among its members, and kindness to strangers.

Our society now has forty members. The officers are elected semi annually, in January and June. Those for the current half year are : Pastor, Rev. E. F. Wright ; president, Mrs. J. A. Spencer ; vice-president, Mary Nelson ; treasurer, Mrs. J. L. VanEman ; corresponding secretary, Bessie Baker ; recording secretary, Alida A. Martin.

We welcome all to our meetings at 6:45 Sunday evenings. The society is now organizing a good citizenship class. All who will, who are interested in the welfare of their country and in developing a higher degree of social life, are invited to join, whether they are members of the society or church or not.

## REBEKAHS.

Prairie Queen Lodge Daughters of Rebekahs, No. 370, I. O. O. F., was organized in Dwight, Ill., January 29, 1895.

The officers of the current term are : P. N. G., Henry Fox ; N. G., Miss Nora Goodman ; V. G., Miss M. F. Pettett ; Secretary, Mrs. F. F. Starrett ; Treasurer, Mrs. N. A. Ketcham ; Deputy for G. M. Mrs. H. A. Fox ; W., Miss M. E. Reader ; C., Miss N. C. Taylor ; Chaplain, John Geis ; R. S. N. G., John Pettett ; L. S.

N. G., Mrs. E. Chamberlin ; R. S. V. G., Miss P. E. Fox ; L. S. V. G., Miss E. Baker ; O. G., J. K. Buffham ; I. G., W. J. Taylor.

The object of the Rebekah Degree Lodge is, to assist the Odd Fellows in preparing and maintaining homes for their widows and orphans, taking care of the sick and to promote the fraternal and social feelings among its members.

This degree was presented to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the United States by Schuyler Colfax and adopted in September, 1851.

It has long been considered among men that by far the best part of our physically developed humanity, are the women, and it is no wonder that a fraternity like Odd Fellowship, recognizing women's great mission, and the aptness of the association to her nature, should provide a degree especially for her.

The objects, aims, principles and teachings of the order are such that, when fully understood, they will captivate woman. Lodges of Odd Fellows are formed, and in them men are banded together to do what it is natural for women to do. The leading principles of the order are but the innate principles of women's nature.

The acknowledged motto of the order of Odd Fellows is "Friendship, Love and Truth." The order teaches that no one has a right to live simply for himself. No one has a right to enjoy the blessings of the common Father alone. Selfishness, the great sin of our humanity, should be avoided, and benevolence, the great principle of the fraternity, should be practiced.

The great corner-stone of Odd Fellowship is fraternity, a true fraternity in the family of man. On this corner-stone, as a solid basis, the whole super-

structure securely rests, and will continue to rest until time shall be no more. The maxim of Odd Fellowship, "We visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan," has touched the feelings and stirred up the tender hearts of women; and the work of the order has exhibited to our American women and to the women of the world, what our order is accomplishing.

I cannot tell why the degree was called Rebekah, except it was because of the circumstance recorded of Rebekah, so much like the practical workings of Odd Fellowship.

#### EMBLEMS OF THE DEGREE.

As life is passing, we are taught, by the emblem of the "Beehive" industriously to do the work of life, and for the purpose of helping each other we are banded together in our lodges.

The emblem of the "Moon and Stars" is intended to represent good life which does not come to anyone as a matter of course, but is the result of divine favor attending our earnest efforts to do good.

The emblem of the "Dove" tells us that we, too, may have the visits of that comforting messenger typified by Noah's dove. We may learn in its blessed influence on our hearts that the waters of Jehovah's wrath are assuaged, and that in the salvation provided, so beautifully typified by the ark, the offender may be reconciled to the offended.

A REBEKAH.

#### WOMAN'S AUXILIARY KEELEY LEAGUE.

The Woman's Auxiliary Keeley League, No. 1, of Dwight, was first organized in February, 1892, by a few earnest women who were at that time taking treatment. It was then called the B. C. of Gold Club of Dwight. Only

ladies who had, or were taking the treatment, were eligible to membership. Their object was to bind together in one fraternal bond all the women who had taken the Keeley cure, and assist worthy applicants who were unable to do so. Their motto was "Charity," and the first money they expended was to pay for a berth in a sleeping car for a patient who was returning home and was unable to procure it herself.

The Ladies B. C. of G. Club, of Dwight, was the first organization of women in the Keeley work. In the formation of the Woman's Auxiliary Keeley League, the club was merged into it, but retained the original No. 1, three of its workers becoming charter members in the Auxiliary. Of the three one is dead, one withdrawn to join elsewhere, and one is still an honored member. The first elected officers were: President, Mrs. Kate Shaffer; vice-president, Mrs. Barber; secretary, Mrs. Carrie Lounsberry.

In November, 1892, the present Auxiliary was organized by Mrs. Ida B. Cole. Mrs. Dr. Blaine was elected president and Mrs. Dr. Barr, secretary.

The object of the W. A. K. L. is to further the cause of temperance, and especially to aid in curing the inebriate of the disease of alcoholism and others in the use of opium and other drugs. To teach the youthful of the land to avoid the drink and drug addictions, and by all means possible, with the blessing of God, promote the purity and good order of society.

The motto is "Not willing that any should perish."

Since the organization in November, 1892, there has been collected from different sources \$633.90. There is at present \$18.19 remaining in the treasury. The balance has been expended





Heather Lad.

J. R. Oughton's \$6000 Gordon Setter, took first in every bench show in the United States in 1893-94.





for curing patients and defraying the necessary expenses of running the Auxiliary. Meetings have been held every week until the present time. Regular meetings the 2d and 4th Tuesdays in every month in Odd Fellows' hall.

Every one is welcome.

Mrs. Dr. Barr, who has been an untiring worker since the Auxiliary was first organized, is the president.

#### WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

One of our efficient philanthropic organizations is the Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. Its especial object is to aid and assist the members of this organization, to cherish and emulate the deeds of the brave defenders of our nation, and perpetuating the memory of their heroic dead. To maintain true allegiance to the United States, inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country among our children, and in the communities in which we live, and encourage the spread of universal liberty and equal rights to all. This is a platform broad enough, not only for the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the Veterans, but for all loyal women who would perpetuate the principles for which the association stands pledged.

Dwight Woman's Relief Corps was organized in 1889 with Mrs. Hattie A. Fox as president. Their numbers were few but their zeal was always alive and much good has been done in a quiet way, not only in our own community, but aid has been given to the various Soldiers' Homes throughout the state. The contingent expenses are met out of the general fund, the "relief fund" being established for the benefit of the Veterans. The "line of blue," each year growing shorter, has tenderest

sympathy as well as aid in the Woman's Relief Corps.

The officers for the ensuing year are : President, Mrs. Kate A. Dustin ; vice-presidents, Mrs. Ella Wheatley and Mrs. E. L. Huey ; treasurer, Mrs. Lucie Lewis ; chaplain, Mrs. Lizzie Ayling ; conductor, Miss Emma Buffham ; guard, Miss Myrtle Wheatley.

#### YOUNG WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

This branch of the Y's, as they are commonly called, was organized May 7, 1887, composed of the young ladies of Dwight, and has ever been a flourishing, prosperous society. The mission of this organization is to help the needy, visit the sick and aged, cheering them with fruit and flowers, sending money to hospitals, etc. The present officers are : President, Miss Kittie Martin ; first vice-president, Miss Lenar Fifield ; second vice-president, Miss Aline Chenowith ; recording secretary, Miss Nellie Hade ; corresponding secretary, Miss Mae Morgan ; treasurer, Miss Mary Fifield ; superintendent flower mission, Miss Lena Fifield ; superintendent of literature, Miss Ella Fenn.

#### EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The Epworth League is an organization of the young people of the Methodist Episcopal church. Its object is to promote intelligent and vital piety in the young members and friends of the church ; to aid them in the attainment of purity of heart and constant growth in grace and to train them in works of mercy and help.

Its motto is, "Look up, Lift up." The Dwight Chapter of the Epworth League was organized about five years ago, and now has a membership of seventy-six active, twenty-three associate and eight

honorary members. The present president is Mr. D. B. Stevens.

The work of the League is carried out through six departments: 1. Department of Spiritual Work, Superintendent Mrs. D. B. Stevens. 2. Mercy and Help, Superintendent, Miss Nellie McWilliams. 3. Literary Work, Superintendent, Miss Louise McWilliams. 4. Social Work, Superintendent Mrs. Manning Smith. 5. Correspondence, Miss Lilly Conrad. 6. Finance, Mr. Orville Brown. Devotional meetings are held each Sabbath evening before the regular preaching services. The regular business meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of each month and at the close of each a literary program or social is given. All are most cordially invited to attend the different meetings.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Hebron Lodge, No. 175, K. P., was instituted January 18, 1888, with twenty-five charter members, as follows: C. H. Barr, Eugene Flagler, John Geis, John Leach, George L. Kern, Adam Dernbach, L. D. Plummer, G. N. Flagler, James S. Goodman, John Matzen, Frank Reeb, B. O. Goodman, W. T. Prime, G. B. Goodman, A. W. Kern, T. J. Graham, J. T. Buck, Henry Groll, O. C. Jensen, I. L. Perry, Wm. C. Bartholic, Dwight P. Mills, John Pettett. The first Chancellor Commander elected was Eugene Flagler.

The present officers are as follows: C. C., Wm. T. Prime; V. C., A. J. Diefenbach; Prelate, Frank Reeb; M. of E., Simon P. Klitz; M. of E., John Leach; K. of R. and S., Geo. L. Kern; M. of A., Chris. Skaffgard; I. G., L. H. Martin; O. G., Jack Hudson; M. of W., S. Johnson.

The lodge reached at one time a membership of eighty-seven, but owing to one death and several moving away we

have a membership at present of sixty-one. The lodge has paid out a large amount for relief and sick benefits, as that is one of the grand principles of the order. The meeting nights are every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock, above treatment hall, and they extend fraternal greeting to visiting brothers.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER MUTUAL AID.

This mutual insurance organization had its birth in Dwight, March 17, 1879, when about thirteen among our best citizens got together and decided to do something to protect their families after demise. Deputy Grand President W. A. Halstead was present and installed the lodge, and the following officers were elected: C. D. Chalfant, president; A. M. de Clercq, vice-president; R. F. McIluff, recording and financial secretary; Ed. M. Merrill, treasurer. B. A. Buck was elected the first representative to the grand lodge, and was also elected the last one in 1894. We understand there has only been one death loss in the Dwight lodge, that of Mr. de Clercq. Several original members have died, but have let their payments lapse and lost their insurance.

The officers elected at a recent meeting in 1894 are as follows: W. G. Dustin, president; L. Reeder, vice-president; George S. Baker, recording and financial secretary; B. A. Buck, treasurer. The lodge now has a membership of thirty.

#### DWIGHT GUN CLUB.

This organization came into existence August 16, 1894, and has flourished ever since. The first meeting was held as above in the town house, S. T. K. Prime in the chair, and C. V. Bower, secretary. The objects of the club are principally to promote field sports and protect game

birds, which is very creditable, indeed.

The officers elected, which are still holding their positions, are: J. R. Oughton, president; H. F. Adams, vice-president; C. V. Bower, secretary and treasurer; L. S. Hause, captain; J. R. Oughton, C. V. Bower, L. S. Hause, Geo. Tate and Robt. Orr, trustees.

The first shoot was held October 18. November 29 there was a match shoot between Henry Atkinson and Ame Orr, the latter winning. The first annual tournament was held December 27 and 28. The weather was very bad and the outside attendance small, but the club cleared about \$25.

In November a special meeting was held and President J. R. Oughton kindly offered to erect a club house and rent it to the club for \$10 a year, which was accepted.

There has been a constant improvement in shooting among the members.

There is a membership of thirty the 1st of January, 1895. The shoots are held on the Oughton farm, just south of town.

#### MASONIC.

The Masonic fraternity was organized in Dwight March 1, 1862, when Livingston Lodge, U. D., was formed, with the following officers, viz.: E. N. Jencks, W. M.; C. S. Newell, secretary; W. L. Gross, senior warden. October 8, 1862, the lodge received a charter, issued by F. M. Blair, grand master of Masons in Illinois, and countersigned by H. G. Reynolds, grand secretary. The lodge has a large and increasing membership of excellent citizens, and is one of the solid orders of our city. The following officers were elected for 1895: W. M., Andrew Hansen; S. W., A. Bovik; J. W., G. Z. Flagler; secretary, Frank Ford; treasurer, Joe Miller.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

The above fraternal insurance order was organized in Dwight in September, 1892, in Keeley hall, by Deputy Head Counsel Griggs. There were thirty-two charter members. The first officers elected were W. G. Dustin, V. C.; A. Bovik, A.; Jas. Ubellar, B.; W. H. Doty, clerk; A. R. Zimmerman, W.; J. Burns, S. The order has flourished and new members have joined right along, until the membership early in 1895 reaches nearly 100. Deputy Head Counsel Martin, of Aurora, did excellent work at this time. The officers at present—1895—are John Leach, V. C.; Wm. Thornton, A.; J. France, B.; W. H. Doty, clerk; A. G. Fisk, escort; M. J. Bagnell, watchman; I. N. Peterson, sentry; W. G. Dustin, A. Bovik, Frank Reeb, managers.

#### DANSKE BROTTERSAMFUND, FREDEN LOGE, NO. 34.

The above lodge was instituted in Dwight, October 12, 1889. They meet in Sons of Veteran hall, and their organization is growing and is in excellent condition. The first officers elected were as follows: E. P., J. Jacobsen; P., H. C. Hansen; V. P., J. J. Smith; S., L. P. Klitz; T., Jens Schott; G., Chris. Skafgaard; I. G., F. H. Frandsen; O. G., P. H. Gantzel. The present officers are as follows: E. P., J. E. Petersen; P., J. P. Jensen; V. P., P. Johansen; R. S., N. T. Nommensen; F. S., O. C. Jensen; T. S. P. Klitz; G., N. K. Nelson; I. G., P. Olsen; O. G., J. Jacobsen; trustees, J. P. Hansen, F. Frandsen, Ed. Smith.

#### PACIFIC ENCAMPMENT, NO. 126.

The warrant for the charter of the above organization was issued on the 8th day of October, 1880, by Walter E. Carlin, grand patriarch of the jurisdic-



tion of Grand Encampment of Illinois, attested by J. C. Smith, grand scribe.

Pacific Encampment was instituted October 16, 1880, by J. C. Smith, grand scribe, assisted by Vermillion Encampment, No. 54, of Pontiac. The following are the charter members, to-wit : H. Fox, J. J. Gore, A. McKay, Benj. Waite, by cards. By initiation, to-wit : W. H. Ketcham, Sr., J. C. Lewis, Martin Wilks, Moses Wilkison, Thomas Liddicott, Chas. Stevens, M. J. Cullen, John Leach, DeWitt Scutt, W. H. Conrad.

The officers elected were J. J. Gore, C. P.; A. McKay, H. P.; DeWitt Scutt, S. W.; J. C. Lewis, scribe; W. H. Ketcham, Sr., treasurer; Thos. Liddicott, J. W.; H. Fox, grand representative.

The officers elected for 1895 for Pacific Encampment, No. 126, I. O. O. F., are as follows : C. P., A. Comer; H. P., S. A. Goodman; S. W., G. L. Taylor; scribe, E. A. Radcliff; treasurer, W. H. Conrad; J. W., Geo. Peterson; sentinel, Geo. Donigan.

Trustees—J. A. Pettett, S. A. Goodman, M. Wilkison, M. C. Starrett, Geo. Robinson.

Moses Wilkison, representative to Grand Encampment of Illinois.

#### ODD FELLOWS.

Dwight Lodge, No. 513, I. O. O. F. was instituted in Dwight by Jas. S. Hunter, of Odell, D. G. M., May 22, 1873, and is probably the richest and strongest society in Dwight. The first Noble Grand was C. C. Gilbert, and M. W. Tambling, secretary. In October of the same year a charter was issued by G. M. Bross, grand master, to the following charter members: C. C. Gilbert, W. S. Sims, M. W. Tambling, John L. Clark, Thomas Weldon, Hugh Stevens and E. P. Utley. The society

afterwards purchased land and erected the Dwight opera house, now used for a treatment hall by the Leslie E. Keeley Co. They sold the property during the boom for a good price, and have the money well invested. The present officers are as follows: Deputy Grand Master, G. L. Taylor; Representative Grand Lodge, J. Stewart; Past Grand, A. Comer; N. G., E. A. Radcliff; V. G., Wm. J. Taylor; secretary, J. Knudsen; treasurer, Chas. Waters; R. S. N. G., J. Geis; L. S. N. G., S. A. Goodman; warden, Geo. Donigan; conductor, J. W. Koehler; R. S. S., Frank N. Smith; L. S. S., Geo. Peterson; R. S. V. G., Jos. K. Buffham; L. S. V. G., James Seabert.

#### ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.

The above organization was organized February 4, 1894. This order has fifty members and meets the second Sunday of every month. The officers are as follows: President, John Dennehe; vice-president, James West; secretary, Thos. Dennehe; recording secretary, Lawrence Fay; financial secretary, William West; sergeant at arms, David Coughlin; door keeper, Daniel Hurlay.

#### G. A. R., W. R. C. AND S. OF V.

The history of these organizations will be found in another part of this book.

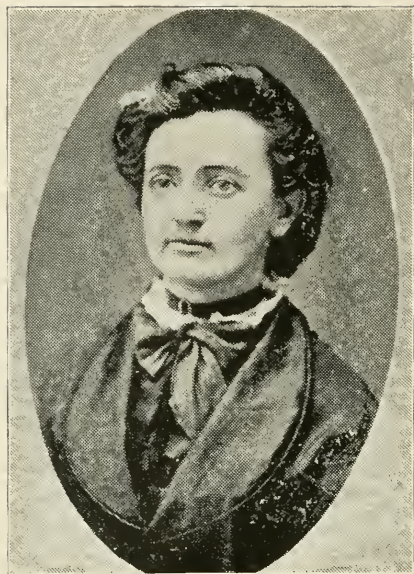
#### A. P. A.

The above lodge was organized in Dwight in 1894, and is said to have a large membership.

#### KEELEY LEAGUE.

The organization of the Keeley League and its advancement is noted at length through the latter years of this history.

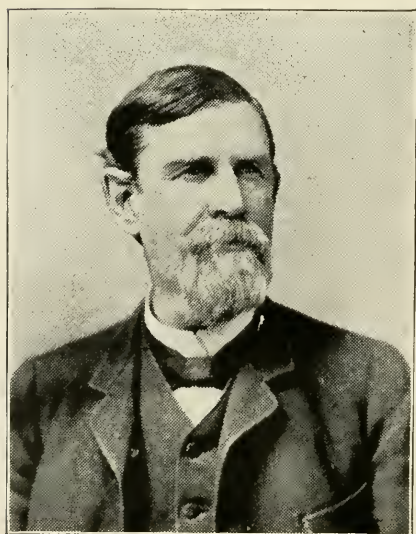




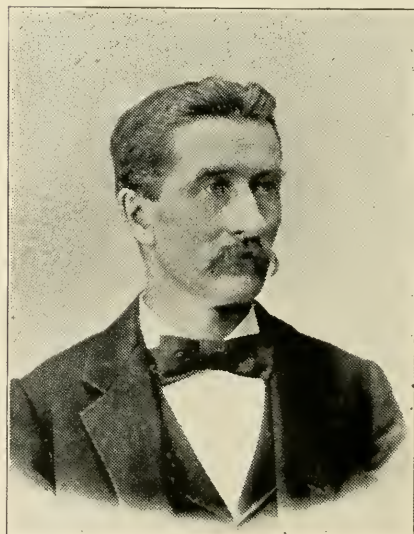
Miss Sarah Snyder.  
(*First Teacher in Dwight.*)



Prof. J. H. Meneely.  
(*Present Principal of Dwight Schools*)



Hon. O. W. Pollard.



John Leach.

## CHAPTER XII.

## DWIGHT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

While there has been much said in this little work regarding our schools, the improvements made and important changes, the history would be unfinished without giving the best record obtainable of the teachers and members of the school board from early times. It is due the members of the board and the teachers that to say our schools stand second to none of the size of the place in the state. There is one thing that even those who were instrumental in bringing about, now condemn, and that is having two schools. The mistake was made in purchasing two building sites instead of one central location where a building could have eventually been erected that would be a credit to the city.

By inquiry and through the kindness of D. McWilliams, E. T. Miller and others, we have been enabled to get together considerable information regarding our schools, which will certainly interest all our citizens.

The first school house was built in the fall of 1855 at a cost of \$275 and served three years as a school house, church and public hall. It was 16x24 and stood about fifteen rods east of the residence of D. McWilliams and is now the L of Col. J. B. Parsons' residence on Mazon avenue.

The school directors were D. McWil-

liams, Jeremiah Travis and Nelson Cornell.

Sarah Snyder was the first teacher, followed by Clara Colister and Amerila Crowel. The former is, January 1, 1895, a resident of Streator and in excellent health. Her portrait is presented in this work and we feel sure will be of much interest to all who are acquainted with the lady.

The town grew rapidly, and in the spring of 1857 it was found necessary to build a larger school house. All agreed that the house must be built, but the location cost many heated discussions. At the election the "East Side" party gained the day by three votes—104 or 105 votes being cast. A person going from the main part of town to the site of the new house was obliged to wade through slough grass as high as a man's head. In 1864 an addition to the east side building was made. It was 26x28 and cost nearly \$1,500. The play ground in which this building stands is the best in the county. In 1870 the two-story brick on the west side was erected at a cost of about \$5,000. Notwithstanding the fact that it seats 150 pupils, in 1880 the board of directors was obliged to rent a room in the M. E. church which served as a school room for one primary grade up to the fall of 1886, when a larger and more commo-



dious, better lighted room was secured in the Presbyterian church. A bell weighing 304 pounds and costing \$122 20 was purchased for the east side building in 1861.

The following named men have filled the position as principal of the Dwight schools :

	SALARY PER MO.
1857-1858—Edwin Lathrop, 2 yr. . . . .	\$ 40
1858 —L. W. P. Wilmot and wife, 3 mo. . . . .	—
1859 —S. G. Glenn, 5 mo. . . . .	60
1860-1861—D. S. Eyer, 1 yr. 4 mo. . . . .	45
1861-1863—O. F. Pearre, 2 yr. . . . .	35
1863-1865—L. W. P. Wilmot, 2 yr. . . . .	75
1865-1868—W. H. Gurney, 3 yr, \$30, \$65 and . . . . .	85
1868-1870—B. M. Moore, 2 yr. . . . .	100
1870-1871—L. F. Walker, 1 yr. . . . .	100
1871-1872—C. J. Gruay, 1 yr. . . . .	80
1872-1874—W. S. Wilson, 2 yr. . . . .	100
1874-1878—C. F. Diehl, 4 yr., \$100, \$120, \$120 and . . . . .	95
1878-1883—Jesse Hubbard, 5 yr. . . . .	—
1883-1890—H. D. Fisk, 7 yr. . . . .	—
1891-1892—C. E. Schlabach, 1 yr. . . . .	—
1892-1894—W. T. Wilson, 2 yr. . . . .	—
1894-1895—J. H. Meneely, present teacher, Jan. 1, 1895. . . . .	—

Edwin Lathrop, afterwards supervisor of Round Grove township, was the first male teacher employed in the schools of the town. He was informed while attending an institute in Pontiac that his salary (\$40 per month) was the highest received by any teacher in the county.

S. G. Glenn received \$60 per month, but had to pay an assistant who heard recitations in what is now the cloak room of the east side primary.

Mr. Glenn has since been president of a Florida railroad, and afterwards a prominent man in one of the leading insurance companies. O. S. Wescott, principal of the North Division High School in Chicago, was Mr. Glenn's assistant, receiving a salary of \$19 per month. During the summer Mr. Wescott worked at the carpenter trade and

never failed to attend Sunday School on the Sabbath. The teacher of his class happened to be the minister, and as ministers are supposed to know more or less about Greek, what more natural than that the teacher quote a little Greek occasionally for the benefit of his class? One unlucky Sabbath the minister, in order to prove a point under discussion, a quotation as he said, from the Greek Testament, whereupon to his great disgust, Mr. Wescott drew from his pocket a Greek Testament and proceeded to read. The minister was never known to quote Greek again while he remained in the place.

O. F. Pearre is still spoken of as an excellent teacher, and he undoubtedly did good work. He was re-employed at the end of his second year but resigned to accept the office of county superintendent, to which he had been elected. Mr. Pearre is a well known lawyer of Pontiac and has gained no little local fame as a poet.

W. H. Gurney is a brother-in-law of Mr. Pearre's, marrying Miss Alden. The lady of his choice was one of his teachers, but she gave up school work after she was married. During Mr. Gurney's reign the anti-declamation disease broke out with all the virulence of modern times.

Several of the boys, who are now prominent business men of the town, tried to throw the principal over the baluster simply because he sought to persuade them that declamations and essays were a part of their school work.

C. F. Diehl continued in school work and for two or three years was the principal of the Abingdon public schools in this state. He was also principal of the Ashton schools in Lee county.

Jesse Hubbard, who carries off the prize for the greatest number of years as principal at that time, was the man who

placed the Dwight schools on a safe and sure footing. During his administration the school was graded, an excellent course of study adopted, teachers stimulated to more thorough work, a library was secured and last, but not least, the boys and girls found that the teachers must be obeyed. His influence was felt outside of school, and after a year or two, shade trees and picket fences flourished in the neighborhood of the school buildings as they never had done before. Mr. Hubbard was afterwards superintendent of the Pontiac public schools.

Robert S. McIlduff, one of the leading lawyers in the county, and ex-states attorney, served as principal two or three different times, when sickness or a wedding kept the regular principal away.

Prof. H. D. Fisk maintained the dignity of the Dwight schools and was beloved by his pupils. His health failed, however, and during the last months of his principalship he was unable to attend to his duties, although his last thoughts were of the school, and only a few hours before his death he requested to be taken to the school. His death is spoken of in the history proper. Mrs. H. D. Fisk is a teacher in the schools January 1, 1895. Prof. Fisk was principal longer than any other person.

Prof. C. E. Schlaboeh, who succeeded Prof. Fisk, only remained one year. He afterwards moved to Iowa and was elected county superintendent of schools which position he held January 1, 1895.

Prof. W. T. Wilson succeeded Prof. Schlaboeh and remained two years. He is at present, 1895, we understand, attending school in Chicago. It is the opinion of all that Mr. Wilson has a bright future before him.

Prof. J. H. Meneely is the present principal, January 1, 1895, is a splendid instructor, a public-spirited citizen. He holds a perpetual certificate and is a

constant student himself and up-to-date on all modern ideas in teaching. He is ambitious and will some time, we expect, occupy a very high position among the advanced educators of the country. He is a young man and certainly has a bright future.

Names of those who have served as teachers since 1856, and the date, showing when they entered the school:

- Sarah Snyder, 1857, taught 6 years.
- Mrs. Lathrop, 1858, taught 1 year.
- O. S. Wescott, 1859, taught 1 year.
- Miss Bennett, 1859, taught 1 year.
- Miss Crist, 1860, taught 1 year.
- Mrs. Wilmot, 1863, taught 1 year.
- Hattie Newell, 1864, taught 2 years.
- Miss Alden, 1865, taught 1 year.
- Miss Hobbs, 1866, taught 2 years.
- Miss F. J. Ketcham, 1867, taught 3 years.
- Miss J. C. Wright, 1867, taught 3 years.
- George Winans, 1868, taught 1 year.
- Mary Whitlock, 1868, taught 1 year.
- Olive McClure, 1868, taught 1 year.
- Robert S. McIlduff, 1869, taught 2 years.
- Mary J. Paul, 1869, taught 2 years.
- Emily Haney, 1869, taught 2 years.
- Miss M. E. McClure, 1870, taught 4 years.
- Lizzie Weagley, 1870, taught 2 years.
- Alice Dwelley, 1870, taught 3 years.
- Laura Rodman, 1870, taught 5 years.
- Mary Sumner, 1872, taught 2 years.
- Marietta Baldwin, 1873, taught 1 year.
- Mary E. Haines, 1873, taught 3 years.
- Miss Diehl, 1874, taught 4 years.
- Franc McClure, 1874, taught 3 years.
- Nettie Ketcham, 1874, taught 3 years.
- Ella Mills, 1874, taught 3 years.
- Emma Paul, 1875, taught 2 years.
- Agnes C. McIlduff, 1875, taught 21 years.\*
- Mrs. T. M. Wright, 1876, taught 3 years.

Jennie Bradbury, 1877, taught 3 years.  
 Lucy M. Banks, 1877, taught 8 years.  
 Mrs. C. M. Cyrus, 1877, taught — years.  
 Emma F. Baker, 1877, taught 19 years.\*  
 H. Belle McGinnis, 1877, taught 8 years.  
 Emma Rodman, 1878, taught 2 years.  
 Clara Dunlop, 1879, taught 1 year.  
 Sarah Crawford, 1879, taught 1 year.  
 Mattie B. Paul, 1880, taught 7 years.  
 Josie McHugh, 1881, taught 1 year.  
 Mary E. Dow, 1881, taught 2 years.  
 Addie Northam, 1881, taught 1 year.  
 Georgiana Scott, 1883, taught — years.  
 Hattie Strawn, 1884, taught — years.  
 Mrs. H. D. Fisk, 1883, taught — years.\*  
 Isabel Phillips, 1884, taught — years.  
 C. R. Tombaugh, 1884, taught 1 year.  
 Jennie Payne, 1884, taught 1 year.  
 T. J. Haney, 1885, taught 1 year.  
 Clara E. Fisk, 1885, taught 2 years.  
 Louisa H. Bartlett, 1885, taught 2 years.  
 John H. Smith, 1886, taught 3 years.  
 Minnie Ahern, 1886, taught 4 years.  
 Lucy Barnum, 1886, taught 2 years.  
 Lucy Banks, 1886, taught 2 years.  
 Samuel Houston, 1887, taught 4 years.  
 Minnie Holmeyer, 1887, taught 1 year.  
 Ella New, 1888, taught 1 year.  
 Lillie Conrad, 1889, taught 6 years.\*  
 Mrs. Hubbard, 1890, taught 2 years.  
 Mrs. H. B. Rishell, 1891, taught 1 year.  
 Jas. T. Rishell, 1891, taught 1 year.  
 Mrs. H. D. Fisk, 1892.\*  
 Mary H. Gould, 1892, taught 2 years.  
 Nellie Hade, 1892.\*  
 C. E. Swanson, 1892, taught 1 year.  
 Addie Barr, 1893.\*  
 Miss Chenowith, 1893.\*  
 J. H. Meneely, 1893.\*  
 G. W. Allen, 1894.\*

\*Teaching January 1, 1895.

#### HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANTS.

Alice Graves, 1879, taught 1 year.

Margaret Sudduth, 1880, taught 1 year.  
 Mary E. Bradford, 1881, taught 2 years.  
 Lidia A. Kelly, 1883, taught three years.  
 S. Estella Krohn, 1889, taught 2 years.  
 Anna L. Glidden, 1890, taught 2 years.  
 Miss Palmitier, 1892, taught 2 years.  
 Jean Pettett, 1894.\*

\*Teaching January 1, 1895.

Agnes C. McIluff, Emma F. Baker, H. Belle McGinnis, Lucy M. Banks and Mattie B. Paul have taught the greatest number of years. The first two named are still employed in the school.

Names of those who have served their country faithfully in the capacity of school director and board of education :

D. McWilliams,	J. B. Travis,
Geo. Whitlock,	Nelson Cornell,
Oren Gould,	Robt. Young,
Henry Eldridge,	Chas. S. Newell,
W. H. Ketcham,	S. L. D. Ramsey,
Walter Baladen,	J. G. Strong,
John Sherrill,	Dr. J. H. Hagerly,
James McIluff,	W. S. Sims,
A. E. Gould,	Jesse Diffenbaugh,
S. M. Witt,	Eugene Baker,
A. McKay,	O. W. Pollard,
J. J. Gore,	C. J. Judd,
B. A. Buck,	R. P. Morgan, Jr.,
J. C. Lewis,	John C. George,
Dr. M. Palm,	E. T. Miller,*
John A. Pettett,*	N. N. Mickelson,*
George S. Baker,	John Leach,
John Dennehe,	John Geis,
L. J. Trunnell,	J. R. Oughton,
A. Burbaker,*	Dr. C. H. Barr,*
L. H. Martin,*	Mrs. C. M. Baker,*

\*Board of Education January 1, 1895.

Mrs. C. M. Baker was the first lady ever elected on the board, and made a splendid official.

It has not been customary to re-elect a man after he served one term. In



West Side School



East Side School.





many cases the retiring director was urged to allow his name to go before the people for re-election, but he preferred to draw his princely salary and modestly retire. In thirty-two years but three men have served two full terms.

The marked success of D. McWilliams, H. Eldridge, Jesse Diffenbaugh, Richard P. Morgan, Jr., C. J. Judd, Eugene Baker, S. M. Witt, A. McKay, O. W. Pollard and others, in business, or in the field of politics, has led many to believe that the office is a guarantee to wealth or fame, or both.

## GRADUATES

## CLASS 1880.

Allie Eldridge, Charles Fallis,  
Charles Rhodes.

## CLASS 1881.

Alice Rattenbury, Alice Paul,  
Anna Baker, J. P. McWilliams,  
Edith Kneeland, Fred Wood.

## CLASS 1882.

Nora Goodman, John Smith,  
Mary Marshall, Frank Thole,

Laura Thompson.

## CLASS 1884.

Effie E. Baker, Annie E. Fox,  
Jennie Rattenbury, Jennie Payne.

## CLASS 1885.

Erminie Ahern, Frank L. Smith,  
Frank Wilson, Ella Conant,  
Mary Longe, Mary Cusick.

## CLASS 1886.

Louise McWilliams, Cora Adams,  
Verna Koehnlein, Eugene George,  
Samuel Houston.

## CLASS 1887.

Lilly B. Conrad, Nellie Weldon,  
Mary O'Malley, Julia O'Malley.

## CLASS 1888.

Jennie Cadwallader, Alice Perry,  
Lilla Koehnlein, Anna Dunlop,  
Luella Stevens, Minnie Lower,  
Aura Gallop.

## CLASS 1889.

D. C. Morgan, Charles Vickery,  
Fred Smith, Nellie Doherty,  
Louise de Clercq, Bessie Huey,  
Nellie Jeffries, Henry Wood.

## CLASS 1890.

John George, Walter O'Malley,  
Jennie Koehnlein, Alice Longe,  
Dell Pearre, Mary Conrad.

## CLASS 1891.

Minnie E. Barr, Mildred C. Gould,  
R. May Morris, Fred B. de Clercq,  
Marcella Ferguson, Maggie E. Kern.

## CLASS 1892.

Bessie A. Baker, Fannie Conner,  
Clay D. Parker, M. Etta Calder,  
Charles A. Simmons.

## CLASS 1893.

Addie B. Fenn, Dora E. Kern,  
M. Mabel Thompson, Frank E. Ford,  
John O'Malley.

## CLASS 1894.

Mary Fifield, Emma Groll,  
Marie Petersen.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE DWIGHT GUARDS AND THE 10TH BATTALION, I. N. G.

RECOLLECTIONS BY COLONEL J. B. PARSONS.

June 20, 1874, an independent company of state militia was organized at Dwight and was designated The Dwight Guards.

J. B. Parsons was elected captain, S. H. Kenney first lieutenant and S. M. Witt second lieutenant.

The company was composed of about forty men, quite a number of whom had seen service in the late war.

The officers were duly commissioned by John L. Beveridge, then governor of Illinois, E. L. Higgins being at that time adjutant general of the state. The Dwight Guards was the first military company organized in the county, in fact there were then but three or four other companies of militia in the state, but soon after this time considerable interest was manifested in militia matters.

The first arms issued to the Dwight company were fifty of the old muzzle-loading Enfield muskets, with equipments, all of which had done service in the late war.

Our first quarters were in Smith's hall over J. J. Smith's shop on Mazon avenue.

At that time the state was without militia law and without funds to pay

any expense in the militia line. During the month of July, 1874, the company purchased neat uniforms with their personal funds, and the ladies of Dwight presented them with a very nice bunting flag. The company took considerable interest in their meetings and drill and soon assumed quite a military bearing and became somewhat proficient in drill.

In August of that year the company made arrangements for a military drill and sham battle to be held in Dwight on the 14th of that month. This being a novel thing and other attraction being added, all of which were well advertised, the event was a great success as to numbers and I think the crowd has seldom been exceeded in Dwight.

The Fairbury military company, which had been organized that month, was on hand in force, a cannon was obtained from Gardner and a quantity of blank ammunition was secured. The Pontiac fire department was kindly present with their new fire engine. The cornet band was engaged and the usual side shows were on hand. The celebration was held at the east side school grounds and the sham battle took place on the open

field on the east side of the school grounds. The day was splendid, and everything went well until afternoon, then accidents seemed to be the order. Seats fell and one man had a leg broken. During the rapid firing at the time of the sham battle Zane Turner had his arm badly shattered by a premature discharge of the cannon, he being one of the gunners. A little later the fire engine was withdrawn by the fire company from the school grounds to East street to give an exhibition in throwing water, the engine being placed at the large well at the north end of Strong's warehouse to procure water. The exhibition was proceeding nicely, but the water was such that it foamed and was not properly indicated by the steam gauge. Soon a loud report was heard, the engine had blown up. The crown of the engine was blown about forty feet into the air, the fire flew in all directions, setting fire to the warehouse and all was excitement. Fortunately the result was not as serious as would have been expected, but two or three members of the fire company were slightly burned or scalded, the fire at the warehouse was soon extinguished, and strange, to say, none of the crowd was seriously hurt, but the accident tended to dampen the festivities of the day. While the day in many respects was a great success still the accidents were of much regret.

About the middle of May of the following year the Dwight Guards were invited and attended a soldiers' and sailors' reunion at Chicago. We were furnished quarters at the hotels and had a very enjoyable time.

On Saturday, May 30, 1875, occurred the first memorial services ever held in Dwight, and I believe about as successful as any that has succeeded it. The services were held in the West Park, a

large wooden monument nicely covered having been erected on which was displayed the names of all soldiers who entered the service from Dwight and who had given their lives in defense of their country.

A procession was formed at 2 p. m. at Smith's hall on Mazon avenue headed by the Dwight cornet band followed by the Dwight Guards escorting soldiers of the late war, they being followed by the secret societies of Dwight and many citizens in the procession, the procession moving to the West Park with the band playing a dirge, the Dwight Guards at reversed arms.

The president of the day was Rev. M. M. Longley; vice-presidents, Hon. J. G. Strong, C. J. Judd, E. R. Stevens, Mrs. W. H. Ketcham, Mrs. W. H. Bradbury, Mrs. I. N. Gray, Mrs. R. Springer, Mrs. R. M. Gardner, Mrs. J. H. Coe, Mrs. J. G. Strong and Mrs. J. M. Baker.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Capt. J. B. Parsons, Hon. J. G. Strong, Joseph Baker, H. A. Kenyon, Mrs. W. H. Ketcham, S. W. Strong, Capt. J. B. Baker, Mrs. W. H. Bradbury, Mrs. I. N. Gray, Mrs. R. Springer, Mrs. R. M. Gardner, Mrs. J. H. Coe, Mrs. J. G. Strong and Mrs. J. Baker.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Music—Old Hundred..Choir and Band  
 Invocation.....Rev. C. H. DeLong  
 Reading of the Scriptures.....  
 .....Rev. M. V. B. White  
 Introductory Remarks.....President  
 Unveiling of Monument.....  
 .....Four Young Ladies  
 Music.....Band  
 Reading of Roll of Honor..H. A. Kenyon  
 Music.....Band  
 Prayer.....Rev. M. M. Longley  
 Memorial Poem.....W. H. Bradbury  
 Music.....Choir  
 Address.....Rev. O. W. Pollard  
 Music.....Band



Address.....Rev. W. Neitz  
 Music.....Choir  
 Address.....Rev. C. H. DeLong  
 Music.....Band  
 Closing Address...Rev. M. V. B. White

The procession then proceeded to the cemeteries and decorated the soldiers' graves, the benediction being pronounced by Rev. W. Neitz.

On June 8 Gen. Ducaf, of Chicago, was appointed brigadier-general of the state militia. On July 14, 1875, the Dwight guards accepted an invitation from the Morris Grays to attend a celebration at Morris. The visit was much enjoyed by the Dwight company. The Morris Grays had been organized in December prior.

In August, 1875, the Dwight Guards, with the Dwight band, attended the county fair at Pontiac and remained over until the following day to attend the soldiers' reunion which was addressed by Governor Beveridge, Col. Fort and others.

A company was organized in Pontiac in the fall of 1875 and assigned to the tenth battalion, H. B. Reed, captain; James Fenton, first lieutenant, and C. Clary, second lieutenant. By December, 1875, about fifty companies of militia had been organized throughout the state, and it had become necessary to consolidate them into battalions or regiments, hence an order was issued on the 21st day of December of that year by the adjutant general forming seven battalions and regiments. By this order the First and Second regiments were composed of the several companies which had been organized in Chicago, and the Third regiment was composed of the following companies: The Sterling City Guards, Rockford Guards, Sycamore Union Guards, La Salle Light Guards, Morris Guards, Dwight Guards, Streator Veteran Guards, Boone County

Guards and the Bohemian Rifles of Chicago. An election was held at Sterling in January, 1876, which resulted in the election of Captain J. W. R. Stambaugh, of the Sterling company, as colonel of the regiment. At this meeting Upton's Military Tactics were adopted. A committee on the style of uniform for the regiment was appointed consisting of the commanding officers of each company, J. B. Parsons being named as chairman. Also a committee on securing a proper and efficient militia law for the state was appointed consisting of Captain R. A. Smith, Captain J. B. Parsons and Captain J. B. Day.

In March, 1876, the Dwight Guards received from the state sixty new breech-loading Springfield rifles, calibre 45, with proper accoutrements. The company felt much pleased with them, as they were a modern and superior arm and the first received by the state. The company purchased new caps and made other additions to their uniforms, which, with their new arms and excellent drill, gave them a fine appearance. In July the Dwight Guards went to Joliet and took part in a sham battle at the fair grounds.

August 1, 1876, an order was issued by the adjutant general consolidating the following companies which should constitute the Tenth battalion:

Dwight Guards, Captain J. B. Parsons; Streator Veteran Guards, Captain J. W. Landis; Pontiac Guards, Captain H. B. Reed; Joliet Citizens' Corps, Captain D. C. Hayes; Odell Guards, Captain J. K. Howard.

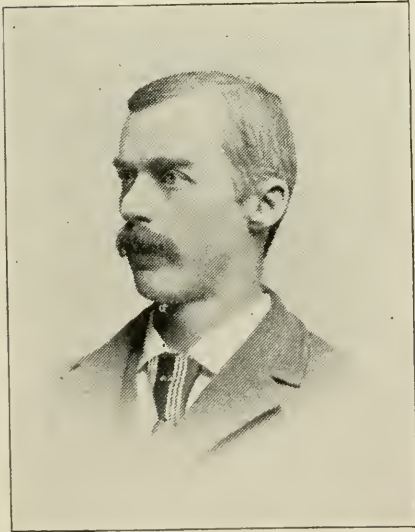
An election of officers was ordered held at Dwight on the 15th of August and the following officers were elected and commissioned: J. B. Parsons, lieutenant colonel; L. C. Mills, major; L. C. Mitchell, surgeon; J. F. Culver, chaplain; and the following staff offi-



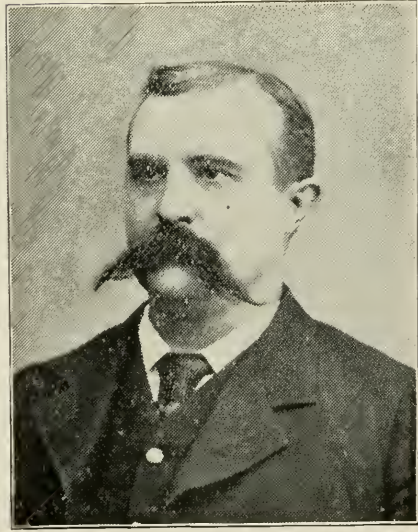
Col. J. B. Parsons.



John Pettett.



Chas. Waters.



Eugene Flagler.



cers were appointed: J. B. Fithian, adjutant, and C. J. Judd, quartermaster. The several companies were designated as follows: Company A, Pontiac Guards; company B, Joliet Citizens' Corps; company C, Streator Guards; company D, Odell Guards; and company E, Dwight Guards. Adams' cornet band of Dwight was assigned to the Tenth battalion. It was an excellent band and always cheerfully responded to calls from the Tenth battalion. The band was then composed of the following members: R. C. Adams, Eugene Flagler, C. M. Baker, John Poole, Henry Morgan, Del Wait, E. Foesterling, Lewis Williams, Ed. Adams, George Morgan, Herschel Hagerly and S. M. Witt.

A battalion drill was held on September 28 at Renfrew Lodge, Dwight, by all of the companies of the battalion, the adjutant general of the state being present, the drill closing with a sham battle.

During the fall of 1876 the Catholic church of Dwight held a fair and offered a fine silk flag, nicely mounted, as a prize to the best drilled militia company. This flag was secured by the Dwight Guards.

November 25, 1876, the Marseilles Light Guards, Captain J. B. Preston commanding, were assigned to the Tenth battalion and designated as company F.

In the spring of 1877 the Dwight Guards built an armory 22x50 on the east side of West street, near Mazon avenue, at a cost of about \$400. Having several carpenters in the company they did the greater part of the work themselves. This building gave them a good room for their meetings and for their drill in the manual of arms, storage of arms, camp equipment, etc. After the company was disbanded

the armory building was sold to Charles Waters for a hardware store.

May 30 the Dwight company took part in the memorial services at Joliet.

On July 1, 1877, a new militia code or law went into effect. This law had been passed by the general assembly of 1877 and duly approved by S. M. Cullom, then governor. The provisions of this law were the first encouragement the militia of Illinois had received. The active militia was designated the Illinois National Guard, each company to consist of a captain, a first and second lieutenant, five sergeants, eight corporals with not less than forty nor more than 100 non-commissioned officers and privates. It provided for enrollment for five years, annual parades and encampments, arms and armories, fines and court martials and appropriations which authorized a levy of one-twentieth of one mill on a dollar upon all the taxable property in the state, this to be set aside as a military fund. At this time there were about 5,000 men in the Illinois State Guard, about one-half of whom were well uniformed and equipped. The law provided for brigade and division organization. J. T. Torrence was appointed by the governor brigadier general commanding the First brigade to which we were attached, and Gen. A. C. Ducat was appointed major general to command the division.

About the middle of July Adjutant J. B. Fithian resigned and Reed Jones was appointed to fill the vacancy.

A general reorganization of the state militia under the new law was ordered, but about this time strikes and rioting had become somewhat general throughout the state, and during the last of July, 1877, intense excitement existed throughout the country. The people then, for the first time since the war, realized the necessity of armed bodies



of troops. During the spring of 1877 the miners at Braidwood came out on a strike, and by the middle of July were carrying things with a high hand. Trouble was expected there. Orders were issued to hold the members of the Tenth battalion well in hand and have all armories guarded. A supply of ammunition had been ordered for all the companies, but the sending of the same was delayed from day to day by general headquarters. About the 22nd of July the sheriff of Will county and his deputies were driven out of Braidwood. Then the colored miners left for safety, going in a body, some to Wilmington and some to Dwight.

On the 23d I received an order from the adjutant general of the state to have my command ready for duty, and another dispatch the same day that ammunition would be sent to-morrow. Efforts were being made by the state to procure a supply from Rock Island. A vast number of orders was received by telegraph until the 28th. In the meantime the trains had all stopped running. The sheriff of Will county had called on the governor for help and advised on the 26th that not less than 1,000 well armed men be sent to Braidwood. Finally, on the evening of the 27th of July I received orders from Major General Ducat to concentrate my command at Dwight by noon on the day following, and proceed to Braidwood, he to leave Chicago with six companies of the First regiment and the Third regiment in time to form a junction with me at that point. Orders were telegraphed to the several companies of my command to proceed to Dwight by special trains which should reach here before noon on the 28th. This they did promptly. The Joliet company was ordered to remain on duty at the state prison to prevent any possible trouble from the prisoners at

that place, and the Marseilles company was ordered to proceed to Joliet and connect with the special train with the troops from Chicago.

A special train was provided at Dwight to take the Tenth Battalion to Braidwood, but there was some delay in getting started, one reason being that our promised ammunition had not arrived. One or two of the companies had a few rounds, but it could not be divided up to advantage with other companies as their arms were not all of the same style and calibre. In the meantime the troops from the north had reached Joliet and taken on two guns of King's Battery, it having been reported that the miners at Braidwood, who numbered about 2,500, had procured a field piece. This, however, did not prove true. During the latter part of the afternoon we left Dwight for Braidwood. We left the train about one-half mile from the town and proceeded to march toward the place. We soon ascertained that the troops from the north had preceded us into the town and that the miners had offered no resistance and that the honors of a bloodless victory belonged to the troops which had come from the north. We then marched to the railroad roundhouse, put on a camp guard and quartered in the roundhouse for the night. On Sunday, the day following, the houses of the place were searched and all arms found were confiscated, receipts being given the owners for the same. The colored miners which had gone to Dwight and Wilmington wished to return to Braidwood and asked protection from General Ducat, which was granted them on their arrival.

On Sunday the Joliet company was withdrawn from the prison and joined us at Braidwood.

On Tuesday, the 31st, General Ducat with his troops returned by special train to their homes, he leaving me in command with the Tenth battalion.

The command was then divided, some of the companies being encamped in the town and others being withdrawn to a coal shaft near the outskirts of the place. Matters remained quiet and no outbreaks occurred.

On the 2nd of August Governor Culom visited us. Matters were duly canvassed and he returned to Springfield that evening.

That day the Pontiac, Streator, Joliet and Marseilles companies were relieved and returned to their homes.

In a few days the arms which had been taken from the miners were returned to them.

Tents were provided and a temporary issue of blankets was made by Quartermaster Judd to the Dwight and Odell companies.

Matters continued quiet, the usual guard and picket duty was performed, and company drill was held daily. On the 8th of August orders were received for the command to return home leaving Quartermaster Judd in charge to report matters to the adjutant general and adjust state accounts. This would seem like leaving a comrade in the hands of the enemy, but as usual he proved equal to the occasion.

The following day the balance of the command, consisting of the Dwight and Odell companies, returned home. Thus ended the "Braidwood War." Many things had happened which at the time or afterward seemed very amusing, but this would not seem strange under all the circumstances. Lieutenant Judd attended to the detail work of adjusting the quartermaster's account for the battalion; also the muster and pay rolls for settlement by the state. This he

did in a very proficient manner, but, for lack of funds, the troops were not paid for their services until May, 1879. The pay was the same as for troops in the regular service. The pay for company E was from July 23 to August 15 inclusive, and amounted, for a private soldier, to \$11.35.

August 18, 1877, the La Salle Light Guards, Captain W. G. Coulter commanding, were detached from the Third regiment and assigned to the Tenth battalion and designated company G, but this order was soon afterward revoked by the adjutant general.

August 23 the Wenona Guards, Captain O. M. Southwell commanding, were assigned to the Tenth battalion and designated company H. On the same date the Ottawa Guards, Captain Edward H. Smith commanding, were attached to the Tenth battalion and designated company I.

The following roster will give as near as I am able to obtain, the names of the member of the Dwight Guards in the fall of 1877. Many others had been members of the company prior to this and subsequent to this, but I regret that I am unable to give a complete list of such names:

Samuel H. Kenney, captain.

Silas M. Witt, first lieutenant.

James H. Lloyd, second lieutenant.

Frank B. Chester, first sergeant.

Sergeants—Richard Roe, Hans Madson, Samuel Foster, James Kelagher, George W. Kyler.

Corporals—James M. Dunlap, George W. Gaghagan, Levi Wood, Charles M. Mackley, John M. Kenney, Charles Kingman, Jonah G. Winters, Daniel D. Lewis.

Musicians—James Riggs and Herschel L. Hagerty.

Privates—Isaac Alyea, Michael H. Blair, John Byrns, John W. Baker,

Rolla D. Calkins, Daniel F. Chariton, John Cornlusen, Patrick Conefry, David Duncan, Louis Engelbert, John S. Gaghagan, Smith Gillen, Stephen A. Goodman, James S. Goodman, Andy Irving, Ole H. Jensen, Frank L. Lewis, Jabez Luther, William Morris, William T. Magee, Alfred Miller, Charles Miller, Egbert Miller, Eli Mullen, James Morris, Henry T. Melhuish, George McNeill, Henry Parker, John Perry, Charles Rice, Joseph Riling, Lawrence Roe, Charles Staley, Arial R. Stevens, Samuel L. Snyder, William Sherwood, Henry C. Sims, James K. Short, Henry Thompson, William Thackery, Marion C. Wood, Steven W. Winters, Thomas H. Walker, Ralph Walker, James N. White, Charles Walso, William Winkler.

Major L. C. Mills resigned and his resignation accepted about the middle of August. The batallion was now composed of companies enough to be entitled to regimental organization. An order was issued to that effect and an election ordered to be held at Dwight on the 3d day of September, 1877, to elect field officers for the regiment. This election was held with the following results :

- J. B. Parsons, colonel.
- J. W. Preston, lieutenant colonel.
- B. E. Robinson, major.

This election was properly certified to and duly forwarded, but before commissions were issued the point was raised that some of the ballots had been cast by proxy. Up to that time the custom had been that where a company was represented, three votes might be cast by the officers present from each company when they held proxies for any commissioned officers of their company that might not be present. The matter being brought to the attention of the adjutant general, he then ruled

that by reason of these proxies the election was void and commissions were withheld.

In September a company was again mustered at Fairbury, L. J. Seicrist commanding. September 24, 1877, an order was issued which revoked the former order for a regimental organization and restored again the Tenth battalion with the following companies consolidated : Dwight Guards, Odell Guards, Pontiac Guards, Wenona Guards and Fairbury Guards. An election was called to be held at Dwight on the 5th day of October, 1877, to elect field officers for the same. This resulted in the election of J. B. Parsons, lieutenant colonel ; and Captain J. K. Howard of the Odell company, major, and they were duly commissioned. The following staff officers were appointed :

H. E. W. Barnes, captain and assistant surgeon.

J. F. Culver, Captain and chaplain.

C. J. Judd, lieutenant and adjutant.

Cadet Taylor, lieutenant and quartermaster.

The following non-commissioned staff was appointed :

C. C. Strawn, sergeant major.

C. D. Parker, quartermaster sergeant.

Richard Roe, commissary sergeant.

Phillip Wade, hospital steward.

Geo. W. Kyler, color sergeant.

J. H. Gaff, ordinance sergeant.

E. W. McIntosh, drum-major.

P. A. Trowbridge and T. A. Daniels, principal musicians.

Letters designating the companies were revised as follows ;

A, Pontiac company.

B, Wenona company.

C, Fairbury company.

D, Odell company.

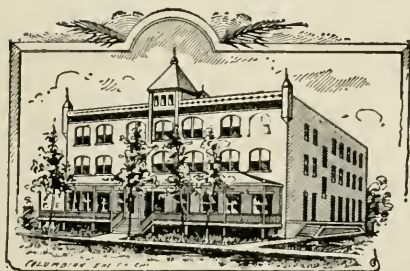
E, Dwight company.

The commissioned officers in these companies, as then or afterwards commissioned, were as follows :

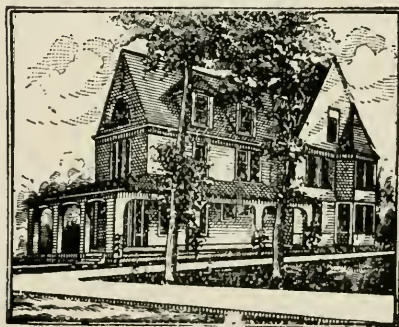




The Leslie E. Keeley Co.'s Office and Laboratory.



Livingston Hotel.



Women's Home.





Company A—Captains, B. E. Robinson and F. J. Maxwell; first lieutenants, D. M. Lyons, R. J. Johnson and James Fenton; second lieutenant, J. C. Keach.

Company B—Captains, O. M. Southwell, S. B. Patch and Samuel Brown; first lieutenants, S. B. Patch, P. Beckwith and R. F. Beecher; second lieutenants, P. Beckwith, Samuel Brown and Cadet Taylor.

Company C—Captains, L. J. Secrist, J. M. Wright, J. W. Morris and J. S. De Wolf; first lieutenants, J. M. Wright, J. W. Morris, J. S. De Wolf and Henry Bennett; second lieutenants, John W. Morris, J. S. De Wolf and Henry Bennett.

Company D—Captains, J. F. Trowbridge, F. N. Hossack and F. M. Penny; first lieutenants, E. M. Vaughan, A. R. Hoke and C. M. De Vinney; second lieutenants, J. L. Trowbridge, F. M. Penny and P. A. Trowbridge.

Company E—Captains, S. H. Kenney and S. M. Witt; first lieutenants, S. M. Witt and F. B. Chester; second lieutenants, J. H. Lloyd and G. W. Gaghan.

The new militia code provided for payment by the state for an annual parade and drill for three days, but owing to the expense incurred by the state from the recent riots, such parade was not ordered, but an inspection was ordered held by each company at their headquarters. In April, 1878, forty members of the Dwight company gave a power of attorney to M. C. Lilly & Co., Columbus, Ohio, for pay due them from their Braidwood campaign for forty national guard uniforms which they received the latter part of May. Several others were soon ordered, so that the company spent at that time a little more than \$600 for uniforms.

The average attendance at each drill of company E, as certified to by Captain Kenney, at their semi-monthly drills from July, 1877, to April, 1878, was fifty-one officers and men.

In June, 1878, the Livingston County Agricultural Society, through their officers, invited the Tenth battalion to hold their annual drill at their new grounds, Vermillion Park, at Pontiac, July 3rd, 4th and 5th, quarters, rations, etc., to be furnished by them. The invitation was accepted and the attendance was large. A sham battle was quite a drawing feature, the Joliet battery with their guns and the entire Tenth battalion taking part. On July 13 a social organization of company E was perfected, calling themselves Parsons' Guards. S. H. Kenney was elected president; S. M. Witt, vice-president; J. M. Dunlap, secretary; C. M. Mackley, treasurer. In October rifle practice was ordered held by all the companies of the command, Brigadier General W. E. Strong being then general inspector of rifle practice. Company E received this year for hall rent, lights, fuel, insurance and for other expenses about \$370 from the state.

November 19, 1878, the Bloomington Guards, Captain A. L. Heywood commanding, were assigned to the Tenth battalion and designated company F. Their commissioned officers at that time or during the service of this company with the Tenth battalion were as follows:

Captains—A. L. Heywood and J. F. Hefferman.

First Lieutenants—John Roberts, D. D. Butler, J. F. Hefferman and L. C. Garver.

Second Lieutenants—D. D. Butler, G. M. Lathrop and Henry Rieb.

February 21, 1879, Captain O. M. Southwell, commanding company B,

died. Captain Southwell was an excellent officer and his death caused much regret in the command.

July 1, 1879, a new militia code went into effect. This required that no company should be composed of less than fifty and not more than 100 men. The total number of national guards in the state not to exceed 8,000 men. The enlistments to be five years, levying a tax of one tenth of one mill on a dollar on all the taxable property of the state and quite a number of other important changes were made.

In July, 1879, Captain Kenney asked for the discharge of forty-six members of company E by reason of expiration of term of service. The application was forwarded, approved and the members honorably discharged. During this month Lieutenant Judd was commissioned captain and adjutant of the battalion.

Under the provisions of the military code \$500 was allowed this year to each brigade headquarters and \$200 to each regiment and battalion headquarters for current expenses of the same.

August 23, 1879, Lieutenant S. M. Witt was elected captain of the Dwight company, vice Captain Kenney, whose time of service had expired. Captain Witt was afterwards elected sheriff of Livingston County in November 1882.

In August, 1879, orders were issued from general headquarters for the First brigade to assemble at South Park, Cook county, on the 3rd day of September for a four-day brigade encampment and drill. The brigade was then composed of one battalion of cavalry, three regiments of infantry, five battalions of infantry and three batteries. This command, with which we were connected, reported at Chicago at the old base ball park on the lake front about noon on the 3rd, then moved in regular order,

commanded by Brigadier General J. T. Torrence, passing the exposition building where we were reviewed by Governor Cullom, marching thence to South Park where quarters and subsistence were furnished by the state, transportation to Chicago being furnished free by the various railroad companies. The services of the men were without pay for the four days' encampment. Company, battalion and brigade drills were the order; also a sham battle near the lake front on a grand scale. The encampment was enjoyed by all and of much benefit to the command. The drill and sham battle took place on part of the ground on which the World's Fair has since been held. The following named officers then constituted the brigade staff:

Lieutenant Colonel George R. Cannon, assistant adjutant general.

Lieutenant Colonel Elijah B. Sherman, judge advocate.

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel B. Appleton, inspector of rifle practice.

Major Wiley S. Scribner, assistant inspector general.

Surgeon Fernand Henrotin, brigade surgeon.

Captain Frank G. Hoyne, assistant quartermaster

Captain Elliott Durand, assistant commissary of subsistence.

First Lieutenant Edward T. Sawyer, aid-de-camp.

First Lieutenant James J. Healey, aid-de-camp.

The following officers were in command of the various organizations composing the brigade.

First battalion, cavalry, Major D. Welter.

Second regiment, infantry, Colonel James Quirk.

Third regiment, infantry, Colonel C. M. Brazee.

First regiment, infantry, Colonel E. D. Swain.

Battery C, First artillery, Major M. Young.

Battery D, First artillery, Major E. P. Tobey.

Battery A, First artillery, Captain E. Winter.

Tenth battalion, infantry, Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Parsons.

Ninth battalion, infantry, Lieutenant Colonel M. H. Peters.

Twelfth battalion, infantry, Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Fithian.

Sixth battalion, infantry, Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Thompson.

Sixteenth battalion, infantry, Major S. W. Scott.

In October ten rounds of ammunition was ordered issued to each man for target practice by Colonel James A. Shaffer then inspector of rifle practice.

November 10, 1879, H. H. McDowell was appointed and commissioned captain and assistant inspector of rifle practice. The same date A. G. Goodspeed was commissioned captain and chaplain of the battalion.

March 6, 1880, the battalion was inspected by W. S. Scribner, major and inspector general of the First brigade. The Dwight company was inspected on Friday evening, March 26. Company E was paid this year for expenses as provided by the militia code, \$325.

In August, 1880, the Wenona Fair Association, through its proper officers, extended an invitation for the Tenth battalion to meet with them at the time of holding their fair in September, the association to furnish quarters and rations for the battalion. Accordingly orders were issued for the battalion to meet at Wenona on Tuesday, September 28, for annual encampment and drill. The battalion band accompanied us and all the companies reported with

full ranks. We remained for two days entertaining the crowd each day with a sham battle. No expense to the state was incurred other than the use of about forty tents.

The levy of this year of one-tenth of one mill on the taxable property of the state raised about \$70,000, three-fourths of which was apportioned to the Illinois National Guard for militia expenses under the provisions of the military code.

In February, 1881, the battalion was inspected at their various company headquarters by Major Elliott Durand, then inspector general, First brigade.

In April, 1881, company A, at Pontiac, disbanded and all members honorably discharged.

Early in July Adjutant General H. Hilliard resigned and General Isaac H. Elliott was appointed his successor in office by Governor Cullom.

In July, 1881, the Fairbury and Bloomington companies received new breech-loading Springfield muskets.

On July 4, 1881, the Dwight Guards went to Kankakee and took a prominent part in the Fourth of July celebration in that city.

On the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th of September the Tenth battalion, by invitation, attended the fourth annual encampment of the Illinois soldiers' and sailors' reunion at Bloomington. This encampment was attended by companies B, D, E and F, taking with them the Tenth battalion band. On the 8th the encampment was visited by General U. S. Grant and other notables. A sham battle was held in the fair grounds; also a so-called street fight by all the troops present, through several of the streets of the city. Transportation and quarters were furnished by the reunion committee.

In September orders were issued re-



quiring the Illinois National Guard to pay fitting tribute to our martyred President James A. Garfield, that all colors be draped and all officers wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

In March, 1882, Adjutant General Elliott issued an order which, with the exception of three regiments of infantry, reorganized and consolidated the entire Illinois National Guards. Prior to this there were seventeen regiments and battalions of infantry, one battalion of cavalry and four battalions of artillery in the state. This order placed together the companies at Streator, Sublet, Wenona, Dwight, Joliet, Ottawa, Bloomington and Piper City, which should comprise the Fourth regiment, infantry, I. N. G.

An election for field officers was ordered held at Ottawa, with the following result and commissions were duly issued: Colonel, J. B. Fithian; lieutenant colonel, J. B. Parsons; major, J. F. Hefferman.

In August the following correspondence took place which explains itself:

DWIGHT, Ill., Aug. 7, 1882.

I. H. Elliott, Adjutant General I. N. G.,  
Springfield Ill.

General:—I hereby very respectfully tender my resignation as lieutenant colonel Fourth regiment, infantry.

Having now served the state for eight years at a considerable sacrifice as an officer in the Illinois National Guard I beg leave to report that my business is such that I cannot longer attend to the duties devolving upon me as such.

Very respectfully yours,

J. B. PARSONS,

Lieut. Col. 4th Reg., Inf't, I. N. G.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD,  
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 14, 1882. }

Special Order  
No. 576. }

Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Parsons,

Fourth regiment, infantry, I. N. G., tenders his resignation on account of imperative business reasons. It is accepted to take effect from this date.

Colonel Parsons has served in the Illinois National Guards eight years, and has proved himself well worthy of the rank he bore.

It is with regret that the governor and commander-in-chief accepts the resignation of such an excellent officer and tried veteran as Colonel Parsons.

By order commander-in-chief,

I. H. ELLIOTT,  
Adjutant General.

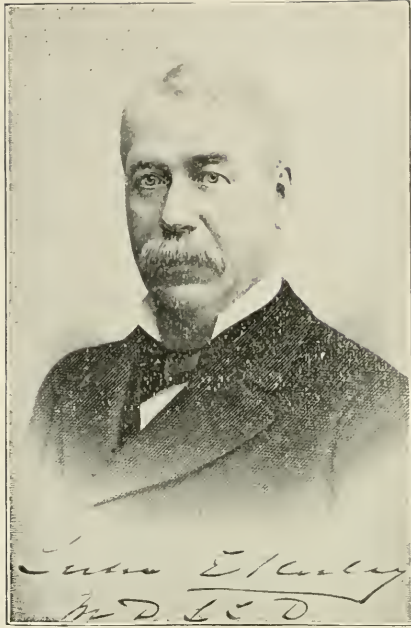
This severed my connection with the Illinois National Guard.

The Dwight Guards were disbanded and all members honorably discharged from the service in November, 1882.

During the organization of the Dwight Guards I believe they retained the confidence and respect of the people of the community, and I am sure the same feeling existed towards the other companies of the Tenth battalion in the communities in which they were located. I think that the members of the command and others had many reasons to feel as they did, that the Tenth battalion compared very favorably with the best then in the state. Personally I have always felt under many obligations to the commissioned officers and all men of the command for their partiality and cheerful performance of duty.

As memory goes back over the intervening time I am made sad by the thought that such excellent officers and companionable gentlemen as Major Howard, who died at Odell, July 12, 1882, and Captain Kenney, who died in Chicago, September 19, 1887, and others, and so many of the members of the old Tenth battalion have since crossed over the river.





Curtis J. Dugg



J. R. Cuyhton

## CHAPTER XIV.

## DR. LESLIE E. KEELEY'S DOUBLE CHLORIDE OF GOLD.

The notable event connected with the history of Dwight, Ill., the one which has given its name such an universal publicity throughout the civilized world, dates from April, 1880.

At this time Leslie E. Keeley, M. D., a physician and surgeon in general practice, and also surgeon of the Chicago & Alton railroad, announced to the world that after years of scientific research and practical experiments, the fact had developed that drunkenness and the use of opiates which had heretofore been recognized as vicious habits, if not crimes, were diseases only, and as such amenable to medical treatment and cure.

He was fair to the world and ethical to the profession, for he announced the means he employed, to-wit: the chloride of gold and sodium; and to show his faith in his work and the honesty of his purpose, he invited one hundred physicians to test the worth thereof and prove or disapprove his position by the success with which they should meet through its use in their own private practice, he furnishing them his remedy free, and enjoining only that it should be used in such cases as in their judgment were curable, taking all physical and moral conditions into consideration.

During the year following this offer over 600 pairs of Dr. Keeley's remedies

were contributed for this purpose, and their use was followed by reports of the most favorable and flattering results. At this time the remedy was only for internal use by the stomach. Later, by further experiments, he discovered a solution to be used in connection therewith, hypodermically, and which has since been employed in his Institute treatment. In addition to the diseases above named, Dr. Keeley's remedies are prepared for neurasthenia, or nerve exhaustion and the tobacco habit, and have proved as effectual in such cases as in those of alcohol and opium.

The method of treatment to-day is conducted upon the same lines as originally claimed by him as the true and practical method, with the exception, of course, of the added improvements that must necessarily come from years of practice, study and the handling of thousands of cases. Under his methods the marked innovation of treating persons afflicted with these diseases is at a first glance startling. There is an entire absence of every objectional feature of the old style inebriate asylum or sanitarium, it being substituted by an institute or home, where only voluntary patients are received; where patient and physician meet upon the ground of a mutual concession of responsibility, and where the afflicted one occupies the



position of a temporary resident of the city, wherein the institute or home may be situated, free to go and come where and when he chooses; the only requirements being to observe regularity in the taking of the internal remedy, as provided, and reporting punctually four times a day at office assigned for the hypodermic treatment. This mutuality fixes the patient's earnestness on a cure, and places him on the same basis as any other invalid who may be sojourning at a summer resort with his family physician, seeking quiet and freedom from disease, or rest for over-wrought nerves. The theory is that the remedies, as here administered, do what locks and straps and straight-jackets and bars have never done; that a sick man needs physical treatment, not physical restraint; the invalid, the nurse and not the jailor. Places of confinement, guards, hospital wards, etc., etc., are unknown at Keeley Institutes, and in the light of this great discovery, are but relics of past barbarism. The object of

this treatment is not to confine a man in the fear that he may do himself or others bodily harm; but to restore him to immediate normal physical condition, capable of occupying position as a man among men, either in profession, trade, business or society.

The established success of the work progressed, and in April, 1886, The Leslie E. Keeley Co., was incorporated, with Leslie E. Keeley, M. D., president; John R. Oughton, vice-president and chemist, and Curtis J. Judd, secretary and treasurer, and these members still retain their several positions. During eighteen months of 1885 and 1886, the institute treatment at Dwight was discontinued, and a thorough term of experimental work was employed under Dr. Keeley's personal direction, in

still further investigations, and in June, 1886, the Institute was reopened with improved remedies and the added hypodermic, with such success and world-wide results as have since been unprecedented in any feature of medical science.

The establishment of State Institutes throughout the United States and abroad, followed, and at present date number more than one hundred, all of which are under the supervision of competent and experienced managers, and in charge of physicians thoroughly instructed at Dwight in the methods and administration of the remedies.

The remedies are a secret preparation and will doubtless remain so, as Dr. Keeley's devotion of an average business man's lifetime to his work should entitle him to a just consideration of his wisdom in such protection from the manipulations of inexperienced people, as publicity of the formulæ of this most valuable world-discovery would endanger.

The most wonderful results are accomplished by the use of his methods and remedies. They, the company, owe the world no apology, yet an explanation for the purpose of information may be in order. During the past fifteen years, over 225,000 inebriates have been cured of drunkenness and kindred diseases, and to-day there is not a hamlet in the land that has not its staunch supporters of the cure in one or more Keeley graduates or friends into whose lives its blessing has not come. There is not a scientist or divine, who has given it his personal attention and examination, who is not its strong advocate and supporter. There is not a reformer of the day, who has gone into a thorough investigation of its merits, who does not hail it as the human agency that is to lift up, carry forward



Dr. J. E. Blaine.



Dr. M. R. Keeley.



Dr. R. Broughton.



Dr. W. M. Brown.



and save their impossibilities. There is not a home in which its work dwells that is not blessed, nor a community that is not better for its coming. Our government recognizes in it a protection for its wards, as well as a saving of its wealth. Our veterans hail it as the joy of their declining days. States have adopted it as a corrective, if not a sanitary, measure; and what speaks volumes for it is that wherever it has been introduced it has never failed in accomplishing all that is claimed for it.

As in all things that are directed by human thought or controlled by human judgment, we expect failures; yet, in this they are not in the cure, but in the patient to maintain same. This assertion has been proven in hundreds of cases of alleged failures, that upon examination the patient himself admitted that it was his own fault and that he returned to the use of alcoholic liquors or the drugs, not because he felt he needed them or even craved them, but from a foolish whim to test his cure, to see what effect they would have upon him, or to quiet the banterings of foolish friends and prove to them that he had not lost his manhood in taking the treatment, that he was still a free moral agent, etc., and could now indulge or let it alone as he saw fit, with the inevitable result—failure—forgetting that the wood, once charred, will take the flame quicker than that unburned. The treatment, again, is not intended to make men—only cure them. No system of medication thus far discovered can put a heart or soul or brains into a man. This remedy can and does cure the physical man of his physical malady and leaves him normal—as he was before he ever indulged—barring added age and injuries brought on through his excesses. If the patient is naturally a mental or moral failure, this treat-

ment cannot correct this, and should not be held responsible if such a man acts out his nature and lives out his narrow or vicious life. In the loss of such, the world loses nothing, but gains everything. When a man takes this cure he owes it the same allegiance that he does the Church or State. He must obey and follow the lessons, teachings, principles and laws if he would be a sober man, a consistent churchman and a good citizen. This treatment cures beyond a question, yet a man can drink again, even as he can sin again after Divine forgiveness. He is still a free agent to commit physical and moral suicide if he so wills; but the act must be deliberate and premeditated.

It is eminently fair to judge a work by its returns for good or evil. The records of the different Keeley Institutes show that in the fifteen years last past there have been 225,000 of our fellow citizens who have admitted their inability to cope with the narcotic or alcoholic diseases, or appetites, or whatever you choose to call them; that they were enslaved by chains that all earthly help had failed to sunder. Dr. Keeley's discovery dawned upon the world as a bow of promise; as a forlorn hope they reached out to it and found relief. What if a small percent have again fallen? They are only sufficient in number to prove the general rule of cure. The very large proportion who are permanently cured are good, earnest men, bread-winners to our nation, to say nothing of the hopes and loves and lives that are twined around theirs, of souls that it has made possible to save. Does this mean nothing to the world from the economist's view? Does it mean nothing to the Church and State? There is food for thought here. The structure that is being reared is to make men stronger physically, better mental-



ly and purer morally. The question is not, are we working according to any faith ; but are we saving men? If this treatment had saved but one of the vast number who have sought it, the world would be the better for its discovery.

There is another fact that marks the growth and success of this treatment and of these remedies as something phenomenal, and it is this: Since its work has proven its worth, and within the five years last past, hundreds of different so-called liquor and opium "cures" have sprung into life that were never heard of, or in fact existed, before ; yet claiming to be "the original Gold Cure," or an "improvement on the Keeley Cure," or "the Bi-Chloride of Gold Cure," or some such bastard growth that must add to their illegitimacy, and to draw the attention of their dupes to the words "Gold Cure" or "Dwight" or "Keeley," names that have become household words the world over, synonyms of salvation in thousands of homes, the crowning halo of a student's life. What a prostitution of sacred things to serve a damnable purpose, giving poison in the sacred chalice to the kneeling penitent at the altar of his hopes. What lesson can we draw from this? That the Keeley work and the Keeley remedies are genuine and all that is claimed for them. Imitations are not copied ; you never heard of a copying after or imitation of one of these imitators, for each recognizes in the other as great a fraud as in itself, and yet while they may flourish for a few days, or months at most, their fate always will be as it

always has been, sure and certain, their masks are being daily torn away and the world is beginning to see them and know them in their true light. Not so with the Keeley work. For fifteen years has it stood the test of trial, experiment, sarcasm, vituperation and criticism. It has built up the wealth of the land in money and men ; it gives value received in that you could not purchase from the patient for thousands of dollars what he pays one hundred for ; it has made numberless happy homes throughout our land, exerting an influence in harmony with all temperance organizations and churches, working for the greater good to humanity. It places men in physical condition to be morally better ; it turns the flow of money from the saloon till into the home ; it gives strength to the weak, courage to the disheartened, hope to the hopeless. It has not only made two blades of grass to grow where was only one, but it has made the barren desert of thousands of lives to blossom as the rose.

The gentlemen who form the company known as The Leslie E. Keeley Co., Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, Major C. J. Judd and Mr. J. R. Oughton, are all old residents of Dwight, and are a prominent part of its history, both before and after the discovery and remarkable success financially and for mankind. There has been no perceptible change in these men, except that they are busier, but socially they are just the same genial and interesting companions, and the old "History of Dwight" will have no more interested readers than they.



H. A. Kenyon.



A. C. Lonergan, M. D.



Leonard Howlett.



# Personal Recollections,

BY GEORGE T. CONANT.

## STARTING FOR THE WEST.

March 20, 1854, in the town of Rochester, Lorain county, Ohio, at the home of John Conant, a council was held by James Lynch, Geo. T. Conant and Henry Conant, agreeing to go in company to the West and settle on the wild prairie of Illinois. Having but a scant knowledge of these prairies of the West some wild speculations were made as to how the prairie looked. Lynch, who was fresh from the "ould sod," suggested, if there were no stumps, who "tuck" them out? Did the Indians pull them? "Shure" what would they do that for? And were there any fences, or the "loike? "Be gob, George," says Lynch, "are there any houses on the praires, or do they live in holes in the ground?" And, so, many were the questions asked by one or the other of the Gallant Three, who decided to start the next week for the West, if preparations could be completed. Each one must have a good rifle for protection in that wild country, for killing game on which to live, if they must, until a crop was raised, as they expected to be real farmer boys.

The mother of the Conant boys suggested, "that we take with us some sweet corn, lettuce and beets," and the father said, "you had better take some pumpkin seed and beans." Thus you see he remembered his old New England home—pumpkin pie and bean soup.

Everything having been planned and arranged, the route laid out and a letter written to Mrs. Cutler, a sister of two of the boys who lived in Grundy county, Ill., and whose place is now occupied by Mr. Louis Zauble, in Goodfarm, we started. This was our point of destination. So, on the 5th of April we put our traps in a lumber wagon and drove twelve miles to the nearest railroad. After waiting five hours the train came in sight, and we were told to "hurry on board," for they would not stop but a minute. Well, we got off safely and landed in Toledo sometime between midnight and morning, finding the train for Chicago had gone, and that we must wait until afternoon for a train. Such waiting three green boys never saw! But time passed and we finally got started again. The next day at dark we landed in Chicago.

After tramping for a time we found a tavern, not a hotel as now, where we stayed over night. At 10 o'clock the next day we boarded the Rock Island train for Morris, at which place we landed safe and sound and were told the best place to stay was a tavern down on the canal, kept by Landlord Prindell, a very talkative individual, who found out all about us as fast as he could. Lynch remarked: "He must be a relative he is so interested in us." And he knew everybody in the county, where



they came from and what they expected to do, and I guess he got the same from us, for we spoke of going on that night. "Oh!" says the landlord, "that would be impossible; you would get lost, for to get across the river you would not know which path to take, and besides we should stay and hear a woman lecture, "one of the smartest in the state."

I thought, perhaps, the hotel bill was what he wanted, but as he offered to furnish us tickets for the lecture we concluded to stay, finding the name of the lecturer to be Mrs. H. M. T. Cutler, our sister, whom I had not seen for six years, but said nothing to Mr. Prindell. He was so excited over the lecture, and having strangers to escort, stopping to introduce his young men to two or three who were a trifle late, the lecture was just beginning as we went in, and as all the back seats were taken, we went to the front, but were not given time to take our seats before the lecturer got in something not in the program, for we got a free introduction to all in the house, even the landlord had to shake hands with his guests. The lecture went on, but I heard some remark, "It wan't as good as last night." Well, all things have an ending and so did that evening and night.

Early the next morning leaving our belongings, except rifles and a few traps, we started for the south part of the county, twenty miles away. We were to inquire for a man by the name of Saltmarsh, after going a few miles. We tramped on and on. Lynch said: "We had gone ten good Irish miles, shure, let the distance be what it is, in this bare-headed country."

Then we tried our best to remember the name we were to inquire for, but with no amount of thinking could we recall the name, but shortly we came to a shanty house, and proposed we in-

quire and see if we could find out anything, but as we turned up to the house a man came out. Soon as he turned toward us Lynch whispered, "George, his nose is smashed, shure; he's the man we could not think of." And he was correct in his guess.

We received all the information necessary, got a drink of water, devoured our lunch, and after exchanging stories with Saltmarsh, started on, and went more than ten of those Irish miles, beginning to wonder where we should stay that night. But as we skirted the timber along the river Mazon, we heard the noise of some one pounding. We halted, then went a short distance into the wood. There we found a man shaving shingles for a house. He said he was going to build down at the new station in Livingston county. That man was Mr. West, who built a house in Dwight and lived in it so many years. He told us where to go, and went a short distance to point out Mr. Cutler's house, and said to us: "Right over there lives Eber Stevens, and next his brother Erastus," and also said "you have got almost done your tramp for to-day. How far have you come?" "Morris." "Why," he said, "that is our postoffice." "Be gorry," says Lynch, "I don't want any letter if I have to go after it."

Finally we landed at the Cutler mansion, three tired and homesick boys. The next morning at sunrise from this mansion we beheld the great ocean prairies of Illinois for the first time, and as a "quill" of the time has poetized.

"When first the village D. was thought,  
The friends of D. some others fought,  
To give a little name and birth  
To homes of clay and joyous mirth.

This settled, and a sign they placed  
To guide the weary wanderer to rest;  
A hickory pole of twenty-two feet,  
A rusty pall did gracefully o'erleap."

BY E. M. KNEELAND.

The period of time covered by this sketch begins in September, 1860. Dwight was then a small station on the C. & A. railroad. That artery of commerce had then, for some years, been pulsating regularly between Chicago and St. Louis. The spire of the Presbyterian church (now the Danish M. E.) and the smoke from the iron chimney of the stone mill could be seen from a long distance, and the shade trees not being grown, the village itself was also visible far across the naked prairie. Several farms near by were occupied, yet in some directions the prairie was open to the village streets. In nearly all directions the houses of settlers could be seen, but there were wide stretches of open country between. From the tops of the swells of the prairie, in clear weather one could always see a human habitation, but on the lower lands would sometimes travel miles seeing none. In the spring he would often see acres purple with wild violets or spider lilies, or blushing with wild roses; while in autumn nearly the whole landscape would be aglow with a variety of yellow flowers, in many instances the stems rising eight or ten feet. Beautiful, indeed, was the wild prairie in summer. Imagine yourself out on a treeless expanse, with few signs of human occupation anywhere, but a seemingly measureless sea of verdure stretching away in all directions, sometimes deer in twos or threes feeding quietly or hurrying away at your approach, with occasionally grouse or wild ducks springing almost from your horse's feet, and you will have an imperfect idea of what might be seen in the vicinity of Dwight in 1860. But the

first severe frost changed all this suddenly and completely. The landscape put on a dull, monotonous hue of dead vegetation. Then the hunter would get in his work. During the day the deer lies close in his covert, usually in the coarse grass around the sloughs. To find him the hunter would stick a match in the grass to windward of him, and going himself to leeward of the slough be ready to take the deer when the fire drove him up. If one had no property in danger the prairie fires were very beautiful.

About 3 or 4 o'clock one afternoon in the fall of 1861 a fire was started near the middle of the line which bounds Dwight and Union townships. A fair breeze was blowing from a little north of west. When a fire was started at a single point it speedily took the form of a capital letter V with its point forward, the side fires burning more slowly. The point of this fire drove across the middle of section 8 of the town of Broughton.

It passed about three-quarters of a mile north of my house. With the snapping and crackling and hissing of burning stems and weeds, mingled with the roar of flame, it sounded very like the roar of a long train of cars. The wind subsided at evening, and after dark there were two nearly parallel chains of side fire, each nearly ten miles long, the flames leaping two to six feet high on the uplands and of course higher in the lowlands where the grass was ranker. In the morning the whole wide prairie lay blackened and crisp under the tread of the fire fiend. In winter when the shelterless prairie was covered with snow and ice it wore a

look of bleakness and desolation no where else to be found this side the arctic zone.

I settled in Broughton in April, 1861. There were inconveniences of course, but for the young, the healthy and the strong I could hardly say hardships. Youth and health cannot be unhappy long at a time. The breaking out of the war increased the inconveniences greatly. Take for instance the matter of fuel. The issues of western banks (west of Ohio) were largely secured by bonds of the southwestern states which went into rebellion. Of course western money became worthless and went out of use. In February, 1862, I drew a load of ear corn into Dwight, and could not get a cent of money for it. I could get 12½ cents per bushel in dry goods, groceries or lumber, but that was not fuel and coal was cash. One Thursday morning, long before day, a neighbor and myself started for Streator. No, Streator was not then thought of, but for the coal banks at the Vermillion river. There were no shafts sunk at that time, but the coal was mined from seams which cropped out from the banks of the river and the creeks adjacent. We took plethoric lunch baskets, plenty of horse-feed and blankets, for we expected to be gone two days. We also took an ax and matches and some extra sacks of corn, but no money. Arriving at the river, we found, after some time, a miner who wanted our corn to feed the mules which he used about the mine. By that barter we each got a little more than half a wagon-boxful of "slack." The miner dealt fairly with us; he brought out of the mine an excellent quality of slack. It was nightfall when we reached the edge of the timber. We had no money to pay a farmer for a bed and stable-room so we turned into a thick grove of

oaks where we found a large log, beside which we built a fire, fed our horses, ate our suppers and spread our blankets. There were plenty of stars, and it was freezing some, but there was an ominous whispering in the tree tops. With the first light we were on the road, there was a brisk, chilly wind from the south and the sky was angry. A very few miles brought us to the prairie which stretched, almost without a house, nearly to the Mazon timber, two miles west of Dwight.

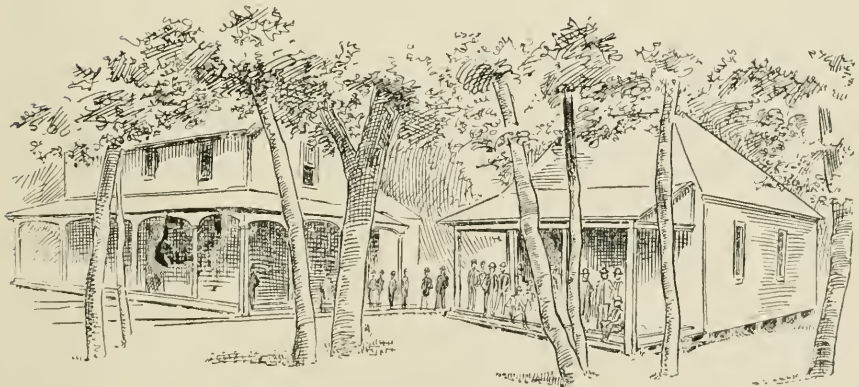
Soon the rain began to fall, our ice bridges became treacherous and our progress was slow. By the time we reached the school-house near the Mazon timber, it was very dark, and, driven by the south wind, very large snow flakes, feathery and soft, were falling thick and fast. We drove our teams close in the lee of the school-house, fed them well and put all the blankets on them and went into the house. The room was warm, for there had been school and there was still fire in the stove. We filled the stove with slack and soon had it red. We lay down on the seats in our wet clothes and waited for daylight.

In the morning the sun shone brightly and it was still thawing though the wind was very chilly and our clothes were damp. The ice bridges were badly rotted and the work was severe on the teams. A few miles southeast of the village we came to what was then called the Roadnight slough, a shallow stream ten or fifteen rods wide. We broke a roadway through the ice, doubled teams and went through nicely with the first wagon. Returning for the second load we perpetrated the folly of putting the younger and sillier team in the lead. About mid-stream they refused to go further, began to "act up," got tangled in their harness and soon all four horses





Scene in Keeley Treatment Hall.



Keeley League.  
(Former Club House.)





were down at once in about two and a half feet of water. There were some very wet and chilly men and horses before we got out of that scrape. We arrived at home about 4 p. m. Saturday.

In the fall when the roads were dry, the weather cool and the moon near its "full," several neighbors would go together for coal and have a jolly time even if they did "camp out."

In September of 1861 three gentlemen, one of them a clergyman of my acquaintance from La Salle county, the other two young friends of his from "down east," drove up to my door and asked if there were any deer in the vicinity, saying they had been told there were, but they had not seen one and they had been hunting a week. It was late in the afternoon and I told them to come the next morning at 8 o'clock and I thought I could gratify them with the sight of one or two. They came at the hour appointed, and I mounted one of my horses and led the way. Less than a mile from my house and a short distance northeast from where the village of Emington now stands, I dropped back a little and told them to look sharp for they might start one almost any minute. Not many rods further a doe sprang up within a very few feet of their off fore wheel, dashed ahead a few bounds and started up a second one. They together ran four or five rods to the right and put up a third, and the three went east. "There's your deer, gentlemen," I shouted. Not a shot was fired, and in a very few minutes we could see the graceful, beautiful creatures tossing their white flags a couple of miles away.

Deer soon became scarce, but ducks, geese and "sand hill" cranes tarried longer, often in great multitudes. The latter were fine game, keen-eyed and wary as the wild deer himself.

Some of them spent the summers here in solitary pairs, nesting (like the mallard duck) in the tall grass in the vicinity of the ponds. They got their food mainly by wading in the ponds and shallow streams. When the corn was nearly ripe they would frequent the fields, and were often very destructive, especially in the "sod corn." About 3 o'clock in the afternoon a solitary flock of perhaps half a dozen would appear slowly fanning the air with their solemn wings, their long necks thrust straight out ahead, and their equally long legs straight out behind. Selecting some part of the cornfield most remote from buildings, they would approach perhaps within twenty rods, slowly settle down and when about twenty-five feet from the ground their heads would go up and their feet down and they would let themselves down easily to the ground. Their motions were awkward, certainly, but seemed to answer their purposes very well. Standing perfectly still their first business was to reconnoiter; they looked keenly in all directions, especially into the field for some lurking enemy. Very slowly they walked back and forth along the edge of the field, gradually nearing it, till they reached it, then they stripped down the husks in strings and their strong beaks shelled off the grains of corn with little difficulty. But before this time they were very likely to be joined by other flocks which came sailing over. If the first ones were in or near the grain the newcomers would omit the preliminary examination and alight with them.

By 4 o'clock there were often several flocks flying in the vicinity, and they would alight directly in the field with the ones already feeding. Even when thus feeding it was difficult to approach them near enough to get a shot. They

stood up so tall, and were so suspicious and ever alert one must be adroit to succeed. And, besides, their feathers were very strong and quite a defense against ordinary sized shot. Their heads were perhaps their most vulnerable part, but they were tenacious of life. A good way to get ONE shot was to go about 2 o'clock into a field they frequented and build an ambush by thrusting cornstalks into the ground very near together and lie very still when you saw the first flock coming. To lie in such a place and see a flock of twenty coming straight for you, till you could see the glitter of their eyes not five rods away, then rise, and while the air is full of the clamor of struggling wings, as they turned, rake the line. You might call that sport. But I always found the "sport" seriously impaired by the thought of the poor things which were wounded and escaped. If a wing was broken and a covert was near the bird must be secured at once or he was lost for he was a very crafty skulker. In catching him one needs to be very careful for he would let drive that long, sharp bill straight for the eyes of his enemy. One must grasp him by the neck and break it at once. They would weigh from eight to thirteen pounds, and in the fall when living on grain were excellent eating. If a man of medium height were to take a bird of average size by the feet and sling him over his shoulder its beak would drag upon the ground. In the spring or fall they would often congregate in large numbers upon some sunny slope and have a general jubilee. There, very often more than 500 and very likely more than twice that number in a single flock, covering in loose order, perhaps, three or four acres. Suddenly a few would spring up from the ground several feet, then others and others. At

times the whole flock would be in violent agitation, all jumping, flapping their wings and slouting at once, and the tumult could be heard for miles. I never knew whether those occasions were festive or political in their nature, but to a looker-on some of the exhibitions seemed ludicrous. But as much might be said of the festivities of some other bipeds.

The prairie wolf lingered till late in the seventies, perhaps in some localities even later. He was destructive to poultry, young pigs and lambs, but I never knew of his injuring a human being.

In the winter of 1860-61, near sundown one day, a wolf struck up a howl perhaps forty yards from my door. My wife, who was in the yard, mocked him and he immediately howled again and came nearer, she replied again and another wolf turned up in another direction and she mocked HIM; very soon a third joined in and they made quite a chorus. But they would not come nearer than twenty rods, and my shot gun would not reach them.

One winter I hung a piece of fresh beef by the side of the chamber window outside to keep it fresh as long as we might. One night, soon after, I was awakened by footsteps breaking through the snow crust. I stepped quietly outside and around the corner of the house, and at the farther corner I saw the head and shoulders of a wolf. My gun stood just behind the door, both barrels loaded with buckshot. When I returned with it he was disappearing in the cornfield several rods away. The night was moonless and cloudy, but I let drive both barrels at the black spot in the cornstalks. For an hour or more at intervals he made night hideous. In the morning I could easily track him by his blood on the snow. About fifteen

rods away he had stopped to dress his wounds. He bled considerably. I tracked him nearly half a mile and then he went upon the prairie where the grass was burnt off and there was no snow and I could track him no further.

Perhaps the rattlesnake was about as interesting as any animate thing we had to deal with. It was spotted, of a dark brown color, seldom more than thirty inches in length, capable of some very quick motions, yet a slow traveler and terribly armed. We never knew when or where to look for him, yet we frequently met him. Our first buildings were usually temporary ones. My wife found and killed a rattlesnake on her pantry floor. When binding grain I took one up with the bundle in my hands. A neighbor was once helping me to stack hay. While I drove the load to the stack he lay down upon it, and when I got upon the stack he took up a small forkful and there, just under it, and under where he had lain, was a very fine, large one. If there were any in the fields we were very apt to find them when plowing. In the spring of 1862 I was plowing the "breaking" of the year before. The day was warm, my boots were burdensome and galled my feet so badly I threw them in the shade and went barefoot. It was a great improvement. The bottom of the furrow was moist and cool and soft as velvet. There was one place where the gophers and ground squirrels had honeycombed the ground, and there I heard the well known alarm. The middle horse of the team in walking over him had disturbed him, and there he lay in no amiable mood, not more than a foot from my bare ankle. I procured a stick, dispatched him and went on thinking I was glad THAT one was out of the way. The very next furrow, at about the same place, my plow dropped

down into a gopher's run, and the dirt came rolling over the top of the mould-board and a rattler sung out loud and distinct. I stopped short with uplifted foot, unwilling to put it down till I should see where. And it was well, too, for it would have fallen upon a splendid fellow nearly as large as my wrist though not more than twenty inches in length. I became suddenly reconciled to my boots. Of course, it was a standing rule to kill every one we found. One day I found one in the grass and dared not take my eyes off him for fear I should lose him. What should I do? I had no stick nor gun. How could I kill him? The only possible thing I could think of was my pocket-knife. I lifted my boot a little sidewise till I saw his head just at the edge of the sole. I took my knife and cut it off. It was convenient and effectual, and that was my usual method of proceeding afterward.

The early summer of 1863 was full of dark and gloomy forebodings. Grant had long been hammering away at Vicksburg, and many believed he was overmatched and must retreat. The scheme of a Northwestern Confederacy was talked of somewhat openly. There were known to be sympathizers with the rebellion in our midst. It was said there was a lodge of a secret disloyal society called "Knights of the Golden Circle" in Dwight. There were whisperings of an outbreak in Chicago, and it was understood that that would mean "business" throughout the state. A celebration was announced for July 4 at Dwight. Things looked dark indeed. Lee was at Gettysburg, a great battle was in progress and reports of the result were conflicting. New York was known to be under the feet of a disloyal mob. Very many of those capable of bearing arms were gone with the



129th regiment from the vicinity of Dwight, and the disloyal element very thinly disguised their pleasure at the prospect of disaster to the Union arms. At the east side school house a speaker's stand was erected, shaded by green branches brought from the timber. The trees in the yard were but recently planted. On the Fourth the meeting assembled with a good brass band in attendance. The day was bright and pleasant. I do not remember who was orator or president or marshal, but one thing I do remember distinctly. When the orator had been speaking some time a dispatch was handed him which he immediately read :

"Lee is in full retreat from Gettysburg."

The band struck up a patriotic air, and after a few minutes, the speaker proceeded. Soon he was interrupted by another dispatch, this time announcing that there was no doubt Grant that day was taking his dinner in Vicksburg. I shall not try to describe the revulsion of feeling. The band played the Star-Spangled Banner and every loyal heart responded. With many the news was received with caution and allowance, as being "too good to be true."

The time covered by this sketch can hardly be said to belong to the days of the pioneer, yet the conditions which beset the settler then, were very different from those which surround the citizen to-day. The furrow of the breaking plow, shallow and smooth as it was, formed the boundary line between two mighty epochs. From the gleaming coulter it rose in a long and graceful curve and fell inverted beside the plowman's feet—a new leaf turned in the history of this state. The story of the generations who trod these virgin plains, what empires they reared and

defended, how they lived, where they fought and when they died, that story will never be read because it was never written.

The pioneers are all gone, the early settlers with whitening heads are rapidly following. A few more years and their labors, their methods, their difficulties, their names will be forgotten. But their's was a grand work. At their coming the yells of contending savages gave place to the laughter and shouts of school children at their play. Where they heard the dismal howl of the coyote, we hear the voice of Sabbath singing. Their footprints were the seeds of empire, for, under the starry flag America is destined by the force of her beneficent example to rule the world.

Ufurl the flag and lift it high,  
Tell the admiring nations why  
It is the hope of every heart,  
The pride of every eye.

From cruel Asia long exiled,  
From Afric's deserts parched and wild,  
From Europe hunted and pursued  
Into the new world's solitude  
Behind the ramparts of the sea  
Pointing, despairing,  
Freedom turned at bay.

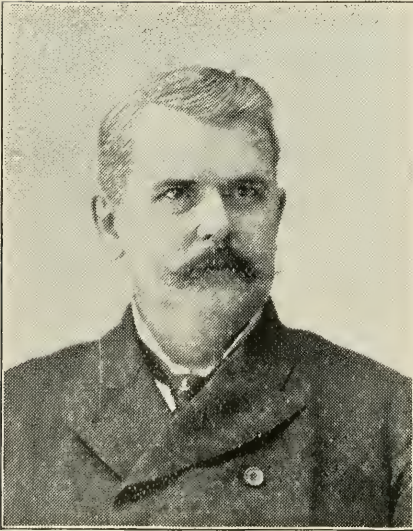
She took her bugle from her breast  
And blew a long, awakening blast—  
If HERE none answered, 'twas her last.  
From rocky slope and wooded glen  
Sprang forth a band of patriot men ;  
She fired them with undying zeal ;  
They walled her round with bristling steel,  
No craven heart, no nerveless hand,  
In all that strong, devoted band.  
But they were hardy, true and brave  
As e'er to kings defiance gave,  
Or struck the fetters from a slave.  
And loud the virgin forests rang  
With answering echoes as they sang.

The Goddess looked where shone on high  
The brightest cluster of the sky,  
And saw across oppression's night,  
The crimson streams of coming light.  
New courage kindled in her eyes—  
She tore the vision from the skies,  
And cried in rapture "This shall be

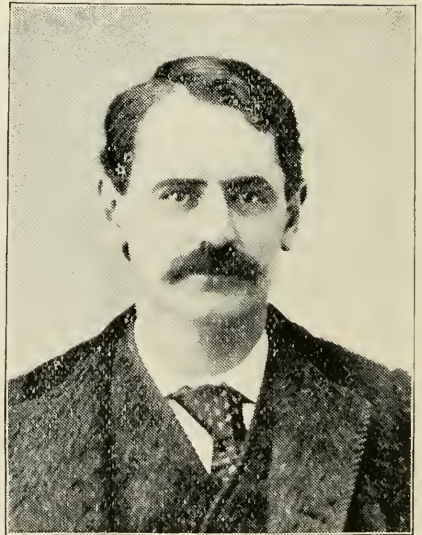




S. T. K. Prime.



Wm. G. Dustin.



Wm. T. Prime.

Henceforth the ensign of the free;  
 Beneath its folds shall freemen stand  
 For liberty, and native land;  
 Nor leaden rain, nor iron hail,  
 Nor shrieking shot, nor screaming shell,  
 Nor all the engin'ry of hell  
 Against their valor shall prevail."  
 O, patriots hope! O, freeman's pride!  
 In many a conflict torn and tried,

In blood of brave hearts sanctified.  
 Float on! float on with ever widening sway,  
 Spread out thy fadeless splendor to the day,  
 Till every tribe its own thy stars shall call—  
 Till every throne shall crumble—every fetter fall;  
 Till all mankind from wasting war shall cease,  
 And in thy sheltering shadow find perpetual  
 peace.

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BY S. T. K. PRIME,

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Why dig up the dead past? Still we all do it in many ways. One of the saddest things in life is reading old letters. To a sensitive nature they are simply harrowing and are nothing but dry leaves. The reminiscences of Dwight that I now write are mostly from memory. It is true that I have no end of "records" of what has been done here in this beautiful village, and who were the actors and the different parts they have played. The History of Dwight gives you that in all its details and I am very willing to go down to posterity with the part in which I have played.

Let me tell you of one of my first recollections. It was of "The Dwight Flouring Mill Ball." Are you aware of the fact that our stone mill was erected by public subscriptions? Richard P. Morgan was its founder and one of the largest contributors toward its erection. We (that was the handful of people who were then here) thought that it would be a good idea to give a ball and invite all the country around to see what the founders and benefactors of Dwight had done to help them develop this almost unoccupied country. This was our first "oasis" of a public character. The mill was finished in the spring. There were no sidewalks here and we generally

tried to "keep in the middle of the road." Oh what a wet season that spring was. Such mud! So deep! So sticky! The only way you could get around at all was in a box-wagon or a buck-board. In those days that was a great vehicle. The night of the ball came as nights do, irrespective of weather(!)—you like it or not. Our roads were simply impassable for pedestrians. "The managers" of the ball were in despair. A supper had been ordered at the "Cornell House" Music from Joliet. We expected to see the farmers pour into the town. The only thing that did pour was the rain. It was simply a sea of mud. We reached the mill however. The people came, but not "in carriages." We "pulled up" to the mill in double box-wagon drawn by four horses. The band played "Annie Laurie." The grand march was led by Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Morgan. The dance went on until midnight. The people all became acquainted and voted that this was "the best time they had ever had in Dwight." They told the truth for it was the first entertainment of a public or social character ever held in Dwight.

DWIGHT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The next green spot in my memory of the early days of Dwight's development



was that of the "Dwight Agricultural Society." Of course that had to be green. That was the sole object of the society to make green things and the more we could induce to grow with our then raw and crude methods the better. The most of us that belonged to it were quite green ourselves. Still we thought we knew it all. The sequel was a sad one. We were strangers to our calling and had to pay very dear for our experience. Still I would not have missed those Saturday afternoons in the old wooden school for all that I learned since from an agricultural standpoint. Henry A. Gardner was president of the society. He was a tall, thin man with a blue, piercing eye, and long straight hair. He was a typical pioneer of the west. He did not live long with us or mingle much with the people. Still he always seemed happy upon his farm at Oak Lawn. One of the members of the society was Jacob R. Reese. He was a great worker, an odd genius, but withal a good fellow. He lived opposite the "Gardner Farm." He always made farming pay for he would not spend a dollar unless he dug it out of the ground. Reese belonged to a rich Philadelphia family, was a civil engineer by profession, and only lingered with us for a few years. He sought other and more congenial pastures which were more to his tastes and temperament. Jared B. Moss, "Squire Moss" as he was generally known, was an active and valuable member. He was a short, thick-set man, and lived where "Bill" Taylor now lives. The 'Squire was the best practical farmer that we had in those days. His crops were always good, his hogs and cattle were always fat and no one ever seemed to get such good prices for his "stuff" as Squire Moss. Very few of us remember my old friend and neighbor, Alfred

II. Davison, another valuable man who never failed to be present with us. He was the dearest male friend I ever had. We went to school together. We grew up together. We parted in 1858. The dear fellow followed me very shortly (in 1860) to Dwight and bought what was known as the "Mott Farm." Here he lived and moved. He was greatly beloved by every one who knew him. He was naturally a very delicate man, born and reared in the lap of luxury the privations and wants of his life here came very hard upon him. He was a model citizen. Honest, upright, a typical American gentleman. He delighted in the improvement and cultivation of the soil so far as his weak frame would permit. I shall never forget "Pat Fuge." He was a man of great originality of character. Full of bright Irish wit. It was no trouble for him to make two blades of grass grow where one never grew before. We all looked up to him as an oracle. When he opened his mouth and spoke we all swallowed his utterances without the aid of any fluids.

Lewis Kenyon was another member. An active, energetic and a useful man to us in those days. He was an excellent talker and always added vim and had very good ideas of how and what crops we ought to grow. Eugene R. Stevens belonged in those days to what the aborigines called "city farmers." If he could not make crops grow the way he wanted them to it was not for want of the money he spent for labor, machinery tools and fertilizers. His farm was always in good order and everything around him bore the look of prosperity. "Capt. Stevens" was a character. From one of the oldest and best families in New York City, he literally left all of his household gods behind him, came West, and for many

years spent his money like water in the development and improvent of this now one of the most fertile and best farming areas in the world. Modesty prevents me telling you who was the secretary of the Dwight Agricultural Society, but take pleasure in chronicling the name of the assistant secretary, Edward O'Neil. And on this hangs a tale which I think I have never told although some of these reminiscences may prove to be like the aroma of a moss-covered bucket. One dark stormy December night in the "60's" I was trying to keep warm out on the farm with coal that had been hauled twenty miles. In those days coal was a luxury. We watched the decrease of a coal pile something akin to the anxiety of a man who is always looking for something he never gets. "Hauling coal" meant not going down to "G. Z. Flagler's" but going "over to Streator." Sometimes staying several nights. Broken wagons, knocked up horses, men cross, ugly and fatigued and not fit for work for two days after the trip. Often we could not go at all on account of the roads. Then we burned corn-cobs and anything we could put our hands upon. But to resume. Dark night—coal scarce—knock at the door. "Who comes there?" "Stranger." "What do you want?" "Food and shelter."—"Enter"—A tall, gaunt, young man with pleasing manners and smiling face stood before me. The story he told was substantially this: "I have been traveling for a long time in search of work but as yet have not found it. I am an Irishman. A medical student graduate of a college in London. I am hungry, houseless and homeless. I could not refuse him food or shelter. In the morning he was anxious to work. In those days laborers were very scarce. I soon found,

however, that he was unused to exposure or the hard drudgery of the farm. But the fellow was honest, willing and anxious to work whatever his hand could find to do. This he did to my entire satisfaction. I soon discovered that he was an educated man and it was a hard job to know what to do with him. In those days I wrote more or less for "The Press" and he gave me very valuable assistance in the preparation of my work. Poor fellow, he went to the "war" served his adopted country faithfully and died from the effects of disease and exposure while at the "front." The minutes of the Dwight Agricultural Society are all written by Edward O'Neil, and whenever I look over them they are among some of my pleasantest recollections of Dwight.

Good old Robert Thompson was also a member of our society. What a sturdy, honest farmer he was. Always active in every good word and work for the improvement of the town, what a tower of strength he was in the Presbyterian church and this whole county never had a more active and hard working member of the Democratic party. His death was a severe loss to this whole community.

Richard P. Morgan needs no eulogy from me, was here from the foundation of the town to the present time. Was there ever any good word or work in which he was not thoroughly identified? Morgan always took a very active part in all of our doings. I ought not to forget the name of Wm. P. Chester, another member. Poor fellow, he died young. The model farmer, the model man in every respect of this whole region at that time. Look at the farm he made and what a property he left to his heirs. Jesse Slyder was in those days a great and very successful farmer. He sold his possessions long

ago and has for many years lived and enjoyed among us the fruits of his labors. I also recall the names of A. B. Case and Robert Young, Both labored with us in the cause of improvement for our country's good. The largest proportion of the names I have but

briefly mentioned have gone to the land of their fathers. I think I can truthfully say that all the members of the Dwight Agricultural Society did not live in vain but that the fruits of their labors have and still do follow them.

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### BY W. M. BRADBURY.

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The early settlers of Dwight will remember the singing school in 1859 and 1860, ably conducted by O. S. Westcott, generally called "Professor," a talented and well-educated young man from Connecticut or Rhode Island, who also taught classics and mathematics at the frame school house east of the Mazon bridge. The class consisted of grown and married people as well as young folks. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eldredge, Mr. and Mrs. Case and their daughter, Major Judd and the Turner girls, Mr. Bradbury, Mr. J. C. Hetzel and Dr. Hagerty were among the pupils. Case & Hagerty at that time had just started the stone grist mill, and Dr. Hagerty was postmaster. The singing book used was "The Jubilee." Miss Case, a handsome and brilliant girl, with a strong mezzo-soprano voice of great purity, became quite proficient. Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge also became good singers, the lady having a very sweet soprano voice. Some of these afterward formed the choir of the Presbyterian church, then under the pastorate of the Rev. Young, and had the honor of singing at the morning service attended by the Prince of Wales and his suite in the summer of 1860, when Rev. Young preached the sermon. Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge were the most regular members of the choir. Mr. Case, Mr.

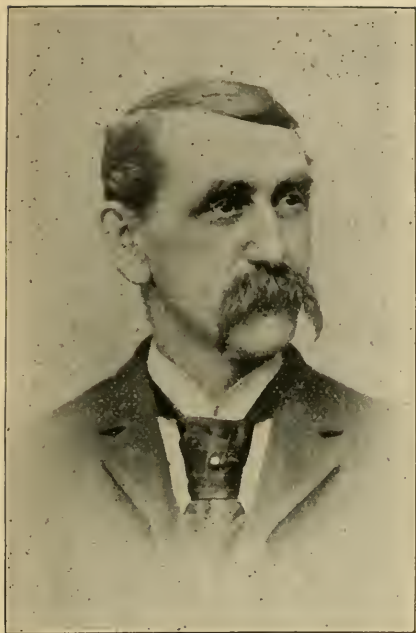
Bradbury and Dr. Hagerty were also members. Mrs. Graves played the organ. A glee club of similar composition was organized under Prof. Westcott, and practiced chiefly at the house of Mr. Eldredge. At the presidential contest in 1860 they did much of the campaign singing on the Republican side, being all members of that party.

At that time also a semi-military company of Republicans, styled "Wide-Awakes," and ably drilled by Mr. Case. They were partially uniformed, carried torches and illuminated the streets on dark evenings, with brilliant maneuvers and parades, winding up on one occasion with an oyster supper at Mr. Turner's boarding house. In fact oyster suppers, with palatable "trimmings" of all kinds, were frequent occurrences in connection with gatherings and exhibitions in those picturesque and happy days, as Major Judd can testify. "The Turners" came afterwards, when Grant was first elected.

In 1859 or 1860 Mrs. H. M. T. Cutler, the talented sister of George Conant, gave a series of well attended lectures on Physiology, illustrated by a mannikin, showing the interior of the human body.

A lyceum or literary society was formed in the autumn of 1859 or 1860. This was started and fostered, in a great

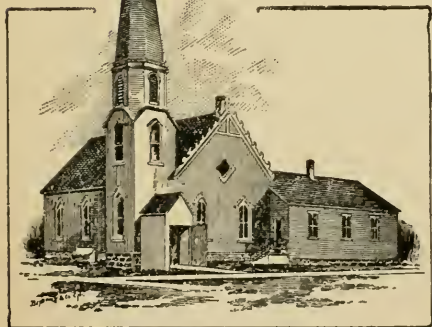




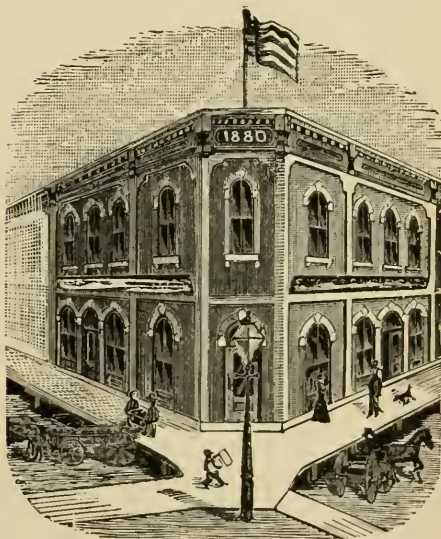
Willard S. Brown.  
(Secretary Keeley League.)



Senator Shelby M. Cullom.



Danish M. E. Church.  
(Formerly Presbyterian.)



Mickelson Block.  
(Formerly Parsons Block.)





measure, by John Eaton, an original, humorous, comic story-telling genius. He was a carpenter by trade and a man of good executive ability in many directions. Meetings were held in the school house, speeches were made, debates conducted, essays read by the members, affording instruction and entertainment to a promiscuous audience.

Not far from this time, and I think in connection with this or some other literary association, "The Lightning Bug" appeared. This was a manuscript periodical containing contributions from members on various subjects. Its first editor was Miss Sarah A. Snyder, now of Streator, and I think Mr. W. H. Bradbury had charge of it afterwards. At any rate, these parties, especially Miss Snyder, contributed, contributed largely in prose and verse and made the paper interesting and spicy. It was read and circulated at the weekly meetings.

There was another literary association, or "Mutual Admiration Society," as Prof. Westcott sometimes called them, formed after the war, consisting of Dr. Keeley, J. G. Strong, S. T. K. Prime, W. H. Bradbury, the young Congregationalist minister, C. L. Palmer, of "The Star," and many others, both ladies and gentlemen. Meetings were held at private houses once a week, when essays, readings, criticisms, etc., formed the program. I think the talented and cultured McIure girls took a prominent part at those meetings. They certainly gave many excellent readings and recitations about this time.

The literary, dramatic, musical and social tastes of the people found vent in many other societies and exhibitions. Mrs. Eldredge's energy and ability, among her other achievements, started and conducted a "sociable," which was

held at private houses of Congregationalists principally. The meetings were very pleasant and provided more rational entertainment than was usually to be found outside. The Rev. F. B. Hargreaves attended many of these meetings.

We remember the musical cantata of Queen Ester, given in excellent style by local talent drilled by a traveling professor. It was in 1873 that Dr. Keeley conceived the idea of a dramatic entertainment for the benefit of the yellow fever sufferers in the south. In this his wonderful organizing ability appeared in selecting and drilling a lot of green amateurs, of whom the writer was one. The plays went off very well and drew spectators from Odell and Pontiac. The sum realized was about \$110.

We all surely recollect the immortal "Pinafore," for the production of which in very good form we were indebted to Dr. Keeley. No one else would have attempted either of these achievements. He had the ability to select the performers and assign their parts and the patience to see that the whole business was thoroughly mastered. The consequence was the successful performance of a brilliant operatta, reflecting much credit on the singers as well as the management.

The "Round-Table" at the McPherson House was another social feature of some interest, where the boarders, especially at dinner time, were Col. Parsons, Dr. Keeley, Major Judd, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Palmer, Reuben Potter, W. H. Bradbury and Salmon Tuttle, the banker. Bets won and lost at this table were paid by the inevitable oyster suppers, which were duly celebrated "in song and story."

The writer does not remember that there were more than two representa-

tives of the colored race at Dwight.

Shortly after the war "Nigger Jim" and John Cook the barber, appeared among us. The former was a tall, stalwart, black fellow, who sometimes became aggressive when he was a little full and fancied his rights as a citizen were infringed upon. He was a good checker player, and on one occasion beat the village champion two games out of three. Rising from his seat he exultingly exclaimed: "Twenty-six years a slave, and cum to dis country and beat a man at his own game!" The champion's reply was more forcible than polite.

Josh, the barber, was a character also, and a very humorous one. He was a good mimic, and his account of the hair-cutting done for Mrs. W., the wife of one of the resident clergymen, was "too funny for anything." What the young gentleman and lady said at this terrible ordeal and the tones in which their dread and final resignation were expressed would have been heartrending, if Josh's imitation had not been so ex-cruciatingly ludicrous. "The barber knew his business," and he "cut it curly," and thus redeemed himself from being "the most cruelest man of the age!"

Josh's narration of how he sold to a very economic but wealthy gentleman now living in California, an ordinary hair brush at a good round figure, was richly worth hearing. The gentleman was smitten with the brush and Josh worked him accordingly. He used to regale his customers with these side-splitting stories. He was a small, slender fellow, a good barber and died of consumption. Dr. Keeley attended him professionally at one time.

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BY MISS SARAH SNYDER.

Miss Sarah Snyder, the first regular

schoolma'm in the Dwight schools, has kindly consented to furnish the following. Miss Snyder's father settled in Dwight in 1856, and was at one time justice of the peace for twelve successive years. He subsequently removed to Streator, and was police magistrate there until his death, Aug. 13, 1876. Miss Snyder resides there now and furnishes this interesting piece of history:

Perhaps it will be interesting to some to know what kind of sleighs were used in Dwight. It was in the winter of 1856 our broad prairies were covered with the pure, beautiful snow, unbroken for miles by not a tree or shrub. Invitations were out for a social party at Mr Nelson Cornell's. The gentlemen were in a dilemma; how should they manage to get the ladies there? One great, broad-shouldered, generous-hearted fellow suggested they carry us on their backs, for then there was not a sleigh in all of Dwight, and there was no time to order from Chicago. So this time "necessity being the mother of invention," dry goods boxes and crockery crates were brought into requisition. The gentlemen, with the aid of chairs, most gallantly assisted us to mount to the top of the sleighs, which were about four feet deep, and down we sprang among the robes where we were packed almost as closely as the goods they formerly contained when sent from Boston or New York. I think there were no runners to the sleighs, but they seemed to glide over the glistening snow like boys' barrel staves down a toboggin slide. It was a jolly Methodist crowd. At first we sang old-time hymns, then "Uncle Tom," "Nelly Bly" and other popular airs of the day. In our hilarity we were lost on the great prairie, at night, without a compass, not even a fence or road or streamlet to guide us. Our host and hostess

had given up all hopes of our coming; finally they said they heard noises in the distance and could not distinguish whether it was human voices or the howling of wolves. I think it was both. They immediately put out a signal light to direct us, which we soon saw in the distance and was not long in reaching our destination where a bountiful repast was in readiness for us, to which we did ample justice, for we had talked and laughed, sang and hurraed till we were almost as hungry as the ravenous wolves that were following close on our trail. Time sped quickly and pleasantly into the small hours of morn' when we returned to our homes in much less time than we went.

Soon after elegant sleighs and bells were seen and heard in our little village. Yet no sleigh-riding party, I venture to assert, was ever more thoroughly enjoyed by all than the first wild and romantic one in the winter of 1856

BY JAMES SMITH.

Mr. James Smith came to Dwight in 1861 from Rochester, N. Y. Was born in Connecticut, April 23, 1816. Farmed around Dwight for a number of years. Jos. McPherson and Jas. Smith built the first warehouse in Dwight, which stood nearly opposite the site of the present C. & A. depot, east, where they did a prosperous business.

Mr. Smith was a member of the first village board of Dwight, which consisted of two members for two years. Henry Eldridge was his colleague, and the board was straight temperance.

Mr. Smith moved into Dwight in 1866. He says, as he looks around him at this late date, he sees lots of temperance people who were on the other side in early days. Mr. Smith is about 80 years of age, and two years ago took a trip east which he enjoyed greatly.

Through the kindness of Dr. Leslie E. Keeley we present the following:

The following dramatic programme was handed us by an old settler who has kept "tab" of Dwight doings for more than a third of a century. It is a treasure that will bring to mind one of the most interesting times of the old days, when Gerson's Hall was an entity and its owner a very much pronounced personage in our town affairs. The programme will bring back a flood of memories to many who are now gray-haired, but who at that time were filled with "Life's ambition in young blood expressed." The dramatic personæ were all young farmers living in and about Dwight. Mr. L. Bataille (Duke of Glosster) was a callow Frenchman who worked for a Mr. Mathieson a few miles southwest of Dwight. Mr. N. G. Skeels worked on Mr. Nelson Cornell's farm near by. Geo. Kyler (King Henry the VII) worked on his father's farm close to town, and afterwards on the C. & A. R. R. braking, till he left some time ago for the old home in Eastern Pennsylvania. George visited us last summer, and his noble bearing showed kingly stock. Mr. A. Wildman (Lord Stanley) helped our only liveryman, Hiram Cornell, as a general roustabout in his hotel and stable. A. Matthews (Duke of Norfolk) worked with the (Earl of Oxford) Cal. Jones, on a rented farm of Mr. McWilliams' a few miles south of town. J. Jones (Lieutenant of the Tower) worked ten miles northeast of town on a farm. A. Kimberk, who took the character of Tirrell, was also a tenant of David McWilliams' a couple of miles north of Dwight. E. J. Jackson and E. Holmes (Catesby and Ratcliff) worked on farms in Highland Township.

The programme is a chef-d'œuvre of skilled composition. Captain Stephens, of old time memory, Charley Newell, Mr. Moore, the school principal, and Major John Campbell worked hard upon it to make it attractive, and as it stands, with the materials to work upon, re-



pronounce it unrivalled as a masterpiece:

## DWIGHT THEATRE!

MANAGERS,

L. Bataille..... N. G. Skeels

FIRST APPEARANCE OF

## THE DWIGHT DRAMATIC COMPANY,

—AT—

GERSON'S HALL!

—ON—

Tuesday Eve., June 23, 1868.

*First Appearance of L. BATAILLE,*

Who, after an absence of one year from the stage, reappears before the public in three great characters. He has received the most unbounded applause and most flattering encomiums from both the press and public, supported by the

*Young and Talented N. G. SKEELS,*

Late of Debar's Opera House, St. Louis

### PROGRAMME—PART FIRST.

Selections from Shakspeare's Sublime Tragedy of "Richard the Third."

Duke of Gloster (afterwards Richard the Third)..... L. BATAILLE  
 Earl of Richmond..... N. G. SKEELS  
 King Henry the VII..... G. Kyler  
 Lord Stanley..... A. Wildman  
 Duke of Norfolk..... A. Matthews  
 Earl of Oxford..... C. Walker  
 Lieutenant of the Tower..... J. Jones  
 Tirrell..... A. Kimberk  
 Catesby..... J. Jackson  
 Ratcliff..... E. Holmes

Comic Song—"Paddy's Dream"..... A. Kimberk

### PART SECOND.

Tyrone Power Side-Splitting Farce of the "OMNIBUS."

Pat Rooney..... L. BATAILLE  
 Mr. Ledger..... N. G. SKEELS  
 Mr. Dobbs..... G. Kyler  
 Master Tom Dobbs..... C. Walker  
 Farmer Boy..... A. Wildman  
 Julia Ledger..... Miss Jones

The whole to conclude with BATAILLE'S great Extravaganza, entitled,

"The Emancipation Jubilee!"

Black Syren, (with dance)..... L. Bataille  
 Pompey, (with song)..... A. Kimberk  
 Wool..... N. G. Skeels  
 And the entire strength of the company.

Doors open at 7 o'clock, performance to commence at 8. Front seats reserved for ladies. Good Music in attendance. Tickets, 50 cents to be had at the principal stores in town and at the door.

Dwight "Courier" Print—Smith & Rutan.

D. McWilliams says: The first permanent residence was erected by Mr. West, on lots 18 and 19, block 7, where the John D. Ketcham property now stands. Mr. West died in 1859. He was a brother-in-law of Martin Wilks.

The house that Dr. Hagerty first occupied was on lot 8 block 18, where the Hagerty block now stands.

Among the first buildings erected was one by J. J. Gore on lot 17 block 6, where Geo. Petersen's residence now stands.

Robt. Young, one of the earlier timers was a brother of Brigham Young, and a quite popular man in his day.

Geo. Z. Flagler and others of the settlers of 1855, claim to have plowed the first furrow in this locality, and that it was along near the creek north of town. The histories we have had a cess to say that 'Squire Mellduff was the first to plow any amount of ground. The question of who was first cuts no figure. It was surely done by some one and was followed by others until nearly the whole country was under cultivation at some time.

Mr. Seth Clover tells a story regarding one of the hunting trips of the Prince of Wales while in this section. The Prince was out with his party in Round Grove one day and were hunting along the genuine Gooseberry creek when some of the party spied a flock of ducks in the creek. As the party were out for game some one immediately fired a shot into the flock. The ducks, however, seemed more surprised than scared and swam out of the water and scampered up the bank. It turned out that there was a log cabin close by surrounded by thick timber and not observed by the Prince's party, and the ducks proved to be tame ones. The lady of the house, Mrs. Eunice Pratt, heard the shots and

came down to the creek with blood in her eye. As soon as she spied the royal party she let loose at them and gave them such a tongue lashing as they never had before. Royalty was not in it for once and the party took a good look around before they shot into flocks of ducks again.

BY D. McWILLIAMS.

The Chicago & Alton R. R. built under a charter granted to the Chicago & Mississippi R. R. was completed to Springfield, Ill., in 1852. The following year it reached Bloomington, and the year 1854 saw its completion to Joliet, connecting by steamboat from Alton to St. Louis, and running on the Rock Island Railroad from Joliet to Chicago. The country was very sparsely settled, Bloomington being about the only point of any size north of Springfield. The second week in August 1854 the road was opened for through traffic from Chicago to St. Louis. A few days thereafter the writer passed through Dwight, which was surrounded on all sides with tall prairie grass, and but few houses in sight. On the present town site was a small depot, a small 16x24 1½ story building, where the Hagerty building now stands, a small one story house on the corner northeast of the Methodist church, the house so long occupied by Mr. A. West, and a blacksmith shop just west of the Presbyterian church, was all there was where Dwight now stands. Supper was being served in the depot building, as it served as a dwelling as well a depot, and those connected with the railroad service lived there, and it was the only place where a person could get a night's lodging or a meal of victuals. There were roads running to the west, northwest, northeast and east to the different settlements that had been

made previous to the building of the railroad.

The following named persons are all that constituted the actual settlers of the village of Dwight previous to the spring of 1855:

Augustus West and family.

John Rontzong and wife.

Simeon Lutz and wife.

James Morgan and wife.

Thos. C. Wilson and wife.

E C. Stevens and wife.

James S. Harrison.

The families who had settled in the adjoining country to Dwight, especially in Livingston county were as follows:

John Conant and family ½ mile west.

Nelson Cornell and family ½ mile northwest.

Thomas Little (unmarried) one mile west.

R. S. Bishop on the farm now of Peter Hansen.

Robt. Thompson on the farm now of Peter Hansen.

John Rainey on the farm now of Jno. R. Martin.

James George on the farm now of John Stewart.

Thos. C. McDowell on the farm now of Jas. Brown.

S. H. Kyle on the farm now of J. Roirdan.

James Henry on the farm now of D. McWilliams.

No settlement nearer than five mllgrove south, none southeast except the Broughtons in Broughton township. To the east near Round Grove were Stephen Potter, Wm. Cook, and Mr. Gibson. To the northwest in Grundy county Samuel Cutler on the farm now owned by Louis Zabel.

Erastus Stevens on the farm now owned by Nicholas Morrisey.

John Henry on the farm occupied by

his son and widow.

Eber Stevens and mother on the farm still owned by him.

Addison Wood on the farm now owned by M. Cusick.

Wm. Mason where Michael Kime now resides, and to the northeast were some ten or twelve families in the "German Settlement."

Immigration came in quite rapidly during 1855, and the growth and improvement of the country continued steady after that period. The first two seasons we had fair crops, and after that for several years we suffered greatly on account of the great rain-fall and "hard times" followed and a great many who had purchased their farms upon credit were compelled to give them up. When the civil war began the enlistments were so numerous, that help could hardly be obtained and a considerable amount of land that had been cultivated remained vacant and unoccupied for some time, as prices of grain were so low there was no particular object in raising it.

#### ILLUSTRATIONS.

The publishers of the "History of Dwight" have taken considerable pains to get the portraits of many of our prominent citizens of this neighborhood. We have asked many more for their photographs but have not received them, for reasons best known to themselves. We also give many views of business houses and the Chicago & Alton Passenger station.

Among the portraits are the following:

Geo. Conant.

Four generations of the Bartholic family.

David McWilliams.

Col. R. P. Morgan.

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley.

Major C. J. Judd.

John R. Oughton.

E. H. Kneeland.

David Riling.

James Brown.

John Vickery.

James N. Smith.

Col. J. B. Parsons.

James Kelagher.

S. T. K. Prime.

William T. Prime.

William G. Dustin.

Frank L. Smith.

Wm. H. Ketcham Jr.

Wm. H. Ketcham Sr.

Robert Thompson.

Levi Reeder.

B. A. Buck.

E. T. Miller.

John Pettett.

Dr. C. H. Barr.

Dr. J. E. Blaine.

Homer Kenyon.

Dr. R. Broughton.

Dr. Wm. Brown.

Dr. A. C. Lonergan.

Leonard Howlett.

Frank A. Haise.

D. B. Stevens.

Geo. Z. Flagler.

Geo. N. Flagler.

Eugene Flagler.

Chas. Waters.

Ed. Losee.

Orville Brown.

Wm. H. Taylor.

Jos. Miller.

Carl Miller.

Willard S. Brown.

Chas. L. Romberger.

Nathan Baker.

Prof. J. H. Meneely.

Miss Sarah Snyder.

Dwight Morgan.

W. H. Conrad.

Rev. R. Wilhelmsen.

Rev. E. F. Wright.

Rev. C. W. Ayling.  
Jacob Christman.  
Ed. Mezger.  
W. H. Bradbury.  
Roger H. Mills.  
Geo. W. Boyer.  
Geo. L. Kern,  
Walter M. Weese.  
J. C. Lewis.  
O. W. Pollard.  
John Leach.

The portraits are most of them made from late photographs and will undoubtedly be highly appreciated by the buyers of the history.

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The history is not as complete in many parts as we desired, but we believe all the readers will appreciate the circumstances under which the work was issued and give us credit for doing the best we could taking all things under consideration, especially the price. The publication commenced under the firm of Dustin & Wassel and closes under the management of Dustin & Prime. We close the volume by returning our sincere thanks to the many kind friends who have assisted us in different ways, and extend our kindest wishes for your future welfare and prosperity.

PUBLISHERS.

[THE END.]



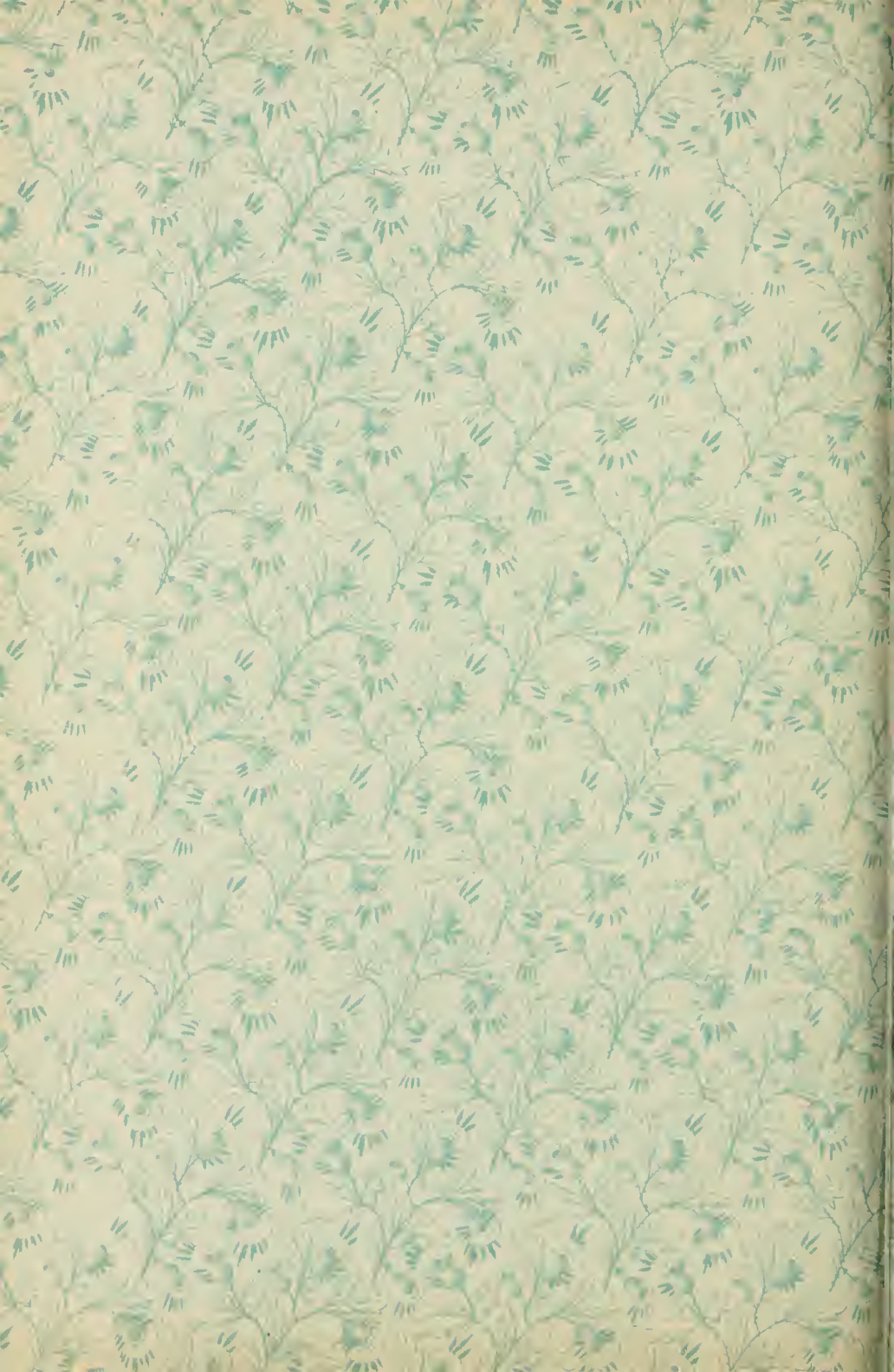














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HISTORY OF DWIGHT, FROM 1853-1894. DWIGH



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