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Elizabeth Killie, comp.  
Kilmundy: Railway to Thurway, 1857-  
1957. (1957)

UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS

**K I N M I N A**

**Railway to Thruway**

**9857 - 1957**

# *Dedication*

To those early Kimmundians who founded this community, and to those who continued building it; to those whose names are listed here; and to those whose names did not reach us in time to be included, we dedicate this book. To those present day citizens, who have joined in making this hundredth birthday party a time to remember, and whose wonderful spirit of cooperation promises much for the future of our community, we dedicate this book.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| T. M. and Bessie King Smith              | F. D. P. and Martha Rutherford Snelling |
| Fred J. and Elizabeth Tomlinson Nirider  | Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Banning              |
| Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Pruett                | Lew A. and Ethel Wantland Alderson      |
| Miss Mollie A. Songer                    | Barney Alderson                         |
| Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Songer                | Charles B. and Annie G. Rohrbough       |
| Christian J. and Elizabeth Feller Hiller | Rev. and Mrs. William R. Bradley        |
| Leander C. and Elizabeth Lydiek Matthews | John H. Nehms                           |
| John M. and Martha Tucker Rotan          | Dr. Charles H. Dennis                   |
| Martin and Barbara Phillips Schoenborn   | D. A. and Susanna Fairall Porter        |
| Charles E. and Kate Schoenborn Buswell   | Charles E. and Hazel Dennis Siemer      |
| R. C. and Hannah Robb                    | Moses and Elizabeth Green Swift         |
| Mr. and Mrs. Eli Coumant                 | Charles M. and Mary Elizabeth Neavill   |
| Mr. and Mrs. James Harvey Gray           | Frank V. and Brenice Young Davis        |
| Clarence and Virginia Gray Hanna         | Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Miner             |
| Clarence Schooley                        | A. S. and Ellen Doty Schermerhorn       |
| Capt. and Anna Moore Rohrbough           | A. V. and Belle Dillon Schermerhorn     |
| Edwin and Katherine Groves Wormley       | Gottlieb and Rachel Hope Fenster        |
| The Melvin Downs Family                  | S. R. Wooley                            |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Mendenhall            | Roy Fenster                             |
| Mr. and Mrs. John Merchant               | Gustin L. and Jennie D. Eagan           |
| Gilbert Ward Morgan                      | Charles H. and Rose Dillon West         |
| Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hargrave             | Jesse and Louisa George                 |
| Mr. and Mrs. James T. Sexton             | Owen and Dovey Gray George              |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Warren                | Walter S. George                        |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bosley                | Ray George                              |
| Louis M. and Jennie B. Rotan             | William and Elizabeth Holt Morris       |
| Mr. and Mrs. Denton Gray                 | Pleasant P. Robnett                     |
| Elroy and Jennie Hallett Snelling        | Anna Chalfant                           |
| David P. and Hannah A. Snelling          | Mr. and Mrs. Noah Robnett               |
| George and Emma Snelling                 | James E. Williams                       |

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Riley Williams	John and Lois Nelms Robb
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver P. Vallow	F. M. and Julia Lowe Robb
W. W. and Frances Gunn Neil	James Harvey Gray
Non Harlan	Mary Gray Ingram
Charles and Adora Lowry Shufeldt	Robert Lee Ingram
Henry and Ida Shriver Warren	Jennie Bascom Grisson
J. Oscar Cox	Levi C. and Sarah King Rohrbough
George and Elizabeth Brammer West	The Emmett Porter Family
James B. and Elizabeth Parker McBryde	Dr. A. J. G. and Julia Gould Hall
J. P. and Sallie McBryde Steen	George P. and Anna Foster Tomlinson
Richard P. and Mary E. West McBryde	S. J. and Elzora Ray Allen
Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wilkinson	James O. and Anna Humphrey Fish
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Telford	The Seawthorn Family
William L. and Harriett Forshee King	
Will and Nellie Reynolds	
Oscar N. and Gertrude Tyner	
M. A. Snelling Babcock	
William Coleman	
Erasmus and Mary Jane Jones Eagan	
Isaac and Athaline Eagan	
J. F. and Mary C. Hockaday	
The Storrs Family	
A. M. and Sallie Howel Allen	
Edwin Charles and Nellie Holbrook Bargh	
George Holbrook Bargh	
John and Mary Fancher Hammer	
Diek Atkins	
George Dillon	
John R. Dillon	
Howard L. Robb	

# Dedication



to **Mrs. Harriet DeVore**, "Aunt Harriet," who was born in Ohio in 1852. She remembers as a little girl, the Civil War and Morgan's raiders, and recalls the day when a neighbor told her family of Lincoln's assassination. After the death of her husband in 1891 she brought her nine children to Kimmunity, where her parents had moved in 1872. She was the baby nurse of the community and most young mothers of this area asked her to be with them when their babies were born. July 24 is her 105th birthday, and if her health permits, she will receive old friends during the Centennial, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Florence Franklin, where she now lives.

to **Miss Luella Parill**, who celebrated her 94th birthday by baking her own cake and inviting the neighbors in. She is the only one of these ladies who have been able to participate in the Centennial activities, and has been an honored guest at the Fund raising dinner, and other celebrations. She lives alone and does her own house keeping. Born in Meacham township, she moved with her family to Kimmunity in October 1907. She worked in Chicago for many years and returned to her old home in 1930.



to **Mrs. Elzora Dennis Nelms**, who was born in Zanesville, Ohio, in October, 1863 and came to Kimmunity with her family, the Alee Porters, when she was a year and a half old. She was in the millinery business for 20 years, a milliner for 10 years in the shop of Miss Mollie Souger and then in her own shop in her home, on Madison street. She now lives near the Methodist church, of which she is a lifelong member, with her brother, Frank Porter and her daughter, Mrs. Hallie Combs.

to **Mrs. Nan Whisnant**, who would have been 97 on August 26, and intended to celebrate before that by riding in the Centennial parade. She was born in Jennings Co., Indiana in 1860 and moved with her parents to a farm near Salem when she was about a year old. After her marriage in 1879 to David C. Whisnant, she moved to a farm near Kimmunity and later to town where she lived alone after Mr. Whisnant's death in 1926. A few years ago she was forced by failing health to give up her home and live with relatives. A recent serious illness caused her to be moved to a nursing home, tho she was able to go to a family reunion on June 15. A short time later she fell, breaking a hip and arm. She did not recover.



to **Mrs. Sara McGee Miller**, who was born in Carol County, Virginia, on March 11, 1859. Her family came west in a covered wagon when she was a child. When one of their horses died, they stopped at a small mining town near Washington, Indiana where they lived for some years, her father working as a miner. Later they moved to Sandoval, where she married Theodore "Pete" Miller in 1888 and moved to Kimmunity where Mr. Miller worked in the mine till it closed. She died on March 1, 1957, at the age of 98.

# Board of Directors



Members of the Centennial Board, left to right, standing, Rodney Schooley, Carl Dunlap, Lewis O'Dell, Mrs. Maxine Robb, treasurer, Jesse George Dr. Dwight Hanna, president. Seated, Mayor E. E. Jahraus, Mrs. Lura Robnett, secretary.

## COMMITTEES

**FINANCE:** Harvey Hanna, Mrs. Effie Crain, Ray Vandaveer, Emmett Gray, Bud Robnett, C. B. Alderson.

**GOVERNORS:** E. E. Jahraus, Mark Arnold, Arno Miller, Elwin Ingram, Robert Marshall, Ellis Johnson, Fred Mischbrook.

**PARADE:** Mrs. Lola Robb, Pauline Baggett, Mrs. Marge Loyd, Gene Ernst, Jesse George, Rev. Rufus Gerkin, Dwight Ingram, Mrs. Maxine Robb, Glen Johnson.

**HOSPITALITY:** Mrs. Lillian Grissom, Elna Brown, Mrs. Dorothy McCulley, Oroux Leach, Mrs. Amelia Vallow, Mrs. Dorcas Miller, Alta Baggett, Mrs. Pearl Fisher, Mrs. Mildred Brown, Mrs. Ferdie Leach, Fred Grissom, Arno Miller.

**CONCESSIONS:** Fred Gammon, Fred Kleiss, Dan Hiestand, Roy Doolen, Wayne Robb, R. R. Atkins, George Feather.

**PUBLICITY:** Mrs. Adina LeMay, Elizabeth Killie, Mrs. Phyllis See, Oroux Leach, Arno Miller, Mildred Kleiss, Russell Williams, Mrs. Bertha Johnson.

**FIREWORKS:** Jesse George, Ray Vandaveer, Virgil See, Wayne Robb, Dwight Gray, Virgil McPatrick, Orville Gordon Jr., Robert Geiler.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND PARKING:** Harvey Brown, Tom Helpingstine.

**GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS:** Mrs. Ruth Alexander, Mrs. Louise Feather, Mrs. Bernice Alderson, E. F. Linton.

**CENTENNIAL DINNER FUND RAISING:** Mrs. Ferdie Leach, Mrs. Maxine Robb, Bill Green, Jesse George, Dwight Hanna, Wayne Robb, Cecil Bosley, Harvey Hanna, Lloyd Bailey.

**FUND RAISING DINNER:** Mrs. Huffy Hanna, Mrs. Maxine Robb, J. N. Vallow, Katherine Wormley, Mrs. Effie Crain, Mrs. Lura Robnett, Mrs. Tillie Hulsev, Fred Kleiss, Mrs. Pearl Hanna, Mrs. Wanda Eagan, Mrs. Edith Hammer, Mrs. Millie Bassett, Mrs. Imogene Hammer.

**FUND RAISING DINNER DECORATIONS:** Mrs. Alice Lewin, Mrs. Maud Holt, Mrs. Lou Neudthey, Mrs. Alma

Ernst, Wilma Touchers, Mrs. Lora Ingram, Mrs. Virginia Montgomery, Mrs. Mary Esther Jones, Mrs. Florence Weiss, Mrs. Fern Ballance.

**FARMERS DINNER:** James Eagan, Howard Hammer, Wayne Robb, Gilbert Doolen, Bill Green, John Phillips, Gene Ernst, Dwight Hanna.

**HISTORICAL DISPLAY:** Mrs. Elizabeth Linn, Mrs. Ruth Linton, Mrs. Bertha See, Mrs. Huffy Hanna, Mrs. Grace Mendenhall, Elizabeth Killie, Glenn Jahraus, Mrs. Dorothy Schooley, A. C. Dunlap.

**RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES:** Jamie McGee, Fred Kleiss, Fr. Strzelce, Rev. Earl Phillips, Rev. Rufus Gerkin, Rev. A. C. Martin, Mrs. Bertha See, Mrs. Lewis O'Dell, Mrs. Dorothy McCulley, Mrs. Lillian Grissom, Mrs. Ferdie Leach, E. J. Rotan, Mrs. Margaret Shuffeldt, Mrs. Thelma Bailey, Lehard Brasel, Emmett Gray, Gilbert Doolen, Russell Williams, Mrs. Amelia Vallow, Gene Ernst, Mrs. Maxine Robb, John Wm. McCulley, Tom Helpingstine, Fred Gammon, Fred Alexander, Ray Ingram, Paul Montgomery.

**HOMECOMING:** Mrs. Margaret Shuffeldt, E. O. Grissom, J. E. Maxey, J. R. Mahan, Mrs. Bertha Pruett, Mrs. Florence Franklin.

**CENTENNIAL BALL:** Wayne Robb, Mrs. Alice White, Mrs. Lola Robb, Merle Jackson, Bill Lux, Charles Bassett, Ray Olden, Frosty Jones, George Feather.

**HEARD AND COSTUME:** Charles Bassett, Mrs. Alice White, Glenn Doolen, Mrs. Lola Robb, E. A. Motch, Harry Lloyd, Wayne Whittney, Harry Geiler.

**CITY CLEANUP:** E. F. Linton, D. J. Alexander, Emmett Gray, Bill Doolen, Mrs. Thelma Bailey, Chris Jasper, Edgar Jones, Mrs. Lillian Grissom, Mrs. Erma Ingram, Mrs. Mildred Bargh, Mrs. Mildred Brown, Marshall Williams, E. O. Grissom.

**PAGEANTS:** Mrs. Thelma Bailey, Mrs. Kathleen Day, E. E. Brown, Katherine Wormley, Mrs. Alma Ernst, Glen White, Mrs. Alice Lewin, Enno Lietz, Bill Pottbaum.

**MUSIC:** Bill Pottbaum, Rev. Vance Comer, Mrs. Rufus Gerkin, Lloyd Bailey, Mrs. Erma Ingram, Mrs. Jessie Vallow, Mrs. Louise Feather, Mrs. Pauline Johnson.

**QUEENS:** Mrs. Nora Olden, Mrs. Marge Loyd, Mrs. Effie Crain, Mrs. Thelma

Bailey, Mrs. Mildred Bargh, Mrs. Lola Robb.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Cecil Bailey, Katherine Wormley, Dwight Day, Herbert Vandaveer, Dwight Hanna, Mildred Kleiss, Mrs. Maxine Robb, Mrs. Ferdie Leach, Tom Helpingstine, Raymond Swift, R. R. Atkins, Gene Williams.

**SOUVENIR:** Mrs. Lura Robnett, Mrs. Vera Maxey, Mrs. Stella Pruett, Mrs. Grace Mendenhall, Byron Still, Mrs. Jessie Vallow, Gilbert Doolen, Ira Mattate, Mrs. Ann Jackson, Mrs. Mary Sechier.

**TEEN AGE:** Butch Loyd, Charles Boyd, Carolyn Alderson, Kaye Hammer.

**TEEN AGE:** Butch Loyd, Charles Gray, Ruth Robbrough, Mrs. Bernice Alderson.

**STEWARDES PLATFORM CONSTRUCTION:** Ivan Devor, Oran Alderson, Don Rogerson, Fred Collett, Ed Green, Gene Helm, Winifred Yearn, W. R. Wisler.

**STREET DECORATION:** R. R. Lee, Alva Olden, Chiton L. May, John Wm. McCulley, John Phillips, Harry Suggett, John He.

**RESTROOM CONSTRUCTION:** Rodney Schooley, Gene Jahraus.

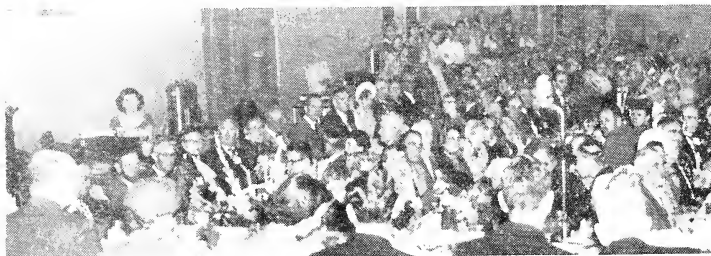
**AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS:** Carroll Garrett, Bill Lux, Fred Wilson, Lehard Brasel, Merle Kline, Glen Brasel, Bob Green, Glen Jahraus.

**CONDUCTED HISTORICAL TOURS:** Mrs. Lillian Grissom, Elna Brown, Mrs. Mildred Brown, E. J. Rotan, Harry Dennis, Mrs. Olga Alderson, Mrs. Pearl Fisher, Mrs. Maud Holt, Pauline Baggett.

**HISTORICAL HOUSES:** Ray Suggett, Mrs. Florence Franklin, Mrs. Erma Ingram, Mrs. Ferdie Leach, Lloyd Bailey.

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL:** Mrs. Lillian Grissom, Emmett Gray, Fred Kleiss, Fred Alexander, Bert Garrett, Mrs. Olga Alderson, Mrs. Ferdie Leach, Mrs. Ruby Linton, Mrs. Ruth Doolen, Mrs. Florence Franklin, Mrs. Alice White, Mrs. Lois Alderson, Mrs. Dorothy McCulley, Mrs. Georgia Solder, Mrs. Marjorie Green, Mrs. Fern Ballance, Mrs. Maud Holt, Mrs. Bernice Alderson, Mrs. Bertha See, Oroux Leach, Virgil See, Eugene Shuffeldt, Elna Brown, Mrs. Sam Lowe, Mrs. Bert Garrett, Mrs. Maud Holt, Mrs. Bessie Doss, Mrs. Emma Ballance, Mrs. Effie Robb, Lehard Brasel, Tom Helpingstine, E. E. Jahraus, Harvey Hanna and George Feather.

## FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES



**KICKOFF DINNER**



**KICKOFF DINNER**



**CENTENNIAL BALL**

MR. AND MRS. WAYNE ROBB  
MRS. LURA ROBNETT  
MR. AND MRS. LEWIS J. T. O'DELL  
MR. AND MRS. TOM HELPINGSTINE  
MR. AND MRS. GILBERT DOOLEN  
F. G. ALEXANDER

This Page Courtesy Of

W. L. GREEN  
MR. AND MRS. JOHN G. PHILLIPS  
F. O. GRISSOM  
LILLIAN PARRILL GRISSOM  
MAUDE L. PORTER  
MR. AND MRS. CLYDE BALLANCE

MR. AND MRS. FRANK BOSLEY



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# **PROGRAM**

Daily registration of visitors

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## **Friday, August 2**

11:00 a.m.	.....	Crowning of Queen
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	.....	Parade
3:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.	.....	Float Awards
3:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	.....	Remarks, Paul Farlow, Agriculture Agent, I. C. R.R.
3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	.....	Entertainment
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	.....	Entertainment
8:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	.....	Pageant
9:30 p.m.-12:00 p.m.	.....	Square Dance

## **Saturday, August 3**

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	.....	Conducted tours of Historic places
10:00 a.m.	.....	Amateur Elimination Contest
10:00 a.m.	.....	Kids Program and Contest directed by E. E. Jahrans
1:00 p.m.	.....	Old Timers Parade on reviewing stand Judging of Beards and Centennial Costumes
2:00 p.m.	.....	Amateur Contest 6 prizes, \$50- \$25- \$10- \$5- \$5- \$5
7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.	.....	Choir and Barber Shop Quartet Singing Appearance 3 top winners Amateur Contest
8:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	.....	Pageant
9:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.	.....	Fireworks
10:30 p.m.-12:00 p.m.	.....	Dance

## **Sunday, August 4**

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon ..... Union Service, New High School Gymnasium  
Guest speaker and choir of 75 voices under the direction of Mrs. F. O. Grissom, Mrs. O. I. Leach, accompanist.

## GROUP OF EARLY KINMUNDIANS



Back row—Wm. Brown, Geo. Harlan, Frank Burns, Crandall, Elias Neil, C. T. Middleton, Joel Youngkin.

Second row—Ephraim Crank, Geo. Ray, C. Rohrbough, H. Herriek, B. Blakeslee, Abe Parker.

Third row—Dave Headley, Chas. Crank, Jim Rainey, Wm. Coleman, Geo. Mundweiler.

Seated—John Miller, John Donovan, Geo. Fenster, Joe Bargh, Jack Foster.  
Last person unidentified.

A long time ago, the Woman's Club planned a history of Kimmundy for the Centennial and almost a year ago, they asked me to take over the job. It has been difficult, but rewarding, and we hope it will preserve the memories of earlier days for those who did not experience them, and show the changes that have occurred in the century passed. Our deepest thanks to everyone who helped us with their scrap-books, old pictures, memories, and other valuable material.

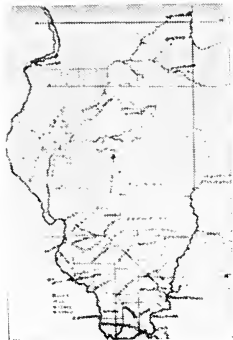
We have used the given names of everybody, married or single, since in our town, that is the custom.

Bill Larimer gave us the data on real estate, Carl Dunlap did wonders with old photographs, including prints from some 50 year old plates made by the late Hugh Spencer, and Bill Sechrest did the new photographs.

Some material is from the History of Marion and Clinton County—1881, Atlas of the United States, 1876, and Atlas of Marion County, 1915. We hope you'll forgive the mistakes and enjoy the rest.

—Elizabeth Killie

# Early History



Mr. Byron Rotan has an atlas of Illinois that was published in 1876. Toward the front is a map of this state in 1822. It had then been a state four years. The southern counties that bordered on the rivers were organized but Marion county would not be formed till the next year. Trails or coach roads cross the lower part from Vincennes to St. Louis—from Shawneetown to Alton. Vandalia had been chosen state capitol in 1819 and would bear that title for twenty years, when it would be moved to Springfield.

As you can see in the little drawing all land above Clark County was Indian territory. Between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers were bounty lands to be awarded to soldiers from the Revolution and War of 1812. Chicago was Fort Dearborn, and Melwackee, an Indian camp. Kaskaskia, originally an Indian village, a French Mission in 1685, was even then over 100 years old. It was incorporated as a town in 1725 by Louis XV, and was the chief settlement between the French in Canada and New Orleans.

The wide territory fanning out through Southern Illinois was known as the American Bottoms and there were large prairies between the stretches of woods. Our area was part of Grand Prairie.

In 1762 the French ceded it to the English; in 1778 the English surrendered to George

Rogers Clark, and it became part of Virginia, and that state ceded it to the United States in 1784. After being part of the Northwest Territory, it was created the 22nd state in the Union by an act of Congress on April 18, 1818. Kaskaskia was the seat of the first civil government in Illinois.

Marion county was organized on January 24, 1823, and named after General Marion, the Swamp Fox, famous in Revolutionary War. Its settlers came from Tennessee, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and Pennsylvania and were protestants in contrast to the French Catholics of Kaskaskia. The first land entered in the county was the west half of the southeast quarter, section 9, T2N, R2E which would be near Texas Corner. It was entered by non-residents, Smith, Lee and Lambert on Dec. 8, 1819. Between this date and January 23, 1823, one thousand forty acres were entered in four different townships, however ninety five, of the one hundred families in the county, remained squatters, whose average possessions were worth about \$27 per person. Scarcely any land was entered between 1823 and 1836.

The first census was taken in 1825 and showed 557 persons, 104 were heads of families, five of these being widows. There were 117 voters. Of the 557, there were 273 white males, 282 white females, 1 colored male slave and 1 colored female slave. Herdly Foster, who founded Fosterburg on the old Post Road and for whom Foster township was named, was listed in the census, and also John Nichols who seems to have been the first to settle near the Kimmundly towasite, according to the History of Marion and Clinton County. He later moved to Meacham. Another list shows Arnolds and Jones in Foster township in 1823.

In 1826 Henry Howell from Tennessee settled on Howell's branch. He raised a large family; some of his descendants still live in this area. Moses Garrett who was born in 1805 and Hannah Morris, born 1811, were married in Georgia, and also came to Illinois in 1826. He drove a team of oxen and she rode horseback, with her baby in her arms. They settled in section 10, Foster township and had 9 children.

It is said that Sandy Branch is one of the oldest cemeteries in this area and that it dates back before Illinois was a state. That site was one of the earliest settled and some say it would have been a town, if the railroad had not passed it by, both to the east and to the west. Daniel Doolen Sr., who was born in Ireland in 1765, married Mary Bridges in Georgia, moved to Kentucky, had 9 children and died. His widow and sons, Jesse and Dan Junior, came to Illinois and settled near Fosterburg, about 1830. Northwest of Kimmundly is the Shanghai district and in its cemetery are men who fought in the Mexican war. One of these is Eli Robb, ancestor of numerous Robbs, and Fishers. He died in 1854.

To the east in Meacham, Mt. Liberty was a Post Office in 1840 tho it was generally called Craeker's Neck. (Who knows why?) H. Gibson was the postmaster and also kept a general store. Across the road was another store run by H. Rockhold. After the railroad was built the postoffice was moved to Kimmundly.

Others in Meacham were the Dillons; George, born in 1808 and his wife, Sally McKee, who came from Kentucky. The earliest land grant to that family was Oct. 10, 1840. Their second son, Isaiah Tevis, who served in the Civil War, and wife, Sara Wilson lived to celebrate their golden wedding in 1905. They moved to Kimmundly when they retired.

Also to the east was the Coekrell settlement in the 1840s and the Scrutchfields at Miletus in 1835. Near Omega was Capt. Elders store before he and his family became early settlers of Kimmundly.

James K. Craig was born in Kentucky in 1824 and came to this area in 1836. His father and mother were John and Savilla

Craig, and Savilla was the sister of Nancy Hanks, who was Abraham Lincoln's mother. James K. and wife settled southeast of Kimmudny, on what is now the Kline farm. They had 8 children, the youngest, John E. was the father of Eula Craig of Kimmudny.

Robert Pruett entered the land west of the present Illinois Central reservoir, east half, northeast quarter of section 28 in 1839. His wife was Minerva See of Mason County, Virginia (now W. Virginia) and she wrote her mother about the fine land available for \$1.25 per acre, so the See and Shelton family came too. They are said to have plowed corn right through what is now the town site. Samuel Robb also entered land just southwest of the present town, probably about the same time though the dates are not shown in the entry book in the courthouse. It is said that his house was where the Methodist church now stands, and his fam-

Gray in 1828. He drove a stage for a while, married and bought a farm on Feb. 13, 1837 which was the first land entered in the township. He bought more land, some being the Stewart tract in section 22. For a while he operated the horse mill started by Stewart. He had eight children and in the Illinois State gazetteer and business directory for 1864-65 Marion county lists 12 organized townships, one called Eagan. W. B. Eagan, the oldest son, built the first house in the original plat of Kimmudny, and ran a store there. The original Eagan homestead was out in the Stewart tract east of the C&EI and across from the cemetery, and the Eagans ran a store there before the town was laid out. Isaac died in the old home in 1873. The place was still standing until the C&EI railroad was built. Hugh Eagan from Tennessee spent 1829 with Gray but moved near Salem.

Other early entries near town are part of section 27 by Charles Floyd Jones in 1852, George Ehenger also in section 27 in 1853, Chester C. Ford in section 22 in 1856, and Capt. Wm. T. Sprouse, the part just below the town in 1860. One of the largest land owners was Isaac Eagan, who held nearly all that adjoining the townsite.

An other early entry was made by Wiley Burton in section 28, March 1, 1839 and there were doubtless many other settlers whose names were not encountered in compiling this book. It does not appear just how the transfer was made when the Illinois Central was given the land grant, but the site of the present town was sold by the I. C. to John Blorton on June 23, 1853 and he sold it to Wm. T. Sprouse in March, 1857. Sprouse then laid out the original 15 block plat on April 10, 1857.

On Sept. 20, 1850 President Millard Filmore signed the bill making the first grant of public lands to help construct a railroad. The land in Illinois was fertile and had fine prairies and timber lands but except near the rivers it was sparsely populated. There were few roads and no way of marketing your crops after you raised them. Some older people today remember hearing their grandparents tell of hauling grain to St. Louis by wagon.

This land grant bill gave the State of Illinois certain areas of government land to be sold, and the money to be used to build a railroad. This land was to revert to the government if a railway was not started within 2 years, and finished within 10 years, of the enactment of the bill. Word of this was sent by the new invention, the telegraph. The state of Illinois lost no time in turning this land over to the Illinois Central Company, who set about building the railway. Much difficulty was encountered but the main line was completed in 1855.



This is said to have been the first house in Kimmudny, though it stood north of the town plat, about a block south of the old Catholic Church.

ily saw the Headley family arrive, driving their team of oxen. One ox was white which was very unusual.

In 1828 three Gray brothers came from Tennessee, James, Joseph and William. James settled on section 10 acquired more land in section 15 and other sections. He was the first J. P. in the township and filled that position till his death in 1835. This farm was known as the Harvey Gray place and was the scene of many wiener roasts in the 1910-20 era, when it was occupied by Luther Davis family. It is now the property of Lewis O'Dell, principal of Alma-Kimmudny High School. Sons of James Gray were James Harvey and Isaac D. both married Hanna girls. The Robert Hanna family went to Kentucky from South Carolina in 1820 and in 1848 came to Marion County. The youngest son, David was the grandfather of Dr. Dwight Hanna who is president of the Centennial board. A descendant of Isaac and Dovey Elizabeth Gray is Jesse George, also of Centennial board.

In 1828 Abner Stewart, another Tennessean, built a cabin on land which is now part of the town of Kimmudny. He entered the second tract of land in Kimmudny township on Dec. 21, 1839, west half of the northeast quarter of section 22 or from route 37 north to and including Harvey Hanna's farm, and from the C&EI to Monroe Street. He had eight children but they all moved away.

Isaac Eagan came from Tennessee with James

It reached from Freeport to Cairo. The Chicago Branch had been started to connect Chicago with Centralia and on September 27, 1856, those building from the north, met those from the south at the site of the present town of Mason. This was named in honor of Col. Roswell B. Mason who had been in charge of the work since its inception. This completed the "Charter Lines" of the railway, making 705½ miles of railway reaching from Dunleith on the Mississippi west of Galena, to Cairo where the Ohio & Mississippi meet and from Chicago to Centralia where the branch joined the main line on to Cairo. This was the longest railroad in the world at that time. At the same time the railroad was being built, the Illinois Central Telegraph Co. was formed and its lines ran along the rail lines, dispatching the trains and making communication possible between the settlements.

Stations were made every few miles so that all areas would be able to ship their produce north to Chicago, or south to the Mississippi and then on to New Orleans and world markets. These stations were named for railroad officials and other persons. Kilmundy was named for the hometown in Scotland, of one of the London representatives of the I. C. It is supposed to have originally been Kilmundy, and in the 1868 Guide book put out by the railway is spelled that way in some instances. It is the only town in the United States to have the name.

On June 23, 1853 John Blurton purchased from the I. C. R. R. the north half of the southeast quarter of section 22, town 4 north, range 3 east. On March 1, 1957, William Sprouse purchased the tract from Blurton, and on April 10 of that year, platted the original town of Kilmundy.

This contained 15 blocks and extended from First Street now Highway 37, south to 4th street and from Washington street on the east to ½ block west of Monroe street on the west. These were divided into 169 blocks. The first purchaser was Jerry Bissonnet who bought on July 1, 1857 lots 123, 124, 163, 164 and 165. Nothing further is mentioned about him, whether he built or not. On July 14, Lorenzo Hart bought lot 137. He was the second merchant to settle on the west side of the railroad. He had had a store in a building built by Willis Wilburn on the east side, south of the town plat in 1855. C. Spafford opened a restaurant on the west side and later a general store in connection. His name is not on the original plat so perhaps was below it.

Then in October, W. B. Eagan with Samuel and Augustus Bond bought lots 119, 125, 126, 127, and 128. On lot 119 he built what is listed as the first building in the new town. It was house, general store and post office as he was the first postmaster. The house now occupied by Miss Luelia Parrill is built around the original building.

Willis Wilburn bought lot 133 at the same time. He is credited with keeping the first hotel but it was probably in a building south of the townsite. Other purchases in 1857 were lots 144,

145 146 and 147 by Chase, Goodwin, Jackson and Halsted in November; and lots 148 and 149 by James Nevils, and 151, 152 by Lorenzo and John Allmon, 162 by W. C. Mitchell, these later ones in December.

1858 saw many purchases—Jan. 27, lot 156 to Chas. A. Montross, Feb. 1, lot 161 to W. B. Eagan, March 10, lot 154 to Canada Allmon. In



Thomas Bagott's store which he started after working for D. C. Moore, an early Kilmundy merchant. They both came from Cincinnati. The store stood about where the Mahan & Metch Grocery is now.

June of that year James W. Booth bought lots 1, 4, 37, 43, 46, 49, 56, 62, 89, 101, 103, 113, 120, 166, 167, and 168. D. P. Snelling bought part of lot 2, he later in 1866, opened his own addition, and built the big house on the hill where Suggetts now live. George Watson bought part of many lots, 35, 36, 39, 42, 50, 57, 59, 69, 93, 105, & 141. John F. Barnard bought parts of lots 5, 16, 41, 44, 53, 90, 94, 97, 102, 107, 138, 139, and 142. John Tuder lot 158 and Geo. P. Hull lots 159-160 in July. Wesley Rockhold bought lot 121 in October and that finished the season for the year.

In 1859 Wm. Willard purchased lot 153, Jan. 5, and Chas. Montross lot 169 Jan. 25. April 12, lot 154 to L. S. Hart, June 6 lot 138 to same man. Also on June 6 Presley Wilborn bought lots 134-5-6, and Ed Stiles, lot 99. On Aug. 24, lot 140 was sold to John Robb, and on Oct. 4, lot 143 to Isaac and Thos. Sweny. On Oct. 10, lot 67 to J. F. Barnard and Georgia Watson Cormick; Oct. 29 to the Watson estate and Elias Ferguson, lots 129-30-31-32, B. F. Fallon lot 39; on Nov. 12, lots 113-118 to Mary Locke, and the last for that year—lot 15 to Clinton and James Wolfe on Dec. 7.

There were only 3 lots sold in 1860, lot 18 to John Moon on Jan. 2, lot 96 to Simeon Bishop on Jan. 19 and lot 14 to James Wolf on Feb. 23. In May, 1860 Sprouse bought the tract adjoining the town plat to the south, and later sub-divided it.

1861 saw the beginning of the Civil War and there were few lots sold that year; lot 19 to John Moon on July 31, and on the same day ½ lot 95 to J. F. Smith; lots 115-116 to W. B. Eagan on Aug. 3.



Abner Bernard, station agent, and Harry Hollister in front of the old I.C. depot. This photo was taken in the 90s. The I.C. fast mail made its first trip July 11, 1890.

This crew on the handcar is not identified. They are photographed in front of the old C.&E.I. station. In 1898—daily southbound 6:58 a.m., 5:35 p.m.—northbound 10:50 a.m., 4:42 p.m.



This page courtesy of these Kimmudny Firms

GRAY'S HARDWARE

B. F. LINTON FUNERAL HOME

ALEXANDER'S GULF SERVICE

MARSHALL WILLIAMS  
GROCERIES

In 1862 Tilman Raser bought the other half of lot 95. He was a man who would be very active in the new town. In 1863 Abram Elder bought lot 108.

In 1864, April 25, lot 100 to James Nevins; May 23, lot 91 to Frederic Emmet; June 10 the Trustees of the Methodist Church bought one third of lot 59 and that is where the church still stands; Oct. 13, lot 102 to A. J. Swan and lot 104 to F. H. Green. Nov. 27, lots 69 and 70 to Matison P. Tilden, and lots 77, 78 to Bayard Chalfant, also lot 52 to D. C. Moore; on Nov. 28, lot 105 to Daniel Kelly.

The Civil War ended in April 1865 and people began to come home from the front and others to move west and north. On Jan. 28, Mary Eagan bought lots 109, 110; Feb. 2, lot 141 to Henry Eagan; on July 5, Thomas and Washington Culley purchased lots 87 and 88. Aug. 5, lot 86 to John Steinman and Geo. Eger; Aug. 18, 117 to W. B. Eagan, 122 to Wesley Rockhold, and lot 51 to David C. Moore; Aug. 25, lot 64 to Martin Beaver; Nov. 18, lot 13 to J. O. Dumond; Nov. 22, lot 84 to James Barrett, lot 85 to John Steinman; Nov. 23, lot 71 to William Becker and lot 50 to Moses French. On Dec. 28, Munger and Moore bought lot 83.

In 1866 on Jan. 2, lot 44 to Claris Grott; Feb. 12, lot 81 to Charley Misselbrook; Feb. 17, lot 42 to James H. Gray, Sr.; March 16, lot 41 to Isaac D. Gray; March 19, lot 61 to C. B. Hollister; April 9, lots 106 and 107 to A. C. Elder; April 16, lot 3 to Michael Hoar and lot 114 to L. D. Allmon; June 22, lot 72 to Edward Freeman, lot 80 to J. C. Haworth, and lot 82 to Mary A. Valentine; July 10, lot 98 to Christopher Houts; Oct. 27, lot 93 to Stoddard Russel; Nov. 23, lot 94 to Tillman Raser; Dec. 6, lot 68 to Nelson Graves and H. C. Freeman; and on Dec. 13, lot 97 to Tillman Raser.

In 1867 Chas. Montross bought lots 73, 74, 75, and 76 on Jan. 3; lot 45 to Claus Grott on Jan. 5; Jan. 16, lots 7 and 8 to Rob't. Sprouse; lots 9 and 10 to Sam'l McCloud; lots 11 and 12 to Amos Jaekson and lot 79 to James Barratt. On April 2, lot 34 to Joshua Goodwin and lot 37 to Ed. Herriek. On May 8, lot 60 to David W. Johnson; on July 24, lot 48 to Mattie Kepley; on Oct. 23, lot 57 to Henry Hall, lot 157 to J. W. Howard and Franklin Russell, and on Oct 30, lot 23 to Thos. H. Parker and lot 55 to Anna Marie Schmidt.

In 1868 only three lots were sold, lot 47 to Mary Ann Valentine in Feb. 19; lot 24 to Wilber Deuel on Aug 29; and lot 20 to Fanny Miselbrook on Dec. 8.

In 1869, June 29, Washington Culley bought lots 5 and 6, and John B. Elder bought lots 111 and 112; on Sept 20, lots 29 and 30 to Martha Hart, lot 31 to James M. Kenton, and lots 32 and 33 to Geo. L. Brenner.

Only 2 lots were sold in 1870, lots 27 and 28 to Isaac Eagan, and in 1871 the last 2 lots of the

original townsite were sold, lot 57 to Ed. Herriek and Henry Hall and lot 58 to J. F. Barnard, both sold on April 14.

Meanwhile other subdivisions were being opened on all sides, Sprouse to the south, Goodwin to the east, Eagan to the north, and Snelling to the southwest. On Fremont street in Snelling addition were some of the early homes, Snelling, Thrane, Nelson, Porter, and French. The French family are the only ones of the original settlers who still live there.

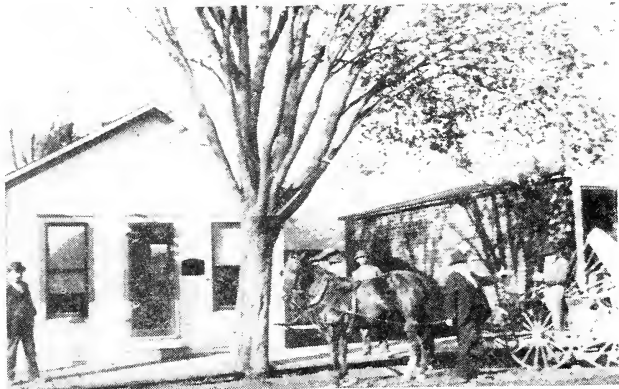
In the early days before transportation became so swift, a small town had to be pretty much self sufficient. There were mills, bakeries, barrel and basket factories, banks, mines, brick-yards and casket makers. Early bakers were Bill Cawrey and Chas. Swander. The Ross brothers had the first bread mixing machine, about 1910 in the building where the Express now is. The last bakery here was Ener Zimmer's, where Crain's cafe is now.

McCreary and Monger had a banking business in 1864, and T. W. Haymond & Co. bank was organized Jan. 1870. Tillman Raser, president. In 1899 the Merchants & Mechanics Bank was established and later became the Haymond State Bank. R. P. McBryde had a small private bank but went with the First National as cashier, when it was organized in 1902. Capt. Rohrbough was first president. In 1906, Henry Warren & Sons started a private bank, later changed to farmer's & Merchant's Bank. The Building & Loan Co. was organized Aug. 12, 1887.

A brickyard was started by Jonathan Walls in 1891; the Kimmundy creamery began operation Dec. 23, 1892. The Coal mine was organized in Feb. 1884 with \$12,000 capital, and in April Zard Frost contracted to sink the shaft. The engine house burned in Feb. 1886, but on March 25, "the diamond drill strikes coal" said the Express. This was a shallow vein but on June 3 they struck a vein 5 ft. thick at a depth of 867 ft. and the Express got out a special edition. About 1900 operations became too costly and it was abandoned.

When the city hall burned in 1903 it was thought that all city records were lost but this year the council found the minutes of the first meetings, from the time of organization on April 10, 1867 to June 17, 1874. This book, written in several Spencerian hands, provided much information. It gives a picture of a small community, building board walks and plank roads to get up out of the mud, making fire prevention laws, building a jail, and in general having all the struggles that city councils have.

From the first there was a battle between the temperance group and those who favored saloons. We have handbills advertising huge temperance meetings sponsored by Royal Templars of Temperance, and one time, a lady took her hatchet, like Carrie Nation, and went down and



"Doc" Smith talking to Clay Devore in the buggy. This is in front of Smith's office which still stands on West Third street. Looks like Jim Posey in the background. The other man is not identified.



This was the old Eagan homestead, where Isaac Eagan died in 1873, and where a store was kept before the town of Kinmundy was platted. This photo shows the last reunion of the family before the house was torn down to make way for the C&E.I. railroad. W. B. and wife are seated at right.

Compliments of these Salem Merchants

ILLINOIS BROKERAGE

PETE'S PAINT SHOP

VURSELL'S IGA

BRACY FOOD STORE

THE KROGER CO.



wrecked a saloon. Histories tell us that drinking was a great problem in the middle west in pioneer days. There was an attempt every year to vote the town dry but it didn't really make it till about 1908, and since then liquor licenses have not been issued.

On April 10, 1867, just ten years after the town had been platted the city council met to organize. The oath of office was administered by Tilman Raser, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the County of Marion and the State of Illinois, to the following officers: W. R. Hubbard, Mayor; V. M. Humble, City Clerk; A. R. Swan, City Marshal; Robert Nevins, Street Commissioner; Alderman for 1st ward, Clinton Wolf and I. C. Haworth; for 2nd ward, T. O. Hatton and Tilman Raser; for 3rd ward, J. S. Sweney and C. H. Munger, and for 4th ward, W. B. Eagan and W. T. Sprouse. A seal with the words "City of Kimmudny" and "Incorporated March 26, 1867" on it was ordered. It was voted that all ordinances of the old town which were consistent with the city charter should remain in effect until revised or repealed.

On April 13 the council met at Tilman Raser's office, appointed committees, passed ordinances concerning the votes, and bonds of city officers. The mayor suggested that a map or chart of the city be drawn and street corners established. Stated meetings were to be held on the first Monday of each month, and ordinances were to be published or posted, whichever was deemed best. On April 22, C. H. Munger was elected City treasurer. They proceeded to meet very week for some time and the most frequent business to be considered was building streets and sidewalks, insanitary conditions of streets and alleys, the licensing of places where liquor was sold, animals running at large in the city, and boys jumping on and off moving trains. A frequent expense was paying for the removal of dead hogs. No wonder Dr. Skilling called attention to the unsanitary conditions, this was referred to the Committee on Health.

On May 27 the financial report of W. C. Dorris, (town treasurer) was accepted and he turned over to the city \$759.63. On May 31, Ald. Raser presented a resolution that the Mayor appoint a committee to "investigate and inquire into the propriety of erecting a city prison." The mayor agreed and appointed Sprouse, Haworth and Raser.

On June 17 the council voted \$3 each to 4 special policemen for their work on the day of the circus, June 13. The resolution to build a city jail carried and a committee was appointed to deal with specifications and contracts. It was also voted to pay Ald. Raser \$36 for the year for the use of his office and furniture as a council meeting place. Madison street was to be graded from the south side of Second st. to the north side of Third.

On June 21 the committee on the jail was authorized to negotiate for a lot. On July 8 Ald. Raser reports lot purchased and negotiations with

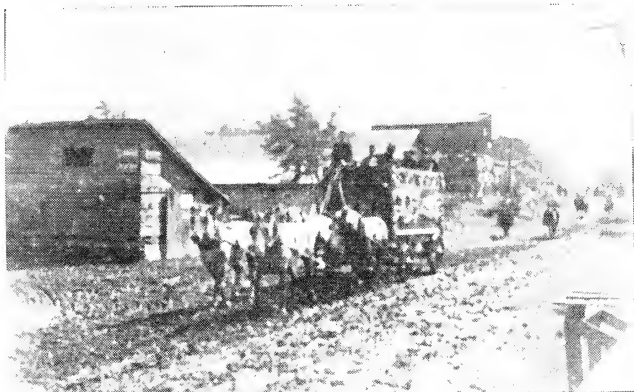
Wm. Fuqua to build. At a special meeting on Aug. 12, Ald. Raser presented a bill for \$100, for the lot for city jail, which was paid. A resolution was passed to enclose the jail grounds with a suitable fence. On Sept. 6, Wm. Fuqua presented his bill for building the jail, \$295.00, plus \$36.08 for extras. W. M. Match presented an order for \$18.00 in favor of James Haworth for painting the jail. The marshal was instructed to get a table and two chairs for the use of the marshal at the city jail. The council minutes do not give the lot's location, so we do not know where the first jail was situated. Raser was not the first owner of lot 144 where the "calaboose" was.

In November a petition was offered asking for a sidewalk on the south side of Third street between Monroe and Madison. D. P. Snelling petitioned a sidewalk on Fremont street and citizens of the second ward wanted one on First street. These sidewalks were, according to one set of specifications, "good lumber not less than 1" thick, laid on 3 stringers not less than 2"x1" walks to be 4' wide." The druggists were praying for the repeal of the druggist's license and 3 liquor licenses were issued.

In December they were ordering sidewalks on east side of Monroe from First to Third street, and south side of Third from Madison to Monroe. In January the street commissioner reported names and number of days delinquent on labor on streets and it totaled 100 days. Only those who worked the required number of days on the streets were allowed to vote. On March 7, 1868, L. B. French presented a bill for \$5 for 2 tubs for the jail. The city assessor presented his bill of \$12.50 for taking census. A motion was made to publish the reports of the council, treasurer's report and census in the Kimmudny Telegram. Mayor issues proclamation of city election to be the 2nd Monday in April 1868.

On April 6 the bids for laying street crossings were opened and John B. King, who bid 19c per foot, was awarded the job. April 20, 1868 —election results: J. S. Sweney, mayor; Montgomery Wilson, treas.; U. M. Humble, clerk; J. L. Smith, marshal; Robt. Nevins, street comm.; John Robb, surveyor; H. H. Chesley, assessor; aldermen, D. C. Moore, H. R. Hale, E. Freeman and W. R. Hubbard. They wanted the I. C. R.R. to make a crossing on First street and change the Third street crossing to accommodate Jefferson, too. In June they passed an ordinance regarding shade trees and it seems that you could plant trees instead of working on the streets. (These are the trees that have about reached their prime and are breaking down all over town.)

In the following months they tried in vain to open Van Buren street. (Where it was we don't know but from the map it might have been the alley between the Christian church and Arno Miller's. That was the boundary of the original plat.) They spent \$4.60 for stars for the policemen to wear, these must have been the special police for 4th of July and Circus day. They fence



The Circus coming north on Monroe from 4th after unloading at C.&E.I. railroad. Background shows old Cooperage Building.

Compliments of BACHMANN'S FURNITURE STORE—Salem.



Leander Matthews pays off an election bet by wheeling Dr. Gause around the block when Bryan was defeated in 1896.

Compliments A. C. DUNLAP & SON, Kimmuudy

ed the jail, built wells, complained to the I. C. R.R. about the north-bound freight blocking the crossing. Thirty citizens petitioned for an election to vote on the question of subscribing for \$50,000 worth of stock in the proposed Kimmudly & Pana railroad.

In 1869, N. S. Hubbard, mayor. There were petitions for gravel crossings; to open Sycamore from Monroe to Madison; make a sidewalk on the east side of Madison from 2nd to 3rd; and always the problem of cattle and hogs as well as dogs running at large. Tilman Raser agreed to be city attorney and represent the city in all except the supreme courts, for \$100 per annum. The property owners of Madison street requested that it be graded and macadamized from 2nd to West street.

In 1870, I. S. Sweney, mayor, they hired a night watch for \$10 per month. They accepted the deed from the cemetery trustees and voted \$50 for improvements, later they recorded the deed, surveyed and platted it and had deeds for the lots printed. They voted to allow permanent residents to sell lemonade, ice cream and soda water on the 4th of July, for payment of clerks' fees only. The finance committee was to have control of who should erect stands on the grounds where the celebration was held. They voted to dig a good deep well at the corner of 2nd and Madison and furnish it with a pump and good substantial cover.

In 1871, Haworth mayor, they got costs for building a bridge over the railroad at 2nd street. They moved that the cemetery committee should buy a bier and other articles necessary to bury the dead. Appointed a special committee to confer about buying Shelton's grove for a city park. The mayor "called attention to the approaching national anniversary", appointed a committee to license ice cream and other stands on the grounds and instructed the marshal to see that there were no stands on the city streets. On Aug. 7, the finance committee showed a balance of \$27.95 after defraying the costs of celebration and moved to hold it for future celebrations.

More petitions for sidewalks; a well built by D. C. Moore opposite his property on 3rd street (this should be the one in the picture on page 20). They rented a lot to build a city pound. (This was for all stray animals and later Capt. Reno was sued for breaking in and recovering his animals). A resolution to license a bowling alley at \$5 per year was decided out of order. Wetter asked permission to move his saloon to new brick building on corner of 2nd and Madison.

In 1872, D. C. Moore, mayor, but resigned and was succeeded by E. Freeman. Petition for sidewalk to extend to M.E. Church south, on Adams street.

In 1873, Mayor Haworth. Ordinance passed licensing groceries. Extra land was purchased for cemetery; resolution to purchase new pump for public well, paint the fence around it, and clean

the yard for "as little expense as possible." Groceries petitioned against heavy taxes. Street commissioner was instructed to work out all who have not paid or worked, within the next 30 days.

In 1874, G. M. Songer, mayor. Opening of South street was referred to committee. Resolution that the board "should pledge united and individual influence against selling or giving away of intoxicating liquor to minors or habitual drunkards." The city to spend not more than \$300 on repairing and building sidewalks. Ald. Raser moves to procure lamp posts and lamps before fall and they vote to procure not more than 10 street lamps, provided they cost not more than \$10 each erected. This is the last entry in the minutes of the book recording the first meetings of the Kimmudly City Council.

The Illinois Central Directory for 1868 writes very glowingly of Kimmudly. (It still had lots of land to sell in the vicinity for from \$7 to \$13 per acre.) The following people advertised in the book so we have their names: N. S. Hubbard, American Express and I. C. R.R., H. H. Chesley and Tilman Raser, attorneys; C. Miselbrook, barber; B. Chalfant, blacksmith; W. Graves, carpenter; Scott Shrigley, dentist; (full sets of teeth, \$10); J. O. Hatton and Price & Denby, druggists; W. B. Eagan, A. C. Elder, John Brenner, Rohrbough & Moore, Solomon & Co., C. Spafford, Wilson & Elder, dry goods and general merchandise

Capt. Reno and Songer Bros., flouring mills; Herriek & Hall, W. A. Howell, Hume & King, Geo. K. Jenkins, J. H. Landrum, groceries; W. B. Eagan, D. C. Moore, hardware; E. Eagan, hotel (\$2 per day); J. H. Robb, J. P.; W. Culley, livery stable; C. A. Montross, lumber; Miss M. H. Hart, Mrs. A. Parker, Mrs. J. R. Smith, Songer & Leever, millinery; E. Freeman, house and sign painter; T. W. Forshee, J. M. Fox, U. M. Humble, L. D. Skilling, physicians; J. C. Haworth, saddles & harness; A. W. O'Bryant, Kimmudly Telegram; Pat Mullins, H. H. Robertson and C. Wetter, saloons;

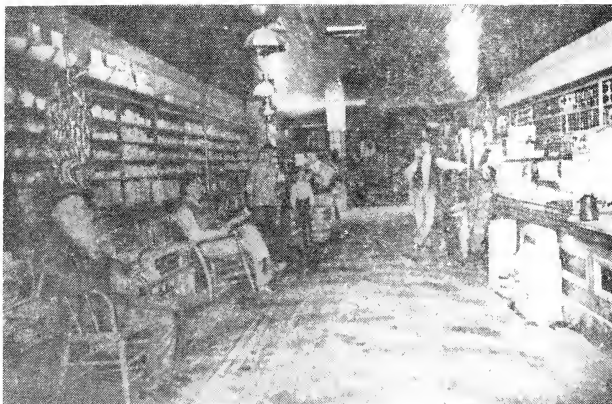
John Coleman and Winnie James, shoemakers; E. Mendenhall, stationery; wagon & carriage makers, William Becker, J. C. Moon, and F. Seiser. Besides these, they say, there are sawmills, tobacco factory, woolen factory, sorghum mills, cabinet makers and coopers, and more than 50 homes were erected in 1867.

The Kimmudly Independent for 1876 has ads for: Geo. Craig and S. VanArman, shoemakers; Dan Lovell, barber; Eagan & Porter, livery stable; Mrs. V. A. Brown, dressmaking & tailoring; B. Blakeslee, plows & cultivators; Songer Bros., flour; Edward Freeman, real estate, newspaper; Wm. R. Fish, Kimmudly market; Spring & Reeder, hardware, tinware, etc.; J. H. Gray and W. C. Squier, hotels; Dr. W. O. Smith and E. G. Forshee, M.D.; J. P. Donovan, B. B. Smith, attorneys; Wilson & Boother, McBrude's gen. mdse.; Hollister's drugs, Simpson's groceries.



The Mendenhall Evaporator was started on July 4, 1890, and in 1891 F. A. Prnett started one. In those days before freezers, drying fruit was a big business. Frost's Lumber yard in the background. These both burned in the 90s. The Mendenhall family and employees are shown.

This is the interior of Dan Gunn's store on 3rd street about 1898. Seated are William Coleman, night watch, and Abe Songer. Standing, Tolley Mendenhall, boy not identified, Homer Foster and Fred Killie.



This page compliments of

TED HOLSAPPLE BODY SHOP, Salem, Ill.

The Kimmundy Express got out a special Christmas edition in 1889, with a glowing word picture of Kimmundy and drawings and short biographies of prominent citizens. We have space to list them and birthplace, only: Geo West, from Philadelphia, farmer; James C. Haworth, merchant, Ind.; James H. Gray, farmer, Tenn.; Mrs. Elizabeth Boothe Gray, Ind.; Thos. Williams, farmer, Tenn.; Giles Songer, mill, Ind.; John M. Rotan, Tenn., real estate; A. W. Songer, miller, Clay co.; O. N. Tyner, photos, Dr. E. G. Forshree, Ohio; J. F. Donovan, mayor, New York city; J. P. McBryde, merchant, Ala.; J. M. Brenner, Bavaria, lumber yard; S. J. Allen, A. M. Allen, carpenters, Ohio; W. L. King, merchant, Ohio; Rev. W. T. Brannum, M.E. Church, St. Clair co.; G. W. Gillmore, merchant, Ky.; M. Deiwert, merchant, Effingham co.; Dr. Charles Demiss, dentist, Ohio; J. F. Croft, boot & shoemaker, England; R. F. Lawson, editor; Chas. Ryan, New York, livery man; S. M. Stokely, Pa., salesman, machinist; Mrs. M. R. Lawwill, hay press; Dr. W. O. Smith, Ind.; J. N. Street, Montgomery co., School Supt.; F. A. Pruett, Anna Chalfant, Katie Grove, Mrs. A. E. Whittaker, teachers;

E. S. Mendenhall, England, nursery; J. Nelson, watchmaker, Denmark; P. O. Thrane, tailor, Denmark; G. Fenster, restaurant, Germany; Miss M. A. Songer, merchant, Marion co.; H. F. Green, Ohio, druggist; W. M. Chapman, grocer, Marion co.; Mrs. M. E. Hollister, Wayne co., druggist; E. C. Bargh, druggist; D. Gunn, Richview, grocer; C. H. West, farmer, Ind.; Dr. J. V. Camerer, Edgar co.; Rev. J. D. Brown, Ind., M.E. Church south; J. G. Wilson, Scotland, Supt. coal mine.

A clipping in an old scrapbook tells of the discovery of natural gas about 50 years ago 6 miles west of Kimmundy on the farm of Samuel Holt. He was drilling for water with a steam drill and at 83 feet the water began to bubble and boil. When they discovered what caused this the family decided to use it for cooking and lighting. Mr. Holt said he had found the same thing when he dug his well 30 years before but didn't know what to do with the gas. In spite of much exploration in this area no oil boom has developed here but the big field near Salem gave Kimmundy the lift it needed after the depression. New people came to live here and have helped much in the town's life.

The small towns of today are suburbs of the nearest large town or city. They have their schools and churehes, their groceries and general stores, their drug stores, post office and filling stations just as the shopping centers in the cities. There is no need for the clothing stores and other businesses which were important when towns were isolated and self sufficient. Since the closing of the mine, Kimmundy depends on agriculture and not on industry. Larger factories elsewhere now make the baskets for the fruit so there are no basket factories or cooperages.

There are pleasant homes, lovely gardens, and friendly people. All around us are prosperous farms and beautiful countryside. New homes are being built and old ones remodeled and in this Centennial year we can be pleased and proud of the only Kimmundy in the U.S.A.

In an old scrap book we found obituaries of early citizens who should be mentioned, since they were unusual people and since they left no descendants to remember them. Dr. A. J. G. Hall was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1819 and died in Kimmundy April 1, 1909. He was graduated from the Medical College of Bochas, Germany, and spoke seven languages. He came to the United States in 1849 and married Julia Gould in Washington Territory in 1865. They came to Kimmundy in 1869. Mrs. Hall was born in London and went on the stage at the age of five. She was a pupil of Balfe and appeared in his "Bohemian Girl" and other operas. After coming to this country, she made three trips to the west coast, appearing on the stage in the early days of California. She taught music and painting in Kimmundy and there are still paintings around that were done under her instruction. Mrs. Hall died at 68 but Dr. Hall lived to be almost 90.

Also, Mr. W. H. Brewer, who always carried the flag in the Decoration Day parade because he was six feet seven inches tall. He was born in 1841 in Bear Creek, Alabama, and came to a farm near Eastland cemetery southwest of Kimmundy, shortly after the close of the Civil War. Later he moved to the last house on East Fourth street, in Kimmundy, where he lived many years. He died in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the age of 92, and was buried in Eastland cemetery which he had helped to found.

In an old part of the cemetery near the graves of Col. Booth and Capt. Sprouse is a grave with a plain headstone, and the inscription reads, Emnis Taylor, Hampshire Co. Virginia. A confederate soldier. This was for a long time Kimmundy's unknown soldier.

The story goes that during the Civil war a prison train stopped in Kimmundy on its way to exchange prisoners, and one young lad, who had died en route, was buried hastily in a shallow grave by the tracks. Isaac Eagan, discovering this, had the boy properly buried and the grave marked. Many years later a Kimmundian, who had come from West Virginia, recognized the name and got in touch with the family.

In a letter, received by Mrs. Pearl Fisher, in 1941 when she was head of the Cemetery Association, a sister-in-law wrote that a cousin had been on the same prison train and had told the family of the death and burial and they expected never to be able to find the grave. They were overjoyed when they were told and could come to Kimmundy about 1920 and find the grave. They were touched by the kindness shown them and their loved one and later sent money to have the grave put in perpetual care. On Decoration day it is not forgotten by people who know the story.



This was a Saturday afternoon before the first war. Jennie Phillips sits in front of their store, one of the Lowe boys is in the group in front of their store, and it looks like Bob Flanagan, the policeman, with the star on his vest in front of W. W. Neils. Others are not identified.

Below, George Tomlinson, standing, Chas. Witwer and Noah Robnett seated, next one not identified, Doc Laswell and someone sit on his doorstep, and Bert Williams sits with Clabe Cockrell in front of Rohrboughs store, farther down Miss Mollie Songers, and then the bank. Other people not identified.



This page compliments of  
 JESSE GEORGE, General Merchandise

# ELOCUTIONARY!!

—AND—

# MUSICAL!

ENTERTAINMENT, AT

# EAGAN'S HALL

—ON—

## Friday Eve, May 22, 1885

—BY—

### Miss Gertrude Gwynn's Class.

### Programme:

#### PART I.

Music	Vandalia Glee Club
Young Lochinvar	Mrs. Kilpatrick
Reverie Before Church	Mamie Songer
Music	Vandalia Glee Club
Aunt Doleful	Annie Whittaker, Helen Rohrbough
Tom	Katie Groves
Jack	Harry Wilson
Music	Vandalia Glee Club
Pyrinus and Thisbe	Annie Elder
Nick Vanstann	Helen Rohrbough
European Guides	Harry Whittaker
Music	Vandalia Glee Club
Ride of Jennie McNeal	Bert Hollister
Socrates Snoocks	Lotta Neil
Ship of Faith	Gertrude Gwynn
Music	Vandalia Glee Club

#### PART II.

## Leap Year In A Village With One Young Gentleman.

A Drama In Three Acts.

#### DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

Matilda Dix	Katie Groves
Widow Barnaby	Mary Elder
Francena Barnaby	Annie Hollister
Hannah Staples	Lou Blakslee
Isabelle Smith	Bert Hollister
Jedediah Brown, A. M.	N. V. Lovell

#### ADMISSION:

CHILDREN 15 CENTS — ADULTS 25 CENTS.

Doors open at 7:30. Performance to commence at 8 o'clock.

Without extra charge reserved seats may be secured at Miss M. A. Songer's store.

## WEDNESDAY EVE, APRIL 13th, 1887

## Piano - SOIREE - Organ

# MUSICALE

Mrs. Lou Miller's Class Assisted by  
Volunteer Vocalists.

Encourage your home talent, and note the improvement made by the class. An evening of rare enjoyment promised you at

## EAGAN'S OPERA HALL

### NOTE THE NOVELTIES IN THIS PROGRAM.

Greeting Song	By Class
Ripples of the Alabama, (Piano)	Mrs. Lou Miller
Belle Pountaine (Piano)	Miss Josie McBryde
Falling Leaves (Piano)	Miss Anna Elder
Eherin on the Rhine (Song)	Miss Sallie Letton
Schottish (Piano)	Miss Maude McBryde Glen Harlan

## MRS. WILLIS' WILL.

#### DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Mrs. Robinson, (Mrs. Willis' Executrix)	Miss Anna Elder
Lady Spindle, (haughty and dignified)	Miss Josie McBryde
Mrs. Dwindle, (a votary of fashion)	Miss Sallie Dardon
Jennie, (a farm servant)	Miss Sarah Glazebrook
Rachel, (Mrs. Robinson's servant)	Miss Mamie Songer

Brilliant Variations, "When You and I were Young,"	Mrs. Lou Miller
The Storm at Sea, (piano)	Miss Mamie Songer
"Lauterbach"	Miss Maude McBryde
Little Red Rose, (Inst.)	Mrs. Lou Miller

#### TWO SONGS

My Johnny is a Shoemaker,  
O! You Little Darling I love You,  
Egypt's Humming Bird, Gertie Tyner, of Mason.

## THE FORTUNE TELLER

Bass—Fred Snelling.	Alto—Miss Minnie Tyner.
Tenor—Will Reynolds.	Soprano—Mrs. O. N. Tyner.
Chorus, Good Night	Class

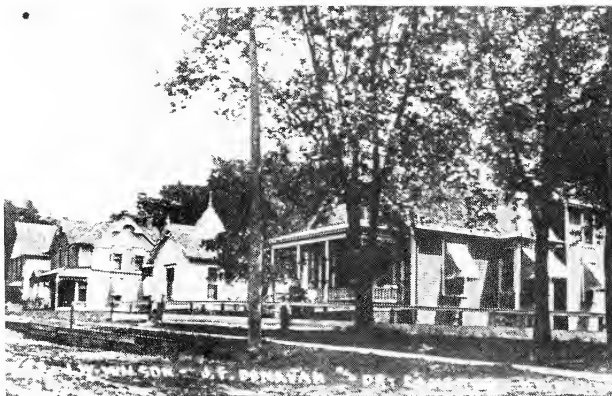
## DIAGRAM OF HALL AND TICKETS AT TYNER'S.

Admission 10c., Adults 15c., Reserved Chairs 5c. Extra

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30.  
CURTAIN RISES AT 7:30.



The watering trough in the center of the square, Madison and Third Streets. Nelson's Jewelry, the First National Bank, Miss Mollie's, Rohrbrough's, and the Masonic Temple.



South side of Third Street from the railroad going up "Quality Hill," in the early 1900s.

These pictures compliments of

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, Kimmudy

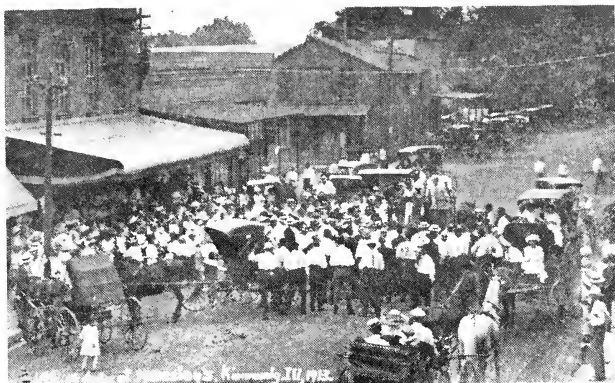
CRAIN'S CAFE, Kimmudy

KINMUNDY BUILDING & LOAN

SALEM, FLOWERS, Salem

NATTIER'S VOGUE SHOP, Salem





This was Hensley's store, also known as the Company store. Next was Matthew's harness shop and the big corner building housed Dunlap's seed store, Dr. H. L. Hanna's office, Allen's carpenter shop, Ellis Woolf's tin shop, and others.



T. M. Smith's livery stable in the days when you could rent a horse and buggy instead of an automobile. The calaboose is to the left with the cooper shop behind.

This page compliments of  
 DR. AND MRS. DWIGHT HANNA





CLOSED

EAGAN'S 3rd ADD. 18

4th ADD

1st ADD

F H Pruell

LOTS 64 & 68

J. Mitchell LOT 65

W S Conant

W S Conant 23

EAST BLOCK

SUB OF PART OF GOODWIN'S ADD.

JOSHUA GOODWIN'S

Mary Schriber Ver. 11 3/8

W H Schriber

Jos. Schooley

Airs Conant 105 3/8

F. F. Brutsafer

Mrs. Jerrigan, Mrs. Dennison, Lot 9

Lot 8 Chas. West

Lot 7 W H Brewer W H Brewer

Lot 6

Lot 5 Chas. West

Lot 4

Lot 3 E. G. Mendenhall suc.

Lot 2 H. J. Brown suc. 78 1/2

KINGS HIGHWAY

CHAS. H. WEST'S SUB. LOT 1

JEFFERSON

ADAMS

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WASHINGTON

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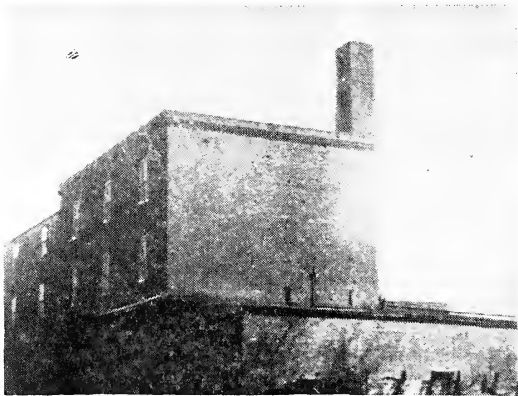
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Third street west from the I. C. railroad. Mrs. Jessie Embser says her grandfather, Isaac Heaton built this building for a store about 1860 and rented it till he moved to town. His farm, south of town, was a station on the "underground railroad" during the civil war. Between this store and the railroad stood Rohrboughs mill.



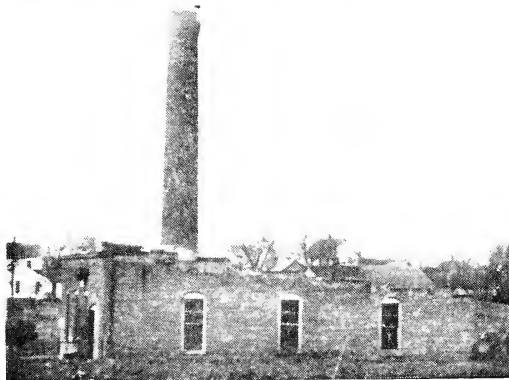
The old Songer mill, which was built in 1868, and made flour and corn meal till milling became the specialized business it now is. The Ingram brothers ran it many years and now Ingram sons ship the grain for the community. They are descendents of the first James Harvey Gray.

*Began before the Civil war  
 completed after the Songer returned  
 from the service - Hand made  
 bricks molded across the road  
 from the mill.*

This page compliments of  
 INGRAM'S ELEVATOR, Kimmundy  
 KINMUNDY LUMBER CO.



Corner of 3rd and Monroe, looking east from the Wetter corner where there was once an Air-dome (open air movie) Pruett's Poultry house just misses being in the picture. The first four buildings are still there but the Opera House with Gramley's Meat Market, Dr. Camerer's office, Rice's Store and others are gone.



The old light plant, whose whistle sounded for all the fires and wrecks, as well as the basket ball victories. It furnished electricity from dusk to 10 or 11 p.m. You were supposed to be home by then. You heated your irons, and cooked on coal or wood stoves, and cooled with ice, so you didn't need electricity in the daytime.

This page compliments of

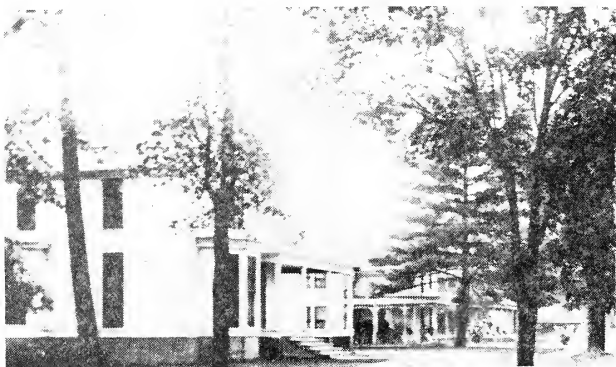
FARINA LUMBER CO.,

L. M. Westphal

D. C. DAY, Standard Oil Dealer  
Kimmundy

GEILER'S GARAGE, Kimmundy

ATLAS TIRE & SERVICE STATION  
Kimmundy



Looking west on the south side of Third Street across from the Methodist Church, about 1908. The first house was George Elder's, now Dr. Franklin's, the second one, Frank Smith's, is gone and the new parsonage stands there, the third was W. W. Neil's, later C. F. Pruett's.



This page courtesy of these Kinnundians

E. E. JAHRAUS  
 MULVANEY'S LAUNDRY  
 WHITE'S FEED AND PRODUCE  
 JACKSON'S TEXACO SERVICE STATION  
 W. A. FRANKLIN, M.D.

WHITNEY'S GROCERY  
 HENRY HASSEBROCK  
 MAHAN & MOTCH  
 HAMPSTEN'S GROCERY  
 DOOLEN'S BARBER SHOP

## ENTERTAINMENT

The earliest entertainments were the husking bees, barn raisings, quiltings and such. Candy and box suppers were continued until the present. Taffy pulls were popular in the early 1900s, as a way to raise money for a lodge or church, and then there were the church dinners and ice cream socials.

The Eureka Reading Club was founded in 1875 and gave private readings until 1877 when they began to give plays and public entertainments. They disbanded in 1883 with a banquet at Squires Hotel.



Top row, E. R. Hensley, F. W. Killie, Homer Foster, Paul Sandhofer, O. N. Tyner. Second row—J. H. Nelms, Ellis Vallow, Chas. Beaver, Hershel Vallow. Third row, Chas. Vallow, J. B. Brenner, E. A. Snelling, G. W. Snelling, B. Bruce. Bottom row, W. D. Reynolds, F. S. Songer, Orval Foster, J. B. Garner. Picture taken about 1896.

The location of Eagan's Hall has not been discovered, but it was the site for the early graduation ceremonies, and other meetings and entertainments. Then there was Hayworth's Opera House which burned in the fire of 1903. It was rebuilt on the same lots and again burned in 1916. This last one was the scene of class plays, graduations, and the stock companies who used to tour in the days before radio, movies, and television. The Reynolds and Tyner Stock Companies were welcomed as artists and hometown folks. They played in the Opera House in the winter and in tents in the summer.

Speaking of tents, remember the Chatauqua? It was held in the Park and for one week gave afternoon and evening performances which ranged from famous speakers, preachers, and chalk talks to music of all kinds. One of the favorite acts was the Swiss Bell Ringers, a group who performed behind a long table on which bells were arranged harmonically. They would play anything from Poet and Peasant to Annie Laurie, dashing up and down to ring the bell or group of bells with the proper notes.

About 50 years ago "Uncle T" (Mr. Tyner) showed colored lantern slides at the K. P. Hall. The K. P. also had a wonderful contraption which could be placed in front of a piano and by inserting a roll and pumping the pedals you could play a tune. This was replaced by a player piano and those syncopated numbers—"Eileen", "Florence", "Nights of

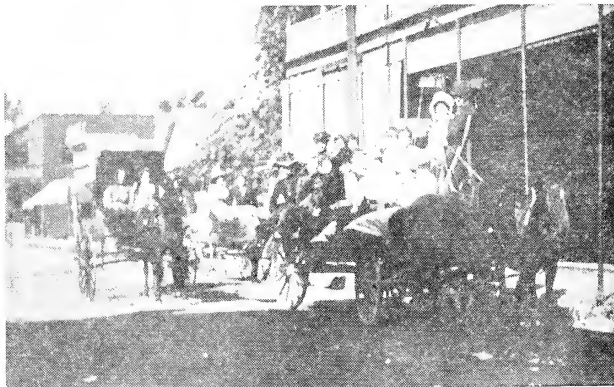
Gladness", "Uncle T" also played them for us in his music store while we danced outside on the sidewalk.

There were movies, too, with colored slides of songs, and "The Perils of Pauline" or "The Million Dollar Mystery" every Saturday afternoon.

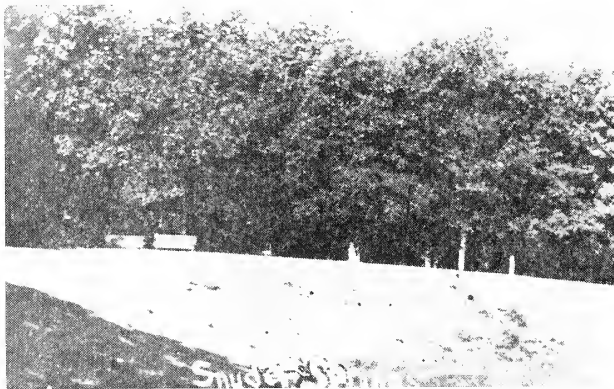
From earliest days Kimmunity seems to have had bands and orchestras. In the oldest papers there are piano advertisements, music teachers, and recitals. E. A. Snelling was one of the early band directors and the old band stand, which was recently torn down, was built in 1883. Mr. Snelling and the merchants of Kimmunity were amateurs in the true sense of the word, they played for the love of it, practicing after they closed their stores for the evening, and giving a concert on Saturday night. Ben Phillips, with his cornet, was the leader about the time of the first war, and he always closed the program with "Till We Meet Again."

A high school band was organized in 1930 by Mr. Tessman. In 1935 Mr. Frank Hieckman created much interest in bands and there have been bands since then. In 1951 music was added as a school course, a chorus was organized and the band reorganized. The students have done well in competition and have given very good concerts under the guidance of Bill Pottebaum, this last season. He has composed a Kimmunity Centennial March which will be used in the Celebration. He leaves this year to continue his studies at the Eastman School of Music.

The BAND BOOSTERS were organized on May 19, 1953, with 40 charter members. Carl Brooker, who was band instructor at the time, was the first president. (Mrs. Nila Colclasure, vice president; Mrs. Lara Robnett, recording secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Lux, corresponding secretary; and Virgil See, treasurer.) They work to earn money for band activities and provide new instruments and other necessities. Under their auspices the band presents three concerts, one at Easter, one at Christmas, and the summer ice cream social and concert. The membership has increased to 80 and they meet once a month. Mrs. Alta Diss is president, Mrs. Bertha See, secretary.



A group of ladies set out for a picnic in Davis woods or Snyder's Springs. In the background is Killie's grocery, Cox's restaurant, the tree in front of Mrs. Dennis' house and millinery shop, and the barber shop. The far corner was Wetter's saloon, later the newspaper office, now a vacant lot.



Snyder's Springs was the favorite place for Sunday School picnics for many years. The trip was made on a hay wagon or in your buggy or surrey. A trolley ride which stretched from the grove down to the springs below was the favorite amusement. A pulley wheel, with a cross bar to hold on to traveled on the wire, you hung on and whizzed through space to the bottom of the hill.

Compliments of  
EGYPTIAN NURSERY, Farina  
DISS TRUCKING, Kimmundy





Above—The good old winter time when snow was snow and houses had fences around them. The Parrill residence before remodeling.

Below—This picture was made from an old photographic plate made by Hugh Spencer, lent by the Ernsts. Mr. Spencer takes a ride in the cutter. Note the sleighbells on the horse.



Compliments of

FRANCIS HAMMER, SEALTEST  
DISTRIBUTOR

C. E. BAILEY DRILLING CO.

BYRON SILL, QUALITY USED  
CARS

E. A. ERNST & SONS, PUREBRED  
ANGUS SINCE 1933

# Communications

## NEWSPAPERS

In his trip through the United States during the Civil War, Anthony Trollope was amazed at the number of newspapers which were printed. Everyone read newspapers. Kimmudly has had its share, too. The Kimmudly Telegram was started on March 13, 1867 by Col. J. W. Filler who sold it to H. H. Chesley and in 1868 it was bought by two printers, O'Bryant and Pyles. O'Bryant bought out Pyles and changed it to the Kimmudly Democrat and supported Seymour and Blair in the campaign but after the election in November it was changed to the Kimmudly Independent. Edward Freeman bought this in 1873 and continued it for at least 10 years as we have copies of one dated 1876 and another dated 1883. The latter carries his obituary and notes that his sons will now continue the paper. The Pastoral Visitor, a religious monthly edited by Rev. N. B. Cooksey for the M.E. church, was also printed by the Independent. During this time Pyles started the Kimmudly Bulletin on Jan. 1, 1875, advocating retrenchment and reform in government, and democratic principles for the country at large. This published 13 numbers only.

W. L. Arnold started the Kimmudly Register in 1879 and it lasted 26 issues. In 1881 G. W. Rutherford moved the Reform Leader from Sandoval to Kimmudly. It had quite a circulation as an advocate of the greenback policy.

R. F. Lawson started the Kimmudly Express on Nov. 8, 1883, as he stated in the paper's slogan—"in the interests of Dick Lawson and Kimmudly." In 1890 he bought the double brick building which was later to house the company store. He crusaded for a bridge over the I. C. R.R. on 2nd street. Miss Evelyn Killie remembers setting type for him. She and Mrs. Pearl Fisher later worked for Grissom when he bought The Express. In 1898 F. O. Grissom came down from Farina to help get the paper out one week and never went back. He bought the Journal which had been brought from Patoka and for a while published both till he merged them after the fire of 1903. His shop burned again the following July in the block where the filtering plant now is.

He then moved into a house east of the Illinois Central depot (now Arnold's.) There he sold it to Gus Spitze, formerly a teacher in Kimmudly high school. Spitze moved it down to the old Wetter building (now gone) and sold to Lem Ballance who sold to Norris Vallow. Vallow moved it one door south into the building he still occupies. Besides the Express, Vallow prints a Methodist paper, a Gideon paper, and the Marion Co. Farmer.

Early newspapers were large sheets of paper folded in half and then folded again making 8 pages, or folded once making 4 pages. In the 1900s they were still made in the same way and only part was local news, in hand set type, the

rest, being more like magazine articles on world affairs, jokes, home remedies and recipes. They received these large sheets, already printed on one side. Since type is set by linotypes and not much by hand it is now possible to make up the entire newspaper locally.

## TELEPHONES

The first mention of telephones found when compiling this history was in an 1883 paper which stated that on Nov. 15 E. Herrick and B. Blakeslee had gone to Salem to work up a telephone. For the rest of this information we are indebted to Will Ross. The earliest phone he remembers connected Andy Young's hardware store with his house. The store was the now vacant room south of Jesse George's and the home was on the north side of the highway across from the park where Frank Davis lived, and Glenn Doolen now lives.

Eb McBryde had also rigged up some sort of speaking arrangement between the McBryde store (now Jesse George's) and home (now Harvey Brown's). Whether it worked by wire or not is not known. The apparatus of Young's used wire and batteries and the speaker signalled and then hung up till the person at the other end signalled back, then the conversation was carried on. In these early days there was a local long distance line from Mt. Vernon to Effingham with a booth in the Ryan Hotel, a phone in the Company Store and probably one at the mine which were both projects of Chas. Hull at that time. Mr. Hull built the first local exchange in 1898. It was located over the Company store (empty lot south of Dunlap's).

About 1904 Mr. Hull moved his exchange to the Hultz home (now Harvey Brown's). He had perhaps 15 lines running in to this switchboard and Katie Hultz was the operator. Hull at one time owned or controlled all phones of Marion County except Centralia Bell.

About 1905 Will Storrs started a new mutual exchange which he built up to 180 phones and went into competition with Hull. This was on the second floor of the Masonic Temple.

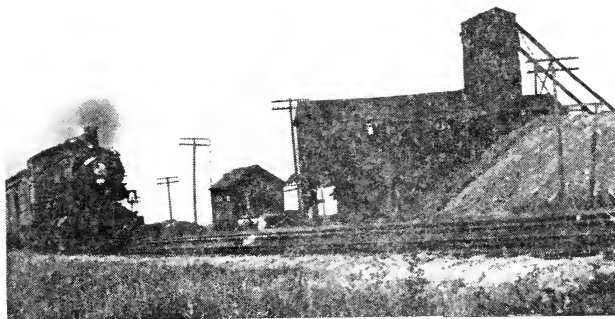
In this era you bought your own instrument, strung your own wire to the city limits and the exchange did the rest. This was the age of Mutuals and there were groups in Salem, Odin, Patoka, Sandoval, Vernon, Iuka, and Omega, the latter being one of the big ones and having 400 members. A salesman would come through and sell everyone in the area a phone and the new company would be started.

On October 11, 1910, Will Ross bought out Storrs, and continued operating in the same building. In 1913 the first real toll line from Salem Commercial Telephone and Telegraph Co. was installed. Before this open wires were used and service was not very clear but this was a No. 9 metallic circuit which was a big improve-



Above—The streets were worse in those days and the bank wasn't nearly so elegant, but we had a bank on each corner then.

Below—'23" passing the old coal mine. The Illinois Central south-bound came in at 5:23 p.m. and you came back on it from a day spent in Farina. The pupils from Alma went home from school on it instead of buses.



Compliments of

BARGH'S DRUG STORE

LEE'S PHILLIPS 66, ROUTE 37

CHRIS JASPER SHOE REPAIR

GORDON POOL ROOM

ment. The Bell Company brought in a toll line from Centralia about the same time.

In 1920, Ross sold his exchange to the Commercial Telephone and Telegraph Company of Salem and went to Salem as Manager for their Salem and Kimmundy exchanges. In 1924 this company sold out to Bell. They moved the Kimmundy exchange to the first floor of the now vacant building on Madison Street just below Dunlap's. There it remained until 1955 when the dial system was installed and a new building was built on Jefferson street next to the Fire Department.

#### ELECTRICITY

In the late 90s when Leander Matthews was mayor, the city of Kimmundy set about to build its own light plant. They inspected plants in other towns and then built one of their own on the site of Reno's mill on Jefferson and 4th street. This furnished DC current made by a dynamo which was turned by a coal-fired steam engine. They had about 100 customers and the streets were lit at the corners by the old carbon lamps. W. G. Sims was the first superintendent. About 1909, J. C. Lee bought the plant from the city for \$10,000 to be paid in

installments for ten years. During the first war coal cost five times what the price had been when the contract was made, so Mr. Lee was unable to fulfill his agreement and sold it back to the city. He continued to operate it for them until 1937 when it was sold to Central Illinois Public Service company and the city signed a 25 year contract to buy power from that company.

In the 1920s the plant was overhauled and changed to AC current. More electric equipment was being used and it became necessary to standardize current so that irons, fans, etc. could be used anywhere. The many electrical appliances that we now use did not become practical in small towns and country until the big power lines went through.

#### WATER

In 1953 Kimmundy built its own water plant. This was especially useful last year when many wells were dry because of the drought. The water is pumped from the I. C. reservoir to the filtering plant (used to be the old calaboose) and then to the tank which stands where Washington and East street join. There are 250 customers.

Fifty years ago houses with running water had tanks in the attic and water was pumped from well or cistern up to these, and then fed by gravity into the water system. Later windmills, then gasoline engines and finally electricity did the job.

## Fraternal Organizations and Clubs

KINMUNDY LODGE NO. 398, A.F.&A.M. was chartered on October 5, 1864, and held its first meetings in the home of Col. Booth on West Fourth Street. There were nine charter members, B. H. Bodwell being Worshipful Master. As more members were added the meeting place was changed to the hall over Blakeslee's Store on the southwest corner of Third and Madison. After several other meeting places on Madison Street, they built a temple of their own on the site of the present temple and dedicated it on Jan. 10, 1902. This burned in the fire which destroyed that block on Dec. 2, 1903. They met temporarily in the K.P. hall but planned to rebuild and moved into the present building in September, 1904.

They celebrated their Diamond Jubilee in 1940, with 135 members. The present membership is 178. James Strieker is Worshipful Master.

The MAYFLOWER CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF EASTERN STAR was founded Sept. 11, 1891. All of its records were lost in the fire of 1903. On Feb. 11, 1908, a meeting was called in the Masonic hall by 20 dimitted members of the Mayflower Chapter asking for a charter for Kimmundy Chapter No. 606. A. M. Allen acted as chairman, and Bessie King was secretary. The charter was granted April 7, 1908, and Farina Chapter No. 112 O.E.S. instituted the new lodge. The first officers installed were Worthy Matron, Ellen K. Donovan; Worthy Patron, Raymond Walters; secretary, Bessie King; treasurer, M. A. Babcock. This chapter is still active having a membership of 125. Mrs. Marge Boyd is Worthy Matron.

The MODERN WOODMEN was established August 30, 1889, but it no longer holds meetings. Their women's affiliate, the ROYAL NEIGH-

BORS OF AMERICA was organized March 13, 1897, by Deputy Supreme Oracle D. C. Kingsley and was one of the first camps ever organized. They still meet, though they are not a large group any more. Mrs. Betty Wagoner is Oracle.

The I.O.O.F. ROSEDALE LODGE NO. 354 was chartered Oct. 9, 1867, with eight members. It was very active for many years and owned its own building, but that was lost in the fire of 1903. It no longer meets in Kimmundy, members from here go to the Farina or Salem Chapter.

The ROSEDALE REBEKAH LODGE NO. 371 was instituted Nov. 20, 1895, by the Salem Lodge with 34 charter members. Miss Mary Shriver was the first Noble Grand. Lois Heaton of Pueblo, Colo., and Lib Humphrey Gramley of Westwood, Calif., are the only charter members now living. The group still meets and takes care of its organizations. It is now the oldest organization in Kimmundy. Mrs. Carrie Yeager is Noble Grand.

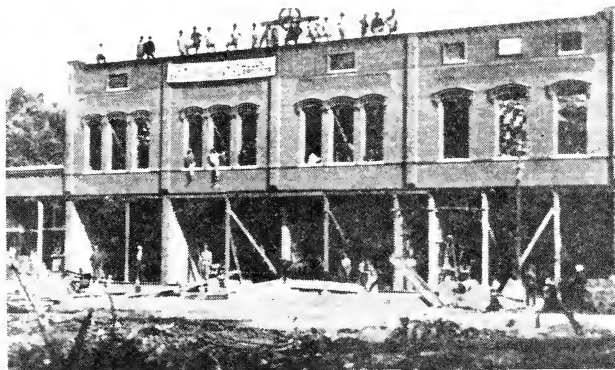
Organizations in the early days were the Royal Templars of Temperance, Fidelity Lodge No. 24, organized in 1880, and the Kimmundy Lodge 1091, Knights of Honor, organized May 31, 1878, with 13 charter members. In the early 1900s the Knights of Pythias Clipper Lodge No. 413 with its Pythian Sisters took a most active part in the town's social life. None of these meet now.

The AMERICAN LEGION POST 519 was first organized about 1921 but the records are lost and they seem to have disbanded after a few years. They reorganized in November, 1929, and have been active ever since. In 1954 they bought

(Continued on Page 36)



Decoration Day 1908. Left to right, standing, John Schoenborn, W. N. Brewer, I. T. Dillon, H. Shaffer, J. Hubert, Levi Thomas, Geo. Fenster, C. Rohrbough, Jack Foster, Denny Ingram and Dr. Smith. Left to right, seated, Bill Neil, John Nehms, Howard Nehms, Joel Youngkin, John Doolen, John Miller, Wm. Coleman, T. J. Greenlee, H. Herriek, Wm. Brown, Chris Shaffer and J. P. Donovan.



Rebuilding the opera house after the fire of 1903.

This page courtesy of these Farina Merchants

FRANK WOERNER & SONS.  
FORD TRACTORS

HOWELL MOTOR CO., J. COURSON

**BOSTON CHEVROLET**  
GALE BOSTON, OWNER

the first floor of the Masonic Temple building and occupied it, as their first permanent home, in August 1955. They have been most generous in lending it for meetings and activities for the Centennial. With the Ladies Auxiliary they maintain several wheelchairs and hospital beds which are available free to any person in the community who needs them. The present Commander is Gilbert Doolen, and there are 110 members.

Kimmudny has had soldiers in all wars, Indian, Mexican, on both sides of the Civil War, Spanish, World Wars I and II and the Korean conflict. These graves are remembered each Decoration Day by the Legion.

The LADIES AUXILIARY OF POST 519 was organized on Oct. 16, 1947, with 33 charter members, 27 new and 6 who transferred their membership from Salem, where they had belonged while there was no Auxiliary in Kimmudny. Mrs. Pearl Fisher acted as temporary chairman till the new officers were elected. The first president was Mrs. Maxine Robb. The present president is Mrs. Lela Mae Doolen and there are 83 members.

The KINMUNDY WOMAN'S CLUB was organized about 1911. Mrs. George H. Mayer was its first president. She was treasurer of the Illinois State Federation that year and in 1914 was delegate for the 23rd district to the Biennial Convention of the General Federation in Chicago. It was a very active club in those years and seems to have continued till 1940.

The present club was organized on July 12, 1946, with Mrs. Richard Broom, president, and 46 members. Throughout the years they have accomplished much for the community. In 1951 the children's choir, under the direction of Mrs. F. O. Grissom, won honor for the club and Kimmudny at the State convention in Chicago. Mrs. Eugene Shufeldt served as recording secretary of the 23rd district for 1952-54 and Mrs. W. A. Franklin was county president in 1956. This Centennial Book was a club project originally and they have done much for the Centennial Celebration. Mrs. Huffy Hanna is president. The Junior Woman's Club, which was organized in 1955, is also known for its civic work. Mrs. Henry J. Steinlicht is president.

The PARENTS AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, with 188 members this year, is one of the strongest organizations in the community. It is believed to have begun about 1914 and was instituted by the late Mrs. Fannie Simpson Schwartz (originally a Kimmudian) who started the PTA in Marion county. Mrs. Annie Young was the first president. About 1936 it became very active and began its fine health program, giving diphtheria and scarlet fever shots in the schools; and its Summer Roundup, which is a medical examination, including eyes and teeth, for children of pre-school age. It was instrumental in getting the equipment for the school cafeteria, and the latest project was the handsome new curtain for the stage in the new High School

gymnasium. Mrs. Margaret Shufeldt is the outgoing president and Mrs. Lura Robnett, the new president.

4-H CLUBS train young people in home-making and agricultural pursuits and are under the direction of the County home and farm advisors. Pioneers in this work in Kimmudny were Katherine Wormley and Mrs. Jessie Vallow, who were group leaders for many years, and organized the Menettes. From this group Kay Greenwood won recognition at the State Fair for her clothing projects.

This year the Kimmudny Menettes 4-H Club is a group of 25 girls whose leaders are Mrs. Dorothy McCulley and Mrs. Lora Ingram. Sue Ernst is the president and Carol George the secretary-treasurer. They meet twice monthly at the Home Ec room in the High School. This year they all have food projects and will study all phases, from baking to freezing foods, and meal planning. A demonstration and talk is given at each meeting.

The Wide Awake 4-H club has agricultural projects and was organized in 1949 by Gene Ernst. The first club had 9 members and Betty Ernst was the president. Members of this group have won recognition at various fairs: Nolan McKittrick for public speaking on safety, and Warren and Robert Shufeldt for their entomological display at the 1956 State Fair. Garry Ernst had Grand Champion Angus steer in Marion County in 1956 and 5th place for an Angus heifer in the Land 'o Lincoln contest.

The PLEASURE HOUR CLUB was organized March 27, 1923 by a group of young married couples who met once a month at each others' homes for an evening of pleasure. It is still very active and is fortunate that in its 34 years it has lost only three members by death, A. J. Young, Hubert M. Fisher and Walter S. Pruett.

The JOLLY GIRLS CLUB was first organized in 1944 by Mrs. Clifton Lemay and was called the Friendly Circle. It was abandoned about 1946 but reorganized in 1948. At present it has 14 members, who, at each meeting, help their hostess with household tasks, such as ironing, mending, quilting or such tasks.

The WEST SIDE THIMBLE CLUB was a social and fancy work club (started by Mrs. Dora Brenner and Mrs. R. P. McBryde it is said) which flourished in the early 1900s when ladies had time and inclination for things embroidered and crocheted. The membership was kept to 24, and at the Christmas party, each member gave, and received 24 presents, perhaps a chamois with ribbon and lace, hand whipped around the edge. (For those who don't remember, these were the fore-runners of the powder puff.) The ladies were always willing to teach any child how to make the things they were making and are part of the past we remember fondly.

The SIX G'S (whose name was never explained) was also a social club but this one was noted for the elegance of its entertainments and members vied with each other for unusual decorations and refreshments. It is believed to have originated with Mrs. Will Gray, and its members were the social leaders of the town. It is no longer active.



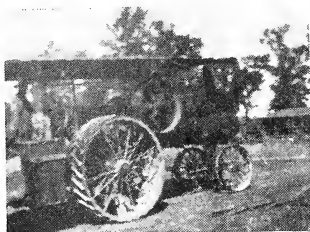
These are two more of Hugh Spencer's photos showing an early reaper, and a steam threshing crew. The people are not identified.



This page compliments of Omega Businessess

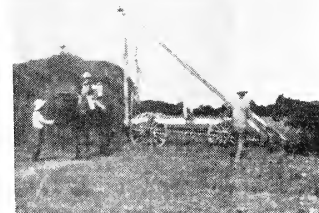
MRS. BEN MILLICAN, CUSTOM RUG WEAVING	HUGO WAGONER, GARAGE, GENERAL REPAIRING
MRS. HATTIE HUDDLESTON, CUSTOM RUG WEAVING	ANDREW MULVANEY, BLACKSMITH SHOP
LESLIE EBLIN, GROCERY & MDSE.	GEORGE FISK, GROCER
and Kimmindy Businesses	
VIRGIL SEE, SEE'S PONY FARM	INA'S BEAUTY SHOP
ROBERT LANE, TRUCKING	PHYLLIS' BEAUTY SHOP

# Agriculture



W. L. Greens steam engine for threshing on G. C. Doolen farm—1920.

This community was settled as an agricultural community, and has remained so, though many changes have come about. When the early settlers came, the prairie was covered with 6 foot high grass that had never been cut. They settled near the creeks, and cleared spaces in the woods for cabins, and fields to grow only what they, or their neighbors would consume. If they did grow any surplus, it was hauled by wagon to St. Louis, to be sent by boat to New Orleans, or back up the Ohio to the east. It was the custom, they say, for farmers in this area to have "drives" in the fall. Neighbors would collect all their livestock, poultry, butter, anything they had to sell, and set out for St. Louis. The chickens were in coops, the butter in barrels, and these were hauled by wagon, while cattle and other livestock, even turkeys, would be driven on foot, the whole party camping at night along the way. The railroads changed all that. They made it possible to get produce to market, so it became profitable to raise some to sell. Railroads were useless without freight to haul, so they early encouraged agricultural pursuits.



Hayricker bought about 1890. One of the first in this area. G. C. Doolen Farm—1920.

With the invention of reapers and mowers, and plows strong enough to break the prairie sod, more farms were opened. In the 1850s a great tide of people from Europe came to the United States. With the building of railroads they were able to settle on farms throughout the middle west and many settled near Kimmundy, and their names: Kolb, Metzgar, Stock, Nachmann, Bilek, Jessman and Tschudi are old names around this area.

Early crops were hay, grain and wheat. Timothy was important as hay and was first grown by James H. Gray in Section 15. Hay was shipped in great quantities, there being several "hay presses" in Kimmundy which baled the hay before shipping. Now it is done by the farmer as he cuts it. In the 80s orchards and small fruit began to be important. Apples, peaches, pears, strawberries, cherries, and muskmelons, as well as vegetables were raised for the market. Later refrigerated cars were developed which rushed the produce to the markets.

One story, explaining how Southern Illinois came to be called "Little Egypt", tells of the 2 or 3 year drought and crop failures in Northern Illinois, which caused the upstate farmers to come south for grain. This was in 1818, the year Illinois became a state, and the wagon train went as far down as Clinton and Jefferson Counties, some say down the Effingham-Kimmundy road which later became the Egyptian Trail, then Route 37.

In 1818 there was no Marion County; it was still part of Jefferson, and Clinton was part of Bond and Washington. This area was then the land of plenty, but by the early 1900s, the soil was becoming overcropped and poor. There had been no need for rotation of crops or conservation when there was plenty more land to use as the first became worn out. Fifty years ago it was the saying around Kimmundy that we didn't need any college boys to tell us how to farm, but after some of the farm boys went to college and came back with ideas that were pretty helpful, and as new ideas were spread through Farmer's Institutes and County Fairs, practices were changed and the land built up again. The Limestone Club was formed and its members subscribed for 100 carloads of limestone. This was one of the early steps in what now is regular procedure, putting back into the soil what you take out.

Modern equipment has made great changes in farming in this area. Before combines were used, a threshing crew, with a steam engine, toured the countryside. The neighbors helped one another, men on the wagons, bringing the grain from the field to the machine; women in the kitchen, cooking wonderful meals for the men (and assorted children who were lucky enough to be there). Who can forget the fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, and country ham; and the pies and cakes which topped off the meal?

Tractors have probably changed things most, by speeding up the work. Fields can be cultivated, planted, reaped, and brought to town in much less time than with horse drawn equipment.



One man alone can accomplish what used to take many. So farming this area reflects the great changes that have come during a century: from a bare sustenance for each family to vast quantities for world markets; from hay and wheat to corn and soybeans as cash crops; and about every 20-25 years a return of strawberries.

F. A. Pruett and sons, Charles and Walter, shipped produce from Kimmundy starting in 1892. In the 1920s they specialized in eggs and in one peak year shipped 300 carloads. They also shipped fruit and jobbed flour, feed, etc. The 1956 assessor's census shows 153 farms in Kimmundy township, 4681 acres of soybeans, 3826 acres of corn, 1279 acres of wheat, 1135 acres of oats, 777 acres redtop, 585 acres clover hay, 259 acres rye, and 40 acres of barley. Jugram's elevator shipped 374 carloads of various grains that same year.

There have been Agricultural fairs in Illinois since the early 1850s according to old record books. Kimmundy organized one on Oct. 1, 1894, and held one annually for many years. Old clippings in scrap books tell of the great success of these affairs. In the years before the first World War, the Farmers Institute was an event looked forward to by all. New ideas in farming and homemaking were demonstrated by people from Illinois University, and from these came the ideas for the Farm Bureau, Home Bureau and 4-H movements. From the pioneer with his poor hand tools to the modern farm and farm house in one hundred years is an amazing step. From oxen to crop-dusting with airplanes!! Changes come more rapidly each year — and who can say what comes next!

The Marion County Farm Bureau began in 1918. A committee was appointed on Jan. 21 of that year, two members from Kimmundy being Wm. Gray and J. Lem Ballance, and on Feb. 4 it was organized with 79 members. C. W. Vursell was acting secretary at the meeting. Joe Schwartz of Salem was elected president. Its purpose was to hire county agents or farm advisors for counsel on technical problems which



Some of the members of the Limestone Club, who were the first to start rebuilding the worn out land around Kimmundy. Left to right: front row—George Snelling, Harmon Lenhart, Billy Maxey, I. R. Widdis, George Spies, Jerome Embser, Billy Morris, Russell Lenhart, Will Gray, Chas. Hull, Lish Hammers. Back row, John Holt, T. Wilkinson, Chas. Shufeldt, Will Shriver, Ed Dillon, Fred Kleiss, J. T. Arnold, George Newell, Percy Blake, Lloyd Hammer.

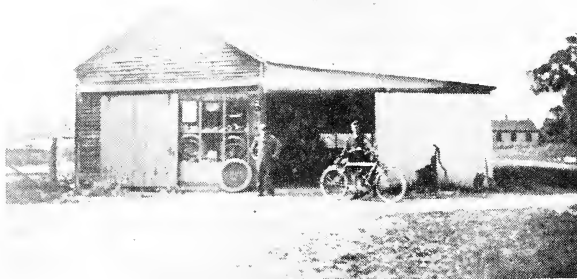
were increasing as farming became more scientific. They also founded cooperatives, insurance groups, etc.

The first county agent was Fred Blackburn and one of the early problems was control of chinch bugs which were a menace at that time. John Holt of Kimmundy and Frank Norris of Meacham were members of that committee. The Farm Bureau works with Illinois University which is a land grant college. This means that it was founded with money from the sale of public lands, and in return must foster agriculture and mechanical arts. The bureau has no local chapters but embraces the entire county, with directors from each township. It now has 1,998 members. Roy Doolen was president for last year.

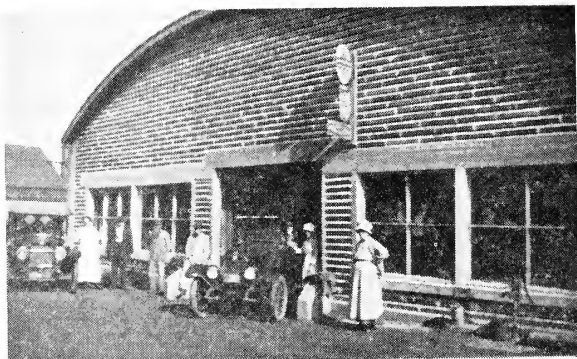
The Kimmundy Unit of the Home Bureau was organized in 1945. Only four of the original number are still in the group —Mrs. Wilma Vandever, Mrs. Jessie Yallow, Mrs. Margaret Shufeldt and Katherine Wormley—and since Katherine has just moved to California, that leaves three. They meet one evening each month and a lesson is given on some household subject, cooking, sewing, crafts, homemaking, health, etc. These lessons are first given by instructors from the University of Illinois Extension bureau at the County headquarters, to two or more from each unit and they in turn, instruct their fellow members. The ladies suggest a list of subjects they would like to study and the programs are made up from the most popular items. The present president is Mrs. Huffy Hanna, and the unit has 18 members from both town and country homes. Last year a group of young women organized another unit called the Joy Belles, with the assistance of Mrs. Ruby Shaffer, then County vice-chairman. They have 8 members and their chairman is Mrs. Jane Lowe. They study the same lessons as the other groups. Both clubs work with the 4-H clubs, the Kimmundy Menuettes, Wide Awakes, Meacham Worthwhile, and others.



6 gang plow used on Joe Telford Farm between Alma and Kimmundy.



Cars were really rare when Pleasant Robnett started this garage shown above. Below you see two of the early cars, an Allen and a Dort, for which he had the agency, and the garage has grown considerably. Some visitors are shown with Noah, Pleasant, Miss Anna and Mrs. Robnett. Behind the Allen you can see the stock barn that used to be there.



This page courtesy of  
ROBNETT'S D-X SERVICE, P. F. ROBNETT

# Transportation

Like many other towns in the mid west, Kimmundy has been greatly affected by changes in transportation. The pioneers came in covered wagons and used oxen for heavy work. In the minutes of the early city council there are payments listed for working on the city streets with ox team. Our grandparents remember when produce was shipped in wagons to St. Louis or some river port and then on by water to New Orleans or farther. After the covered wagon, the stagecoach was the method of travel, unless you walked or rode horseback.

With the coming of the railroads that was changed. People were able to get from one place to another, and more important, were able to send their produce to market and get finished goods in return. From the peddler who sold what he could carry on his back, as he walked through the country, or traveled in a wagon with a little bit of everything to sell, we changed to the frontier store, then to the general store.

The Illinois Central created little towns all up and down its length wherever it put stations, though the stations were probably placed where there was a settlement or a good location for one. It had lots of land to sell and did lots of advertising to get people to settle in Illinois. In its guidebook for 1868, which has descriptions of all towns on the railroad, it lists Kimmundy as having 2,000 population, which seems exaggerated; no other listing found was more than 1,200. Tonti was built to service Salem which as yet had no railroad. Freight was hauled by wagon between Salem and Tonti.

After 1850 the whole country went wild building railroads. Many small ones were built which were afterwards acquired by the larger companies and merged into networks. In the city council minutes for May 19, 1869, there is a petition from 30 citizens, asking that the council order an election to vote on subscribing \$50,000 worth of stock in a line to be called the Kimmundy Pana railroad.

The Chicago, Paducah and Memphis railroad passed through Kimmundy in 1896 when tracks were laid from Altamont to Marion. This road was acquired by the C. & E. I. in 1887, and that company proceeded to connect Shelbyville and Altamont, and in 1899 extended its line to Thebes on the Mississippi, thus the length of the state.

Mail order houses sped the decline of the small town store. Then the railroads offered excursions for shopping. If you bought about \$25 worth of merchandise the merchants of Centralia would buy your ticket both ways. You could go down at 9:30 in the morning, return on old 8:22 in the evening. Gradually the stores in small towns were not able to compete with the larger places which had become so accessible.

Changes came to the railroads, too. An 1876 newspaper lists one mail train north and one south daily except Sunday, and express and three freights both ways daily. In 1883 the listing shows not only the Illinois Central, but the Vandalia Line connections in Effingham for St. Louis or New York, Cincinnati and Louisville; and the Ohio and Mississippi connections in Odin for both east and west. After 1896 when the C. & E. I. was built you could go to Centralia on the I. C., return to Salem on the M. & I., ride across town in a horsedrawn hack, and come home on the C. & E. I. In these years the hacks met all the trains in

Kimmundy too, and brought people to town and to the hotels.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the drummers (salesmen they call them now) came to town by train and stayed at one of the hotels. They hired a rig from the livery stable and made their calls on small stores in the surrounding territory, that were not on a railroad. In those days there were morning and evening trains, both north- and south-bound that stopped here. If you wanted to go to Chicago the fast train would stop, or you could leave at 9:30 with your lunch (fried chicken and deviled eggs) and get to Chicago in time for supper.

During this era the railroads were growing, more traffic meant bigger locomotives and that meant more water for steam. A larger lake was built, (the present one), and most trains going south or north stopped for water. That grade from Tonti to Kimmundy is still one of the toughest ones on the route, and gives the diesels trouble, too. This water-stop caused one of the bad wrecks which people still remember: one midnight train plowed into the other one which had stopped for water, and killed 4 railroad officials whose private car was at the rear. At this time a block signal system was being installed to prevent just such occurrences.

When the first autos came to Kimmundy there were no roads except dirt ones. After the fall rains started, you put your car up on wooden jacks in the garage (it was still called the barn) and you left it there till next summer. Dr. Miller and Dr. Camerer each had cars about 1912, the kind you cranked. These models had acetylene lamps which had to be lit with a match at dusk. It was a long trip to Centralia and a real journey to St. Louis, and Chicago. There were no marked routes and it was easy to loose your way in strange territory. Then two men in a buggy came along one day, down the road from Effingham and painted black and orange triangles on every other telephone pole. This marked the Egyptian trail which became Route 37, in 1931.

Then came the trucks and buses. Gradually they took business from the railroad, especially passenger and short hauls, and now the streamliners go roaring through without stopping and the small town depends on truck, bus and private car. Many people have never ridden on a railroad, which was true long ago but for a different reason. Nowadays they don't need to. With good highways and faster cars you can live in Kimmundy and work elsewhere, so people who are not on the farm, do not have to move to the city for employment, and the small town is again a nice place to live. You can drive to St. Louis for a show or ball game or shopping. With the new thru-ways, places even farther away will become more accessible. At least one resident has his own plane, and several fly planes from the Salem Airport. Perhaps the plane will do for the automobile what the automobile did to the railroad. The next hundred years will tell.

## CHURCHES IN THIS AREA

The first settlers in this community were of English or Scotch and Irish protestant groups and came from southern and southeastern states: Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians. Catholicism was brought by the French to Kaskaskia as early as 1685, but it did not reach Kinmundy till the Irish and German settlers came in the 1840s.

### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized at the home of James Eagan, Sept. 7, 1840 by William Finley. It was called Mt. Carmel but took the name of Kinmundy after the town was founded. In 1842 a camp meeting grounds was established near the townsite and out of these meetings grew most of the Cumberland Presbyterian congregations in the country.

After the town was platted, Isaac Eagan gave to the congregation lot 5 block 3 in Eagan's first addition for a church site, and was instrumental in organizing the group, affiliated with the Mt. Vernon Presbytery. This church was erected in 1859 and is said to be the first church built in Kinmundy. The building still stands, and is now used by the Church of God.

On August 19, 1865 the First Presbyterian Church was organized by the Alton Presbytery. This was a different group from the Cumberlands. They bought lots 64-65 in the original town and the building on them which had been used as a school house till the new building was built. This building known as Presbyterian Hall was later moved to Madison and Second street where it stood for many years. The congregation united with Cumberland Presbyterian, and the united congregation was known as the First Presbyterian Church of Kinmundy. When it became too small to support a church, they disbanded in the 1920s and the members went to other churches.

### BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptists are one of the earliest sects in the county. The Liberty Baptist church was a log house 4 miles northwest of Kinmundy. Elder Dickens, a pioneer in this county, probably organized this church before 1826. According to the History of Marion and Clinton Counties they were still holding church in the log house in 1881.

Harmony Baptist church was located about 1½ miles southwest of Kinmundy and was named, by the settlers who came from Mason County, Virginia, for their church back home. This group of See, Shelton and Martin families met in the See schoolhouse on March 13, 1852 and organized, and later built a church on a lot donated by R.E. Shelton. This church was damaged by a tornado about 1902. It was dismantled and rebuilt in Alma later that year. When the congregation grew too small to support a church they sold the building to the Primitive Baptists who now use it.

In 1866 8 members organized a church in Kinmundy but it was dissolved in 1873 and several reunited with Harmony. On April 9, 1904 the Trustees of the First Baptist church bought a lot on south Fremont street from W. E. Ross and wife. There a church building was erected. After using it for several years it proved to be too far from the congregation and they moved to the Southern Methodist building on Adams Street to hold their services. In 1922 the building was sold to T. M. Smith. In the last year the building was torn down and a dwelling building on its foundation. There is no congregation now in Kinmundy.

### METHODIST CHURCHES

Circuit Riders were preaching Methodism in this area before Kinmundy was a town. Their stations were Sandy Branch, Fosterburg, and Pleasant Grove. James Harsha was pastor of the Salem Circuit in 1833, and preaching was held at the stations as well as in private homes. In the summer of 1858 Dr. Elliott, of Salem Circuit, preached occasionally in Kinmundy. Rev. James Wollard, of the same circuit, was the first regular pastor. He organized the first class whose members were Waller Hensley and wife, Samuel Lawrence and wife, George Marshall and wife, Melinda Sprouse, Clara Russell, Sarah Fish, Marshall Gee and Wm. Blurton.

The present Methodist minister is Rev. Earl Phillips. Father Strzelec is pastor of St. Philomena's Church.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NOW CHURCH OF GOD



BAPTIST CHURCH



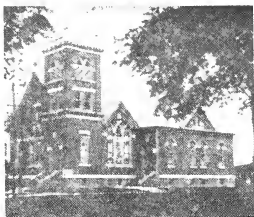
SOUTHERN METHODIST  
CHURCH

In 1863 the Kinnmundy Circuit was formed, P. P. Hamilton became pastor, and through his efforts the first church, a white frame building, was built, on lot 59 in the Original town plat, and where the present church now stands. Ehas Neil was the first superintendent of Sunday School. In 1904 plans were made for a new building and the following committee was appointed: Capt. C. Rohrbough, Chairman; F. A. Pruett, Miss Molly Songer, W. W. Neil and W. H. Gray. In July the contract was let and Samuel Ingram, the oldest member, turned the first spade of dirt.

The new brick building with beautiful stained glass windows, was dedicated the next year. It is still a fine church and has been improved during the years by the congregation.

This year, 1957, a new parsonage was built across the street from the church and the old one was sold, to be torn down. A worthy project of this church is "God's Acres," forty acres of land bought by the Methodist Men and farmed by them for the benefit of the church.

A Southern Methodist Church was active from 1869 to the early 1900s but they disbanded and the members joined with Cumberland Presbyterians or Methodists. Their church, which stood on block 9 on Adams Street was torn down after having been used by the Baptist congregation for some time.



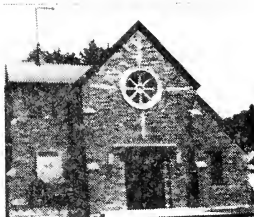
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

### ST. PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Many Catholic families came to this area when the railroad was built and as early as 1866 Father Killian Schlosser was saying mass in the homes. In 1870 a church was begun, Isaac Eagan donated 2 acres of land and Patrick Carriek on his death bed bequeathed a note with interest amounting to \$809 which was to be used for the building. This is the old building in northeast part of the town, and the summer festival is still held on its grounds.

The first trustees were Martin Schoenborn and James Mahon. For the first ten years it was in charge of the Franciscan fathers of Teutopolis, then in 1878 the Diocesan clergy were sent once a month to hold mass. In 1931 with the completion of Route 37 more people were able to attend and one pastor was able to serve the church at Salem, as well as Kinnmundy, and hold mass every Sunday.

In 1940 the congregation grew larger with the coming of people attracted by the oil boom. In 1945 it celebrated its 75th year Jubilee and plans were begun to build a new church. This lovely brick building was dedicated in 1951 and stands on a site donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kleiss.



ST. PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

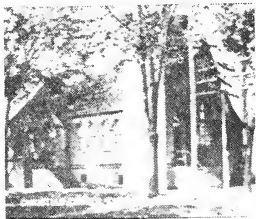
About 1900 the Christian congregations of Centralia and Salem lent their ministers, Rev. Smart and Rev. Rowe to hold a meeting in Kinnmundy. The results were very encouraging and a congregation was organized. On July 4th of the next year, E. C. Bargh bought the lot on the corner of Third and Monroe from D. C. Beaver, whose house was located there. The house was then moved to the lot on the south of the High School Ag building, where it now stands. They immediately set about building a church, and on June 1, 1902 the present brick building was dedicated. According to old records there were about 41 charter members; Mercer, Bargh, Lovell, Lynch, Nelms and Matthews families being among them.

Rev. F. O. Fannon was the first minister and served for about twenty years before accepting a call to Centralia.

They have always been active in mission work and at present are helping to support Kiamichi Mission, working with the Indians in Talihna, Oklahoma, and the Burnside family who are near Honolulu, Hawaii. The present minister is Rev. Rufus Gerkin.

### CHURCH OF GOD

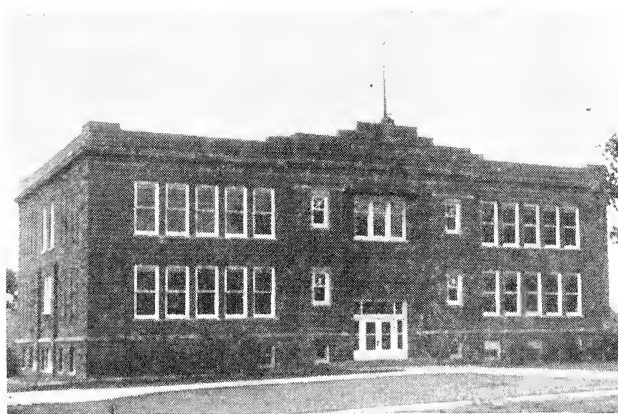
The Church of God was organized about 1925 with a membership of 20, by Rev. Sam Miller. The first trustees were Noah Robnett, Harry Warren, Frank Kline and Mrs. Albert Maxwell and they bought the Cumberland Presbyterian church building which had not been used for some time, since that congregation disbanded. The new church grew to about 40 members but there was a change in membership, some original leaving, others joining with 45 or 50 for Sunday School. The present minister is Rev. A. C. Martin.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Old school house, built in 1865, and torn down when the new building was erected in 1910.



This Page Courtesy of These Farina Merchants

SUGAR CREEK CREAMERY

WESTERN STORE, General Mdse.

I.G.A. FOODLINER

CRANDALL STORES

## NEW GRADE SCHOOL.



### SCHOOLS

The first settlers taught their own children or one, who was more educated than the rest, taught all the neighboring children. The first school in this area was a log house with a puncheon floor, large fireplace with stick chimney, and no windows. It was built northwest of Kimmundy in 1837 and was taught by Samuel Whiteside. It was later moved to the lot just west of the C&E.I. railroad and south of the cemetery turn, and classes were held there until 1857. Miss Annaline Pruett taught in 1856.

After the town was laid out, Judge D. P. Snelling donated a lot on Fremont street, just north of the French home, and a new building was erected there. This was frame, 36'x24' with a hall. Classes were taught by James P. Smith of Hudson, New Hampshire. Later teachers were W. R. Hubbard, Dr. L. S. Skilling, N. S. Hubbard and Miss Carrie Herrick.

This building became so crowded in the 60s that the directors rented a hall on lot 64 in the original town, and held classes there for the older pupils. Professor Pollard was instructor and he was followed by Professor Vincent of Farina. When the new school was finished this hall was bought by the Presbyterians who used it as a church and Sunday school.

In the 80s "Select School" was held here. This was a spring term in March and April after the Public school closed in February. Pupils paid \$1.00 per month tuition. The hall was later moved down town to the corner of Second and Madison street, where it stood many years.

In the fall of 1865 a new four-room frame building was erected on the site of the present high school. This opened in October, with Prof. Simeon Wright, ex-soldier of the Civil War, as principal. He came from Bloomington, Illinois. Miss Permelia Elder taught the grammar department, Miss Amelia

Woodruff the intermediate, and Miss Matilda Young, the primary. The contractor was Tilden Raser; W. C. Smith was one of the carpenters. In 1883 it was necessary to enlarge this and two rooms were added on the north, making six rooms in all.

This was torn down in 1910 and a two-story brick building erected, which served both grades and high school until 1955, when a new grade school was built on the Kimmundy-Louisville black-top east of town. High school and junior high continue in the old building.

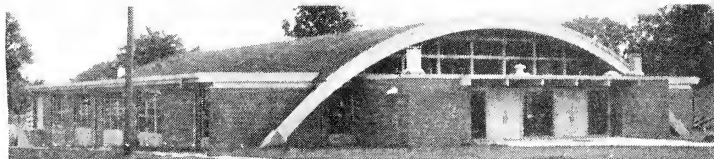
In 1912 our school was accredited by the University of Illinois so that our pupils can enter university without entrance examinations.

In 1924 a gymnasium was built at the north end of the school grounds and served for all school functions, as well as town affairs, until the new and larger one was finished this last year.

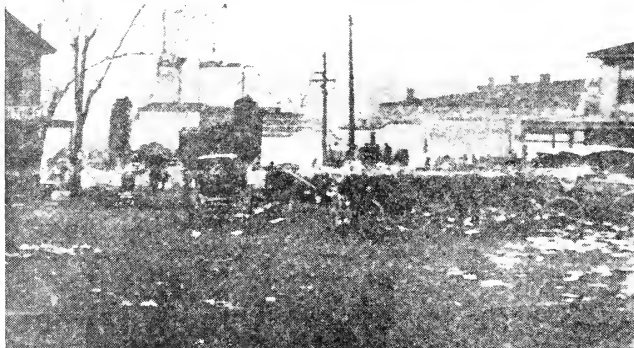
Early rural students walked miles through snow and mud, rode horseback or stayed during the week with townspeople, and were the baby sitters of that era. After the automobile became standard equipment, country roads were improved and in 1940 school buses were instituted to bring country pupils to school.

This was the death knell for the one-room country school, and now North Fork, Arnold Chapel, Maple Grove, Shanghai, Wilson and other country school pupils ride in to Kimmundy school. The buildings have been sold and are converted into town-houses, community centers or even dwellings.

In 1941, High School District 25 was enlarged into Community High School District 500, and in August, 1953, the Kimmundy-Alma Consolidated District 301 was formed. With all this growth, new buildings have been added, a cafeteria and home economics building in 1949, and an Ag building in 1954. The newest addition is the new gym.



NEW HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM



This is a photograph made from the first page of the Kimmudny Express for Dec. 24, 1903.

The fire of 1903 which destroyed the buildings from the alley on Madison street to the bank corner, and west on 3rd street including the opera house. Photo was taken at Third and Madison Streets.



This page compliments of  
THE STATE BANK OF FARINA  
and  
F. G. STONECIPHER and FUNERAL HOME, FARINA



# ***Fires and Fire Department***

The first mention of a fire department is in the City Council minutes of a special meeting Sept. 16, 1867, when the mayor was instructed to procure 5 dozen buckets, either india rubber or leather, also half-dozen ladders and half dozen poles with hooks for fighting fire. In Sept. 1870, the mayor appointed a committee to inspect all flues in the business part of the city, and report on defective ones, and in October, a special committee was empowered to enter any house or building in the city, between sun up and sundown, on any week day, to examine any hearth, chimney, stove, oven, boiler, etc., and notify owner of the danger and that he should correct it. Failure to comply was subject to \$50 fine and costs and \$5 for every day the danger continued.

In December, 1873, an ordinance to establish fire limits was introduced and 2 dozen buckets, a 30 ft. ladder and necessary rakes and poles and other implements were ordered. In March, 1874 they voted to procure a wagon, and a place to keep it, and the implements ready and safe for use in case of fire. There were many bad fires—the lumber yard—the Mendenall Evaporator and others in the 90s.

In 1903 the business section was destroyed from the Masonic Temple to the bank and west to Dr. Camerer's office. The list of losses were: the Masonic temple, Weisberg clothing store; Gunn and Killie Grocery; M. A. Songer, dry-good and Millinery; First National Bank, their safe remained in the fire but the contents were found to be unharmed; the offices above the bank, the I.O.O.F. and Rebekah halls on the third floor; John Spillman barber shop; C. T. Middleton grocery; J. P. Whitson Harness shop; Hawthorn Opera House; Gramley Bros., Meat market S. L. Bundy, clothing and shoes; Express Journal

newspaper; S. R. Woolley, real estate; C. W. Witter, real estate and building; W. H. Gray, building; and the City Council who lost all the town records, or so they thought, till this year when the minutes of the very first meetings were found and lent us for this book.

The bucket brigade saved the buildings on the opposite side of the street, but were powerless to stop the blaze, till they tore down Dr. Camerer's office and the building next to it. The Effingham fire department came down on a freight train, and made the run in 35 minutes but arrived too late to save the buildings. The next year the buildings to the south burned, and the Express was again destroyed.

In 1916 the Opera House which had been rebuilt, burned again, and this time there was a pump cart and hose to aid the bucket brigade, but it was not enough. Those buildings have never been rebuilt since that time.

About 1919 a small Ford truck was purchased and that was used til 1940, when the city got a bigger Ford pumper. Almost immediately, there was another big fire which took the whole south side of the block of Third street between Madison and the alley. At this time the fire companies came from St. Peter, Farina and Salem. This block was never rebuilt.

In 1955 the Kimmudy-Alma fire protection district was organized. This takes in quite a bit of territory outside of the two towns and acts to lower the insurance rates for farmers living in the district. In addition to the old pumper the department now has a new and bigger Ford triple combination, low pressure, high pressure and combination ladder. A siren has replaced the old bell and light plant whistle, whose frightening sound we remember so well.

## **KINMUNDY-ALMA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **OFFICERS**

Jim Alexander, Pres.  
George Feather, Vice Pres.  
Gilbert Doolen, Secy.-Treas.  
Carl Dunlap, Fire Chief  
Jesse George, Assistant Chief  
P. H. Robnett, Captain  
James Lane, Lieutenant

### **MEMBERS**

Vernon Allen  
R. R. Atkins  
James Brasel  
D. C. Day  
Lowell I. Devore  
Edward Elston  
Fred Gammon  
Robert Geiler  
E. E. Jahraus  
R. R. Lee  
John W. McCulley  
Everett Tate  
O. Yates Jr.  
E. O. Zimmer

## HOUSES SHOWN ON HISTORICAL TOUR

### PARRILL RESIDENCE

The Parrill residence is said to be the first house built after the town was platted in 1847. It was used as a house and store and post office by W. B. Eagan. It is mentioned in the minutes of early Clay County meetings when W. B. petitioned to build scales in front to weigh hay and grain. He sold it when he built the larger home to the east and it passed through several hands before it was bought in October, 1907 by the Parrill family when they moved to town from Mencham. It has been their home ever since. It has been extensively remodelled several times. Miss Lucia lives here alone since the death of her sister, Evangeline.



### LEACH RESIDENCE

This hundred year old house, which stands east of Kinnudny, was built by Michael Wolfe of Louisville, Ky. about 1857. It's outside walls are 8" thick and made of brick. Most of the material was brought from Kentucky. Some think it might have been planned for a hotel, since all the rooms had outside entrances and were large enough for several beds. The custom in those days was for a family to stay in a hotel until their home was built on the newly claimed land. It was first occupied by Wolfe and his sister's family, the Absalom Tuckers. She was the grandmother of Byron Rotan and the great-grandmother of numerous Boyds and Rotans and Wades. Wolfe died a bachelor, leaving no will, so the property was sold to settle the estate, and in 1886 George West, who came from Indiana by way of Galena, Ill., bought and remodelled it for his family home. In 1885 he sold it to his son, Charles, who added many acres, named it Hereford Park and raised fine cattle there until 1902. It went through many hands, Henry Greening, Wm. H. Meeks, Ayers Conant, John Merchant, and finally in 1920, Tony Young, who had extensive orchards in the neighborhood bought it. After his death it was sold by his widow to D. I. Leach, the present owner. The first purchaser of the brick was Isaac Eagan who bought it from the government in 1852 sold it to W. J. Sprouse, in 1856, and one month later it was bought by Michael Wolfe. Eleven owners since it was government land.



### SUGGETT RESIDENCE

This house built by Judge David P. Snelling nearly a century ago, is now the residence of Helen and Ray Suggett, formerly of Chicago. Judge Snelling was born in Maine and worked in the ship building business in New Hampshire as a youth, which may account for the cupola with windows on all sides which in the old days adorned the roof. After joining the gold rush, going to California by ship and across the isthmus of Panama on foot and horseback, he returned home the same way and decided to settle in the middle west. He chose Kinnudny, and built this fine old home, which is one of the community's show places, since the Suggetts bought and remodeled it.



### GRISSOM RESIDENCE

The F. O. Grissom home was originally the home of Capt. Calendar Rohrbough and has been lived in by those two families only. Capt. Rohrbough came to Kinnudny with his family after he returned from the civil war. He built this house about 1877. The lime for the mortar was burned near Onondy and presumably the brick were made here as there was a brickyard in Kinnudny in the early days. Capt. Rohrbough died in 1909, and was buried from the Methodist Church across the street, whose new building he had lived to see completed. After Mrs. Rohrbough's death, Mr. Grissom acquired it from the estate about 1923, and has lived there ever since. It has been modernized and remodelled but looks much the same. Mr. Grissom formerly edited the Kinnudny Express and is now the Mayor of the town. Mrs. Grissom teaches voice and is directing the chorus for the Centennial.



### INGRAM RESIDENCE

This house, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Ingram was built by Abram Songer for his bride, Margaret Nelms, when they came to Kinnudny from Xenia soon after their marriage in 1868. Mr. Songer was a prisoner in Libby Prison during the Civil war, and was one of a group who tunneled out, and made their way home. Mrs. Songer was a school teacher in Marion and Clay county during the war and received her education from the Southern Illinois Female College in Salem. With his brother, Giles, Mr. Songer built the Songer mill which is nearby, from brick which they made themselves. This house originally was a small one-story affair but in 1893 the two story part was added in front and the whole house remodelled. After Mrs. Songer's death, her daughter "Miss Mame" (Mrs. James Brown) lived there with her husband, father and aunt, Miss Mollie Songer, who was one of Kinnudny's early storekeepers. After they were all gone it belonged to Bert Garrett who sold to the Ingrams. It has been remodelled and modernized but still has the look of the old place. Mrs. Ingram is a collector of antiques and has filled her home with them.



### BAILEY RESIDENCE

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bailey is about 100 years old and was originally the home of the George Rutherford family. It is said to have been put together with wooden pegs instead of nails, but has been extensively remodelled since then. The southeast room is where Mr. Rutherford taught school to many young people of the town, who then went to Chicago and got jobs. In the 80s he published the Reform Leader, an early newspaper, devoted to the Greenback party, and later the Kinnudny Register. He was also an osteopath and was known as the "rubbing doctor." The daughters Sue and Ida both went to Chicago, but later came back and remodelled and landscaped the place. It was bought by the present owners in 1942 when they came here at the time of the oil boom. They have modernized and improved the house and grounds.



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