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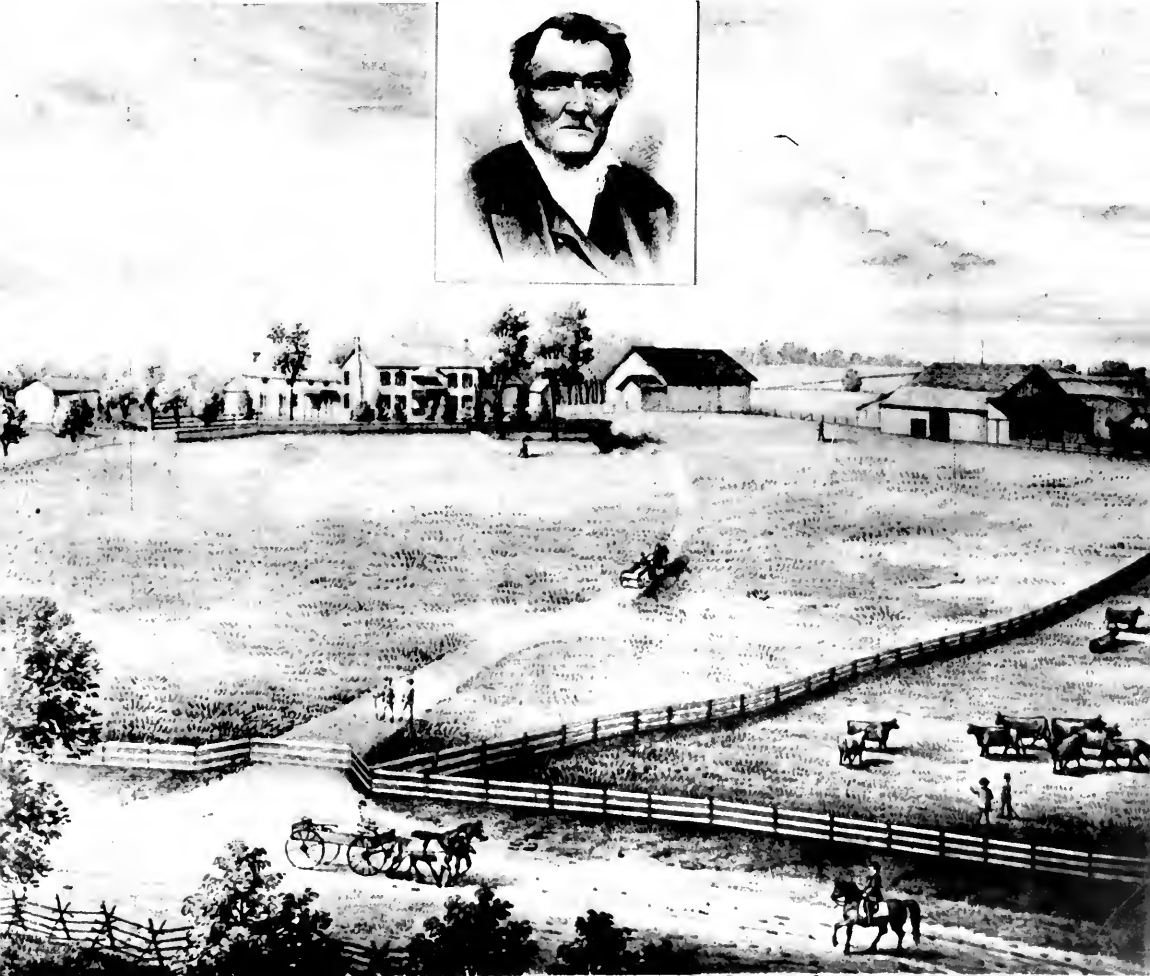


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# OUR FIRST

## ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS

### HUNTER - STRATTON - ELBRIDGE TOWNSHIPS



RES OF J. M. BLACKBURN, STRATTON T. P. EDGAR, CO. ILL.

# 1818 - 1968



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See 7

ON THE FRONT COVER

The picture on the front of our History Book is that of the home of one of the more prominent of the early settlers in Wayne Precinct.

This farm home is located just north of the Blackburn Cemetery. You will note in the history of Stratton Township that he was one of the leaders of his day.

James Maxwell Blackburn one of the pioneers of Edgar County, was born in Harrison County, Kentucky in 1797. In 1819 he was married to Miss Casandra Windner, the first white child born on the Wabash, and had seven children, four sons and three daughters. In 1820 he commenced improving a farm in Stratton Township. He was engaged in farming and stock raising. He served his country as Colonel in the Black Hawk War for ninety days. In business he was successful, and sustained a reputation for honor and integrity. He was the great-grandfather of W.A. Dennis.

The farm is now owned by J. Ward Watson.

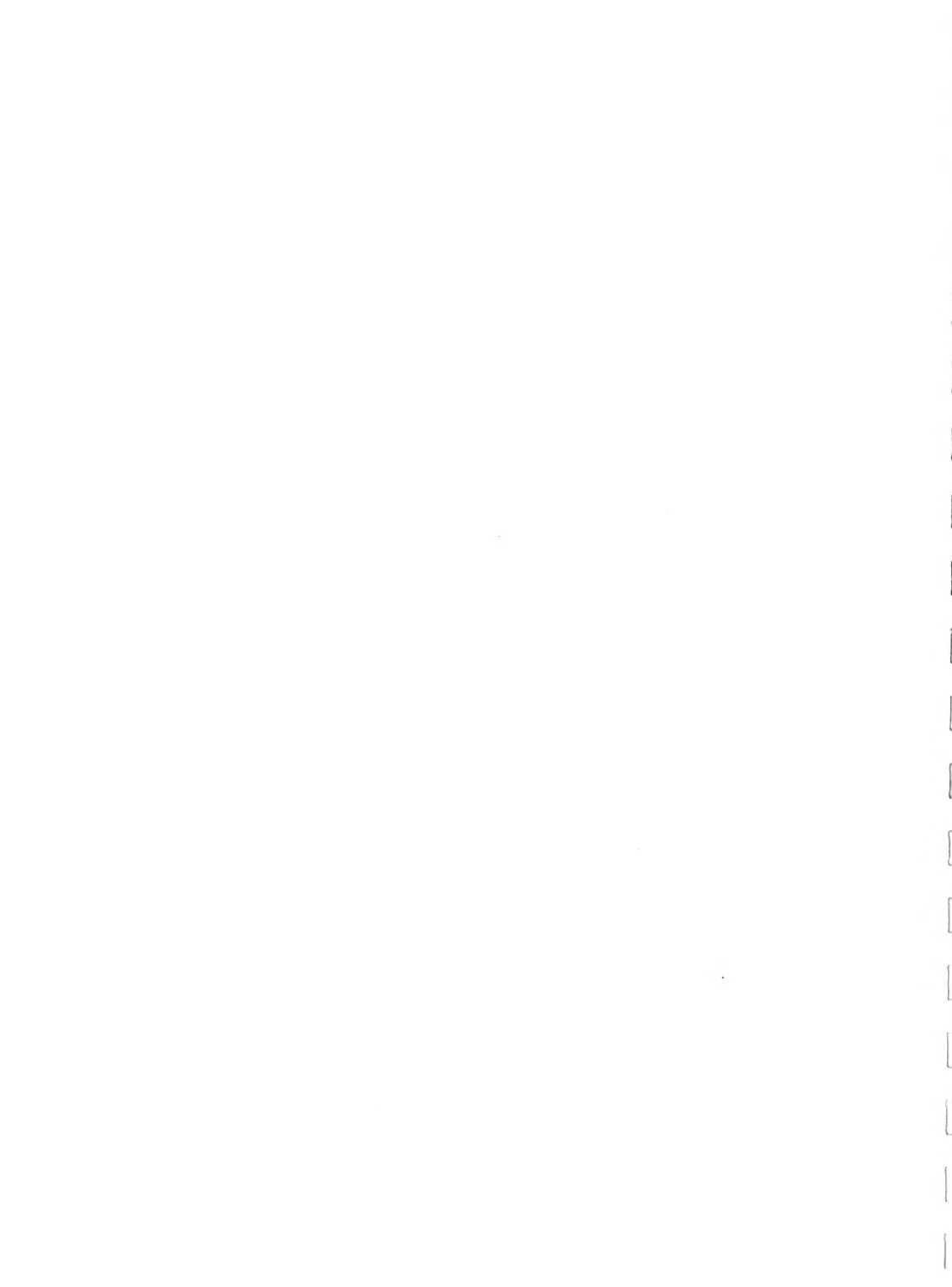
This picture was taken from the 1876 Atlas of the State of Illinois.

Published by Union Atlas Company of Chicago, Illinois, in the year of 1876.

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All first series





Foreword

FRONTIER FESTIVAL

Whoever reads the contents of this booklet should keep the fact in mind that every man has his own particular angle of vision.

Other writers would, in all likelihood, report things differently and emphasize other points more or less sharply.

It has been truly said that history is the record on which are recorded the victories and defeats, the joys and sorrows, the accomplishments and failures of the past.

"Frontier Festival" is being held in Vermilion, Illinois since it includes the townships of Hunter, Stratton and Elbridge. It is being recorded on the following pages and is mostly on the credit side of the ledger. Accomplishments have far outweighed the failures and joy has been predominant throughout the one and one-half century.

Ora E. Raffety

Mrs. Henry Walling

Mrs. Herschel Brown

The Committec

ILLINOIS EARLY HISTORY

The French Explorers, Marquette, Joliet and LaSalle, were the first white men to invade the region known as Illinois. These great loyal Frenchmen claimed the country for their beloved France in the seventeenth century, which for a time, was a part of "New France", but later was attached to Louisiana until the British acquired it by treaty in 1763.

In 1765 the English flag was run up on old Fort Chartres, and Illinois was counted among the treasures of Great Britain.

In 1779 it was taken from the English by Col. George Rogers Clark. This man was resolute in nature, wise in council, prudent in policy, bold in action, and heroic in danger. Few men who have figured in the history of America are more deserving than this Colonel. Nothing short of first-class ability could have rescued Vincens, and all Illinois from the English. And it is not possible to over-estimate the influence of this achievement upon the republic. In 1779 Illinois became a part of Virginia. It was soon known as Illinois County. In 1784 Virginia ceded all this territory to the general government to be cut into States, to be republican in form, with "the same right of sovereignty, freedom and independence as the other States."

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## THE COMPACT OF 1787

In 1787 it was the object of the wisest and ablest legislation found in any merely human records. No man can study the secret history of "The Compact of 1787" and not feel that Providence was guiding with sleepless eye these unborn states.

The Ordinance that on July 13, 1787, finally became the incorporating act, has a most marvelous history. President Jefferson had vainly tried to secure a system of government for the Northwestern Territory. He was an emancipationist of that day, and favored the exclusion of slavery from territory Virginia had ceded to the general government but the South voted him down as often as it came up. In 1787 as late as July 10, an organizing act without the anti-slavery was pending. This concession to the South was expected to carry it. Congress was in session in New York City. On July 5, Rev. Dr. Manasseh Cutler, of Massachusetts, came into New York to lobby on the northwestern territory. Everything seemed to fall into his hands. Events were ripe. The state of the public credit, the growing of Southern prejudice, the basis of his mission, his personal character, all combined to complete one of those sudden and marvelous revolutions of public sentiment that once in five or ten centuries are seen to sweep over a country like the breath of the Almighty. Cutler was a graduate of Yale - received his A.M. from Harvard, and his D.D. from Yale. He had studied and taken degrees in three learned professions, Medicine, Law and Divinity. He had thus America's endorsement. He had published a scientific examination of the plants of New England. His name stood second only to that of Franklin as a Scientist in America. He was a courtly gentleman of the old style, a man of commanding presence, and of inviting face. The Southern members said they had never seen such a gentleman in the North. He came representing a company that desired to purchase a tract of land now included in Ohio, for the purpose of planting a colony. It was a speculation. Government money was worth eighteen cents on the dollar. This Massachusetts company had collected enough to purchase a 1,500,000 acres of land. Other speculators in New York made Dr. Cutler their agent(lobbyist). On the 12th. he represented a demand for 5,500,000 acres. This would reduce the national debt.

Jefferson and Virginia were regarded as authority concerning the land Virginia had just ceded. Jefferson's policy wanted to provide for the public credit, and this was a good opportunity to do something.

Massachusetts then owned the territory of Maine, which she was crowding on the market. She was opposed to opening the northwestern region. This fired the zeal of Virginia. The South caught the inspiration, and all exalted Dr. Cutler. The Englist Minister invited him to dine with some of the Southern gentlemen. He was the center of interest.

The entire South rallied around him. Massachusetts could not vote against him, because many of the constituents of her members were interested personally in the western speculation. Thus Cutler, making friends with the South, and, doubtless, using all the arts of the lobby, was enabled to command the situation. True the deeper convictions, he dictated one of the most compact and finished documents of wise statesmanship that has ever adorned any human law book. He borrowed from Jefferson the term "Articles of Compact," which, preceding the federal constitution, rose into the most sacred character. He then followed closely the constitution of Massachusetts, adopted three years before. Its most marked points were:

1. The exclusion of slavery from the territory forever.
2. Provision for public schools, giving one township for a seminary, and every section numbered 16 in each township; that is one thirty-sixth of all the land for public schools.
3. A provision prohibiting the adoption of any constitution or the enactment of any law that should nullify pre-existing contracts.

Be it forever remembered that this compact declared that "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall always be encouraged."

Dr. Cutler planted himself on this platform and would not yield. Giving his unqualified declaration that it was that or nothing - that unless they could make the land desirable they did not want it - he took his horse and buggy, and started for

the constitutional convention in Philadelphia. On July 13, 1787, the bill was put upon its passage, and was unanimously adopted, every Southern member voted for it, and only one man, Mr. Yates of New York, voting against it. But as the States voted as states, Yates lost his vote, and the compact was put beyond repeal.

Thus the great States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin - a vast empire, the heart of the great valley - were consecrated to freedom, intelligence and honesty. Thus the great heart of the nation prepared for a year and a day and an hour. In the light of these eighty-nine years I affirm that this act was the salvation of the republic and the destruction of slavery. Soon the South saw their great blunder, and tried to repeal the compact. In 1803 Congress referred it to a committee of which John Randolph was Chairman. He reported that this ordinance was a compact and opposed repeal. Thus it stood a rock, in the way of the on-rushing sea of slavery.

With all this timely aid it was after all, a most desperate and protracted struggle to keep the soil of Illinois sacred to freedom. It was the natural battlefield for the impressive conflict. In the southern end of the State slavery preceded the compact. It existed among the old French settlers, and was hard to eradicate. The southern part of the State was settled from the slave States, and this population from the North poured into the Northern part of the State. These sections misunderstood and hated each other perfectly. The Southerners regarded the Yankee as a skinning, tricky, penurious race of peddlers filling the country with tinware, brass clocks, and wooden nutmegs. The Northerner thought of the Southerner as a lean, lank, lazy creature, burrowing in a hut, and rioting in whiskey, dirt and ignorance. These causes aided in making the struggle long and bitter. So strong was the sympathy with slavery that, in spite of the ordinance of 1787, and in spite of the deed of session, it was determined to allow the old French settlers to retain their slaves. Planters from the slave States might bring their slaves, if they would give them a chance to choose freedom or years of service and bondage for their children till they should become thirty years of age. If they chose freedom they must

leave the State in sixty days or be sold as fugitives. Servants were whipped for offenses for which white men are fined. Each lash paid forty cents of the fine. A negro, ten miles from home without a pass was whipped. These famous laws were imported from the slave States just as they imported laws for inspection of flax and wool when there were neither in the State.

These Black Laws were wiped out. A vigorous effort was made to protect slavery in the State Constitution of 1817. It barely failed. It was renewed in 1825, when a convention was asked to make a new constitution. After a hard fight it was defeated. But slaves did not disappear from the census of the State until 1850.

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## TERRITORY OF ILLINOIS

In 1809 it was deemed advisable to divide the Indiana Territory. This was done and the Territory of Illinois was formed from the Western part, the seat of government being fixed at Kaskaskia. It was then known as the country of the Illinois Indians, a powerful tribal combine, individually and collectively superior to many of the primitive people of North America. The particular tribe or tribes, which used to roam as hunters over what is now Edgar County, were the Piankashaws, and Kickapoos. The Indians never had any title to the land. Such title could only be proven by the Government becoming the purchaser and grantee in treaty transactions, and thus admitting the title of the Indians. It is supposable that, as each individual Indian came into the world unwittingly, and lived somewhat in accord with the environment, he had some right to be where he found himself.

Whatever in the way of title the Indians had to the lands within Edgar County, was extinguished by the Government in two treaties. By the first, negotiated by General William Henry Harrison at Vincennes in 1805, and commonly known as "Harrison's purchase," the Government acquired from the Piankashaws over two and a half million acres of land, mostly in Indiana but included all the land in Edgar County lying east of the "Boundary Line," which runs through the county from the boundary in a direct line, but not exactly South. This line was to have been true with the cardinal points, north and south, using the sun at 12 o'clock, noon, as a guide that being the Indian Way, but the start was delayed until 1 o'clock and thus the Government got more land than the Indians were paid for.

Previous to the organization of the Territory of Illinois, a strip along what is now the eastern border of the State, and comprising a part of the territory now included in Edgar County, was embraced in Knox County, which chiefly lay within the present boundaries of Indiana, the region west of the Knox County line falling within the limits of St. Clair County. Simultaneously with the organization of the Territory of Illinois, by proclamation of the acting Governor, Nathaniel Pope, this whole region, from the western boundary of Indiana was assigned to St. Clair County, which extended

northward to the Canada line. The subsequent political changes brought Edgar County territory successively within the jurisdiction of the following counties:

Madison (1812-1814)

Edwards (1814-1816)

Crawford (1816-1818).

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#### ORGANIZATION OF EDGAR COUNTY.

The name of this beautiful Prairie State (Illinois) is derived from Illini a Delaware word signifying Superior Men. The population of 12,282 that occupied the territory in 1800, increased to 45,000 in 1818, when the State Constitution was adopted and Illinois entered the Union of States (United States) on Dec. 3, 1818, as the 21st State, with \$183.20 in the treasury. This was one year after the first people came to Edgar County in 1817. The First Governor was Shadrack Bond. The simple economy in those days is seen in the fact that the entire bill for stationery for the first Legislature was only \$13.50. Yet this Legislature actually enacted a very superior code.

The same year as Illinois was admitted to the Union, Clark County was organized and Edgar County became a part of Clark County, which then extended to Lake Michigan.

Edgar County was detached from Clark County when it was organized as a municipality in accordance with the act passed by the State Legislature, and approved Jan. 3, 1823.

The bill authorizing the formation of Edgar County was passed by the Legislature January 23, 1823, and was approved and signed by Edward Coles, then Governor



of the State. In pursuance of the act of organization, an election was held in the spring of 1823 when John B. Alexander, Elijah Austin and Charles Ives were elected by County Commissioners.

The election referred to was not, however, the first held in what is now Edgar County. Col. Mayo states that, in the spring of 1818, an election was held in his house, on the "North Arm" to choose delegates to the convention to form the State Constitution. He says there were 14 votes, 3 of which came from Sugar Creek. In the fall, another election was held in the Colonel's house, for Governor, Congressmen and a member to the Legislature. The next election was doubtless after the County was formed, and was the one already referred to. When the County was organized, Judge Wilson appointed Col. Mayo, Clerk of the Circuit Court. It was his duty now to put the county in proper shape to hold the election for County Commissioners. We went to Clark County, where he took the oath of office. Gov. Coles had appointed him Recorder and Notary Public, and, on his return from Clark County he swore in Lewis Murphy, as Judge of Probate Court, and all the Justices of the Peace that had been commissioned by the Governor. William Reed was appointed Sheriff and as soon as the Commissioners were elected and qualified Edgar County was a reality.

The County received its name from Hon. John Edgar, one of the first three Judges of the Illinois Country, when that municipality was a part of the "Old Dominion."

On the organization of Edgar County in Jan. 3, 1823, it was divided into five precincts, viz: Wayne, Pike, Fairfield, Carroll and Ripley.

In 1857 Edgar County adopted township organization and Wayne precinct became Brouillet and Stratton townships, and Pike precinct became Elbridge Township.

In 1861 at the March Meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a petition was presented to the board by John Hunter, and signed by ninety-three of the citizens, for a new township to be made from Stratton and Brouillet Townships, most of it, however, from Stratton. At the same meeting, Mr. Van Houtin presented a remonstrance, signed by 243 of the citizens. In face of this remonstrance, the new township was made by the majority of one vote. And thus Hunter became a township and was given the name

Hunter for Mr. Hunter, who was instrumental in getting it.

The land of these townships Stratton, Elbridge and Hunter was subject to entry back when it was a territory and settlers came to what comprises these counties as early as 1716 and 1817.

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### THE EARLY TIMES

In the early development of a country, the pioneers usually fare hard for a time. They leave all the luxuries and comforts of civilization behind them when they emigrate to a new country and give themselves up to toil and exposures. They went forty or fifty miles to mill; of half a dozen families crowding into one small cabin for weeks at a time, until each could provide himself a cabin of his own, Says Col. Mayo "We went to the big field after corn, which we hauled home on a sled." This "big field" was east of Terre Haute, and had been opened by Mrs. Mayo's grandfather. It contained eighty acres—all in corn—and was considered a very large field of corn for those days. Then people grew their flax and cotton, and some raised sheep, and manufactured all their clothing at home. Carding mills, or machines were established, at which the wool was carded into rolls. The rolls were spun by the wives and daughters on the "big wheel" and then woven into cloth, and by the same dexterous fingers made into garments for themselves and their families—and the men, their mode of farming was so far behind what is today. The old "Cary plow" for instance, with its moldboard, part of wood and part of iron; what a curiosity it would be now to see a man trying to plow with it. "We had to stop" says Col. Mayo, "two or three times in a forty rod furrow, and scrape it with a paddle carried for that purpose, in order to plow with it at all. Harrows with wooden teeth were quite a

contrast to the splendid implement of that class now in use. And the small inconvenient cabin in which they had to live, glad to get any kind of shelter that would protect them from the rigors of winter, and from the wolves and bears. The regulation cabin seems to have been from sixteen to twenty feet square, daubed with mud, covered with "clapboards," a log cut out for a window, with greased paper in lieu of glass, and a kind of partition across one end forming a fireplace the width of the cabin. Their furniture was such as the settler himself could manufacture with an ax and an auger. Bedsteads were often made by boring a hole in the cabin wall, putting in pins, supported by others from the ground, a pole laid across the structure, and straw filled in. This composed the bed, as well as the frame, and, though scarcely as soft as downy pillows are, sufficed the humble dwellers until a more luxurious couch could be afforded. But, even under these trying circumstances, they enjoyed life better, perhaps, than we do today. People were more sociable then, all were neighbors for miles and miles, and their term Neighbor came nearer the meaning the master gave it, than it does now. A man would divide his last crust with another, and loan him anything he had - except his wife and babies; and, to know that a man needed help to "raise a cabin" or "roll his logs", was all the invitation required.

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## STRATTON TOWNSHIP

At the time the first settlers came to what is now Stratton Township it was part of Wayne Precinct. Wayne Precinct embraced in its boundaries the present townships of Brouillett, Stratton, Hunter and the northern tier of sections of Elbridge Township.

For years after township organization, Stratton bore the honor of containing the first settlement of white men made in Edgar County. In 1818 settlements were made in this township as originally bounded. Such names as Mayos, Blackburns, Simes, Scotts, Darnalla and others were settlers in the original Stratton Township. This township took its name from John Stratton, one of the five first white settlers in this section of the country, and who is said to have been the first white man who ate his dinner in his own house in Edgar County. He located in the territory now embraced in Hunter Township. The organization of Hunter Township gave it the honor that had originally belonged to Stratton, that of the first settlement in the County.

The first settlement made in what is now Stratton Township was by Daniel Lane, in Spring of 1818. Edward Purcell was probably the next to locate in Stratton in Fall of 1818. William Van Houtin, James Farnham, Chancy Adkins and John Van Dawson came from New York and settled in Stratton Township in 1818 and 1819. Isaac Sanford settled in south part of Township, also from New York in 1819. Col. Blackburn came to Stratton Township in 1820 and entered land around what is now Blackburn Cemetery. Reverend Samuel McGee was one of the early preachers. He settled in this Township in 1825, and will be mentioned in connection with early church history. James Cummins came in the Spring of 1830 and entered the land where the town of Vermilion now stands. That fall James S. Vermilion came to the County and bought the land owned by James Cummins.

There were plenty of Indians in this Section of the country when white people first came. They were of the Kickapoo Tribe and for a half century or more, had made this a part of their hunting ground. They were on friendly terms with the

white people and aside from their natural propensity for stealing, were harmless. In 1833 a large number, in moving to their reservation, somewhere in Iowa encamped on Sugar Creek, just below where the railroad crosses it. They remained in camp over Sunday and when they again started on their journey Westward they went through the Village of Paris. They behaved with propriety while in town, as did the white people and they moved on without molesting any one or being molested themselves.

Game of all kinds was plentiful at the first settlement of the county. Deer, wolves, wild turkeys, bears and many species of birds and smaller animals were abundant. The wolves were the greatest pests of the people. It was almost impossible to raise pigs or lambs on account of them. Herds of forty and fifty deer were often seen together. Many of the early settlers depended almost entirely upon the forest to furnish them with meat, and spent much of their time hunting deer and bears. While as to prairie wolves they were very numerous. Organized bands for the purpose of wolf-hunts were common. At one time in Illinois there was a premium on wolf-scalps; a man could pay his taxes with them, and they might almost have been termed the currency of the country. It was said that a man could go into some saloons - (groceries they were called then) and buy a pint of whiskey, hand out a wolf-scalp and get change in coon, ground hog, or opossum skins.

J.M. Blackburn was Colonel of the Militia of Edgar County at the beginning of the Black Hawk War, in 1832-33. During the Black Hawk War Gov. Reynolds of Illinois called upon Col. Blackburn for four Companies (200 men). He received his orders on Saturday and so rapidly did he push forward his recruiting that on Monday week following he marched for the front with full complement of men. Of eight Townships in the County at that time, each had formed a Militia Company for the regular drills, and from each two companies he called for one company of volunteers. The Townships of Stratton and Elbridge made one company; all volunteered as privates. After the complement was made up, the company proceeded to elect its officers, with the following result: J.M. Blackburn, Captain; Isaac Sanford, First Lieutenant and Aloysious Brown, Second Lieutenant. Upon the arrival at

Main Camp they elected Field Officers. Blackburn, Mayo and Sanford were candidates for Colonel and Blackburn receiving a majority was elected to the position of Colonel. Then Isaac Sanford was elected Captain of the Stratton and Elbridge Company when Blackburn was made Colonel.

During the Revolutionary War the people of Illinois showed much patriotism and bravery. With one-thirteenth of the population of the loyal States, Illinois sent one-tenth of all the soldiers. The Mothers and Daughters went into the field to raise the grain and keep the children together, while the Fathers and older Sons went to the battlefield. It was told of one father and four sons who agreed that one of them must stay home; and they pulled straws from a stack to see who might go. The father was left, but the next day after the boys went to camp, the father came into camp, saying, "Mother says she can get the crops in and I am going too." There were large churches from which every male member went to the Army. It is common history that the greater victories were won in the West. Illinois soldiers brought home 300 battle flags. The first United States flag that floated over Richmond was an Illinois Flag.

Col. Mayo and John Stratton brought the first sheep from Kentucky into Edgar County. They consisted of 130 head which they sold for \$2.00, per head to people wanting to raise sheep. Col. Blackburn mowed the first timothy meadow in the County. It took him and a hired man all day to cut and cure a load, and put it on a wagon and took him with two yoke of cattle another day to haul it to Paris and he sold the load of hay for \$2.00. This was the first hay ever sold in Paris. He also sold the first lot of fat cattle sold in the County. It consisted of twenty head of two, three and four year old steers and for the lot he got \$200.00.

The record of the first child born in Stratton Township was Hiram Sanford, a son of Isaac Sanford. The first death was the wife of a man named Laswell. She died in 1821 and was buried on the Col. Blackburn farm, later this plot of ground was laid out as a burying-ground and known as the Blackburn Cemetery. Col. Blackburn deeded the ground to the neighborhood. When the lady died, Blackburn went to a workman who lived seven miles distant for a coffin. The man worked all night

and finished it the next morning - Then Blackburn carried it home before him on his horse. Another Cemetery was laid out on the Sanford farm and another at the church at Little Grove. The first school was thought to be on the Trogdon farm and taught by Richard Kimbrough in the winter of 1825-1826. The second school, soon after the first, was built on the Col. Blackburn farm. The teacher was Mr. William Doning. He was from Kentucky and had been educated under the old dispensation, had learned to spell from Dillworth's old speller and perhaps had never seen any other. In such words as half and calf, it gave the "L" the full sound, and ge-o-graph'y was spelled thus, with the accent on the third syllable.

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THE VILLAGE OF KENTUCKY

The Village of Kentucky was laid out by J. Mayo Deputy Surveyor for C.B. Jones, County Surveyor for Isaiah Welsh, the owner of the land embraced in the original plot, and is on the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 11, Town 13 North, Range 11 West. The plat was recorded November 23, 1854. An addition was made to the village of Kentucky August 30, 1866, by D.A. Morrison, being a part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 2, Town 13 North, Range 11 West, and was surveyed by Lewis Wallace County Surveyor.

Kentucky, at one time, was quite a little village, with two or three small stores and groceries. James Gordon kept the first store, and perhaps, the largest the town ever had about 1866-67. He continued in business about a year, when he sold out and went to the village of Redmon. A man named Henderson also kept a small store and another by the name of Ewing. The railroad put in a side track, and for a time much grain and stock were shipped from the place. A Depot was put up by Morrison at his own expense and a grain warehouse. Morrison and Allen built a saw-mill here and operated it for ten or twelve years, then sold it for a stave-factory. After changing hands a few more times it took fire and was burned to the ground.

But after Vermilion was laid out, it grew more rapidly than Kentucky ever had, so Kentucky began to lose out. The trains quit stopping there and finally removed the side-track. Morrison tore down the depot building which he himself had built and hauled it away. Those who had been in business there sought other fields and the place of Kentucky was through. In later years 1922 Schuyler C.(Tibe) Wright and Grant Wright built a store building and had a nice grocery store until the year of 1932. At the present time there are only two houses in what was a one time nice little village.

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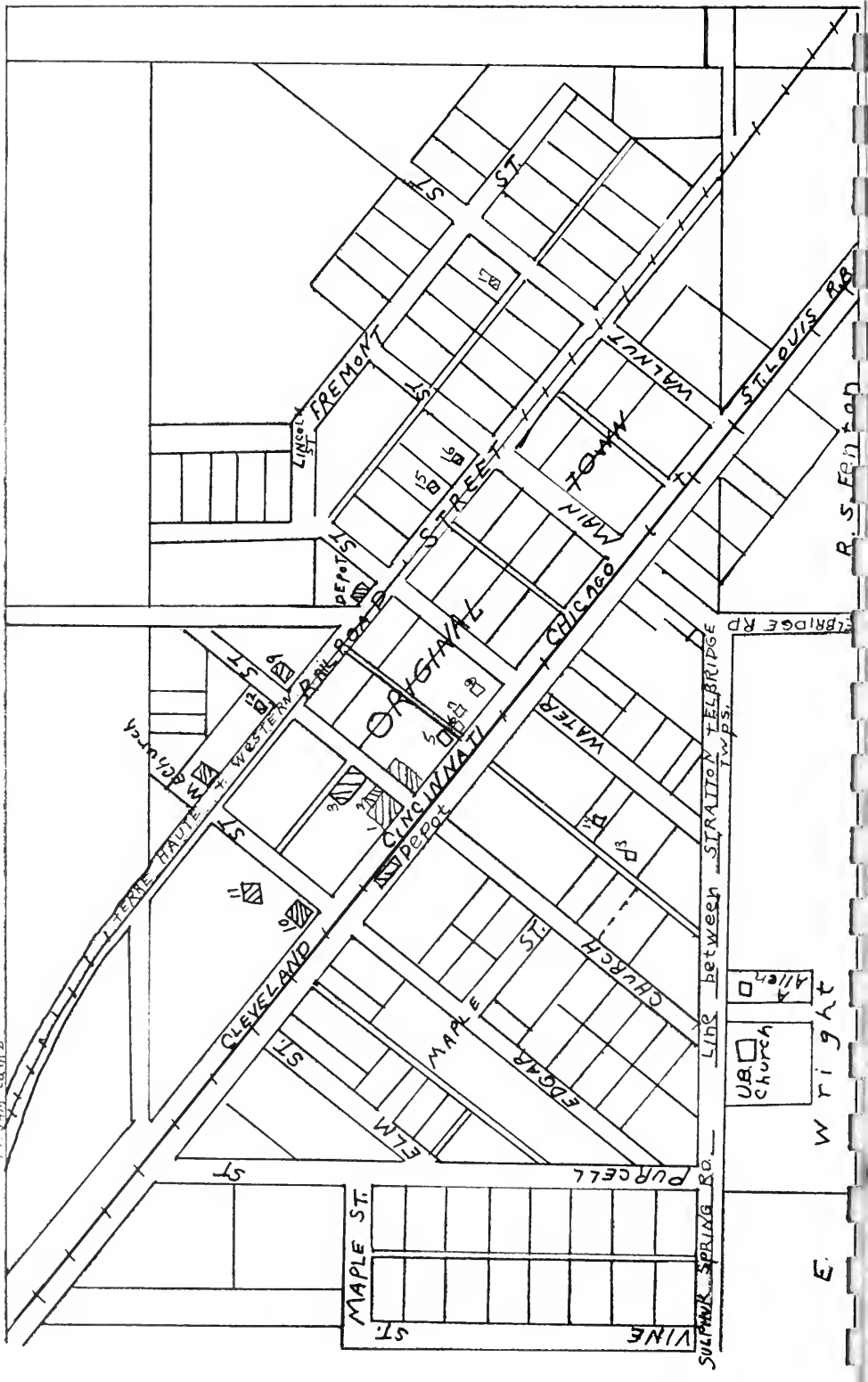


- 1 Store
- 2 BANK
- 3 Hardware Store
- 4 Store
- 5 Md. Office
- 6 Barber shop
- 7 A York
- 8 T.J. Hamilton
- 9. Fessant Implements
- 10. Masonic Hall
- 11. High + Public School
- 12. Fessant Home
- 13. A.M. Wilkin
- 14. D.M. Wilkin
- 15. C.A. Hornberger
- 16. L.P. Hornberger
- 17. S.M. Smith

# VERMILION 1910

STRATTON TWP

Scale: 300ft to 1inch



Wright

When Vermilion was quite new there were two doctors. One was Dr. Ferris, who also owned the drug store. The other was Dr. McCloud. One of Dr. McCloud's daughters, Myrtle, married Oliver Wilkins. The other daughter, Lula, married Dr. Joseph Kilgore. Dr. Kilgore practiced medicine here until his death in 1931. Other doctors were Dr. Johnson and Dr. Pinson. Harry Lycan in 1902 and married Coral Wilkins. His office was located where the Honor Roll now stands. The first baby to be delivered by Dr. Lycan was Crville Wright. Dr. Lycan passed away in 1942 at the age of 69. The last baby which he delivered was Larry Truelove, six months prior to his death.

The Post Office was established in Vermilion on July 24, 1856 with James S. Vermilion being the first Postmaster. Mrs. Vivian Perkinson who is serving at the present time is the fourteenth postmaster. It was during the year of 1892 that the Post Office made the correct spelling of Vermilion with only one "L". However, this only applied to the Post Office and otherwise, Vermilion continued to be spelled with two "Ls" until 1949. Different locations of the Post Office were Wilkin Bros. store, Old Bank Building, Dailey's Feed Mill and others.

D.S. Vansickle - One of the leading General Merchants of Vermilion carried a line of Drugs, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes and Rubber Goods. Mr. Vansickle owned his business room which was 22 x 80 feet on the corner just north of the Big Four Depot. He started in business November 5, 1878.

O.N. Koontz - Contractor and builder of Vermilion. His shop was located North of the Big Four Depot and had a full outfit of everything used by first class contractors.

J.A. Hornberger - Had an extensive business in several different lines such as General Hardware, Lumber and Building Material, Stoves, Ranges, Tinware, Window Glass, Cutlery, etc. The upstairs was used for an Undertaking Establishment exclusively. The Lumber Yard occupied the lot south of the store. Mr. Hornberger started in business in 1861. His first car of lumber was shipped to Kentuck Station and hauled to Vermilion, as at that time the Railroad Company had no side track at Vermilion.

Oliver Stubbs - The Village Blacksmith started in business August 9, 1878. Wm. F. Dinkins, the Woodworkman employed by Mr. Stubbs was an expert in his line.

W.W. & F.D. Downing - Proprietors of the Vermilion Machine Works did all kinds of repair work in their line. They repaired engines, pumps, plows, reapers, binders, mowers, etc.

There were also two grocery stores at this time who were operated by Samuel Dancy and A.J. Boyer.

Dresser and Martin - Operators of the Vermilion Mills, who were manufacturers of choice flours. They were in business from 1837 to 1844.

Michael Hornberger - A carpenter who came from Indiana and settled in Vermilion in 1865.

Christopher Stivle - Blacksmith and Farmer, who came here from Ohio in 1852.

H.W. Tweedy - Carpenter and Farmer, who also came to Vermilion from Indiana in 1833.

Vermilion was incorporated as a village April 1, 1872, and the following trustees elected, D.A. Kimbrough, James Frazier, Geo. W. Tilley, R.B. Wright, and W.A. Koho. The board organized by electing D.A. Kimbrough, President and George W. Tilley, Clerk. At this time they began to make their Ordinances and the following are a few of the outstanding ones made:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VERMILION

That all side walks hereafter built shall be built by the Town of Vermilion in front of and adjoining any premises on any street within the limits of said Town as hereinafter provided except in special cases which shall be by resolution of the Council--and shall appropriate money out of the Town Treasury for the payment of the same.

All sidewalks built within the limits of said Town shall be four feet wide and at least six inches from any fence, the material shall be good sound oak or other durable lumber. The boards shall not be less than one and a half inches thick, six to twelve inches wide and from ten to fifteen feet in length.

When Vermilion was quite new there were two doctors. One was Dr. Ferris, who also owned the drug store. The other was Dr. McCloud. One of Dr. McCloud's daughters, Myrtle, married Oliver Wilkins. The other daughter, Lula, married Dr. Joseph Kilgore. Dr. Kilgore practiced medicine here until his death in 1931. Other doctors were Dr. Johnson and Dr. Pinson. Harry Lycan in 1902 and married Coral Wilkins. His office was located where the Honor Roll now stands. The first baby to be delivered by Dr. Lycan was Crville Wright. Dr. Lycan passed away in 1942 at the age of 69. The last baby which he delivered was Larry Truelove, six months prior to his death.

The Post Office was established in Vermilion on July 24, 1856 with James S. Vermilion being the first Postmaster. Mrs. Vivian Perkinson who is serving at the present time is the fourteenth postmaster. It was during the year of 1892 that the Post Office made the correct spelling of Vermilion with only one "L". However, this only applied to the Post Office and otherwise, Vermilion continued to be spelled with two "Ls" until 1949. Different locations of the Post Office were Wilkin Bros. store, Old Bank Building, Dailey's Feed Mill and others.

D.S. Vansickle - One of the leading General Merchants of Vermilion carried a line of Drugs, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes and Rubber Goods. Mr. Vansickle owned his business room which was 22 x 80 feet on the corner just north of the Big Four Depot. He started in business November 5, 1878.

O.N. Koontz - Contractor and builder of Vermilion. His shop was located North of the Big Four Depot and had a full outfit of everything used by first class contractors.

J.A. Hornberger - Had an extensive business in several different lines such as General Hardware, Lumber and Building Material, Stoves, Ranges, Tinware, Window Glass, Cutlery, etc. The upstairs was used for an Undertaking Establishment exclusively. The Lumber Yard occupied the lot south of the store. Mr. Hornberger started in business in 1861. His first car of lumber was shipped to Kentuck Station and hauled to Vermilion, as at that time the Railroad Company had no side track at Vermilion.

Oliver Stubbs - The Village Blacksmith started in business August 9, 1878. Wm. F. Dinkins, the Woodworkman employed by Mr. Stubbs was an expert in his line.

W.W. & F.D. Downing - Proprietors of the Vermilion Machine Works did all kinds of repair work in their line. They repaired engines, pumps, plows, reapers, binders, mowers, etc.

There were also two grocery stores at this time who were operated by Samuel Dancy and A.J. Boyer.

Dresser and Martin - Operators of the Vermilion Mills, who were manufacturers of choice flours. They were in business from 1837 to 1844.

Michael Hornberger - A carpenter who came from Indiana and settled in Vermilion in 1865.

Christopher Stivle - Blacksmith and Farmer, who came here from Ohio in 1852.

H.W. Tweedy - Carpenter and Farmer, who also came to Vermilion from Indiana in 1833.

Vermilion was incorporated as a village April 1, 1872, and the following trustees elected, D.A. Kimbrough, James Frazier, Geo. W. Tilley, R.B. Wright, and W.A. Koho. The board organized by electing D.A. Kimbrough, President and George W. Tilley, Clerk. At this time they began to make their Ordinances and the following are a few of the outstanding ones made:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VERMILION

That all side walks hereafter built shall be built by the Town of Vermilion in front of and adjoining any premises on any street within the limits of said Town as hereinafter provided except in special cases which shall be by resolution of the Council--and shall appropriate money out of the Town Treasury for the payment of the same.

All sidewalks built within the limits of said Town shall be four feet wide and at least six inches from any fence, the material shall be good sound oak or other durable lumber. The boards shall not be less than one and a half inches thick, six to twelve inches wide and from ten to fifteen feet in length.

The foundation or stringers not less than three by five inches in size, and three feet apart and four feet long, except in special cases provided in Section one of this Article

Passed January 6th. 1873

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING PERMISSION AND AUTHORITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC RAILWAY IN THE VILLAGE OF VERMILION:

Be it and it is hereby ordained by the Board of Trustees of the village of Vermilion, in Edgar County, Illinois that consent, permission, and authority is hereby given and granted to Stone and Webster, Boston, Massachusetts, their successors, assigns and grantees, to construct and operate single or double tracks of electric street and interurban railway with necessary switches and turn outs, for a period of twenty years from the date and adoption hereof, in, upon and along Railroad Street of the said village, but no car or cars shall be hauled or propelled on said railway by steam locomotive. The right is hereby reserved by said Board of Trustees to reasonable exercise its police powers to regulate the operation and business of said electric railway so far as the public safety and convenience may require. The track, switches and turn outs shall be of uniform gauge or width; shall be of standard rails; shall be laid so as to conform to the grade of the street in use at the time laid; and shall thereafter be relaid whenever necessary to conform to the surface of said streets so that the rails shall not project above it in such manner as to be any unnecessary impediment to the ordinary use of the whole of such streets for wagons, buggies and other vehicles, along upon or across the same, at any or all points and in any and all directions and wherever any track, switch or turn out crosses any ditch, drain or gutter, the persons or company constructing, owning or operating such railway shall bridge such ditch, drain or gutter at their or its own expense, so as at all times to permit the free passage of water. The board of trustees of the village of Vermilion shall at all times have the power and right to cause such electric railway track, switches and turn outs, or any part thereof, to be taken up and relaid wherever necessary for for the grading, regrading or improvement, by paving or otherwise,

of any street upon which the same is laid, or for laying, repairing or replacing gas or water mains or electric light wire or other conduits or constructing, repairing or building drains or sewers, and the persons or company operating said railway, shall at their or its own expense at all times keep the part of the street between the tracks, switches and turn outs in the same condition and repair, and improved in the same way, by paving or otherwise, as the remainder of the street at said point or place is improved and kept; and so long as said street is graveled by the public the persons or company operating such railway shall gravel between its tracks and for four feet on either side thereof. All tracks, switches and turn outs shall be laid in or as near the center of the street as can be safely or reasonable done, unless provision and consent to do otherwise is hereafter granted. This franchise is granted on the express condition that an electric railway is constructed and in operation and said street in the village of Vermilion within eighteen months of the date of its passage and adoption, unless additional time be granted therefor, and on failure to comply with this condition all the consent, authority and permission given by this ordinance shall be absolutely forfeited; Provided, however, that if such construction or operation is prevented by any injunction or injunctions, or other causes beyond the control of the grantee hereof, the delay caused thereby shall not be counted as a part of such eighteen months, but shall be excluded therefrom, and such terms shall not be held to have elapsed until that much time shall have passed, exclusive of the delay caused by such injunction or injunctions or other causes as aforesaid. An emergency existing for the immediate taking effect of this ordinance the same shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

W.H. Mings  
President

I, the undersigned, clerk of the Village of Vermilion, Edgar County, Illinois do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance concerning the Interurban Railway was adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees of said village of Vermilion on the 17th. day of April 1905. This 20th. day of April 1905.

T.R. Crawford  
Village Clerk



VILLAGE ORDINANCE - ELECTRICITY

Be it ordained by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Vermilion, Edgar County, Illinois. Permission and Authority is hereby granted and given to T.F. Grover, his heirs, Administrators, Lessees, Executors and assigned for the ~~term of~~ 50 years from and after the 7 day of January 1907 to lay and maintain during the term of this grant in or on the ground or string on poles, all necessary wires over and by which electricity for lighting purposes for fuel and for all lighting purposes for which electricity can or may be used or may be conveyed for public or private use in the following named streets and any future extensions thereof namely -- Walnut St., Main St., Water St., Church St., Edgar St., Purcell St., Vine St., Fremont St., Lincoln St., the county road RailRoad St., Maple St., and that part of the right-of-way used for a highway of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Company together with all alleys and public grounds in said village and future extensions thereto and authority is also given to place and put upon said streets, alleys and grounds all necessary wires, conduits, poles, fixtures and apparatus necessary to be used in the distribution and conveying of electricity over and upon any of the aforesaid streets, alleys and public grounds and any and all extensions thereof for any of the purposes for which the same may be as aforesaid. Whoever shall injure, disturb, break, destroy, deface or in any manner interfere with any of the wires, poles, lights and apparatus or any fixtures herein authorized to be placed in and upon the aforesaid streets or alleys of public grounds in said village of Vermilion shall be fined in any sum not less than three 3.00 or more than twenty-five 25.00 dollars. Read and adopted by the President and board of village trustees county of Edgar and State of Illinois at a regular meeting held on this 6th. day of January 1908.

J.D. Thompson

President

W.F. Dinkins

Clerk

The Rebekah Lodge was instituted July 14, 1908. The officers at that time were as follows:

Kate Quick.....	Noble Grand	Maggie Huffman .....	Inside G.
Juretta Dodd.....	Vice Grand	J.W. Martin .....	Outside G.
Mary Bartholomew.....	Secretary	Special Deputy .....	Mary Moody
Anna Fenton .....	Treasurer	Mary Walling .....	R.S.N.G.
Carrie Huffman .....	Financial Sec.	Cynthia White .....	L.S.N.G.
Janna Raines .....	P.N.G.	C.B. Raines .....	R.S.V.G.
Grace Mason .....	Warden	Lou Kilgore .....	L.S.V.G.
Grace Martin .....	Conductor	Ella Huffman .....	Chaplain

The lodge met on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Odd Fellows Hall.

This organization was closed on July 16, 1936 by Muriel Dawson, Spec. Dep. who also was past President of R.S.A. The officers at that time were:

Edith Tossier .....	Noble Grand
Mary Hamilton .....	Vice Grand
Lloyd Tossier .....	Secretary
Ethel Ford .....	Treasurer

The members at the time of closing:

Bessie Augustus	Faye Metcalf	Rhoda Vance
Pearl Bledsoe	Mary Hamilton	Edith Tossier
Ethel Ford	Zeta Martin	

The above were all Past Noble Grands

Others:

William J. Frye	Mary Bedwell	Margaret Newcomb
Joe Augustus	Jane Frye	Lillie Raines
E.H. Sanders	Hattie Fessant	Nila Stewart
Lloyd O. Tossier	Ellen Hickman	Allie Shell

Bothe Masons and Odd Fellows were represented by flourishing Lodges:

Both the Masons and Odd Fellows were represented by flourishing Lodges:

Stratton Lodge, No. 408 A.F. and A.M. was organized in January 1863. The first officers were D. A. Morrison, Worshipful Master; Nathan Sanford, Senior Warden; F.T.D. Vale, Junior Warden and Ira K. Elliott, Secretary.

The present officers are: Worshipful Master, Eddie Jones; Senior Warden, Donald Fox; Junior Warden, Larry Beasley; Secretary, H.W. Raffety; Treasurer, Henry Walling; Senior Deacon, George Gore; Junior Deacon, Melvin Bach; Junior Steward,

John Mullenix, Chaplain, Richmon Dennison; Marshall, Carl Winans; and Tyler, Cash Wright, Jr. There are approximately 100 who belong to this lodge.

Lecture Lodge, No. 563, I.O.O.F. was organized January 13, 1875. L.P. Besier was the first Noble Grand; C.A. Sisk, Vice Grand; and J.A. Castle, Secretary. In 1954 this lodge was closed and to this time have never re-opened. In connection with the Masonic fraternity, they owned an elegant hall worth about \$3,000. It was a brick edifice, and the lower part was owned by Mr. Showalter, while the upper story belonged to the Masons and Odd Fellows.

A telephone switchboard operated in Vermilion for many years, the first place being south of the railroad by Margaret Newcomb. Later the office moved to the present location of Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Raffety, with other operators being, Mae Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bledsoe, Mr. and Mrs. John Vestal and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ford. The switchboard closed in 1931 with the Fords being the last operators.

Until 1942 there was a rural route out of Vermilion. People who lived at Kentuck came to Vermilion once a week to pick up their mail. Some of the mail carriers were: Otis Wright, Owen Rowe, Ernest Guymon, Harvey Sanders, Andrew York and John Martin.

In about 1929 a large strawberry shed was erected at the North edge of Vermilion. There were approximately 3000 acres of strawberries grown by various farmers and this shed was used as a distributing center. Many were shipped to Montreal, Chicago, Kansas City, etc. Strawberries sold as low as .40 per case. This place of business was active for about twelve years. Then in 1943 the building was used as a distributing center for 600 acres of tomatoes grown by different farmers in this community. They were trucked to a canning factory in Terre Haute, Indiana, and this business was in operation for ten years. The last few years this building, which was purchased by the Dailey Bros., is being used for storage of bulk fertilize.

The town of Vermilion dug deep wells and put in city water in 1959.

Natural gas was piped into Vermilion from the large pipe line east of

Vermilion in 1963.

Places of business which are now operating in this town are:

Stott's Grocery -- Evinger's Seed and Grain Company -- Stott's Laundramat and Car Wash -- Post Office -- Fire Department -- Dailey's Feed Mill -- Frye's Welding Shop -- Standard Oil Fertilize Plant -- Englum Elevator.

VERMILION SUNSET

Like soft purple pansies drifting to earth  
Twilight is falling to-night;  
In the west, fading embers still glow on the hearth  
But day has taken it's flight.  
The problems I faced, the sorrow, the tears  
Are forgotten, erased as twilight appears.  
The world has locked shop and stopped the mad rush-  
You can hear a leaf drop; there's a pause, there's a hush.  
The moment commands all nature, "be still!"  
A solemn moon stands with respect on the hill.  
Enraptured, enchanted, I breathlessly wait  
While a whippoorwill answers the call of it's mate.  
Now night shadows hover and stars by the million,  
Sleepily blink, "good night Vermilion".

Orville Wright

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THE CHURCHES OF STRATTON TOWNSHIP

The Vermilion M.E. Church was built in the summer of 1865. The foundation was built with brick from the old brick church that stood on the Sanford farm and the body of the building was frame, the total cost of about \$1500.00. The Deed for the ground on which the M.E. Church was built was of May in the year of One Thousand eight hundred and sixty-two between James S. Vermilion and Elizabeth Vermilion his wife, of first part and trustees of the Methodist Church and their successors of the second part.

In 1922 the Church building was raised and a basement put under the entire building, making it the same as today. In 1956 the old coal furnace in the Church was replaced by a new gas furnace which used propane gas. Natural gas was piped into Vermilion in 1963 and the furnace at the Church and parsonage were then changed to natural gas. In 1959 the church put in city water and changes the water system at the parsonage to city water.

The parsonage across the Railroad from the Masonic Hall was in need of repair and in 1959 the Church purchased the home of Mrs. Eathel Redmon, known as the Dr. Lycan residence for a parsonage and sold the old parsonage. In early 1965 the sanctuary was redecorated with new paneling on the walls and a suspended ceiling with 4 ft. x 2 ft. ceiling tile. The ceiling was lowered two feet at center and down to nine feet sidewalls and three new windows on the west side at a cost of \$2450.00

The average attendance and membership as of June 1st. 1968 is:

Church Membership.....	147
Church School Enrollment.....	125
Average Church School Attendance..	100

*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*

LITTLE GROVE CHURCH

The first organization of the Little Grove Church, six miles East of Paris was in the Fall of 1826 in the home of Samuel McGee. The church was formed through the efforts chiefly of Mrs. Mary Morrison and her sister, Mrs. Anna Fitzgerald. These women with others in this settlement had come to Edgar County from Kentucky where they had come to some knowledge of the Restoration Movement. Meetings for worship was first held in residences, next in the McGee Schoolhouse and about 1829 in the Prior School house. By 1832 the members had increased to near one hundred. People would go sometimes a day travel to be at the Saturday night and Sunday meetings. It was not uncommon for several of the early settlers to take their families together in an ox wagon to Church. In 1835 the congregation to build a meeting house which was finished in 1837 with seats. This served until 1875 when the present house was built.

In its earlier years this church was visited by Alexander Campbell, John Kane, Daniel W. Elledge, Love H. Jameson, the brothers Job and Michel Combs and others.

The leading preacher up to 1865 was Wm. Hartley assisted by Elija Ward. John J. Van Houtin, a grandson of Mrs. Mary Morrison came to the Ministry here.

Written by  
Charles Frye.

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

LITTLE GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Little Grove Christian Church was one of the first Christian Churches established in Illinois.

Two married sisters from Kentucky led in the establishment of Little Grove Church, six miles east of Paris, Illinois in 1826.

The present location was established in April of 1940 with the first Minister at the new location being Delno Brown. The building was later purchased, remodeled and rededicated as Little Grove Christian Church at special services in 1955. The present congregation is small with average attendance around 30 with a much larger membership. The oldest living member being Mrs. Sally Martin, who is 96 years old.

The present Superintendent is Eddie R. Henson and Paul Crum is the present minister serving the congregation for almost ten years.

Some long time members of the church, who are now deceased were Benjamin and Hannah Morrison VanHoutin, Miss Hannah Euphemia VanHoutin, Bert and Maude Bell, Van E. and Janna Wright, Anna Wright, Mrs. W.E. Davidson and Raymond and Fernie Whitesell and Chester A. Hammond.

Present long time members are Ed and Zella Garwood. In addition, Mr. Birt Buntain was very active in the congregation until illness forced him to discontinue.

Mrs. Annabelle Garwood Henson

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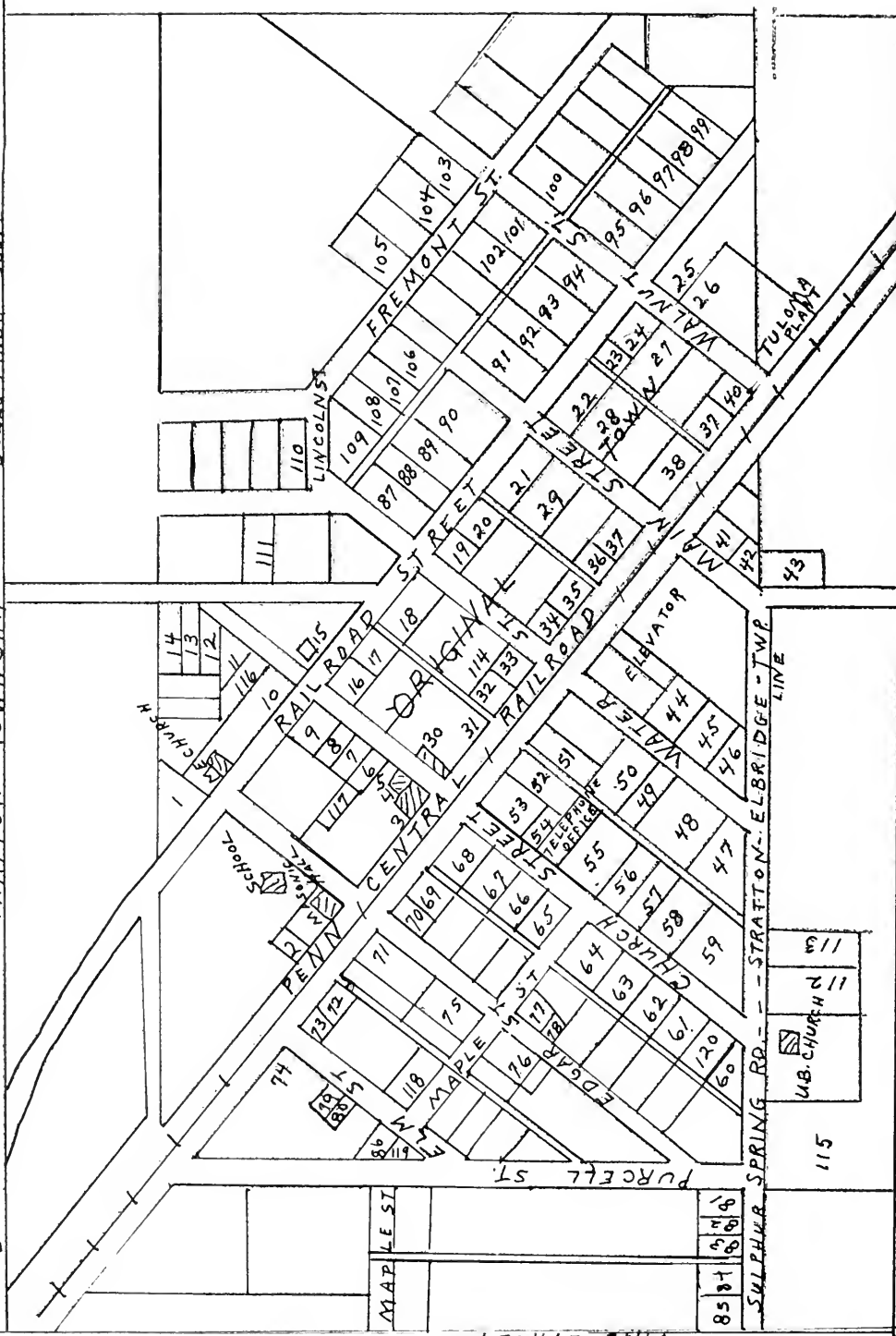
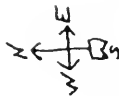




# VERMILION 1968

Scale 1 inch = 300 FT

STRATTON TOWNSHIP



MAY 31, 1968

VINE STREET

MAPLE ST

PURCELL ST

LINCOLN ST

STREET

CENTRAL

ORIGINAL

RAILROAD

ELEVATOR

WATER

CHURCH

EDGAR

MAPLE

PENN

RAILROAD

STREET

WATER

ELEVATOR

CHURCH

EDGAR

MAPLE

PENN

RAILROAD

STREET

SULPHUR SPRING RD. - STRATTON-ELBRIDGE-TWP. LINE

LINE

115

U.B. CHURCH

11

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The Number of the Resident will correspond to the Number on the Map on the opposite Page. The Vermilion Maps were prepared by Mrs. Evelyn Ewing Arbuckle.

- |                          |                           |                            |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Meredith Dean         | 41. Wayne (Pete)Ray       | 81. George Nelson          |
| 2. Raymond Nebergal      | 42. Mrs. Perry Rhoden     | 82. Mrs. Walter Hill       |
| 3. Stotts Grocery        | 43. Forrest White         | 83. James Bramlett         |
| 4. Coin Wash             | 44. William Simpson       | 84. Harold Whitlock        |
| 5. Vacant                | 45. Claude Hickman        | 85. Ronald Ivy             |
| 6. Car Wash              | 46. William Wright        | 86. Lloyd H. Adams         |
| 7. Bell Building         | 47. Russell Gore          | 87. James Shirar           |
| 8. Fire Station          | 48. Paul Osborn           | 88. Lester Dailey          |
| 9. Kenneth Robison       | 49. Mrs. Mabel McKimney   | 89. Forrest Brown          |
| 10. Kenneth Miller       | 50. Joseph Davis          | 90. Ed Day(Vacant)         |
| 11. Frye's Welding Shop  | 51. William R. Whitesell  | 91. Mrs. Roy Sanders       |
| 12. James Berry          | 52. Mrs. Mildred Kirby    | 92. Ben Washburn           |
| 13. Mrs. John Yeargin    | 53. Mrs. Vivian Perkinson | 93. Forrest Stotts         |
| 14. Claude(Bud) Reese    | 54. U.S. Post Office      | 94. Ed Day                 |
| 15. Dailey's Feed Mill   | 55. Lloyd Adams           | 95. Miss Donna Bradbury    |
| 16. Don Robertson        | 56. Sam Dugger Jr.        | 96. Mrs. Ethelene Winans   |
| 17. M.E. Parsonage       | 57. Mrs Arthur Wills      | 97. Ronald Murray          |
| 18. Joe Murray           | 58. Max Johns             | 98. Lloyd Spittler         |
| 19. Floyd Turpin         | 59. Ernest Walling        | 99. William Riley          |
| 20. William Wilson       | 60. Harold Irwin          | 100. Ron Hollingsworth     |
| 21. John Yingst          | 61. Charles Miller        | 101. Mrs. Viola C. Nickles |
| 22. Ernest Guymon        | 62. Noble Powers          | 102. Robert Simpson        |
| 23. Charles(Jim)Holloway | 63. Ralph McCoy           | 103. Carl Frye             |
| 24. John Holloway        | 64. Carl Peters           | 104. Maude Thompson        |
| 25. Ed Day (Vacant)      | 65. Eugene Sanders        | 105. Maurice Bedwell       |
| 26. John Bruce           | 66. Mervin Myles          | 106. Harold Eastham        |
| 27. James White          | 67. James Ricketts        | 107. Stanley Newman        |
| 28. Mrs. Ada Mann        | 68. Mrs. Millie Ewing     | 108. Lloyd Dailey          |
| 29. William Roush        | 69. Mrs Jeannette Rogers  | 109. Emmett Higgins        |
| 30. Evinger Seed Co.     | 70. Miss Lela Cummins     | 110. Charles Kemper        |
| 31. Mrs. Anna McCoy      | 71. Danely Cash           | 111. Whorton Raffety       |
| 32. Leroy Nickles        | 72. Ralph Creech          | 112. George Gore           |
| 33. Lige Rogers          | 73. Theodore Shumaker     | 113. Nathan Lankster       |
| 34. Forrest Duck         | 74. Charles Wright        | 114. John Bowersock        |
| 35. Mrs. Gail Johnson    | 75. Kenneth Jernigan      | 115. Mrs. Collett Dean     |
| 36. Harold Nickles       | 76. Robert Scott          | 116. Mrs. Marie Murray     |
| 37. Walter Vicars        | 77. Roy Pitts             | 117. Max Stotts            |
| 38. James Kiger          | 78. Harry Garwood         | 118. Robert Redman         |
| 39. Roscoe Miller        | 79. Wilkerson Watts       | 119. Earl Slade            |
| 40. Vernon Smithers      | 80. Dale Funkhouser       | 120. Louis Mace            |

## ELBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Pike Precinct embraced the present territory of Elbridge Township, with the exception of the north tier of sections which was a part of Wayne Precinct at that time.

Pike Precinct was about one-fourth the size of Wayne Precinct, but for a time had nearly as great a population as the whole of Wayne precinct.

When the white man came to Pike precinct or Elbridge Township in 1818 it was covered with a magnificent growth of native forest trees, prominent among which were oak in several varieties, hickory, walnut, beech, sugar-tree, elm and other kind flourished. Interspersed among these grew a great number of small trees of the same and different varieties, which, with their more powerful fellows, were ruthlessly cut down by the pioneer in the establishment of his home. Many grand old forest trees were felled to the earth by the pioneer's powerful arm and keen ax, trees which, could they be produced now, would yield him a handsome revenue. Yet they stood in the way of progress, and as there were no mills or manufactories to use them, they were consigned to the log-heap and destroyed. Grand sound walnuts of a century's growth, so large that when they felled an ordinary man could not see over them in a direct line from his eye, were cut down, sawn into lengths so they could be handled, and rolled to the log-heap to meet the fate of others equally as sound and large, though of a different kind. Such trees as these - whole forests of them - stood on the hills, along the streams and in the valleys in what is now Elbridge Township when the first white man made his home here. Here had they stood for ages - under their outspreading branches had the Indian lover wooed and won his dusky mate; had he pitched his wigwam home, reared his family. The savage beast, the fleeting deer, the heavy buffalo, the swift bird, the raven wolf had all lived here in undisturbed security, or been the delight of the native hunter in his exciting chaso. The limpid waters of the streams had furnished him a rare feast, while in their depths he had bathed his limbs, or over their surface paddled his light canoe. His possession of these primeval forests

could not always be. A white race more powerful than he, was already close in his footsteps, and warned by the experience of his comrades farther east, he was preparing to vacate and follow the western sun. The white man had his home on the banks of the Wabash, determined to find a home for themselves and their families in this then outpost of civilization, were encroaching closely on his domain.

Some of the first to come to Pike Precinct, or what is now Elbridge Township was John Ray from Tennessee in 1818. Soon after Alexander Ewing same also from Tennessee, and with the next three years came Arthur Forster, Thomas Wilson. Thomas Foster, James Knight, Hall Sims, Thomas Rhoads, James Love and James Eggleston from Kentucky. In 1822 Eleven Tucker and David Roll came from Ohio; in 1823 came Andrew B. Ray from Tennessee and Abner Lamb from Kentucky. In 1824 Thomas Hicklin arrived from Kentucky. John Elliott came in 1825 and Solomon Trogdon in 1826 and Samuel Trogdon in 1827. In 1829, William Hanks, James W. Parrish, and George Mack came from Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina, respectively, John Vaught, John Cummins, Peterson Yeargin and W.D. Marley came soon after.

Most all these men brought families and came about the same time. Their circumstances, too, varied but little. All were poor, and all equally desirous of bettering their fortunes. They came with a meager outfit of this world's goods, but strong in faith and hope, expected to increase their worldly store and provide a home in old age. Some came in frontier wagons, drawn by horses or oxen, and some used the more primitive pack-horse as a means of migration. Either was slow, but as they knew of no other way than that mentioned, unless a river lay in the course, they were content. While on the journey if away from a settled route, their encampment for the night was made wherever night overtook them. A fire was built by the wayside, over which an iron kettle was suspended, in which the evening meal was cooked. The father's gun through the day provided abundance of fresh meat of the choicest varieties, for squirrels and wild turkeys were common, and deer could be had almost for the asking. Yet, let the advantage of the journey be the best, and it was one of toil and privation. Then there were no bridges over the streams, no fences by the roadside, no well-trodden highways. Each emigrant

followed the general trail, but each sought a new track for his own team. If the season was one of much rain, the swamps would be almost impassable, and the roads would be heavy. If dry, the road was rough, so that at its best, the journey could not be said to be pleasant, yet the way was often cheery. The emigrant on his arrival began at once preparations for shelter. During this period, the family lived in the wagon, though the cooking and washing were performed by the women under the shade of an outspreading tree. Oft times a rude pole cabin, with no floor save the mother-earth, and no windows save the interstices between the poles forming the walls of the cabin, was temporarily erected, and should the time of arrival be spring, this structure sufficed for a house until the crops were sown. After that important work was done, he had a season of comparative leisure, during which he made preparations to erect a more comfortable home. The cabins or houses were made of unhewn logs, notched at the ends so they would fit closely together. Between the logs chunks split from the heart of an oak were fastened with pegs and daubed over with mud until the crack was closed. The earth in the interior of the cabin was trodden firmly down and was used for the floor. A door was cut in one side, a small window on the other, the hugh old fashioned fire place made in one end and the cabin was complete. In many cabins puncheon floor was laid. The puncheons for floor and clapboards for the roof were almost always split from sound oak-trees, the puncheons being held in their place by their own weight, while the clapboards were held on by weight poles, kept a suitable distance apart by short sticks of wood, placed between them.

The crops raised by the early settlers were generally corn and wheat. When corn was thoroughly dry, it was crushed in a mortar or ground in one of the horse or water mills. The pioneer was obliged to go to a mill a few miles below Terre Haute or to one of the settlements further north. Most of the settlers were farmers.

Mr. Andrew B. Ray stated that at one time he built a water-mill on Sugar Creek, one of the first mills of its kind in the precinct. He constructed a dam of corn stalks and brush, and built the mill. The dam could not stand the

spring floods and during a heavy flood was swept away, ending the working of the mill.

Samuel Trogon came to Pike Precinct in 1827. He remained here, however, but a few years, when he removed to what is now Stratton Township. He was a blacksmith by trade, but carried on a farm and tannery. In the capacity of blacksmith and tanner, he was a most valuable adjunct to the youthful settlement. He could mend their wooden moldboard plows, sharpen their hoes and grub-axes, repair broken irons and save them thereby a trip to some shop more remote. His tanner was, probably, one of the first in this part of the county. It consisted simply of a vat, and a pole or two on which to rub and cure the hides. Boots, at that early day, were not a common article of wear; moccasins were more prevalent. Strong shoes were the common article of feet-covering, and even these were considered so valuable that young ladies walked barefoot to church, and when near the sacred temple of worship, paused, sat down on some fallen log by the pathway, and, after carefully dusting or wiping their feet, put on their stockings and shoes and then entered the house of God. After the service, they would walk a short way from the church and remove these luxuries, returning home as they came.

The highway from Terre Haute to Paris ran through this precinct, now the Township of Elbridge; and this road was a stage coach route westward, the stage coaches also carried the mail. A town with a Postoffice, Hotel, Store, etc., was established about half way between Paris and Terre Haute, and named Elbridge. For many years there was a considerable business transacted there, but when the railroad was built from Paris to Terre Haute in 1874, it missed Elbridge by a mile and the town ceased to grow. When the first settlers came to Sugar Creek, Indians principally of the Kickapoo tribe, were quite numerous, in this part of the State. They were harmless and no fear of them until the Black Hawk War in 1831-32. The Kickapoo Indians passed their time in the common pursuits of the Indian life. They were often engaged by the traders at Terre Haute and Vincennes as guides, and in this capacity were very useful. They knew all the choice parts of the country; could point out the best and clearest water courses; could tell where game most

abounded, and with the peculiar instinct of their race, were unerring in their accuracy. They were, however, fond of whiskey and when under its influence, like their white brothers, were often quite quarrelsome.

Hunting was one of the pioneers enjoyment, or necessity. Wild game was very plenty in the early day. Venison was one of the staple articles of food for the early settlers. Deer were often seen in vast herds, as they wandered over the plains. Their flesh furnished an excellent food, while their skin, especially of the younger ones, when properly tanned, made very durable clothing. It was commonly well tanned, and made into hunting-shirts and leggings, buckskin pants were a common sight. Bees and their product, entered into the luxuries of the pioneer's life. Bee-trees were very plenty, and in their hollows were often stored large quantities of honey. It was not uncommon for three or four men, when hunting for honey, to find in a few days, enough to fill two or three barrels. Another was the numerous sugar-trees, and before the settlers had been there many seasons, they had learned to utilize these, and maple sugar and maple molasses were among the exports of the pioneer. It is proper to remark here, that all surplus corn, wheat, pork, honey, or whatever could be obtained here, including peltries of various kinds, were hauled to the Wabash River, sold to merchants at Terre Haute or Vincennes, and by them taken down the river in flatboats. The great market at that day was New Orleans. The journey to New Orleans by flatboat required a great deal of time, as the boat was commonly allowed to float with the current. After the cargo was sold, the trader was compelled to foot his way back, or now up the river in a canoe, either way was very laborious and tiresome.

The steam-boat made its first appearance on Western Waters in 1811. Six years later on August 2, 1817, the first steam-boat came beyond the Ohio river up the Mississippi river to St. Louis. Still, many of the pioneers stayed with the flat-boat, as the flat-boat provided a very cheap mode of transportation, it was commonly used for several years after the settlement of the country.

Elections in the early days were no inconsiderable part of their History. Mr. Sims says that after his arrival they went to John Laswell's house, or the



North arm of Coal Creek, to vote, and that William Lowry was the first Representative sent from this region. Until the adoption of the township organization of 1848-modified in 1851-all precincts governed themselves by three commissioners. The act was not adopted in Edgar County until 1856, when a Supervisor was chosen from each township, the body constituting the County Court. During the regime of the Commissioners, Mr. Hall Sims, from this precinct served eight years. He was also sent to the Legislature for two terms. In the early days, several precincts would be grouped together for election purposes, owing to the sparseness of the population. As the country settled, these limits would be narrowed down from time to time to suit the convenience of the people. This necessitated a change in the voting places. At first, elections were held at the cabin of a settler centrally located. As soon as school-houses were erected here and there in the settlements, the voting-place was made at one of these. Mills and Stores were also used, if built in some prominent locality. The records in the Commissioners' Court show that Elbridge Township - then called Pike Precinct - was made a separate voting-Precinct at the March term, 1832. The election was ordered to be held at "Liberty Meeting House,". At the June term, 1836, the place of voting was changed to the school-house near Elbridge village, then not platted, only contemplated, and containing but one house. Changes were quite often made at this date, as the Black Hawk War, four years before, had settled Indian question so far as Illinois was concerned, and settlers were coming rapidly into her borders.

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THE VILLAGE OF ELBRIDGE

The village of Elbridge was the first in the Township. It was laid out by Mr. James Ray, on his own land, in August, 1836. Mr. Brown Wilson was the County Surveyor at the time, and a little over a year after, in December, 1837, he laid out an addition to it for John Campbell. Mr. James Ray's own house stood on the plat, and may be accounted the first thereon. About the time the town was con-

templated, a Mr. Elbridge G. Howe, a colporteur, was selling religious books and tracts about the country. Rev. John V. Campbell, already mentioned, was Pastor of the small Presbyterian congregation south of the proposed village. He, with others in the vicinity, wanted a post office, here, and in his petition to the Postal Department at Washington, named the embryo office Elbridge. This name was also attached to the village. The town had, however, been well advertised for that day, and before winter came on, a store was opened by John Calvin and Reuben Owens. A Mr. Lightfoot kept a store here also. After Mr. Owen's death, the store in which he was interested went down, and Mr. Lightfoot continued alone in business some time. About 1855, Henderson Burson built the third store, and for a while carried a good trade. He, afterward, moved to Vermilion. His successors were Foreman & Piper, who soon sold out and followed Mr. Burson. They left Swisher & Elliott in the Mercantile business, who gave way when railroads began to exert and influence on the towns. In 1879 there was only a small store kept by H.K. Hitch. The post office was moved to Ferrell, on the railroad.

The first church in the village was erected by the Methodist about 1838. It was a log structure and was used until the congregation by removals became so diminished that the organization was disbanded. A year or two later, the Disciples of Christ organized a congregation and met for divine services in the members houses or in a school house. When they became able, in conjunction with the United Brethern, a fram house of worship was erected. In 1876 the house of worship was sold to the school district and was used for school purposes in Elbridge.

The first school in Elbridge was taught by Dr. Peter Yeargin. He began on February 21, 1837 to teach in part of Mr. James Ray's old cabin. The interior arrangements were rather meager and the school crowded. They had about fifty scholars, showing a considerable population at the time, though it must be borne in mind a school district then embraced a large scope of country. In 1850, the school district erected a small frame house at an expense of \$225.00. It was used until 1876, when they bought the church mentioned above for a school house.

THE VILLAGE OF NEVINS

The charter for the Paris and Terre Haute Railroad was obtained March 1, 1872. Its completion through Elbridge Township was a signal for the starting of some new stores. One of these, the largest was Nevins. It was surveyed by George W. Foreman, County Surveyor, for James W. and B.F. Parrish and Ashier Morton, early in 1874, on the land belonging to them. Mr. Morton and his brother, John, erected a store soon after, in which they opened a general stock of goods. A post office was secured and named in conjunction with the town in honor of Mr. Robert N. Nevins of Paris.

A warehouse was built by John W. Morton, about 1876, from which considerable grain was shipped. Soon after the town was laid out, a blacksmith shop was erected by Robert Osborne. For a while a shoe-shop was kept there.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF NEVINS  
1875

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>NATIVITY</u>	Settled in year
Osborn, Robert W.	Blacksmith	Indiana	1870
McGuire, G.W.	Carpenter & Builder	Virginia	1875
Morton, Geo. W.	Farmer and Teacher	Illinois	1850
Morton, Asher	Farmer, Stock Dealer, Builder & Lumber Manu- facturer	Ohio	1850
Tennis, Miss Hannah	Teacher	Illinois	1855
Wright, Nathan	Minister of Christian Church	North Carolina	1862
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THE VILLAGE OF FERRELL

The village of Ferrell was the farthest of the towns on the railroad through Elbridge Township. It was the outgrowth of the village of Elbridge, which was nearly a mile from the railroad, very naturally had a depot erected at the railroad for its own use. People at once saw that a town might be located here and put the thought into action. The last week in March 1874, Mr. Foreman laid out the town

on land belonging to Mr. I.C. Ferrell, from whom the village obtained its name. The first store was opened by Stephen Maddock and H.R. Hicks, who removed their store from Elbridge. After a year or more, they sold to I.C. Ferrell. Mr. Ferrell was also Postmaster. The Masons had a two story building at Elbridge and they moved it to Ferrell and rented the lower story to Thomas Pearce for a store. M.H. Ferrell erected a warehouse from which he shipped considerable grain.

A flouring-mill was built there by Mr. George Mock, at a cost of nearly \$7,000.00. No school or church was started at Ferrell. The children were sent to Elbridge, as the district embraced both towns; while those who desired religious privileges attended some of the country churches.

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THE VILLAGE OF MARLEY

In April 1874, Mr. Foreman laid out the village of Marley, just a few miles south of Nevins, for Mr. W.D. Marley, on whose land it was located on. Soon after the railroad was finished a store was opened by O.S. Jones & Co. Later it was owned by James Marley and E.P. Brown, who had a good local trade. Mr. W.D. Marley controlled the warehouse and shipped large amounts of grain annually. It was mainly for this reason, affording a near market to the surrounding farmers, - that the station was established.

A frame church building was erected in 1877, almost entirely by Mr. W.D. Marley. It cost \$2,130.00, and was under the control of the Methodists. Rev. S.A. Long was the first minister here, and succeeded in establishing a good congregation.

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VERMILION EVANGELICAL UNITED BROTHERS CHURCH

The first church in the village of Vermilion was built by the United Brethren in 1856. The original cost was about \$500, and the building was later sold to the Missionary Baptists. The present brick edifice was erected on a part of the old Raines property in 1862, at a cost of about \$2,500.

Early ministers included the Reverends Muncie, Nye, Velandier, Spencer and Peters. The membership roll is laden with the names of families that have been a part of the history of the community: Wilkin, Terhune, Jordan Tweedy, Sheets, Hornberger, Vansickle, Downing, Mason, Dodd, Newcomb, Cassle, Dustheimer, Nye, Carpenter, Stubbs, Givens, and Forster.

Frank Minton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Minton and a regular attendant in services at the United Brethren Church from childhood, was ordained at the 1958 June conference. He is now teaching in a Presbyterian college in New Concord, Ohio, and preaching wherever needed in that area.

On May 10, 1877, a meeting of the ladies of Vermilion was held at the U.B. Church for the purpose of organizing a Women's Missionary Society. Twenty names were secured as charter members of what was later to become the oldest continuously active Missionary Society in the State, celebrating in 1952 the 75th anniversary of its founding.

The beautiful peal of the old church bell will no longer call the community to worship after July 1, 1968. Upon completion of the world-wide merger of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations, the membership of the oldest church in the village voted to join the sister church in Vermilion, forming a new strong union to be known as the Vermilion United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Herschel Brown.

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## THE NEW PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Church was established in 1829, in the Ray and Ewing Settlement. The organization extends back into antiquity and its history is somewhat legendary. Tradition has it that five families, the Ewings, Rays, Mc Nutts, Arts and Tuckers came from Maryville, Tennessee, where they had been members of the Providence Presbyterian Church. The organization meeting was held in the Martin Ray home. At this time the name "New Providence" was given to the newly organized church. The first congregation worshipped in the homes of its members until 1836, when Benjamin Hunsaker and his wife, Sally deeded three acres of land to the Trustees. This land was three miles east of Elbridge and a quarter mile north of the lower Terre Haute road. It was here the first church was built of logs.

In 1850 a frame church was built to the east of the old log church. This new building served the congregation for over ninety years. In 1929, a large successful Centennial with a Home coming was held.

In 1944, the church congregation joined the Parish of the More Abundant Life, a group of nine churches in the Mattoon Presbytery. After this the church was served by student Ministers, from McCormick Seminary. Robert Hannon of New Franklin, Wisconsin was one of the student ministers who was ordained while he was serving the congregation, after which he remained and was the first full time minister in the history of the church.

In 1943 rumors were spreading the old church building was unsafe and was soon found necessary to be replaced. The entire community made pledges of money, timbers and labor were donated. With much hard labor and many prayers the new building was completed. It was dedicated May 16, 1949, the guest speaker was Rev. Harry Bicksler of Lakeworth, Florida, former director of the Parish. The church purchased the New Providence school building across the drive from the church and remodeled it into a beautiful six room Manse. In 1958 the church purchased 27 acres of timber land adjoining the church property. The men of the church and other churches of the Parishes cleared the site, and in 1960 a lake was constructed and a large shelter was built, used for retreats, picnics, reunions, and other

occasions in and around the community.

Reverend David Fry is the present minister

Graham Elliott is present Sunday School Superintendent.

Church Membership 119 and Sunday School enrollment of 80.

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#### THE SUCCESS CHURCH

Soon after the erection of Success School (1884) it became a meeting place on Sunday for those desiring a place to "gather together in His Name."

"At 3 o'clock P.M. June 2, 1895, Elder Hezekiah Williams, a minister in the Church of Christ, called the members of the church together at the brick school-house, one mile West of Sandford, Indiana and preached, and did organize them together as a church with elders and Deacons."

Many conversions were made at these schoolhouse meetings, people travelling from miles around in wagon or buggy, or horseback or on foot. Often the building was filled to capacity and people were compelled to sit on the floor. We were told it was not an uncommon practice to take converts to the frozen streams nearby and break ice in order to conduct the baptismal services. From the inspiration received at these gatherings, stemmed the desire to erect a building and dedicate it as a regular house of worship. A site on which to locate this building was granted by Isaac Trogdon, less than a mile west of the school building site. The new church built entirely of native wood was dedicated in the spring of 1896, Pastor Dubber of Paris, Illinois officiating. Mr. Richard Fessant, a worker in the Methodist Church at Sandford, Indiana gave his assistance in the organization of the Sunday School. The first Superintendent was Benjamin Franklin Craig, also a teacher of day school. The first Elders were: T. J. Payne, A.J. Tweedy, A.E. Thompson and Uriah Vance; the Deacons: U.E. Thompson, John Davis, Charles Mc-Conkey and John D. Murphy, Also Clerk (Secretary).

The first member listed on the church roll was Mrs. Ida Reed Tweedy, wife of Albion Tweedy. She died May 31, 1896; only a few weeks after its dedication. The 100th. member listed was Zella Reese Garwood; the 200th. Charles Stewart. The membership roll included such names as: Payne, Tweedy, Davis, Thompson, Reed, Reese, Trout, Bailey, Wright, Sadlers, Forster, Fuqua, Irish, Volkers, Trogdon, Harris, Cummins, Sims, Westerfield, Houston, Riley, Jared, Ballard, Morton, Knight, Lambdin, Childress, Maddock, Stewart, Sisson, Bergen, Landis, McCoy, McFarland, Price, Hill, Chew, Eastham, Miller, Johnson, Gross, Campbell, Ewing and others.

Some of the Ministers serving the early church were: Ira Williams, Lewis Smith, James Stewart, W.W. Sniff, H.H. Peters, Mr. Crab, Mr. Pirtle and others.

The present minister is Reverend Edward Furnas. Sunday School Superintendent Robert King. Church Membership 100 and Sunday School enrollment 75.

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#### NEVINS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Nevins Christian Church was established on April 17, 1858 at Franklin, Illinois, a small village then located one mile southwest of Nevins between what is now the Lower Terre Haute Road and State Highway One when 43 persons assembled under the leadership of Elder William Hartley and Elder Fillmore.

From the beginning the church grew rapidly and by 1878 the membership was 257. Each month saw new members added by baptism. This rapid growth did not last long. From 1878 to 1900 only 26 additions were recorded. For some unknown reason the flame of evangelism which at first had burned so brightly had been almost extinguished.

In January of 1901 the church building was moved from Franklin to the small community of Nevins. The charter membership of this newly located congregation was 27. The new location did not help the church to grow and it continued its struggle. The building was moved on skids down the hill from Franklin to Nevins by horse and man power.



Benjamin Tate, an ordained minister, came to the Nevins Church January 25, 1932, remaining as the pastor for six years. Following him the church secured the services of Frank Welton who was the pastor from 1938-1944. During the ministry of the two men, the church experienced a slow but steady growth. The average attendance in 1944 was about 45.

Paul Hesser followed Brother Welton and was with the church until 1945. The next year Bill Ransford began his ministry with the congregation and during the next 18 months there were 37 additions. Many came during the revival conducted by Reverend R.C. Mowery, Terre Haute. This was the start of the Church's upward climb. After Bill Ransford came Mark Weaver who served until 1949. It was during this period that the church purchased a former Baptist Church building, which was remodeled. It was a larger and better building which is being used at the present time. The Baptist building we believe was called the Old Liberty Church mentioned in the 1879 Edgar County History.

A three-year ministry was begun by Leslie Tucker in 1950. By the end of 1953 the Sunday School attendance was averaging 70. On September 27, 1953, the congregation hired Harry Orn, a young ministerial student, as its preacher. For the next three years he worked with the church and had fine results. The average Sunday school attendance by 1956 had grown to 98. It was during his ministry that for the first time in its history, the church had a full time preacher living in the field.

Gordon Nelson followed Brother Orn on November 25, 1956, and during the year 1957 many advances were made, the average Sunday school attendance being 105.

The adjoining property to the church was purchased and is now being used as a parsonage. The building addition of five new classrooms and baptistry, which was begun under Brother Orn's pastorate, was completed under Brother Nelson's ministry.

Bernard Riley came to Nevins on November 23, 1958, a graduate of Atlanta Bible College. He received a Master of Arts degree from Butler University while serving the church. On May 5, 1963 Ed Jackson, a student at Lincoln Christian College,

came to serve the congregation. On the 31st of October, 1963 Ed was ordained at Sebring, Ohio. Ron Reiss, a student at Lincoln Christian Seminary arrived on the field on February 6, 1968. During 1967 Leo Wineinger came to the church and the average attendance is now about 130.

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### HISTORY OF PATTON CHURCH

It is hard to even imagine Patton Community without a Church, but there was a time in the late 1880's or early 1890's that those who lived there attended a church called "Old Independence", down on the state line road, somewhere close to the railroad. Eventually it burned to the ground and was not rebuilt.

One day, during this same period of time, Theodore Jumper from Asbury Community came through the neighborhood selling old-fashioned washing machines. This was the kind that the women pushed back and forth, using their own power. He saw the need of a Church. He visioned Christian meetings with people seeking and finding God. He felt the need of some kind of service for God and asked if he might start Sunday School in the school house. Permission was granted and services were held there for some time. Not only Sunday School, but Church services as well. Some of the ministers holding meetings in the school house were the Brothers Goudy, Collier, Bradley, McIntosh, Bennington and English.

Soon a need for a church - a building that was dedicated to God and sanctified. Everyone rallied to the very great effort of raising money. The ground was donated by David H. and Nancy Patton, but the committee didn't think it a suitable plot and finally chose the place where Patton Church now stands, and gave the sum of ten dollars for it. This was in the Fall of the year 1902.

The logs were cut from the Patton woods, and were donated by David and Will Patton. The sawing was payed for by the people. George Cummins brought in his saw mill and John Johnson had charge of felling the timber. Of course, the logs

were for the frame, as the outside was made from red tile blocks with shingled gables.

Martha Taylor tells how scared the children in the school house were one day during the construction. They heard a terrible crash and knew that part, or all, of the building had fallen in. Their fathers were all working there at the time, but fortunately no one was hurt and construction began all over again.

The stone mason was Shepp Hoops and some of the men who helped to build the church and donated their time were the Misters' Storey, Ben Fears, Will Patton, Harve Ray, David Patton, John Johnson, Alex Taylor and perhaps even others whom I have not mentioned. According to my grandfather, Alex Taylor, it took somewhere in the neighborhood of \$800.00 to build the church and he wasn't too clear as to whether Rev. Bennington or Rev. Waltz was the first minister in the new church.

After twenty-five years of continuous service for God, with young men and young women finding each other and also finding God; with God calling to their reward the young and the old; one day in March of the year 1925, a big black cloud in the nature of a tornado came along and swept it all away. How good it was that that black cloud swooped down and took the church, for right next to it was a school house full of mighty scared youngsters.

Now, here we were again, a community without a church. Meetings were held in the school house once again and every one rallied to the effort of raising money for another church. Soliciting by some of the members began. The ladies held bak sales and many an old Dominecker and Rhode Island Red hen lost her head for the Church. Some of those who walked from store to store and door to door were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dunlap, Mr. and Mrs. Will Patton, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Patton, Reverend and Mrs. Roy Purdue, George Taylor, Edna Hicks, Dr. Russell Patton and perhaps many more whom I have not mentioned.

In the Fall of 1925 enough money was raised to begin building again. With the exception of about eight feet, the church was built on the same foundation on which the first building had stood.

Mr. Wheeland and Mr. Finley from Marshall, Illinois, were employed to construct

the new church. In the early Fall of this year we had a bad hail storm, and all the garden vegetables were ruined. The carpenters stayed in the neighborhood all week and it was quite hard for the ladies to find a variety of food for them. These were the days before freezers of course, and in those days one didn't slip off to the Burger Chef for lunch! By this time another year had passed and it is now 1926.

Reverend Roy Purduc was the first minister in the new church, and Mrs. Maude Dunlap was the first Sunday School Superintendent. Whereas the first church had been organized as Northern Methodist, the second church was organized as Methodist Episcopal South. Today, we are, of course, United Methodists.

Some of the Ministers since that time have been the Reverends O.A. Sweakard, T.M. White, F.V. Harwood, G.H. Morehead, E.B. Beatty, K.W. Kepner, John Payne, M.W. Smith, Russell Taylor, James Kelly, Walter Volkers, Owen Candler, Ezekill Holey, Gene Ham, H.W. Daughtery, and at present Ron Ozier.

On January 11, 1952, Betty and Hiram Ray became the first couple ever to be married in Patton Church. There has never been a funeral held there.

In 1965 the four churches of Dennison charge, Dunlap, Armstrong, Dennison and Patton, built a new brick parsonage at Dennison. Almost immediately after that was finished, Patton Church began another long needed building program. That was the building of four wonderful Sunday School rooms and a furnace room. The Donham Brothers built the chimney and layed the foundation, and Fenton Webb was the carpenter, with a part of the work being donated by interested people in the neighborhood. The work was finished in December 1966, at a cost of \$4,798.00, as Fenton cut the cost of his labor just as much as he could. After the rooms were finished, Roy Ray, Lewis Hedges, and Reverend Daughtery painted the outside of them, and Roy Farris hauled white crushed rock for the driveway, which also much improved the appearance of the church. That same fall Mr. and Mrs. John Laing, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Ray, Anita Miller and Doris Farris painted the church.

Our enrollment is small, not even fifty, and our Sunday School average is small - only fifty-six for this past year - but never-the-less, we who are of the

church know that the building and organizing of the church has all been well worth while. Who knows, there may have been people who have found Christ there who may not have found Him otherwise.

There are times of great discouragement, but there are also times of great joy. On the years that we have looked back over, it is sad to think that all the older ones are gone to their reward. Those of us who are left are waiting, but in the waiting we want to be sure that we of the Church Triumphant are "found in Him, without spot and blameless." For we know that the Word of God tells us, "What is your life? It is but a vapor that appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away." The church has been given to us as a trust - we are saved to serve. May we never grow weary in well doing, "for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Many names I have not mentioned, I know, who have helped Patton Church to grow. But their names are written, I am sure, in the Lambs Book of Life.

The early history of the Patton Church as told to Pauline Taylor Scott by her late Grandfather, Alex Taylor, while she wrote it down as a personal record.

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## HUNTER TOWNSHIP

Hunter became a Township in the year 1861 by the division of Stratton and Brouillet Townships. The southern part of Brouillet and the northern part of Stratton, mostly from Stratton.

At the time the first settlers came to what is now Hunter Township, Illinois was not yet a State. The next year Illinois was organized and was soon divided into Counties and then Precincts. Wayne Precinct was the Precinct later divided into Townships and Hunter became one of these Townships.

As the early settlers came to the larger territory it is difficult to separate them to the proper Townships.

Early in the spring of 1817 Remember Blackman, John Stratton, Anthony Sanders, William Whitley and Aloysius Brown located and are acknowledged as the first white settlers in Edgar County. They arrived in time to prepare land and cultivate small crops of corn. In the following fall the settlement of these above given, Col. Jonathan Mayo came to the county, during the winter Barna B. Reynolds came in. Brown and Reynolds were zealous Catholics and a brother of Reynolds attained quite an exalted position in that church, as well as a daughter of Brown's, who was at the head of the Convent of St Mary's near Terre Haute, Indiana.

In 1818 the little settlement was increased by the arrival of Augustin E. Boland, George and Daniel Beckwith and William Reed. The following arrivals occurred during the year 1819; Jacob Jones, Samuel Littlefield, Lewis Murphy, and Rev. Joseph Curtis, a Methodist Episcopal Minister and was supposed to have been the first minister to proclaim the word of God in Edgar County. He established a class at Col. Mayo's house. All the names given so far settled in what is now Hunter Township. The next year (1820), Joseph Lowry, John Lycan, James and William Murphy, Otis McCulloch, Alonzo Laphram and James Dordley came to what is now Hunter Township. In 1821, Dr. Uri Murphy, Hon. John B. Alexander and Nathaniel Morgan came. In 1822 James Lowry, John Thomas and David Gillam, James Hensly, Laban Burr, Edward Wheeler and Rev. W. McReynolds came to this community. In 1825, Rev. William Mayo, the father of Col. Mayo was one of the pioneer Methodist Preachers

of the County, settled here.

Augustin E. Boland one of the early settlers of what is now Hunter Township came in 1818. He was crossing the Wabash River one day and his horse got into quicksand and but for the timely assistance of some Indians, who were near by fishing, he would have drowned.

The following is a true copy of a tax-receipt of Mr. Boland for 1820, when Edgar was a part of Clark County-"Received, October 1820, of Augustin E. Boland, \$1.50, his State and County Tax for the present year. Signed John Welsh, Sheriff Clark Co. Illinois."

Lewis Murphy came to this County in 1819. He was the first Judge of Probate after the formation of Edgar County. William Murphy, a brother of Lewis Murphy came here in 1820. The first session of Circuit Court in Edgar County was held at his house. James Murphy another brother built a horse-mill near the line between Hunter and Stratton Townships and afterward a water-mill in Hunter Township Still another brother was Dr. Uri Murphy and the first practicing physician in this part of the County. He came to this settlement in 1821 and the next year he died, being the first death in the neighborhood. William Reed came here in 1818. He was a Lieutenant in the War of 1812 and the first Sheriff of Edgar County. James Johnson settled here in 1819. He was the first chairmaker in the County and made the first chairs Col. Mayo used after his settlement in this country, except some that he made himself with saw and auger. Elijah Austin came in 1818. He was one of the first Justices of the Peace and also one of the first County Commissioners.

James Hensley came from Kentucky about 1822. In February, after he came to this settlement, his neice, Ruth Hensley, who lived with him had gone on a visit to John Lycan's. She set out in the evening to return to her Uncle's. Soon after starting it began to snow - she became bewildered and finally lost her way. There were but few roads then nor any settlement west of the boundary line and north of Sugar Creek and it was several days before she was missed. But at length it was found that she was lost, and the neighbors at once turned out in search of her.

They first went through the Sugar Creek timber, then through that of Brouillet Creek, and as far north as Stage's Point. The third day it commenced raining taking off the snow and late in the evening her tracks were discovered in the "Sanbamon Trace" near Cherry Point. Twelve of the party agreed to continue the search, while the others returned home. The twelve pressed on and about dark reached Hickory Grove, where they built a fire and cooked supper. When six of the party again took the trace leaving the others in camp. In about two hours they returned bringing the girl with them. She was in a rather deplorable condition. Her shoes and skirts were much worn and she was almost frozen. When she became warmed and thawed, she suffered the most intense pain from cold and hunger. When she left the Lycan's for her Uncle's she had on two linsey dresses, besides heavy underclothes and when it began to snow and rain she took off one of them, tied the body together with her garters, and filling it with dried prairie-grass carried it on her back to keep from getting wet. A rather model umbrella but of considerable value at the time. From the time of her starting out until she was missed, and including the three days they were searching for her, she had wandered in the woods about a week, without food but such as she could pick up in the forest in midwinter. Though not at all frozen, she was so numbed and exhausted that, when brought to the fire, as above noted, her pain became almost unbearable. She finally married John Morgan, one of the men who took an active part in the search and afterward removed to Texas.

In the early days of the country, Henry Clay, the great Kentucky Statesman, entered two or three sections of land in this township, embracing what is still known as Clay's Prairie. He also entered Section 21 for Hon. William A. Burwell, member of Congress from Virginia and a warm personal friend. He caused his own land to be improved, well stocked with fine Kentucky blue-grass animals, and placed one of his sons, Thomas Clay, in charge of it, as a means, perhaps, of breaking and weaning him from dissolute companions, about his old home, at Lexington, Kentucky. But the change of scene affected little change in the course of his habits, and his father determined to take him home and sell the land. Negotiations were opened



between him and the Hunters, the result of which was the sale of 1,600 acres of land on Clay's Prairie to John and S.K. Hunter. The sale was made about 1849 or 1850.

The first settlers of what was later Hunter used to go all the way to Shakertown to mill, which was near Vincennes, Indiana. Major Markel built a mill in 1818, on Otter Creek, six miles north of Terre Haute which drew most of the customers from this section after it commence operation. In 1819 John Beard built a mill near the mouth of Brouillets Creek. This was still more convenient to the people of this area. Still later, an ox-mill was built near where the Catholic Church now stands. The power was made by oxen on a tread wheel. Alonzo Lapham added a fulling-mill to the ox-mill, for the purpose of "fulling" such cloth as was manufactured by the inhabitants; and William Newcomb built a carding-mill near by, on which the people had their wool carded into rolls. In 1820-21, John Lycan opened a blacksmith shop, the first in the county. Tan yards were also among the early convenience to the settlement. In those days the people manufactured everything at home used by the family. Their tea was made of sassafras, and sweetened with maple sugar.

One of the sources of pastime for the young people in the settlement was Mr. Boland's singing school. They would flock Sunday afternoons at some neighbor's cabin, and occasionally at night, each family taking it by turns furnishing house-room for the "singing school" and the young people taking it by turns furnishing tallow candles to light the scene.

In what is now Hunter Township there were probably more villages and hamlets than any other township and none have ever developed to any size and as today the county has none.

Cambridge City was laid out with the intention for it becoming the county seat of Edgar County. It was the oldest city in the county. The record of the plat bearing date August 2, 1820. It was surveyed and laid out by John F. Thompson. The entire plot contained over 71 acres. The city presented a very beautiful appearance-on-paper-but when Paris was laid out soon after, and the

locating of the county seat there, it forever put an end to the bright hopes of Cambridge City. It was thought that there was never anything in the way of business at Cambridge City. It is believed the town of Baldwinville was founded on the same place as Cambridge City. A Post Office and a store was kept there by a man named Baldwin. The last store to run in this town was by Mr. Perry Martin, who died only a few years ago.

Huffmanville was named after David Huffman on whose land it was located and who kept a store and a post office there since the discontinuing of that at Baldwinville. The post office was discontinued and for some time the store was operated by Thomas McFall. J. Dawson kept a small store in the township and had a post office which was called Dawson Post Office. The place consisted only of a store, post office and a blacksmith shop.

There was at least a Post Office at Clay's Prairie at one time.

The first goods sold in Edgar County of which they had an account of was by James Dudley, whose first effort in mercantile transactions was in the way of a peddler, and afterward he opened a small store at the house of Daniel Lane living on the west side of the present Township of Hunter.

William Whitely was one of the earliest settlers in Edgar County and located at North Arm. He was one of the first Constables appointed in the County and also served as Sheriff one term being elected in 1828.

Col. Jonathan Mayo was the first Circuit Clerk of the County, which office he held, with the exception of two years, until 1848. The first election ever held in the County was held at Mr. Mayo's house in the Spring of 1818. There was only 14 votes cast.

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CHURCHES OF HUNTER TOWNSHIP

NORTH ARM METHODIST CHURCH

The first sermon preached in Hunter Township and perhaps in Edgar County was by Reverend Joseph Curtis, a local preacher of the Methodist Church. He came to the settlement in the Spring of 1819. During the year, he formed a class at the residence of Col. Mayo. Reverend Curtis preached occasionally, also did a Reverend Love. During the winter of 1822-23, Reverend John W. McReynolds, who was one of the early settlers, came in and the next Spring succeeded in getting this class included in the regular work by Conference and the Reverend H. Vreedenburg was appointed the first circuit rider, the house of Col. Mayo being used as the house of preaching. The first camp-meeting ever held in the County, was near this spot in August, 1823. Reverend Vreedenburg in charge, assisted by Reverend McReynolds and Dr. James. At this meeting occurred more than twenty conversions. Reverend Vreedenburg was returned to the circuit and is termed the founder of Methodism in Edgar County.

The "Old North Arm Church" as it was called, is the one just mentioned as established by Reverend Joseph Curtis, in 1819. It was organized at the house of Col. Mayo, but in a short time they moved their place of meeting to Mr. Curtis' house, where for twenty-four years, they worshipped. At the end of this time the North Arm Methodist Church was built and dedicated in the year about 1843. The first ministers to occupy the new church were Reverend Mr. Hargraves and Reverend Mr. McReynolds. This first church building was some distance east of the second North Arm Methodist Church, which was built in 1876 under the Minister of Reverend Mr. Hedges. This church was in the Vermilion, Clay's Prairie, Ashland and North Arm Circuit, until it closed its doors about 1952.

The church building was later sold and is now used as a Community House.

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## NORTH ARM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Most of the early history of the Catholic Church in Edgar County, Illinois, centers around the Brown and Reynolds families.

On the suggestion of Father Stephen Theodore Eadin, the famous Missionary under Bishop Flaget of Bardstown, Kentucky, and the First Priest ordained in the United States, a group of Catholic Kentuckians, most of them earlier settlers in Maryland, and originally from England, arrived at the "North Arm of the Prairie" in the spring of 1817. They were led by Aloysius Brown, who was born in Blandenburg, Maryland, in 1793. They settled on land made available for entry by the Harrison Purchase Act of 1805. This land was offered for sale at \$1.25, an acre, or \$50.00 for forty acres. Accompanying Aloysius Brown was his young wife, Elizabeth Drury, and their first child, Magnus.

In the spring of 1818 Monica Brown, the oldest sister of Aloysius, arrived at the North Arm, accompanied by her husband, Barnaby Reynolds. Barnaby was her cousin to whom she was married with dispensation in Bardstown in 1813. Father David performed this marriage ceremony. He later, in 1815, became Bishop David of Bardstown. She was a direct descendant, on her mother's side, of John Reynolds, who came to Maryland as a Redemptorist in 1660. Barnaby's brother, Ignatius Aloysius, was an acolyte at her marriage, and he became the second Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina, in March, 1844. He was the uncle of Sister Anastasia Brown of St. Mary-of-the-Woods; and Dr. Richard Bohan, for many years professor of Commerce and Finance at St. Marys Academy and College, was Monica's grandson.

Aloysius Brown's oldest daughter, Nancy, was born in North Arm in 1817, and educated at St. Mary's Female School in Vincennes, became a Sister of Charity in 1839, at Emmetsburg, near the first American home of the Browns in Maryland, on their arrival from England with Lord Baltimore's colonists. She died at Emmetsburg in 1852, and was buried there.

James Harrison Brown, son of Aloysius, was born in North Arm, September 10, 1819. His daughter, Alma Brown, was Sister M. Borromeo of the Sisters of Provid-

ence. The Brown children and the children of all the settlers at North Arm had friendly Kickapoo children for their playmates. Sister Borromeo entered St. Mary-of-the-Woods, May 8, 1897. She is the author of a "History of the Sisters of Providence," the first of two volumes of which was published by Benziger Brothers in 1949.

Anne, another daughter of James H. Brown, Sister M. Gertrude, born at Elkhart, Wisconsin, where her parents resided for a short time after their departure from Edgar County, also became Sister of Providence in 1863, and died at St. Marys in 1927.

James Brown's grandson, James Russell, born in North Arm, has two daughters with Sisters of Providence. Irene, Sister Francis de Sales; and Loretta, Sister M. Theodore. Those sisters spent twenty years as Missionaries at Kaifing, East Honan, China. They returned to America and taught in Chicago schools.

Aloysius Brown's youngest daughter, Jane, born at North Arm, October 13, 1825, entered St. Mary-of-the-Woods, January 23, 1844. She became Sister Anatasie. She was elected the third Superior General of the Sisters of Providence in 1868. She served two terms in that office, and was assistant superior for several years. She died at St. Marys, August 10, 1918.

Within a few years after the arrival of Aloysius Brown several Kentucky families located with them in the North Arm settlement. Amongst these were the Blanford, Lightfoot, Bodine, Elackman, and McCarthy families. Father Badin appointed Aloysius Brown their leader and preceptor. In this capacity he acted betimes as school master. He taught the children to read and write; instructed young and old in their religion, and was in effect a pioneer user of the present day methods of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in this area. He baptized and officiated at marriages.

Then Father Lawrence Picot came to North Arm on his missionary rounds in 1831, he found twenty Catholic families who had not seen a priest in more than six years. When Bishop Brute visited them in 1835, he found sixty families, and they "consoled him by their zeal and piety...truly zealous for their religion,

talking of a Church which they would soon build." They did build it with bricks made by Aloysius Brown and Father LaLumiere (a native of Vincennes, ordained in Bardstown by Bishop Flaget in 1833) dedicated it to the service of God in 1837, and not in 1849 as generally believed. Mr. Brown also made and furnished the bricks for the first Academy at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. In 1837 Bishop Brute renamed Thralls Station, St. Mary-of-the-Woods and appointed Father Buteux to its pastoral charge. This fine priest henceforth divided his ministrations between that charge, St. Josephs, Terre Haute, and St. Aloysius, North Arm, the latter being the largest of the three charges.

Mentioning Thralls station brings to mind the fact that Joseph Thralls married Sarah Mattingly, in Nelson County, Kentucky, in 1815. They lived in North Arm in 1824, and a son Isaac was born to them there. These are probably related to our Father Mattingly and his family of Paris, whose ancestors also lived originally in Maryland.

In addition to his visit to North Arm in 1835, Bishop Brute is known to have called on the Browns later, on at least one occasion, when making a Confirmation Journey to Chicago.

Another distinguished visitor at North Arm was Bishop Van de Velde, who was consecrated the second Bishop of Chicago, February 11, 1849. He visited St. Aloysius Church twice between that date and 1853. His last visit was in 1853 on his way to Natchez, to which See he had been transferred because of ill health. Father George A. Hamilton, his Vicar General, was stationed in North Arm at that time as its first resident pastor, locating there in 1846. Father Thomas Ryan, his successor, was appointed according to some records in 1850, but it is hard to reconcile this statement with the fact that Father Hamilton seems to have been continuously in charge there from the date of his appointment until 1853.

Mother Theodore Guerin, the saintly foundress of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, visited the Browns "to their great Joy and Consolation" when nature was hard on the settlers in 1845, and many of them were planning to leave as they afterward did. However, some known descendants of the Blanford, Bodine, Blackman and

McCarthy families still reside in their area.

The Reynolds family lost three children in a short time with Malaria fever early in the 1840's. The constant recurrence of this malady caused the entire Brown-Reynolds group of families, including married sons and daughters, to leave Illinois in 1846

The Church was organized in Paris in 1849. Services were held in various places in this new town after that, until Father Joseph Vahey had a permanent Church and Rectory constructed on Railroad in 1863.

In 1885 Father Joseph Postner took charge of Paris and North Arm Churches, and remained until 1898, endearing himself to the people of all faiths, by his fidelity to duty and zeal for souls. During this pastorate he laboriously raised \$15,000.00 for a new Church which his energetic successor, Father Lee, built here on ground once used by a Presbyterian Academy. The corner stone was laid in 1899. The building was ready for limited use late in 1900, but the formal Liturgical dedication did not take place until September, 1902. Besides the Church in Paris, which seats nearly 600, Father Lee had erected at the same time the present church at North Arm, seating about 150 people, and replacing the church dedicated by Father LaLumiere in 1837.

It will be of interest to many to know that T.F. (Frank) Egan was Treasurer of the North Arm congregation for 46 years, and that his father, John Egan, held the same position of trust for twenty-five years before him.

St. Aloysius Cemetery, North Arm, is the oldest Catholic Cemetery in the eastern section of Illinois, containing graves of people who resided as far west as Mattoon, and as far North as Champaign.

The North Arm Church has also been kept in good condition by the generous contributions of the few members now left to maintain it. With the extension of rural electrification to the area, the Church was equipped with electric lights in 1948. Special gifts include vestments and a statue of the Sacred Heart from Mrs. Bridget Sullivan and daughter, Grace. Sources for information-Brief, Historical Sketch of the Parishes at North Arm and Paris.

By Father Cronin

CLAY'S PRAIRIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The present structure of the Clay's Prairie United Methodist Church was built in 1873. But as early as 1860 Clay's Prairie was mentioned in the conference minutes of the Edgar Circuit. Samuel Hunter, Grandfather of Mrs. Ray Brengle, Mrs. Forrest Elsberry, and Carolyn Hunter, collected donations to get enough money to start the construction of the present building.

The lumber was sawed at a saw mill owned by the father of Winfield and Frank Scott and stood just a short distance west of where the church now stands. The logs came from the adjoining woods. Prior to the completion of the new church, services were probably held in homes or in the Clay's Prairie schoolhouse.

In 1943 a new hardwood floor was laid and a chimney was built at the southwest corner of the building and a new and larger stove replaced the stove that stood in the middle of the building. In 1957 work was started on digging a basement under the entire church. The basement was finished in 1959 making room for a furnace with a stoker and 3 more Sunday School classes.

The church received its name from Henry Clay but he never owned the land on which the church stands. The land he entered from the government was south of the church.

Land deeded to Trustees of Clay's Prairie Chapel and the M.E. Church, March 1873 by Thomas and Emma Patrick.

The present Church Membership is 45 and Church School enrollment is 45 with an average attendance of 23. The present Minister is Reverend David Hutton. The Church School Superintendent is Paul Stafford.

By Amelia Black

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STATE LINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

From an old Record Book of the State Line Church we find the record of January 11th., 1862 -

"We the Disciples of Christ at Clay's Prairie. In order to facilitate the Worship of God among us to constitute or organize ourselves in to a congregation taking the Holy Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice, we, therefore, desire to be recognized by the Brethern as such under the name of the Church of Christ at Clay's Prairie.

For Elders - John Hunter, George Ahepley and William Holt.  
Deacons - Robert Barton, Vincent Stewart and James Watson.  
Secretary - Eli Martin.

At that time they had 77 members.

A note in the book written in 1960 "Mrs. B.F. Watson (age 84 years) said, "the first church meeting place was in Clay's Prairie Schoolhouse." Again a note said the State Line Christian Church, one-half mile West of Blanford, Indiana, on the Clinton-Paris road, was built in 1870. Native timber was used when the church was built on land donated by Edward Bruce. Active in erecting the structure were James Carney, Cy Henderson, James Watson, Jack Hunter, Richard Hobbs, Vincent Stuart and Alec Barton.

The church was again set in order by Elder W.W. Jacobs of Kansas, Illinois, August 31, 1887, with the following officers: Elders - James Watson, Eli Martin and Richard Hobbs. Deacon - George Tresner.

August 22, 1948, rededication services were held for the remodeling of the church. The church was raised and a basement dug under it, in which a new furnace was installed. Floors were sanded and a new carpet laid and the outside of the church painted. At this time the church had a membership of 100. There was a Ladies Aid Society of 24 members at that time. The present minister is Reverend Hamrick. The present Church School Superintendent is William Erwin, Jr. The church membership is 144 and the Church School average attendance is 60. Since 1909 there has been 480 people with their membership at the State Line Christian Church.

POPULATION OF TOWNSHIPS

SOURCE: History of 1879 and Bureau of Census

<u>TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>
Stratton	1946	1621	856	822	729	642
Elbridge	1760	1807	1141	1118	907	792
Hunter		1029	885	822	464	415

FARMS AND GRAINS

At the time of the first settlements in Edgar County, 1817 to 1825 all kinds of produce and livestock were extremely low. Corn sold as low as 10 and 15 cents per bushel; Whear  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents per bushel; a cow and calf could be bought for \$8 and \$10; and a horse for \$40. Bee-hunting was not only a pastime much followed but a profitable business for many persons in the community. Honey was often brought from the Embarrass timber in barrels by the wagon load and sold at 50 cents per gallon.

PRODUCTS OF AGRICULTURE FOR 1870 AND LATER FOR EDGAR COUNTY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WHEAT</u>	<u>RYE</u>	<u>CORN</u>	<u>OATS</u>	<u>SOYBEANS</u>
1870	260,643 Bu.	37,508 Bu.	2,107,615	290,679	
1959	811,180	25,816	8,987,754	276,054	2,345,799
1964	1,203,993	8,652	10,457,137	157,626	2,289,968

In the year 1928 there were 7,000 acres of Soybeans grown in Edgar County

In the year 1967 there were 97,800 acres of Soybeans grown in Edgar County with 3,325,200 bushels harvested. In the year 1967 there was a corn yield in Edgar County of 17,236,800 bushels.

From the Bureau of Census of 1950, the Bureau reported the average value of land and buildings for all farms in Edgar County as \$45,435, per farm. The tabulation shows a total of 1886 farms in the County. One-half of all the families in the County reported incomes in excess of \$2,452 for the year - this figure being reported as the "median" family income for the County. Only 37.7 percent of the families reported incomes of less than \$2,000, while 13.5 percent

reported incomes of more than \$5,000 a year.

Total retail trade in the County for 1948 was \$21,057,000 through 316 stores.

Total value of farm products sold in Edgar County in 1949 was reported as \$17,792,000. The principal items were: all crops, \$10,397,000; livestock and products, other than dairy and poultry, \$6, 418,000; dairy products, \$542,000; poultry and poultry products \$439,000.

Land in farms in county totalled 368,000 acres, according to the census report, while crops were actually harvested in 1949 from 273,000 farmland acres.

The Census report shows that 1,520 of the County's farms were served by Central Station Electricity and telephones were reported on 1,338 farms.

There were 1,702 automobiles on farms in the County and motor trucks on farms numbered 1,059. Tractors were counted as 2,813. Only 373 of the farms reported to be without tractors, horses or mules.

As of June 22, 1953, the Edgar County Department of Welfare administers the categorical program of public assistance. This includes four categories. The number in Edgar County receiving assistance under these four programs are as follows:

Old Age Pension	620
Blind Assistance	15
Disability Assistance	34
Aid to Dependent Children	63 Families (which includes 215 persons).

From the 1960 Bureau of Census, we find the Median Income for families of Edgar County \$4,283.00.

33.5 % under \$3,000.00.  
7.7 % of \$10,000.00, and over.  
91 % of men 18 to 24 years of age are working.  
36 % of men over 65 years are working.  
6.1 % of workers are unemployed.  
17 % of workers are in manufacturing industried.  
33 % are in white collar occupations.  
10 % of workers work outside the county.  
55.4 % of workers who worked in 1969 worked 50 to 52 weeks of the year.

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A list of purchases, sales and labor from an account book of Thomas Leshar, the father of Mrs. Myrtle Frye, whose home is one and one-quarter North of Vermilion, Illinois.

1885	Dec. 24	Sold 20 hogs, 1650 lbs. @ \$ 3.25	\$ 53.63
1886	Feb. 17	8 lbs. lard	.64
	Feb. 17	10 lbs. flour	.25
	Feb. 20	27 lbs. side meat	2.43
	Apr. 7	4½ Bu. potatoes	2.27
	Apr. 7	7. Bu. seed corn	4.20
	Oct. 11	Chopping 3 cords of wood	1.50
	Nov. 10	107 Bu. corn @ 25¢	26.75
1888	Feb. 22	11½ lbs. bacon	1.15
	Feb. 22	1 Bu. corn	.50
	Feb. 22	1 lb. Honey	.25
	Feb. 22	2 lbs. Butter	.36
	Aug. 18	Thrashing ½ day	.50
	Aug. 24	Flowing 1 day	.75
	Aug. 25	Flowing ½ day	.37
	Aug. 27	Flowing 1 day	.75
	Aug. 28	Flowing ¾ day	.55
1889	Oct. 11	1 load Hay	1.50
1890	Apr. 7	18 Bu. oats @ 20¢	3.60
	May 6	1 Bu. corn	.50
	June 2	1 Barrel Salt	1.20
	July 19	2 tons Hay	8.00
	July 19	½ ton hay	2.00
	Aug. 27	Stack of hay	18.00

## THE EDGAR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

This Society or Fair was organized during the summer of 1854. The officers elected were: Silas H. Elliott, President; Leander Munsell, John TenBrook and William Kile, Directors; S.P. Read, Secretary and William Kile, Treasurer.

The first Fair was held in October, 1854, on the farm of Z.H. Magner. The enclosure consisted of a rail fence and with the exception of a few sheds constructed of lumber hauled to the ground by S.H. Elliott, in which were displayed goods from the store of Paris, the trees furnished protection from the sun and storm. There were no stables, or even stalls, for the use of stock, but horses and cattle were hitched to trees, and pigs and poultry were displayed in a manner to suit the owners. A number of the merchants brought samples of their goods to fill up, and on the whole, the exhibition was a considered a success. Four hundred and twenty-eight entries were made, and these, with the funds received from admissions, were sufficient to pay all premiums in cash. However, as the Society was but just starting and in need of money, and most of those to whom premiums had been awarded were really interested more in the success of the enterprise than in the small amount received as premiums, they donated their prizes back to the Society.

Perhaps but few fairs have since been held that caused more real enjoyment and were more generally voted a success than this first exposition in Mr. Magner's barnyard.

The fair under the name of Edgar County Fair was organized in the year 1861. The Edgar County Fair has always been a non-profit organization. The Society has never made a cash dividend to its stockholders, the profits being held in the treasury to meet future contingencies, or expand on improvement of the grounds. The Edgar County Fair held in September, 1878, was larger than any held before. The total entries aggregated 1,980, and the whole amount paid in cash premiums was \$2,523.50. In addition to this, the current expenditures and amounts paid for improvements were \$1,331.38, making a total paid out of \$3,855.33, all of which was realized from the receipts of the Fair. The Fairs

have had their ups and downs since their first organization - have had to discontinue on account of times and money but there has always been a group to reorganize and start again.

The 1967 Edgar County Fair was held July 23-28, 1967. Officers, Dewey Wheeler, President; Max Huffman, Vice-President; Charles A. Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer and Frank Clinton, Ray E. Lange, Dewey Wheeler, J. Fred Richey, Arthur North, Dr. Ray L. Taylor, Raymond Kizer, John R. Mattingly, J. Ward Watson, Max Huffman, Robert Elledge and Harlan Watson, Directors.

The total premiums paid in 1967 were \$ 41,073.71.  
The total number of animals and articles exhibited 2,546.  
The total number of exhibitors 437  
The total expenditures \$ 73,306.77  
The total income \$ 71,835.16

At the 1966 Edgar County Fair Miss Carolyn Geiling was selected to serve as the Edgar County Fair Queen during the year 1967.

In July, 1967, Miss Jan Day of Vermilion, Illinois, was selected to serve as the Edgar County Fair Queen during the year 1968.

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SCHOOL REPORT OF 1897 - By Mr. William Roth

The following statistics showing the condition of the Public Schools of Edgar County in 1897 -

Number of persons under 21	12,429
Number of persons between 6 and 21	8,618
Number of Districts	187
Districts having school 5 months or more	135
Total number of months school	934
Total number of pupils	6,786
Male Teachers	111
Female Teachers	147
Ungraded Schools	132
Graded Schools	4
Private Schools	1

Total amount paid teachers	\$ 44,192.07
Total expended for support of schools	65,665.52
Estimated value of school property	96,989.00
Principal of Township Fund	56,010.72

The first school in the County was opened in 1820 in a little log building erected on William Whitley's land in the neighborhood of North Arm. The honor of teaching this first school was claimed by several different persons, but the credit is generally given to Amos Williams.

The law concerning the pupils -

1. Pupils must be between the ages of 6 and 21 years, and bona fide residents of district where they attend.
2. Children can attend school in a different district from that which they reside, upon the consent, in writing of both Boards of Directors - and on no other conditions.
3. Persons over 21 may be admitted, at the discretion of the Directors and upon payment of such tuition fee as they may prescribe; provided, that no legal school-going child is thereby excluded or incommoded. But no scholar over 21 or under 6 can, in any case, be entered in the schedule upon which the public funds are apportioned; nor can a child of school age be in any case excluded, or expelled when admitted, except for persistent misconduct in school.

4. Returned soldiers who, during the late war, entered the army while in their minority, are permitted to attend, free, any public school in the districts where they severally reside, for a length of time equal to the portion of their minority spent in the military service of the United States.

FROM THE ANNUAL FOR EDGAR COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - GEORGE W. BROWN, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

COUNTY STATISTICS

Record by years of Edgar County Schools

- Column 1 Years beginning with 1900
- Column 2 Number of Library Books in all schools of County. The number added each year may be found by subtraction.
- Column 3 Average daily attendance of pupils in schools of two or more rooms.
- Column 4 Average daily attendance of pupils in schools of one room.
- Column 5 Tuition paid by parents living in country for the education of their children in neighboring High Schools. This column shows a smaller amount at present than formerly because many districts are paying the tuition of eighth grade pupils in High Schools. All districts may do this under the present law.
- Column 6 Average monthly wages of male teachers for eight months school.
- Column 7 Average monthly wages of female teachers for eight months of school.
- Column 8 Graduates from four year High Schools.

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
1900	2297	125	93	1017.47	48.36	38.19	19
1900	2297	125	93	1017.47	48.36	38.19	19
1901	2441	124	94	1191.08	50.28	38.27	27
1902	3001	124	97	1227.27	48.22	39.83	35
1903	3155	127	89	1228.76	50.06	38.60	35
1904	4728	128	111	1427.60	50.47	40.40	48
1905	6278	133	103	1572.04	53.77	39.69	44
1906	7423	128	101	1657.99	58.48	42.44	63
1907	8573	134	111	2228.62	57.67	43.51	56
1908	9636	135	106	2090.96	70.75	46.58	60
1909	10430	137	111	1666.67	67.76	48.69	67



## FARMERS INSTITUTE IN SCHOOLS

The change in the methods of conducting Farmers Institute by bringing these meetings nearer the farmers and county schools has proved by the intense interest awakened to be a forward movement.

The general plan of these meetings was to hold a Corn School and Exhibit on the first day. Only ribbons were given as prizes. The opportunity for farmers and their boys to compete with neighbors and friends made very creditable exhibits at all centers. The eighty grade pupils with their teachers from all nearby schools attended. A day spent by teacher and pupils with grownup people was always helpful and inspiring.

The second day was used for the Institute. The College of Agriculture furnished three speakers who presented the topics of livestock, soil fertility and domestic science. At each place, the women of the neighborhood served an elaborate and bountiful dinner. The meetings were worth while for the hearty good feeling that was engendered in the hearts of many who met each other for the first time.

The evening meetings were conducted by the County Superintendent of the Schools who gave his stereopticon address, "Forward Movements in Farm and School, " which was preceded by a short program by the children from the various schools.

After a few years other attractions came into the schools and the Farmers Institute in Edgar County was held at the High School without any school connection and was finally taken over by the Farm Bureau and was terminated as Farmers Institute.

The basis of the educational system of the State of Illinois was the Act of Congress, called the Northwest Ordinance, in which one thirty-sixth of the public lands was donated to the Northwest States for the purpose of aiding Public Education.

In 1855, the Legislature of the State passed a law levying an annual

school tax of two mills on the dollar on taxable property of the State. Edgar County received around ten thousand dollars annually. For any school to share in this money they were to hold school for five or six months each year.

As the population of the country increased there were new schools started and improved.

The Illinois State Legislature in June of 1945 passed the School Survey law which required all County Superintendents of schools in Illinois to call a meeting of all School Board Members of the counties to vote on a proposition providing a school survey in each county before December 1, 1945. The survey committee was organized November 27, 1945. The vote of the school board members was 100 votes for and 42 against having the school survey. A tentative report filed November 27, 1948, by the survey committee recommending formation of a Unit School District around Paris, excluding District 95, which is a chartered School District. An election was held March 27, 1948 on formation of such a District with 591 votes for and 120 against. The election of the school board was held April 24, 1948. The Community Unit No. 4 is made up of Elbridge, Stratton and Symmes Townships, most of Hunter Township, the southern half of Edgar Township, and eastern portion of Buck and Grandview Townships, a small portion of Shiloh Township, all of Paris Township with the exception of the City of Paris.

The School Board of Community Unit No. 4 began plans for the new Crestwood School and the school was finished in 1956 and school was started in the new school in September, 1956, with 631 students from the unification of 23 country schools - they also have four grades at the Vermilion School.

They started with a teaching staff of 26 with an average salary of \$2,000.00. The Crestwood School has continued to grow and the school board is now planning on building additional class rooms to care for more pupils. The number of Unit 4 students for the 1967-68 year was 827, with an additional 348 Crestwood students in Paris High School.

The expenditure for tuition to the Paris High School for the 1966-67 year

was \$174,875.77.

Teachers for the 1967-68 year in Unit 4 was 45 with the average salary of \$6,000.00.

The total number of teachers, bus drivers, janitors and other help for this year was 85.

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### FARM BUREAU AND COOPERATIVES

Probably nowhere in history has cooperatives played a greater role in the development of a country than in the United States. Dating back to the day the first ship load of settlers arrived in America to the present day, we find our people banding together in cooperatives to help one another. From the cooperative venture at Jamestown, which was a failure, to some of our large commercial cooperatives of today, we find Americans joining hands in a spirit of togetherness to help themselves and one another.

Some of the early types of cooperatives were house and barn raisings, butchering, threshing, hay-making, and defense. The early schools were of this type for they were started before tax money was made available for education. Our early roads were built and maintained locally through the cooperative efforts of those people living on them. As the need for a kind of service being done cooperatively, died out or was replaced by more modern methods, the cooperative just died and became a memory, such as the threshing rings. New needs grew and the people turned to the government for services previously done by the cooperatives. Examples of this are our schools, roads, fire protection, and cemetery maintenance.

The government also established a system of agriculture colleges and ex-



the Farm Bureau's service. They were A.E. Staley (17 years), Leo Swinford (7 years), Byron McCoy (8 years), and Paul Stafford (3 years).

The order of work as approved at the first meeting was as follows:

1. Systematic and comprehensive effort to make the soil more productive and to maintain its fertility. Encourage personal visits by all members of the Farm Bureau to the Experimental Soil Plots at the State Experiment Station. Encourage the reading and study of the publications issues from time to time by the State Agricultural Authorities and the adaptation of these results as applicable to the farm conditions in Edgar County.

2. Increase the interest in more and better livestock of all kinds for the county. Encourage as much as possible the adoption of one breed of beef cattle, one breed of hogs, one breed of dairy cattle, etc., so that Edgar County can make for itself a reputation as a producer of a certain breed of livestock. Encourage the use of nothing but purebred sires and dams so far as possible.

3. We suggest that the executive committee keep in mind, that there are members interested in all departments of farming and that each class should have its proportional share in the time, and the attention of the Farm Adviser.

4. We recommend that the organization keep in touch with other Farm Bureaus of the State and to cooperate with them in securing Legislation for the improvement of agricultural interests.

5. We suggest that a special effort be directed toward encouraging the use of pure farm seeds, especially clover seed.

6. We advise the encouragement of boys' and girls' club work in the county, and think it will do much toward keeping the farm boy and girl on the farm.

7. We recommend a close affiliation of all organizations in the county, that have for their object the improvement of the conditions surrounding the farmer.

Although the Farm Bureau was organized as an educational service it was soon recognized by the leaders that it could provide commercial and legislative

service to its members, also.

The Edgar County Seed Company was founded and operated until 1921 when it was sold to Mr. M.J. Money. This sale was made not for lack of business but because the company was under-financed.

The Purebred Livestock Association was formed and 275 head of purebred cattle and 325 head of purebred hogs were brought into the company.

A demonstration of 4, 5, 6, and 8 horse hitch's was held on the W.A. Dennis farm showing how to eliminate side draft in plowing.

Soil testing and application of needed amounts of lime and phosphate were promoted.

A Dairy Herd Improvement Association was organized in 1922. A Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized 1923 and with it reduced premiums for lightning rods, fire extinguishers and fire resistant roofs.

In 1924, Chester Boland entered a sample of Manchu soy beans in the International Hay and Grain Show and was awarded the Grand Champion prize.

In 1926 the Edgar County Supply Company was organized and in March of 1927, it and eight other county companies organized the Illinois Supply Supply.

In 1928 the Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau sponsored the organization of the Equity Union Creamery which opened on West Madison Street.

Corn husking contests were started in 1931. Also the Edgar County Growers Association was formed to sell strawberries.

The federal farm programs of the early thirties were backed by Farm Bureau.

On November 25, 1936, a Rural Electrification meeting was held and a community survey was started. Meetings were scheduled to give farmers in all parts of the county a chance to hear the REA story. Personal contacts were made. The Farm Bureau played an extremely important role in providing leadership and helping with the canvassing of farmers to get the sufficient number of signatures. In December a Farm Bureau committee consisting of W.A. Dennis, B.V. Hiffman, Lawrence Langford, and H. Zeis Gumm was named to check into the

possibility of organizing the cooperative. One of their main chores was getting signatures on tentative agreements to use electricity, if it became available, and drawing up maps getting up the project. The Farm Bureau Board authorized Mr. Gumm to divert his attention from collecting Farm Bureau membership dues and to sign members to the Electric Cooperative.

By July of 1938, after hundreds of hours of free work by interested farmers wanting electricity, the first loan was applied for by the Edgar Electric Cooperatives. It was approved for \$280,000 to build 255 miles of line to serve 593 members.

The Edgar Electric Coop has grown until now it has almost 1400 miles of line in 5 counties serving 4000 members. The first board of the electric coop was composed of Bernie Curtis, O.J. Bandy, C. Cliff Winans, Walter Little, Clayton Perisho, B.M. Huffman, and John C. Honnold. Later Mr. O.J. Bandy resigned to become the Coops first Manager and Russell Elleidge was appointed to the board in his place.

During the past 25 years Farm Bureau affiliates have been rather stable. The Edgar County Locker was built in 1947 and a grain company was started in 1948, later liquidated in 1952. At the present time Farm Bureau affiliates are, in addition to the Locker Plant, the Country Companies Insurance (1926), The Edgar County Marketing Association (1941), the Illinois Auction Commission which is owned by the Marketing Association (1963), and Producer's Supplies which is a service of livestock health supplies.

Farm Bureau has supported 4-H from its beginning but the gift of a plot of land adjacent to the fair grounds by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fite was the start of a modern 4-H grounds. In 1953, under the direction of Homer Myers, Ward Watson and the 4-H Committee, the first 4-H building was erected on the land given by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fite. A loan of \$2,000 was made by the Farm Bureau to complete the project. Two thirds of the assets of the Edgar County Fruit Grower's Association were added to the 4-H Building fund and one third given to the Edgar County Children's Home when the Association was dissolved.

In the spring of 1955 the 4-H Committee purchased more land from Mr. and Mrs. Fite. The home economics building and rest rooms were completed in August. The Farm Bureau paid all outstanding accounts until such time as the 4-H Building Committee could reimburse them through contributions. Supporters of the county 4-H program were so generous in their contributions that by the spring of 1956 the debt had been paid and there was a surplus in the building fund. Farm Bureau was very active in the development of the 4-H grounds which have become one of the best in the State. In 1962 a County Association was formed to assume all the responsibility and ownership of the property. Walter Kimble was appointed to represent the Farm Bureau on the Association's Board of Directors.

In November of 1954, Memorandum 1368 was received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture which in effect separated Extension Service and Farm Bureau. The original purpose of Farm Bureau was to support Extension Service. Through the years as needs arose, commercial affiliates and the legislative programs were developed by Farm Bureau. Naturally this drew criticism from people in competition with affiliated companies. Memorandum 1368 called for the separation of Farm Bureau and Extension Service. Thus it was necessary for Edgar County Farm Bureau to continue its support over the past 13 years in an amount over \$100,000.00 and are presently contributing \$7200.00 per year to the support of Agricultural Extension Service in Edgar County.

#### SUMMARIZATION BY BEN ROBINSON

As we think back over the 50 years that Farm Bureau has served the farmers, of Edgar County, one cannot help but marvel at the initiative and foresight of the leadership that has guided our organization through the trials and tribulations of a half century of progress.

The Edgar County Farm Bureau has been working to help the cause of the individual farmers in every thing that affects his well being.

To point out a few of the specific things - first we might mention the



legislative force that we maintain at Springfield through IAA Legal Department. These men are the watchdogs of the farmers welfare in the Legislature. Many hundreds of dollars have been saved for the farmer through the legislative efforts of the Farm Bureau. Such legislation as gas tax, refund on non-highway gas, no sales tax on feed and fertilizers, no licensing on farm tractors and wagons.

Next we might mention the Farm Bureau Affiliates. They were brought into being to fill a certain need. The purpose of a farm cooperative affiliate is to improve the profitability or the convenience of farming. As we check back over the history of the Affiliates in Edgar County, they have pretty well lived up to the above test. However, a few mistakes have been made and it is quite likely that we will be guilty of making a few more.

Farm Bureau has always taken an active part in the youth work in Edgar County. They have given a great deal of financial support to 4-H work in Edgar County and are continuing that practice, at the present time.

The schools of Edgar County have also benefited by the Farm Bureau. It was a Farm Bureau appointed Committee of nine men that worked with the County Superintendent of schools and was aided by the Legal Staff of IAA that was primarily responsible for the School Consolidation that took place in Edgar County during 1945-1946. At that time, the number of School Districts, or Units as they are called now, was reduced from well over one hundred to the present number of six.

Farm Bureau has always been a voluntary organization and many of us, hope it always will be. In a nation that has a Democratic form of Government, it does not seem right that one should see organizations to which you are forced to belong, if you are to pursue a certain field of endeavor.

Mr. A.E. Staley who served as President of our Organization for seventeen years once said in one of his Annual Reports, that "he hoped that Farm Bureau would never be guilty of asking for favors from Society that would cause a serious hardship to any other segment of Society." As we review the history

of Farm Bureau, it seems that they have lived up to that idea.

As we close this Chapter, in the History of Farm Bureau in Edgar County, we hope that Farm Bureau can continue to represent and serve Agriculture in the County for many years to come.

"It's only through serving that an Organization can hope to live and grow."

Prepared by:  
Byron McCoy.

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

SOME OF THE FIRST FOUND LAST

Clarence Staley's farm of 320 acres located in Elbridge Township, Section 12, Range 10, was entered by John Elliott, October 19, 1816 of Vincennes Territory at Vincennes, Indiana.

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

On a tombstone in New Providence Cemetery the inscription reads:

William Ewing, died September 9, 1817. Age 76 years, 2 months, 23 days.

On a tombstone in New Providence Cemetery the inscription reads:

Ardella Ray, daughter of J. and M. Ray died August 14, 1824. Age 9 years.

Information received from:  
Fred Staley.

School House Dis. No. 1, T. 13, R. 10, Elbridge Township.

Edgar County, Illinois Jan. 26th. A.D. 1874.

The following named persons met for the purpose of organizing a grange and made application to National Grange through Dept. - A.P. Forsythe for dispensation to work. William French, Daniel Reed, M.C. Easom, Isaac Trogden, T.J. Trogden, John Easom, Wm. A. Tweedy, Thomas Knight, Lee Cassle, E.A. Easom, James Sanders, James Vance, M.D. Fuqua, James E. Fuqua, Fleming Fuqua, Miss A. D. Rice, Miss Julia Tabler, Miss Della Tabler, Mrs. Mary A. Easom, Mrs. Rebecca Easom, Mrs. Lue Fuqua, Mrs. M.J. Rice, Mrs. Martha McFarland, Serency Rice, John Vance, Noah Fightmaster and Peter Goule and William Tabler.

A public lecture was given by Dept. A.P. Forsythe after which all present but those making the application for dispensation was requested to retire by the Dept. which request was complied with. The Dept. then proceeded to call of the list of names and collect fees from each person above named, total amount collected \$65.00. He then give the four degrees to all the above named that was present. William A. Tweedy, Mary A. Easom, Rebecca Easom and Lue Fuqua not present.

Elbridge was adopted as the name of Grange and Election was then held for Master & Sec. Jas. E. Fuqua was duly elected Master. William Tabler was duly elected Sec. The officers elected was duly installed by Dept. A.P. Forsythe. A motion and sec. that we buy a \$5.00 Seal. Motion carried. Dept. Forsythe then Rec. \$15.00, to send for dispensation, \$5.00, to send for Seal and \$7.00 for his fee. Total \$27.00. Adjourned to meet Feb. 2nd. 1874. William Tabler, Sec.

We have no record of the closing of this order. The last meeting record in this Secretary's book was a regular meeting held March 6, 1880 signed by J.E. Fuqua, Sec.

This GRANGE HISTORY was taken from the Secretary book of J.R. Vance, Grandfather of Paul Vance.

TYPICAL CONVERSATION WHEN FISHERMEN MEET

"Hiyamac."  
"Lobuddy."  
"Binearlong?"  
"Coplours."  
"Cetchanenny?"  
"Goddafew."  
"Kindarthay?"  
"Bassencarp."  
"Ennysizetoom?"  
"Cuplapowns."  
"Hittinhard?"  
"Sordalike."  
"Whachoozin?"  
"Gobbawurms."  
"Fishanona boddum?"  
"Rydonaboddum."  
"Whatchadrinkin?"  
"Jugajimbeam."  
"Igoddago."  
"Tubad."  
"Seeyaroun."  
"Yeahtakideezy."  
"Guluk."

\*\*\*\*\*

The bank robber shoved a note across to the teller which read:  
"Put the money in a bag, sucker, and don't make a move." The  
teller pushed back another note: "Straighten your tie, stupid,  
they're taking your picture.

\*\*\*\*\*

Summer is the time of year when children slam doors they left  
open in winter.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of tranquilizers, even back in Grandpa's time, there  
was something to make you sleep. They called it WORK.

\*\*\*\*\*

COP: "use your noodle, lady; use your noodle."

Rattled Driver: "My goodness! Where is it? I've pushed and  
pulled everything on the dashboard."

\*\*\*\*\*

Do your duty in all things. You \*           Old blonds do not  
could do no more. You would \*           fade. They just  
not wish to do less.           \*           dye away.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Willie, you're a pig. You know what a pig is, don't you?"  
"Sure, Daddy. A pig is a hog's little boy."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Oxygen is essential to all animal existence," lectured the  
scientist. "Life would be impossible without it; yet it  
was discovered less than 100 years ago. A voice from the  
back row demanded, "What did they do before it was discovered?"

\*\*\*\*\*

The echo always has the last \*   A gossip is one who burns  
word.                           \*   the scandal at both ends.  
                                 \*

A laugh, to be joyous, must flow from a joyous heart, for without kindness there can be no true joy.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.

\*\*\*\*\*

For every minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness.

\*\*\*\*\*

Violent exercise after 40 is considered very harmful, especially if it is done with a knife and fork.

\*\*\*\*\*

Everytime you throw a little mud, you lose a little ground.

\*\*\*\*\*

The reason a dog has so many friends is that his tail wags instead of his tongue.

\*\*\*\*\*

The best time to argue is later on.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well-balanced people never try to throw their weight around.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gossip always travels faster over grapevines that are slightly sour.

\*\*\*\*\*

The world would be overrun with millionaires, if folks were paid for the time they spend in running the other fellow's business.

\*\*\*\*\*

ILLINOIS

BY ACT of the Fifty-fourth General Assembly the song "Illinois" became the official State song. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Florence Fifer Bohrer, daughter of the late Governor Joseph W. Fifer and the first woman to serve as member of the Illinois Senate. The bill passed both houses without opposition and became law by executive signature.

"Illinois" had long been the State song, but it had been given no official recognition prior to the passage of the bill. The song was written by Charles H. Chamberlin some time between 1890 and 1894, in connection with plans for securing the World's Columbian Exposition for Chicago. Many states were attempting to secure the exposition, Illinois making strong efforts herself with the able assistance of U.S. Senator Shelby M. Cullom and U.S. Senator John M. Palmer, Col. O.B. Knight, a friend of Mr. Chamberlin, in the meantime, was singing throughout Illinois and in Washington, D.C. and so the song was written primarily for him to sing. The lyric was composed by Mr. Chamberlin, but the music had been written by Archibald Johnston in 1870 with another lyric by Charles Mackey. In its original form the name was "Baby Mine", under which title it won great popularity in the '70s.

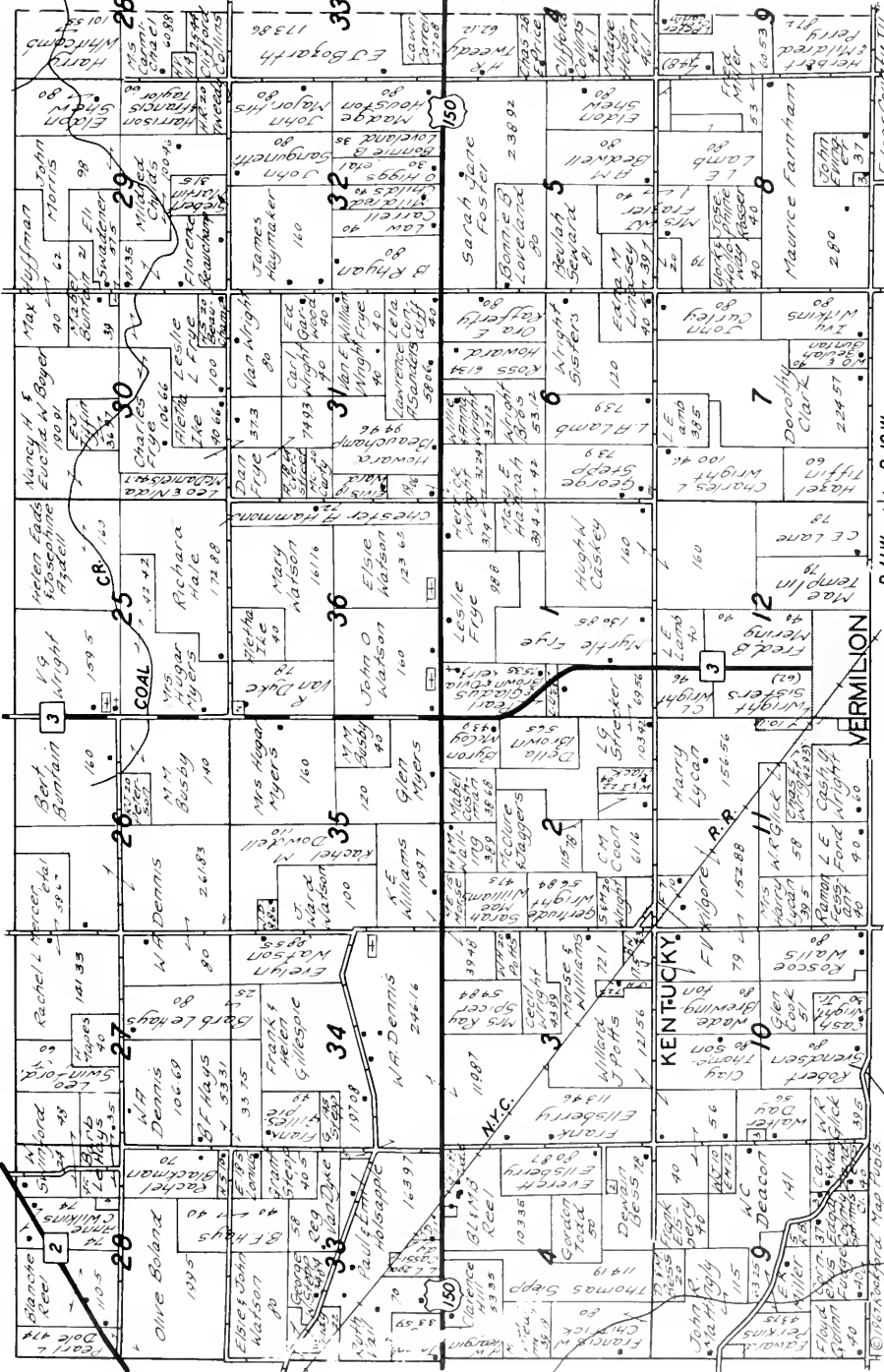
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

By thy rivers gently flowing  
Illinois, Illinois  
O'er thy prairies verdant growing,  
Illinois, Illinois  
Comes an echo on the breeze  
Rustling thru the leafy trees,  
and its mellow tones are these,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
And its mellow tones are these,  
IL - LI - NOIS!

From a wilderness of prairies,  
Illinois, Illinois  
Straight thy way and never varies,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
Till upon the inland sea,  
Stands thy great commercial tree,  
turning all the world to thee,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
Turning all the world to thee,  
IL - LI - NOIS!

When you heard your country calling  
Illinois, Illinois  
Where the shot and shell were falling,  
Illinois, Illinois  
When the Southern host withdrew  
Pitting Gray against the Blue,  
There were none more brave than you,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
There were none more brave than you,  
IL - LI - NOIS!

Not without thy wondrous story,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
Can be writ the nation's glory,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
On the record of thy years,  
Abra'am Lincoln's name appears,  
Grant, and Logan, and our tears,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
Grant, and Logan, and our tears,  
IL - LI - NOIS!



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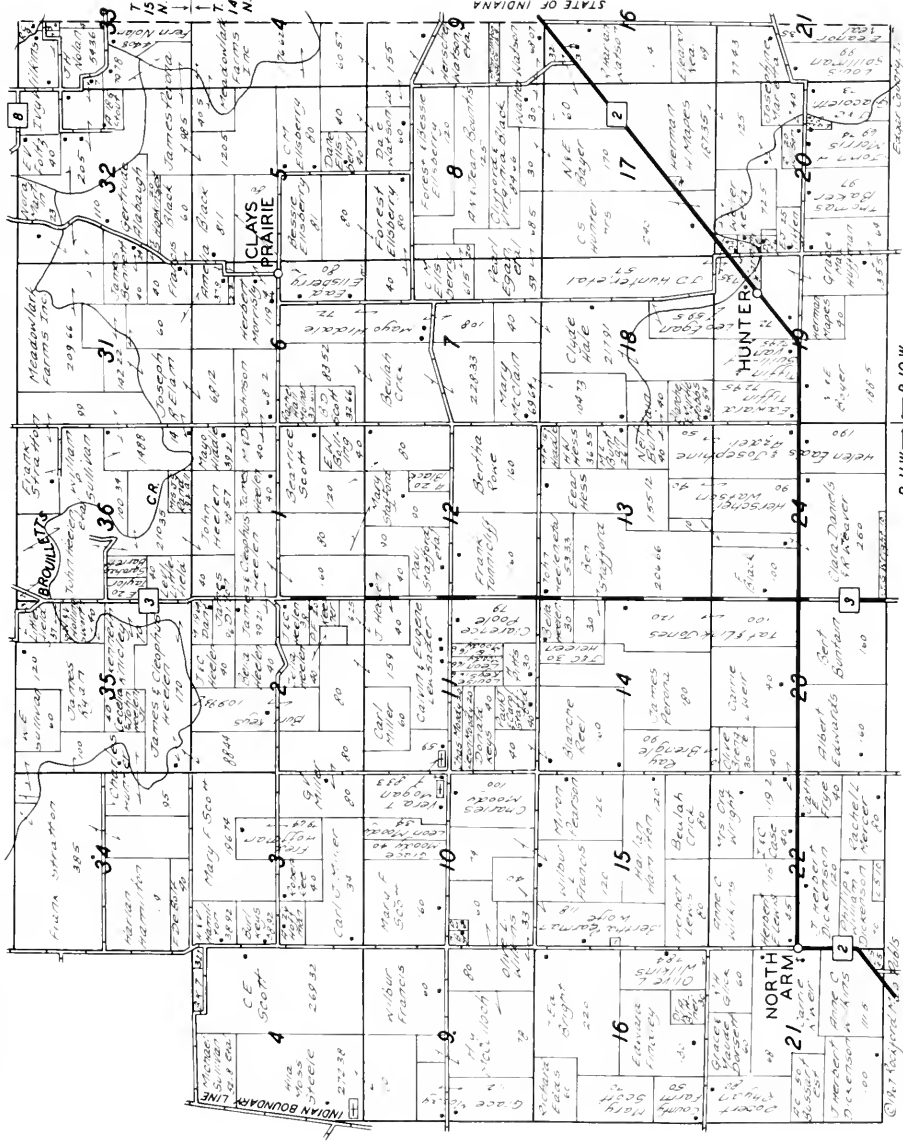
Map 144-1010-31





32 HUNTER

T. 14-15 N.-R. 10-11 W.

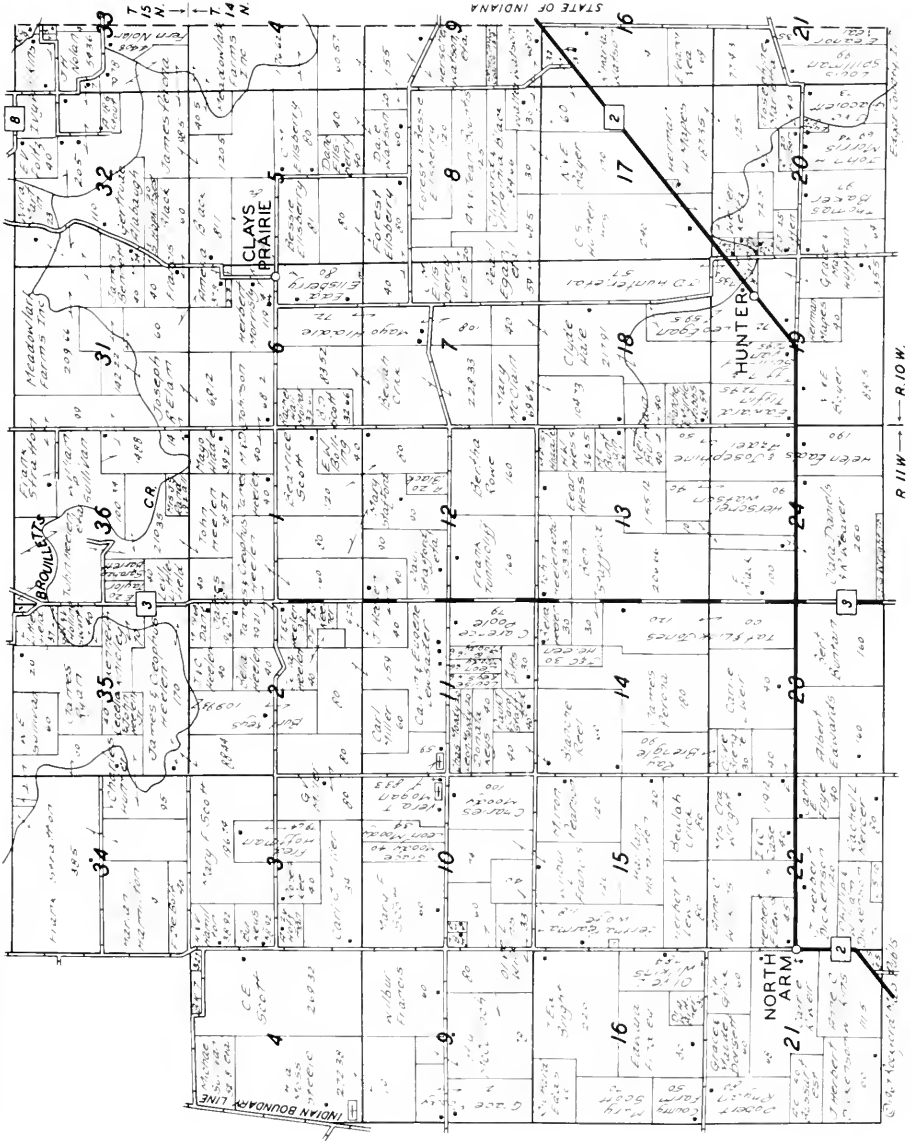


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32 HUNTER

T. 14-15 N.-R. 10-11 W.



R. 11 W. — R. 10 W.

32 HUNTER



The material in this book was taken mostly from -

The History of Edgar County, Illinois 1879.

The Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and  
History of Edgar County.

The 1910 Atlas of Edgar County.

The 1950 and 1960 Bureau of Census.

Records from Superintendent of Schools.

The Community Unit School District No.4 and

Church Records.

Materials not taken from the above records,  
were prepared by those whose name appears  
with the article.



FRONTIER FESTIVAL

VERMILION, ILLINOIS - JULY 19, 20 & 21, 1968

Sesquicentennial Committees.

1. Organizational Chairmen  
Joe Sanders & Dorothy Farnham
2. Secretary  
June Vance
3. Treasurer  
Byron McCoy
4. General Co-Chairmen  
Paul Vance & Lester Dailey
5. Publicity  
Teddy Day & Virginia Brown
6. Ways and Means  
Byron McCoy & all Comm. Chairmen
7. Historical Research  
Ora E. Raffety & Mildred Walling
8. Commemorative  
June Vance & Eunice Caskey
9. Properties  
Carl & Edith Frye
10. Home Grounds & Beautification  
Julia Dailey & Beulah Trogdon
11. Health and Sanitation  
Emmett Stotts
12. Citizenship  
Harold Eastham
13. Parking & Law Enforcement  
Henry Walling
14. Formal Program and Entertainment  
Owen & Ruth Ferguson
15. Concessions  
Gene Evinger & Larry Wooten
16. Square Dance  
Emmett & Evelyn Stotts
17. Barbecue  
Karl & Dorothy Farnham
18. Horse Show  
John & Joan Mullenix
19. Parades  
Kenneth Miller & Franklin Funkhouser
20. Antique House, Tours, Etc.,  
Eugene & Ruth Sanders
21. Country Store  
Nina Lukkon
22. Special Activities (contests)  
Robert & Darlene Reel
23. Auction  
Ray Curry
24. Sesqui-belle  
Evelyn Stotts
25. Brothers of the Brush  
Larry Funkhouser
26. Queen Contest  
Evelyn Stotts & Ruth Holloway
27. 4-H Clubs  
Paul & Marjory Sturgell
28. Scouts  
Mervin McMahan
29. Schools  
Paul Keehner
30. Churches  
Rev. Wineinger
31. Arts & Crafts  
Verla Ewing
32. Printed Programs  
Amelia Black & Virginia Brown
33. Decorating  
Rosalie Malone & Velma Troye





EASY GOING

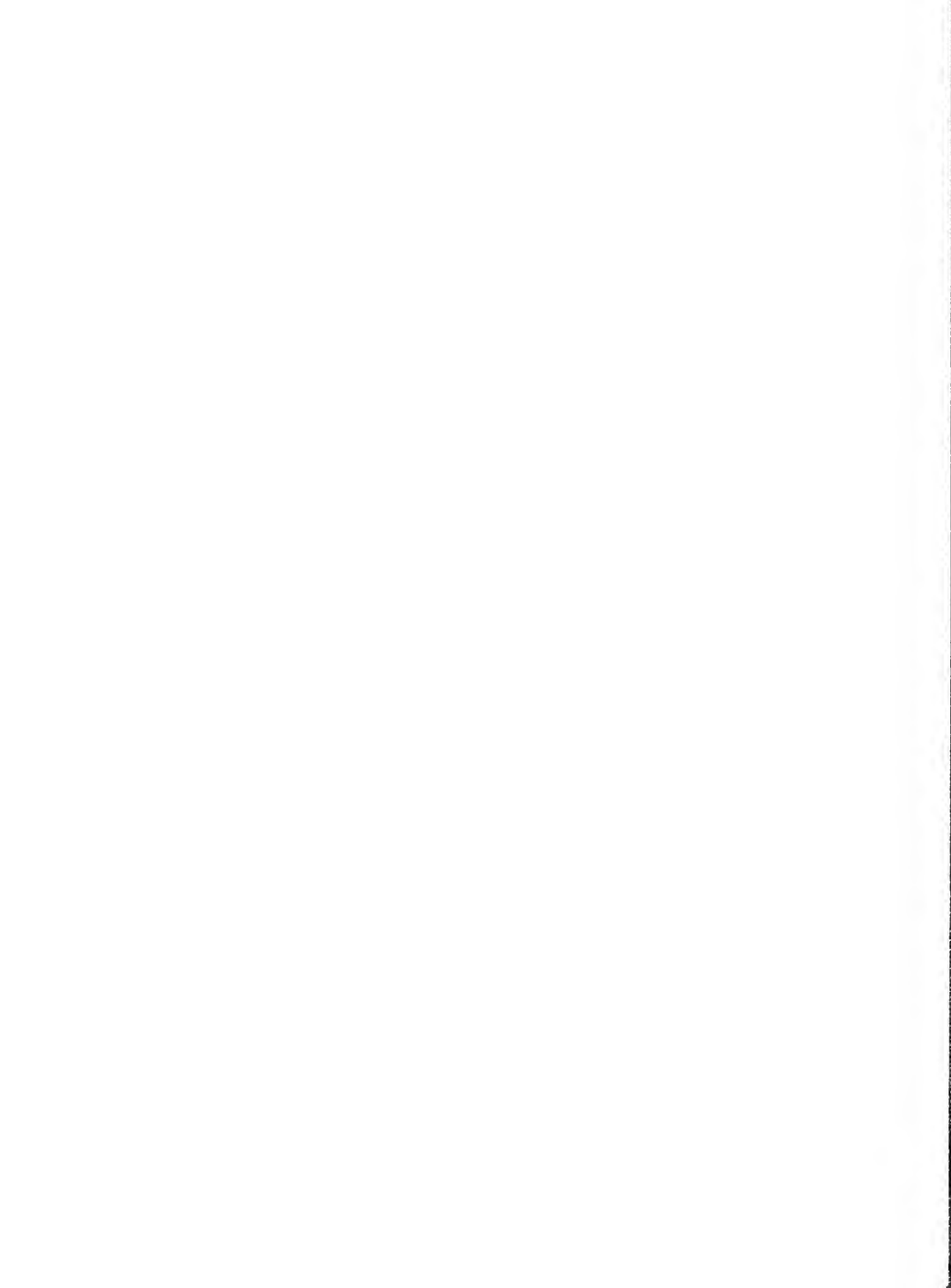
Hate, my friends, is a stone in the shoe,  
It triples the task you have to do.  
It makes you limp on the smoothest road  
And adds a ton to the lightest load.

So, if you would top the hill with ease  
And cool your brow in the faintest breeze,  
The very first thing you have to do  
Is to take that pebble out of your shoe.

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\* Errors of omission, typographical errors, misspellings \*  
\* and oversights will be rectified and acknowledged in the \*  
\* next sesquicentennial booklet to be published in the year \*  
\* 2118. Please contact the committee at that time. \*  
\* \*  
\* Ora E. Raffety \*  
\* Mildred Walling \*  
\* Ruth Brown \*  
\*\*\*\*\*











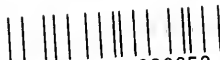


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