

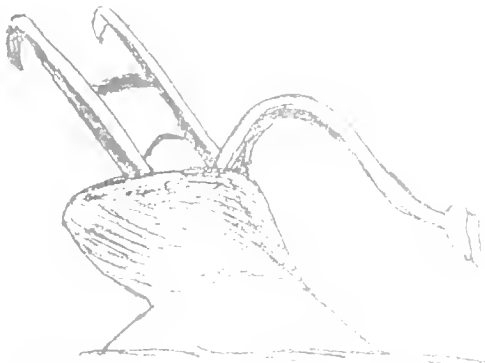
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Kilbourne

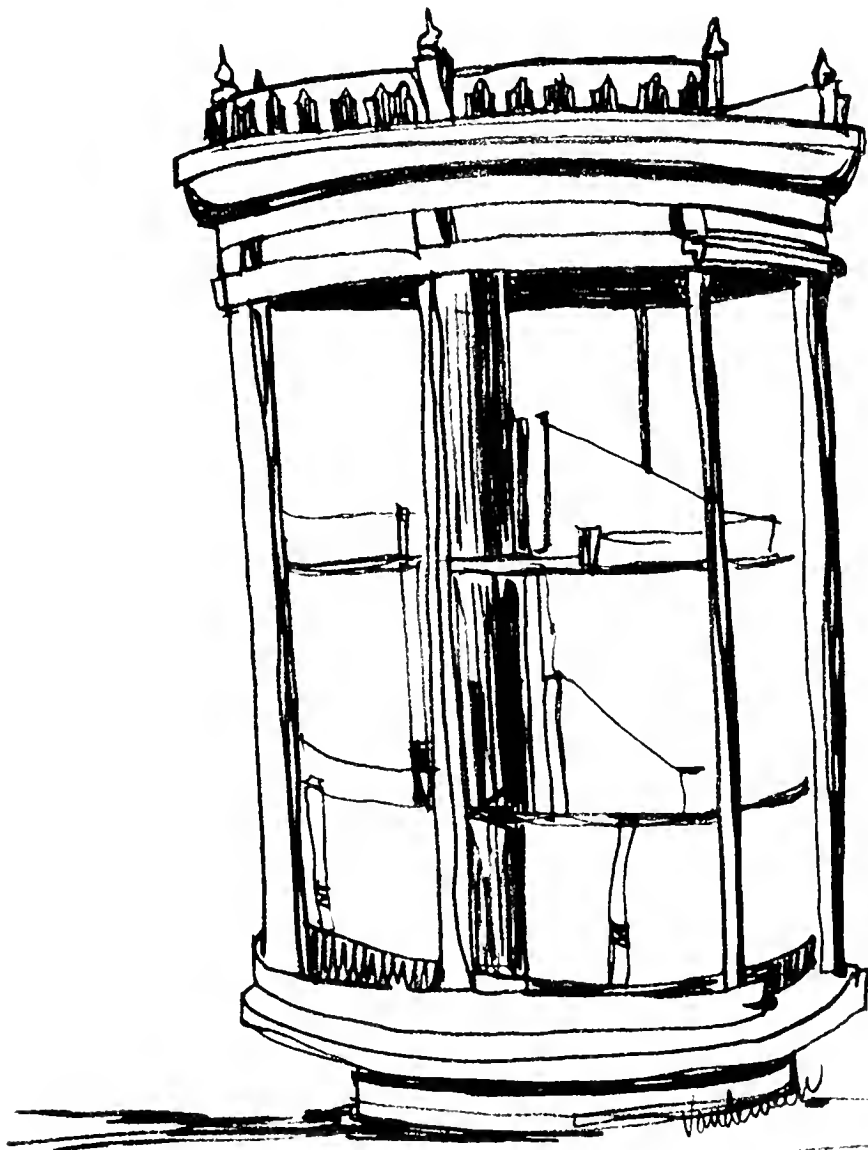
Yesterday

and

Today



The Olde Candy Case.



1. 5. 1910
2. 9. 1910



OUR LITTLE TOWN

We like to live in a little town,
Where the trees meet across the street;
Where you wave your hand and say "Hello"
To everyone you meet.
We like to stand for a moment
Outside the grocery store,
And listen to the friendly gossip
Of the folks that live next door.

For life is interwoven
With the friends we learn to know,
And we hear their joys and sorrows
As we daily come and go.
So we like to live in a little town,
And care no more to roam;
For every house in a little town
Is more than a house — it's home.

On a place mat from the "Bronze Lantern"
Dinner House and Motel, Yuma, Colorado, visited by
Hazel and Glen Hughes in 1952.

977 257
K551

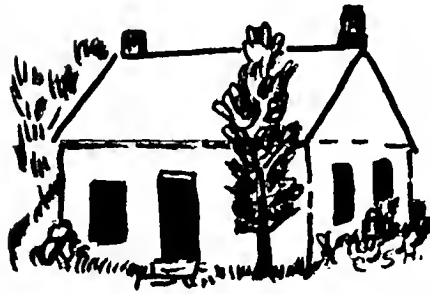
KILBOURNE

YESTERDAY

and

TODAY

1870 - 1970



D.S. FIELD
House

PUBLISHED BY

THE KILBOURNE CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION

with the cooperation
of

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

KILBOURNE — A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE



"The Kilbourne Independent" published December 5, 1902 by Ernest Madison states:

"Kilbourne is situated eleven miles southeast of Havana, the county seat. It is located on the C.P.&St.L. Railway. The Sangamon River flows within 1 1/4 miles of the village, which, with the creeks and lakes within three miles, form fine fishing and hunting grounds. Kilbourne has the best drinking water in the state of Illinois. Physicians and prominent men have pronounced it such. Persons in poor health say they have better health here than ever before. Kilbourne has good shipping facilities and is surrounded by one of the most productive agricultural soils on which the principal products are wheat and corn."

Today, the railway has changed to the Chicago and Illinois Midland; corn continues as an important crop, but wheat has given place on many farms to corn, soy beans, melons of all kinds, plus vegetable crops such as green beans, potatoes, sweet corn, carrots, onions, and squash. Approximately 400 acres in the area are in production of vegetables and melons. These products can be found, in season, at the roadside stands in and near Kilbourne. The land itself is still one of our great assets.

Due to the existence of a vast underground lake, water for irrigation is readily available. Mason County has about 22,000 acres under irrigation. As of the present, 6000 acres of the total are in vegetable crops and the remainder in corn. Kilbourne Township has nine irrigators totaling 2,650 acres according to records of Co-operative Extension Service.

Kilbourne is located in the "Lincoln Country". Within easy driving distance are several of the famous Lincoln memorials — New Salem Park at Petersburg, Lincoln's Home and Tomb and other historical sites in Springfield. Other nearby places of interest include Dickson Mounds, Mason State Forest, Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge, Mason State Tree Nursery, all near Havana, and Jubilee College State Park near Peoria.

We are also surrounded by some of the best colleges and universities — Bradley at Peoria, Western at Macomb, Illinois State and Wesleyan at Bloomington, University of Illinois at Urbana, Millikin at Decatur, Lincoln College at Lincoln, Southern Illinois at Carbondale, and colleges at Springfield, Canton, Peoria, and Eureka.

Our people have many different occupations. Cars begin buzzing early each weekday morning as quite a number of our community leave for their work in Peoria, Pekin, Bartonville, Lincoln, Springfield, Petersburg, Beardstown, Canton, and possibly other towns. Others either own businesses or are locally employed. Since agriculture is the chief industry of the area, many are engaged in some phase of farming.

Although many things have changed throughout the history of Kilbourne, fortunately, some things remain almost unchanged. Fish and wildlife are still rather plentiful. We continue to have clean, "smog-free" air. And, we think we have the best drinking water to be found anywhere!

WE LIKE KILBOURNE!!

BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME

The ancestors of the American Indian were thought to have come from Asia across to Alaska and drifted into the desert regions of the West. At the time of the melting of the last glacier, about 12,000 to 15,000 B.C., a small number journeyed to the Midwest. A very few of the artifacts that have been found in Mason County are of the Paleo Indian culture. Later, this group was followed by the Archic, Early Woodland, Late Woodland, Mississippian, Proto-Historic, and Historical cultures. Each of these larger groups might consist of many tribes and tongues. The Mississippian period is represented in the Dickson Mounds excavation.

The maps of the earliest French explorers show the Michigamea Tribe on the north bluff of the Sangamon River (which they named the Emiquen), southeast of the present town of Kilbourne. This is probably "Yellow Banks" where Dr. Root found many of his famous Indian relics, most of which seem to now be at Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The Michigameas were later driven out by the Fox Indians and finally settled in Arkansas. Later, the Kickapoo (sometimes called the Prairie Kickapoo) occupied this region.

Some of the descendants of Mr. William Craggs Sr. who settled north of town in 1845, remember his telling that the Indians still had a camp at that time, in the timber on the old Eichenauer farm where the Kenneth Fanters now live. Years later, the rings of earth which had been banked around the wigwams were still visible.

HISTORY OF MASON COUNTY

Mason County, one of the one hundred two counties of the State of Illinois, was formed from parts of Sangamon, Menard, and Tazewell by an act approved on January 20, 1841.

When the Territory of Illinois was formed in 1809, the future Mason County was a part of St. Clair County; then in 1812, it became a part of Madison County. Three years after Illinois was admitted to statehood, Sangamon County was organized in 1821, and it contained the region that became Mason County. By 1839, the area forming Mason County was transferred to Menard County. The northern portion of our county was taken from Tazewell.

At the time of its establishment, there were only three precincts in the territory that comprised Mason County. They were known as the Havana Precinct, Salt Creek Precinct, and the Texas Precinct. Other precincts were formed from these as time passed.

Records show that the part which is now Bath, Lynchburg, Kilbourne, Crane Creek, Salt Creek, and Mason City belonged to Sangamon, and later to

Menard County. The remainder of the county, including the townships of Havana, Sherman, Pennsylvania, Allens Grove, Manito, Forest City, Quiver, belonged to the older county of Tazewell.

The lands within the present county were surveyed and opened for settlement in the years 1821 to 1825 by William L. May and others. During the next decade, there were fewer than twenty-five families residing in the limits of Mason County. Settlements were slow because the region of the county within the forks of the Illinois and Sangamon rivers was looked upon as a sandy, barren waste, devoid of interest except for roving hunters and fishermen.

Historians tell that the first white men to set foot on Mason County were Louis Joliet, a French trader, and James Marquette, a Jesuit missionary. An obscure squatter named James Hokum is believed to dwell on the soil that later became Havana and Mason County; he did not remain. James Hokum is recorded as working as an Illinois River ferryman for Major Ossian N. Ross, who had earlier founded both Fulton County and Lewistown. Mr. Ross set up a ferry service at the mouth of Spoon River, opposite the present location of Havana. On that site resided the squatter James Hokum. He had a child born in his home — the first white child born in Mason County.

Ossian Ross moved to Havana and took charge of the ferry in 1827 and entered the first land in the county, where the city of Havana now stands. The town was laid out by Stephen Dewey in November.

About 1837, settlers began to pour into the county rapidly. It became known that some of the finest farms could be made out of the unpromising soil, and the population increased. Because the county seats of Tazewell and Menard were too far away for convenience, the matter of the formation of a new county was agitated; and in 1841, Governor Thomas Carlin approved formation of Mason County.

From the beginning, Havana and Bath were competitors for the seat of justice of Mason County. Bath became the County Seat from 1843-1851. When an election was approved in 1850, Bath realized that strategy was needed to defeat the heavily populated area of Havana. A place called Cuba, located in Kilbourne Township on Section 10, centrally located, was laid out on paper as a new county seat location. On March 1851, Havana won the election, and Cuba was out of existence.

An election in November, 1861, adopted the township form of government. Eleven townships, Mason City, Allens Grove, Pennsylvania, Mason Plains, Manito, Quiver, Havana, Crane Creek, Bath, and Lynchburg, were formed. The boundaries of these (township) were much the same as today, except for the formation of Sherman from Havana and Pennsylvania townships, and of Kilbourne from Bath and Crane Creek. The name of Mason Plains was changed to Forest City Township in 1874.

EARLY SETTLERS

This part of Mason County was at one time timber land, wild prairies, and marshes. Much of the timber has been cleared off, the prairies turned upside down, and marshy land, once considered worthless, has become productive farming ground with proper drainage. This territory swarmed with deer, wild turkeys, prairie chickens, and now and then, a panther's scream was heard. It was not unusual for a pioneer to shoot a deer from the doorway of his cabin. Turkeys were run down and captured on horseback, thus saving ammunition. We realize little of what our forefathers had to endure to open up this country. But the more we read and the more stories we hear about these pioneer folk, the more we come to know and appreciate them. May we introduce some of these early comers to our Kilbourne area?

One of the first to dare to cross the Sangamon River into our area was Jesse Baker, described as a robust stalwart pioneer who grew 90 bushels of corn to the acre. Historian Cochrane says he was one of the first white men in Mason County. Baker School and the Jesse Baker Cemetery were named for him.

In the early 1830's, Absalom Mounts, a miller from Clary's Grove in what is now Menard County, built a home and a mill on Crane Creek. It was made to run with water conveyed over the dam through a hollow sycamore log on to a "flutter-wheel"; later it was converted to use horse or ox power when the creek was low. It was a crude affair but was the first mill in this section of the country and pioneers from all around brought their corn to be ground into meal.

We also find the names of Henry Sears — ancestor of many residents of this area, Gibson Garrett, John Grigg, Josiah Dobson, J. B. Grim, Close, and Sidwell. Lewis Clarkson is reported to be the first settler on what was known later as Field's Prairie.

Between 1835 and 1840, we see a big migration into this region. Many became permanent residents and took an active part in the establishment of our churches, schools, and local government. It seemed to be the practice of early settlers, most of whom were accustomed to living in forested country in the East and Southeast, to build their new cabins in or near the woods. Dr. Drury S. Field was one of the first to foresee the value and possibilities of the prairie lands lying west of here, even though some of it was quite low and marshy. Through his agent, V. B. Holmes of the little village of Matanzas, he entered 12,000 acres that has ever since been called Field's Prairie. A write-up in the 1874 Mason County Atlas calls Field's Prairie "the best part of Mason County".

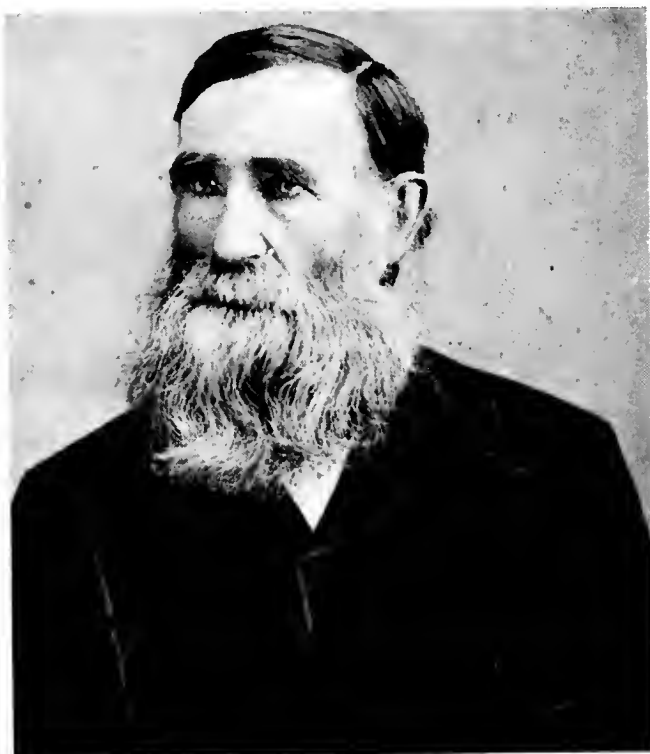
Drury S. Field (1804-1838), a native of Virginia, son of Edmund Field who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, brought his family to Illinois by way of Alabama, living there for a time, and settled here about 1835-36. He was a physician and is said to

be the first practitioner in the county. A county history states that Dr. Field built the first frame house in Kilbourne Township and the third in the county. It even had glass windows! Relatives believe that this was the Charley Field house that Clell Daniel tore down in 1962 when he built the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Eddy. The sills were hand-hewn walnut and one of the better ones was used in the new building.

The Drury S. Field family included Albert J. — grandfather of our summer resident, Dr. A. C. Field, and Mrs. May Hughes; Mary J. — wife of our historian, James M. Ruggles; two other daughters married Smith Turner and Major Gatton, both prominent names in the history of Bath; and Algernon E. who married Miss Bessie Craggs, daughter of Isabella and William Craggs Sr. A. E. worked along with his father and did some "doctoring", was a druggist, was quite interested in farming, and was spoken of as a man of intellect and influence in the community.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Field were Drury T. (grandfather of Miss Vera Upp of our village), Sarah, Frances, and Henry A. of the Craggs and Field Store. Leatha Field Ringland and her husband, Hal, are living on a part of Field's Prairie that has been in the family ever since it was obtained by U. S. patent from the government by her Great-grandfather Drury S. Field.

Another family coming during this period was that of George Washington Daniel with sons, Isley,



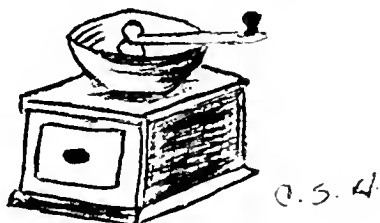
A. E. FIELD

Callaway, Martin, and George; a sister, Katy, became Mrs. John Conklin and another sister, Mary, married John Young Sr. A host of our local people and former residents can claim G. W. Daniel as their grand, great-grand, or "ever-so-great-" grandfather. Most of the land owned by this family was on the south side of the township toward the Sangamon.

The Blunts, who settled on the west edge of the prairie, came from Maryland by way of Kentucky. The family included Thomas F. — remembered in Mt. Zion history, Robert who had the first idea for the Succor Press Drill, Lydia (Mrs. Henry Samuel), Aaron A. — the minister, Hiram who was said to be the first birth in Bath, Levi, Laben, and Richard. According to a quote from A. A. Blunt in the Mason County book, his father, Thomas F. Blunt, owned the first threshing machine and the first reaper in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Blunt of the next generation lived just east of the Mt. Zion Church. Their children were Alice (Mrs. Henry Clark), Lena (Mrs. Oscar Harris), and son, Gay. The Blunt offspring are scattered far and wide.

About the same period also came James Blakeley and his wife, Hannah, daughter of Aaron Scott who was an early settler in adjoining Crane Creek Township and was also the grandfather of our picture-taking Ora Scott Cobb. The Blakeleys who were natives of New Jersey, were married in 1828, and located in Sangamon County in 1835. Three years later, Mr. Blakeley built what is said to be the first cabin in town, later moving to the north side of the township. Two of their nine children raised their families around here and are very much a part of Kilbourne history. One son, Aaron Scott and wife, Sarah Jane (Brown), lived in the Jones School neighborhood and were parents of Rufus, Emma (Mrs. Sylvester Drake), Edwin, and Nellie (Rengstorff). Another son, John M. and his first wife, Rachel (Anderson), had two sons, Orley and Harry L. Blakeley. Two daughters, May (Mrs. Ben Lane) and Etta (Mrs. Gay Blunt) were born of his second marriage to Martha Mowder. The Albert Hodgsons live in the house built by John M. Blakeley on the north edge of Kilbourne near Route 97.

We find these names, too, in the last half of the 1830's: Thomas Martin, Joel Garrett, Henry Norris, Nelson B. Ashurst (father of John L. Ashurst of the drill factory), John Young and sons — Anderson, John Jr., William, and Mitchell. John Jr. married Elizabeth Friend, was in the grain business for some time, served in the Illinois State Legislature, and was



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS FISHER BLUNT

treasurer of the drainage district during the period of dredging and straightening of the Sangamon River.

Then there were Samuel Scott, John Cookson, John Lamb, Rev. Elisha Stevens — a Methodist minister, William McDaniel — father of George McDaniel whose family made and sold the famous yeast, James Watkins, and Jacob Cross. Moses Ray and sons, Aaron, Hiram, and James settled on the east side of Field's Prairie. The elder Ray was a backwoods preacher, a "Hardshell" Baptist. The Rays homesteaded the quarter section where Kilbourne now stands.

There were several Pratts in our locality and they entered quite a lot of land southwest of the present town which explains the name of Pratt Lake. Pratt Cemetery was named for George Pratt who donated the site for the burial grounds. Several in our community carry on the name.

In the 1840's we see the names of James Ross, Michael Ott, I. A. Hurd — the teacher, William Turner, J. B. Walker — listed as a grain buyer, the Tolleys — related to the descendants of the second marriage of William Craggs, as well as the Hanleys, the Eatons, the Holtslaws, the Ermelings, and the Yardleys up Crane Creek way. Abraham Williamson was an ancestor of our rural schoolteacher, Gertie Williamson Ermeling, also of the children of William Craggs's first marriage and many others. The posterity of William Friend and Benjamin Sisson who lived down west of here are helping to keep up the enrollment of Balyki Schools.

The Samuel family gave many citizens to this and other parts of our country. Henry Samuel married Lydia Blunt and lived not far from the Mt. Zion Church. Their son, Joe, was a son-in-law of Dr. Root. Joe's brother, Hickman, was a teacher; their sister, Kitty (Geisler) was our milliner for some time; two other sisters married Perry and Winfield Sutton.

In 1845, the Gores, Edwin and Jane, settled on what is now the Lloyd Sutton farm. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Gore kept on with the farm and raised her large family there. Many interesting

anecdotes come from "Grandma Gore" and her big house with the two stairways that made a splendid "follow the leader merry-go-round" for her children and their friends. Ella Beckwith's mother, Frances Madison (Craggs), was one of those neighbor youngsters. It is a tradition that the Gore home was a stop-over on the stage coach line from Havana to Petersburg by way of Bath, crossing the Sangamon River below Kilbourne at Gum's Ferry. Our Lincoln story is that Abraham Lincoln boarded at this "half-way-house" while doing some surveying. Grandma Gore is said to have told him that she was afraid he would never amount to anything, that he was "too 'tuk' to the books"!

In this decade also came the Ketchams (relatives of our retired teacher, Goldie Ketcham), Joseph Groves, John Micklam of the interesting gravestones at the Kilbourne Cemetery, Edward McCormick, A. H. Neal, James Angelo (of Angelo Lake? according to records was married to Abigail Ketcham in 1841), Samuell Cannon, the Craggs family from "Old Hengland", John L. Clarkston, and the Conovers (Conover Station was probably named for them). I. D. Lane lived north and east of town, August Kraft on north.

James M. Hardin and family settled southwest of Hardin School and his name appears frequently in responsible positions in county, township, church, and

school. We have assumed that Hardin School was named for him. John Conklin and his wife, Katy (Daniel) — ancestors of all the Conklins in these parts, and D. B. Beardon, who married a sister of John L. and Louis B. Ashurst, lived in this same vicinity. John B. Ranson had one transaction between him and the U. S. government; (John Grigg entered the land in 1835 later selling it to Roy Ranson's grandfather, John B.) This place is still in the Ranson name and is farmed by a Ranson — John's great-great-grandson, Robert. Stokes Edwards also farmed in this locality and was one of those all-important blacksmiths of that time.

We will mention only briefly some of the added names in the 1850's and 60's. After all, this is getting into modern times! In 1879, the population of the village of Kilbourne alone was 150! About this time, the families of Ade, Koke, and Kemper came from Germany; Peter Williams and the Walters from Prussia; the Dwyer, Boyle, and Coffey families from Ireland; the Dolbins from Wales; Lascelles and the Brents from England. Those who carried the names of Milleson, Carter, Vanaken, Elliot, Lowrance, Wallace, Watkins, Mowder, Miller, Curry, Drake, Davis, Beckwith, Cobb, Coggeshall, Madison, and Crane had evidently been "on this side" a while longer. Kilbourne had its own "melting pot"!



COBB HOME — typical 2-room home, raised 10 children there, located west of New Lebanon Church. Norman, Mr. William Cobb, Mary Cobb (Ketcham), Roy, Mrs. Nancy Ware Cobb, George.

SUBSCRIBERS' RECORD

FROM ILLUSTRATED ATLAS MAP OF MASON COUNTY

1874 — PUBLISHED BY W. R. BRINK & CO.

	P. O.	RES.	OCCUPATION	NATIVITY	WHEN CAME TO COUNTY
TOWNSHIP 19 — Range 8 (As given in Atlas):					
Blunt, H. M.	Kilbourne	Sec. 6	Farmer	Jefferson Co.	1838
Bearden, D. B.	Kilbourne	Sec. 6	Farmer	Christian Co.	1847
Curry, R. A.	Kilbourne	Sec. 5	Farmer	New York	1855
Conklin, John	Kilbourne	Sec. 6	Farmer & Stock Raiser	Ohio	1843
TOWNSHIP 19 — Range 9:					
Upp, Wm.	Kilbourne	Sec. 11	Carpenter & Farmer	York Co., Penn.	1865
TOWNSHIP 19 — Range 10:					
Clarkston, John L.	Kilbourne	Sec. 25	Farmer	Mason Co., Ill.	1846
TOWNSHIP 20 — Range 8:					
Bigelow, E. H.	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	General Commission Merchant & Grain Dealer	New York	1862
Baker, Jesse	Kilbourne	Sec. 12	Farmer	Knoxville, Tenn.	1827
Blakeley, A. S.	Long Branch	Sec. 17	Township Supervisor	Sangamon Co.	1838
Beckwith, H.	Kilbourne	Sec. 16	Farmer	Crawford Co.	1850
Crawford, H. P.	Kilbourne	Sec. 13	Farmer, Physician, & Surgeon	Sangamon Co.	1851
Curry, Dexter	Kilbourne	Sec. 32	Farmer	New York	1850
Conover, J. B.	Kilbourne	Sec. 20	Farmer	Cass Co.	1845
Curry, John A.	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	Physician	Illinois	1873
Dillon, John I.	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	Farmer & Carpenter	Ohio	1869
Darrell, L. P.	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	Blacksmith	Illinois	1860
Danford, J. T.	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	Carriage & Wagon Maker	Canada	1874
Field, A. E.	Kilbourne	Sec. 33	Druggist & Dealer in Notions	Alabama	1836
Gore, Jane	Kilbourne	Sec. 31	Farmer	Ireland	1846
Grim, J. B.	Kilbourne	Sec. 28	Farmer & Stock Dealer	Greene Co., Ky.	1823
Hanley, Mrs. Melissa I.	Kilbourne	Sec. 24	Farmer	Mason Co.	1843

	P. O.	RES.	OCCUPATION	NATIVITY	WHEN CAME TO COUNTY
Kraft, August	Havana	Sec. 8	Farmer	Germany	1847
Lee, Stephen	Kilbourne	Sec. 20	Farmer & Stock Raiser	Kentucky	1831
Lane, I. D.	Kilbourne	Sec. 15	Farmer	Warren Co., Tenn.	1845
Lee, S. B.	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	Blacksmith	Illinois	1856
Moore, Madison H.	Kilbourne	Poplar City	Farmer	Warren Co., Ind.	1855
Philips	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	Physician	Kentucky	1852
Roat, John W.	Kilbourne	Cobb & Crane Place	Farmer & Stock Raiser	Warren Co., Ohio	1851
Thompson, C. S.	Kilbourne	Sec. 19	Farmer	Ireland	1851
Walker, J. B.	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	Grain Buyer	Ohio	1844

TOWNSHIP 20 — Range 9:

Alderson, M. H.	Kilbourne	Sec. 36	Physician	Hart Co., Ky.	1867
Ashurst, John L.	Kilbourne	Sec. 36	Blacksmith & Mfg. Succor Grain Drill	Mason Co., Ill.	1838



What Do You Think Of This —

Two Kilbourne boys are the sixth generation of a family who have all lived on the same farm — Robert and Michael Ranson — Robert, Ronald, Roy, George, and John B. Ranson. (All males!)

Did You Know —

Abraham Lincoln entered forty-seven acres of land on March 16, 1836 about a mile above Miller's Ferry, near where the town of Huron was laid out soon after. He sold the land the following year.

The Field Crest —

The Field family coat of arms is said to be one of the first ever given in the early twelfth century. It is pictured with three sheaves of wheat, a chevron, and the motto — "Without God, nothing". Theirs is probably one of the early family names derived from their place of residence. The Field history has been traced back to the tenth century when the family was known as "de la Felds". The French terms "de la" were dropped during the time of trouble between France and England.

How About This —

Two Kilbourne youngsters are the seventh generation of a family who have lived in what is now Kilbourne Township — Ronda and Greg Ebken — Diane Gregory Ebken, Marie Blakeley Gregory, Walter, Rufus, Aaron Scott, and Great-great-great-great-grandfather James Blakeley.

What Do You Know —

Peter Williams is another early settler, 1869, with interesting experiences before settling here. He was born in Prussia in 1818 and emigrated to the United States in 1841. He worked in various places, St. Louis, New Orleans, Cincinnati, and as a deck hand and roustabout on the river. He came to Kilbourne Township in 1869; and was the father of Mary, Charles, and Peter Williams Jr.; and grandfather of Gertrude Williams Athey.

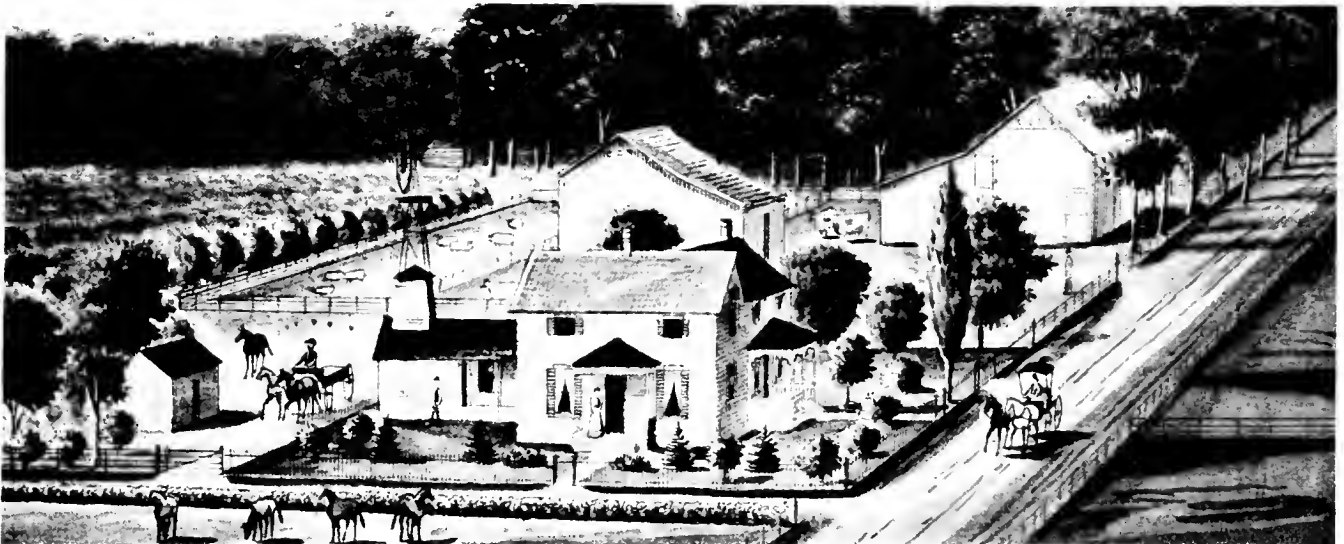


FROM HISTORICAL DIRECTORY OF MASON COUNTY

1891 ATLAS

NAME	BUSINESS	RESIDENCE	POST OFFICE	YEAR OF BIRTH	NATIVITY	WHEN CAME TO COUNTY
Baker, Frank	Farmer	Sec. 25	Kilbourne	1864	Illinois	1864
Beckwith, H. C.	Farmer	Sec. 16	Kilbourne	1841	Illinois	1850
Blakeley, A. S.	Farmer	Sec. 8	Kilbourne	1836	Illinois	1838
Blakeley, J. M.	Farmer	Sec. 28	Kilbourne	1842	Illinois	1842
Blakeley, Rufus	Farmer	Sec. 9	Kilbourne	1848	Illinois	1848
Brent, John	Farmer	Sec. 8	Kilbourne	1853	England	1866
Carter, J. C.	Farmer	Sec. 14	Kilbourne	1846	Ohio	1852
Coggeshall, Jas. L.	Farmer	Sec. 28	Kilbourne	1865	Illinois	1865
Conover, J. B.	Grain Dealer	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1844	Illinois	1845
Craggs, Charles	Farmer	Sec. 30	Kilbourne	1821	England	1845
Craggs, William	Farmer	Sec. 16	Kilbourne	1823	England	1845
Craggs, Jesse	Merchant	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1865	Illinois	1865
Crane, Geo. A.	Farmer	Sec. 13	Kilbourne	1860	Indiana	1865
Daniel, Isley	Farmer	Sec. 4	Kilbourne	1823	Tennessee	1835
Dolbin, Robert	Farmer	Sec. 30	Kilbourne	1846	Wales	1861
Drake, Sylvester	Farmer	Sec. 16	Kilbourne	1858	Illinois	1858
Drake, E. R.	Farmer	Sec. 22	Kilbourne	1859	Illinois	1859
Dwyer, Wm.	Farmer	Sec. 16	Kilbourne	1822	Ireland	1853
Eaton, Robert	Farmer	Sec. 1	Poplar City	1841	England	1852
Elliott, W. R.	Farmer	Sec. 12	Kilbourne	1850	Illinois	1855
Ermeling, J. G.	Farmer	Sec. 12	Poplar City	1839	Germany	1844
Estep, Abraham	Farmer	Sec. 12	Poplar City	1818	Illinois	1833
Feild, H. A.	Merchant	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1864	Illinois	1864
Gore, J. W.	Farmer	Sec. 31	Kilbourne	1852	Illinois	1852
Gore, J. H.	Merchant	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1857	Illinois	1857
Hardin, J. M.	Farmer	Sec. 31	Kilbourne	1817	Maryland	1845
Hurd, I. A.	Farmer	Sec. 1	Poplar City	1822	New York	1840
Ketcham, H. S.	Livery	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1865	Illinois	1865
Koke, Henry	Farmer	Sec. 2	Poplar City	1837	Germany	1850
Lane, J. R.	Farmer	Sec. 15	Kilbourne	1846	Illinois	1846
Madison, F. M.	Merchant	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1858	Kentucky	1865
McWhorter, George	Grain Dealer	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1850	Wisconsin	1885
Milleson, Abel	Farmer	Sec. 4	Havana	1820	Ohio	1852
Mowder, C. C.	Farmer	Sec. 5	Havana	1847	Illinois	1847
Parker, D. W.	Farmer	Sec. 22	Kilbourne	1830	New York	1871
Pratt, Frank	Farmer	Sec. 35	Kilbourne	1864	Illinois	1869
Ranson, George W.	Farmer	Sec. 32	Kilbourne	1848	Illinois	1848
Ruggles, H. C.	Druggist	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1845	Illinois	1846
Scott, Samuel	Farmer	Sec. 10	Kilbourne	1823	New Jersey	1838
Sears, John	Farmer	Sec. 26	Kilbourne	1835	Illinois	1835
Stephens, Dr. B. M.	Drugs	Kilbourne	Kilbourne	1857	Illinois	1886
Vanaken, Mannis	Farmer	Sec. 12	Havana	1819	Pennsylvania	1855
Wallace, Allen	Farmer	Sec. 8	Kilbourne	1859	Illinois	1859
Wallace, W. A.	Farmer	Sec. 25	Kilbourne	1846	Ohio	1851
Walter, Henry F.	Farmer	Sec. 10	Havana	1863	Illinois	1863
Watkins, Frank	Farmer	Sec. 25	Kilbourne	1855	Illinois	1856
Williams, Charles	Farmer	Sec. 12	Havana	1862	Illinois	1863
Yardley, J. A.	Farmer	Sec. 35	Kilbourne	1843	Illinois	1843
Young, J. C.	Farmer	Sec. 30	Kilbourne	1855	Illinois	1855

NAME	BUSINESS	RESIDENCE	POST OFFICE	YEAR OF BIRTH	NATIVITY	WHEN CAME TO COUNTY
IN BATH TOWNSHIP — KILBOURNE POST OFFICE						
Blunt, T. R.	Farmer	Sec. 36	Kilbourne	1838	Illinois	1836
Friend, Wm.	Farmer	Sec. 35	Kilbourne	1821	Pennsylvania	1841
Gum, J. H.	Farmer	Sec. 11	Kilbourne	1856	Illinois	1885
Hasher, N. A.	Farmer	Sec. 36	Kilbourne	1851	Virginia	1875
Miller, W. R.	Farmer	Sec. 35	Bath or Kilbourne	1833	Illinois	1859
Samuell, H. L.	Farmer	Sec. 36	Kilbourne	1826	Kentucky	1845
IN CRANE CREEK TOWNSHIP — KILBOURNE POST OFFICE						
Baker, Robt.	Farmer	Sec. 20	Kilbourne	1838	Illinois	1850
Carter, Mrs. L.	Farmer	Sec. 19	Kilbourne	1832	Illinois	1868
Estep, D.	Farmer	Sec. 30	Kilbourne	1838	Illinois	1848
Holtslaw, G. W.	Farmer	Sec. 20	Kilbourne	1838	Illinois	1848
Linn, John A.	Farmer	Sec. 30	Kilbourne	1828	Illinois	1886
Morgan, Edmund	Farmer	Sec. 19	Kilbourne	1850	Wales	1858
Sears, Henry	Farmer	Sec. 17	Kilbourne	1805	North Carolina	1833
Yardley, H. G.	Farmer & Blacksmith	Sec. 20	Kilbourne	1840	Illinois	1840



SKETCH OF HENRY BECKWITH FARM — located east of Jones School

**LANDOWNERS — KILBOURNE TOWNSHIP
FROM 1874 MASON CO. ATLAS MAP
(No names repeated)**

Section 1 — I. M. Hurd, A. Estep, Robert Eaton, A. Hurd, Samuel Morris.

Section 2 — A. Hurd, King Dean & Co., Samuel Porter, P. Doyle.

Section 3 — Tucker & Mansfield, Harmon Renuker, J. H. Kreiling.

Section 4 — J. M. Shubert, J. A. Smith, August Kraft, A. Millison.

Section 5 — A. G. Fisher, Joseph Mowder.

Section 6 — Conwell & Kelsey.

Section 7 — J. M. Ruggles.

Section 8 — John Nelms, Campbell & Dearborn, D. C. Brown, J. R. Tolley.

Section 9 — J. A. Smith, B. F. Mastick, S. B. Jones, A. S. Blakeley, B. Boyle, F. Beckwith, H. Beckwith.

Section 10 — H. Kemper, I. D. Lane, Monroe Brown, P. Page, Henry Steging, E. B. Holmes, A. Krebaum.

Section 11 — J. D. Murphy, H. R. Berkshire, M. McMullen, C. D. Loveland, A. Gallagher.

Section 12 — J. G. Armeling, Sam Vanetten, Manis Vanaken, J. Baker, J. T. Close, George Butler.

Section 13 — H. P. Crawford, Mary Cox, G. W. Estep, William Mann, J. T. Close, J. M. Estep, G. W. Estep, J. Barker, J. J. Hanley.

Section 14 — Peter Williams, Minnie Million, W. H. Castleberry, A. Ingraham.

Section 15 — J. Duncan, Dudley Shipp, Elias Gibson, Wm. Cobb, M. Dearborn, Dr. Parkins, Dan. Coffee, Stephen Dolbin.

Section 16 — Wm. Dwyer, J. S. Williamson, R. Lane, Wm. Craggs.

Section 17 & 18 — (Names already given)

Section 19 — J. B. Conover, C. S. Thompson, C. H. Kramer.

Section 20 — John Lee, Stephen Lee.

Section 21 — Isaac Vail.

Section 22 — Newton Mitchell, Frank Ivers, L. Ketcham, J. McMurphy, D. Parker.

Section 23 — H. B. Cutler, H. H. Carter, C. L. Newell, Dan. Clark, J. Campbell, D. McDaniel.

Section 24 — Wm. Phelps, W. H. Webb, Henry O'Neal, W. H. Morgan.

Section 25 — W. H. Baker, E. T. Davenport, J. T. Close, Elias Watkins, W. C. Davis, J. Tomlin, Mary McDaniel, Jno. Sears.

Section 26 — Wm. Crum.

Section 27 — Sam. Grissom, Jno. F. Bond, J. B. Gum.

Section 28 — Elizabeth Jones, J. W. Tripp, A. W. Coggeshall.

Section 29 — J. B. Gum 640 A.

Section 30 — Charles Craggs, W. B. Neal, C. H. Raymond.

Section 31 — J. M. Andrews, Edward Gore, John Micklam, James M. Hardin.

Section 32 — A. E. Field, G. W. Ranson, Dexter Curry, Mitchell Young.

Section 33 — E. Pierce, M. V. Daniel, Isley Daniel.

Section 34 — J. C. Ade.

Section 35 — J. Gamble, J. Pratt, W. M. Crum.

Section 36 — Dan. Riner, D. W. Hilliard, R. C. Baker, G. W. Hibbetts.

Section 3-4 — (No new names)

Section 5 — Curry Conklin.

Section 6 — John Conklin, H. M. Blunt, M. Shunk, J. P. Dick, D. B. Beander.

Section 7 — D. Godby, Robert Conover, Mitchell & Mary Young.



JOHN BLAKELEY HOME — north side of town. Mr. J. M. Blakeley, Etta Blakeley (Blunt), Mrs. Martha Mowder Blakely. Now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hodgson.

NEW NAMES OF LANDOWNERS
1891 ATLAS

H. A. Collins	James L. Coggeshall
B. H. McFadden	J. M. Blakeley
Henry Koke	L. Hughes
Mrs. Fred Walters	James C. Carter
Wm. Wallace	J. B. Stone
E. A. Meyer	W. A. Wallace
H. A. Fager	and
C. C. Mowder	Frank Baker
H. R. Bond	W. C. Ledyard
Ira Davenport	J. C. Ade
Mrs. L. P. Bradley	G. W. Coggeshall
Rufus Blakeley	Thomas Ainsworth, Sr.
John Brent	John Leiding
H. C. Beckwith	T. J. Conklin
S. Scott	M. Tompkins
Glazier	T. T. Ainsworth
W. R. Elliott	Frank Pratt
Chas. Williams	Mary Crum
Louisa Carter	C. Davis
J. D. Perkins	C. W. Tomlin
Geo. A. Crane	C. B. Wilson
Anna Crane	J. W. Root
M. M. Porter	W. C. Daniel
John Schultz	Thomas Conklin
J. C. Carter	G. M. Conklin
J. R. Lane	Catharine Conklin
George McDaniels	Elizabeth A. Shanklin
E. Drake	Morris Sinclair
C. F. Craggs	W. H. Smith
J. H. Kramer	J. C. Young
J. B. Conover	C. Daniel
B. Boyle	

The Sandburr Story —

Mr. T. G. Onstot wrote that in the very sandy areas of Kilbourne in the early days, the main production consisted of sand burrs and fleas. The residents can attest to the fact that sand burrs still flourish here today. These sand burrs were first introduced in Mason County in the fall of 1830. A traveler from Ohio approached O. M. Ross who was then residing in his cabin along the Illinois River and asked if he could camp there for the night. Upon the consent of Mr. Ross, the traveler unhitched his horses and fed them three sheaves of oats.

The next spring, at this same spot, there was about a ten-foot square patch of grass which grew about twelve to fifteen inches high and when it ripened, developed pea-sized burrs. As the horses and cattle grazed here, the burrs got caught in the tails and the sheep picked them up in their wool. In this way, the burrs were shortly carried far and wide. Regardless of the soil in which they were dropped, these burrs managed to thrive.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES BLAKELEY

Found In Tracing Families —

There were two families named Ashurst who lived in the same general locality, the Nelson B. Ashurst family and the John N. Ashurst family, who came from Tennessee to Saidora in 1833. John N. was the father of Rev. Elijah Ashurst (known for miles around), Phoebe Ashurst Schoonover (mother of Albert B. and Ida Schoonover Goben, mother of Mrs. Amanda Stout), and Rose A. Ashurst Goben (grandmother of Irietta Johnson). Then there was an Asher family (Kate Boyle Asher) and a Neal Hasher. Complications!

Blunt Family Name —

The Blunt family history has been traced back to an ancestor who went with William the Conqueror from Normandy into England. The family of "Le Blond" were so-called because of the "the fineness of their hair and complexion", the name was gradually changed to LeBlount. Le Blunt, then to Blount or Blunt.

KILBOURNE YESTERDAY — BUSINESS PLACES



MAIN THOROUGHFARE IN KILBOURNE ABOUT 1914-1915

According to Gen. Ruggles, the first store in Kilbourne (location unknown) was opened by William Oakford soon after the town was laid out. Calvin Atterberry bought him out. The names of Oakford and Atterberry are found in connection with various lots in town, one of which is the Amanda Stout home, formerly the Dr. Root residence. Billy Martin had a saloon. A. E. Field is listed in 1874 as a druggist and "dealer in notions".

The Max Smith home west of the railroad has been the site of several hotels, proprietors — Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Craig (he was station agent of the 1880's, besides the hotel, Mrs. Craig had a lunch room at the depot), Harve Gum. The Charley Close family (also had switchboard, lightning struck the house, burned, re-built)

In 1902, the Kilbourne Independent states that Kilbourne had two churches, two livery barns, three grain elevators, a newspaper, telephone exchange, two physicians, one attorney, two undertaking and furniture establishments, drug store, lumber yard, harness shop, millinery store, butcher shop, two hardware and three grocery stores, restaurant, hotel, opera house, and two blacksmith shops.

Times, wants, and needs of people change. We trust these pictures and sketches may help you to remember downtown Kilbourne of yesterday, or to visualize it, if you are a youngster of 40 or 50 or less.

This picture was taken by Bill Zirkle from the top of the old yellow grain elevator that stood just north of the present round elevator. We see the hotel, operated at first by Mrs. Barbara Hackman Garrett (later married to Ed. Smith), then taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Lane about 1910. Salesmen traveled by train, construction workers on various projects needed room and board, also show people, and a few "regulars", so, though it may seem strange to us, hotels and boarding houses were needed in those days. In later years the building housed several barber shops, served as a dwelling for a few families, and was razed around 1945.



KILBOURNE HOTEL — Mrs. Annie Lane with flour still on her hands from baking. Beckwith and Comingore's Store next door.

Next to the hotel is the big block building erected in the early 1900's by Howard Beckwith and his brother-in-law, Dee (David) Comingore, who operated a general store under the name of Beckwith and Comingore. When Mr. Beckwith left for Kansas, Roy Comingore took his place in the business.

The upstairs hall served the community in many ways — a meeting place for the Christian Church and some of the Lodges, an auditorium for Christmas programs and other entertainments, Roy Comingore's skating rink, and even a basketball court for one year when Harold Blakeley, Doris Scheuering, Earnway Dew, and Supervisor "Babe" Pratt played for KTHS. This space had originally been occupied by Ralph Pullen's Blacksmith Shop, the Boys' Boxing Club, a band practice room, and Charlie Close's Lunch Room. The building passed through several hands, the upper story was removed, and is now occupied by Bob Lynn and his business.

On across the alley is the blacksmith shop operated through the years by Bingham-the Wagon Maker, Albert Bridges, Joseph Zirkle and son, Bill. The smaller buildings were used at different periods by several restaurants, Abe Sours and also Jim Cobb's Harness Shops, Dr. Damon's Office followed by Dr. Nicolay, and John Sutton's Barber Shop.

About the year 1916, John Prief built the large garage in this block and sold implements and Fords until Tim Brent and Frank Hughes bought him out. After Mr. Brent's death, Frank and Glen Hughes were in the business with varying combinations of ownership. Later Glen took over and was dealer for Chevrolet and International Harvester Co. until his death in 1964. Glen was an enterprising business man and his territory extended from Topeka to Tallula. He specialized in service and parts and kept the agency here although this was becoming unusual for small towns. Today this is Huey's Garage. Stanley started his general repair business eleven years ago at the east end of town on Route 97, moving to his present location in 1966. His assistants have included Larry Collins, "Dutch" Dye, Ellis Pedigo, and Johnnie "Bud" McDaniel.

The taller dark structure in the picture is Draper's Store. Hiram S. Draper came with his family to Kilbourne in 1898, after being in the mercantile business in Chandlerville for some time, then in Missouri for four years. Mr. Draper built and operated the general store with the assistance of his children until his death in 1923 at the age of 83 years. The original place was one-story, but business grew, and a larger two-story building was erected in 1903. The old store was moved to face on 5th Street and was the location of the bakery beside the old post office picture in our book.

Growing Kilbourne needed more room to handle crowds, and the hall above the store helped fill this need. It was the center of many activities — suppers, parties, and there were stories of nerve-wracking lodge initiations held there. A doctor and "The

Kilbourne Independent" newspaper had space over the store at one time.

As time passed, several eating places have been in this spot where Nelda Williams Justice and her daughter, Shirley, now serve short orders, wonderful home-cooked meals, and delicious pie. During the past few months the restaurant has undergone a "face-lifting" job and has been completely remodeled. Nelda's is the "morning coffee" shop for Kilbourne neighbors.

The furniture and undertaking establishment of brothers-in-law Oscar B. Harris and Gay Blunt was on the corner next to Drapers. Mr. Blunt had the team of beautiful black horses that pulled the hearse. Mr. Harris learned the embalming profession in the town of Virginia before moving here in 1899. Many of our parents bought their first furniture, stoves, and wall paper from Blunt and Harris.

Old timers remember that the Henry C. Ruggles Drug Store had been here previous to the furniture store. In later years general stores operated by Roy Goben and Myrtle Dew were followed by a filling station for some time. After it closed, the small empty building made an ideal place for Santa's headquarters one Christmas. For the last several years the community Christmas tree has been set up on this now vacant lot.

In the distance, near the top corner of Craggs and Field, can be seen the Beckwith house, now the Roy Ray home. Bert Beckwiths lived here at one time and also his parents. Henry Beckwith bought the place from the Coggeshall family in 1896. They purchased it in 1884 from Cal Daniel who had built the house some time before. The Christian Church shows up very well and you can also make out Draper's "House of Seven Gables".



CRAGGS AND FIELD CORNER — 1910 — young ladies — Ruth Harris and Grace Sinclair (?). Windmill, pump, and horse watering tank placed at intersection of 5th and Walnut in 1905 by Village Marshal James S. Davis and George McWhorter. Funds contributed by townspeople, McWhorter and Young Hardware Store furnished the outfit at cost.

Crossing 5th Street, there is the famous Craggs and Field Store. In 1970, it is still the general store, owned and operated by Robert Prater with the assistance of veteran clerks, Eldred and Gilbert Craggs.

For decades, one particular Kilbourne business touched the lives of almost everyone in the area in one way or another. This was the Craggs and Field Store established in 1886 by Jesse Craggs and Henry Field. The cousins, "Jess and Hen", as most folks knew them, were twenty-one-year-old farm boys when they went into the mercantile business. They bought out Henry C. Ruggles's stock of drugs, hardware, and school books and added groceries and dry goods. The original Craggs and Field Store was located on the southwest corner of the intersection of 5th and Walnut Streets, now the vacant lot that was at one time the proposed site of a new fire house. Jess and Hen tried working both the farm and store for a while, taking turns, one minding the store while the other farmed. When their trade demanded more of their time, they became full-time merchants.

Craggs and Field, like most well-stocked general stores in a small town, carried such commodities as sugar, flour, salt, and "soup beans" in the bulk, usually in big wooden barrels. Potatoes, and sometimes flour, were bought by the freight car load and many families laid in a season's needs directly from the car. There were no pre-packaged goods or even paper sacks then; they weighed the customer's order out into paper cones which they fashioned from brown paper. Coffee was ground in a hand turned coffee mill; plugs of chewing tobacco were cut off a bulk chunk with a tobacco cutter; slices were cut from a big round cheese; and pickles were fished out of a barrel of brine. "Green" coffee was available if you wanted to roast your own. Jess and Hen brought the first baker's bread into Kilbourne, still warm from the bakery in Athens, shipped in big baskets by train. It was not sliced, of course, or even wrapped in waxed paper. They also introduced wire nails which replaced the old square-cut kind; for an occasional treat, they had some of that new white granulated sugar. In the clothing line, they carried high button shoes, gum boots, plow shoes, drawers, "overalls", shirt bosoms, bustles, corsets, cuffs and cuff holders, celluloid collars, garters, suspenders, and yard goods. You could buy such hardware items as a wash board, glass, putty, a monkey wrench, cartridges, a milk pan, linseed oil, axle grease, varnish, wire, rope, or a corn knife.

One exciting night in the 1890's one of the biggest fires in Kilbourne's history started at the Court of Honor oyster supper in the McWhorter and Young building, destroying their hardware store and the John "Iowa" Daniels Store. As a precaution, Jess and Hen moved all their merchandise out on the street when their place was threatened, too.

Near the turn of the century, Charlie Conklin and Henry Pierce put up the big two-story structure on the northeast corner of 5th and Walnut Streets. Sometime later Craggs and Field moved diagonally across the street into this new building. Records show that Jesse Craggs actually purchased the lot from Charles Conklin in 1906.

Many people recall the big hall upstairs and its many community activities perhaps more than they remember the general store. It was in use as Conklin and Pierce's Hall before it became Craggs and Field's Hall. It served as a meeting place for churches, lodges, Farm Bureau, and other organizations; it was used for suppers, box socials, home talent shows, high school plays, play parties, an occasional dance (frowned upon by local church fathers), or a medicine show if the weather was too cold for a street show. Countless good times were enjoyed in that old hall.

Another social feature of the store was the "liar's corner" as they called the circle of seats around the big jacketed stove in the back. Any man with time to spare could find someone who would pull up a chair and swap stories with him. Many hours were spent exchanging gossip, chewing tobacco, and just seeing who could tell the biggest "whopper"

Perhaps the most unusual and the most remembered feature of the store was the old revolving candy case. Made chiefly of curved glass panels, with one sliding glass section serving as a door, the round case could be twirled like a "Lazy Susan" by using the circular hand rail at its base. The shelves of candies made a tempting display and few children could resist giving the wheel a spin whether they had a penny to spend or not. No one has been found who has ever seen one like it, and its exact origin has not been determined. It was evidently a fixture of the store from almost the very beginning.

The event connected with Jess and Hen's that received the widest publicity was their appearance in a March Of Time newsreel, in 1936. The producers selected Craggs and Field as the typical country store they wanted for their film. The cameramen moved in one morning, took some pictures of business "as usual", and moved out again almost before anyone knew what was going on. Kenneth Blakely and George Craggs, two local school boys, acted the part of the customers. What a stir when the word got around!

In August, 1936, Jess and Hen invited about 50 of their relatives and old friends to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their partnership. The word spread and the small group of 50 developed into a crowd of some 1500 people from 17 states who came to wish them well. A short program honoring Jess and Hen was organized by close friends and relatives and the Virginia High School band made a trip to Kilbourne to play for the celebration.

Henry Field retired in 1937 and sold his interest in the store to Jesse's son, Alva. Jesse and "Budge" continued the business as Craggs and Craggs until the

father's death in 1944. Budge then bought full interest and continued to use the name of Craggs and Craggs for fifteen years.

The passing years brought changes — the old stove was replaced by a floor furnace; at first, there came white margarine with its capsule or packet of coloring, later, colored oleo appeared in the cooler next to the country butter; refrigerators took the place of the ice boxes, and then came a frozen food case. The fascinating old candy case gave way to a low showcase with a sliding glass door.

Many changes had taken place in 73 years. But when Budge Craggs retired in 1959, it was still a typical country general store where you could buy hardware, hair ribbons, patent medicines, shirts, greeting cards, groceries, lamp chimneys, and treadle sewing machine belts. Children still brought grocery lists, then stood with their noses pressed against the glass of the candy case while their orders were filled.

Amid all the changes, though, something did remain the same. Eldred Craggs, who started work for Jess and Hen in 1935, stayed on with Budge, taking over the meat department in addition to clerking duties. Gilbert Craggs began a few years later as part-time help for Craggs and Craggs, later full-time, and managed the candy and hardware departments. The two Craggs "boys", both distant relatives of the



pioneer grocers, are still working in the same building for the present owner, Robert Prater. They have served three or four generations of many Kilbourne area families, and are very much a part of the store.

Robert Prater purchased the Craggs and Craggs General Store in April, 1959. Since that time, some changes have been made to take advantage of modern food processing and packaging. The first and most obvious alteration was the introduction of self-service shopping. Later, a walk-in meat cooler and more space for frozen foods were added.

In most respects, though, the store has changed very little. The stock includes hardware, dry goods, notions, and groceries just as it did many years ago. The business has been housed in the familiar building at the corner of Fifth and Walnut ever since Craggs and Fields moved into the structure.



INSIDE CRAGGS AND CRAGGS STORE — Orlie Wallace, Clell Daniel, Orie Madison, owner — Alva (Budge) Craggs, clerks — Eldred and Gilbert Craggs.



EAST SIDE OF 5TH STREET — YESTERDAY

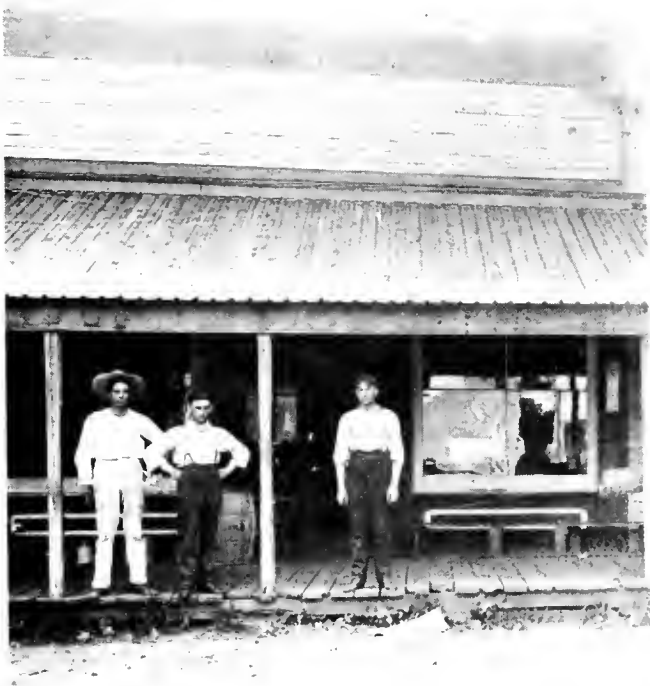
This picture of 5th Street looking north was taken by Clyde Hobbs in 1943. The building on the right was first built and occupied by Charles E. Conklin and son. Homer — Furniture and Undertaking. For a time it was the Opera House, followed by several restaurants and now the Kilbourne Fire House.

In the early 1900's sweet potatoes were grown extensively around Kilbourne and were marketed by the wagon loads in nearby towns and shipped by

freight to Springfield and other cities. Alex Whiteley built the second building for his "Sweet Potato House", large enough to contain a year's crop, with heating facilities. The Upp Bros., Walter and Ada, had their butcher shop here. Walter remembers furnishing meat for the dredge boat crew on the Sangamon. Empty for several years, it was torn down this summer and is the proposed site of a community center.



EAST SIDE OF FIFTH STREET — 1970 — Kilbourne Fire House; vacant lot — proposed site of Kilbourne Community Center; Post Office; home of the Hodgson's — John, Charlotte (designed history book cover), John, Jr., and Joel; Cecil Gobon's Barber Shop.



FRANK DANIEL STORE in its early days. Austin Wright, Arleigh Conklin, and Frank Daniel. Another "whittling bench".

Next comes the store of Frank Daniel, another longtime general storekeeper in Kilbourne. The three buildings that made up the Frank Daniel Store have been occupied by various enterprises — barber shops, the Epworth League Library, and the Sangamon Sawyer newspaper. Before that, the F. M. Madison General Store (also the location of the post office at that time), followed by the J. W. Mitchell General Store.

Frank began his merchandising career about 1904 at the age of 24. Several individuals were associated with the establishment in the first thirteen years or so — his mother, "Grammy" Tillie Daniel, John Boyle — his brother-in-law (Bob Boyle's grandfather), Arleigh Conklin, and Isley Craggs.

An ad in a 1907 Sangamon Sawyer indicates that it was a typical country general merchandise store of the period. They listed for sale (at 20-40 percent discount) the following: Overshoes, Leggings, Rubber and Linen Collars, Tinware, Corsets, Embroidery, Harps, Eye Glasses, and several types of yard goods.

In 1917, Mr. Daniel became the sole owner. Harold "Babe" Pratt began as part-time help while in high school and was connected with the store for sixteen years. Edmund Blake was clerk before that. A common policy of general stores at that time was one of keeping evening hours, weekdays until 8:30 or 9:00

p.m. and on Saturday nights until everyone had gone home, often times rather late.

Frank Daniel and Mabel Close were married in 1913. They had two children, Wanda and Buford. Their home was joined to the store making it easier for Mabel to help in the business when needed. Frank retired in 1946 after 42 years of service to the Kilbourne community. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel traveled for a time, visiting relatives in the state of Washington and South Carolina, then moved into their newly built home in Havana.

J. A. Sinclair and sons of Oakford purchased the business and Herman Sinclair continued running the store until he and his family moved to California in 1957. Robert Prater later bought the buildings and the new post office is where part of the old store stood. The John Hodgson family now live in the former Daniel home.



FRANK AND MABEL (CLOSE) DANIEL — back of their home connected to the store. Frank is holding granddaughter, Barbara Upp.

POST OFFICE

Our post office was established as a fourth-class office on October 15, 1872. Originally, the official name of this office was spelled "Kilbourn" but was changed to "Kilbourne" on May 21, 1892.

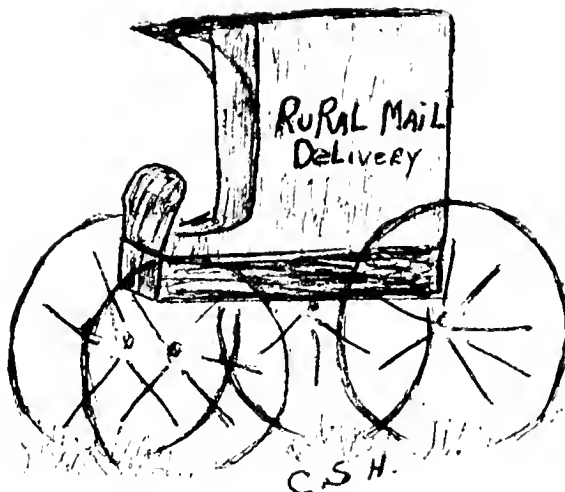
During the history of our office, these people have served as postmasters:

Postmasters	Dates of Appointment
Joseph A. Brown	October 15, 1872
Coridon L. Newell	May 15, 1874
Charles A. Gore	June 21, 1881
Henry C. Ruggles	April 7, 1882
Henry E. See	May 8, 1883
John W. Craig	November 12, 1884
George F. Pierce	November 5, 1885
Benjamin M. Stephenson	May 3, 1889
Seymour Holmes	June 8, 1893
Henry C. Ruggles	June 18, 1897
Francis M. Madison	July 20, 1900
Wesley Craggs	October 1, 1906
Mr. Mintie Craggs	July 17, 1914
Mrs. Fannie L. Prater	April 17, 1942

With Mrs. Fannie Stone Prater serving as postmaster, on July 1, 1944, the classification of our office was advanced to third-class. Because of this increased status, Mrs. Prater was allowed the assistance of a clerk, and Mrs. Elsie Eddy Beams was hired to fill this position on December 7, 1944. Recently Mrs. Mary Boyle was hired to work as the substitute clerk.

Through the years, the post office has been located in numerous buildings of the town until Robert Prater constructed the present structure according to government specifications for lease to the Postal Department. The facilities were first occupied on December 1, 1961. The official dedication ceremony was held July 29, 1962, and was attended by 250 local residents.

Rural Free Delivery is one service offered by our post office. This service was first tested in Charles



Town, West Virginia on June 9, 1896. The local service was introduced September 1, 1903, with Carl Hughes as the first Kilbourne rural carrier.

In 1906, Postmaster Frank M. Madison was successful in his attempt to establish a second route in the Kilbourne area. Tim Brent was hired as carrier for this new route which served 115 patrons. There were 96 patrons on route number one.

Leslie Conklin succeeded Mr. Brent as carrier in 1918 and continued in this position until 1951. When the two routes were combined at the time Carl Hughes retired, Mr. Conklin took over the duties of both routes.

Hal Ringland, who has acted as substitute carrier since 1929, was appointed temporary rural carrier at the time of Mr. Conklin's retirement and remained in the position until January 26, 1952, when Harold Baker, who transferred from the Havana Post Office, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In the days when mail was delivered by train, Kilbourne received and dispatched mail four times a



Nettie Carter (Sutton) and R.F.D. carrier — Carl Hughes. Mail buggy painted red, white, and blue by A. L. Wright.



Mail carrier Tim Brent, postmaster and assistant — Mintie and Jake Craggs, carrier — Carl Hughes. On west side of 5th St., now the residence of Jennie Curry Godbey.

day From 1935 until 1944, Gilbert Craggs was mail messenger and in his nine years, did not miss one of the deliveries or dispatches. Other men serving in this position include Emery Goben, W. O. Barkus, Arthur

Smith, and John Clark. After train service was discontinued, the mail came to and left from Kilbourne by truck (star route), and today, our communications are still handled this way.



THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO "CARRY OUR MAIL" — Mrs. Elsie Beams, Clerk; Harold Baker, Rural Carrier; Hal Ringland, Substitute Rural Carrier; Mrs. Fannie Prater, Postmaster



WESLEY (JAKE) AND MINTIE CRAGGS and sons, CLYDE and LESTER — We can see why Lester once won a baby contest.

Did You Know —

Residents of the famous Wisconsin Dells in Wisconsin go out of their way to pass through Kilbourne, Illinois, to mail postcards that will bear the postmark "Kilbourne". Why? Because the original name of the Dells was Kilbourne, Wisconsin and the Kilbourne River is still one of the attractions.

Did You Know —

According to the Mason County history, post offices were located at Long Branch, Lease's Grove, Quiver, Crane Creek, and Field's Prairie. The first of these offices was established in 1859 near the home of Mr. Gum and was called Prairie. Albert J. Field was postmaster and the mail was brought in by stage coach. Today, there are no official postal records of the existence of these offices.



JIM COBB — Shoe Repair and Harness Shop.

Last is Cecil Goben's Barber Shop with quite a history. It is traditionally the oldest building in Kilbourne, a part of it is said to be the early schoolhouse (also used for worship) moved here from "the east line of the SW 1/4 of Section 28". The records read that Aaron Ray in 1847 sold to the school trustees for \$10 the ground "where the schoolhouse now stands". This school could very well be the one built by Dr. Drury S. Field in the late 1830's. This has been the location of a pool room, G. W. Lancaster, the Jeweler and Bicycle Manufacturer, John Bahl's Poultry House, Jim Cobb's home, Shoe Repair and Harness Shop, and a beauty shop.

Probably the oldest building in Kilbourne.



A few folks can recall Peterson's Shoe Shop on the corner, now Mrs. Carl Barrett's yard. All ladies wore hats everywhere, even to picnics in Uncle Johnny Blakeley's timber, so we know that Mrs. Kitty Geisler's Millinery was a very important business in her home across the street, now occupied by Harvey Sisson and grandson, Stanton.

Did You Know —

Barber shops in Kilbourne had shelves for shaving mugs and each regular customer had a mug with his name beautifully lettered in gilt.



DRAPER FAMILY HOME — 5th and Elm, built in 1899, 12 rooms, first furnace in Kilbourne. Remodeled by William and Alberta Draper Edwards, now the home of Donald and Betty Sisson Williamson and son, Mark. KTHS English students called it "The House of Seven Gables". Lumber yard at far left. Kilbourne lumber yard managers — Parrish, Wright, Walter Upp, Floyd Friend.

The south side of Walnut has been the scene of so many changes that it is impossible to name all the occupants. Some are as follows:

At the east end of the block, now vacant, have been a bowling alley, Craggs and Field, Aney's, and Walter Dew's Store. The wide red and green building has housed the G. J. Merrill General Store, the Gore and Madison Store, Seymour Holmes Store and post office, a drug store operated by A. G. Ruggles and later by Mr. Christman, and several restaurants. Next were Dr. Stevenson's office, Blake and Marcy Barber Shop, and the Independent newspaper office. The tall red building still standing was Shirtcliff's Butcher Shop (where Aunt Jane sold her famous lemon ice cream), poultry houses, and Dawson's Barber Shop. The Purkapile building was later a restaurant in charge of Mitt Clemons and then of Sherman Lane, housed the telephone exchange, was bought by Barney McCario and moved out on Route 97. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Lawson now occupy it. Huey's parking lot has been the location at one time or another of businesses carried on by John (Iowa) Daniel, C. E. Daniel, Mel Upp and Young, McWhorter and Young, Roy Comingore, John Bahl, Myrtle Dew, Paul, Floyd, and Clifford Friend, and Olof Lane.

The west side of S. 5th street was the site of J. W. Hoke's Repair Shop and also of Charley Bearden's Carpenter Shop, now the home of Frank Hughes. Dr. Root's office on the corner once held a barber shop, a cream station, and a poultry house, and now is

occupied by Mrs. Cecelia Tarvin. Dr. Root once owned a grocery at the site of the bank, with Dee Comingore and Dean Godbey as his clerks. Dr. Root's Livery Barn made an excellent place for Frank Baker's implement business. Mr. Baker really had some good ads in the Kilbourne papers, such as, "Extra good merchandise at Montgomery Ward prices." Around the early 1940's crowds gathered at this barn for Paul Friend's community sales; Hopper Lumber Co. made pallets there. They say Kilbourne's first jail was on the corner south of the old barn. John Stroh, Asa Watkins, and Lon Garrett plied their trade at their blacksmith shops at this corner.



LANE'S LUNCH ROOM — Esther Lane and Gladys Blunt. Note wooden bread boxes, ready to be shipped by train back to bakery. "Visiting bench and stool".



MITT CLEMONS RESTAURANT — on south side — serving dinners to Farmer's Institute visitors, 1910.



John Stroh (grandfather of Eileen Stroh Bell) — at work in his blacksmith shop on S. 5th St. on block south of Dr. Root's office.

BLACKSMITHS

The blacksmith of days gone by was of great importance to the community not only as an iron-worker but also as a mechanic. His many skills included shoeing the horses, replacing wheels on buggies and wagons, painting buggies, repairing kitchen and barn utensils, and occasionally the building of a sled or buggy.

In the history of Kilbourne, several men have fulfilled these varied duties in their roles of 'village smithy'. Included in this list are L. P. Darrell, S. B. Lee, H. P. Yardley, John L. Ashurst (also press drill manufacturer), Stokes Edwards, J. T. Danford (specializing as carriage and wagon-maker), Routt Brothers (also wagon-maker), Peter Thornberg, Joe Bardollar, John Stroh, Albert Bridges, Joseph Zirkle, Bill Zirkle, Lon Garrett, Asa Watkins, Clinton Craggs, and "Shorty" Eckstein who still operates his shop and will have a demonstration at the Centennial Celebration.

Did You Know —

Farm horses had to have their shoes replaced regularly — this meant removing old worn shoe, cleaning and trimming the hoof, heating and shaping the iron shoe and nailing it into place.

Did You Know —

Kilbourne has had several doctors through the years — Doctors Drury S. Field, Mastick, O'Neal, Root, Eldredge, Stephenson, Mekinson, Darling, Damon, Nicolay, Cooper, and Robbins.

Names —

Young people have always been inventive about making up catchy phrases — they seem to be especially clever in using familiar names. Perhaps you will remember this saying which is made up entirely of local surnames — "Young Mann Dew Ketcham, Yoakum Upp Wright!" This little phrase was derived from the names of Kilbourne Grade School teachers — "Swing Miss Layman around the Post!" It honored Miss Martha Swing, Miss Essie Layman, and Miss Post.

GRAIN BUSINESS

Three firms stand out in the history of the grain business in Kilbourne — the Turner-Hudnut Company, McFadden & Company and Farmers Friend Grain Company. Two managers had long service — William I. Edwards for McFadden and Company and F. M. Madison for Turner-Hudnut. In the early 1900's there were six elevators within five miles of Kilbourne — three at Kilbourne, one at Conover and two at Long Branch. The "north-end" elevator was built by Blakeley and Boyle, operated for a while as the Smith-Hippen elevator and at one time by a farmers' organization. The Farmers Friend Grain Company, Paul Friend owner, leased the Turner-Hudnut elevators at Kilbourne and Oakford in 1938 and later bought them. Ernest T. McFadden when retiring, sold his elevators at Oakford, Kilbourne and Conover to Leo Reiser of Ashland who formed the O.K. Grain and Feed Company. Then Friend sold his Oakford elevator to Reiser and bought Reiser's elevators at Kilbourne and Conover. The three elevators, two at Kilbourne and Conover, are still operated by the Farmers Friend Grain Company, Ron Friend succeeding his father as manager. A far from complete list of managers of local elevators includes Joseph B. Conover, Marshall Conover, John C. Young, Melville P. Upp, Frank Baker, Edwin Blakeley, Harry L. Blakeley, Alva Craggs, John Boyle, his brother, Bernard Boyle, and others.



JOHNNIE YOUNG, Kilbourne grain buyer about 1896-1910; Cal Conklin, elevator man; John Wayne, and Lloyd Young; boy on ramp is unidentified.



FRANK M. MADISON — Grain dealer for Turner-Hudnut, early Kilbourne grocer and postmaster. Office just west of Kilbourne Hotel, "whittling bench".

MARKET PRICES - April, 1903

Wheat - 58¢; Corn - 33¢; Rye - 40¢; Oats - 27¢; Eggs - 12¢; Butter - 20¢; Lard - 13¢; Chickens - 7¢; Ducks - 7¢; Geese - 5½¢; Turkeys - 10¢; Hogs - 6¢; Cattle - 4-6¢.

MARKET PRICES - February, 1910

Wheat - \$1.00 - \$1.12; Corn - 57¢; Oats - 45¢; Hogs - 8¼¢; Beef Cattle - 3 - 4¢; Hay (ton) - \$20; Chickens - 12¢; Old Roosters - 5¢; Ducks - 10¢; Geese - 9¢; Turkeys - 16½¢; Guineas (each) - 25¢; Eggs - 17¢.



WILLIAM EDWARDS — Grain buyer and manager of McFadden elevator.

Cow Peas — An Important Crop —

In February, 1910, James Beams loaded a car with cow peas which were then shipped to his native home, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. (What are cow peas? They are leguminous plants related to the bean family, formerly used in crop rotation to build up the soil, were cut, stacked, threshed for the seed, and fed for hay.)

KETCHAM'S LIVERY BARN

In this age of automobiles, jet planes, and even moon flights, it seems a wonder that less than seventy years ago, Vellie Ketcham was a successful businessman operating a livery barn. In an advertisement of a 1902 "Kilbourne Independent," an invitation is made to the customers of Draper's Store to drive their teams to Ketcham's, feed them, then do their trading at Draper's and get a free feed ticket.

Besides offering this "free-parking" arrangement, Ketcham's rented rigs to young men to go visit their girls and also to the 'drummers' and visitors arriving in town by train. Mrs. Mary Cobb Ketcham, his wife, served meals and provided board to many of these overnight visitors.



VELLIE KETCHAM — proprietor of livery stable.

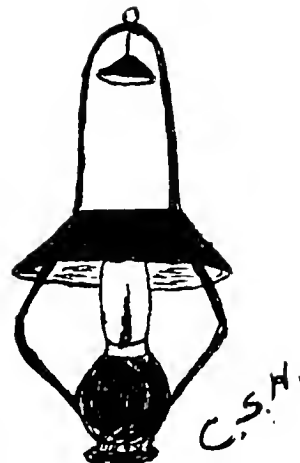
Do You Remember —

"The Store on Wheels" was an important feature of Draper's Store in the early 1900's. It was a horse-drawn wagon that made regular trips during the summer months four days each week into the country as far as New Lebanon, Peterville, and the Matanzas Lutheran Church neighborhoods. The children looked forward to the coming of the "Little Red Wagon" with its supply of candy, oranges, and ginger snaps in kegs all decorated with big red roses.

Paul Friend's Store also had a grocery wagon about three decades later. Both accepted eggs or chickens from the farmers' wives as payment for merchandise sold.

Did You Know —

Kilbourne housewives wouldn't buy butter from the store if they did not know who made it. The butter they turned down was stored in the back room and then shipped to Peoria.



Did You Know —

When square-cut nails were scarce, the pioneers burned down old buildings to get the nails for building their new homes.

Do You Remember —

These names who have at one time been connected with restaurants and eating places in Kilbourne?

John Bahl, Edwin Blakeley, Emma Blakeley, Flora Smith Boyle, Loy Causey, Mitt Clemons, Jack Clendenin, Alonzo Close, Charles Close, Conklin Brothers, Isley Craggs, Hardy Davis, Marie Dawson, Martha and Ora Hardin, Mildred Justice, Nelda Williams Justice, Elmer Knuppel, Annie and Sherman Lane, Olof Lane, Marie Pedigo Huffman, John Routt, Clay Ruggles, Harold Sears, Gloria Shores, Ruth Smith, Ira Waddell, Russell Warner.



**BANK OF KILBOURNE — No record of dates.
TORNADO DAMAGE — JUNE, 1964**

CHURCHES OF THE COMMUNITY

In the earliest days our pioneer folk met in private homes for the occasional visit of the circuit rider as he made his rounds. Religious "societies" or classes were organized and met more or less regularly with a local class leader, and now and then a visiting preacher. Later when the schoolhouse was built, it usually became the meeting place. We note that the ground around Kilbourne's very first school was deeded for the purpose of schools and worship by Aaron Ray, son of Moses Ray, the old-time "Hard-shell" Baptist preacher who is mentioned as the first "messenger of glad tidings" in this area. As settlements grew and people felt the need of a church building, it was sometimes shared by more than one group, holding services at different times. Saturday night meetings were not unusual. Besides being the place of spiritual inspiration and instruction, the church was also the social center providing a place for our ancestors to visit and have fun together. They worked hard during the week, and it was a treat to go to church and meet their friends and relatives, as well as to be renewed spiritually. They often enjoyed basket dinners after the morning worship (no 20-minute sermons in those days), sometimes on long tables made of boards or on tablecloths spread on the ground. These friendly get-togethers were bright spots in their long, and, many times, lonely days.

KILBOURNE METHODIST CHURCH



Among the first preachers in this section of the state were the Methodist itinerants who were always found on the edge of civilization, Peter Cartwright and Michael Shunk. They traveled from settlement to settlement, holding services in homes, schools, or, if the weather permitted, in groves of trees. These "pioneer soldiers of the cross" were welcomed as ministers and as a source of news.

Circuit Rider Michael Shunk is of special interest to Kilbourne because he was the father of our own



KILBOURNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- TODAY

deceased resident, Mrs. George (Clara) Craggs, and the grandfather of Eldred Craggs who has been behind the counter of our general store for 35 years. Rev. Shunk had the reputation of being a faithful pastor, scriptural and earnest in his preaching, prompt in meeting all his engagements, letting no condition of weather or roads keep him from his appointments. His circuit included such preaching points as Havana, Quiver, Dieffenbacher, Clark's, Leaf's (Peterville), Walker's, Big Grove, Field's Prairie, Anderson, Fairview, Bath, and Matanzas. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1809, studied much "on his own", and learned the carpenter trade and turning business. (When Mrs. Mary Craggs Friend taught at Dieffenbacher School, there were still cabinets in the basement that her Grandfather Shunk had made.) He was licensed to preach in 1836 and ordained in 1841.

Records of the Methodist Church show that "classes" were held as early as 1864 at Hardin School with James M. Hardin as leader, Rev. J. G. Mitchell, pastor. Members were Martha M. and Ann M. Hardin, "Grandma" Jane Gore, Louesa Wright, Emily Edwards (Mrs. Stokes Edwards?), Julia Edwards (later married Dr. Mastick, after his death was Mrs. Neal Hasher?), Fanny and Pauline Young, Mr. and Mrs. John Vanetten, George and Lydia Thompson, May E. Robins, Isabel Mattison, Amanda Mattison (Mrs. Ella Craggs Beckwith's Grandmother Madison), Melissa Maynor, and later William Upp, Samuel and Hattie Jones.

In 1874-75 classes were moved to the new schoolhouse in Kilbourne (on the Layman property) and we find in their old classbook the added family names of Ward, Golter, Beck, Lee, Tripp, Parker, Phillips, Ainsworth, Baltzell, Mahan, Ranson, Blakeley, Morse, and Newell, with Samuel Smith as exhorter, Peter Pixler as class leader, and Jennie Anderson, song leader. In 1883 the group acquired a melodeon — a small reed organ. Later we find the names of Willing, Davison, Hall, Holmes, Bingham, Howe, Mitchell, Webb, Gladden, and Shunk.

In 1887 the present church building was erected on

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

lots donated by John B. Gum. Serving on the building committee were James M. Hardin, William Upp, Charles and William Craggs, David Parker, and the pastor, Rev. C. F. Tobey. Rev. D. More was pastor at the time of the dedication. It is interesting to note that Walter Shunk, son of Rev. Michael Shunk, was Sunday School Superintendent for years.

Rev. Howard Leach was pastor when the basement was added in 1914, C. A. Bearden, contractor. The spacious lawn with its stately trees, now gone because of age and storms, has been the site of many community activities, Memorial Day observances, picnics, tent meetings. The Coad revival in 1909 resulted in 125 conversions strengthening all the churches in town.

The original church building has been well kept through the years and on July 27, 1969 dedication services were held for the improvements made possible by the generosity of Mrs. May Blakeley Lane, long-time, faithful and devoted member, through her bequest of a parcel of land to the Kilbourne United Methodist Church. Remodeling included an annex of four classrooms with wall-to-wall carpeting, walk-in closet, restroom, new entrance to the basement which had been completely redecorated, and enlarged kitchen with new appliances and equipment. Edison Sarff served as chairman of the project.

Some of the later pastors include the names of Byus, Stotler, Wilson, Crawford, Maple, Fidler, Evans, Spencer, Gross, Sprecklemeyer, Foster, McGowan, Arkema, Laughlin, Davis, Wolfley and Geiselman. The Rev. Robert J. Martin is the present pastor, Wesley Curry is now S. S. Superintendent.

To those who like little churches, with friends in every pew:

Folks who'll understand you, no matter what you do;

Folks who grew up with you and knew your old folks, too.

I like little churches — don't you?

From annex dedication program leaflet.

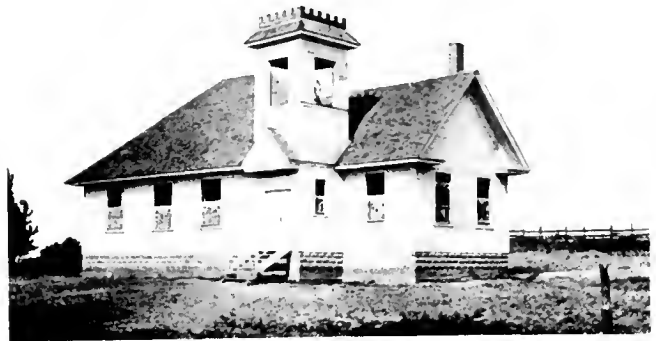
KILBOURNE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Many people still remember the Christian Church in Kilbourne, however, we have very few records available.

According to an article from an old "Christian Evangelist", the Kilbourne Christian Church was organized in 1907 by Rev. L. O. Lehman of Havana, who held two or three revivals here.

The Church directory of a January, 1908, issue of "The Sangamon Sawyer" announced Christian Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., preaching the 2nd and 4th Sundays at Craggs and Field's Hall, Rev. C. R. Gaines as pastor. The following S. S. Officers were elected for the year: Superintendent, James S. Davis; Secretary, Mary Young (Comingore); Treasurer, Mae Craggs (Sutton).

This is copied from an October 16, 1909



newspaper: "Brother Gish preached to the Christian congregation at Beckwith and Comingore's Hall Saturday evening, Oct. 9, and Sunday morning, Oct. 10, also at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon. At the morning service several new neighbors were received into the Church and at 2 o'clock P.M. the ordinance of baptism was administered to seven new converts at Hall's Ford."

This item probably refers to the union baptismal service held by the churches after the Coad revival. The fine spirit of cooperation that followed this tent meeting held in the Methodist churchyard is further evidenced in the announcement that the next week a union social was held at Craggs and Field's Hall for all the converts with a program and refreshments. About the same period we read that three weekly prayer meetings were held in town, on Tuesday evenings by the Christian congregation at the Free Methodist Church, at the Baptist on Wednesdays, and on Thursday nights at the Methodist Church. Everyone was "invited to attend all these meetings."

The approximate date of the dedication of the new Christian Church was 1910 with Rev. J. Fred Jones as leader. Brother Matthew Bollan of Havana and Brother Lewis Fisher of Cantrall were in charge of the communion service. The Church was a very nice building, complete with baptistry, side classrooms with folding doors, beautiful woodwork and floors, and lovely stained glass windows. Eugene Willing was the janitor and the official bell-ringer.

A former member tells of a revival meeting in 1910, during the pastorate of Rev. E. P. Gish, with Bro. R. B. Doan of Armington preaching and a young man from the Kilbourne Baptist Church, Austin L. Wright, leading the music.

Services were held regularly until depression times came, families moved away, members passed on, and as happened in many once-active churches, the doors were closed. Several funerals and special meetings were held there after regular worship services were discontinued.

The church and lot were sold at auction in 1946. The building was torn down and used in the construction of a parsonage by the Bishop Lutheran Church. Alvin and Dessie Bahls Hodgson bought the ground, built a house, and still make their home on the site of the Kilbourne Christian Church.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MATANZAS



St. John's Lutheran Church, Bath, Illinois, began during the 1840's when four children were baptized. As this area continued to develop during the 1850's, services were held and sacraments were administered in the homes of early settlers by itinerant ministers and by pastors serving a Lutheran congregation at Beardstown.

The first resident pastor, the Rev. P. D. Dahl, arrived in 1860. He and his family lived about one and a half miles southwest of the present church and held services in his home. The first church building was erected in 1861. The first trustees, George H. Kramer, P. C. Mueller, Gerhard Dierker, and Hermon Penterman named the church "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John in Mason County, Illinois." It later became known as the Matanzas Lutheran Church.

In 1882, a six-room parsonage was built on the north side of the premises. The Rev. W. G. Weissinger drew the plans and directed the work. The present church was erected in 1915, with Pastor H. A. Nothnagel supervising. He was assisted by the committee — Dick Bishop, F. Wm. Hahn, Dick Osing, B. F. Vanderveen, and Dick Spoede. The bell from the old church was placed in the tower of the new building.

In 1925, the young people were confirmed in English; prior to that date, they were confirmed in German. Before this, a large part of the worship services had also been in the mother tongue. The minutes of the congregation were recorded in English, beginning about 1928.

A principal tradition of this church was the annual Mission Festival, an all-day meeting with basket dinner at noon and special offerings for missions. The centennial of the Church was celebrated on October 30, 1949.

The Ladies Aid was organized in 1913 and has continued to be very active through the years. This group has sponsored many of the chief improvements of the church. Quilting is still the chief enjoyment of the regular monthly meetings. Other organizations

include the Walther League (formerly the Concordia Society), Men's Club, and Married Couples Club.

Other resident pastors' names since 1960 include the Reverends Johannes, Kern, Ledebur, Fissel, Laible, Gottlieb Traub, Henry Traub, Horstmann, Schnelle, Balash, Lindke, and Kuhn. Rev. Arthur P. Schauer is the present pastor.

"Every house is builded by some man; but He that built all things is God." Hebrews 3:4.

KILBOURNE BAPTIST CHURCH

At the time of publishing of the Mason County History, Gen. Ruggles states that the Baptists in the Kilbourne area had "societies" that met in the schoolhouse and that Rev. Mr. Curry was pastor of this group. This is very probably the Rev. H. P. Curry, their second pastor, also mentioned in Mt. Zion and New Lebanon histories. He lived at Petersburg, is listed in his biography as a minister and a farmer, began preaching at 17, and in 1879 was pastoring four churches of central Illinois, was well known and respected.

The Kilbourne Baptist Church was organized in March, 1895. The first deacons were J. B. Conover, D. W. Parker, Hickman B. Samuell, and Joseph Zirkle. The first clerk was G. W. Clotfelter. Rev. George Hart was the first pastor, followed by our Rev. Curry, Rev. B. F. Drake, and Rev. W. F. Thompson.

Family names listed in the early history of the church include Adkins, Beckwith, Clotfelter, Conklin, Conover, Field, Gipson, Goben, Harbert, Hardin, Harris, Hughes, Ketcham, Lampton, Parker, Pierce, Probst, Pulling, Samuell, Showalter, Sielschott, Sutton, Whiteley, Williams, Willing, Wright, and Zirkle.

The congregation held services at the Methodist Church for some time, often meeting on Saturday evenings for worship and business sessions. Later the Kilbourne Hall was their meeting place. The following announcement from April, 1906 issue of "The Sangamon Sawyer" seems to clear up the question as to the location of the "Kilbourne Hall" — "Rev. James Barrett will preach to the Baptist congregation at Conklin and Pierce's Hall" (the large corner building purchased that same year by Craggs and Field). They were affiliated with the Central Illinois Baptist Association.

In 1903, feeling the need of their own place of worship, the members, numbering about 40 at this time, chose committees for securing a suitable location, for planning the construction of a building, and soliciting funds. Those serving were Rev. W. F. Thompson, J. B. Conover, G. W. Clotfelter, Joseph Zirkle, James A. Conklin, Henry A. (Bert) Beckwith, Arleigh Conklin, E. B. Ashurst, Louis Probst, Henry and Lula Field, Grace Pierce Conklin, Bessie Conover, and Lena Harris. The structure cost \$2000. Contractor W. E. Bowman did the carpenter work.

Mrs. Catherine Daniel Conklin donated ground for the church site. She and her husband, John Conklin, moved from a farm southwest of town, and bought the Kilbourne lots in 1882. He passed away in 1884. "Granny Katy Conklin" lived in the big brown house near the church until her death in 1919. Quite a number of her descendants were very active members of the church for many years. Rev. H. A. Hoover was pastor when the new building was completed. Dedication services were held on October 20, 1907, with Rev. J. J. Porter of Joplin, Missouri delivering the sermon.

H. A. Beckwith was ordained deacon in 1909. H. L. Blakeley in 1914. Carl Hughes and Scott Sutton were licensed to preach during this period. John and Marshall Clark were ordained as deacons in 1945. Church clerks have been G. B. Clotfelter, Grace Pierce (Close), Lena Blunt Harris, Bessie Beckwith Harris, Parna Conklin Blakeley, Nina Sisson, Dale Van Etten, and Hazel Hughes, present clerk. Mrs. Blakeley served her church in that capacity for 39 years.



KILBOURNE BAPTIST CHURCH — YESTERDAY

The Utopia Benefit Club (Ladies Aid) was quite active and gave financial help to the church for many years. The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1946 with May Hughes as president. Geneva Gebhards is now leader of this group that has faithfully filled White Cross quotas and kept up their missionary work and giving through the years. Impressive baptismal services, the young ladies' Dorcas Class, S. S. picnics, B. Y. P. U., and other youth activities are pleasant memories.

About 1949-50 the Kilbourne Baptist meetinghouse underwent several improvements — basement, new furnace, the circle in the rostrum filled in and carpeted, benches and floors refinished. In the early morning of September 10, 1953, the building was struck by lightning and burned to the ground; however, the seats and most of the furnishings were saved. Services were then held at the high school until the new structure was completed the following summer with Zelmer Lane as contractor. The present



KILBOURNE BAPTIST CHURCH TODAY

building was dedicated, debt free, on October 10, 1954, with Rev. Willis A. Reed of Canton giving the dedicatory message. Rev. Russell S. Orr of the state office and former pastors, Rev. George Eilers and Rev. W. A. Ogden, assisted in the service. Rev. E. B. Williams was pastor during this trying period.

In 1957, during the pastorate of Rev. Eilers, a Baldwin organ was purchased with funds solicited by Nina Sisson and Hazel Hughes. The congregation also bought new oak furniture, pulpit and four chairs, from a church furniture company in Blue Mound, Illinois. The Blakeley family gave the matching communion table in memory of Mrs. Parna Blakeley and son, Loy. The solid brass Bible stand was given later by the family of Lee Hardin. The first pulpit, made by Oscar B. Harris, had been in use for 50 years. Carpeting was laid in 1958. Balyki held their first kindergarten classes in the church basement in the school year of 1965-66. Restrooms were installed at that time.

Through the thoughtfulness of Jeanette Sutton, a parsonage was acquired in 1964. During the pastorate of Rev. Robert Peveler, he and members of the congregation made extensive improvements and repairs to the house and yard. Carpeting was laid on most of the downstairs. The parsonage is now occupied by the present pastor and family, Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Yow and Mark.

The church school has always been an important phase of the work of this church. Johnnie McDaniel is present superintendent with Shelby Sisson in charge of the children's department.

Some other pastors' names through the years include Bruggink, Butler, Belton, Phipps, Benningfield, C. E. Hughes, Bandy, McPherson, Day, Vance, Carpenter, Ballard, Neely, Fisher, McDonald, and Fanning.

Did You Know —

Oscar B. Harris painted the large screen still in use at the Kilbourne Baptist Church. It was rescued from the fire in 1954, in which another similar one was burned. Mr. Harris sometimes filled in a space with a mural when he was painting in a home.

NEW LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH

On March 14, 1868 a small group met at the Baker School and organized the New Lebanon Baptist Church with Elder P. G. Clark of Petersburg as moderator and D. A. Adkins, clerk. The following persons presented themselves for membership: Mary Samms, Cynthia, Maria, Celah, Abraham, and George W. Estep, Josephine, Melissa, James, and Robert Hunley, Eliza VanAken, Lucinda Butler, Martha, Rachael, William H., and John Castleberry, Mary Crum, Melvina Mann, John S. Gregory, Thomas Eaton, William Cobb, William Feattor, Philander Crawford, Edward Morgan, Asher Scott, and David A. Adkins.

Elder Clark was chosen as the first pastor; J. M. Estep, James Hunley, Harvey O'Neal, and John Gregory were the first trustees. The frame church was dedicated in 1869 on ground donated by H. P. Crawford and William Mann one mile south of the Baker School. The first individual to be received into the church was Nancy Ann Cobb. By 1874 we find these family names added: Duckett, Hawks, Yardley, Carter, Close, Robinson, Sickles, and Murdock. From the beginning the congregation was aware of the physical care of the building; William L. Cobb was hired as sexton for many, many years.

In 1895, the New Lebanon Church assisted with the establishment of the Baptist Church in Kilbourne. Their regular missionary giving began as early as 1898 when they sent the sum of \$1.00 a month to a needy church at Newport, Kentucky.



NEW LEBANON — YESTERDAY — Della Snavelly Crane, Laura Snavelly Carter, Anna Snavelly Hawks, Edith Crane Walsh — in buggy, Lela Hines Snavelly

The church was closed for an eight-year period, from 1942-1950. Since reorganization, the church has done extensive remodeling, built a parsonage, and now has a full-time pastor. They celebrated their 100th anniversary and dedicated a memorial to a faithful member, Oren Fairrow, in 1968 under the leadership of the present pastor, Rev. Carl Fisher. Charles Tangman of Poplar City is now superintendent of the Sunday School. The main sanctuary is the original building, now over 100 years



NEW LEBANON TODAY

old. It still has the two entrance doors used in bygone days as one for the ladies and one for the gents. As a rule, the women sat on the south side of the church, the men on the north side.

Pastors' names through the years include Blunt, Ely, Brown, Curry, Bell, Billingsley, Alexander, Drake, Mounce, Green, Hart, Morgan, Hicks, Duty, Caywood, Nichols, Branson, Benningfield, Ogden, Carl Hughes, Pittman, Shufflin, Harrison, Shipley, Reed, Asbury, DeVore, Pugh, Stout, and Munsell. We find the names of several lay members who filled in as preachers when needed, John Koch, I. N. Holstlaw, George L. McDaniel, and Charles Shipp.

Generations have worshipped here and grown in spirit toward God and man. Procedure and equipment have changed through the years but some things are eternal and unchangeable — the goodness of God, the purposes of Christianity, the need for worship, the dedication of life, the blessedness of children, the power of prayer, faith, hope, and charity.

MT. ZION SOUTHERN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

This typical friendly country church, located southwest of Kilbourne in a beautiful quiet woody setting, is said to be the first Baptist Church organized in Mason County.

On April 16, 1842, four men and eleven women met at the Ashurst School, and with the help of Rev. John L. Turner, organized the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. (We have found no one who knows anything concerning this school. According to old maps and early court house records, there was a school, not named, on the corner south of the church where Mr. and Mrs. Albert Riegel live.) John G. Conover was the first church clerk. Their first pastor was Rev. Turner, who served for 10 years. Rev. J. H. Daniels followed and was pastor for 19 years.

County records show that Thomas F. Blunt donated ground for the church and cemetery in 1849. The deacons' names on the deed were Louis B. Ashurst and Thomas F. Blunt. Evidently services were held at the school until the first building was erected at this time.

Family names in early church records include — Adkins, Ashurst, Bearden, Blunt, Bridges, Clotfelter, Conklin, Conover, Davis, Dew, Dewalt, Fancher, Friend, Gee, Herring, Jones, Orels, Rochester, Scholds, Wallace, Welch, Williams and Young.

In their 50th anniversary year, the church voted to have preaching twice a month. In 1918 a committee was appointed for examination of the condition of the building. Upon hearing the report, a motion prevailed to replace it. Serving on committees for the project were Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Blunt, George Sielschott, W. S. VanEtten, Louis Sielschott, George Friend, Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Clark, Ethel Friend Keest, and Edna Friend Conklin. Rev. G. W. Boyd was pastor during this period. Dedication services for the new church were held at an all-day meeting on April 27, 1919, with Rev. J. O. Raines as speaker. The cost was \$2400, which was soon paid.



MT. ZION CHURCH — YESTERDAY — probably built around 1850

Mt. Zion celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1942. During the pastorate of Elder Carl Carpenter, 1944-49, the church voted to have worship services each Sunday and regular mid-week prayer meetings. Three class rooms were added at the back of the building while Rev. Paul Davis was pastor, 1953-58.

In 1964 a much needed parsonage was purchased from Clyde Blunt, great-grandson of Thomas Fisher Blunt who had given the ground for the building site back in 1849. The house had been the home of Clyde's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gay Blunt, after their retirement from the farm near the church. Rev. and Mrs. Leo Belcher were the first to live in the new parsonage. The present pastor, Rev. Don Ennen, and his family now occupy it. The place has been completely redecorated, paneled, and a new furnace installed. Cecil Goben is now superintendent of the Sunday School. Pauline Daniel Hamblin is the church clerk.

Other pastors' names not already mentioned are Ely, Curry, Clark, Hartley, Blunt, Jones, Hart, Alexander, Mounce, Duty, Day, Ishmael, Claywood, Phipps, Branson, Benningfield, Ogden, Farris, Register, Stephens, Stratton, Shultz, Kenneth Thomas, and Carter.

Mrs. Myrta Friend Sielschott was the oldest living member and attended the 125th anniversary celebration in 1967. Thus Mt. Zion Baptist Church has



MT. ZION — TODAY — south side, cemetery across the road

stood in this community for over 128 years where generations have worshipped and served the One who gave His life for all. "For I determine not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Corinthians 2:2.

KILBORNE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Many people may not know that there was once a Free Methodist Church in our village, located at the corner of 5th and Locust Streets. According to court house records, the lot was obtained from A. S. Oakford in 1892 with E. A. Eddy, Leona Eddy (Edwards), and Caroline Comingore representing the church. Mr. Eddy was the grandfather of Dalton (Doc) Eddy and our efficient P. O. clerk, Elsie Eddy Beams. Mrs. Comingore was the mother of David (Dee) and Roy Comingore, remembered citizens of Kilbourne.

An 1896 issue of the Mason County Democrat announced a "protracted meeting" being held at the Free Methodist Church led by the evangelist, Mrs. Brewington of Springfield. The weekly directory carried in "The Kilbourne Independent" in the early 1900's listed the church as having preaching every fourth Sunday at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and the Saturday night preceding, with Rev. Perry, pastor." An item in a 1908 "Sangamon Sawyer" states that "Rev. Bersha Green, pastor of the Free Methodist Church filled her regular appointment at Kilbourne Sunday evening, preaching a good sermon."

We found no one who remembers the closing of this church but records show that the trustees sold the lot in 1910. D. A. Yarnall bought it in the same year, remodeling the building into the house in which the Yarnall family lived for many years. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Tim Lacey, Timi Sue and Cynthia.

Our pioneer forefathers knew that religion is needed by all people. They were faithful to their convictions and skimped in order to establish a place of worship. In the 1930's in our depression times, we know that it often meant a sacrifice to keep our churches going. Will future generations be able to say as much for us?



CSN

TELEPHONES

In this age of direct dialing, radio, and TV, it is hard to imagine living with no contact with anyone except by walking, horseback, or hitching up "a rig". The first telephones came into use around here in early 1900's. Several farmers in a vicinity would form a company, pay for and build their own lines, and install phones. Soon these country lines were joined together by a central switchboard in town. In 1903, Draper's Store advertised that they would switch for 3c each time or three months for \$1.00. Later that year a 50-drop switchboard was installed at Charley Close's Hotel, soon replaced by a 100-drop board which connected the Crane Creek and Jones lines, later the Oklahoma west of town, and perhaps others, with one toll line to Pekin.

Other operators through the years include John and Effie Boyle, Orval and Edith Zook, Harry (Bus) and Minnie Howe, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Daniel. Pearl Daniel Craggs and husband, Isley, were with the Central Office when the dial system was installed in 1952, with Kenneth Blodgett of Bath Telephone Co. as owner and manager.

The new dial phones were wonderful, and yet we missed the friendly personal contact with "Central". Many can remember times when Pearl helped in emergencies, giving first aid advice until the doctor or other help arrived. When there was serious illness in a home, we know that she and Isley slept with one ear open listening for a possible call in the night.

A few homes were on two lines, one phone, with a switch to connect the lines together. This made it possible to call in on the other line in case you were unable to get through to Central because of line trouble. This free service was sometimes abused, as some patrons did not hesitate to ask their neighbors to switch them with other towns, thus saving the cost of a toll call. Some of these private switches were in the homes of Brady Stone, Oscar Blakeley, Bert Beckwith, Cal Wallace, and August Kolves. The Ewin Sears home had two phones, on Easton and Kilbourne lines; they had to "repeat" messages.

For you young people of today, here is a bit of explanation on the use of telephones, B.D. (Before Dialing): By turning the crank on the side of the box-like phone on the wall, you called your neighbor's special "ring", such as one long and two shorts, three shorts and one long, etc. The bells of every phone on your line rang and there was no real restriction on listening in to hear what was going on in the neighborhood. To call a friend on another line, you rang one long for "Central", and told them who you wanted. In case of a fire, or if the operator was asked to announce a special meeting, funeral services, a show, or the like, they gave the "general ring", usually a string of shorts or several longs, giving folks time to take down the receiver to hear the news.

In 1970, The Illini State Telephone Company is operating with 19 toll trunks at the Kilbourne exchange. These trunks consist of: eight two-way Canton operators; seven customer dials; and four free, extended-area service to the Bath exchange. Illini State is presently offering one-, two-, and four-party service in town and multi-line service in the rural areas. The toll service is direct distance dial, with operator intercept for billing.

The future plans in connection with telephone service for the Kilbourne exchange is the following:

A. Upgrading urban four-party service to one and two-party in late 1970 and early 1971.

B. Upgrading rural multi-party service to four-party with the cable being buried in late 1970 and early 1971.

C. Complete new central office equipment building to be located behind the present building located on N. 4th St.

The approximate investment for the Kilbourne exchange for the years 1970-1971 will be \$140,000.

So although we may not recognize the answering voice when we dial 0 for operator, we do know that she and many other workers along the wonderful network of telephones over the world are ready to assist when we ask.

Do You Remember —

When Kilbourne made the newspapers with the excitement concerning the UFO?

Do You Remember —

The earthquake of November 11, 1968, which shook the floors and in some places even cracked plaster?

Do You Remember —

Those murderous steep steps leading up to the Craggs and Field Hall?

Do You Remember —

The round-about route to Oakford by way of the wagon-bridge several miles east of town?

Do You Remember —

The trip to Springfield by way of Chandlerville, Virginia, and Ashland or the route through Easton, Mason City, and Greenview?

CEMETERIES

After several weeks of reading county histories and yellowed old newspapers, studying atlases and court house records, it means so much more now to read the inscriptions on the gravestones in our cemeteries. Before, they were just vague names, now they are real people.

One of our oldest public burying grounds is Pratt Cemetery south of the west side of town about one and a half miles. The land was donated in 1855 by George Pratt. Since it is no longer used, this cemetery has been sadly neglected. Carl Hughes took great pride in clearing it off and keeping it nice. After his death it had little care (except for one small corner) until our energetic Bud Sisson spent hours clearing it off and making it presentable again.

In the zig-zag rows of all types of markers we find many names that we recognize — G. W. Daniel and many of his family, a child of J. and M. A. Gum, George Pratt (donor of the cemetery site) and many other Pratts, Mr. and Mrs. John Ranson, William (Sr.) and Isabella Craggs (1849 and 1857) and many of their descendants, the Field family, "Uncle Johnny" Micklam and his wife, Maria, the James M. Hardins, Corporal Comingore, Bernard (Sr.) and Frances Boyle, G. W., Myrta, and Frances Edwards Coggeshall, Samuel P. Angelow, and Mary (Craggs) Ireland. We see the surnames of Madison, Shirtcliff, Grimm, Lee, Gore, Roberts, Wright, Blake, Underbrink, Tankersley, Peterson, Hughes, Gladden, Young, Stilts, Hasher and Asher. Probably not as familiar are the names of Setters, McCormick, Tharp, Turner, Kerns, Groves, Stevens, Leonard, Warren, Bedman, Hammond, Thompson, and Price.

As usual in those earlier days, there were lots of tiny graves. The earliest burials found were John Young Sr. and his wife, Mary (Daniel), dates 1846 and 1849. "Aunt Cora" Craggs was the last one laid to rest here, in 1957.

MT. ZION CEMETERY

Across the road from the Mt. Zion Church is the cemetery, the silent city of loved ones, friends, and neighbors. As you pass by on the highway, you can see the familiar names of Conklin, Blunt, Harris, Clotfelter, Kirk, and Bell.

Walking reverently past markers, some large, some small, but all signifying that some one cared, you can see the names of Hill, Hobbs, Hardin, Ashurst, Keest, Beall, Miller, Lascelles, Sisson, Samuell, Pounds, and Murdock. On farther are the stones of Wallace, Adkins, Daniel, Lane, Hamblin, Friend, Sielschott, Riggs, Nix, Bridges, Shoemaker, and Shults.

Many of the markers are so old and weather-worn the names cannot be read. The oldest stone located by

Pauline Daniel Hamblin, who collected information on this cemetery, was that of one Junis E. Rodgers who died in 1867.

The peaceful quietness of this place is broken only by the songs and calls of the birds. In the winter the tall stately pines covered with snow makes one feel as though God himself has provided a cover for those resting there. People of this community still desire to be buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery. Loved ones remember to place bright flowers or wreaths on many of the graves until it does not seem a sad spot, but a place of reverence and comfort to folks who pass by and to those who attend services at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

NEW LEBANON CEMETERY

According to Court House records, ground was deeded by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mann and Henry P. Crawford "for the use of Church and burial grounds and no other forever" on September 12, 1868. The New Lebanon Cemetery plot evidently had been used as such for some years before. George Close had entered the land from the U.S. Government.

We find among the inscriptions many familiar names, early and present day families. Among these are Seay, Beckstead, Conner, Koch, Cave, VanEtten, Scott, our Civil War soldier Manis Vanaken, Hunley, the Crawfords and the Manns, Moore, Lowrance, Burrell, Eaton, Carter, Hawks, Bailey. We see stones of "Grandpa and Grandma" Abraham Snavley and several of their family, Milleson, Yardley, Phelps, Russell, Watkins, Castleberry, Cobb, Adlington, Showalter, Lane, Crane, Crum, Elliot, Gilmore, Wallace, Baker (nephew of Jesse), Buckley, Holstlaw, Sathoff, Prief, Glakemeier, Jones, Pulling, Morgan and Van Eaton (grandparents of our committee member, Mayme Barrett). As usual many of the older stones are unreadable.

There are a few smaller cemeteries in this area, that are no longer used. With no public graveyards in the immediate vicinity, we can easily picture an early settler choosing a favorite spot near his home as a final resting place for a loved one.

One of the earliest of these is perhaps the Baker or Williams Cemetery northwest of the Baker School. Roads have changed, timber has grown up, and many do not even know of its existence. County records state that "Chairlee" Williams deeded ground to the Jesse Baker Cemetery in 1885. The Baker family, the Stones, and others of that neighborhood must have used it for a generation or two before that time. Charley Williams and his sister, Bertha, were the last interments there.

Jones (or Williamson) Cemetery is another abandoned burying place located in the timber north of the Dallas Drake home not far from the Jones

School. Parker and Emily Hasher and Pearl Mastick (by guardian H. C. Beckwith) deeded the ground "to the public for cemetery purposes". This quarter section had been entered by Willard M. Mastick. Benjamin Mastick and John Williamson had owned it at one time. The Masticks, the Williamsons, and the Lanes are among the families who are buried there.

Another of these small unused cemeteries is one northeast of the Dale Van Etten farm, quite some distance from any road. Having heard the family story that the Dolbins and the Morgans came to this country from Wales, were very good friends, and were buried together here, it is understandable that this spot was a "must" on our tour list.

You can imagine the reverent thrill we felt upon opening a small gate (still in working order) in the iron fence around the family plot and touching the stones of Stephen and Mary Dolben (note the spelling) who had died in 1887 and 1885.

To some extent we can picture the sorrow of this pioneering couple in a strange land at the deaths of

their daughter, Margaret, who died in 1861 "in the 25th year of her age" and of a son, Goodman, buried in 1870 "in the 18th year of his age". Nearby are the markers of Mary Ann and Wm. H. Morgan, great-grandparents of Mrs. Faye Smith Robinson of Easton. Among the dozen or so other stones are those of Margaret and James Yardley, dates 1857 and 1883, and of Henry Yardley, a soldier in the Civil War. The last burial noted was that of Mary McLane (mother of John McLane) in 1919.

Their choice of this beautiful quiet spot, the tall old pine trees that had been set out so long ago, flowers and shrubs still thriving, make us love and respect the memory of these sturdy pioneer folk more than ever.

Once in a while we find instances of strictly one-family burials. Two interesting nearly century-old markers have probably been family-made, are neat and very well done, with the inscriptions deeply cut and quite plain. They tell of the deaths of two little Zirkle girls, Elizabeth and Emma, at four and five months.



INTERESTING GRAVESTONES AT KILBOURNE CEMETERY

MONUMENTS

Two unusual slab monuments of very early settlers stand just inside the center gate of the Kilbourne Cemetery. They are a type of memorials used in the 1800's and show scenes of the sorrowing family around the death-bed of the loved one. The abandoned gravestones were moved here some years ago from a neighboring burial ground. The body of one had reportedly been moved to another state, the inscription of the other is included on a newer stone. The names and dates are still very readable and are those of Edwin Gore and Maria, the wife of John Micklam, Sr.

The Gore family, headed by Edwin and Jane Thompson Gore, were prominent in the early history of Kilbourne Township. Both were born in Scotland and married in 1843. They came to Kilbourne Township in 1845 and built a log cabin on what is now the Lloyd Sutton farm. After Mr. Gore's death in 1860, Mrs. Gore, always known as Grandma Gore, remained on the 210 acre farm. This was reported to have been the half-way house on the stagecoach road from Havana through Bath to Petersburg, probably crossing the Sangamon at Gum's Ferry, south of the present village of Kilbourne.

A son, William, with a "wheel barrow full of goods", had the first store at Field's Prairie in a log cabin near the Art Kramer home. Another son, Charles A., with his brother-in-law, F. M. Madison, ran a general merchandise business in Kilbourne which they later moved to Havana. James Gore, another son, was also in the store business for a time. He was active in the life of the community and was a member of one of the early brass bands.

Mrs. Micklam and her husband, John, came from the state of Virginia, had eight children, one of whom, Martha A., married James M. Hardin. The Hardins established another pioneer Field's Prairie family. Mr. Hardin was the supervisor of Kilbourne Township to whom "and his successors in office" John B. Gum deeded the Kilbourne Cemetery in 1880.

Did You Know

The only man to have a Kilbourne street named for him was Eugene Willing. The east and west street past the cemetery was named for him in honor of his untiring interest and effort in improving the Kilbourne cemetery.

Did You Know —

According to General Ruggles — "Uncle Johnnie" Micklam was born in London in 1796, was a tobacco dealer in the state of Virginia, came here in 1845; was a true type of old English gentleman.

KILBOURNE CEMETERY

The first burial in Kilbourne Cemetery is said to have been Jennie Holmes, age nine years, who died on June 19, 1871, nine years before the official conveyance "to the neighborhood of the town of Kilbourne for their use as a cemetery" in 1880. There is also a story of a small baby buried before little Jennie but no record was found.

May we suggest that some afternoon or evening you wander over our "city of the dead" and take notice of family names — "newcomers" as well as pioneers — and think how they have worked together to make our community a good place to live.

In conclusion, may we share with you a clipping from a 1956 Democrat. The item stated that between 600 and 700 persons had gathered on May 30th at the Kilbourne Cemetery and at the Methodist Church in the afternoon for refreshments and visiting.

The peaceful attraction of the Kilbourne Cemetery on Memorial Day was once described with gentle understanding by Wilford J. Kramer, a former home town boy, the son of Clarence and Nada Phillips Kramer. He was then an editorial writer for the Illinois State Journal and told in this article that he had been to the cemetery "to brush fingertips once more across the chiseled stone which watches over the family plot.

"The annual visit to the graveyard brings past, present, and future into sharp focus. Family groups, visiting with the caretaker, discussing with the self-importance of the living how peaceful is the campground of the dead, are brought closer together by communion with their common heritage.

"No one is immune to the influence of those who have gone before us. We realized this as we ended our call. Looking back we saw Gene Willing, Kilbourne Cemetery custodian, making his way to his son's grave. The boy died of a heart attack while playing basketball. Mr. Willing reached the grave and with great gentleness swung a sprinkling can over the flowers which grew there."

Do You Remember —

The Methodist Church bell was tolled at the news of a death of a Kilbourne resident, one time for each year of the age of the person.

Another 'old-time' Anecdote

William Asbury "Az" Wallace, 1846-1927, (father of John I. Wallace and step-father of Frank Baker) worked when a young man for a Daniel on Field's Prairie. Mr. Wallace helped track on foot their herd of Texas Longhorn cattle that had stampeded in a snow storm; found them two or three miles away, going in a circle fenced in by high drifts; had to dig them out. Mr. "Az" Wallace hauled ear corn in sacks to Bath in a wagon pulled by two teams of oxen and loaded it on a river boat.

RAILROADS

The railroad through Kilbourne came soon after the platting of the town by John B. Gum in 1870. It was chartered in 1869 as the Springfield and Northwestern Railroad to run between Springfield and Havana, where it connected with the Illinois River Railroad, already in operation from Jacksonville to Pekin. Construction started at Havana in 1870 and by 1871 had crossed the Sangamon River into Menard County.

When the road was extended from Springfield to St. Louis, it became the Chicago, Peoria, and St. Louis Railway; the line between Havana and Jacksonville was called the Jacksonville branch. The C P & St. L had many ups and downs and was repeatedly thrown into bankruptcy. In its prime, six passenger trains and two local freights (also carrying passengers) ran through Kilbourne. Later, when automobiles came along and passenger traffic dwindled, medium-sized and even small gasoline-electric motor cars were used for passenger service.



Train from "way back when". There is a story that a film company bought an old CP & ST.L engine to use in their movies. Perhaps this very one?

Its present owner, the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railroad, is identified with the Peabody Coal and Commonwealth interests. It rebuilt the roadbed, purchased modern rolling stock, and operated in such a modern manner that it was classed as one of the top notch railroads in the country. Today, it handles mostly coal which is loaded at the coal docks at Havana for shipment to Commonwealth Edison Company at Chicago, and some to the same company's power plant at Powerton. The coal drags are too long for the old side-tracks so trains go in one direction at a time. As there are no meeting places, agent-operators are not needed and all stations except Pekin and Springfield have been discontinued. Passenger service died several years ago as elsewhere in the country.

Edward H. Bigelow was the first agent. Later there was George Craig, whose wife ran a hotel across the street and a lunch room in a corner of the waiting room. Frank L. Doxstader was a popular resident in the 90's. Frank L. Draper developed so much passenger business in the 1900's from Kilbourne to the southwest that the town was made a regular stop for the fast trains. Other agents were Lawrence Savage, Perry McComas, Robert Pilcher, the genial Cleve Beard, ending with William Wallace, now a dispatcher at Springfield.

In early days most small boys were railroad fans but with the coming of automobiles ceased to worship the trains and trainmen. The last of these railroad buffs was George Crane who knew every locomotive by the sound of its whistle and was a friend of every engineman, conductor, and brakeman.



GEORGE CRANE and his first love — "Old No. 63" and all the rest of the train engines.

Did You Know —

When there was big news like a national election or a prize fight in the days before there were radios, the men made up a purse of \$10 and hired Frank Doxstader, the station agent, to take it off the telegraph wire.



FRANK L. DRAPER

Frank L. Draper who served as Kilbourne mayor and also as station agent for more than a quarter of a century was also known as the "professor" of a one-man school. Realizing that Kilbourne offered few career opportunities for a young man unless he could join his father in business or farming, Mr. Draper set about educating at least one young man a year in the duties of a station agent.

Mr. Draper became station agent in Kilbourne for the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Line in 1898. It became his habit to invite one promising boy at a time to come to the station in his free time and receive training in dispatching trains, keeping records, making reports, and learning to operate the telegraph.



OLD C.P. & ST. L. DEPOT — 1911, station agent, Frank L. Draper standing by express truck.



CHARLEY TACKMAN inside depot.

By 1924, Frank Draper had trained twenty-seven boys to function as station agents. Each of his "graduates" was able to go directly into a responsible position with the railroad and many of them made this their life work. This was advantageous to the railroad as well as to the boys, as the railroad needed capable, well-trained men just as the young men needed promising, well-paying jobs.

Two of Draper's trainees were his brothers, R. N. Draper and M. H. Draper. Both brothers stayed with the railroad and worked into positions of responsibility.

Some of the boys trained by Mr. Draper left the railroad altogether to go into farming, merchandising, medicine, and other fields but most of them worked with some phase of the railroad as their life's career.

Frank Draper's training program was a unique project which he conceived and carried out on his own. The young men of Kilbourne were lucky indeed to have such an opportunity available to them.



NEW C&IM DEPOT — Home of John and Jeanette Sutton in background, now Kilbourne Baptist Church parsonage.

KILBOURNE'S NEWSPAPERS

General James Ruggles' HISTORY OF MENARD AND MASON COUNTIES has proved most valuable to the Centennial researchers in establishing important dates and facts. But it has taken the brittle and crumbling issues of old Kilbourne newspapers to turn these pioneers into real people who bought and sold, visited among neighbors, attended plays, ball games and church suppers.

The weekly newspaper recorded deeds which would never reach the history books, thus filling many gaps in local history.

Unfortunately, no file of the Kilbourne papers were preserved. However, in 1954, the late Jenny Anderson prevailed upon Frank Madison to take "a bunch of old Kilbourne papers" which had been accumulated by the late Harriett D. Newell. They included scattering copies of Independents, from the very first issue, and Sangamon Sawyers from 1902 to 1908. Thrown into a strong metal box, they lay unused except for occasional research by Kilbourne High School students. They were invaluable in writing the Kilbourne chapter of Ruth Wallace Lynn's "Prelude to Progress" but when the Centennial research began they were in constant demand by this book's compilers and they were a big help to Hallie Barker Hamblin in recreating pictures of early-day Kilbourne in her weekly centennial column, "Kilbourne's Century of Sand" in the Mason County Democrat.



ERNEST MADISON — "Boy-editor" of The Kilbourne Independent

In 1880, the members of the Kilbourne Literary Society were taking turns penning their own paper. The paper was filled with scientific, religious and temperance education plus news of local interest.

In one issue, the scribe admonishes the readers that "Ruggles & Fields keep a full stock of toilet soap and there is no excuse of you going around dirty".

On October 10, 1902, a seventeen year old Kilbourne citizen furnished the growing village its first weekly printed newspaper. "The Kilbourne Independent" was printed in Petersburg. In the September 25, 1903 issue, Madison announced the sale of the "Independent" to an experienced editor, Charles H. Hale, of Tallula.

Madison went on to a successful advertising career in New York City, eventually retiring in Florida until his death in 1967.

Mr. Hale brought his own printing plant to Kilbourne and published the weekly "Sangamon Sawyer" until his death on December 31, 1914.

Mrs. Esther (Lane) Bastion of Auburn, Illinois, furnished the Centennial researchers a copy of "The Kilbourne News" dated October 22, 1915; and there is a scrap of an issue dated 1916. The heading reads "D. F. King, Publisher. Co-operation—Interdependence: Boost your community and you rise with it."

The newspapers published near the turn of the century made liberal use of the editor's opinions of almost everything from the delinquent subscribers to the financial positions of the town's citizens.

Purchases of horses, buggies or land was considered news and printed as such. When all the news, opinions and advertising still did not fill the space, tall tales were sometimes concocted such as local citizens killing bears in areas where none were known to exist.

Other times the news was set to rhyme, such as the following from the November 8, 1902 "Kilbourne Independent":

DOIN'S OF THE WEEK IN KILBOURNE

Milton Clemons to Havana went
And almost all his money spent.
Carl Hughes a horse has bought,
And no one has the smallpox caught.
J. W. Mitchell has got a car
Of the fine Gold Medal Flour,
And Andy Damarin was shaking hands
With the voters to beat the band.
J. C. Conklin is repairing his house,
Frank Sherman's large production of Faust
Will be at the hall next Monday night.
Ruggles' building is a pretty sight
Since the painters have done their work.
Bruce Eddy's nose was seriously hurt
With a spade on Monday last.
The November election now is past.
Vin Turner of Pekin was down
Taking in the sights of the little town.
Barney Boyle Sr. was visiting his son,

Work on Cal Daniel's house has begun.
 Rev. Sperry preached Sunday night.
 Harry McWhorter's house was painted white.
 Fred Mercer splashed some lime in his eye,
 And the people are going to try
 To incorporate our little town.
 The passenger train that is south bound
 Was five minutes late the other night.
 The rain here Tuesday was very light.
 Bruce Eddy was shot Hallowe'en as a joke,
 And the Editor for once is broke!

KILBOURNE'S POPULATION EXPLOSION!!

On June 25, 1964, the Mason County Democrat gave a full page to the feature story about the James Henry and Sarah Cannon Davis family. Mr. and Mrs. Davis who farmed near Long Branch and later west of Kilbourne, were the parents of sixteen children — nine sons: William Goldsby, Thomas Edward, Ripley Elder, James Steven, Nelson Jessie, Oscar Rufus, Benjamin Bowman, Bert, and John Harry; and seven daughters: Mary Jane (married Joshua Showalter), Frances Minerva, Emma Senora, Carolina, Martha Ellen, Eva Ethel (married George Henry Lippert), and Bertha Kitty (married William Lippert and later Hurley Hopper). At the time this article was written, it was reported that the couple had 400 living descendants and many still reside in Mason County.

A family photograph taken in 1906 pictured representatives of six living generations of the family, including Lucinda Kirby Watkins, Temperance Watkins Cannon Hillyer, Sarah Cannon Davis, Mary Jane Showalter, Bessie Showalter Ashurst Elliott, and Lloyd Ashurst.

Kilbourne descendants of this family include Mrs. Orpha Showalter Curry; her daughter, Mrs. Bo Elda Curry Huey; her daughters, Kathleen Huey Butler, Cheryl Huey, and Linda Huey; Mrs. Verla Brent, granddaughter of Mrs. Iva Foutch; and Mrs. Brent's children.

JOHN OLLERS

The late John Ollers is probably the only Kilbourne person to have his name mentioned in a New York newspaper. The Pekin Daily Times carried an item concerning Mr. Ollers, their oldest "carrier boy", who, with his dog "Brownie", made the route each day rain or shine. Soon after, Ernest Madison saw an editorial in a New York paper censuring our nation's citizens who will not try to help themselves. The editor cited John Ollers, in his 80's and with a decided visual handicap, yet was working every day carrying papers. Mr. Ollers carried the Pekin Daily Times for about four years, retiring in 1963. Mr. and Mrs. Ollers celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary before his death in 1967 at the age of 87. Our townspeople say that Mr. Ollers was one of the most dependable carriers that Kilbourne has ever had.

UNUSUAL WEATHER

Everyone talks about the weather, particularly "unusual" or "extremes". Especially well remembered may be the following:

1830-31 — "The Deep Snow" was so memorable that our early forefathers reckoned all important events before or after the deep snow. It started snowing in December, 1830, and continued until nearly four feet on the level and remained for three months or more. Much of the game froze to death and many people almost died. Lots of families suffered from scarcity of food.

1837 — "The sudden freeze" — In November of 1837, the weather became rather warm, then came a drizzling rain, melting some of the snow, when it suddenly turned cold causing untold misery and hardships. Remember — there were no weather forecasts in 1837!

1904 — A tornado blew a train off the track just south of Kilbourne.

1911 — On November 11, 1911 — 11/11/11 — occurred the tornado that destroyed several homes and buildings in Crane Creek Township, some damage here.

1913 — In March, 1913, the debris piled against the railroad bridge by high water, caught fire and damaged the bridge.

1920 — The snow on Easter Sunday kept all the country folks from attending Easter services!

1926 — High water of that spring closed the road south of Havana.

1936 — Cold, cold winter!!

1936 — Hot, hot summer!!

1943 — High water caused some damage to the hard road across the Sangamon River.

1964 — About 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 1964, a tornado made a swath through our village taking down trees, antennas, and anything else unfortunate enough to sit in its path. Homes, automobiles, and crops were damaged, but by some miracle not one person was seriously injured. In time, the rubble was cleared away, the homes were repaired, and most traces of the damage were gone, but it was a day we will not soon forget.

Stage Coach Route —

The main line of the stage coach road from Petersburg to Havana cut across Kilbourne Township. Crossing at Miller's Ferry, not far from the site of the old wagon bridge, it ran cross country, south of New Lebanon Church, past Peterville, and on to Havana. The "catty-cornered" part of Route 97 into Havana follows this old stage coach route. A low place on the farm of Emma Umland Keith's Grandfather Koke provided a watering place for the horses and drivers stopped at Peterville to feed their horses at noon. Tracks still visible in Cuddy Wallace's pasture are said to be the old stage coach road.

"The Family Album"



LENA BLUNT HARRIS — Mother of Ruth Harris Goben, John and Glenn



DEXTER AND MELINDA JANE (BLUNT) CURRY — grandparents of Cecil and Wesley Curry and Mrs. Sybil Cave of this community. Mr. Curry served three years in Civil War.



JOHN AND EFFIE BOYLE



VERA UPP — well-known little lady of Kilbourne, descendant of the Field family of Field's Prairie



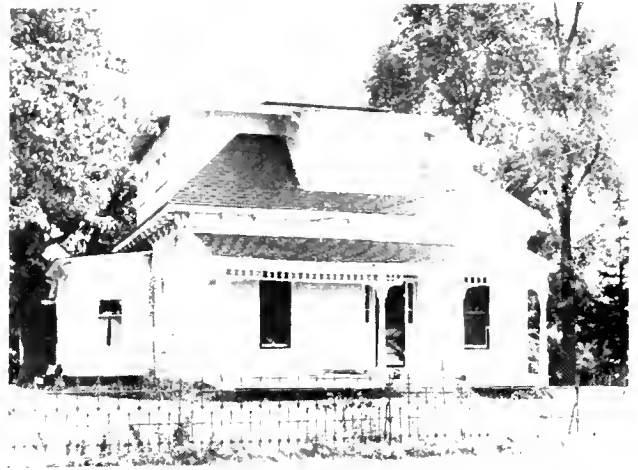
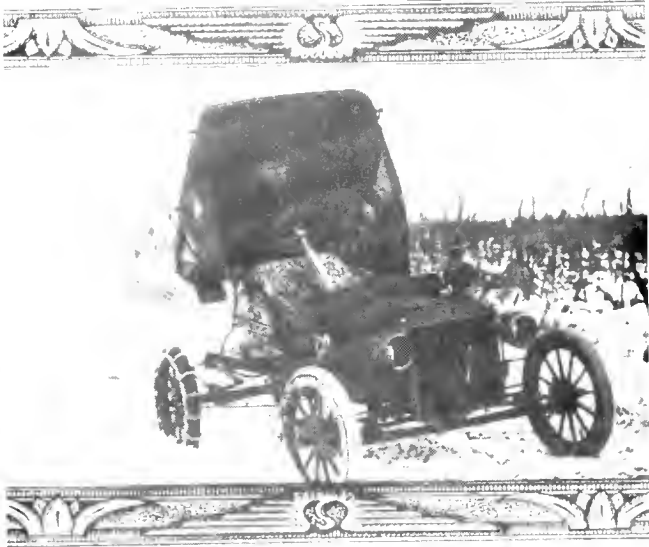
Mrs. Kitty Samuell Geisler, Mrs. Lydia Blunt Samuell (90), Mrs. Melinda Root, Mrs. Jane Shirtcliff, Mrs. M. A. Draper (78). Standing in doorway — Mrs. Margaret Friend Maseman, Mrs. Smith



ROY GOBEN AND FRANK DRAPER — Another mode of transportation



YOUNG GENTLEMEN OF KILBOURNE — 1899. 1st row — Will Craggs, Roy Craggs, Orie Madison. 2nd row — Walter Upp, Milton Draper. Standing — Eugene Willing, Homer Conklin, Jim Conklin, Frank Beck, Austin Wright, Frank Daniel, Frank Close, Edgar Daniel. Taken on depot platform, depot and elevator in background.



A Kilbourne home that has not changed too much in some 80 years — The Coggeshall, then Beckwith, now Roy Ray home. Note the iron fence!

CARL HUGHES — One of the first cars in Kilbourne



GRANDPA WILLIAM CRAGGS and his grandchildren, 14 more later!



GOBEN FAMILY — 1st Row — Richard M. Goben, Nancy Ellen Williams Goben, Blanche Gregory. 2nd Row — Ethel Summers, Hazel Hughes, Gladys Kramer. 3rd Row — Addie Sears, Roy P. Goben, Cecil Goben.



GEORGE AND MYRTA FRIEND SIELSCHOTT, CARL AND ETHEL FRIEND KEEST vacationing in Mexico

Did You Know —

Jordan School was once located on the east side of the Jordan Ditch about one-half mile south of the Adolph Sielschott residence. The Mary J. Blunt heirs gave ground for this location. Ethel Friend Keest remembers walking the foot board across the ditch to get to school. It was later moved to the present Louis Johnson corner.

Do You Remember —

Neat piles of wood all ready to carry in to fill the wood-box on the porch or behind the big kitchen range?



GETTING READY FOR WINTER — WOOD SAWING.



CLARK FAMILY AND HOME — Daniel Clark, Ida, Grover, George, Lora Clark Pratt, John, Frank Pratt, Emma, Ross, Catherine Chaney Clark, and Edgar



HENRY AND LULA COOPER FIELD on their burros in Colorado



FRANK BAKER — Kilbourne implement dealer



HENRY AND "MAGGIE" CRAGGS WHITELEY



FRANK WHITELEY — with his calf-drawn carriage



BLAKELEY FAMILY — 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Scott Blakeley, at their home 2 doors south of Havana Library.

1st row — 4 small boys — Charley, Ollie, Walter, and Earl Blakeley.

2nd row — Scott Blakeley, Edith Blakeley Prettyman, Mabel Keest Bramlet, Cora Blakeley Keest, daughter Nellie Blakeley Rengstorff, Gertie Blakeley Walker, Dallas Drake.

3rd row — Daisy Blakeley Hill, Oscar Blakeley, sons Edwin and Rufus Blakeley, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Scott Blakeley, daughter Emma Blakeley Drake, Herbert and Clarence Drake.



The crowd that attended a celebration on November 25, 1918 in honor of Corporal Everett Buckley, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Buckley of Kilbourne (Mr. Buckley was manager of the Turner-Herget land in the Sangamon River bottoms for 36 years.) The "Spanish Influenza" epidemic broke out in this area soon after this event.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CERTIFICATE }
N^o 18289 }

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS

John Pratt, of Morgan County, Illinois,
has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *Springfield*
whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *John Pratt,*
according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for *the West half*
of the North East quarter of Section five in Township nineteen North, of Range
eight West of the Third Principal Meridian, in the District of Lands sub-
ject to sale at Springfield, Illinois, containing eighty Acres,

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *John Pratt.* NOW KNOW YE, That the

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *John Pratt*
and to *his* heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, therunto belonging, unto the said *John Pratt* and to *his* heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, *Martin Van Buren*
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *first* day of *November* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty nine* and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the *sixty fourth*.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Martin Van Buren
M. Van Buren
RECORDER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

Recorded, Vol. *30* Page *378*

Photo of original grant dated November 1, 1839, to John Pratt, father of Frank Pratt; signed by President Martin Van Buren.



This panoramic view of downtown Kilbourne answered several questions about the location of business places during this period and — raised a few more that are unanswered.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CERTIFICATE }
N^o 19557 }

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Benjamin Sisson, of Sangamon County, Illinois,* _____
has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the **United States**, a Certificate of the **REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE** at *Springfield* _____
whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Benjamin Sisson* _____
according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of *March*, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the best buy, of the
North West quarter of Section thirty two, in Township twenty North of Range nine West of the third principal Meridian, in the District of land subject to sale at Springfield, Illinois, containing eighty acres _____
according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said
Benjamin Sisson _____ **NOW KNOW YE**, That the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED,
and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Benjamin Sisson* _____
and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto
belonging, unto the said *Benjamin Sisson* _____ and to his heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, *John Tyler* _____

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made **PATENT**, and the **SEAL** of the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed:

GIVEN under my hand, at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON**, the *twentieth* day of *May* _____ in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and *forty one* _____ and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES**
the *thirty fifth* _____

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Recorded, Vol. *39* Page *294*

John Tyler
John Tyler
REGISTRAR OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Photo of original deed from the U.S. Government to Benjamin Sisson signed by President John Tyler. In the Sisson name since 1841, Harvey and Ralph still own land entered by their grandfather. Price — \$1.25 per acre for prairie land, 25¢ per acre for timber ground.



FRANK WHITELEY and his grandfathers — ALEX WHITELEY AND C. F. (PETE) CRAGGS



LORA CLARK (PRATT) — daughter of Daniel and Catherine Chaney Clark; from a tin-type picture.



BABY FASHIONS OF 1910 — Modeled by Irietta M. Reynolds Johnson



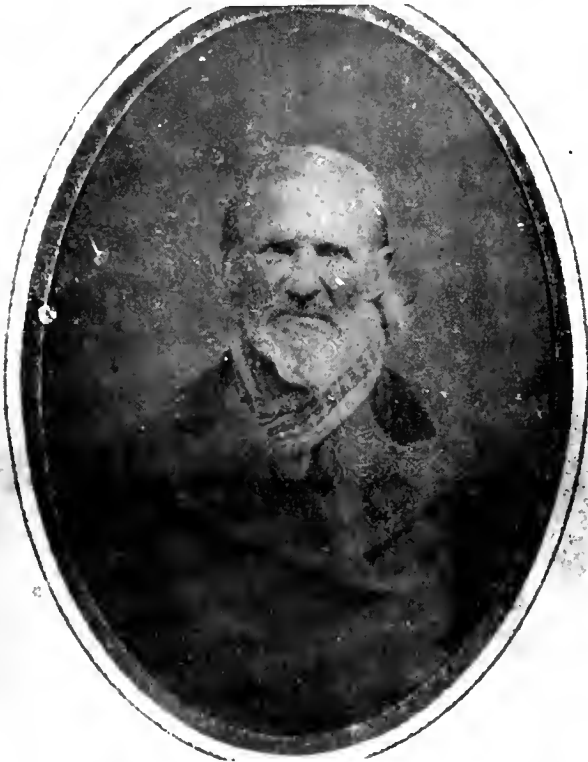
FANNIE (PRATER) AND RAYMOND — children of Brady and Bessie Whiteley Stone; typical fashions of the younger set.



EDYTHE MADISON AND ALBERTA DRAPER modeling the latest in millinery fashions.



GOLDIE DRAPER AND ESTHER LANE — more hat styles.



JESSE BAKER (1779-) — Early pioneer to Mason County, 1833, grandfather of Frank Pratt, brother-in-law of Henry Sears, uncle of Frank Baker.



CHRISTINA TETER BAKER — married Jesse Baker in 1824, ten children — thirty-two grandchildren



ETTA BLAKELEY (BLUNT) AND MAY BLAKELEY (LANE) — Typical dress of little girls of 1880's.



SYLVESTER AND EMMA BLAKELEY DRAKE — on their wedding day



Winter time — south side of Walnut Street; Charley Beckwith and his sleigh and horses (made the sleigh); Bill Zirkle and Steve Dolbin hitching a ride.



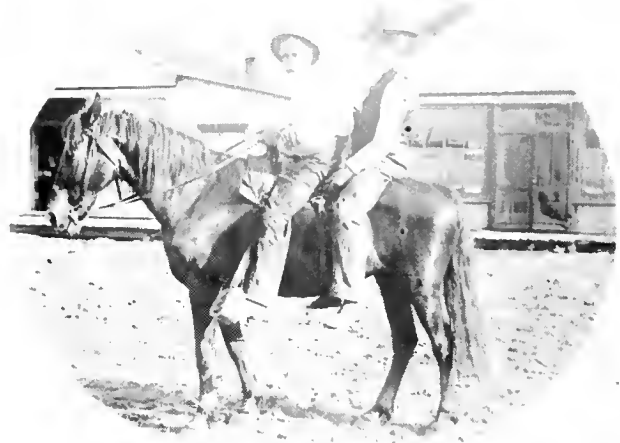
JOHN LEIDING AND CHILDREN — Kate (mother, grandmother, or great grandmother of all the Ebkens around here), George, Mr. Leiding, Harmon, and Lena. The youngest, August, died of diptheria.



JOHN B. AND MARTHA J. WILSON STONE



LANE'S LUNCH ROOM — 1912, on south side, telephone office later. Behind counter — Sherman Lane, proprietor, town constable over 20 years. Customers — Clay Ruggles, Bill Platt, unidentified, Sheridan Lane, unidentified, unidentified, "Bud" Hardin, "Skeet" Stroh.



FRED SHIRTCLIFF AND WILLIAM CRAGGS on faithful "Old Molly". South side of Walnut St.



JOHN I. WALLACE — taken when about 70, only man who could ride "Cap".

JOHN ISLEY WALLACE

John Isley Wallace (1885-1968), son of William A. and Elizabeth Seymour Wallace, lived at the east edge of Kilbourne Township. He was widely known for his expert horsemanship — riding, driving, breaking, and handling stock with horses; he raised, traded and sold them. He was in partnership on a stock farm with his son, Wm. "Cuddy" Wallace, for 27 years; they farmed entirely with horses until 1950. John I.'s favorite sport was coon hunting with his dogs on his "happy hunting ground" on the Sangamon River bottoms. His chief interests — horses, dogs, people.



CLIFFORD SUTTON (1911-1942) — son of John and Jeanette Carter Sutton, became afflicted while studying for a career in music at ISNU, yet always cheerful and busy. "Nixie," a very well trained dog; carried messages and packages.



WILLIAM ZIRKLE and his violin — made several. Bill was the photographer who probably took most of the pictures of old-time buildings and street scenes used in our history



BILL ZIRKLE — First car in Kilbourne, a Brush car.

Did You Know —

Bill Zirkle, the blacksmith, astonished his fellow citizens with a new set of false teeth — made by himself from silver dollars.



THE ALEXANDER WHITELEY FAMILY — Alexander Whiteley (holding Elmer), Della Whiteley Kiker, Fannie Whiteley (holding Jake), Bessie Whiteley Stone; Back Row-Henry Whiteley and Edward Whiteley.

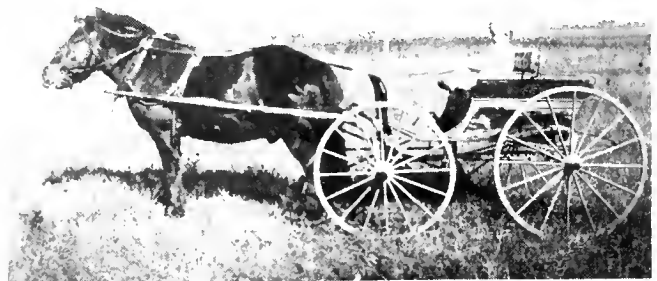
TRANSPORTATION YESTERDAY



HORSE AND RIG OF MOSE FERRIS — 1959. He was evidently showing his wares to the family. A nationwide magazine carried pictures and a write-up concerning Moses Ferris as one of the last of the old-time peddlers.



LEDREW AND ELVA CRAGGS on "Billy," ready for school.



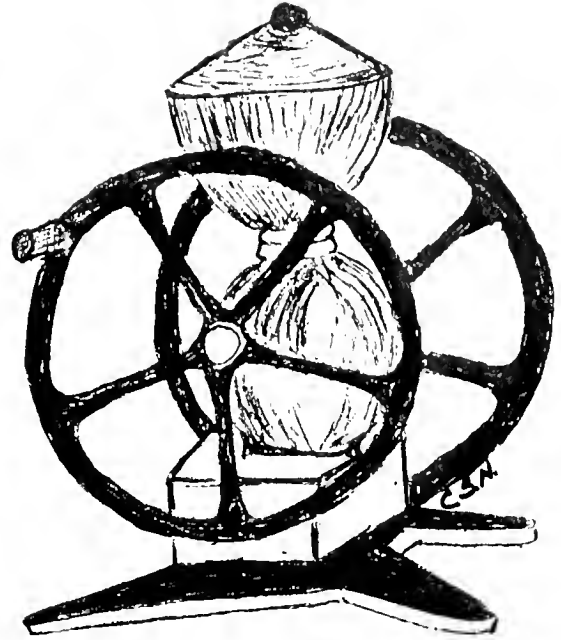
HELEN SINCLAIR — daughter of Watson and Nada Sinclair.



CHARLEY BECKWITH in his courting days



CARL "BUD" GOSNELL — was township supervisor for twelve years from 1951 to 1963



CRAGGS AND FIELD 50TH ANNIVERSARY — Children, front row — "Bud" Field, Dorothy Field, Eleanor Ringland, Betty Rose Craggs, Betty Ann Craggs. 2nd row — Clara and Marshall Field, Fay Field, La Verne Field, Chester Field, Daisy and Henry Field, Jesse and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Craggs, Cecil and Jeffie Craggs, Elizabeth Craggs, Alva Craggs. 3rd row — Hannah Field, Hal and Leatha Ringland, Bessie Davis, Harold Sr. and Ann Craggs, Harold Craggs Jr., Neva Craggs, Lavonna Craggs. Not present for picture, Lloyd Craggs.



ALICE PRATT (SUTTON) — proprietor of Kilbourne Home Bakery — 1910. Baker is unidentified. Located on west side of 5th Street across from Frank Daniel Store, building later was Bruce Eddy's Cabinet Shop.

What Do You Know —

Henry Staging was a well-traveled man before settling in the northeast part of Kilbourne Township. He was born in 1832 and at the age of 20, in order to better his fortune, went to Australia, took a mining claim and did well for a while (stayed there eight years); next, he moved to England; then to America; in 1872 he married Mary Kemper.

What Do You Know —

Kilbourne can boast of at least one family with five living generations — Mr. Dave Reynolds, Mrs. Irietta Johnson, Mrs. Jean Ash, Mrs. Donna Erickson, and Little Miss Tonia Lynn Erickson.

What Do You Know —

The farms of neighbors, William Craggs Sr. of England, Stephen Dolbin of Wales, and William Dwyer Sr. of Ireland came together and touched at one corner, north of Friend's Melon Stand.



KILBOURNE "GIRLS" ATTEND A "KID" PARTY — Attending were: 1st Row - Marie Holstlaw, Nina Hawks, Chattie Daniel, Bessie Baker, Gladys Blunt, Neva Howe, Minnie Howe, holding Agatha. 2nd Row - Maggie Whiteley, May Hughes, Edith Baker, Mae Sutton, Elsie Baker. 3rd Row - Carrie Hale, Mintie Craggs, Essie Craggs, Bessie Field, Mrs. Christman. (Think of the time spent in doing their hair in rags for the curls.)



FRIEND HOME — north of Mt. Zion Church. Myrta Friend (Sielschott), Mr. William Friend, Maud Friend (Sielschott), Ethel Friend (Keest), Mrs. Frank ("Mag") Friend (Maseman), Mrs. Minerva Gee Friend, Edna Friend (Conklin).



William and Nancy Ware Cobb, Granddaughter Ruby Gregory Clark, Great-granddaughter Lola Clark Clark (this is correct, same name before and after marriage)

Did You Know —

William and Nancy Ware Cobb have over 300 descendants but **only one** male to carry on the Cobb name — John William Cobb, age 19, son of Basil and Minnie Cobb, Archie, Missouri, and grandson of John and Jennie Carter Cobb.

Did You Know —

Emma Blakeley Drake remembered going to Long Branch to get their mail.

HOW ABOUT THIS —

According to voter registration books, there were twenty registered voters in Kilbourne Township with the surname of Craggs in 1932 and 1934. However, in both 1936 and 1938, there were twenty-five Craggses!

Did You Know —

1970 marked the retirement of Mrs. Hilda Goben, capable school cook of the Kilbourne Grade School, after fourteen years of feeding several hundred youngsters. She had been head cook from the beginning of the hot lunch program. Her assistants have been Mrs. Emma Blakeley, Mrs. Marilyn Blakeley, Miss Betty Lou Craggs, and Mrs. Janice Goben.

DID YOU KNOW —

Mrs. Mabel Umbach, Kilbourne Grade School teacher, retired at the end of this school year. Mrs. Umbach had taught a total of 34 years, 32 of these in Mason County, and approximately 500 students. In the 14 years she taught in the Balyki Unit, she did not miss a single day of school because of illness.



GENERAL JAMES M. RUGGLES

We Kilbourne folks should be very grateful to General James M. Ruggles who shared in the authorship of the "History of Menard and Mason Counties" published in 1879. We have referred to it again and again as a source of much reliable information concerning the pioneer story of the Kilbourne area.

James M. Ruggles, born in 1818, a descendant of a family noted in early colonial history and in the Revolutionary War, came to Bath, Illinois, from Ohio in 1846 and became a popular and prosperous merchant. He was elected state senator in 1852 and wrote "alone and unaided" the first platform of the Republican party founded in Illinois during this period. In 1856, his good friend, Abraham Lincoln, after delivering a speech in Bath, was entertained in the Ruggles home. This house is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Hazel Oest and is one of the landmarks of our neighboring town. Mr. Ruggles advanced in rank several times while fighting in the Civil War, and at its close, was named brigadier general for meritorious service. He then made his home in Havana until his death in 1901.

General Ruggles was "active and energetic, enterprising and public spirited." He labored hard for the establishment of roads and railroads and was the author of the first drainage law enacted in Illinois, designed for reclaiming the swampy land in the lower half of our county.

A son, Henry C. Ruggles, also fought in the Civil War and was taken prisoner at Chickamauga. He was postmaster two terms. Henry C. and his brother, Albert G. (Poke) both had drug stores in Kilbourne.

Henry C. and his wife, May Webb Ruggles, were the parents of six children, Clay, interior decorator; James and Albert, telegraphers; Mrs. Willis "Mike" Smith (Mazie); Mrs. Harry (Emma) McWhorter; and Mrs. Ruth Altig. Some of our older citizens remember Druggist Ruggles often carrying his little daughter, Mazie, home on his shoulders. Mrs. Smith still resides where her parents set up housekeeping many years ago.



FRANK H. MADISON — Our Tireless Source of Information — Our Guide to Local Sites — Owner of the Old Newspapers — Anything you want to know, ask Frank Madison!



ELLA CRAGGS BECKWITH — our "memory girl" who has been such a help in the writing of our history with all her recollections of people and places.

EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY OF KILBOURNE

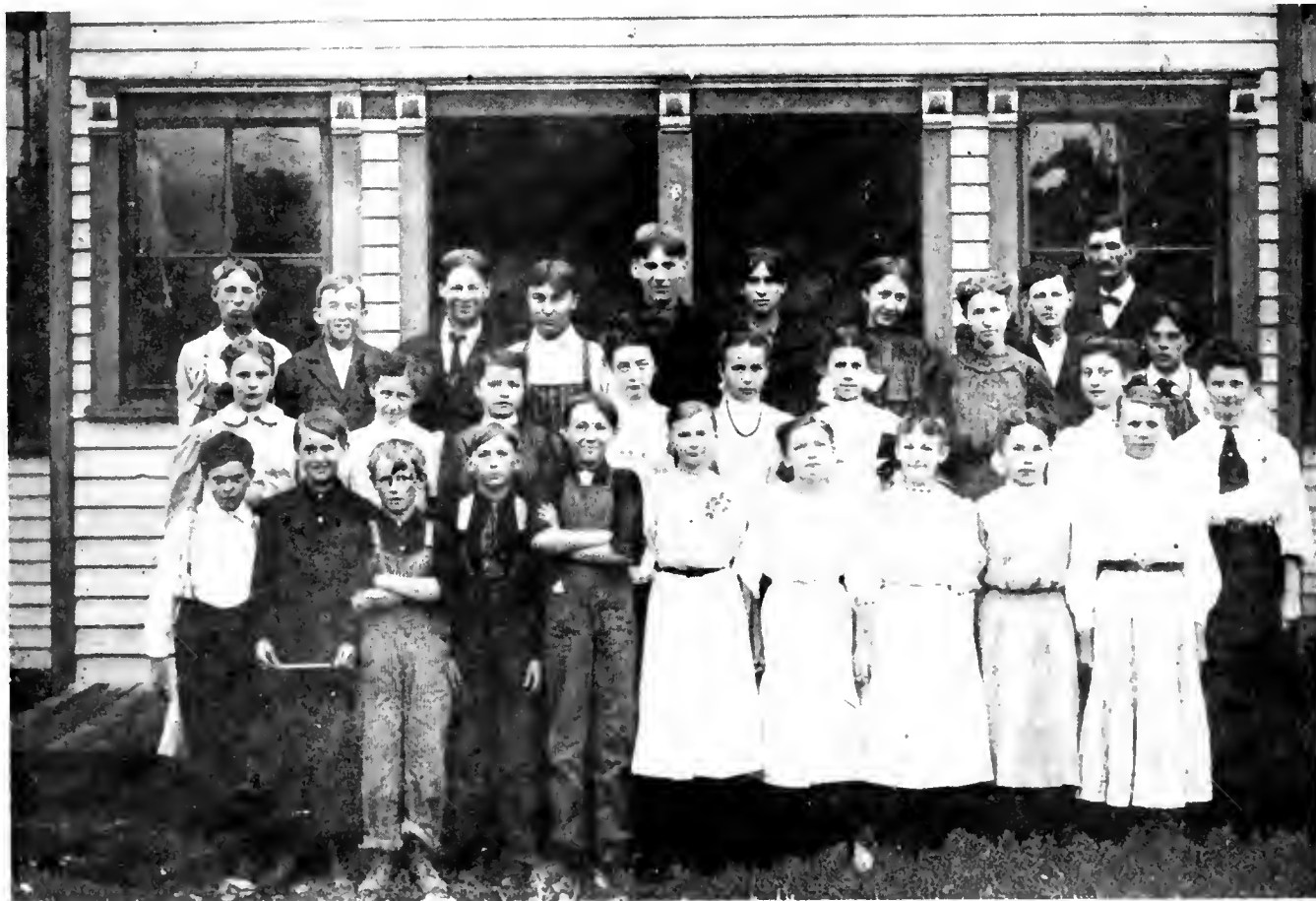
The history of education in the village of Kilbourne and its surrounding area finds its beginnings in response to native demands. The settlements were sparse for many years. Money or other means of remunerating teachers were scarce. The pioneers were nearly always poor. There were no school houses erected, and no public funds were available for schools. Both teachers and books were scarce, and all persons of both sexes with enough physical strength to labor were compelled to assist in supporting their families.

The free-school system was adopted in Illinois in 1825, but this was in advance of public sentiment. The people preferred to pay tuition fees or go without education for their children rather than submit to taxation. The early settlers developed a crude system of schools which was to continue for several decades. The schools and buildings were left to the option of the community. To have a better understanding of the attitudes toward education, it might be well to consider the social and economic setting of this era. We of the present time have little conception of the mode of life of our earliest residents.

Alexander Dick was the first pedagogue in the first school of the township during the spring of 1840. The school was constructed from individual contributions of the neighbors, and Dr. Drury Field contributed the logs and boards. It was a typical pioneer school with puncheon log floors, clapboard door with wooden latch, logs daubed with mud for the walls, and log benches. I. A. Hurd is among the first teachers.

Aaron Ray sold one-quarter acre of land to the board of school trustees in 1847 for the price of \$10.00. Cecil Goben's barber shop is thought to be part of the original schoolhouse which was moved into the village. The school was moved about 1873-1874, after Kilbourne was laid out, and served, also, for church purposes. Two teachers were employed, and there were over one hundred children in the district. This was a two room schoolhouse, now occupied by Mrs. Joanne Schoonover and sons, built on the Layman property. Melville Upp, father of Walter Upp, purchased this structure and converted it into a dwelling. Frank Madison and Walter Upp, both present residents of the village, attended this school about 1893, and their teachers were Robert Rigler and Sarah Smith.

The next school constructed was a three room structure on the west side of Kilbourne. Robert Rigler



KGS in old frame building, Mr. Bruning, teacher.



OLD KILBOURNE GRADE SCHOOL — Burned March, 1914

and Laura Rigler taught in this school, and only two rooms were used. In 1905 the teachers were: W. R. Barnes, Principal; Miss Kate Paul, Intermediate, and Miss Edythe Madison. The faculty in 1908 included: J. V. Lebegue, Principal; Miss Nina Goodell, Intermediate; and Miss Grace Pierce, Primary.

In March 1914, the school was destroyed by fire; it was replaced by a two story school of brick with four rooms. The building was ready for use during the 1914-1915 school term. This building was in existence until the formation of the consolidation. The school was



KILBOURNE GRADE SCHOOL — brick building, built 1914-1915.

purchased by Larue Lane and razed. The old playground is now a trailer court.

Additional Kilbourne Grade School teachers through the years have been: Martha Swing, Beryl Neff, Grace Conklin, Pearl Ketcham, Delbert Bell, Anna Scheuering, Minnie Scheuering, Myrtle Coggeshall, May Hughes, Ethel Pratt, Doris Friend, Cordelia Dammann, Velma Kruse, Mary Cooper, Elmor Wendt, Paul Stevenson, Inez Abshire, Dorothy Larson, Lillie McCoy, Howard Spear, Lois Montgomery.



KGS — 1914-15 — 1st row — Wayne Young, Clair (Eldred) Upp, Anna Scheuering, Irma Blakeley, Lena Showalter, Ralph Upp, Dora Houston. 2nd row — Theresa Smith, Goldie Ketcham, Nellie Baker, Bessie Baker, Blanche Gobin, Nina Pratt. 3rd row — Marshall Field — teacher, Lee Hardin, Albert Lascelles.

RURAL SCHOOLS IN THE COMMUNITY

The one-room elementary schools served as an educational center for the community and often as religious meeting places, and as the town hall or polling place.

The Frog Pond School is thought to be at least one hundred years old. The Charles Craggs family felt the need for a school, and Mr. Craggs made arrangements for a tract of land consisting of one acre to be retained for educational purposes. The land was located on the far west side of Kilbourne Township. At the time the land was sold to John Leiding, it was understood that the one acre and its building be used for school purposes as long as the school existed.

Some of the senior citizens recall that the school was originally known as "Union" during the earliest period and was later changed to "Frog Pond." The area around the school was covered with ponds, the ground was often muddy, and the frogs naturally used it as their habitat.

The original building was never replaced, and the same walls reechoed words of knowledge until progress closed the door forever. The improvements of interior decorating, modern heating system, electric lights, and exterior siding were added through the years.

Some of the earlier teachers were: Fannie Wacaser of Mt. Pulaski; Minnie Hamlin, Havana; Kate and Bill Dwyer, Kilbourne; Harry Howe, Kilbourne; Lydia Bridges, Kilbourne; May Leighton, Forest City; James and Arleigh Conklin, Kilbourne.

Later teachers included: Velma Morris, Caroleen Bell, Goldie Ketcham, Benjamin Schwering, Ethel Pratt, Thelma Siltman, and Oriena Hibbs, who taught during the final years of the school's existence.

Some of the families residing in the district have included: Keest, Leiding, Kolves, Morris, Upp, Nehmelman, Meyers, Markert, Friend, Davenport, Lascelles, Fanter, Bearden, Oest, Sandidge, and Ebken. Many of the descendants of the same families are residing today in the land of their forefathers.

Hardin School, located in the southwest part of Kilbourne Township, was built in 1879 on one-half acre of land sold by Thomas Ainsworth. The name, Hardin, was given in honor of James M. Hardin, a pioneer family of the neighborhood.

In 1917, the old building was replaced, and one acre of land was acquired for a larger playground. During the years of 1922-28, Hardin School is recalled as the only rural school in the township having a Hot Lunch Program and a basketball team of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade boys.



FROG POND SCHOOL — 1900 - 1st row: Roscoe Upp, Bert Connor, Carlos Upp, Robbie Lascelles, Frank Messman, Fred Messman, Robbie Dolbin, Jimmie Connor, Roy Wiseman. 2nd row: Bill Wiseman, Frank Lascelles, Carl Dolbin, George Leiding, Mabel Wiseman, Bessie Upp, Martha Rhodes, Bessie Bell, Anna Edwards, Eda Keest, Harmon Leiding, Gus Leiding, Newt Edwards. 3rd row: John Lascelles, Steve Dolbin, Lena Leiding, Grace Lascelles, Louisa Morris, Anna Keest, Clarissa Edwards, Kate Leiding, Trace Bell. Top row: Miss Fannie Wacaser - teacher, Carl Keest, John Morris, Leora Upp, Harry Keest, Lizzie Schaad, Bill Edwards, Callie Dolbin, Roy Upp, Cleve Bell, Ada Upp.



HARDIN SCHOOL, OLD BUILDING — Front row, Viola Ade, Cora Samms, Scott Sutton, Ora Goben, Frank Curry, Cecil Madison. 2nd row, Anna Sutton, Caroleen Bell, Cecil Curry, Earl Madison, Delbert Bell. 3rd row, Teacher — James A. Conklin, Arizona Hodgson, Orlie Wallace, Ben Sutton, Clara Sutton, Ella Sutton.



FROG POND SCHOOL — about 1918. Typical last day dinner. Old type schoolhouse, anteroom, the necessary coalshed.



HARDIN SCHOOL

The teachers who taught at Hardin School during the half century from 1904-1954 were as follows: Katherine Paul, James Conklin, Jeanette Carter, Clara Sutton, S. A. Conklin, Lydia Bridges, Warda Hale, Leslie Conklin, Grace Conklin, Caroleen Bell, Mary Craggs, Esther Pratt, May Hughes, Alice Blakeley, Eileen Stroh, Stella Sigley, Freda Schwering, Myrtle Pickett.

The school was closed in 1954, when the Kilbourne and Bath districts consolidated.

Henry and Margaret Jones donated two acres of land on July 8, 1858, for the Jones School site. The original structure was located across the road from the Oliver Blakeley farm and less than a mile north of the later Jones School. The site of the first building was swampy and made an undesirable location. About 1877, two more acres of land were donated, and the schoolhouse was moved to the second and last site of Jones School. The old building was replaced with a new structure in 1915.

The earliest date of available information concerning faculty is 1890-1891. Warren Drake was the teacher, and the enrollment was forty-six pupils. Those pupils still living are: Ella Beckwith, Gertie Ermeling, Margaret Whiteley, Minnie Holstlaw, and Herbert Drake.

Sylvester Drake, John Brent, and Henry Caldwell were school board members during the year 1898-1899. The teacher was Alfred C. LeSourd with forty-one pupils. Charlie Lane, Herbert Drake, Minnie Holstlaw, Edith Prettyman, Jesse Craggs, and Mae Sutton are still living. At the age of ninety-five, Mr. LeSourd resides alone and maintains his home in Mason City.

Other teachers recalled are: Cliff Ruggles, Cora Roof, John Sutton, G. A. Bruning, Gertie Ermeling, Zola Madison, Cordelia Damman, Lena Kohrman.



JONES SCHOOL, OLD BUILDING. Front row, Charlie Blakeley, Essie McDaniel, Bessie Beckwith, Alice Dwyer, unidentified, Dessie Beckwith, Nina Shores, --- Dwyer, Della Shores, Ollie Blakeley, Edgar (Mike) Brent. Back row, Leslie Dwyer, Nora Dwyer, Annie Edwards, Gertie Blakeley, Rue Lane, Cliff Ruggles - teacher, Dallas Drake, Lola Lane, Jesse Garrett, Edith Shores, Daisy Blakeley.



JORDAN SCHOOLBOYS — 1st row-Dwayne Keith, Wallie Hobbs, Clinton Hoskins. 2nd row-Donald Sielschott, Harold Hardin, Clyde Goblen.



JORDAN SCHOOLGIRLS — 1st row-Margery Lane, Mildred Goblen. 2nd row-Mildred Sielschott, Edith Shoemaker, Blanche Hobbs.



O'NEAL SCHOOL — 1st row — Murray Johnson, Denzil Whitlow, Joe Matthews, Dale Van Etten, Elmer Smith, Donald Williams, Blaine Close. 2nd — Ilo Wave Lane, Esther Thomas, Ruanna Whitlow, Glendora Van Etten, Neota Bahl, Susie Smith, Ruth and Dorothy Wallace. Top row, Florine Toland, Doris Whitlow, Mary Williams, Eldredge Bahl, Mrs. Grayce Conklin - teacher, Ben Cave, Floyd Toland, John Matthews, Lloyd Miller, Thomas Homer Smith.



O'NEAL SCHOOL — Typical schoolhouse of yesterday, 3 windows on each side, anteroom.

Jordan School was built about the same period as the above mentioned rural schools. During the early periods, the enrollment averaged between thirty and forty pupils.

Those teaching in the Jordan School have been: Blanche Bridges, J. L. Hill, Benjamin Schwering, Margaret Middlekamp, Thelma Finch, Lucy Kohrman, Estella Sigley, Isabelle Hall, Velma Williamson, Alice Cave, Marie Reznicek, Wilhelminia Behrends, Mabel Hall, Mildred Sielschott, Faye Schoonover, Doris Friend, Nelda Lane, and Kathryn Copper.

O'Neal School, located east of Kilbourne, was named in honor of Dr. Harvey O'Neal. Early families educated there included the Burtons, Murphys,

Carters, Scholls, Buckleys, and Crums. The original school was purchased by E. A. Sears, and Orie Madison was the auctioneer.

A new schoolhouse was constructed in 1929, when John Wallace, Lynn Murphy, and John Schulte were directors. James Palmer of Mason City was the contractor for the school costing approximately \$1,000.

Families receiving their elementary school training here were the children with the name of: Lane, VanEtten, Wallace, Murphy, Close, Toland, Adkins, Cave, Bahl, Miller, Eddy, Smith, Whitlow, Gosnell, Johnson, Lyon, and Thomas.

Teachers have included: S. A. Conklin, James Conklin, Leslie Conklin, Raymond Conklin, Grace Conklin Close, Beulah Scoville, Nate Harbison, Mary Craggs, Zelda Stone Severns, Zola Goben, Elsie Prettyman, and Grace Sisson, who was the last teacher prior to consolidation. The school was purchased by Frank Sears for \$1050.00, and William B. Wallace was the auctioneer. The school was converted into an attractive residence.

Union III, District 22, was organized in 1861, with R. Huthpeth as the first teacher. He was given a contract for a period of three months for \$20.00 per month. The next teacher was William Baker, who was followed by Harriet Baker. From that time, the school became known as the Baker School.

Through the years, we find the names of seventy teachers with salaries ranging from \$15.00 per month to \$135.00. There were fourteen boys and thirteen girls enrolled at the opening of the school. At that time, twenty-eight homes were in the district; today there are eight family residences. This is all a part of the everchanging times.



BAKER SCHOOL — First Row, left to right, seated: Herbert Koch, Clarence Eaton. Second row, Howard Stone, Raymond Stone, Ledrew Showalter, Frank Stone, Carl Koke. Third row, Roy Beckman, Hilda Rainey, Leora Showalter, Carl Beckman, Alvin Huber, Paul Gregory, Melvin Eaton. Top row, Earl Coppel, teacher, Aletha Beckman, Edna Crane, Gertrude Williams, Edythe Huber, Fannie Stone, Mable Stone.



O'NEAL SCHOOL — 1st row — Wayne Lynn, Roy Adkins, Jimmie Crafton, Melvin Gilmore, "Cuddy" Wallace, Pauline Davenport, Virginia Murphy. 2nd — Edgar Davenport, "Bus" Murphy, Bernhard Lane, Myrtle Cave, Adkins sisters. 3rd — Carl Burton, Wilbur Miller, Nina Crafton, Berniece Davenport. Top row — Violet Miller, Mildred Cave, Helen Wallace, Grayce Conklin — teacher.

PETERVILLE AND LONG BRANCH SCHOOLS

Peterville and Long Branch have been a closely knit "Borderline Community." Peterville had its school about fifty years prior to Long Branch, so the children from the west came to the east. The Mowder brothers, one in each community, were a strong force in the unity. Other things that united the two communities have been: the Threshing Ring, the Peterville Hall, Peterville Band, Peterville-Long Branch Ball Team, and the Long Branch-Peterville Birthday Club, which has endured almost a half century.

Prior to having a building, the children assembled in one of the homes, a church, or vacant building, and were taught by a traveling teacher, who boarded with

the different parents. Before the hamlet of Peterville was laid out in 1868, the school was known as the "Leaf School." Old records show that N. Leaf owned the land on Peterville corner, and the Leaf family were instrumental in building the original schoolhouse. Mrs. Levina Chatfield was the first teacher, and she was paid \$20.70 per month on October 5, 1850. A. G. Fisher taught in 1852; the salary was paid according to the number of pupils in attendance.

In the year of 1856-1857, taxes were levied in the amount of \$106.18 to build a school. District 4 and later changed to District 59. The school was a small frame structure located on the east side of the old Springfield Road, laid out by Abraham Lincoln. In 1874 the school was sold to James Waterworth for \$29.00, and a larger building was erected north of the old site.



PETERVILLE SCHOOL — North side of building.

Early pioneer names among the teachers are: Mary E. Blakeley, J. T. Mowder, Abel Milleson, Maggie Dwyer, Ella Everist, J. W. Hill, Maggie Ponds, Lizzie VanEtten, Gertie Siegley, Anna Hoffman, W. R. Deverman, Grace Conklin.

Other educators recalled are: Lucy Kohrman, Isabel McCabe, Bradie Whitlow, Benjamin Schwering, Harvey Sisson, Grace Sisson, Urla Ebken, Gertie Ermeling, Lola Clark, Ida Wallace, Goldie Ketcham, Lillian Adlington.

The year of 1960-1961 terminated the end of Peterville School. It had four pupils, David Bridges, Ann Prettyman, Berniece and Dwight Kolves, with Goldie Ketcham as the teacher. The building and its contents were auctioned off at the last day of school, and the school is utilized as a dwelling.

Because the children of Long Branch had attended the Peterville School for years, Grandma (Rebecca) Mowder boarded a train at Long Branch and traveled to Peoria to acquire a plot of ground for a one-room school, east of the station from Mrs. Bradley for \$1.00 and for the promotion of education. The structure was constructed about the turn of the century.

Some of the family names which furnished children and directors were: Atwood, Beckman, Bitner, Butler, Cornwall, Crater, Davis, Drake, Dammerman, Dye, Jones, Kastendick, Koke, Leiding, Lober, Miller, Mowder, Niederer, Nunn, Nordhausen, Sarff, Siltman, Sims, Vaughn, VanEtten, Vehslage, Wieber, Williams, and Way.

Some of the teachers who "rang the bell" at Long Branch have been: Bill Wieber, first teacher, Howard Bell, Pansy Burnham, May Field, Harold Goben, Eva Kreiling, Geneva Heater, Beth Johnson, Lucy Kohrman, Zola Madison, Lizzie McClausen, Lorraine Nordhausen, Robert Phelps, Oscar Poland, Jessie Rhoades, Alice and Valley Robertson, Myrtle Cooper, Estella and Gertrude Sigley, Grace Sisson, Bertha Steele, Zelda Stone, John Sutton, Oney Turner, Mabel Umbach, Bernice Vanderveen, Lillian VanEtten, and Geneva Heater, the last teacher.

When the enrollment became too few, the school closed in 1956. Some of the pupils returned to the



LONG BRANCH SCHOOL — Picture taken just before tearing it down.

mother school, Peterville, and others went to Havana and Balyki. The schoolground joined the original tract of land, as stated in the deed, the schoolhouse was razed, and the old elms were bulldozed. Now tractors plod the earth instead of youthful feet. No trace is left of the Long Branch School, but pleasant memories remain in the hearts of the families.

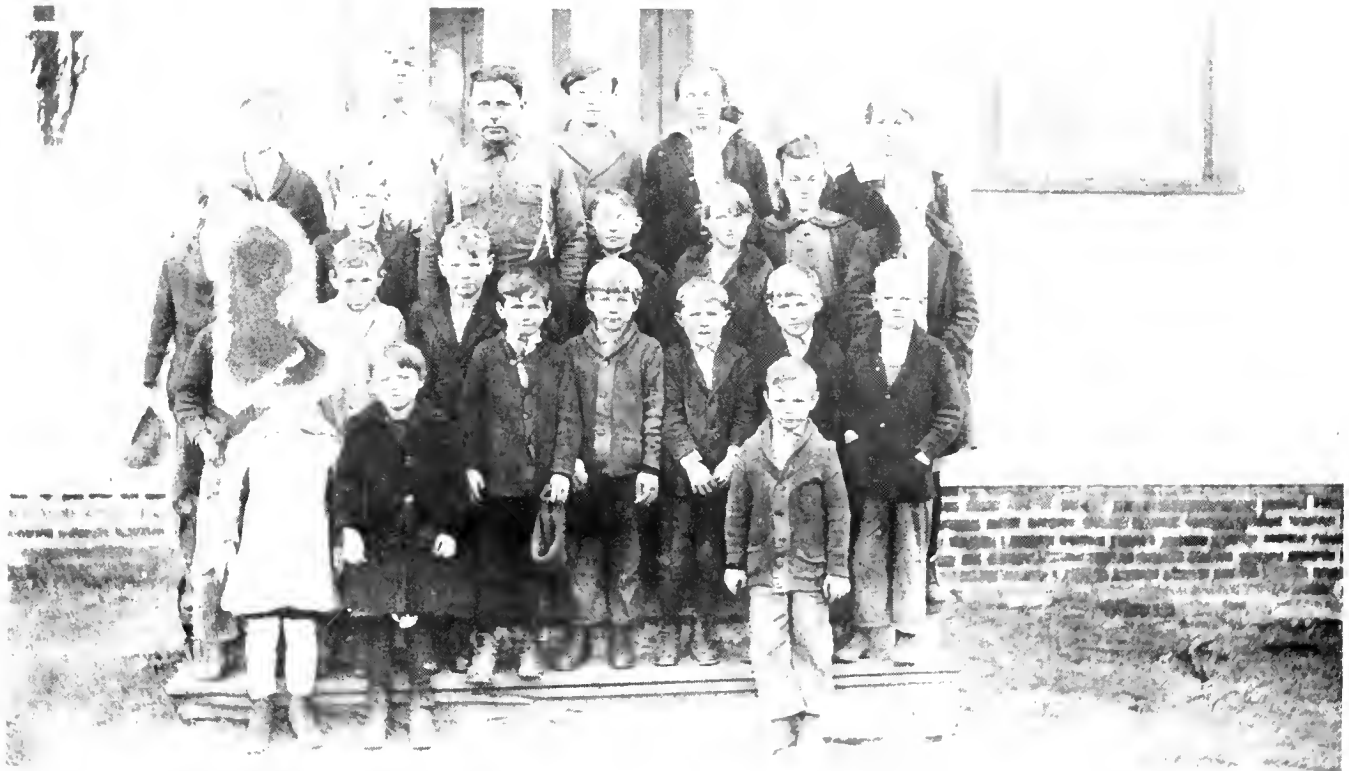
Prior to the reorganization of schools in Mason County, there were 98 school districts. Today we have the six unit districts within our county, and the "good new days" are here in education.

Did You Know —

When Lora Merrill Madison (Frank's mother) taught school at Jordan for \$25 a month, it was a requirement that the teacher board with one of the directors.

Don D. Shute Honored —

The beautiful new grade school building on a twenty-two acre tract now under construction in East Peoria, has been named "The Don D. Shute Elementary School", in honor of a former principal of Kilbourne Grade School. His wife, the former Elizabeth (Betty) Rigge was a teacher in the Kilbourne High School. A plaque presented to Shute by the East Peoria School Board commended him for, among other things, "his deep involvement in quality education, his natural wit, literary and poetic talents and his exemplary ideals as husband, father, and grandfather."



LONG BRANCH SCHOOL — John W. Sutton, teacher



JONES SCHOOL — Merle Williams, Bob and Bud Sisson, Don Blakeley, Gary and Wayne Kolves, Gail Murdock, Gene DeVore, Russell Thomas, Ginger Blakeley, Wendell Williams, Hallie Barker, Karen Thomas, Brenda Blakeley, Mrs. Lillie McCoy - teacher.



KTHS — In its second year of existence. 1st row — Cecil Craggs, Scott Sutton, Roy Goben, Ben Sutton, Verne Field, G. E. Clark — principal. 2nd row — Harry Geisler, Marshall Field. 3rd row — Warda Hale, Beryl Neff, Clara Sutton, Lulu Summers, Bess Upp, Alice Robertson — assistant principal, Annie Daniel, Myrtle Lane, Lillie Stroh.



MISS LUCY E. SAMUELL — thorough, strict, beloved teacher and principal of KTHS

KILBOURNE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

The need for a high school in Kilbourne was recognized by some of the more progressive residents as early as 1906. H. L. Blakely, prominent farmer of the Kilbourne area, initiated the idea resulting in the circulation of a petition requesting the township trustees to call for a vote on the construction of a high school.

The proposition was submitted to the voters of the township school district on April 13, 1907, and carried by a handsome majority. Among the details necessary before the actual building began was the election of a board of directors. Winfield S. Sutton was elected to serve as the first president of the board of education, and Jesse Craggs, its clerk. Other board members elected on May 11, 1907, were: M. P. Upp, H. M. Ade, and Sylvester Drake.

By June 8, 1907, the building site had been selected, and the bond issue passed for the building of the school on the north edge of the village. The land was purchased from John M. Blakeley. Edgar Thomas was the contractor.

After construction began in August, some of the residents became so eager to organize the school that the first sessions of high classes in Kilbourne were held in the Town Hall. Miss Lucy Samuell of Easton was the first principal of Kilbourne Township High School, which opened on September 16, 1907, just five months after the initial approval to organize. When



KILBOURNE GRADE SCHOOL — 1st row — Dorothy and Sarah Albrecht, Pauline Daniel, Jeanette Sutton — teacher, Marie Conklin, Mildred Madison. Back row — Gladys Goben, Earnway Dew, Doris Scheuering.

Many still call Mrs. Jeanette Carter Sutton their favorite teacher. She was kind, considerate, patient, concerning — yet firm. She taught 37 years, 33 in Kilbourne School.



FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF KTHS AFTER 4th YEAR WAS ADDED — Zola Madison, Eldred Daniel, Minnie Scheuering, Harold Goben, Margaret Middlekamp, Earl Blakeley, Nina Pratt.



KILBOURNE GRADE SCHOOL in 1970, formerly KTHS



KILBOURNE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL — Original one-story building, dedicated March 20, 1908.

the building was completed, dedication exercises were held in Craggs and Field's Hall on March 20, 1908, with Dr. F. G. Barnes, President of Illinois Wesleyan University, as the dedicatory speaker.

The first classes were held in the high school on February 17, 1907. The original building was 32 x 60 feet and was comprised of two classrooms, spacious vestibules and entry rooms, and a full basement with furnace rooms. The cost was approximately \$3915, plus seats and the furnace.

Miss Samuel was a versatile teacher. She instructed her pupils in a wide range of subjects — Latin, botany, physics, zoology, and bookkeeping, in addition to the usual English, history, and advanced mathematics, for the salary of \$85 per month. The first pupils to attend Kilbourne Township High School numbered seventeen by the time they moved into the new building. They were: Roscoe Upp, Paul Dwyer, Roy Gobin, Bertice Spear, Scott Sutton, Orlie Wallace, Benjamin Sutton, Lynn Sapp, Watson Sinclair, Clavert Truscott, Cecil Craggs, Ethel Wright, Nada Madison, Clara Sutton, Ethel Buckley, Bessie Dwyer, and Verna Milstead.

For several years, the high school offered only a three year curriculum, and many students went to Havana for the fourth year. Later, Kilbourne Township High School became a fully accredited four

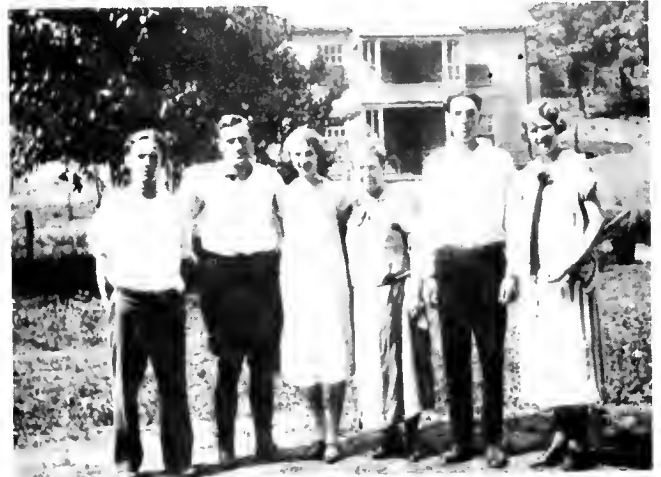


KTHS — Two-story building

year high school. Many changes occurred, including the addition of a second story to the original structure, and a gymnasium. Commencement Exercises for the Class of 1933 were the first to be held in the new gymnasium-auditorium.

Due to the decline in enrollment in both the Bath-Lynchburg Community High School and the Kilbourne Township High School, it was decided to consolidate the two schools in 1953-1954 with the attendance center in Bath. The last group of seniors to graduate from Kilbourne Township High School was the Class of 1954, with the following members: Wanda Justice, Margaret Sisson, Jack Vaughn, Gary Butler, Frank Gilmore, John McCario, Dale Sutton, and Kenneth Thomas.

The rapidly declining enrollment in the rural schools in both areas led to the recommendation by the State Department of Public Instruction in 1960 that a community unit be established. At an election held on March 12, 1960, the Balyki Community Unit District No. 125 was organized. Elementary classes are held in the former Kilbourne Township High School.

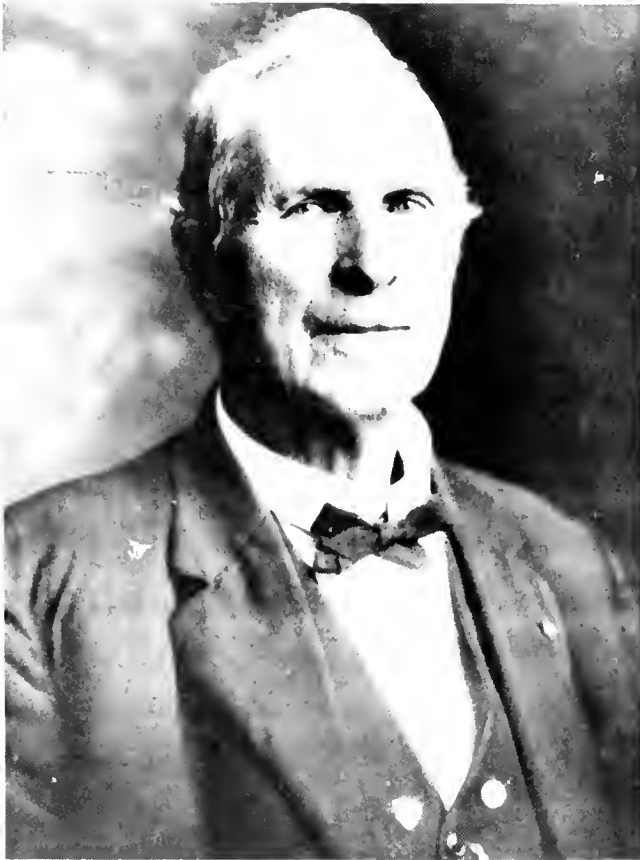


CLASS OF 1927 AND KTHS FACULTY — school picnic at Fish Lake, May, 1926. Guy R. Williams—after 2 years of college, his plans for law school cut short by his death in 1929; “Prof” Marshall A. Newnum—respected, upstanding man and teacher, liked by all; Alma Beckwith (Missal)—elementary music teacher and homemaker; Miss Lucy E. Samuell—beloved teacher who could punish you with one frigid look; Vivan C. Blakeley-Thawville, Illinois, still teaching in same district where he started in 1931; Miss Mildred Krughoff—English teacher, many remember her especially as an excellent play director.

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES —

Where was Ashurst School?

Where was Mt. Zion School? An entry of the Craggs and Field Ledger — Book I, dated December 27, 1886, is for 1 Box of Chalk - 25c and 1 Fire Shovel - 25c (Mt. Zion School District per Miss Ford).



DR. J. W. ROOT

Kilbourne history would be incomplete without a sketch of the life of Dr. J. W. Root, who practiced medicine for over sixty years, most of that time in this community.

At the age of twelve, John Wesley Root came by covered wagon with his parents from Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania to Schuyler County near Rushville, Illinois. As the Civil War was raging, John ran away a few days after his sixteenth birthday, to try to enlist. He was refused because of his size and weight. After several attempts, he slipped into line and raised his hand while a squad was being sworn in. He served as bugler and drummer with the Illinois Volunteers until the end of the war. He learned first aid and surgery on the battlefield, serving at Chattanooga, Look-out Mountain, Chicamauga, and many other places.

He returned to Rushville, taught school, and studied with local physicians. Later, he received his medical degree from St. Louis Medical College.

In 1868, he married Miss Melinda Ann Scott, also of Rushville. After practicing at Browning, Illinois, several years, they came to Kilbourne around 1876 where he set up his office and served humanity until his death in 1929. They had three children, Prudence (Mrs. J. D. Samuell of Texas), Elizabeth (Mrs. J. L. Coggeshall of Clayton, Illinois), and Clarence who



MRS. MELINDA ROOT

died at the age of three and is buried in Mt. Zion cemetery. Dr. and Mrs. Root celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary together.

Dr. Root was widely known for his collection of relics, coins, and antiques. At one time he owned one of the best private collections of Indian relics in the state. Some of these have been placed in Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C., some were given to other institutions.

Dr. Root was the family doctor of many for four generations and delivered most of three generations of babies in and around Kilbourne. In his large practice, he did a vast amount of work for which he received no pay. Until his health began to fail, he never refused a call, regardless of time, distance, or weather. Many have remarked how he went day and night at the time of the influenza epidemic of 1918. Even during his last year he did a considerable office practice.

Memorial services, conducted by Rev. J. M. Branson, friend of Dr. Root for thirty-five years, were largely attended by friends and neighbors. Pallbearers were R. M. Goben, H. A. Beckwith, John W. Sutton, Efner Hughes, Steve Dolbin, and L. W. Dew. Burial was at Howe Cemetery at Clayton. So ended the long busy life of the man still spoken affectionately of as "Ol' Doc Root".

FARMING YESTERDAY

From our Mason County history, we found this information concerning the growing of corn in early times. The author tells that the ground was poorly plowed with a wooden plow, then scratched over with a wooden toothed harrow. The farmer then marked off the field both ways with a single plow, planted his corn with a hoe, and cultivated it with either a hoe or a single shovel plow. However, the virgin soil produced unbelievable yields, and usually furnished the pioneer with enough to supply food for his family, for seed the following year, and perhaps a few bushels to share with a newly settled neighbor.



PLOWING CORN — “Doc” Hines, one of last of old-time “hired hands” who stayed with employer. Stand—“Cuddy” Wallace.



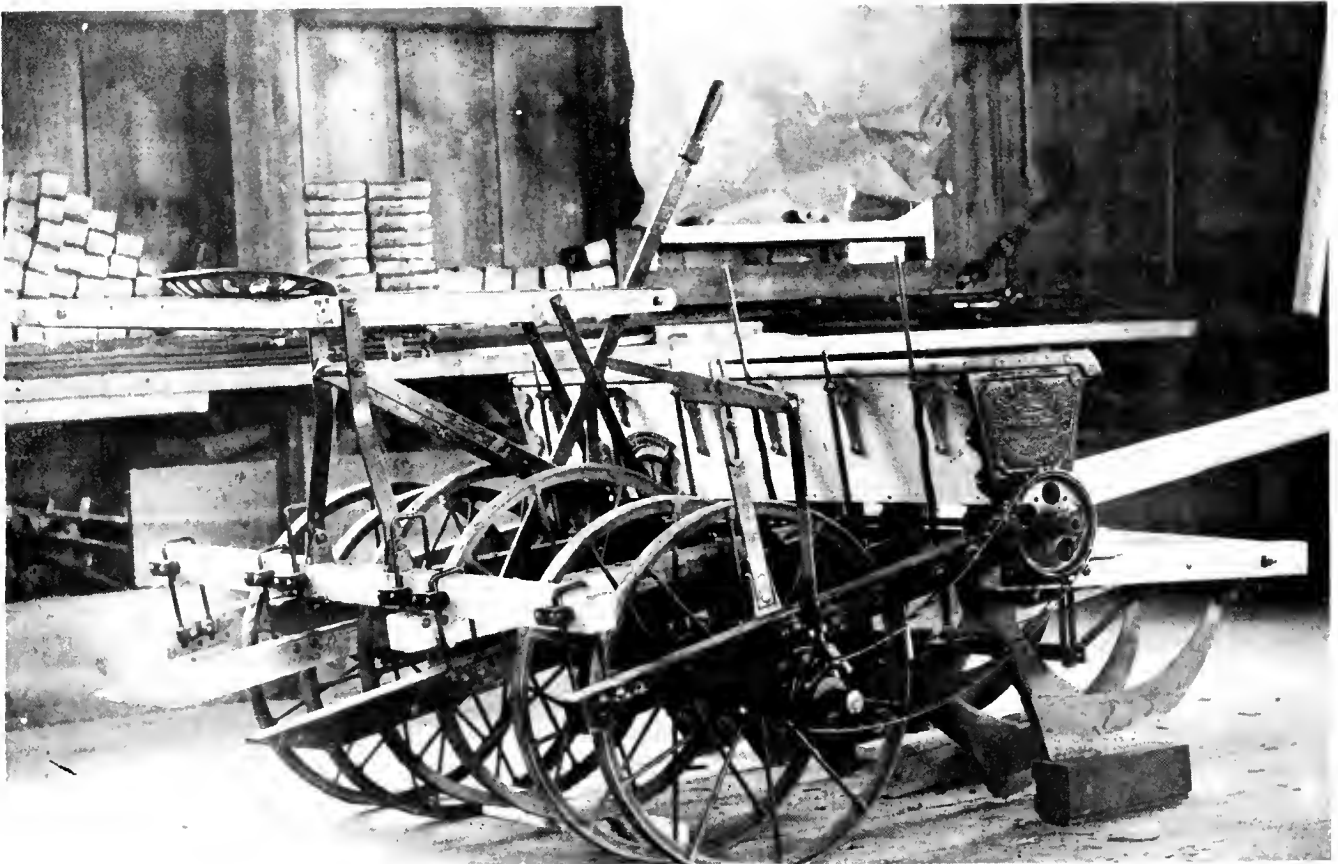
“CUDDY” WALLACE and his mules demonstrating a horse-powered hay baler at a threshing bee. Small boys are enjoying the experience of playing in the feather-bed softness of newly-threshed straw (and scratchy!) Remember?



R. M. (Dick) Goben and his fine mules, ready to sow wheat. Mr. Goben was township Supervisor for 28 years.



Threshing at the John Scott farm. Left to right on ground — George Crane, Earl Carter, John Scott, George Clark, George Cobb, Ross Clark, Pearl Estep. Above, left to right — Charley Hagan, Water boys, Raymond Gregory and Earl Scott; Bill Harmison, Will Estep, Tom Murdock, Grover Gregory, Jim Gregory (flaw in picture) holding reins, and Billie Krause, as labeled by Ora Scott Cobb. Oh, that everyone had written names and dates on their pictures as faithfully as she did!



ASHURST PRESS DRILL

Almost every atlas and history of Mason County mentions the Ashurst Press Drill, sometimes called the Succor Drill (so-called because it was a "help" to farmers?). General Ruggles tells that in early prairie pioneer days the wheat was sown by hand, then brushed in the ground with a black-jack sapling. Later they used a horse-drawn implement with "old-fashioned flukes" for planting the seed in the soil. Then came the invention of the new press drill, equipped with runners that worked the most trashy ground about as easily as where it was perfectly clean.

Robert Blunt, son of Thomas Fisher Blunt of our Mt. Zion history, made the original drill of this type for his own and his neighbors' use. His son, George, with the assistance of Hiram Blunt made a series of improvements and patents on the drill.

John L. Ashurst (1838-1911), a neighbor farm boy, was the son of Nelson R. and Jemima Ashurst and was an uncle of Marshall Ashurst who lived in Kilbourne in his later years. John L. married Amanda C. Blunt, a relative of Robert, the inventor. At the age of 19, he bought a few blacksmith tools to do his own repairing. He gradually learned and mastered the trade and worked with the Blunts in adding improvements to the Succor Drill. In 1869, he purchased five acres of land (now the residence of Arthur and Mildred Sielschott

Kramer), built a home, a shop, and a "manufacturing establishment" for the making of the drill which he had by now brought to "its present perfection" and was called the "Ashurst Press Drill". The inside of Art's farrowing house is part of the first factory.

William Upp, farmer and carpenter, did the wood work on the drill while Mr. Ashurst did the iron work. When the demand for the new implement became so great that they outgrew the small factory, they moved to Havana around 1890 and expanded the business. Our senior citizen, Walter Upp, remembers that he visited his grandparents when he was about ten years old, after they had moved with the drill works to Havana.

A photo of 30 men employed in 1893 by the Ashurst Press Drill Co. shows the extent of expansion in a short time. Walt Tolley, brother of the second Mrs. William Craggs, was one of the employees. A January 23rd, 1896 issue of the Havana Republican announced the annual meeting of the stockholders of the company and the election of officers. The 1903 atlas of Mason County carries a picture and advertisement of "Red and Ready Gasoline Pumping Engines, The World's Standard, manufactured by The Ashurst Press Drill Co., Havana, Illinois". The factory was purchased later by the Havana Manufacturing Company.



WATER WINCH IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Kilbourne's Invention Of Today —

The Water Winch type of irrigation system, designed by Fred Kruse and Dean Behrends, is very adaptable for irregular fields and will go over practically any terrain, Kilbourne sand hills and all. It was originally manufactured on a small scale near the home of Fred and Kay Asay Kruse, but like the Ashurst Press Drill, the demand for their product grew and the Ag-Rain, Inc. plant is now located in Havana. They sell all over the United States and in some foreign countries.

KILBOURNE INVENTOR

Wesley (Jake) Craggs, with the assistance of his brother, Jesse, invented and made arrangements with a Quincy firm for the manufacture of "equalizer wheels," a set of two connected wheels, one following the other. By replacing the land-side wheel of the gang or sulky plow with a set of these double wheels, the farmer could plow across the corn ridges without discing them down first. The wheels rode up and down over the ridges, the man and the plow were not so shaken up, therefore, they were usually spoken of as "ridge-runners."

A February, 1903 issue of the "Kilbourne Independent" stated that the company had issued an attractive circular in which they gave the testimonials of a number of farmers, among which are P. D. Rhodes, Richard Gobin, H. L. Blakeley, and C. F. Craggs. The wheels are a big success." Several of our local retired and active farmers have said they

owned and used these ridge-runners and also testified that they did work.

Mr. Craggs is also said to have made an apparatus or lever for raising and lowering the level of the grain bed on a wheat header.



Picking green beans, 1970 on the Lane Brothers farm. Picker from Nicklaus Enterprises exclusive bean contract growers in this area.

Do You Remember —

Marion Bridges, the local veterinarian, seemed to have the natural gift of working with animals. He had very little formal education and learned the trade "on his own". Every farm then had horses, cows, and hogs and there were few farmers around who did not call for his services at some time. He would go any distance when someone came after him. It is said that many times he sat up with sick animals all night long.

HARDWOOD LUMBER PRODUCTS CO.

The Hardwood Lumber Products Company owned and operated by John W. and Gary L. Hodgson is located 4 miles northeast of Kilbourne. It was established in 1966. Personnel consists of eight persons.

In 1970, it was converted to electrical power with 32 inch Crosby edger, automatic log turner, and live deck — all designed for safety and efficiency.

Besides the selling of lumber, the company contracts to make pallets for such companies as Caterpillar Tractor Co. and Keystone Steel and Wire Co. These pallets are used for the crating of parts and machines.



Logs — the way they grew “back when”. Logger Charles Bailey says are between 3-4 feet through, have been sawed with cross-cut, are probably white oak.

EVERETT BAILEY — SAW MILL

In October of 1930, Everett Bailey began operating his saw mill. In the early years, a crosscut saw was used to cut the logs and a horse and chain dragged them out of the timber. This process was called “snaking” them out. The horse and chain were also used to load the logs on to a wagon which hauled them to the mill. Until 1945, the mill was powered by a steam engine. Mr. Bailey has had mills in Mason, Menard, and Cass Counties. At one time he also had his own planing mill and shop. He now saws only occasionally and mostly for his own use.

HOPPER

The extent of the hardwood and lumber manufacturing industry was little realized even when Hopper Lumber Company was in full operation in Kilbourne in the 40's. The operations were scattered, with a sawmill and planing mill in town and part-time workers making pallets in the Paul Friend sale barn. Another sawmill was located near Springfield and a logger's camp was started on the banks of the Mississippi River at Pleasant Hill when the supply of logs in this area was almost gone.

A real success story began when Chester Hopper came from Missouri and got a job as a farm hand in Crane Creek Township. He bought from Walter Dawson, former Kilbourne barber, a very small sawmill in Crane Creek, at first operating it only on Sunday. Then he bought from Everett Bailey a little planing mill with modern equipment. Contracts for shipping pallets from firms like Caterpillar and American Can Company came quickly. Cases for pop bottles and other specialties were added. Hopper was a salesman, advertising in business papers, and before long was handling the marketing for all sawmills in the area — Petersburg, Bath, and others.

Later, the lumber company was faced with a dwindling log supply and long hauls from the Mississippi River bottom. Mr. Hopper became involved in the stone quarry business, so the family moved to Nebraska. However, Hopper continued to operate the Kilbourne mills with Melvin Thomas as manager. Mrs. Shirley Vaughn Daniel was office manager until 1955 and then Mrs. Wynona Warner took over until the mills closed. Eventually the time came when the equipment could profitably be sold at auction and the planing mill building was purchased by the Sarff Oil Company. It is now leased by the Wieber Oil Co., Inc. to the state highway department for equipment and supply storage. Hopper served two terms as mayor where he accomplished much in street improvement.

CHARLES BAILEY — LUMBER BUSINESS

Charles Bailey started working with lumber at an early age along with his father and three brothers. For the past twelve years, he has been operating his own business.

The first step in this business is to buy the timber from which the logs are cut. Some of the logs are then loaded onto trucks and sent directly to a saw mill. Others are brought to Kilbourne where they are placed on train cars to be shipped to many different states where they are cut into veneer and used in the building of furniture.

Mr. Bailey works chiefly with walnut timber, but he also handles some soft woods such as oak and sand oak.

BUSINESS TODAY

Following are the Kilbourne businesses of today that have not already been mentioned in previous write-ups:

THE FORNOFF FERTILIZER SERVICE CO.

The Fornoff Fertilizer Service Company was formed in 1962 about three miles south of Kilbourne. In 1964, a new building was erected about 1/4 mile south of the village with an addition being completed in 1968.

The firm which had its beginning with one employee, now requires three to six persons as services and products are required to serve this and surrounding communities with all types of fertilizer and agricultural chemical products.

KRUSE FERTILIZER SERVICE

In 1959, tired of handling dry fertilizer, Ted and Fred Kruse changed to liquid. A liquid fertilizer manufacturing plant was built and Kruse Fertilizer Service was in business. Later, they were responsible for establishing other dealers in the county.

PRATER OIL COMPANY

For twenty-two years, George Prater was the local agent for a large petroleum company. When he retired in 1965, his son, Robert, took over the agency and continued service to the people of this area.

In January of this year, Robert built a bulk plant and became an independent distributor of petroleum products.

WIEBER OIL COMPANY, INC.

In 1933, Edison I. Sarff and family moved to Kilbourne where Mr. Sarff became an agent for Standard Oil Company. After eight years, he went into business for himself. A bulk plant was purchased and the Sarff Oil Company began operation. After a few months, an unfinished building on Highway 97 was purchased, completed, and opened as a service station.

Due to failing health, Mr. Sarff sold the business to Delbert Wieber and the name was changed to the Wieber Oil Company. Later, another building was erected for the sale and repair of tires. In 1962, Milford Sarff became a partner. With Mr. and Mrs. Wieber and Mr. and Mrs. Sarff, the business was then incorporated. The Wieber Oil Co., Inc. is expanding — the service station was leased to Frank Sisson who now operates it as "Frank's Shell." Mr. Carroll Adkins has been an employee for the past 29 years and Mr. John Nall has been with the company for twelve years.

BEAUTY SHOPS

The ladies of Kilbourne are fortunate in having three nearby beauty shops. Mrs. Marilyn Blakeley operates her shop at her home in town. The other shops are located a few miles from the village at the homes of the owners, Mrs. Mazie Nunn and Mrs. Bessie Barker.

KILBOURNE — WATERMELON CENTER

If you haven't eaten a Kilbourne watermelon, you haven't eaten watermelon!!! This is the opinion of not only our residents, but also of the many out-of-towners who make yearly trips to our village for the sole purpose of buying melons.

As early as 1879 it was recognized and recorded that Kilbourne had all the proper conditions necessary for raising these melons. Historian Ruggles stated that the watermelons were usually ready for market by mid-July and that they grew to enormous size in this virgin soil — some being as long as a barrel and sometimes weighing sixty pounds.

Many years have come and gone since this was written, but melons are still grown in quantity and are sold at the roadside markets in and near Kilbourne as well as those which are shipped to out of town markets.

A big panel-bodied truck from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pulled off the grain office scales.

"How many melons on that thing?" asked a visitor.

"There are 54,000 pounds of watermelons on it", replied the scale man, "it was loaded by Charles Showalter and Leo Shoemaker"

"Does that happen often?"

"Yes, I had one yesterday from Indiana with 48,000 pounds and in a single afternoon I have weighed a quarter of a million pounds from Kilbourne growers"

"Gosh, you could almost feed an army"

"It has been done," laughed the scale man. "In World War II, Paul Friend supplied watermelons several times to the gigantic Camp Ellis in Fulton County.

"How many melons would it take?"

"That is a military secret and that isn't kidding. Paul was warned by the brass that it was classified information and not to tell how many melons it took each time because the enemy could figure how many slices and that would reveal the number of troops stationed there — you had to have a slice for each man or there would be rebellion."

The Paul Friend-Ron Friend complex with 180 acres is the largest in Illinois according to chain store buyers. Other local established growers are Albert & Don Hodgson, R. G. Justice, Kenneth Sielschott, Clifford & Wayne Friend and Darryl Ebken. During the marketing season the Friends have their marketing headquarters on the giant South Water Produce Market in Chicago. Each night truck loads go

into Chicago from Kilbourne growers, in addition to the big semi-trailers that are loaded here.

The watermelon season in the United States ends at Kilbourne. As a rule until late in October big panel-bodied trucks and semi-trailers will be shuttling back and forth between West Virginia, Ohio, and other states, and Kilbourne. For example, one Columbus, Ohio firm in five days loaded nine trucks, each hauling 34,000 pounds of melons.

PRODUCE STANDS

HODGSON'S FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STAND

Albert Hodgson and his son, Donald, and their families operate a fruit and vegetable stand on Route 97 at the northeast corner of town. In 1943, the original business was conducted at Walnut and 4th St. and later moved to the present location.

For 27 years, produce such as various kinds of squash, red pop corn, sweet corn, pumpkins, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, as well as watermelons and cantaloupe have been grown on 50 acres of land to supply sales at this stand.



FAMILIAR SIGHT — about the middle of September, at several produce stands along Route 97; toward end of melon season, Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving products on sale. **SHOWALTER'S MARKET** — 1st and Walnut Streets.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Showalter and sons own and operate the Showalter Market and Greenhouse located on the corner of Walnut and Route 97. This site was formerly an oil station. It was purchased and remodeled in 1967. Garden and flower plants are grown for marketing in the greenhouse.

For 20 years they have planted, hoed and harvested melons by hand. The market is opened early in July for sweet corn and remains open with melons and other products for wholesale and retail until late October. In December, they open again for the sale of Christmas trees, most of which are locally grown.

SHADY INN PRODUCE STAND

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Justice have been engaged in the sale of melons and produce for twenty years. Originally, they were located at a stand on the east side of Route 97, but after three years, moved to the site of the present location on the west side of the road. Besides growing and marketing cantaloupes and watermelons, the Justices handle peaches, apples, cider, pumpkins, sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, and other produce products. This year, they have seventy acres in produce but have had as much as 150 acres in these crops. Besides selling these products at their roadside stand, they also ship to Chicago.

The stand owned by Geg and Lola Justice is known as the Shady Inn and is in the same location as the first such market in Kilbourne on Route 97. In 1944, Frank Hodgson saw the potential of locating on the newly completed highway and constructed a roadside stand at this site.

Larry Daniels, Springfield, in recent years purchased the stand formerly owned by Walter Craggs. Since that time, Mr. Daniels has enlarged the market and sells a variety of produce. Wilburn Close and Wilbur Justice have also operated roadside stands which, of course, specialized in watermelons.



This home is an example of what can be done with a century-old farm house — It was built by Benjamin Gatton in 1864, later owned by George Spruce, D. C. Brown, Josephine Brent, Hurst family, and presently Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boyle and Randy

At the time the Boyles bought the house, it had been vacant for thirteen years and was badly in need of repair. In time, the home was restored where possible (even the original walnut stair rail was stripped and refinished), and remodeled where necessary — the pantry was forfeited to make the kitchen larger and the small front entry hall became part of the living room. Last year, the side porch was closed-in, forming a brick wall and fireplace in the family room. The Boyles have even furnished the house almost entirely with pieces of furniture dating back to the time when the house was built.

KILBOURNE AND BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

"Mrs. Lydia Bradley, founder of the Bradley Polytechnic Institute at Peoria, her attorney, W. W. Hammond and her sister, Mrs. Beggs, spent Tuesday at the Bradley farm, five miles south west of Kilbourne. The visit was the celebration of Mrs. Bradley's 90th birthday," Sangamon Sawyer, August 4, 1906.

"I think that it is safe to say that Bradley University today", says Allen A. Upton, Director, alumni and public relations at Bradley. "is founded on some of the farm developments that Mrs. Bradley undertook in the Kilbourne area.

"Mrs. Bradley had loaned money on 240 acres in Kilbourne Township. The mortgagor abandoned the land and left the country. Mrs. Bradley gave a tenant three years rent free to clear out the willows and get the land under cultivation. The land lay in the edge of a marsh alongside the C. P. & St. L. Railroad. There was no outlet for the water and the tenant couldn't drain the land. Mrs. Bradley, hearing of the situation, proceeded to buy an additional 1,500 acres at \$33.33 per acre, formed a district, drained out the country and opened up new farm land that sold for \$100 to \$140 an acre at the time Bradley was founded. She cleared over \$100,000 from the deal.

"Mrs. Bradley purchased 3,500 acres of land in the Sangamon River bottom between Chandlerville and Kilbourne. Again, she drained the land, cut and sawed the lumber for farm buildings and fences. Adjoining land was then reclaimed and roads were built, churches and schools constructed and Mrs. Bradley, in addition to opening up a wild, marshy area for cultivation and development, also cleared over \$100,000."

LONG BRANCH FIELD STATION

Did you know that on March 4, 1959, a four-column headline across page one of the Illinois State Register emblazoned "Huge Transmitter Located Near Kilbourne — World's Most Powerful Radio Station"? The Long Branch Station, under the direction of the National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado, was established in 1957 as a radio propagation research facility to study the transmission and propagation of radio waves. It transmits a six million-watt signal as compared to the average 50,000 watt commercial radio station. It sends no spoken message but is constantly probing the upper region of the earth's atmosphere. A single radar beam goes 75 to 400 miles straight up into the ionosphere band. One "maze" antennae resembles the "jungle gym" found on school playgrounds.

In 1958, the Harvard College Observatory and Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts, initiated a meteor research program in conjunction with the National Bureau of Standards at the Long Branch facility. The purpose of the

meteor research program was to study meteors entering the earth's upper atmosphere and to obtain greater knowledge of the upper atmospheric density. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has provided funds for many of the meteor research studies conducted at the Long Branch Station and have used the information obtained from the research facilities in their space explorations and manned space flights.

Some of the men employed at the station have resided in Kilbourne including John Green, Earl F. Snyder and Percy Fry.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS VEGETABLE EXPERIMENT FARM

Members of Mason County Cooperative Extension Council and Vegetable Growers Association expressed concern about the potential for vegetable production. Little research data was available on our soils. The University of Illinois Foundation owned 1000 acres of land in Bath Township which was being leased to farmers. The Horticulture Department of the U. of I., with the aid of Mr. Stuart Hawbaker, Mason County Farm Adviser, obtained a lease on 40 acres.

During 1969, a permanent building was erected. A group of interested farmers and businessmen donated funds toward the cost of a well. Later that season, vegetable crops were established and successful trials on varieties of fertilizers were completed. In 1970 more research plots were planted consisting of potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, horseradish, melons, cantaloupes, green beans, squash, and pumpkins. Variety selection, fertilization, and irrigation of vegetables are being studied at the present time. The results of this research will, no doubt, have a great bearing on future vegetable production in Mason County.

THRESHING BEE

One of the happenings in the Kilbourne community each summer is the Threshing Bee at the Ted Kruse home on the last Saturday and Sunday of July. The steam engines are steamed up, separators pulled out of the shed, and an old-fashioned threshing can be seen.

Other exhibits which are brought in include model trains, small steam engines, and a miniature replica of New Salem. Other features of the Bee are antique cars and an old-time popcorn wagon.

* * * * *

Did You Know —

Kilbourne once had a "pest house" located south of town where people had to stay until recovered from small pox. The township paid for their food and for someone to take care of the patient, usually someone who had already had the dread disease themselves.

ENTERTAINMENT

For entertainment, our forefathers took more time for visiting and just being neighborly than we do in 1970. They enjoyed music. Many young ladies were given music lessons and accompanied group singing at church and school, or at home around the reed organ or the piano. Near the turn of the century, Kilbourne had a uniformed brass band of over 20 pieces that was in demand for picnics, political rallies, and celebrations. There was also a string ensemble of guitars and mandolins. People who owned an Edison graphophone were often asked to provide entertainment at parties and family gatherings. Martin and Adam Masten, Hardin Thomas, Ernest Madison, Gene Willing, and Bill Zirkle were among these first fortunate folk.

As far back as the 1880's, there was a Literary Society here. This community has always patronized good plays and enjoyed the songs, instrumental music, and readings between acts. The Kilbourne Entertainers, organized in 1902, often put on a series of four plays during the winter months, frequently showing them in nearby towns. The S.B.K.I.F.Y. Young People's Club of Mt. Zion (no one remembers what those letters stand for) put on such plays as "A Noble Outcast" and "Freezing a Mother-in-law". Another group in the early 1920's had fun putting on plays. According to Maggie Whiteley, one of the actresses, they had no director, just general discussion, suggestions and no disagreements. Then there were oratorical contests, debates between schools of the area where many weighty questions were thoroughly discussed but probably never decided conclusively.

At one time several lodges met regularly in the various halls downtown, Modern Woodmen, Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Coming Men of America for the younger fellows, and Royal Neighbors for the ladies.

For those who wanted to get out of town, there were boat excursions on the Illinois River, boat shows at Bath and Havana announced by gay calliope music, and camping at chautauquas at Old Salem and at the old Riverside Park south of Havana featuring such

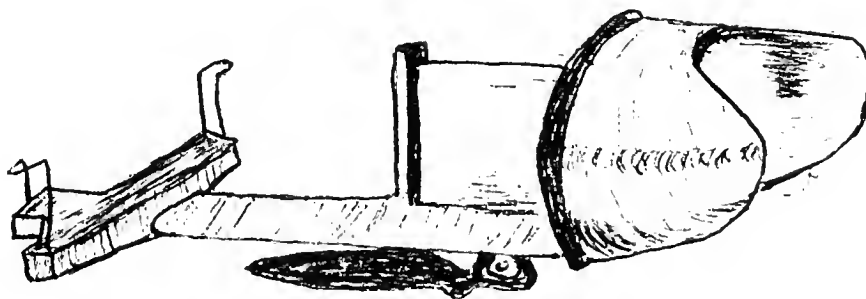


TRYING OUT THE "NEW-FANGLED" GRAPHAPHONE — Bill and Walter Zirkle and Mrs. Joseph Zirkle

speakers as Gipsy Smith, Billy Sunday, and William Jennings Bryan.

Many types of entertainers included Kilbourne in their circuits — medicine shows (usually with a popularity contest for the young ladies), weekly lyceum courses during the winter months in the halls or churches providing inspirational lectures and concerts, "the celebrated Samuell Brothers" — a musical group from Easton, The Sherman Stock Co., Charley's Show which drew crowds from far and near, week-long chautauqua programs in a tent in the grade school yard, and once in a while a small circus. Horse races here and at Oakford provided excitement. Kilbourne at one time had "the crack base ball team of the county".

All in all, folks seemed to get more enjoyment from life in those times than we do, with all our modern advantages. Quoting from Mrs. James Blakeley from General Ruggles's Mason County History as she spoke of very early pioneer times, "And yet people were just as happy then, apparently more so, than at the present day (1879), and far more sociable. 'Neighbor' had something of the broad meaning given to it by the Saviour of the world eighteen hundred years ago."



STEREOSCOPE — for viewing yesterday's version of 3-D pictures.

ORGANIZATIONS

Years ago, Kilbourne was noted for the avid interest and participation of the townspeople in the numerous local clubs and organizations. In fact, at one time, Kilbourne was the only town in the United States that had two lodges of the Coming Men of America for boys. One met in Draper's Hall and one in Craggs and Field's Hall.

In the early 1900's, there were listed in the local newspapers these secret societies: Sampson Tent,

K.O.T.M.; Knights of Pythias; District Court of Honor; Modern Woodmen of America; and Faithful Lodge, C.M.A. The active members of these various organizations included H. L. Blakeley, H. E. McWhorter, S. A. Conklin, Joseph Zirkle, G. F. Pierce, Jesse Craggs, J. A. Conklin, J. J. Stroh, J. C. Young, John W. Sutton, C. W. Field, A. L. Wright, John Grissom, Edwin Blakeley, J. E. Smith, and J. S. Davis.

Still today the organizations are plentiful and provide widely varied interest for any person.



KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LODGE REPRESENTATIVES at the grave of a fellow member

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

The Royal Neighbors of America is a fraternal insurance organization which was first organized in Kilbourne in 1907 with seven charter members: Leona Brent, Laura Carter, Lora Madison, Julia Madison, Rosa McDaniel, Alice Pierce, and Ada Bluneau. In 1964, the Kilbourne Camp consolidated with Snicarte Oakleaf Camp. Today the membership includes twelve fifty-year members who are Florence Kramer, Esther Bastion, Margaret Whiteley, Mary Friend, Lorena Blessman, Alta Blessman, Mabel Lane, Alta Sarff, Velma Sarff, Bessie Smith, Wilma Fletcher, and Flossie Conklin.

The present officers are Oracle, Laura McDaniel; Vice-Oracle, Mary Smith; Recorder, Elsie Sarff; Chancellor, Mabel Lane; Inner Sentinel, Alta

Blessman; Outer Sentinel, Edith Murphy; Marshal, Vada Ingram; Assistant Marshal, Jennie Sarff.

THE MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

The Modern Woodmen of America is one of the four fraternal organizations of Kilbourne listed in the October 6, 1906 edition of the Sangman Sawyer newspaper. In the earlier years, the men of the community were very active in this organization.

The Modern Woodmen of America is still active today, but in recent years, it has become more interested in activities for the youngsters of the community. Nationally, it is the sponsor of a scholarship fund for the members. Locally, the representatives, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Curry, make arrangements for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Hallowe'en Party.

OAK RIDGE 4-H CLUB

The history of the Oak Ridge 4-H Club as told by the leader, William H. Lane, is so interesting that we only wish it could be printed just as he wrote it.

The highlights of the story are as follows:

The club, which was organized in 1936, started when Donald Sielschott (whose father had died sometime before) promised to find enough members if Mr. Lane would consent to be the leader. Securing the help of Farm Advisor Ray Watson, they learned the objectives of 4-H, the pledge, and discussed projects. They decided on swine as their project and Mr. Lane, an experienced Duroc breeder, furnished each member with a bred gilt to help them get started. The charter members were Verla Stone, Marjorie Lane, Cecil Stone, Leonard Lane, Donald Sielschott, president, and Clyde Goben, junior leader. Later, five more young people joined with projects of beef, poultry and garden projects besides the health project for all.

After considerable discussion and little encouragement from the county leader, the club decided to hold their own show in a grove on the Lane farm. With much planning and cooperation of parents and friends, a very successful day was held with basket dinner, short program, judging, and prizes. Each member of the club completed his projects and showed in the county and seven of the club went to the State Fair. The local show became an annual affair with free fish suppers being served.

In 1938, five members were chosen to represent the Club of the Year on a radio program, and two members and the leader went to Chicago to take part in a broadcast. In December of that same year, the club organized one of the first immunization programs for club members and school children in the four surrounding school districts. Also, in 1938, the club began to publish a paper to bring their work to the public.

Every year, each member carried projects in health, fire and safety, and many gave demonstrations in first aid. An annual drive was held to earn money for the local show. Throughout the history of the club, the members won many awards for outstanding achievement, including trips to leadership camp and one trip to the National 4-H Congress.

As the years passed, the leader began to look for someone to take his place, but he was unsuccessful. After twenty-four productive years, Oak Ridge held its last show and closed the pages of its success.

KILBOURNE RAMBLER'S 4-H CLUB

The Kilbourne Ramblers 4-H Club was organized in 1930 with Mary Craggs and Margaret Maseman as leaders. During the history of the club, it has sent three members to the National 4-H Congress in 1939-40-41.

The organization still exists today with many leaders throughout its forty-year history. Mrs. Betty Baker, Mrs. Emma Finch, and Mrs. Carol Kolves are the present leaders of the twenty-one members whose varied projects include sewing, cooking, arts and crafts, flower gardening, family gardening, and wildlife conservation. Until three years ago, this was a Home Economics Club for girls but recently boys have become members.

LITTLE LEAGUE

The Kilbourne Little League is now coached by Milford Sarff, the A Team and Robert Griffin, B Team. These teams have played a regular Little League schedule of games since 1960.

Funds for the organization are primarily earned through the refreshment stand which is operated at all home games.

BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scout Troop 100 of Kilbourne and Bath is sponsored by the VFW Post of Havana. Gary Sarff is the leader of this troop of about twenty boys, approximately half of which are from Kilbourne. Monthly meetings are held, alternating between the two towns.

Activities include various field trips and camping-out on the grounds furnished them at White City. This summer, a special project has been underway to paint barrels to be used in the clean-up connected with the Kilbourne Centennial Celebration.

Committee members from Kilbourne include Eddie Dossett who is the Institutional Representative, William McCoy, and Robert Griffin.

CUB SCOUTS

The two Cub Scout dens of Kilbourne began meeting in November of 1968, the charter, officially issued in February of 1969, to Pack 100, which is sponsored by the Bath Volunteer Fire Department. Arthur Ward serves as Cub Master and Robert Ollers is the Assistant Master and Secretary.

Den meetings are held once a week under the leadership of Den Mothers, Mrs. Laura McDaniel and Mrs. Dorothy Stufflebeam. Pack meetings are held monthly alternating between Kilbourne and Bath.

To earn money for handcraft projects, field trips, and other programs, the members have held bake sales, sold fire extinguishers, and this spring, sold flower and vegetable seeds.

This summer the Cubs are busy painting barrels to be used for litter in the downtown area and plan to help in the clean-up before, during, and after the Centennial Celebration.

Did You Know —

The men's boxing club had bouts in Bridges' Blacksmith Shop and the boys' boxing club held bouts in Ralph Pullen's Blacksmith Shop.



Our Volunteer Firemen — Kneeling in front, Robert Prater and Edward B. Close. Standing at the far right — Donald Schaeffer. Standing — Terry Justice, Raymond Williams, Howard Blakeley, Jenith (Buster) Shults, William Freeman, Wendell Daniel, Billy Lane, and David Fornoff. Sitting on the truck — Stanley Huey and Charles (Butch) Beams. Getting in the truck is Chief Roy Lee Cowin.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1959, the Town Board purchased a fire truck and a building to be used as a station house and appointed Otis Hughes as Fire Chief — this was the beginning of what has become an ever-improving Volunteer Fire Department. Those men serving on the board at that time were J. Carroll Adkins, President; Lee Hardin, Clerk; and Trustees, Delbert Bell, Frank Madison, Eldredge Bahl, Elmer Knuppel, Howard Blakeley.



SHARP HAZARD

WHAT A BEARD!!

The Kilbourne Fire Protection District was formed in 1965 with J. Carroll Adkins, Franklin Sisson, and Clifford Friend appointed to be the directors. With tax funds from the district available, a new truck was purchased. At the present time Roy Lee Cowin is Chief; Robert Prater, Assistant Chief; and Donald Schaeffer, Secretary-Treasurer.

Two years ago, it was announced that plans were being made for the construction of a combination fire station and community center. Since that time, annually in July, the firemen have held a fish fry to earn money towards this goal.

Frank Hodgson, father of Arizona Hodgson Lampton, Albert, and Alvin Hodgson, wore a full beard all his life and kept it trimmed with clippers. The story is told that when he went to a barber in Havana to be shaved, the barber told him it would be too hard on his razor, and offered to pay him to go to another barber. Mr. Hodgson decided to keep his beard.

KILBOURNE COMMUNITY CLUB

The Kilbourne Community Club, which was established in the early forties, remained very active for many years and introduced traditions which are still carried on today. This club was originally a P.T.A. but was later changed to a community club with much emphasis placed on projects for the school.

This organization sponsored such annual events as the Father-Son Banquet, Mother-Daughter Banquet, community Christmas tree, and Santa treats. A variety of entertainment was provided at the monthly meetings including special guest speakers, movies, slides, musical programs, and productions by the youngsters of the community.

For several years, the club members were quite active in the Ground Observer Corps. These people acted as civilian volunteer plane spotters to prevent a sneak attack by aircraft and was a link in a national chain of such groups.

The last available records show that the final meeting of this organization was held in May, 1958.

KILBOURNE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB

The Kilbourne Women's Community Club was organized in September of 1967, by twenty-four women who wanted to be of service to their community.

Much of the club work is done for the children of the area including such projects as acting as "class-room mothers", assisting the school nurse in various health programs, providing transportation for the swim days sponsored by the Optimists, and helping with the refreshment stand during the Little League season. The school children and the firemen join with the Women's Club each year to set up a community Christmas tree and decorations in the business district. The Women's Club furnishes the treats given to all the children by Santa.

The current officers of the club are Mrs. Laura McDaniel, President; Mrs. Elsianne Sielschott, Vice-President; Mrs. Mary Boyle, Secretary; and Mrs. Shirley Daniel, Treasurer.

OPTIMIST CLUB

Several men from the area are members of the Bath-Lynchburg-Kilbourne Optimist Club. The slogan of this club is "Friend of the Boy" — and friends they are! Not only to the boys, but to all the youngsters of the Balyki School District. The co-sponsorship with the Bath Woman's Club of a milk program at the schools, a summer swimming program, and the annual Hallowe'en wiener roast are for all the youngsters. Those programs, just for boys, include the youth baseball program, the oratorical contest, and an annual trip to a St. Louis ball game for the Little Leaguers.

Funds for these activities are raised at the annual pancake and sausage supper and the lemon shake stand operated at the Bath Homecoming and the Kilbourne Firemen's Fish Fry.

The present officers are Albert Hoesman, President; Chadwick Mayall, Vice-President; Dave Fornoff, Secretary; Milford Sarff, Treasurer; and Robert Rennecker, Sergeant-at-Arms.

HOMEMAKERS' EXTENSION

The Kilbourne Homemakers' Extension (formerly the Home Bureau) was organized in 1929 with twenty-nine members. The Kilbourne organization was one of the charter units of Mason County.

At the present time, the organization has nine members. The current officers are Mildred Kramer, Chairman; Carole Lascelles, First Vice Chairman; Elsie Sutton, Second Vice President; Evelyn Thomas, Secretary; and Nelda Kolves, Treasurer.

FARM BUREAU

Many men of the area are members of the Mason County Farm Bureau. This organization was incorporated and chartered in Mason County in 1915.

One purpose of the Farm Bureau is to assist the members in acquiring a more thorough understanding of agriculture and also, to help develop more modern methods of farming. The Farm Bureau, in cooperation with the Illinois Agricultural Association, has been quite successful in representing the views of the farmers to the members of the State Legislature.

The Farm Service Company which is a supplier of petroleum products, fertilizers, seeds, weed killers, and other agricultural needs is associated with the Farm Bureau. The local distributor for many of these products is Earl Nall.

IMPROVEMENTS — 1970

Replacement of street lights with new vapor lights and installation of several new lights have helped to brighten the village at night.

Re-opening of the township dump, which had been closed for some time, gave citizens a chance to get rid of unsightly trash.

Did You Know —

Mrs. Nina Bell Waddell, now of Palos Verdes, California, was one of the pioneer air stewardesses. She flew as an American Airway Stewardess from August, 1933 to January 1937.

Did You Know —

Antiques are things one generation buys, the next generation gets rid of, and the following generation buys again!!!

VILLAGE OF KILBOURNE

In 1843, Aaron Ray received the original U. S. patent for the land on which the village of Kilbourne now stands. The village was platted by John B. Gum in 1870 and at that time extended two blocks farther west but this strip was never developed. In the book of revised ordinances published in 1908, the village was officially described as consisting of all territory contained within a one-square mile area.

Tradition says that the village was named for Edward Kilbourne of Keokuk, Iowa, a contractor who was working on the Springfield and Northwestern Railroad being built through here at that time. To substantiate this story, in copies of clippings provided by the Keokuk Public Library, we read that Mr. Edward Kilbourne did build a railroad in Illinois. Then there is the local story about Kilbourne scrapers, probably of the type used by Mr. Kilbourne in the construction of the railroad. However, Mrs. Ida Kilbourne of Minneapolis, Minnesota, whose hobby is all things concerning the name Kilbourne, feels that

the town was named for the promoter of the railroad. At any rate, we like our town's name and, according to the U. S. Postal Department records, there are only two other Kilbournes in our nation, in Louisiana and in Ohio.

The official seal of Kilbourne is inscribed as follows: Corporate Seal — December 26, 1903 — Village of Kilbourne. From this we assume that this was the date of incorporation. It is told that one argument for incorporation was the fact that since Oakford was wet and our town was dry, Kilbourne should be able to collect revenue from the saloons to use for police purposes.

The site of the Town Hall was purchased by the village and township from C. E. Conklin, May 25, 1904 for \$100.

The members of the Town Board in March, 1904 included President, E. A. Eddy; Clerk, Austin L. Wright; Attorney, Joseph E. Barnes; Marshal, E. J. Smith; Trustees, R. M. Goben, J. W. Pierce, C. W. Gum, and Jesse Black.



Our Village Officials — 1970 — front row, Tom Justice, Trustee; Mrs. Floye Hughes, Clerk (In looking through all available village records we found that Mrs. Hughes is the first woman to serve in our village government.); J. Carroll Adkins, Village President; Donald Conklin, Trustee. Second row, Jenith (Buster) Shults, Trustee; Harold Shores, Trustee; Glen Riegel, Trustee. Back row, Eldred Craggs, Treasurer; Raymond Bahl, Trustee.

JOHN B. GUM

If the tremendous gaps in the history of the village of Kilbourne, before and following its founding in 1870, could be filled in there would still be one outstanding figure — John B. Gum. Mr. Gum must have been a very ambitious man. In Alden Ogle's Plat Book in 1891 his occupation is listed as "capitalist" — the only one in Mason County. His optimism was shown, too, by his plans for Kilbourne; he platted sixty-three blocks in the original town. When you compare that with other original towns — Havana-35 blocks; Bath-15; Easton-7; Mason City-37 and San Jose-20 — he must have expected quite a population.

No old timers are left to explain his changing residence. The 1891 atlas gives his residence as Section Eight in Bath township and his post office as Saidora. A school house is shown on the same section, but General James M. Ruggle's History of Mason County (1879) mentioned him living at Kilbourne. He is remembered as having a large house in the country about one-fourth mile south of the Kilbourne Baptist Church. There are those who remember this house being occupied by Hickman B. Samuell, who later became Mason County Circuit Clerk and whose son, Paul, attended the school where Jo Ann Schoonover now lives and grew up to become Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court in 1930. This house burned and the Samuell family temporarily moved into what had been John Schyler's Harness Shop which stood on property now owned by Charles Pratt.

He was born in 1821 and after living with his father, Jesse B. Gum, at Clary's Grove in Menard County, is listed as coming to Mason County in 1870.

His land holdings were extensive even for those days. An 1874 atlas shows him owning eleven tracts of land in Kilbourne township totaling 3580 acres and at the same time he owned eighteen tracts totaling 2772 acres in Bath township — a grand total of 6352 acres. Seventeen years later, by 1891, this had diminished to nine tracts in Kilbourne township totaling 2061 acres and eleven tracts in Bath township totaling 1845 acres — a grand total of 3906 acres.

Most of the Kilbourne township land which lies south and southeast of the village wound up in the hands of the Turners and Hergets of Pekin. Although it had several tenants, it was made a single unit in the 1900's and its business transacted in the name of "The Gum Farm". It remained "The Gum Farm" until 1956 when the tract was broken into parcels and sold at auction with the Turners and other heirs buying the individual farms. One tract sold to cover legal and sale expenses was bought by Dr. J. P. Sparks of Manito.

The southwest quarter of Section 28 where Mr. Gum laid out the village of Kilbourne was registered in the name of Moses Ray in 1843. He transferred it to his son, Aaron Ray, and later it was owned by C. W. Raymond, also A. J. Field, who transferred it to John B. Gum in 1870.

It was generally accepted that Mr. Gum's idea in establishing the village was to provide a rail outlet for grain as the Springfield and Northwestern railroad through here was being built and by 1871 it had reached a few miles into Menard County. Prior to that time grain from this area, including Crane Creek, was hauled in sacks to Bath where it was loaded on steam boats. So-called elevators were built here but they had no hoisting machinery. The driveways were steep and the floors high. The grain went into bins alongside the track and from there it was scooped into railroad cars.

Nobody is left to explain why Gum later built an elevator on the east side of the railroad about a mile below town. The two sand mounds, which remained there until they were bulldozed down in building State highway number 97, were known almost to the last as Gum's elevator hills.

Gum was an extensive farmer and had many horses and mules. One large group of mules was surrounded by rising waters of Pecan Run for several days. Thereafter, that spot on the creek was known as "Mule Pen".

An example of the varied interests of Mr. Gum is shown by an item in the Mason County Democrat, March 27, 1891:

"A score or more of Havana people took the trip up river the first of the week on the celebrated new steamer, Emma. Sam Sivley, captain and John B. Gum, owner".



KILBOURNE TOWN HALL

"The Revised Ordinances of the Village of Kilbourne" were published in 1908. The village officers at that time were President, John C. Young; Trustees, Joseph Zirkle, H. C. Ruggles, George B. Hall, B. F. Phillips, C. D. Marcy, and H. A. Field; Clerk, C. H. Hale; Treasurer, H. C. Conklin; Police Magistrate, Joseph E. Barnes; Village Marshal, H. E. McWhorter.



Our Township Officials — 1970 — Seated, Harold Pratt, Supervisor; Charles Dearing, Assessor; Edison Sarff, Auditor; Wesley Curry, Clerk. Standing — Irwin Gebhards, Auditor; Eldred Craggs, Auditor; Theodore Sisson, Road Commissioner.

KILBOURNE TOWNSHIP

In 1841 when Mason County was formed, our region was included in Texas Precinct, bounded on the east by Salt Creek Township (Crane Creek was a part of Salt Creek until two years later), on the west by the Illinois River, and on the south by the Sangamon. Therefore, Texas Precinct included what now is Lynchburg, Bath, and Kilbourne Townships. A couple of years later, the name of Texas Precinct was changed to Bath Precinct.

It is interesting to note the early county officials who (we think) were from this general area. William McDaniel and Nelson B. Ashurst are listed as among the first supervisors in 1841. The first grand jurors included John G. Conover, Thomas F. Blunt, William

Dew, and Anderson Young. With the list of the travis (petit) jurors' names we find George Close, James Yardley, Henry Sears, James Ray, Laben Blunt, Washington Daniel, Benjamin Sisson, and James Blakeley. Albert J. Field and Arthur Morrow were the first Justices of the Peace.

Twenty years later, the precinct system was abolished, and township organization took its place. Three tiers of sections from Bath and a similar amount from Crane Creek Township were joined together to form the new Kilbourne Township in 1873. Early supervisors after this change included A. S. Blakeley, William Dwyer Sr., and James M. Hardin. J. S. Bingham and C. L. Newell were Justices of the Peace at the time of the writing of the Mason County history in 1879.

Did You Know —

Some of our early inhabitants, before 1841 — when Mason County was founded, could say that they had lived in three counties without moving — Sangamon, Menard, and Mason.

Ripley Recognizes Kilbourne —

Kilbourne made the "Believe It or Not" feature article of Robert Ripley. Official censuses of 1920 and 1930 gave Kilbourne the same population — 393. Mr. Ripley added the strange coincidence to his vast collection of "believe it or not" facts.



Senior Citizens of 1970 — Have lived in area at one time — This picture was taken at a tea held in their honor at Kilbourne Grade School July 12, 1970.

First Row — Louisa Morris Moog, Ethel Friend Keest, Gertie Williamson Ermeling, Maggie Shafer Bell, Walter Upp, Herbert Drake, Edith Blakeley Prettyman, Vada Smith Wallace, Wilburn Close

Second Row — Lena Leiding, Ella Larson Barrett, Cari Keest, Reka Leithoff Mowder, Lula Murphy Abernathy, Jesse Miller, Anna Keest Blakeley, Frank H. Madison, Roy Ranson, Lota Murphy Wallace, Clarence Stroh, Charles Lane.



MRS. MAGGIE BELL, 93 -- WALTER UPP, 90



Allen Clark, 101, and daughters, Alta Brooks of Chandlerville and Alice Lane of Kilbourne.



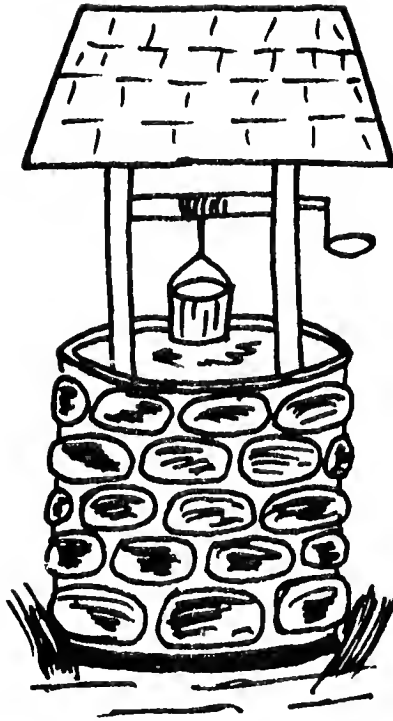
GIRLS IN CENTENNIAL DRESSES AT MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET — May 15, 1970 — 1st Row — Christine Cowin, Debbie Ebken, Ronda Ebken, Janice Ebken, Jeanine Sisson. 2nd Row — Kim Daniel, Brenda and Robin Hodgson, Nanette Prater, Brenda Shoemaker, Mary Kay Ebken. 3rd Row — Pamela Conklin, Sally Jo Goben, Wendy Daniel, Vanessa Johnson, Vivian Hughes, Ronda Shoemaker, Denise Blakeley.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Following is a list of 80 year oldsters now living in Kilbourne Township as compiled by Walter Upp, our oldest Kilbourne Senior Citizen:

Mrs. Ella Larson Barrett, Mrs. Ella Craggs Beckwith, James Beams, Wilburn Close, Flora

 Collins, Thomas P. Dobson, Dr. Albert C. Field, Jennie Jackson Curry Godbey, Gordon Hardin, Alice Draper Dolbin Hardin, Frank Hughes, Carl Keest, Ethel Friend Keest, Frank H. Madison, William Otto, Dave Reynolds, Alex Sinclair, Edgar Wallace, Vada Smith Wallace, Edward White, George Webb, W. D. Upp.



KILBOURNE

Mr. & Mrs. Theora Hodgson & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Keest
 Mr. Frank Hughes
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Vanderveen
 Mr. Blaine Close
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Ebken, Ronda
 and Greg
 Mrs. Vada Wallace
 Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Daniel & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Blakeley & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Prater & Nanette
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Justice
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lee and Darlene
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Pollari & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Curry & Sons
 Mr. & Mrs. George Prater
 Mrs. Lola Clark
 Mrs. Hazel Hughes
 Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Hardin
 Harold & Betty Baker, Janice, Virginia
 and Rosalyn
 Mrs. JoAnn Schoonover and Sons
 Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Pedigo
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Ray
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Lee Cowin and Family
 Mrs. Rose Tribbett
 Mr. & Mrs. Rue Whitlow
 Miss Mayme Barrett
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Pratt
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bale
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cowin
 Mr. Thomas Hardin
 Mrs. John I. Wallace
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Conklin & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vanderveen
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schaeffer & Family

Well Wishers (cash contributors)

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Sisson & Family
 Mrs. Dorothy Stufflebeam
 Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Yow
 Eva Mae and Sheila Foster
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Hardy
 Mr. Orville Gosnell
 Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Dye & Family
 Mrs. Amanda Stout
 Mr. & Mrs. Cleveland Goben & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dearing
 Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Sisson & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Adkins & Family
 Mrs. Olof Lane
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Boyle & Randy
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Riegel
 Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Bell, Randy & Kristine
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sielschott & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Daniel
 Mrs. Alma Missal
 Mr. & Mrs. George Robison
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Johnson & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Shoemaker & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Sielschott & Martha
 Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Nall
 Mr. & Mrs. Hal Ringland
 Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Goben
 Mr. & Mrs. Burke Ebken & Jeff
 Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Gebhards
 Mr. & Mrs. Leo VanEtten
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Eddy
 Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Robison
 Mr. & Mrs. Milburn Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ebken
 Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Friend
 Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Bell
 Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Blakeley
 Mr. & Mrs. Dallas Drake
 Mr. Cecil Curry
 Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Blakeley
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rennecker & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Ebken, Mary Kay
 & Janice
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Sisson
 Mr. & Mrs. Franklin (Bud) Sisson & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Willing & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Williams & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Jenith Schults & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ebken
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mibbs
 Mr. W. R. Close
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bahl
 Mr. Harvey Sisson
 Mr. & Mrs. Vernal Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. William McCoy & Tim
 Mrs. Gussie Craggs
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Williamson & Mark
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben Cave
 Mr. Edgar Wallace & George Allen

Mrs. Effie Vaughn
 Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Curry & Cathie
 Mr. & Mrs. John Hodgson, John Jr. & Joel
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Riegel
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Branson
 Mr. & Mrs. Junior Lynn
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Walsh
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gosnell
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Zimmerman
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lynn & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Lascelles & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kirby
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hawks
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Tibbs
 Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Stout & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale VanEtten & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. William Wallace & Lynn
 Mr. James Walker
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Witherall
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Showalter & Boys
 Georgene Prater Fletcher

BATH

Mr. & Mrs. William H. Lane
 Mr. & Mrs. Billy Lane & Family
 Mr. Leonard Lane
 Mr. & Mrs. Loyd Daniel

PETERSBURG

Mrs. Flossie Conklin

OAKFORD

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sisson & Family
 Mr. Charles Wiseman

EASTON

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Beckman

HAVANA

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Friend
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kramer
 Mr. & Mrs. George Strawbridge
 Mr. Loren Himmell
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Walker
 Miss Carol Kreiling
 Mr. Lyle Wheeler

Mrs. Addie Sears
 Mr. & Mrs. George Mohlman
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Friend & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. John W. Wallace, Stacey
 & Melissa

MACOMB

Mr. & Mrs. Loren Vance

PEKIN

David & Bonnie Friend

CREVE COEUR

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sears

CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Irma Blakeley Harvey

VIRGINIA

Lt. Col. & Mrs. Robert Justice & Family

BUSINESS SPONSORS

HAVANA

Woessner's Variety Store
Lemmer, Velde, Boggs, and Krehaum
Ed Skaggs Lumber Co.
Don Blessman Insurance
Knuppel, Grosbell, Becker, and Tice
Pekin Distributing Co.
Deckard's Rexall Drug
Havana Auto Parts Co.
Morgan's Super Market
Gamble Store
Gary's Barber Shop
Kruse Fertilizer Service Co
Western Auto Associates Store — Richard & Betty Moehring
Bee's Restaurant
State Bank of Havana
Havana National Bank
Hurley Funeral Home
Kar-Stel Chevrolet
Wolters Drug Store
Pepsi Cola Co.
Oney's Super Value
Sears Catalog Merchant
Cunningham's Shoe Store
H. J. Hackman
Stahl Furniture Co.
Lynn's Flowers
Knoles Flowers
Karl's Variety
Hines Jewelers
Haslam Cleaners
James Stufflebeam
Main Shoppe
Walker's Jewelry
Schmidt's Clothing
Wehner's Furniture
Zempel Hardware
Payne's Furniture
Carp's
Ken's Shoe Repair
Weddle's I G A
Havana Grill
Elliot Paint Store
Stephens & Sons Furniture

BEARDSTOWN

Emil E. Rink Distributing Co.

KILBOURNE

Fornoff Fertilizer Co.
Frank's Shell
Hardwood Lumber Products Co.
Hodgson's Fruit Stand
Pat and Kate Lawson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lynn
Shorty's Tavern
Showalter's Market and Greenhouse — Chubb, Erma & Boys
Wieber Oil Co.

PEKIN

Riverside Lumber Co. — James Bailey
Pekin Hardwood Lumber Co.

OAKFORD

Art Anderson Fertilizer

PETERSBURG

National Bank of Petersburg

JACKSONVILLE

James A. Barnes

EASTON

Mason Co. Service Co.
Community Bank of Easton

INDIAN POINT

Mapco





THE AMERICAN AND THE SERVICE FLAGS — as they flew over the square in 1918. We want to take this means of expressing our appreciation for all of this area who have served our country, from the Civil War through today. Many have made the supreme sacrifice. Any list would probably be incomplete, therefore, our love and respect to all of them, and to you of 1970.

MC DANIEL'S YEAST

When our mothers and grandmothers thought they could not bake good bread without McDaniel's Yeast? It was made in their home by George and Mayme McDaniel and daughters, Essie and Ruby, from a recipe handed down from the maternal grandmother of Mrs. McDaniel.

At first they made it only for their own family use and now and then for a neighbor. The word spread, folks came to their home to buy, others ordered by mail. The demand grew until the McDaniel's were delivering to stores in Kilbourne, Havana, Bath, and Oakford, driving the white-faced sorrel ponies, Captain and Queen, known for miles around.

The yeast ingredients were mixed in a large wooden tub kept only for that purpose, then rolled out and cut into cookie-shaped round cakes. After drying for 4-5 days on tiers of screen-like shelves, the yeast cakes could be stored. During World War I they purchased their corn meal directly from the miller with a manufacturer's permit, three 100-pound bags at a time. This yeast was of higher potency than most on the market and housewives had to learn how much to use or, as someone said, they would have "bread dough all over the town."

In the early 1920's baker's bread became popular, automobiles made shopping quicker and easier, and the McDaniel's yeast making business became history.

SOME OF KILBOURNE'S FIRSTS:

First Marriage — Jacob Clotfelter to Mary Garrett — 1839

First R.E.A. Line — October 1938 — Among the first on this line were Henry Tibbs, Tom Kirby, Ross Lee, and Henry Miller — A line was run to Gilbert Bell's in 1939

Among the first to use Delco Lights were Jim Walker, Cress Bell, Carl Hughes, and Frank Daniel

Among the first to raise soy beans were Delbert Bell, Roy Ranson and Brady Stone

One of the first to raise alfalfa in the area was Roy Ranson who used seed his father had brought from Kansas

One of the first to recognize the soil building qualities of sweet clover was George Crane in 1913

Do You Remember —

"The Three Musketeers" played for the Memorial Day services at the Methodist Church yard and led the procession to the cemetery. Dr. Root played the fife, Jake Garrett the snare drum, and Cal Conklin the big bass drum. Children carried flowers to place on the graves.

These names are representative of the men who have served our town and township government since the village was incorporated. Because of incomplete records, we cannot name everyone, but to all who gave their time and talents we give our thanks.

T. R. Blunt, H. C. Conklin, G. L. McDaniel, Roy F. Upp, C. H. Hale, J. A. Conklin, D. M. Comingore, G. J. Ermeling, Frank Pratt, Robert Dolbin, C. F. Craggs, John Bahl, E. L. Willing, E. J. Shirtcliff, John Grissom, Charles Schaad, Wm. Dwyer, J. S. Davis, Dexter Curry, Frank Davis, John Prief, R. M. Goben, P. O. Folk, L. C. Carter, Clyde Wallace, John Sutton, Alva Craggs, Leslie Conklin, H. M. Ade, O. R. Madison, Edwin Blakeley, J. E. Smith, Harry Howe, Asa Watkins, George Hobbs, H. A. Beckwith, H. S. Clark, Wesley Craggs, Clell Daniel, Charles A. Bearden, Benjamin Sutton, H. E. McWhorter, Hal Ringland, Carl Gosnell, Frank Baker, A. L. Wright, G. W. Clotfelter, Henry Beckwith, Joseph Zirkle, J. E. Barnes, E. A. Eddy, C. G. Close, Frank Phillips, George Hale, P. G. Mahan, Henry C. Ruggles, C. D. Marcy, H. A. Field, John C. Young, Fred Garrett, George Scheuering, W. D. Upp, Frank Daniel, Dallas Craggs, L. L. Craggs, James Duckwiler, W. I. Edwards, Glen Hughes, W. O. Barkus, Frank Hughes, C. E. Hughes, D. A. Yarnall, F. Friend, E. McNeal, Earl Carter, L. O. Goben, Donald Dolbin, George Hobbs, Edison Sarff, Isley Craggs, Paul Friend, Charles Friend, D. L. Martin, Clinton Craggs, Frank Madison, Clifford Friend, Harold O. Pratt, Fred Clark, Gilbert Craggs, E. J. Lane, George Prater, H. L. Blakeley, Delbert A. Bell, J. A. Sinclair, Wilburn R. Close, Walter Garrett, Chester Hopper, J. Carroll Adkins, William Cave, Frank Stout, Eldredge Bahl, George D. Craggs, Elmer Knuppel, Lee Hardin, Walter Garrett, William McCoy, Harold Sears, Roy Lee Cowin, Eldred Craggs, Mrs. Floye Hughes.

THANK YOU

1870 1970

KILBOURNE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEES

(As submitted by Committee Chairmen)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Roy Cowin, Chairman; Maurine Ebken, Secretary; Alfred Baker; Donald Conklin; Wendell Daniel; Geneva Gebhards; Milford Sarff; Dorothy Stufflebeam.

ANTIQUES AND HOBBIES: Alice Wieber, Chairman

The antique exhibit — cars, clothing, children's furniture and toys, dishes, furniture, kitchen utensils, guns, Indian artifacts and history, harness, machinery and horse-drawn conveyances, papers, pictures and photographs, tools, and historic sites, was a co-operative community effort. Everyone assisted. Family treasures were loaned to those in charge of showing the various antiques. Both men and women willingly set up the exhibits and provided day and night security for these irreplaceables.

BEARDS AND BONNETS: Ted Sisson, Chairman; Gary Bell; Joyce Bell; Ed Close; Evelyn Johnson; John Johnson; Ruth Sisson

CONCESSIONS: Bill Lane and Don Schaeffer, Co-chairmen; Ed Dossett; Bill Freeman; Stan Huey; Bob Lynn; Bob Prater; Charles Showalter

ENTERTAINMENT: Mary Boyle, Chairman; Harold Baker; Linda Baker; Stanley Butler; Jim Conklin; Erla Ebken; Ann Hodgson; Charlotte Hodgson; Ronald Shoemaker; Erma Showalter

FINANCE: Hazel Hughes, Chairman; Blanche Hawks, Vice-Chairman; Dave Fornoff, Secretary-Treasurer; Delbert Bell; Wesley Curry; Mickie Fletcher; Theora Hodgson; Doris Sisson; Raymond Yow

FIX-UP AND CLEAN-UP: Eddie Dossett and Scouts

HOMECOMING: Beulah Reynolds; Alma Missal; Lloyd and Elsie Sutton

PARADE: "Cuddy" and Verniece Wallace, Co-chairmen; Darryl and Gay Ebken; Ronald and Diane Ebken; Ted and Shelby Sisson; Ken and Mary Thomas

PUBLICITY: Frank Madison, Chairman; Eva Mae Foster; Hallie Hamblin; Twila Shoemaker; Frank Sisson

PRIZES: Glendora Blakeley, Alice Pratt, Mary Ellen Rennecker, Edison Sarff, Delbert Wieber

SOUVENIRS: Jim and Vicki Fornoff, Bill Freeman, Grace Johnson, Ivan and Clara Robison, Roger and Sandi Robison

VESPER SERVICE: Rev. Raymond Yow, Chairman; Rev. Robert J. Martin, Rev. Kenneth Thomas, Rev. Walter Welch, Rev. Arthur P. Schauer, Shelby Sisson, Alice Wieber

A few months ago, we were asked to write a book about our community in commemoration of our centennial year. Because there was no single source of material, we have enlisted the help of countless people, presently or formerly of this area. It is to all of these we wish to express our heart-felt thanks.

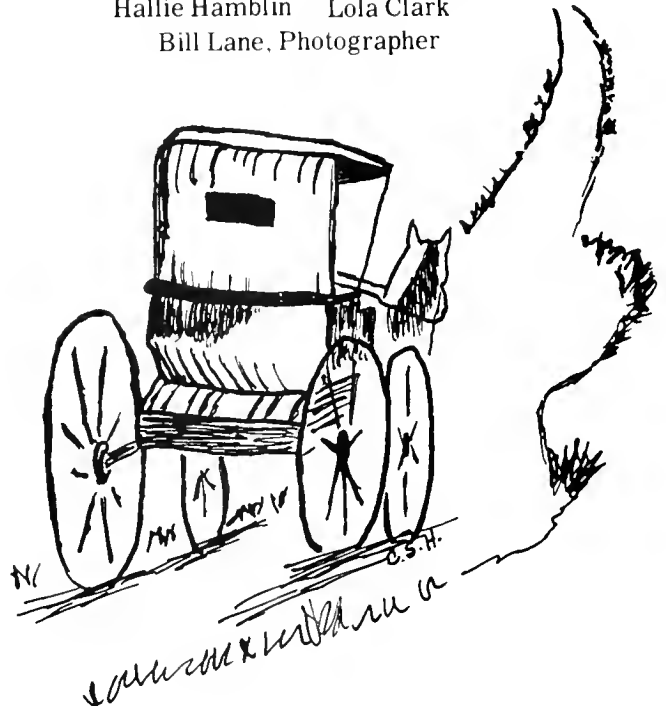
We want to especially remember the "savers" — those responsible for that stack of wonderful old newspapers, and those from far and near who passed on their clippings, keepsakes, and precious family records. Our sincere appreciation goes to the trusting folks who allowed us the use of their photographs (we learned again the importance of names and dates on pictures), friends who offered the use of county histories and atlases, the people at the Mason County Court House for their patience and help in looking up records so rich in local history, those who shared memories that filled the many gaps in our story, and to the assistants who gathered data and gave us write-ups of various phases of our community history.

We appreciate the work of Charlotte S. Hodgson in designing the book cover and most of the illustrations and of Arlis Vanderveen for her sketches representative of Kilbourne yesterday and today.

Without all this wonderful assistance, we would never have been able to make our "scribblings", and without our typist, Shirley Daniel, the printer could never have deciphered them.

So many have cooperated in writing **your** book. To each of you, from each of us — Thank you!

Janet Prater Becki Craggs
Ruth Lynn Mayme Barrett
Hallie Hamblin Lola Clark
Bill Lane, Photographer



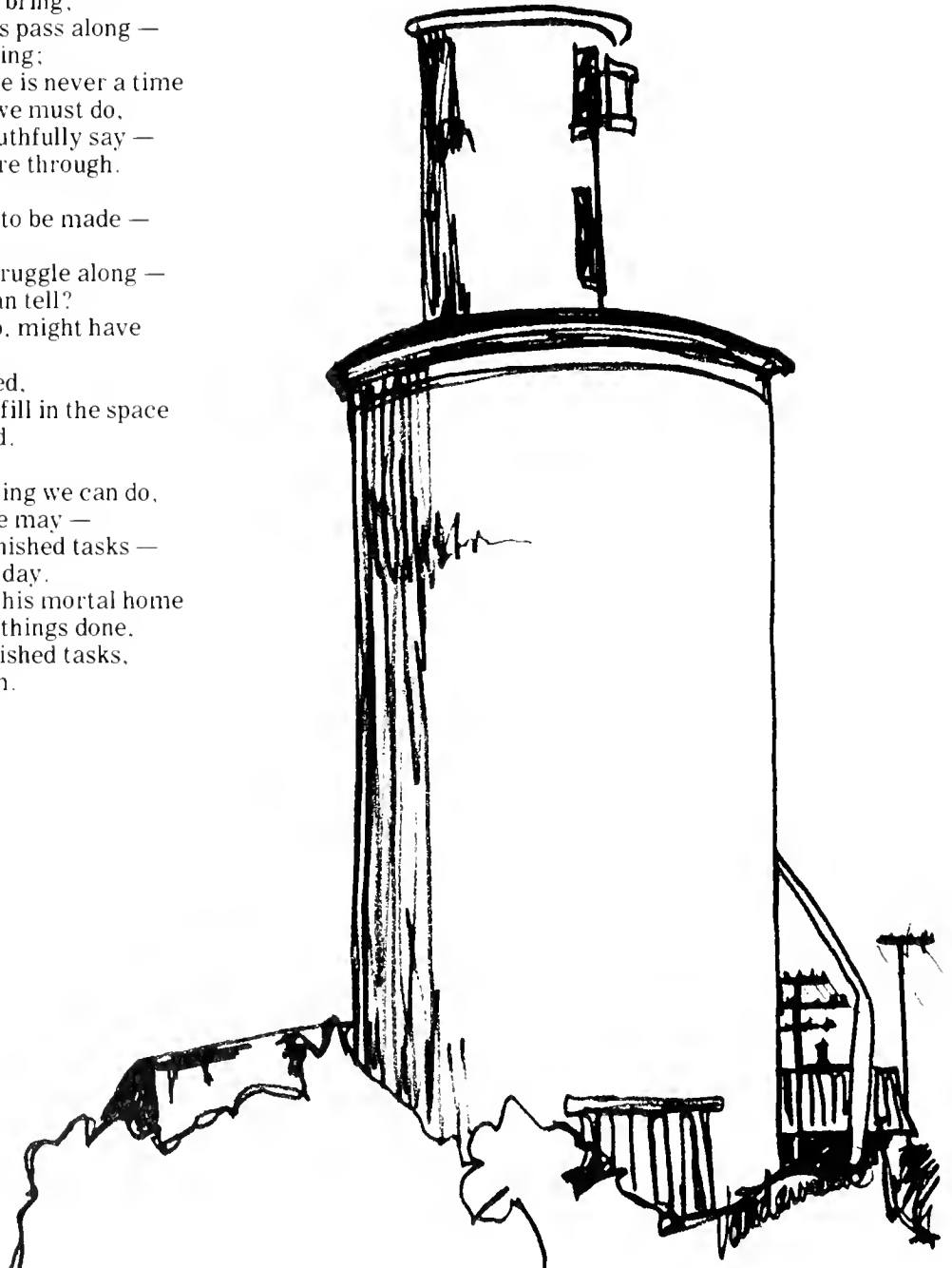
THE UNFINISHED TASK
By Hazel Lucille (Geisler) Edwards

Many times have we read of the unfinished task —
The work that was left undone,
We've heard fine speakers, in eloquent words
We've remembered the songs that were sung:
All seemed far away, remote to our lives —
As we live these lives, day by day
But the meaning comes home, realized in truth
When a loved one has passed away.

We think in the evening of a day worthwhile,
And plan work tomorrow will bring:
A week and a month and years pass along —
They pass like a bird on the wing:
With all that we've done, there is never a time
But there's something more we must do,
For ne'er can we say, very truthfully say —
We've every thing done, we are through.

A book to be published, a trip to be made —
A story that's ready to sell,
An invention to help people struggle along —
How many such tasks, who can tell?
A little time longer these, too, might have
 been done —
To carry on life as was planned,
Then some other thing would fill in the space
Of the unfinished task on hand.

There seems to be only one thing we can do,
Accomplish each day what we may —
Thus leaving the least of unfinished tasks —
As the sun sinks and ends our day,
So living, that, passing from this mortal home
Leaving so many worthwhile things done,
Others who know of our unfinished tasks,
Will accept them and carry on.



N

KILBOURNE
GRADE SCHOOL



TO CONOVER

HAVANA

POPLAR ST

LOCUST ST

ELM ST

WALNUT ST

CHESTNUT ST

BIRCH ST

PINE ST

WILLING ST

KILBOURNE
CEMETERY



6th St

5th St

4th St

3rd St

2nd St

8th St

7th St

C. & N.W. RAILROAD

ROUTE 99

BLACK TOP ROAD

TO PRATT CEMETERY

TO OAK FORK

PETERBURG

SPRINGFIELD



3 0112 050750972

