

977.3

Il65

1901, cop. 3

ILL. HIST.  
SURVEY

**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ILLINOIS  
LIBRARY**

From the library of  
Walter Colyer  
Albion, Illinois  
Purchased 1926

977.3  
IL65  
1901, cop. 3

**ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY**

ILLINOIS  
SURVEY

1000



PUBLICATION NO. 6 OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Illinois State Historical Society

FOR THE YEAR, 1901.

---

Published by Authority of the Board of Trustees  
of the State Historical Library.

---

SPRINGFIELD, ILL :  
PHILLIPS BROS., STATE PRINTERS.  
1901.



977.3  
I265  
1901  
cop.3

## CONTENTS.

---

- I. Constitution of the Illinois State Historical Society.
- II. List of Officers and Members of the Society.
- III. Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the Society, January 30-31, 1901.
- IV. Annual report of the Secretary and Treasurer.
- V. Suggestions. For Organization of the State Historical Society. By Dr. J. F. Snyder.
- VI. Annual Address. By Dr. Reuben S. Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.
- VII. The objects of the German-American Historical Society of Chicago, by Hon. William Voeke, its President.
- VIII. The influence of Government Land Grants for Educational Purposes upon the Educational System of the State. Jonathan Baldwin Turner, by Prof. Wm. L. Pillsbury.
- IX. Old Peoria. By Hon. David McCulloch.
- X. Slavery in Illinois. By Hon. E. A. Snively.
- XI. Early Reminiscences. By A. W. French, D. D. S.
- XII. The Oldest Civil Record in the West. By Hon. J. N. Perrin.
- XIII. Illinois During the Revolution. By Mrs. Laura Dayton Fessenden.

### IN MEMORIAM.

- XIV. Hon. John M. Palmer. By Rev. Euclid B. Rogers.
- XV. Hon. John A. McClernand. By Gen. Alfred Orendorff.
- XVI. General James M. Ruggles, By P. L. Diffenbacher, M. D.

### ADDENDUM.

- The Wood River Massacre. By Volney P. Richmond.
- The Bennett-Stuart Duel. By James Affleck.
- Prof. John Russell. By S. G. Russell, Esq.
- An Incident in the Settling of Morgan county, Illinois. By John Yapple.
- Some Old Letters by, and Relating to Stephen A. Douglas. By Joseph Wallace, A. M.
- Discovery of the Graves of the Soldiers who fell at Stillman's defeat.





## I.

### CONSTITUTION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

#### ARTICLE I.—NAME AND OBJECTS.

Section 1. The name of this society shall be the Illinois State Historical Society.

Sec. 2. The objects to be sought by this society shall be:

(1) To search out and preserve in permanent form for the use of the people of the State of Illinois facts and data in the history of the State, and of each county thereof, including the prehistoric periods and the history of the aboriginal inhabitants, together with biographies of distinguished persons who have rendered services to the people of the State.

(2) To accumulate and preserve for like use books, pamphlets, newspapers and documents bearing upon the foregoing topics.

(3) To publish from time to time for like uses its own transactions as well as such facts and documents bearing upon its objects as it may secure.

(4) To accumulate for like use such articles of historic interest as may bear upon the history of persons and places within the State.

(5) To receive by gift, grant, devise, bequest or purchase, books, libraries, museums, monies and real property and other property in aid of the above objects.

#### ARTICLE II.—MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1. Any person may become an active member of the society on payment of the initiation fee of one dollar.

Sec. 2. The annual fee for active members shall be one dollar.

Sec. 3. Any person eligible for active membership may become a life member on payment of a fee of twenty-five dollars. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of annual membership fees.

Sec. 4. Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person who has distinguished himself or herself by services or contributions to the society or to the cause of history, upon the nomination of the President and confirmation of the Board of Trustees.

#### ARTICLE III.—MEETINGS.

Sec. 1. The annual meeting of the society shall be held at such time and place in the month of January as may be designated by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. Special meetings may be called by the President.

Sec. 3. At any meeting of the society the attendance of ten members entitled to vote shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

Sec. 1. The officers of the society shall be a President, such Vice-Presidents as may be deemed best by the society, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Secretary and five other members of the society. This Executive Committee shall also constitute the Board of Trustees of the society.

Sec. 2. All the officers of the society shall be elected by ballot annually at the regular annual meeting in January, except that the society may designate particular officers to be elected for an indeterminate period.

Sec. 3. The duties of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be those usually appertaining to such officers. The Secretary shall also act as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to prepare the programs for the annual meetings of the society and to perform such other functions as may from time to time be entrusted to it by the society.

Sec. 4. The Executive Committee shall at each annual meeting present through the Secretary a report on the finances of the society and on its work during the preceding year, together with such recommendations as may seem to them appropriate.

## ARTICLE V.—INCORPORATION.—BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees shall at an early date cause the society to be legally incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois; shall have general charge and control of all the property of the society; shall make and approve all its contracts; shall direct the Librarian in the selection and purchase of books and other historical matter; shall see to the carrying out of all orders of the society and shall perform all duties prescribed by the by-laws.

## ARTICLE VI.—AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the society present at the annual meeting: Provided, that at least thirty days prior to the holding of such annual meeting the Secretary shall send to the members of the society notice of such proposed amendments.

## II.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

## OFFICERS.

President, Hiram W. Beckwith, Danville; Vice-President, John F. Snyder, Virginia; Honorary Vice-Presidents: John N. Jewett, Chicago (president of the Chicago Historical Society); William Vocke, Chicago (president of the German-American Historical Society of Illinois); J. O. Cunningham, Urbana (president of the Champaign County Historical Society); George P. Davis, Bloomington (president of the McLean County Historical Society); Harvey B. Hurd, Evanston (president of the Evanston Historical Society); Secretary and Treasurer, Evarts B. Greene, University of Illinois; Executive Committee: The President; the Secretary; George N. Black, Springfield; J. H. Burnham, Bloomington; McKendee H. Chamberlain, Lebanon; Edmund D. James, University of Chicago; David McCulloch, Peoria.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

Dr. Robert Boal, Lacon; Judge James B. Bradwell, Chicago; Mrs. Benjamin S. Edwards, Springfield; Hon. Charles P. Johnson, St. Louis; \*General John A. McClernand, Mrs. John A. McClernand, Springfield; \*General John M. Palmer, Mrs. John M. Palmer, Springfield; \*General James M. Ruggles, Havana; \*Mrs. John T. Stuart, Springfield; Mr. R. G. Thwaites, Madison, Wisconsin.

## ACTIVE MEMBERS.

Horace G. Anderson, Peoria; James S. Barclay, Oak Park; H. E. Barker, Springfield; H. W. Beckwith, Danville; George N. Black, Springfield; J. H. Brevoort, Rutland; Mrs. C. C. Brown, Springfield; W. R. Brydges, Elgin; W. L. Burnap, Lake Forest University, Lake Forest; J. H. Burnham, Bloomington; J. M. Bush, Pittsfield; Charles L. Capen, Bloomington; M. H. Chamberlain, McKendee College, Lebanon; Clinton T. Conkling, Springfield; J. S. Cook, Leroy; Mrs. Harriett Palmer Crabbe, Springfield; J. O. Cunningham, Urbana; J. Seymour Currey, Evanston; J. P. Cushing, Knox College, Galesburg; George P. Davis, Bloomington; J. McCan Davis, Springfield; Philip L. Dieffenbacher, Havana; Charles A. Dilg, Chicago; N. C. Dougherty, Peoria; Mrs. Julia Mills Dunn, Moline; Richard Edwards, Bloomington; Albert Judson Fisher, Chicago; Stephen A. Forbes, University of Illinois, Urbana; A. W. French, Springfield; D. M. Funk, Bloomington; Hon. Lafayette Funk, Bloomington; T. M. Garrett, Chicago; Evarts B. Greene, University of Illinois, Urbana; H. H. Greene, Bloomington; J. N. Gridley, Virginia, Ill.; W. L. Gross, Springfield; James Haines, Pekin, Ill.; Logan Hay, Springfield; John G. Henderson, Chicago; E. J. James, University of Chicago, Chicago; J. A. James, Northwestern University, Evanston; Dr. William Jayne, Springfield; Miss Emma F. Jones, Springfield; Charles P. Kane, Springfield; William F. Lodge, Monticello; Walter F.

---

\* Deceased.

Manny, Mt. Sterling; G. M. McConnel, Chicago; David McCulloch, Peoria; E. L. Merritt, Springfield; Richard W. Mills, Virginia; John R. Moss, Mt. Vernon; W. I. Norton, Alton; Alfred Orendorff, Springfield; John B. Orendorff, Bloomington; E. C. Page, Normal School, DeKalb; C. M. Parker, Taylorville; J. N. Perrin, Lebanon; Frederick C. Pierce, Chicago; Ezra M. Prince, Bloomington; J. W. Putnam, Illinois College, Jacksonville; Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Chicago; Edgar S. Scott, Springfield; Paul Selby, Chicago; R. D. Sheppard, Evanston; George W. Smith, State Normal School, Carbondale; E. A. Snively, Springfield; Dr. J. F. Snyder, Virginia; E. E. Sparks, University of Chicago, Chicago; S. S. Spear, Springfield; Arthur K. Stearns, Waukegan; F. E. Stevens, Chicago; Bernard Stuvé, Springfield; Miss Maude Thayer, Springfield; Mrs. Eliza F. H. Tomlin, Jacksonville; Hon. Wm. Voecke, Chicago; Dr. H. N. Waite, Decatur; Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield; Simeon H. West, Monmouth; Mrs. Katherine Goss Wheeler, Springfield; S. P. Wheeler, Springfield; G. F. Wightman, Lacon; E. S. Wilcox, Peoria; Charles T. Wyckoff, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria.

## III.

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT SPRINGFIELD, JANUARY  
30 AND 31, 1901.

## JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

Executive Committee—The Executive Committee of the society met on the morning of January 30. The following members were present: Messrs. Beckwith, Black, McCulloch, Burnham and Greene. On invitation of the committee, Dr. J. F. Snyder attended and took part in the discussions.

The secretary presented his annual report, which together with a paper presented by Dr. Snyder, formed the basis of the discussion. The committee then voted to present to the society resolutions; (1) urging more liberal provision for the State Historical Library; (2) declaring the opinion of the society that some organic connection between the State Historical Library and the State Historical Society ought to be recognized by law and that the annual appropriation for the State Historical Library should include an item for the expenses of the society; (3) authorizing the executive committee to publish suitable matter in addition to the annual proceedings.

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

The society held its annual meeting for the election of officers and the transaction of other business on Wednesday, January 30, at 2 P. M. in the Supreme Court Room. President H. W. Beckwith presided.

The annual report of the Secretary was read and accepted.

It was voted that the chair appoint a committee on nominations: Messrs. Cunningham, Black and Perrin were named as members of the committee and subsequently reported the following nominations: President, H. W. Beckwith, Danville; Vice-President, Dr. J. F. Snyder, Virginia; Secretary and Treasurer, E. B. Greene, University of Illinois.

Members of the Executive Committee: George N. Black, Springfield; J. H. Burnham, Bloomington; David McCulloch, Peoria; E. J. James, University of Chicago; M. H. Chamberlin, McKendree College; in addition to the President and Secretary, *ex-officio* members under the constitution.

The report of the committee on nominations was accepted, and the persons named therein were unanimously elected.

Capt. J. H. Burnham presented the report of the committee on auxiliary societies of which he was chairman. The report was accepted.

After an informal discussion based upon the proposals of the Secretary and the paper of Dr. Snyder presented by him to the Executive Committee and to the society, the following resolutions were voted substantially as reported by the Executive Committee:

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
JANUARY 30, 1901.

(1) *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this society, the Legislature should make more liberal provision for the State Historical Library.

(2) *Resolved*, That some organic connection ought to be established between the State Historical Library and the State Historical Society; that the annual State appropriations for the State Historical Library should include an item for the expense of the society; and that a committee be appointed to formulate a definite plan in accordance with these general principles, this committee to consist of five persons including the trustees of the State Historical Library and two others to be named by the chair.

(3) *Resolved*, That the society authorize the Executive Committee, so far as ways and means may be provided, to publish, in addition to the proceedings of the society, such other matter as may be deemed worthy, whether original material or the results of investigation.

Under the second resolution, Messrs. H. W. Beckwith, G. N. Black and E. J. James were *ex-officio* members of the committee therein provided for. The two other members of the committee subsequently named by President Beckwith were Messrs. Lafayette Funk of Bloomington and Alfred Orendorff of Springfield.

The attention of the society was called to the bill, introduced by Senator Stubblefield and now pending before the General Assembly, calling for an appropriation for the publication of documents relating to the history of the State.

On motion, the matter was referred to the above-named committee.

The society voted its thanks to the President, Hon. H. W. Beckwith, for his services to the organization.

The gift of Judge J. O. Cunningham, of Urbana, consisting of the ballots cast by the Illinois Electors for President and Vice-President of the United States in 1864, suitably framed, was accepted with thanks. It was voted that with the concurrence of the Board of Trustees, the gift be placed on the walls of the State Historical Library.

The thanks of the society were voted to Governor and Mrs. Richard Yates for the hospitality extended by them to the Society.

Adjourned.

E. B. GREENE,  
*Secretary.*

## FORMAL OPENING SESSION.

The formal opening session was held on the evening of January 30, in the Supreme Court room. President Beckwith presided. The address of welcome was given by Governor Richard Yates, and the response by President Beckwith.

The annual address was then delivered by Mr. Reuben G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. At the close of this address, Judge David McCulloch, of Peoria, called attention to the presence in the audience of Dr. Robert Boal, of Lacon, a resident of Illinois before the organization of the Illinois Territory. On motion of Mr. McCulloch, Dr. Boal was then unanimously elected an honorary member of the Society.

## LITERARY SESSIONS.

The sessions of the society for the presentation of papers were held on Thursday, January 31, in the Supreme Court room. The program prepared for these sessions is to be found in the following announcement:

## PROGRAM OF EXERCISES.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30.

10:30 a. m.

Meeting of the Executive Committee.

2 p. m.

Business meeting of the Society (Supreme Court room).

1. Secretary's report for the Executive Committee.
2. Reports of committees.
3. Election of officers for 1901.
4. Miscellaneous business.
5. Informal discussion of the future work of the Society.

8 p. m.

Formal opening session (Supreme Court room).

1. Address of welcome. By Governor Richard Yates.
2. Response. By Honorable Hiram W. Beckwith, President.
3. Annual address. By Reuben G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31.

Literary sessions (Supreme Court room).

Papers are limited to thirty minutes. It is requested that this rule be strictly observed.

9:30 a. m.

1. Old Peoria. By Hon. David McCulloch, Peoria.
2. The Oldest Civil Record in the West. By Hon. J. N. Perrin, Lebanon.
3. Illinois During the American Revolution. By Mrs. Laura Dayton Fessenden, Highland Park.
4. Slavery in Illinois, By Hon. E. A. Snively, Springfield.
5. Early Reminiscences of Illinois. By Dr. A. W. French, Springfield.

2 p. m.

1. The Influence of Congressional Grants Upon Our School System Professor Jonathan Baldwin Turner. By William L. Pillsbury, Esq., University of Illinois.
2. McKendree College. By Professor Edmund J. James, University of Chicago.
3. The Objects of Historical Research. By Hon. William Voeke, Chicago.
4. General John A. McClernand. By Hon. Alfred Orendorff, Springfield.
5. General John M. Palmer. By Rev. E. B. Rogers, Springfield.

8 p. m.

Reception by Governor and Mrs. Yates at the Executive Mansion.

The program was carried out, with the following changes: Professor James was unable to be present and his paper was not read. Mr. Snively's paper was read by Mrs. Snively. Mr. Perrin's paper was transferred from the morning to the afternoon session. Captain J. H. Burnham presented a communication from the Stillman Valley Battle Monument Association at the morning session, and a paper by Mr. J. G. Henderson, of Chicago, was read by title.

At the close of the afternoon session, the following business was transacted:

1. Mrs. John T. Stuart, Mrs. Benjamin S. Edwards, Mrs. John A. McClernand, and Mrs. John M. Palmer, were unanimously elected honorary members of the Society.

2. The following gentlemen were elected honorary vice-presidents of the Society: Hon. John N. Jewett, of Chicago, President of the Chicago Historical Society; Hon. William Voeke, of Chicago, President of the German-American Historical Society of Illinois; Hon. Harvey B. Hurd, of Evanston, President of the Evanston Historical Society; Judge J. O. Cunningham, of Urbana, President of the Champaign County Historical Society; George P. Davis, Esq., President of the McLean County Historical Society.

3. The thanks of the Society were voted to the local members of the Society and to the citizens of Springfield for their hospitality.

Adjourned.

E. B. GREENE,  
*Secretary.*



## IV.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 1900.

During the year, 1900, the society held two meetings. The first annual meeting was held at Peoria on Friday and Saturday, January 5 and 6, and on the call of the President, a special meeting was held at Springfield, May 23. The proceedings of both these meetings may be found in the published transactions for 1900.

In accordance with votes of the Society, standing committees were appointed on Publication and on Auxiliary Societies. The former committee has, through the courtesy of the Trustees of the State Historical Library, been enabled to publish without cost to the Society, a volume of *Transactions*, including the papers read at the annual meeting in Peoria.

The Committee on Auxiliary Societies, Messrs. J. H. Burnham, of Bloomington; J. O. Cunningham, of Urbana, and E. C. Page, of the Northern Illinois Normal School at DeKalb, has been occupied with plans for correlating more effectively the work of local Historical Societies, and with this end in view has issued a circular which has been widely distributed and has met in many instances with a cordial response.

Throughout the year, the society has had evidence, in the form of constantly increasing correspondence, of a very general interest in any organization occupied with the State and local history of Illinois. Many of the leading members of other historical organizations within the State have in one way or another expressed an active interest in our plans. The German-American Historical Society is represented in our program by its president, Mr. Vocke, and the Daughters of the Revolution by Mrs. Fessenden. We have in our membership list representatives of the Chicago Historical Society and of a number of county and other local historical societies. It is particularly pleasant to have such evidence of good will from the members of so honorable an organization as the Chicago Society. There is reason for congratulation in the general sympathy shown throughout the State with this new enterprise.

Up to the present time, the finances of the society have been exceedingly simple. Its income is derived wholly from membership fees. There were on the rolls of the society prior to the date of this meeting the names of about sixty members. Fortunately, the expenditures have also been small; they have been chiefly for postage and the printing of circulars and programs. The following is the financial statement for the year, 1900:

## TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1900.

RECEIVED.		
Initiation fees (50c and \$1.00).....		\$50 00
EXPENDED.		
Bloomington Pantagraph Company—Printing.....	\$8 80	
Urbana Herald Company.....	4 75	
Secretary of State—Filing fee for annual report.....	1 00	
Total expenditures.....		\$14 55
Balance in the treasury, Dec. 31.....		\$36 45

At the close of our first complete year of existence, what definite results can we claim to have accomplished, what has been done to justify the creating of a new Society at a time when any needless organization may be regarded as a positive evil? In the first place, we have undertaken to hold annual meetings for the presentation of papers and the exchange of ideas among those who are interested in the same field. Such meetings, if carefully planned, certainly furnish a real stimulus to historical studies. In the second place, through the courtesy of the Trustees of the State Historical Library, the Society has in a very modest way entered the field of publication. In the third place, through its Committee on Auxiliary Societies, it is doing something to stimulate local historical research. The Society should aim in the future not only to stimulate such efforts, but also in a measure to suggest their direction along intelligent lines.

These are lines of work already begun which in themselves may be urged as a sufficient justification for the existence of a State society, especially if they can be conservatively but steadily extended. Yet after all, we can not rest content with these results. What then can we hope to do in the future?

The society ought in the first place, to serve as an instrument for shaping public opinion in favor of more adequate provision by the State, through existing agencies or otherwise, for collecting and preserving the materials of its history. The State Historical Library has been in existence for several years, but it has never had anything like adequate support, if we compare its appropriations with those made for similar purposes in Wisconsin. May we not, by formal resolution, urge upon the Legislature more liberal provision for the State Historical Library?

Secondly, the society may well, if the necessary ways and means can be secured, extend somewhat its publications. So far we have published only the papers presented at our annual meeting. It would seem to be desirable that the Executive Committee, or the Secretary, should be given authority to print such other matter as may seem worthy of a place in our collections. This may be either original material deserving of preservation in print, or the result of investigation.

Thirdly, there is undoubtedly scattered about this State a considerable amount of manuscript material, private or documentary, which is in danger of being lost altogether, and which ought, as soon as practicable, to be brought together in safe public depositories. The society and its members might well constitute themselves a committee for the purpose of bringing such material to light and seeing that it is properly housed with a view to ultimate publication in suitable form.

Fourthly, to do this and other work which needs to be done, the society needs to be strengthened at least in two ways. It needs a larger income than that now secured or likely to be secured, solely from membership fees, and it needs one officer who can devote himself wholly to the direction of its work. He should be some one who will not merely execute the orders of the society, but will have the capacity to initiate new lines of useful activity. Though primarily an officer of the society, he should aim to cooperate with the governing board of the State Historical Library. He might well be made a member of that board. To put the proposition concretely, Illinois ought to have some one who can do for historical research and for historical collections in Illinois, a work comparable with that of Lyman C. Draper and Reuben G. Thwaites in Wisconsin.

It is at this point that the question of State aid arises. It is doubtful whether provision can be made for such an officer devoting his whole time to these interests without financial aid from the State. Here again we are bound to proceed very cautiously. The society can not afford to discredit its cause by premature plans for large expenditure. The following propositions are, however, submitted for consideration:

1. That the Legislature in making its appropriation for the State Historical Library, should include an item for the expenses of the Historical Society.

2. That of this a sufficient amount be paid to a competent expert who should act as the Corresponding Secretary of the society and perform the other functions outlined above, subject to the direction of the Executive Committee.

3. That this Corresponding Secretary should be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Historical society, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of the State Historical Library, and should be *ex-officio* a member of that body.

4. That such an appointment once made should be held subject to the conditions only of good behavior and efficient services.

In conclusion, it may be proper to emphasize the vital importance of careful and conservative consideration of any plans for action which may come before us. In this day of beginning, we are establishing precedents which may tell strongly for better or worse in the future life of the society. Above all, we must try to establish a reputation for work which is thoroughly sound and accurate, preferring to lay the foundations slowly that they may be safe and sure.

Respectfully submitted,

EVARTS B. GREENE.

## V.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

[By Dr. J. Snyder.]

To the question, "How can we secure a more effective organization of historical research in Illinois?" My answer is, by making the Illinois State Historical Society an effective agency for the prosecution of historical research.

How is this to be done?

1st. By constituting each member of the society a special agent to search for, and, if possible, secure, any and all data accessible to him, or her, relating to the past and current history of the State.

2d. By appointing or employing one agent, or more, for this service in each county in which no member of the society resides.

3rd. By soliciting donations of, or advertising for such data in newspapers, or in printed circulars.

4th. By encouraging the organization of local historical societies in counties not having already such societies, and securing their coöperation with the State Society.

But as a necessary preliminary basis for this work, the State Historical Society must have a fixed local habitation. It can not succeed as a peregrinating affair at home wherever the Secretary's journal happens to be. Nor can it execute the purposes of its mission satisfactorily so long as it is a mere tenant at will, or by sufferance, with no safe repository for its archives and other historical collections, and no certain business headquarters.

To permanently locate the society in quarters of its own should therefore claim our first attention.

How can that be attained?

To purchase a building for this use by individual subscriptions is, in the present status of the society, out of the question.

There is, however, one of two other causes that may be considered. We can perhaps prevail upon the State authorities to grant to the Historical Society, free of charge, the exclusive use of a room in the State house in which to store our historical material and collections, and hold our business meetings. The other course that may be pursued is the one I suggested at the special meeting of the society in this place (Springfield), in June, 1899; and which mature reflection has convinced me is the proper one to adopt—provided we can make it practicable. It is, to ask the General Assembly of Illinois, now in session, to so amend the act creating the Illinois State Historical Library as to give the State Historical Society legal recognition and standing—as in other states—by making it an adjunct to, or collaborator with the State Historical Library, and providing that the trustees of the Historical Library, appointed by the Governor, shall be—as they now in fact are—*ex officio*, members of the executive committee of the State Historical Society.

This would coalesce the Historical Library and Historical Society, as coordinate branches of the State's historical department.

By this simple amendment of the State Historical Library's organic law the library would be constituted—as it should be—the repository of the Historical Society's collections; and those collections, and contributions to the history of Illinois, would become the property of the State in trust for the benefit of members of the society and the public.

Such accessions to knowledge of the history of Illinois that might then be acquired by the society, and deemed worthy, by its committee of supervision, of publication, could appear as part of, or supplementary to, the annual report of the Board of Library Trustees, or in a separate volume.

This course, if adopted, and sanctioned by legislative enactment, will place the State Historical Society in the fostering care of the State, with no additional expense to the public but a trifling amount for annual publications. And it will result in time in greatly enriching the State Historical Library by the labors and accumulations of the Historical Society.

Pausing here in this discussion, let us briefly consider the objects for which the State Historical Society was originated, commencing with the last of the three propositions set forth in its articles of incorporation, namely: "To collect and preserve all forms of historical data in any way connected with Illinois and its people."

This is the paramount purpose of the society, underlying all others, involving a wide field of activity and a vast amount of labor. It comprises the collection of a historical library of all accessible data, printed and in manuscript, relating to early Illinois discoveries and explorations; to the history of primitive and recent Indian tribes in this territory; to early settlements within the limits of the State; to the evolution of the State's industries, commerce and wealth, and the progress of its civilization and culture. This includes the securing and preserving of biographies of prominent Illinoisans; accounts of noted incidents and events; and rescuing from oblivion the relics of the material agencies employed in the State's development, comprehending the tools and appliances of the nation makers, and those of their aboriginal predecessors; that is, a historical museum.

The essential part of this great work before us we have thus far evaded; or, more properly, deferred consideration of upon the subterfuge that the State Historical Library is here at hand; consequently, we need not bother ourselves about buying historical books, or collecting historical data, the State having already attended to that for us. And we beguile ourselves and the public with the assertion that "the relations of the State Historical Society and the State Historical Library are very close;" when in fact our present relations with the State Historical Library are simply the same as are enjoyed by all citizens of the State and no more. We now have no legal or official connection with that Library; no vested or acquired rights in it, and no special privileges.

But should the logical relations of the Historical Society with the Historical Library be defined and fixed by the Legislature, our labors would be simplified and could readily be reduced to a practical system. This legalized connection of the Library and Society would be mutually beneficial, by relieving the society of the labor and expense of collecting a historical library of its own; and, instead, each member of the society would become an active agent for increasing the State Historical Library.

Now then, supposing this union of the two co-ordinate branches of the State Historical Department to have been effected, let us for a moment consider the two other objects the Historical Society has in view as specified in its charter, *i. e.* "To excite and stimulate a general interest in the history of Illinois," and "to encourage historical research and investigation, and secure its promulgation."

To promote these objects, a base of operations having been secured, I would suggest the creation by the society of a permanent "committee of supervision" of three active, enthusiastic members, residing in, or near the State capital, giving to said committee plenary power of supervision over the affairs of the society. We already have, it is true, an Executive Com-

mittee having this power. But the members of our Executive Committee reside at distant points in the State, each having private interests demanding his time and attention to the exclusion of the immediate business of the Society; so that they can not conveniently come together more often than once each year; and indeed have at no time all been present at any one meeting. The less number composing the Committee of Supervision, and their proximity to the society's headquarters, would enable them to meet every three months, or oftener if necessary. The duties of this committee would be, in a great measure, commensurate with the primary objects of the society; namely, to receive and properly care for historical data sent to the society by its members; to carefully examine, classify and catalogue historical contributions received, and select such as may be most available for incorporation in the society's annual publications; to supervise the printing and distribution of circulars, lectures, addresses, etc., to dictate press notices, and other forms of advertising; to direct, by correspondence or otherwise, special lines of research and investigation where the same may promise results of value; to prepare programs for annual or special meetings of the society; to prepare and issue invitations to the same when advisable; to suggest from time to time, to the Executive Committee the adoption of such measures or appointment of such special committees or agents, as may be found indispensable for the promotion and welfare of the society, and, finally, to report their acts to the Executive Committee at the close of each year.

The plan here outlined, if feasible, will, in my opinion, undoubtedly "secure a more effective organization of historical research in Illinois," and make the historical society a credit to our State, and the peer of similar institutions in other states of the Union.

## VI.

ANNUAL ADDRESS BEFORE THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AT  
SPRINGFIELD, JANUARY 30, 1901.

By Reuben Gold Thwaites, Secretary and Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Love of city was one of the crowning virtues of the Greek. The upbuilding of cities, the wresting of charters, struggles for liberty and independence, are features of the local history of Europe. Local historic sentiment is ever strong in the old land. The history of the locality is a source of just pride to its inhabitants, and in them fosters civic patriotism.

State patriotism was one of the dominant characteristics of our own South, before the war of secession; and it is still one of the charming features of Southern life. Revulsion against the state-rights doctrine led the North, perhaps, to the other extreme. But there is now noticeable a return of the old sentiment—the growth of local historic consciousness, largely inspired by the recurrence of historical anniversaries. One now notices, for instance, a considerable output of local histories—always a feature of New England life, but now spreading all over the United States and Canada.

We are coming to feel that the national domain is so enormous, and has such diverse interests, often quite remote from the common people, that it does not take hold of the imagination save in times of great popular excitement. We are coming to feel that we must more closely cultivate the sentiment for state, country, city, village, town; that we must cultivate civic patriotism, pride in the institutions of self-government, in the annals of our community, in all attempts to better ourselves and to bring nearer to one's home and neighbors the best things of earth.

Civic sentiment is at the foundation of true patriotism; and unless its people are patriotic, no nation can long survive. You remember that in ancient days each village fed and kept alive an eternal flame, handed down unquenched from each generation to its successor. In Rome, the vestal virgins were dedicated to this service of maintaining the holy fire. In our day, civic patriotism is that flame that must never be quenched; and our American youth are the vestals who must feed it and carry it forward to succeeding generations.

Annually we receive into our life a great body of foreign-born, who flock to our shores hoping to find a freer air and broader opportunities in the struggle for existence. They can never become fitted as American citizens until they know what our institutions stand for, what lessons to humanity our history conveys. Away up in Northern Wisconsin, a public library was opened in a community where there are many Poles. It was thought desirable to place in the collection a number of books about Poland and in the Polish tongue. One day a little Polish boy asked the librarian for some book that his parents might like, and she gave him a popular history of Poland. Next day he came back with it and said that his parents did not like this book—they wanted "something that told about *our* country." Old and young, of whatever nationality, are eager to learn of the new land within which they have cast their lots; the old has been put away, they are yearning to take on the new. The schools should, therefore, be permeated with this prevalent spirit of inquiry into our past; every opportunity should be seized to take an historic retrospect, to teach lessons from the past, to take new hope for the future.

Europeans tell us that we have no history, and some Americans are prone to echo them. This is but a superficial view. In fact, we have a history—you of Illinois, we of Wisconsin—that thrusts its roots deep into the past, for more than two and a half centuries.

Let us look at it. Only nine years ago we were celebrating the 400th anniversary of the coming of a man who found here a land dark in savagery. From the Atlantic to the Pacific was an unbroken wilderness of alternating mountains, forests and prairies. Then slowly crept in, a thin fringe of settlement upon the Atlantic slope, and another entering the St. Lawrence like a wedge—rivals keenly watching each other, meanwhile gathering strength for their great struggle to the death, for the mastery of the continent.

In the far interior were wild beasts and wilder men. Up the Ottawa River came Champlain as far as Lake Huron; came Radisson and Groseilliers to discover Lake Superior; came Jogues and Raymbault to treat with the tribesmen at Sault de Ste. Marie; came Perrot, Jolliet and Marquette. And then there passed into and through our Northwest a motley procession of fur traders, *coureurs de bois*, *voyageurs*, priests, soldiers, adventurers of every sort.

The old regime of New France brought life, color, incident, to these Western wilds. There was LaSalle, with visions of vast empire, who came by the way of Chautauqua portage and the Ohio River; and again by the Great Lakes and the Chicago portage—Marquette's ground, also. Think of the Jesuit missions in the Illinois country, with their far-reaching influences, and the picturesque careers of the little French towns of Peoria, Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher, and of Kaskaskia, which was long the commercial entrepôt of the West. Parkman has told it to us, in glowing pages, which no man of Illinois can read without a thrill of pride that he is treading storied ground.

Then came the French and Indian War. French traders in Wisconsin and Illinois were summoned to the defense of Montreal and Quebec. One of the Wisconsin traders was a character worth remembering. His name was De Corah. He had married the daughter of a village chief on Lake Winnebago, and had four half-breed sons. Hastening to the lower St. Lawrence to help uphold the lilies of France against the final onslaught of the all-conquering English, he left his family behind, and returned not, for he fell on the Plains of Abraham. The four dusky sons married tribeswomen in their turn, and begat large families. So widespread is the De Corah family tree, that today full half of the Winnebagoes—three thousand of them in all, in Wisconsin and Nebraska—claim to be descendants of this fur trader who, a century and a half ago, went forth to the front from Wisconsin, hoping to save New France.

But the English won. New France became but a memory. At first, Englishmen came in our West as fur traders, although they found that in order to succeed with the savages, French methods must still prevail. They temporized with savagery; and this temporizing led to the brilliant check-mating exploit of George Rogers Clark, in the Revolutionary War—a luminous chapter in Illinois history.

Then came the Northwest Territory, and its division into smaller territories and states. There was at once a mighty pouring in of settlement by way of the Ohio and the Great Lakes. This brings us to the picturesque flatboat era wherein Shawneetown figured as the typical Western town. Comparatively recent have been the lead mine excitement at Galeua, the Black Hawk War, and the modern agricultural and industrial settlement of the splendid empire of Illinois, which has for its commercial metropolis one of the greatest cities of the world.

Thus have we seen the primeval wilderness tamed—Indian village sites transformed into trading camps, they into forts for the protection of traders and settlers, the trading hamlets at last developing into modern cities; the old buffalo traces became Indian trails, the trails became the roads of the backwoodsmen, and along many of these followed, in due course, the turn-pike and the railway; forests were cleared for farms; portage swamps were developed into canals. A mighty and multifarious commerce has succeeded to the fur trade, the whirl of great industries rends the air where once the



arrow makers pitched their wigwams—the American wilds are at last in the full tide of modern life. The progress has been astonishingly rapid; history furnishes no parallel.

American history, far from lacking coloring, is really wonderfully absorbing and romantic. Here, in two hundred and fifty years we have run through the gamut of ten centuries of European experience. Much of it, indeed, is quite within the memory of men within the sound of my voice to-night. From the historical point of view, time is merely relative. The old settler of Illinois has seen, has experienced, has felt more of real life, has done more, in the past six or seven decades, than Methuselah of old.

Here we are at the culmination of some of the most wonderful experiences that have ever befallen men. What are we going to do about it? Are we to let all these facts die with the pioneers? Are we to allow all the machinery of modern methods of historical research and publication go unused in this case? Are we to let all pass away with these old men, because the facts which are to our hand are familiar and commonplace to us?

We should not belittle any thing because it is commonplace; the present is ever commonplace. We are living in a changing world. Our ideas, our methods, the machinery of our life, our experiences, are but a passing phase of the world's history. We and ours will appear strange enough to posterity; we owe it to them to preserve what we may of the records of our time. Do we not bless the memories of old William of Malmesbury, of Froissart, of Captain John Smith, of the authors of the Jesuit Relations, of Champlain, of Hennepin, of Pepys, and of all the grand army of diarists and journalists who have left to posterity their records of the times in which they dwelt? Yet there is just as much need of record-writing today, if our posterity is to know aught of us and of our origins.

The man who sat in the Illinois constitutional convention is just as important and interesting a factor in history as the man who participated in the meetings of a primitive Saxon tribe, or attended the Witenagemote in the early days of Britain. Posterity will study this constitution maker of Illinois quite as closely and curiously as we do our forebears of the long ago.

In the matter of letters and memoirs, we are in the habit of saying that they are of a past generation. Yet we have frequent evidences that the letters of today are quite as important as those of old—of Abigail Adams's, we will say, or of Baroness Bunson's. Tennyson's or Robert Louis Stevenson's please us quite as thoroughly as any thing in the past; in our own state of Wisconsin the recent reminiscences of Mrs. Thérèse Baird, or of Mrs. Morgan L. Martin, or of Mrs. Charlotte Van Cleve have all the charm and flavor of the olden day; Mrs. Kinzie's Wau-Bun is as interesting and informing in its way as Caesar's Commentaries.

There is an abundance of historical material, and always will be, for those who recognize material when they see it. Learn to know it, to find it, to preserve it, to publish it, or to make it available for those who will—this is the province of the historical society. Illinois is not lacking in local agencies for the prosecution of this work—you have the Chicago, Evanston, German-American, and McLean county societies, all of them constructed on excellent lines, and engaged with considerable vigor in this business of investigation, accumulation, and diffusion. You have an admirably conceived State Historical Library, large with promise. Just what part your State society is to play is, apparently, as yet undetermined—whether it is to be itself an accumulator of material, or to act as a central agency for infusing zeal and for publication, the future will alone decide.

Conditions in Wisconsin are much different from those in Illinois. We have there no local societies answering to the character of these Illinois organizations which I have named. Historical study and collection in Wisconsin was early centralized in the State society, and has ever since remained practically the monopoly of that body. I have been requested to tell the story of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, in the hope, I am told, that the relation may be useful at this time, when you are laying your plans for a more perfect organization and are still unsettled as to your programme. As I have

already said, the conditions in these two neighboring states, as respect historical work, differ greatly in some important essentials; we could not, therefore, advise you to follow explicitly in our footsteps—but some of our experiences may at least be worthy of your consideration.

Fifty two years ago tonight the Wisconsin Historical Society was born. A hundred or more state officers, members of the legislature,—Wisconsin's first state legislature,—and otherwise prominent citizens upon the thirtieth of January, 1849, met in a hotel parlor in Madison and organized the society. Some of them, men of culture and brains, had belonged to such societies in the east: all were imbued with the happy thought that history in this new frontier state was now in the making, and ought to be recorded—that there was a past history of Wisconsin also, coming down from the advent of the French regime in 1634, that was worth hunting up and publishing; that the pioneers ought to be interviewed while they were still in the vigor of life, that letters and diaries ought to be collected and preserved, narratives written and published.

And so they organized their historical society. But life upon the frontier is strenuous; these men were too busy moulding a commonwealth and earning livelihoods, to give much time to such work, and it languished. In five years, they had published two or three annual addresses and had accumulated a library of fifty rather insignificant books. It was then seen that, if it was to be a success, the enterprise should be placed in trained hands. Lyman C. Draper, a young Philadelphia antiquarian, was imported as secretary and general executive officer. As a consequence of his energetic and intelligent labors, the library soon sprang into importance, the publications of the society were well edited and regularly issued, and the institution came within a few years to win a national renown. Its growth has ever since been uninterrupted, and today it occupies a building erected for it by the commonwealth at a cost of \$600,000.

Far removed from the centres of wealth and culture, the people of early Wisconsin could not privately endow an institution of this character. State aid was soon seen to be essential to its very existence. Such aid was given, and in due time this circumstance wrought a profound change in the character of the society; in the first place, a state-aided organization could not remain a close corporation of scholars, as are the great Eastern societies—obviously, the gates must be open for all citizens to enter, who care sufficiently for the objects sought to contribute their mite towards its maintenance; again, the society in consideration of being practically supported by the state—for the sum of its membership fees is insignificant compared with the cost of conducting the institution—surrendered all of its property to the state, and became simply the state's trustee for the administration of this enterprise, much the same as the board of regents of the State University.

The work of the Wisconsin society may properly be considered under seven heads—field work, solicitation of historical material, the museum, the historical portrait gallery, the library, the society as a state information bureau, and publications.

1. *Field Work*—This is what we call the interviewing of pioneers who have valuable recollections, those who have memories of important public affairs and men of note, who can give data of early social and economic conditions, or who have had interesting experiences. It is always important to remember that personal narratives are not always sound material for history; but often they are the only obtainable sources, and in any event are worth gathering, for the purpose of amplifying documentary material.

Getting into touch with and advising local historical societies, is also a feature of our field work. We are, too, ever on the search for manuscripts for our state archives, and inspiring archaeological investigations. Illinois possesses much that is interesting, in this line—for example, pottery in the river mounds, and the great mound at Cahokia. And you have an ever-present inspiration in the splendid archaeological collections of the Field Columbian Museum, in Chicago. We also endeavor, in Wisconsin, to interest the newspapers and the teachers, and in general to awaken and keep awake the historic consciousness within our state.

2. *Solicitation of Historical Material*—This is an ever-present duty. Private persons are influenced, on grounds of public policy, to give to our state historical library everything which may be classed as historical material.

And here one is met by the inquiry, what constitutes historical material? History seeks to trace the development of man in society; in doing this, the historian needs materials. The scientist takes the toe-nail of a silurian monster, a piece of one of his ribs, one of his teeth, a hair of his tail, and with the aid of these reconstructs the animal. Very much in the same sort of a way, the historian takes the ephemera of the period which he desires to put before you graphically. He takes these little odds and ends of record and tradition, the stuff which we call historical material, and reconstructs the stage, and reconstructs society upon that stage.

There is nothing more impressive to the historian, to the student of society, politics, economics, than the great collection of documents in the British Museum called the Thomason Tracts. Thomason was a bookseller about the middle of the seventeenth century, who, for a period of something like twenty years, went about gathering up the literary flotsam and jetsam of the great city of London. He put a date upon each article thus collected, with the circumstances under which it was obtained. He gathered programs, manuscript notes and letters, posters, play bills—all sorts of odds and ends. This great collection of material at last, after various adventures, came to the British Museum.

The historian of the Cromwellian period goes at once, of necessity, to the Thomason Tracts for his material. In the light of the ephemera of that day he sees move before him the people whom Cromwell knew. The stage of London and of English society in that time of storm and stress, is reconstructed for us, very largely from the Thomason Tracts, from those ill-considered trifles of his day that have become such largely-considered material in our own. It was from the use of such materials as he found in the Thomason Tracts that Macaulay formulated his celebrated dictum, "The literary rubbish of one generation is the priceless treasure of the next."

It is for the Historical Society's library to perform this task of accumulation, for the generations which are to follow us. Constantly, one hears the inquiry, "What shall we of today save, for the historians of the future?" Of course that requires some judgment and experience; and yet one will not go far wrong, if practically everything is preserved. The Chinese have a high veneration for everything that is printed. I was not much of a Chinaman fifteen years ago, but those years of experience in my present position have brought me almost to the Chinese attitude in this respect; even a patent medicine label may adorn a tale, a hundred years hence; each memorial of the present will find its user in the generations to come.

But to particularize. I would save, first of all, the newspapers. Patent insides, plate matter, and Associated Press dispatches involve a great deal of repetition; yet the little country cross-roads newspaper of fifteen or twenty years ago we know to be of some value for local history purposes today. I do not think I would carry the matter of collection of local newspapers to the extent that it is carried in some states of the Union. I am not certain, if we had the thing to do over again in Wisconsin, but what we would scratch off our list many of the minor papers which we have been receiving for many years past. Some of them are certainly very poor; the best of them, one or two in each county, I would preserve as a mirror of the daily and weekly life of the people. They are not perfect mirrors, nevertheless they are the best we can obtain—distorted mirrors, nevertheless reflectors after a fashion.

I would also preserve everything that pertains to the religious life of the people. Encourage the local public libraries to gather the church programs, evidences of their methods of doing business, their methods of raising money, their little year-books, the sermons which the minister has had printed; everything about the church. So also, everything relating to the social life of the community, the lodges, the clubs, all the current manifestations of popular thought and action. Modes and tendencies in vogue today are far different from those which will be in vogue twenty five or thirty years from now; and the only memorials of those of the past may be these ephemeral

publications which you will have preserved in your State libraries. Nothing changes so fast as these very matters. I would preserve everything relating to art; everything relating to the schools in the community, such as commencement programs; the State Historical Library may well preserve the commencement programs and catalogues of all the educational institutions in the State, local or otherwise. Preserve all the books, pamphlets, reports, and manuscripts of every sort pertaining to your State—all sorts of local books and leaflets, diaries, journals, account books, surveyors' note and field books, record books of every sort, letters and letter books. The State Historical Society should consider itself the proper custodian of the archives of the Commonwealth, save such as are properly in the custody of the State officers. Somebody has very well said that rubbish is but matter out of place. Classify these seemingly heterogeneous collections according to the best library methods, and you greatly dignify them, and make them worthy of the attention of scholars.

In appealing to State and local librarians to collect local history material we wish to arouse the same sort of missionary spirit that animates the man who plants a tree today for the edification and comfort of the generation that is to come after him. Let us put ourselves in the attitude of posterity, remember our duty to that posterity, and rear for ourselves monuments such as historians rear to the memory of that Cromwellian bookseller who has left us the splendid heritage of the Thomason Tracts.

3. *The Museum*.—A State historical society should certainly maintain a museum, but it would be well to restrict it to history and anthropology. Properly conducted, it can be made of importance as an educational feature. It should not be allowed to degenerate into a curiosity shop.

4. *Historical Portrait Gallery*.—We aim in Wisconsin to make this the Pantheon of the state. Certainly no feature of our work is more popular than the great collection of portraiture, in oils, crayons, marble and plaster which helps attract to our museum something like sixty thousand visitors each year.

5. *The Library*.—When all is told, this is, and will always remain, the most important work of the Wisconsin society. Because amassed under the administration of an historical society, many persons suppose that the library is devoted exclusively to history—a still smaller number take it for granted that the collection is wholly one of Wisconsin history. Viewing history as simply the record of whatever man has thought and wrought the society has accumulated a general reference library, in which the greatest stress has, however, been laid upon American and English history and geography, economics, and the political and social sciences.

On account of the proximity of the University of Wisconsin, about 95 per cent of its readers are instructors and students from that institution, and in purveying for the library their wants are taken into consideration. University students doing original work of some importance are, under certain restrictions, allowed access to the bookstack shelves, the same as other special investigators. Members of the University are, in fact, encouraged to use the library as freely as they do that of the university itself, which is now under the same roof, with the reading and delivery rooms in common.

In 1875, the miscellaneous books of the state library, in the capitol, were transferred, by order of the legislature, to the society's library, leaving the former purely a state law library, under the control of the justices of the supreme court; while the latter became, to all intents and purposes, the miscellaneous state library in charge of the historical society as the trustee of the state. The relations between the two libraries, both the property of the commonwealth, are most cordial, and they cooperate so far as possible.

The society's library now numbers 230,000 titles. In making purchases we differentiate with the university library (of about 100,000 titles), leaving to the latter the fields of science, belles lettres, philosophy, education, and the history of the continent of Europe. While both libraries are under the same roof, they are separately administered; but the custody of the building rests with the historical society, as the state's trustee. We often have from 350 to 400 readers in our rooms daily, and make loans, so far as practicable, to local public libraries throughout the state.

6. *Information Bureau*—In recent years, particularly, the Wisconsin society serves a useful public purpose as an information bureau for the state. State officials, editors, and public speakers are continually referring to our office for a great variety of data to be used in reports, speeches, and articles; and the hundreds of letters which come annually to the state house, seeking statistical or other information concerning the state, are almost invariably forwarded to our society for reply. There is also hereafter to be maintained at the state house, during legislative sessions, a branch reference library with a competent attendant, to furnish assistance to members of the Legislature who are engaged in research.

7. *Publications*—In Wisconsin, our list has slowly grown. At present, we publish annual *Proceedings*, biennial *Collections*, and occasional *Class Catalogues* and *Bulletins of Information*. But of course this feature of an historical society's work will depend entirely upon the extent of official support. If a society cannot publish, it is seriously handicapped in the view of scholars and the general public.

All this takes money; each year's progress requires an increasing appropriation. But the institution cannot stand still; it must either fall backwards or go ahead. When, however, lawmakers are assured of the high purpose of an institution of this character, and can be made to appreciate its possibilities, there will probably be small objection to granting it aid, for it is one of the worthiest and most useful of educational enterprises.

A state historical society, in order to win state aid, should be popular in organization and in methods; it should perpetually demonstrate its *raison d'être* by proving useful and inspiring to the public. Its directors must heartily believe in the undertaking, and in its service spend freely of time and effort. The salaried staff must be headed by men holding office for the good they can do—experts, of sound business habits, knowledge of men, and capacity to influence public opinion in a good cause. They must not be mere dry-as-dust antiquarians, but be imbued with modern thought, be accustomed to modern methods. Some of our state and local historical societies, especially in the East, are fossilized organizations, lacking light or the capacity for leading. Not upon such lines can progress be made, here in the West. You need in your work earnest, practical men, in whom both scholars and men of affairs may repose confidence.

The Illinois Society seems to be imbued with these ideals. Let us hope that, whatever role it may play—that of an accumulator of material, or of a central agency of publication and influence, it may be enabled, through proper public support, to put its principles in practice, and become a light shining afar from this State which enjoys so rich a heritage of historic deeds; a State wherein, in two and one-half centuries, the experiences of a dozen centuries of Europe have been condensed—the walls of savagery beaten down; the trade of the forests developed, with all its wealth of romantic episode; agricultural pursuits at last perfected in a bountiful soil and fruitful climate; industries developed to a stage which in some directions distances every preceding record; where cities have sprung into life, which challenge the admiration of the world; and where today a united people from many lands, of many races, even of the aboriginal race itself, are witnessing the splendid triumphs of the most advanced civilization—peace, progress and prosperity.

We of the Wisconsin Society, upon this our fifty-second birthday, bid the young Society of the Illinois—God speed!

## VII.

## THE OBJECTS OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

As President of the German-American Historical Society of Illinois I have been invited by your kindred organization to read a paper at your annual meeting today. I have chosen the subject: "The Objects of Historical Research," and fear that this high sounding title may have induced the belief on your part that I intended to deliver a learned discourse on history in general. In order to disabuse your minds I will therefore state at the outset that my only purpose here is to explain briefly what objects the German-American Historical Society of Illinois aims at and how far its own research into the history of our people is designed to extend.

Our country is inhabited by a people composed of all the different nationalities of the Old World, some more numerous than others, but all endowed with their own peculiar national characteristics springing from more or less striking dissimilarities in speech, manners and other environments. Under our free institutions we have, by reason of the vast elbowroom afforded us upon our vast domain, admitted to our shores, from climes less favored than ours, millions of people who have made this country their home and have lent us a helping hand in the development of its resources. We are here concerned with that element of our people which has come to us from the fatherland.

During the conquests which followed the discovery of America, Germany was rent asunder by fierce internal strife, chiefly induced by religious dissensions, and therefore unable as a power to take any part in the colonization and political division of this continent. But since the incessant wars waged upon her soil created a condition of indescribable misery among its people, thousands of them were driven by dire necessity, without leadership or guidance from their own governments, to leave their German homes and to brave an unknown fate amid the savages of the forests beyond the sea. Hence we find that in our early colonial settlements there landed upon our shores small bodies of Germans, which by degrees assumed the proportions of an immense army that spread over a vast extent of territory, chiefly in the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. In the very nature of things these immigrants belonged to the humblest classes of the people in the fatherland; they were with few exceptions modest mechanics, laborers and peasants, but withal pious and God-fearing people, and since the most of them had left their homes not merely for economic reasons, but also in search of freedom to worship God according to their own convictions, they were not without spiritual guides, some of whom were men possessed of rare intellectual attainments as well as of the highest nobility of character. From these settlers sprang a host of stalwart men who were not only among the most daring of our early explorers, but also among the bravest of the soldiers in the armies of George Washington during the Revolution. Their speech and manners differed, however, from those of the more numerous English speaking colonists, and hence they were but little understood but rather looked upon as springing from an inferior race. This view became so firmly rooted in the minds of the English colonists that only a little over half a century ago so learned a man as the New England historian, Francis Parkman, stigmatized these German immigrants as "dull and ignorant boors," adding that "their descendants for the most part maintain the

same character." Later historians, among them the illustrious Bancroft, however, have treated them more justly while our noble Quaker poet, John G. Whittier, bears the following testimony to their high character and proud achievements:

"The pilgrims of Plymouth have not lacked historian and poet. Justice has been done to their faith, courage and self-sacrifice, and to the mighty influence of their endeavors to establish righteousness on the earth. The Quaker pilgrims of Pennsylvania, seeking the same object by different means, have not been equally fortunate. The power of their testimony for truth and holiness, peace and freedom, enforced only by what Milton calls 'the irresistible might of meekness,' has been felt through two centuries in the amelioration of penal severities, the abolition of slavery, the reform of the erring, the relief of the poor and suffering—felt, in brief, in every step of human progress."

The correctness of this judgment is especially apparent in the abolition of slavery. The first German settlers, who came to our shores in 1683, were the founders of Germantown, now a part of Philadelphia. It has been indisputably shown that their noble and accomplished leader, Francis Daniel Pastorius, was the first man on this continent who sent forth a strong public protest against the scourge of negro slavery. The humane sentiments contained in this memorable document breathe the true German spirit, which asserted itself so powerfully in the days of the anti-slavery agitation and the civil war, and hence Samuel W. Pennypacker may well say, as he does with reference to Pastorius and his freedom-loving followers: "A little rill there started which further on became an immense torrent, and whenever hereafter men trace the causes which led to Shiloh, Gettysburg and Appomattox, they will begin with the tender consciences of the linen weavers and husbandmen of Germantown."

But it can not be doubted that the diversity in speech and manner between those of our people who trace their origin to Plymouth Rock and those who have come to us from the fatherland, has tended to create between them a condition of aloofness which has not been conducive to a proper appreciation of each other's virtues. The German immigrants, using their native speech and forming as they do in many instances all over these broad states large communities more or less distinctly separated from those of their native American fellow-citizens, are to the latter, by reason of these facts, in a great measure "a book with seven seals," and hence their inner life and the part they have taken in all great public movements, as well as in the industrial, commercial and agricultural development of our country, have not found the attention which they deserve, although keen and impartial observers have at all times conceded that, notwithstanding the outer differences between the two great elements of our people, their natural tendencies and adaptabilities, as well as their common aspirations toward the betterment of all human conditions, present strong and striking likenesses.

Among a people like ours, made up as it is of the most varied elements, it is the duty of every good citizen to cultivate the utmost harmony between them all and to labor faithfully in dispelling racial and national prejudices, for the words of John Stuart Mill that "whatever really tends to the admixture of nationalities and the blending of their attributes and peculiarities in a common union is a benefit to the human race," apply to no people so forcibly as to ours. It is, therefore, highly important that in sifting the material needed in the making up of the history of a great people, or of any part of it, all those should be called upon to render effective aid who, owing to their training and associations, have a more or less intimate acquaintance with the special traits, talents and achievements of any particular class of our citizens. Whoever may be thus situated should, therefore, esteem it a cheerful duty to assist in securing accurate records from which history may be compiled for future generations, for "Man changes and quits the stage; his opinions pass away and change with him; history alone remains upon the stage, as the immortal citizen of all nations and ages."

But while in our colonial days we wrote upon this continent part of the history of European nations, we write here now only American history. It behooves us, therefore, that we should determine as accurately as possible what

particular part the different elements of our people have had in shaping it. True, in the great armies of colonization that marched over this continent to conquer the wilderness, those who came from the fatherland formed only part of the rank and file, their commanders hailing from those other countries whose governments were strong enough to undertake conquests. Nevertheless, it has to the studious mind always been an interesting inquiry, whether these German colonists compared favorably with the others of equal rank in their manly qualities as well as in all other respects, and what traces, if any, they left upon our American civilization.

But the matter with which the German-American Historical Society of Illinois is concerned first and foremost, is to determine what share the German immigrants of Illinois have had in the growth and development of our State. About one hundred years ago human civilization had hardly gained a foothold within its limits. Two military posts, Cahokia and Kaskaskia, were found on its southeastern border and under their protection alone the first settlers were enabled to maintain themselves against the red savages. Today about four million people inhabit this State. Within a period of scarcely one hundred years hundreds of flourishing communities have sprung from our soil, our fields and orchards bear abundant grain and fruit, our mines yield valuable minerals, our rivers and artificial highways are lined with innumerable industries, as well as with many other proud works of human industry and ingenuity; trade and commerce are in a thriving condition, our citizens enjoy a reasonable measure of welfare, many of them have distinguished themselves brilliantly in all spheres of human activity, and while not a few achieved in the past the highest honors of State, it fell to the lot of some, at a time when the blessings of our free institutions were trembling in the balance, to guide the destinies of the nation, and with God-given genius not only to lead our economic conditions, but also the political and moral views of our people, evolved as they were from these, into new and better channels.

It may be safely assumed that about 30 per cent of the population of this State are of German origin. Making due allowance for the fact that the most of the German immigrants came from the humblest classes of their people and that in the struggle of life they labored in the beginning under serious disadvantages on account of their ignorance of the language and the general conditions of the country, the questions nevertheless arise: Have these immigrants and their descendants, by their industry and intelligence, contributed approximately as much to the progress of our State as the other nationalities have done which, together with them, constitute the bulk of our people? Have their endeavors in church and school, in agriculture, in trade and commerce, in the industries, and in the arts and sciences been as rich in blessings as those of their fellow citizens springing from other races? Were they at all times to their adopted country loyal and patriotic citizens? Have they cherished a proper appreciation of their public duties, and have they never failed to show a full measure of love and devotion for our free institutions in peace as well as in war? Did German immigration influence the character of our people, and if so, in what respect and to what extent? Has it conferred any special benefits upon our civilization, and if so, what? In what fields of human activity have the Germans been most useful? What business branches may be said to have more particularly been advanced by their special skill and experience?

These and other kindred inquiries address themselves especially to those who by reason of their intimate acquaintance with the special traits of the German element of our people, their knowledge of its language and their constant intercourse with it, have greater facilities to study all the phases of its intellectual and material existence. If men of that stamp do not render the historian effective assistance in gathering the data upon which the true history of our American people and its composite elements may be based, then the German-Americans have only themselves to blame, in case they fail to receive a fair share of recognition for the endeavors they put forth to promote the public weal, because they are the ones who by reason of their former surroundings bring with them conditions which are the very cause of the comparative remoteness between them and the English speaking elements of



our people. This same cause led to the estrangement which existed in colonial days between the English colonists and the German and which tended to produce a long-lasting lack of appreciation of the latter's merits.

The welfare of our people demands that the most cordial intercourse be cultivated and cherished among all its parts. It is essential to our normal growth that all these parts meet each other at all times in a spirit of fairness and mutual confidence, in order that a harmonious interchange of the best traits of all may ultimately lead to the development of the strongest and noblest national character in history.

The Historical Society of Illinois writes the history of the whole people of this State; the German-American Historical Society of Illinois is engaged in gathering historical data concerning one of the most numerous elements of our people. The latter society is therefore a mere adjunct of the former and cheerfully enrolls itself in its service, in order that from the German side "not that which fancy shapes or the heart holds dear, but only that which ripe reflection and a sound judgment have discerned to be the truth, be admitted through the sacred portals of history."

## VIII.

THE INFLUENCE OF GOVERNMENT LAND GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES  
UPON THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF THE STATE.

JONATHAN BALDWIN TURNER.

When I accepted the invitation of your program committee to read a paper before you upon such a topic related to the educational history of the State as I might select, I did so with some reluctance; for I knew that I could not come before you with fresh material, but must, for the most part, fall back upon gleanings made some years ago, while an employé in the State Superintendent's office, much of which will, I fear, be ancient history to you.

In speaking of the government land grants to education in our State I shall not dwell further upon what the grants were, how they were made, and what has been realized from them than seems necessary to serve my chief purpose—to call your attention to the part they have played in shaping our educational system.

In an act passed by Congress May 20, 1785, providing, among other things, for the sale of lands in what is known as the Northwest Territory, it was ordered that the land should be laid off into townships six miles square, that each township should be divided into thirty-six tracts, each a mile square, and that "there shall be reserved from sale the lot No. 16 of every township for the maintenance of public schools within said township."

Most of the provisions of this act are credited to Thomas Jefferson, and the clause with reference to education has commonly been attributed to his well known zeal for education. But it clearly appears from a paper published by the American Historical Association\* that a bill containing many of the features of the act of 1785 was prepared by Jefferson and considered by Congress in 1784, that this bill did not contain any educational clause, that Jefferson was not in Congress in 1785, and that the clause in question should be attributed to the efforts of Col. Timothy Pickering, if, which is perhaps doubtful, any one man should be credited therefor.

The ordinance of 1787 did not repeat the educational grant of 1785 in terms, but did sanction it by the well-known article, "religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged."

Pursuant to the act of 1785, and following the precedent set in the admission of Ohio and Indiana, Congress, in the act of April 18, 1818, "To enable the people of Illinois Territory to form a constitution and state government," inserted the following: "Section numbered sixteen in every township \* \* \* shall be granted to the state for the use of the inhabitants of such township for the use of schools." The phrase in the act of 1785 "for the maintenance of public schools within said township," and the corresponding phrase in the enabling act of 1818, "for the use of the inhabitants of such township for the use of schools," have clearly restricted the proceeds of each sixteenth section, whether from rents or from sales, to the use of the township in which it lies, and the restriction has been upheld in the courts.

What use was made of these lands prior to the admission of the state is not known to the writer. It is possible that, under a law passed by the territor-

\*Geo. W. Knlght, Vol. 1, No. 3, Papers Am. Hist. Ass'n.

ial legislature of Indiana and continued in force in the territory of Illinois by an act of its legislature declaring the general laws of Indiana in force in Illinois, some leases were made by the courts of common pleas.

The acts of Congress did not provide for the sale of these lands and our first General Assembly, at its second session, in 1819, (it will be remembered that there was no legislation at the session of 1818), authorized the county commissioners to appoint in each township three substantial freeholders trustees of the lands. They were to appoint a treasurer and were to lease the lands, care for them, and collect the rents, which were for a time paid into the county treasury to be disbursed by the county commissioners. The lineal successors of these trustees are the township trustees of schools and the township school treasurer of today.

It should be remembered in this connection that the word township has a three fold meaning with us today: First, the congressional township established by the government survey; second, the school township, originally the same as the congressional township, but now in many cases something different through legislative action making or permitting changes in territory; and, third, the civil townships in counties under township organization, which may or may not have the same territory as congressional or school townships.

In 1825, a genuine free school act was passed, the schools to be supported by State and local taxation. But the people were not ready for free schools nor were they willing to be taxed for such a purpose then. State aid was soon withdrawn, and the power to levy local taxes was made of no avail by an amendment to the effect that no one should be taxed without his consent; and no organized school system, worthy the name, was provided by law until 1837, and no free school act based upon taxation was passed until 1855. Meanwhile, in 1831, a law had been enacted authorizing the sale of the school lands, and the township trustees were required to make prior to such sale surveys and appraisals of the lands.

By the act of 1837, the people of any congressional township, the only township known at that time, were given the power to organize under the lead of the trustees; and such organized townships became school townships, elected school trustees who were made the successors of the trustees of school lands, and were authorized to receive and loan through their treasurer any funds which had been received from the sale of school lands. In addition to this, the board of trustees was to lay off the township into school districts, and the title of all school property was vested in them. They were also to collect and report the school statistics for their township, and to apportion to the several districts, in addition to interest on the school fund of the township, such other moneys as came to the township for school purposes. Their treasurer was made the custodian of all township school funds and later of all district funds, whether raised by taxation, or by the sale of bonds, or coming from other sources, and through him all disbursements of school funds were made, and by him all district accounts were kept. These powers these officers have held till the present time, except in so far as they have been curtailed by the granting of a few special charters and by modifications of the law in regard to the formation of districts.

To this same grant of sixteenth section lands for school purposes, we may trace directly another school office, which has been perhaps the most potent single influence in the upbuilding of our school system. As has been said, the act of Congress gave no authority for the sale of these lands. However, assuming that it would be given to Illinois as it had already been given to Ohio and Indiana, our Legislature, in 1831, passed an act for their sale, in accordance with which the county commissioners in every county appointed a commissioner of sales and the selling began the same year. In 1843 congressional authority for such sales was given and sales already made were confirmed.

The commissioner of school lands at first had no direct connection with the schools of his county; but when many sales had been made, so that the interest on accumulated funds became considerable, it was provided that the commissioner should pay the interest to teachers; and when, in 1835, the State, which up to that time had used to meet its own expenses all school

funds which had come into the treasury, directed that interest should be paid thereon, the school commissioners were made the agents by which these funds were distributed to the townships in the several counties. But the office was not vitalized and made efficient as a school office until, by the act of 1845, it became elective, and the commissioner was made, *ex-officio*, county superintendent and was required to visit schools and to advise in all matters pertaining thereto. It was also made his duty "with such person or persons as he shall associate with him to examine all persons proposing to teach a common school in any township in his county touching his or her qualifications properly to teach orthography, reading in English, penmanship, arithmetic, English grammar, modern geography, and history of the United States; and if he shall find such person qualified, he shall, on being satisfied of his or her good moral character, give such person a certificate of qualification, and no person who shall teach a school without first having obtained such a certificate shall be entitled to receive any portion of the public fund." In these provisions of the law of 1845 we find the gist of the powers and duties of the county superintendent of schools of today.

We may thus trace directly to the grant of the sixteenth section for schools, our school township and the important school offices of township school trustees, township school treasurer and county superintendent of schools.

We must not forget, too, that the establishment of schools for thirty years after the admission of the State was, in the large majority of cases, in all probability either made possible or hastened by the income from this grant. The school report of 1850, submitted by the Secretary of State, (then *ex officio* State Superintendent of Schools), shows that two-fifths of the amount expended for schools was interest from township funds.

These figures from the State Superintendent's report of 1899-1900 showing the present condition of the fund may not be out of place here:

1. Total of township funds.....	\$15,494,675 40
2. Total income of same.....	900,183 94
3. Township fund (Chicago).....	10,431,582 65
4. Lands of same.....	9,209,818 37
5. Total income of same.....	583,241 94
6. Income from rents of same.....	534,125 54

The second land grant to Illinois for school purposes was made in part in 1804 and in part in the enabling act of 1818. After the admission of Ohio the rest of the Northwest Territory was divided into three land districts, and the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to locate one entire township in each for the use of a seminary of learning. The enabling act gave another township, or thirty-six sections, for the same purpose. Under the earlier act, T. 5 N., 1 W. 3d P. M. was located, but the location was a poor one and Congress accepted its surrender and gave instead thirty-six sections.

The management of these choice lands was so unwise—one can hardly refrain from saying criminally unwise in view of the facts—that under an act passed in 1829, fourteen years in advance of any authority from Congress for their sale and almost thirty years before any provision was made to use legitimately the proceeds therefrom, the sales were begun at \$1.25 an acre and but little more than the upset price was realized, the total being but \$55,000. Had the lands been held until 1857, when first the income was used in compliance with the purpose of the grant, and the rents accumulated, the proceeds of sales and rentals would have reached easily one and one-half and possibly two million dollars. Did the State own the lands today their rental would maintain handsomely all our State normal schools.

In the using, the seminary fund has always been coupled with another fund, the college fund; accordingly let me recall to your minds briefly its origin. Ohio and Indiana had been granted for road building five per cent of future sales by the government of lands within their limits. The bill for the admission of Illinois contained, as introduced, a similar provision; but Mr. Nathaniel Pope, our delegate in congress, secured an amendment by which two per cent was to be given for road building, "the residue," three per cent, "to be

appropriated by the legislature of the State for the encouragement of learning, of which one-sixth part shall be exclusively bestowed on a college or university." Probably one of Mr. Pope's arguments for the amendment, that "nature had left little to be done in the proposed State of Illinois, in order to have the finest roads in the world," would be scouted by the good roads advocates of today. The one-sixth of three per cent brought \$156,613.32.

It is needless to recount in this connection the many efforts made to have these two funds divided up among some or all the colleges of the State, or to have them used in maintaining county seminaries. Suffice it to say, that an attempt to secure a charter in 1833 for an institution to be established in Springfield and to be called Illinois University, failed; that schemes to divide and scatter the funds were thwarted by a flank movement giving for the time being the interest on them to the public schools; and that a bill for "An act to incorporate the Trustees of Illinois University" was not passed.

As early as 1832, while as yet there was no school in the country, public or private, distinctively for the education of teachers, it was proposed that such a work should be undertaken in Illinois and that a part of the income of the school funds should be used for this purpose. At an educational convention held in Vandalia (at which Abraham Lincoln was a delegate and Stephen A. Douglas a secretary) the same idea was advocated, and shortly after a bill was introduced for an elaborate system of county seminaries in which the tuition of such persons as would pledge themselves to teach in the public schools of the State should be paid in whole or in part from the income of the seminary fund. A proposition for a State normal school in Illinois, the first so far as I have been able to learn was made by John S. Wright, of Chicago, in 1840, in a paper he was just starting, called at first the *Union Agriculturist* and afterwards the *Prairie Farmer*. This school it was proposed should be established at Springfield and should have for its support the college and seminary funds.

The proposition for a normal school, once broached, was urged vigorously in other quarters. The *Illinois Industrial League*, organized through the efforts of Professor J. B. Turner to promote the establishment of a State university, at its convention held in Chicago, November 24, 1852, proposed: "That so much of the seminary fund as is needed for that purpose should be immediately appropriated as designed for the endowment of a seminary or normal school for the purpose of educating a full supply of competent and well qualified common school teachers, for the direct benefit and use of the common schools." The convention also named a normal school first in its schedule of departments to be maintained in the university proposed. The State Teachers' Institute, now the Illinois State Teachers' Association, at its first meeting in 1853, declared "for the establishment and support of normal schools." The State university bill of 1855 failed; but in 1857, after a vigorous campaign, a bill for a normal school was passed, with but a single vote to spare, in the House, and the income of both the college and seminary funds was appropriated for its support. It was not until 1869 that any additional appropriation was made for the maintenance of this school.

Thus we see that the existence of these funds constantly stimulated effort for the establishment of a school of instruction for teachers; and I think it is not too much to say that there is no probability that we should have secured our first normal school until long after the civil war, had it not been for the land grant for a seminary fund.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the third and last land grant made to us by the government, that for a college, permit me to call your attention to the improbable, though wide-spread, story of a college in Illinois early in the third decade of the eighteenth century. In most ancient times, so the myth runs, the Jesuits brought higher education into Illinois. Many allusions to a Jesuit college at Kaskaskia are to be found in historical writings.

Stoddard says: "In the early part of the last century, when the French in Upper Louisiana were at the apex of their glory, a college of priests was established at Kaskaskia. The practice of most Catholic countries obtained here; the poor were neglected while some of the most wealthy and considerable were permitted to quaff at this literary fountain. The liberal and useful sciences were but little cultivated in this seminary. Scholastic divinity afforded almost the only subjects of investigation. \* \* \* Of what salutary use was such a seminary to the people? \* \* \* No regulations were officially made on the subject of general education."

Governor Reynolds, who came to Illinois in 1800, grew up in Kaskaskia, and began practicing law in Cahokia in 1814, writes: † "In the year 1721 the Jesuits erected a monastery and college in Kaskaskia, and in a few years it was chartered by the government. \* \* \* The Jesuit college at Kaskaskia continued to flourish until the war with England in 1754, was declared."

Brown writes as follows: † "While the French retained possession of Illinois, Kaskaskia was their principal town, Charlevoix visited it in 1721. It contained at that time a college of Jesuits and about one hundred families." \* \* \* "The Jesuits once had a college at Kaskaskia, and it is said, though on doubtful authority, that the celebrated Fenelon, Archbishop of Cambrai, \* \* \* while a monk of the order of St. Sulpice, taught therein. Whether he did so or not is immaterial. The Jesuit missionaries in this country were learned men. They were educated, however, in Europe and we have no evidence that the college at Kaskaskia produced any such. It has long been in ruins."

Davidson and Stuvé, evidently following Reynolds, say: ‡ "All the settlements between the rivers Mississippi and Kaskaskia became greatly extended and increased in number, and in 1721 the Jesuits established a monastery and college at Kaskaskia."

Maj. A. S. De Peyster, writing from Mackinac, under date of June 27, 1779, to Gen. Haldimand, at Montreal, has the following: 1 "By creditable people just arrived from the Illinois, I have the following accounts so late as 24th of April." [Gen. Clark had captured Kaskaskia in the July before.] \* \* \* "The Kaskaskias no ways fortified. The Fort being a sorry pinched [picketed] enclosure round the Jesuits' college, with two plank houses at opposite angles, mounting two four-pounders, each on the ground floor and a few swivels mounted in a pigeon house."

Rev. Father L. W. Ferland, writing me from Kaskaskia under date of April 29, 1890, says: "In reply to your favor of the 22d inst. I wish to say that tradition shows the place where once stood a Jesuit college." \* \* \* "The building must have been spacious for the times; if I can judge from where stood the foundations, it was about 50 feet long." The novelists have copied the historians.

It would seem that such statements as these should conclusively prove that there was for some thirty years of the first half of the 18th century an institution of a high grade in the old French settlement of Kaskaskia. Why a college at a missionary outpost, among a few hundred simple peasants and traders, surrounded by scattering tribes of Indians, was, however, a question not easy to solve; and not having the opportunity to investigate it with care myself, I have sought information from others well known to be familiar with the historical material which alone could give a satisfactory answer.

Mr. Douglas Brymner, archivist, Ottawa, Canada, wrote me May 23, 1890: "I have looked over the papers connected with Kaskaskias, but none of these contain any reference to the existence of a college, but this is no evidence

\* Amos Stoddard.—Sketches, Historical and Descriptive, of Louisiana. [Phila. 1812.] Page 306.

† John Reynolds.—The Pioneer History of Illinois. [Belleville, 1848.] Pages 33-36.

‡ Henry Brown. The history of Illinois from its First Discovery and Settlement to the Present Time. [N. Y., 1854] pp. 12, 447.

‡ Davidson and Stuvé. A Complete History of Illinois [Springfield, 1884.] p. 121.

1 Michigan Pioneer Collections, vol. 9, p. 338.

that none existed. The earliest manuscript I have does not go back further than 1759, being the register of the parish of *Notre Dame de l'Immaculate Conception, Cascaskias*. I can find nothing among printed works that would throw any light on the subject."

From several letters from Oscar W. Collet, Librarian of the Missouri Historical Society, I make these extracts: "There never was, in French times, a monastery, conventual establishment, college, or any institution in the nature of a college, boarding school or like educational house outside New Orleans." \* \* \* "That there may have been some attempt at a miserable day school is possible. This is conjecture, however; for although somewhat familiar with the history of the valley, I have no knowledge of any such school."

"When I said Stoddard started the Kaskaskia college romance, I meant simply, not that he invented it, but was the first, as far as I knew, to put it into print. He was in this region 1803-4 and after."

"The building to which DePeyster gives the name of Jesuit College, is most certainly the Jesuit residence in Kaskaskia."

"Of one thing you may be certain; had there been a college, mention of the fact would assuredly be found in some contemporaneous authority, or at least reference to it. But positively there is none. If you will read Bossu, the part that relates to his sojourn in Illinois, Father Vivier's two letters from the Illinois, and Carayon's *Bannissement*, the conviction will come to you that the college was an impossibility."

In the *Bannissement des Jésuits*, written late in 1764, or during 1765, Carayon, who was one of the Jesuit Fathers, sets out methodically, one by one, the different works in which the society was engaged, during the century up to its expulsion in 1763; and to suppose that he would have omitted, as he was putting forth a justification of the Jesuits in Louisiana, even a reference to a college or school anywhere, had one existed, is to set him down as a blockhead."

Two letters from John Gilmary Shea, the eminent historian of Catholicism in America, are as follows: The Jesuits had their mission at Kaskaskia; priests from the Seminary of Quebec had a mission at Cohokia or Tamoroa; there was occasionally a Recollect or Reformed Franciscan at Fort Chartres acting as a chaplain. There are many letters from all these, and in none is there the slightest allusion to any educational establishment. There is no trace of any charter for such an institution."

"My own impression is that such a story was made up from some misunderstanding. There is in many minds such an absurd jumble in regard to the secular and regular clergy of the Catholic church that we meet all manner of side-splitting comicalities. One writer on the Mississippi Valley speaks of Hennepin as a Jesuit monk of the Franciscan order! To make one man monk, prior and regular clerk would be like classifying a man as cavalryman, marine and Indian scout. I think some such addle-pated fellow met an allusion to priests of the Seminary in the Illinois country and with the fixed idea that there were none but Jesuits there, supposed these to be Jesuits belonging to a Seminary in Illinois; whereas they were secular priests sent from the Theological Seminary in Quebec, who were not on very good terms with the Jesuits.

I can not see any other way in which the story originated; but it is very certain the Jesuits never had a college in Illinois in French days."

"Your reference to a Jesuit college is certainly early (De Peyster letter cited above); but at that time, 1779, there could have been no Jesuit institution there at all, as their property at Kaskaskia, though on British soil, was seized under authority of the Louisiana council Sept. 22, 1763, and the Jesuits carried off. The property was than sold and the French authorities pretended to give title.

"The mission at the present Kaskaskia began about 1700, after the removal of the tribe. Catalogues exist of the French Jesuits in Canada, etc., and in none is there any allusion made to any college except at Quebec. In the

lists of missionaries during all the period 1700-1763, in which the address and employment of each member are given, no one is ever given as president or professor except at Quebec. Charlevoix's *Journal* shows that there was no college in 1721. The letters in *Letters Edifiantes*, coming down to 1750 are silent as to any college; and none is mentioned at the time the Jesuit property was seized in 1763."

I submit that upon this testimony we must conclude that the story of a college at Kaskaskia, though told in our histories and repeated in fiction, has no foundation in fact.

I have already alluded to efforts made to establish a State university beginning in 1833 and continuing at intervals until 1855. For the endowment of this institution, the Legislature was asked to appropriate the college fund "exclusively bestowed," in the words of the act of Congress for this purpose; but we have seen that the income of the fund was devoted in 1857 to the support of the State normal school established at Normal. While this was a perversion of the fund, we may not perhaps conclude that it was unfortunate either that the fund was so used or that the State university waited for the richer endowment of the congressional grant of 1862.

In 1852 Congress was memorialized from Illinois for "a grant of public lands to establish and endow industrial institutions in each and every state in the Union." Similar memorials followed from other states, but it was not until the Morrill bill for this purpose was introduced in 1857, that the subject was seriously considered. The bill was passed in 1859, but was vetoed by President Buchanan. It was again introduced in 1861, was passed, and received the approval of President Lincoln July 2, 1862.

By this act 30,000 acres of public land for each member of congress were granted to each state for the endowment, support, and maintenance of, at least, one college, where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.

There being no public lands in Illinois subject to entry at the price named in the act, \$1.25 an acre, the State received scrip for 480,000 acres of land. The legislature by act of February 28, 1867, chartered the Illinois Industrial University and located it in Urbana. The scrip was assigned to the trustees of the university who located scrip for 25,000 acres and sold the rest for \$319,178.87. Sales of lands located have increased the fund to about \$525,000 and will probably swell it still further to \$625,000. In 1885 the legislature changed the name to the University of Illinois. The institution is controlled by a board of twelve trustees, of which the Governor, the President of the State Board of Agriculture, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction are members *ex-officio*. The other members are chosen, three at each general election, and hold office for six years. I need not detail to you the history of the university. When it was opened in 1868 there were already twenty-six chartered colleges and universities in the State and naturally its growth at first was slow. For years State appropriations were meager, but of late they have been more liberal. Its buildings and their equipment represent an investment by the State of over \$1,000,000.

The organization of the university embraces a college of agriculture, a college of engineering, with departments of architecture, civil engineering, municipal and sanitary engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering, a college of science, a college of literature and arts, a graduate school, a school of art and design, a school of library science, and a school of household science, a biological experiment station, and the State water survey. Its professional departments are a school of pharmacy, a college of law, and a college of medicine. The State Laboratory of Natural History, supported by legislative appropriations and the Agricultural Experiment Station supported by congressional appropriations are under the control of its board of trustees. It has been found desirable to maintain a



preparatory school of the grade of a high school. The State entomologist's office is at the university and one of its professors is State entomologist.

The university has always sought to maintain a close connection with the public schools, and a much larger number of our high school graduates go to the university for college or professional study than to any other institution.

The fees for undergraduate courses are very low—\$111.00 for the four years—and besides there are offered annually 116 free scholarships in these courses, good for four years, and 108 scholarships, good for two years, in the college of agriculture and the school of household science.

There were 377 students enrolled in 1887-8; the enrollment this year will reach 2,500. Its roll of professors, instructors and assistants, has 267 names.

You see how broad a foundation has been laid. The future seems secure and full of promise, for the university is under the fostering care of the imperial commonwealth of the Mississippi valley.

The congressional land grant of 1862 made possible the State University as the fit head of the public school system, and without the grant there is no probability that such an institution would ever have been established in Illinois.

#### JONATHAN BALDWIN TURNER.

The name of one man is indissolubly connected with the educational development of our State for a third of a century. Jonathan Baldwin Turner was born and reared on a farm in Templeton, Mass. He grew to be a tall, strong man with an iron constitution. About a year before his death, when ninety-two years old, he told a friend that he had never in his life lost a meal of victuals through sickness.

In 1827, when 22 years of age, he entered the preparatory department of Yale College and supported himself in part by manual labor and by giving instruction in the gymnasium. He was graduated from the classical course of the college in 1833, and at once came to Illinois, to the Yale colony which had opened Illinois College in Jacksonville, in 1830. His connection with the college continued for fourteen years, his professorship being that of English Literature and Rhetoric, but his teaching was not confined to these subjects. From the first Professor Turner was, with his associates, a strong and indefatigable advocate of free public schools. He told me that he spent his summer vacation in 1834 traveling through half a dozen or more counties at his own expense delivering addresses in advocacy of common schools, wherever he could find an audience. One incident of this trip was lying senseless upon the prairie for nearly a day where he had been thrown by a vicious horse bought of an honest farmer to replace his own horse which had gone hopelessly lame.

Late in the first half of this century the idea had become prevalent that an education beyond that of the common school, but different from that of the academy and college of the times, was desirable for the so-called "industrial," as distinguished from the "professional," classes. Agricultural and technical schools, as well as normal schools, had been established in some of the states of continental Europe; but in the United States the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, at which a few young men received instruction in civil engineering, and three of the Massachusetts normal schools, started in the late thirties, were the pioneers. Sheffield Scientific School, at Yale, and Lawrence Scientific School, at Harvard, were opened just at the close of the half century.

The Buel Institute, an agricultural society of Putnam county, in this State, at its fair in the fall of 1851, decided to call a Farmers' Convention at Granville in November, "to take \* \* \* steps toward the establishment of an Agricultural University." Professor Turner, who had resigned his professorship in 1847, and who was already recognized as one of the strongest advocates of "industrial" education, was invited to attend the convention and to deliver an address. What the attitude of the convention toward higher education was and what its leaders were seeking to obtain through the proposed university will best appear from the following resolutions, adopted upon the report of a committee of which Professor Turner was chairman:

*Resolved*, That we greatly rejoice in the degree of perfection to which our various institutions for the education of our brethren engaged in professional, scientific and literary pursuits, have already attained, and in the mental and moral elevation which those institutions have given them, and in their consequent preparation and capacity for the great duties in the spheres of life in which they are engaged; and that we will aid, in all ways consistent, for the still greater perfection of such institutions.

*Resolved*, That, as the representatives of the industrial classes, including all cultivators of the soil, artisans, mechanics, and merchants, we desire the same privileges and advantages for ourselves, our fellows, and our posterity in each of our several callings as our professional brethren enjoy in theirs; and we admit that it is our own fault that we do not also enjoy them.

*Resolved*, That in our opinion the institutions originally and primarily designed to meet the wants of the professional classes, as such, can not, in the nature of things, meet ours, no more than the institutions we desire to establish for ourselves could meet theirs; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we take immediate measures for the establishment of a university in the State of Illinois expressly to meet those felt wants of each and all the industrial classes of our State; and that we recommend the foundation of high schools, lyceums, institutes, etc., in each of our counties, on similar principles, so soon as they may find it practicable to do so.

*Resolved*, That in our opinion such institutions can never impede, but must greatly promote the best interests of all those existing institutions.

Professor Turner's address was entitled, "A Plan for an Industrial University for the State of Illinois."

Two questions were propounded:

What do the industrial classes want?

How can that want be supplied?

His answer to the first was: "They want, and they ought to have, the same facilities for understanding the true philosophy—the science and the art—of their several pursuits, (their life business), and of efficiently applying existing knowledge thereto and widening its domain, which the professional classes have long enjoyed in their pursuits."

In answer to the second question he advocated—(1) a National Institute of Science (and this he hoped would be supplied by the Smithsonian Institute, then just established); and (2), to cooperate with this institute, a "University of the Industrial Classes in each of the States, with their consequent subordinate institutes, lyceums, and high schools in each of the counties and towns." From the State university he proposed that "no species of knowledge should be excluded," but said further that "whether a distinct classical department should be added or not would depend on expediency," as it might be best to leave that department to existing colleges. It was also in his plan that a considerable part of the work of the university should be investigation and experimentation.

The address was widely circulated through the press of the country, and many copies were sent out in pamphlet form. It attracted much attention, and seems to have given just the impulse needed to start the movement which has resulted in establishing a state university in every state and territory of the country.

A year later (November, 1852), at a third convention held in Chicago, the Industrial League of the State of Illinois was organized, with Professor Turner as chief director, and it was "*Resolved*, That this convention memorialize Congress for the purpose of obtaining a grant of public lands to establish and endow industrial institutions in each and every state in the Union." The Legislature, which met January 4, 1853, was urged by a fourth convention to memorialize Congress for a grant to each state of public lands to the value of not less than \$500,000 for the endowment in each of an industrial college, and joint resolutions to this effect were unanimously adopted by the General Assembly.

The question of Congressional aid for such schools had already been raised in the east, and Michigan had, in 1850, asked for itself an endowment for a distinctively agricultural college: but to Professor Turner and his friends belongs, I believe, the honor of first securing the formal presentation to Congress of the proposition to endow state universities to be established on the broad lines of the Granville address: and this proposition is the central idea of the beneficent land grant act of 1862—an act which has so changed our system of higher education and so enlarged its scope and made the State so powerful an ally of the university that we as yet hardly realize its full significance and importance.

The character of the institution desired by Professor Turner and his co-workers in Illinois may be seen by the following extract from a bill prepared by them at a convention held January 1, 1855, and considered but not passed by the General Assembly of that year.

The object of the institution shall be to impart instruction in all departments of useful knowledge, science, and art, commencing with those departments now most needed by the citizens of the state, to-wit:

1. A teachers' seminary, or a normal school department, for the improvement and education of common school teachers.
2. An agricultural department for the benefit and instruction of farmers, and the sons of farmers, and of all others interested in the science or arts of agriculture and horticulture.
3. A mechanical department for the benefit and instruction of mechanics and the sons of mechanics, and for all others interested in, and desirous of acquiring knowledge of, architectural and mechanical science and the mechanic arts, and the use and application of mechanical power.

To these departments others may be added from time to time, as the wants of the people require, and the funds and means of the university will justify, so that, finally, the university may become a place of resort for acquiring an accomplished and finished education in all useful, practical, literary, and scientific knowledge.

I have spoken of the passage of the Morrill act of 1862, of the land grant made thereby, and of the charter granted the Illinois Industrial University in 1867. With the opening of the university in 1868 the struggle was over. In an address delivered on inauguration day, by Dr. Newton Bateman (himself a pupil of Professor Turner's), are to be found these vivid words, which, better than my meager story, tell of Professor Turner's part in the struggle:

"In the West, the man whose voice rang out earliest, loudest, and clearest in this great movement, whose words pealed and thundered through the minds and hearts of the people, and the roundshot of whose tremendous broadsides of irrefragable facts and logic and fiery rhetoric, plowed and plunged and ricocheted through these prairies with an energy and vehemence that no bulwarks of ignorance or apathy could withstand, and which brought nearly every farmer and artisan hurrying to his standard from far and near, and put in motion the imperial column of our freeborn yeomanry; the man who threw into the struggle not only the best energies of his mind, but the unwavering faith of his soul and the deepest longings of his heart, and who plead for the uplifting and regeneration of the masses and for the "millenium of labor," as the patriot pleads for his country, and the christian for the salvation of God; the man whose able reports, instructive addresses, and thrillingly eloquent speeches were caught up and re-echoed by the enlightened press of the whole country, and which furnished at once the material and inspiration of auxiliary and coöperative movements and organizations in many other states; and the man who, as I believe, through all these multiplied and overwhelming labors, was animated not by considerations of self aggrandizement or sordid gain, but by the loftier purpose of saving his race and honoring God by uplifting and blessing the toiling millions of his children—that man was Jonathan Baldwin Turner."

On the façade of the central of the five buildings just erected at the University for the College of Agriculture, are inscribed these words of Professor Turner's: "Industrial education prepares the way for the millenium of

1867, and on the side of the main entrance is a bronze tablet thus inscribed: "This Tablet is Erected to the Memory of Jonathan Baldwin Turner for his persistent efforts as a courageous advocate of scientific education the nation owes the legislation which laid the foundation of this University and of all other land grant colleges."

I venture here to renew a suggestion made by me some years ago in a report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction: "Would it not be fitting when the niches in the rotunda of the State house are to be filled with statues of those who will forever receive honor, because in their lives they have done well for the people and the State, to set in one of them a marble statue of this man?"

## IX

### The Peoria

By Lewis Mumford

Soon after the declaration of war between the United States and Great Britain in the year 1812, Nathan Edwards, Governor of the Territory of Illinois, organized an expedition to march to Lake Peoria to strike terror into the minds of hostile Indians inhabiting that region. His force was composed of a body of Illinois militia to be commanded by himself, a small detachment of regulars under command of Col. William Bussell, a company of militia to be commanded by Captain Craig, and a detachment of Capt. Hopkins' Indians, and a large body of militia from Kentucky under command of General Hopkins.

On or about the 15th of October, Governor Edwards with the militia under his command, accompanied by the detachment of regulars under Colonel Bussell, left Camp Bussell near Edwardsville, and marched directly north towards the head of Lake Peoria, expecting there to be joined by the forces under General Hopkins. He also expected Captain Craig to arrive about the same time with his boats laden with provisions for the army and materials for the erection of a fort at Peoria—a project he had long had in mind.

Arriving at the head of Lake Peoria, the Governor attacked and destroyed the village of Black Partridge, but, in consequence of the non-appearance of Hopkins, and finding himself surrounded, as he supposed, by hostile Indians, he beat a hasty retreat to Camp Bussell, where he arrived on October 21, just thirteen days from the date of his departure.

Captain Craig did not arrive at his destination until November 3 when he anchored his boats near the French village commonly called Peoria, but the real name of which was Le Ville de Mailler—so named after its founder, Jean Baptiste Maillet. Under the mistaken supposition that the French inhabitants in the village were in league with the hostile Indians, and that his boats had been fired upon by them in the gray of a November morning, he ordered a large portion of the village, took all the inhabitants there as that time prisoners, carried them by boat to a point opposite the mouth of the Missouri river and turned them loose in the woods without protection.

That piece of vandalism must be laid to the charge of Captain Craig alone and not upon Governor Edwards, as some would have it.

To obtain redress for this outrage, the inhabitants in the following year laid a petition before the Congress of the United States, but it was not acted upon until the year 1820, when an act was passed allowing them to prove to their claims before the Register of the Land Office at Edwardsville. Edward Coles, the Register, took the matter in hand, and received proof of seventy claims, most of which came within the scope of the act of Congress, but some on account of their remoteness from the village, were not considered to be within its provisions.

The Register made his report to Congress and an act was passed in the year 1823, confirming the claims of such as had been so proved. These were surveyed by the government surveyor in the year 1827, the survey being approved in the year 1840.

The lands upon which they were supposed to be located were allowed to be entered only subject thereto, and patents were issued accordingly. This was the origin of the so-called French Claims of Peoria, in relation to which litigation raged in great fury for twenty years, ending about the year 1865.

In his report, the Register characterized the inhabitants as Indian traders, hunters and voyagers who had formed a link of connection between the French residing on the waters of the great lakes and those of the Mississippi river, and who, from that happy faculty of adapting themselves to their situation and associates, for which the French are remarkable, had lived generally in harmony with their savage neighbors. This statement might be somewhat misleading unless it be borne in mind that the three occupations mentioned were the leading industries of the country, often requiring large amounts of capital and ripe business experience to carry them on.

In addition to the town lots and outlots appearing upon the map of the village made by the Register as part of his report, there were a number of claims to improved farm lands in the vicinity of the village, some of them lying in the bottoms adjacent to the Kickapoo creek three miles distant.

Among the principal inhabitants of Le Ville de Maillet were Thomas Forsythe who for many years occupied a prominent position in the confidence of Governor Edwards and other government officials; Antoine Le Clair, who afterwards became one of the founders of the city of Davenport, Iowa; Michael La Croix, an extensive trader whose widow afterwards became the wife of Gov. John Reynolds; William Arundel, another merchant who afterwards removed to Cahokia where he became a leading citizen and Recorder of Deeds for St. Clair county; Isaac Darneille, a brilliant but profligate young lawyer, the second one in the State, whose memory has been embalmed by Governor Reynolds; Antoine Des Champ, a justice of the peace and afterwards manager of the American Fur Company's interests on the Illinois; Jean Baptiste Maillet the founder of the village, all of whom have a place in the history of the State.

In the course of the investigation made by Edward Coles it was made to appear that prior to the founding of Le Ville de Maillet there had existed on the west bank of Peoria lake an older French village, located about one and one-half miles from the former. Claims for lots in this older village were also lodged with the Register, the proof of which he embodied in his report, and when the village was surveyed these lots were also surveyed and a plat thereof made as in the former case.

As this paper has to do chiefly with this older village, a brief reference to the topographical features of the locality may be useful to a proper understanding of what is to follow. Peoria Lake, in early times known as Lake Pimiteoui, in reality consists of two lakes, the combined length of which is about seventeen or eighteen miles. The upper lake, which consists of a mere widening of the river, begins at the foot of an island opposite the city of Chillicothe. The land on its westerly shore rises gradually from the water's edge, and for a considerable distance slopes back into a gently rolling prairie, varying in width from two to three miles, where it is bounded by the ordinary wooded bluffs. This is LaSalle Prairie. For one half the distance from Chillicothe to Peoria the course of the lake is to the southwest. Near the village of Mossville it changes its course to almost due south, in which direction it continues to flow for a distance of about six miles. At the distance of five miles from this change of course the lake contracts into a narrow and deep channel through which it flows for the distance of nearly one mile. This is known as the "Narrows." At its southern extremity this narrows is spanned by a wagon road bridge. Near its northern extremity it was formerly crossed by a ferry. At the bridge the lake or river resumes its southwesterly course, and at that point again expands in width forming a lower lake about three miles in length, and as wide as the upper lake at its widest part. At the mouth of this lower lake LeVille de Maillet was located, about one-half of it being above, and one-half below the present location of another wagon road bridge crossing the river close to the mouth of the lake at the foot of Bridge street in the city of Peoria. This is called the lower bridge. Near the upper end of the village

site, Fort Clark was erected in the year 1813. Near the center of the village had been a French fort, which is not to be confounded with Fort Clark, nor with a still older fort at the Old Village.

The new village had two streets running parallel with the river, the first of which, closely hugged the declivity of the river bank, which at that point was about thirty feet higher than low water mark, as it was known before the construction of the Copperas Creek Dam in the Illinois river. At Main street, in the now city of Peoria, this break of the embankment was one hundred and ten feet from the upper side of Water street as it now exists. Following this declivity of the river bank to the northeast, it gradually increases in height, until at Caroline and Mary streets, a distance of nearly one and one-half miles, it reaches its greatest altitude, the same being about fifty feet above low water mark. Soon after passing Mary street it begins to curve to the northwest, forming the southern bank of a small creek which takes its rise in Springdale Cemetery about one and one-half miles to the north. This little stream comes down through a charming little vale, known as Birket's Hollow, and at its mouth there is a point of low land covering several acres extending out into the lake several hundred feet further than the regular shore line. This point was formerly known as Plum Point. South of Plum Point is a little cove or bay formerly known as Turtle Bay now partly filled up, on the margin of which several ice houses are located, while the high ground in their rear is occupied with railroad tracks, the buildings of the Peoria Pottery Company, the Peoria Steam Marble Works, with many dwellings and business houses.

The government surveyors located the "Old Village" near the foot of Caroline street in the city of Peoria, directly facing Turtle Bay. Charles Ballance, Esq., a lawyer and surveyor was here at the time of the survey and had abundant opportunity for testing the accuracy of this location, for many of the former French inhabitants were still living at that time and continued to live long afterwards. Mr. Ballance had also much to do with the litigation concerning the French Claims and could have learned the facts as to the location of the Old Village if he had suspected the accuracy of this location. He wrote a history of the city of Peoria about the year 1870, in which he not only confirms the location of the Old Village as given by the surveyors, but further says that the "Old Fort" was located about one hundred and fifty feet north-east of the buildings of the Peoria Pottery Company, which would place it on prominent ground at the curvature, and at the highest point of the river bank as already mentioned.

Commencing at that point and extending back to the bluffs a distance of about one-half mile, and to the south-west about four or five miles, varying in width from one-half mile to a mile and a half and surrounded by a vast amphitheatre of wooded bluffs two hundred feet high, was a beautiful prairie on which the city of Peoria stands.

When the first American settlers came to Peoria the narrows were by the Indians called Cock-a-Mink, evidently a corruption of Ke-kauk-kem-ke, a word which Governor Reynolds says was used by the Indians to designate a straight, and was the same which they applied to the river connecting Lakes Erie and St. Clair. It has its equivalent in the French word *detroit*. So fitting was this latter name to the locality that the early settlers called a village which they had laid out just above the narrows, by the name of "Detroit," while on the easterly side of the river just opposite was a country postoffice called "Little Detroit."

The first settlers also found the name "Opa," attached to the locality about Peoria which is evidently a corrupt abbreviation of the French term "*au pied du Lac*" or "*au pied*" (the foot.) The name "Opa" was by the American Fur Company given to their station established in the year 1818, at Wesley City three miles below the lake, and the city of Peoria barely escaped being afflicted with that name instead of its present euphonious title.

About the year 1778, Jean Baptiste Maillet, who then resided in the old village, removed his residence to the foot of the lake and there started a new village which he called Le Ville de Maillet. One reason given for this change

of location is that he found better water there than at the old village, a reason which from our standpoint seems to be somewhat far fetched. During the Revolutionary war, in consequence of insufficient protection, both locations were abandoned from 1781 to 1783. From the testimony taken before Edward Coles, it seems that by the year 1790, the "old village" had been practically abandoned, and the inhabitants had all taken up their residences in the new one. Yet we find that five years later the old village and the fort obtained distinct recognition in the treaty of Greenville, where a tract of land six miles square is ceded to the United States, as one of the sixteen posts ceded by the Indians. Three of these posts were within the limits of the State of Illinois; one, six miles square, at the mouth of the Chicago river, one, twelve miles square, at the mouth of the Illinois river, and one, six miles square, at "the Old Peorias Fort and Village," near the south end of the Illinois lake, on the said Illinois river.

Contrary to the assertions made by some that the inhabitants of this village constantly maintained a hostile attitude towards the government, or that they considered themselves to all intents and purposes a foreign people, it appears conclusively they were loyal citizens of the United States. So far as the inhabitants of Le Ville de Maillet were concerned, this subject underwent a thorough examination at the hands of Congress before their claims were confirmed. As to the inhabitants of the "old village," prior to the conquest of the Northwest Territory by General Clark, they must have been subjects of Great Britain, for by the treaty between France and England, none of the French were allowed to remain who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the British Crown. The story of how General Clark induced the French of Vincennes to take the oath of allegiance to Virginia is familiar to all.

But there is much better evidence not only of the citizenship, but of the character and extent of the possessions of the inhabitants of both villages.

In order to carry into effect the stipulations contained in the deed of cession of the Northwestern Territory by Virginia to the United States, the Congress of the Confederacy on August 29, 1788, passed a resolution providing for the confirmation in their possessions and titles, of the French and Canadian settlers about Kaskaskia and Vincennes, who on or before the year 1783, had professed themselves citizens of the United States or any of them, and also donating a tract of four hundred acres of land to each head of a family of the same description of settlers. The resolution also required the Governor of the Territory to make lists of the persons entitled to lands and to have them surveyed.

By act of Congress of the United States of March 3d, 1791, the provisions of the said resolution were extended so as to cover what was known as the Illinois country, which is understood to have embraced the country once occupied by the Illinois tribes, and so designated by the early missionaries. The act further provided that when lands had actually been improved and cultivated within the limits mentioned, under presumably valid grants of the same by any commandant or court claiming authority to make such grants, the Governor was empowered to confirm the same, not exceeding in area, four hundred acres, also that the Governor be authorized to make a grant of land not exceeding one hundred acres to each person who had not obtained any grant of land from the United States, and who on the first day of August 1790, was enrolled in the militia at Vincennes, the Illinois Country, and had done military duty.

The provisions of these enactments having proved ineffectual for the purposes intended, Congress on March 6, 1804, passed an act establishing land offices at Vincennes and Kaskaskia, under which Michael Jones was appointed register and Elijah Backus receiver at Kaskaskia, with authority as special commissioners to take proofs and adjudicate all claims coming within the provisions of the former acts.

This commission under various modifications and changes continued in existence until the year 1815, during which time it reported many claims for confirmation.



By a liberal construction of the provisions of the act of 1791, these commissioners classified the claims coming under it as follows: (1.) Ancient grants. (Of which there were none claimed at Peoria.) (2.) Donations of 400 acres to heads of families, citizens of the United States or some one of them in 1783. (3.) Donations on account of actual improvements and cultivation at or before the specified time in 1783. (4.) Donations to militia men coming within the designated requirements.

It must be observed that Le Ville de Maillet was founded, not earlier than 1778; that the inhabitants had abandoned both villages from 1781 to 1783, about which latter date a considerable number of them returned. It is fair to presume therefore that the proofs of occupancy and of improvements by actual cultivation had reference to the inhabitants of the "Old Village" rather than those of the new, although some of the latter are included.

At various sittings of said commission from 1804 to 1815, twenty-one claims of persons who had lived at Peoria were proved up and reported for confirmation; sixteen for four hundred acres each on account of improvements made; thirteen for four hundred acres each on account of the claimants or their ancestors or grantors having been heads of families residing at Peoria in 1783, and seven of them claiming 100 acres each as militia men. One of the latter was William Arundel who having received his militia donation was confirmed in only 300 acres each in the two other classes. Two were confirmed in 400 acres for improvements made, and not as heads of families or militia men; all who claimed as heads of families also claimed on account of improvements; four claimed only as militia men, while four claimed under all three classes.

In the foregoing enumeration, although the names of the original claimants are given, most of the claims had, before then been sold to speculators in whose names the confirmations were made. A limited number of these transfers will be noticed by a deed from Jean Baptiste Maillet to Isaac Darneille dated July 6, 1801, the original of which is still in existence, the grantor conveys to the grantee all that tract or parcel of land lying and being upon the Illinois river adjoining the village of Peoria, containing 800 acres, being a donation of 400 acres as a head of a family, and an improvement right of 400 acres which the grantor held under the act of Congress of March 3, 1791, described as follows: "Beginning at a stone below the gate of the said Isaac Darneille in his lot in said village and running thence south-west to the corner of the stable of the said Maillet, thence west—and from the said stone north and west so as to include the said quantity of four hundred acres of a donation right, and four hundred acres of an improvement right, in all the quantity of eight hundred acres of land." From this deed it appears that Maillet had located his claims at the new village, where both he and Darneille lived at the period of its execution.

On the 5th day of October, 1807, Darneille conveyed this claim to William Russell, presumed to be Col. William Russell, who figured largely in the war of 1812. The deed containing the conveyance of this land with many other tracts is also still in existence, and sheds much light upon these old grants. The first tract therein described was located on the western shore of the Illinois River, on the River Cartineaux (now called the Kickapoo Creek) about one league below the town of Peoria, seven hundred poles in length by three hundred and twenty, or one mile in width and containing 1,400 acres.\* The tract lay on both sides of the Cartineaux. The next one is the tract conveyed by Maillet to Darneille which needs no further description. The next is a donation and improvement right of 800 acres purchased of one Baptiste Pelletier, but no other description is given and it has not been ascertained whether Pelletier was an inhabitant of Peoria or not. The next is a donation right of 400 acres purchased of Pierre Verbois alias Blondereau. The land is

---

\*Although it is stated above that no claims based upon ancient grants had been made at Peoria, later research has revealed the original application of William Russell for confirmation of this claim, in which it is stated that it had been granted to Jean Baptiste Maillet by the British Government on account of improvements made by him, and that he had conveyed the same to Isaac Darneille, and Isaac Darneille had conveyed it to William Russell.

not described, but inasmuch as Blondereau was one of those in whose name a militia right only had been proved up, it may be presumed this claim was rejected by the commissioners. But Blondereau was nevertheless proved to have been a citizen else he could not have obtained the militia right. The next is a donation and improvement right of eight hundred acres, not described, purchased of Francis Buche, attorney for Louis Chatteleraux, in whose name two claims located at Peoria were proved up by William Russell. The next is a tract of three arpens in front by forty arpens deep, situated in the common field near the town of Peoria, purchased of Francis Willette, assignee of Pierre Lavasseur, containing one hundred and twenty arpens of land. This, it may be remarked, is the only mention yet discovered of a common field at Peoria. There is nothing improbable in the supposition that this tract may have included the 100 acre tract proved up by William Russell, in the name of Lavasseur, otherwise called Chamberlain, as his military right.

One of the most significant, however, is yet to be mentioned. Two claims of 400 acres each were proved up by William Russell as successor of Jean Baptiste Point de Saible, sometimes called Pointstable. The proof showed that Point de Saible had been the head of a family residing at Peoria before and after the year 1783, having a house in the "Old Village" and about thirty acres of land in cultivation at a place between the old and new villages. The deed from Darneille to Russell is for one lot of land and a house at the "Old Peorias Fort" and a tract of land near said "Peorias Old Fort," quantity unknown, purchased of Jean Baptiste Point de Saible, assignee of Jean Baptiste Maillet, by deed dated March 13, 1773. That this man, Point de Saible, was a very early inhabitant of Old Peoria is shown by the further fact that he was a witness to one of the claims proved up before the commissioners dating as early as 1780. Here we find that as early as March 13, 1773, he had purchased from Maillet the property which he afterward sold to Darneille, and Darneille to Russell.

This man, Point de Saible, has become famous as the first white settler of Chicago, although he was a colored man from San Domingo. Hence the saying that "the first white man in Chicago was a nigger." The historians of Chicago claim to have traces of his residence there as early as 1779, six years after his purchase from Maillet. Others say he came there in 1796. The sworn testimony before the commissioners located him as a resident head of a family at Peoria before and after 1783. These accounts may all be true. After locating in Peoria he may have gone to Chicago during the time the village was abandoned, and after peace had been restored returned and remained here until about the time of his second appearance at Chicago. There he is said to have laid the foundation of the great city by erecting a cabin which he afterwards sold to one Mai, from whom it was purchased by John Kinzie, through whom it obtained its celebrity as the Kinzie Cottage. It is said that Point de Saible represented himself to the Indians as having been a great man among those living further south, and had some aspirations of becoming the chief of the Pottawattamies at Chicago. Mr. Matson, in his "Pioneers of Illinois," takes some of the romance out of the story by saying he was a runaway negro slave from Kentucky, a fact which he had learned from some of his descendants. This story, however, needs confirmation, from the fact that he places the date of De Saible's leaving Kentucky in the year 1790, seventeen years after his purchase from Maillet, eleven years after his first appearance in Chicago and seven years after his residence is proved to have been in Peoria. It is also related of him that after leaving Chicago he returned to Peoria where he died at the house of his friend, Glamorgan, a man who was well to do financially and was a large landholder in that vicinity. Research fails to connect the name of Glamorgan with any lands at Peoria, but there was a man in St. Louis by the name of Clamorgan who claimed a large tract of land donated him by the Spanish authorities. This man may have been the friend of Point de Saible at whose house he died.\*

\*There is in the library of the Historical Society of Chicago a copy of the journal of one Hugh Heyward of his journey to the Illinois country in 1790. He found Point de Saible at Chicago on May 10, of that year, six years earlier than the time of his arrival as mentioned by the author of Waubun, seven years later than he is shown to have been a resident of Peoria

Little can be gleaned from the official records as to the manners, customs and mode of life of these ancient villagers, but it may be assumed they differed little from those inhabiting the other French villages. They raised cattle and hogs, cultivated wheat and corn, they were hunters and trappers, sending their surplus products down the lakes and in return obtaining articles of merchandise brought by the traders.

In the proof of the claim of Louis Chattlereaux it appears there was a horse mill upon his premises near the "Old Fort." Mr. Matson in his "Pioneers of Illinois," says they had a church, a wind-mill and a wine press, all of which may well be believed.

Of the antiquity of the old fort and village little is known. The oldest claim proved before the commissioners was that of Pierre Troge, who claimed in the right of his wife Charlotte, the daughter of Antoine St. Francois, who lived in Peoria in the year 1765—the same year the British government acquired possession of the country. The claim was proved by the testimony of one Louis Pilette, who with St. Francois and his wife, Troge and his wife, fills up the number of five known residents at that early date. Mr. Matson also gives the names of a Father Bueche and one Felix LaPance as residents as early, if not earlier than that year. He also speaks of one Patrick Kennedy who visited the place in 1773, and found the stockades burned, but the block-houses still standing\*. He also mentions a tradition that one Father Senat had built the chapel, which he thinks must have been as early as 1736. Governor Reynolds says there was a tradition among the French that the old fort was the one built by LaSalle, and that this was the general understanding among them, a supposition that might well be accepted as the truth were it not for the fact that contemporaneous historians seem to locate Fort Creve Coeur on the easterly side of the lake or river.

When LaSalle first visited the place in January, 1680, he found no Indian villages between that of the Kaskaskias near Starved Rock and the place of his debarkation after having passed through Lake Peoria. The Indians he first met there were those who had come down from Kaskaskia, whose camp was on both sides of the river. This camp is not to be confounded with the village of the Peorias, which is frequently mentioned in the narratives of Hennepin, Membre and Tonti. Many of the Peorias were at that time absent on their annual hunt. Nicanape, who made a feast for LaSalle, was the son of Chattagousse, one of the Peoria chiefs who was then also absent. Before LaSalle had left Fort Creve Coeur on his return to Fort Frontinae, Chief Oumahoua of the Kaskaskias, had returned to his village, taking with him Father Membre, whom he had adopted as his son. Two days earlier, when Hennepin started on his voyage down the river, and during his first day's journey, he met the Peorias on their return to their village with the products of their hunt. Assuming that the Kaskaskias would not have occupied the village of the Peorias, the conclusion is reached that the latter was located below but very near the spot where LaSalle landed.

On LaSalle's second (possibly third) visit nearly two years later, no mention is made of the village of the Peorias, but Fort Creve Coeur is spoken of as being then in good condition.

In 1687 or 88, Father Gravier assumed control of the mission of the Immaculate Conception at Kaskaskia, and may have made annual visits to Peoria Lake during the hunting seasons, but of these we have no account. On February 15, 1694, he wrote a long account of his missionary operations during the preceding year. Some antiquarians have located the mission at that time at Peoria Lake, probably on account of the frequent mention of the Peoria Indians and their chiefs living with or in close proximity to the Kaskaskias, but this is evidently an erroneous conclusion. Tonti was then alive, there was a military post at Fort St. Louis and the mission there was called the Immaculate Conception, a name which the mission at Peoria never bore. Gravier called upon the commandant of the fort to settle a difficulty between

\*Patrick Kennedy's journal may be found in the State Historical Library, from which it appears he arrived at "Old Peorias Fort" on August 7, 1773, where he says "We found the stockades of this Peorias Fort destroyed by fire, but the houses standing."

um and some of the Indians. This the commandant declined doing. These circumstances with others seem very inconsistent with the supposed location of the mission at that time on Peoria Lake,

In September, 1698, Gravier is found at Mackinaw, where he met Montigny, St. Cosme and Davion, three priests of different order, on their way to establish missions near the mouth of the Ohio. On their way and when near Chicago, these three men met with Father Pinet, who had charge of a mission there, and Father Buineteau, who had charge at the Immaculate Conception. These two missionaries preceded the three newly arrived ones and reached Peoria Lake some days in advance of their arrival. On the 15th day of November these new comers reached a place called the Old Fort, a rock about one hundred feet high on the bank of the river, where LaSalle had built a fort which he had abandoned. This was evidently Fort St. Louis. There they found the Indians had gone about twenty-five leagues lower down. In his account of this expedition, St. Cosme writes as follows: "From Chicago to the fort they reckoned thirty leagues. Here navigation begins which continues uninterrupted to the Fort Permavevvi, where the Indians now are. We arrived there on the 19th of November (four days from the Old Fort)."<sup>7</sup> There they overtook Pinet and Buineteau, who were on their way south, and also found Marest in charge of the mission at that place. On November 22d they were obliged to break the ice for two or three arpeus to get out of the Lake of (Pimiteoui).<sup>\*</sup> As Tonti was a member of this party, if the fort here mentioned had been Fort Creve Coeur, it is reasonable to suppose it would have been so called. Any one who has seen the ice form in Lake Peoria could be easily convinced that the place of their moorage was in Turtle Bay, opposite the site of the "Old Fort" at Peoria.

In a letter of Buineteau written in January, 1699, from the Illinois Country, he speaks of the wonderful talent of Father Gabriel Marest who had been laboring there for several months. Pinet and Buineteau had accompanied the St. Cosme party down the river, and during their journey they had passed three or four villages, one of which was that of Rouenzas, the most considerable of the Illinois chiefs. Marest was probably not far from Cahokia when Buineteau wrote.

Gravier having returned from Mackinaw, he set out on September 8, 1700, for the gulf to ascertain the condition of affairs in that region. In the account of his trip, written February 16, 1701, he says, "I arrived too late at the Illinois du Detroit of which Father Marest has charge, to prevent the transmigration of the village of the Kaskaskias, which was too precipitously made on vague news of the establishment on the Mississippi. I do not believe that the Kaskaskias would have separated from the Peorias and their Illinois du Detroit had I arrived sooner. \* \* \* God grant that the road from Chicago to the Strait (du Detroit) be not closed and the whole Illinois Mission suffer greatly." These passages mark the time, the place and the occasion of the separation of the Kaskaskias from the Peorias, after which time the mission of the Immaculate Conception became located on the Mississippi. In a letter written by Father Mermet from Kaskaskia in 1706, mentions the Illinois of Detroit, otherwise the Peorias—where Father Gravier had nearly lost his life on two occasions. The conclusion from these statements is that the separation of the Kaskaskias from the Peorias took place at the Detroit or Narrows of Peoria Lake in September or October A. D. 1700. Marest went with the Kaskaskias, leaving the Peorias for the time being without a missionary. Gravier continued his journey to the gulf, from which point he wrote the foregoing account, in which mention is also made of a church in the village but not of a fort.

On April 29, 1699, soon after the visit of the St. Cosme party to Lake Peoria, Father Marest wrote a letter to another of the same order in which he describes the village as being one-half league in length with a chapel at each end, one of which had been recently erected to accommodate the increasing number of converts. This was the year before the separation of the Kas-

<sup>\*</sup>The name of this lake is left blank in the printed copy of this expedition. I have supplied the name Pimiteoui, as the only one fitting the narrative.

kaskias from the Peorias. This separation may have taken place when the Kaskaskias were on their annual hunt, but it is possible both tribes may have been located there at that time. From other sources it is learned that the population of the village numbered from one to three thousand, but the time allowed will not permit a discussion of that point.

In the summer of 1705, Gravier was again among the Illinois where he was attacked by an Indian who shot five arrows at him, one of which left its point imbedded in the tendons of his elbow, which afterwards resulted in his death, but not until after a visit to Paris and his return to America. Father Mermet in a letter dated March 2, 1706, gives a minute account of this transaction. Concerning the condition of the affairs of the Illinois he says: "It is good from this village (Kaskaskia) except that they threaten to leave us at the first word. It is bad, as regards both spiritual and temporal matters among the Illinois of Detroit—otherwise the Peorias—where Father Gravier nearly lost his life on two occasions, and he is not yet out of danger." After suffering for three months at that place, but having learned the Indians were hostile to his leaving, Gravier planned a secret departure at night, but when he was about ready to embark he was greatly surprised to learn that his house was surrounded by about 200 Indians who had taken down a portion of his palisade in order to get in. But through the interposition of a friendly chief he was permitted to proceed, and after arriving at Kaskaskia was sent to Mobile whence he sailed for France.

The mission house surrounded by a palisade may possibly be all that is meant by the word fort in these early narratives.

On November 9, 1712, Father Marest wrote to Father German, another Jesuit, a long account of the Missions among the Illinois in the course of which he says: "I worked with these missionaries (Pinet and Buineteau), and, after their deaths, I alone remained charged with all the labors of the mission until the arrival of Father Mermot. Previously I was in the large village of the Peorias, where Father Gravier, who had returned there for the second time received a wound which caused his death."

Having planned a journey to Mackinaw, in which it would be necessary to go by way of the village of the Peorias, Marest on Friday of Easter Week in 1711, set out on foot from Kaskaskia, stopping one night at Cahokia. After several days travel during which he endured intense suffering in his feet, he reached the Illinois river 25 leagues below the village of the Peorias. There he dispatched one of his Indians to inform the Frenchmen at the village of his sad plight, and after two days, was met by them and taken into their canoes.

Up to this time we have heard of no Frenchmen residing at Peoria, and it is a question whether these were such. He hoped they, on their return, would take him with them to his destination at the Straits of Mackinac, but, there having been as yet no spring rains, they could not go by the river, so he proceeded on his way by St. Joseph, going partly by water and partly by land. It is to be fairly inferred that the reason why the Frenchmen could not go likewise was that they were traders and were waiting for a rise in the upper streams so they could carry their furs and peltries by water to the lake. They may not therefore have been residents but merely temporary traders at Peoria Lake.

After the lapse of several months Marest returned by the same route he had gone. In describing his entrance into the village he says: "The greater part of the men ascended to the fort, which is placed upon a rock on the bank of the river." Here occurs a grave enigma. Marest had said in the first part of his letter that there were then only three villages of the Illinois, one at Kaskaskia, one twenty-five leagues distant (Cahokia) and a third one hundred leagues distant. This one at which he halted on his return must therefore have been the same village at which he had stopped on his way north. Yet there is not a rock on the shores of Lake Peoria nor on the river bank for miles above and below upon which a fort could have been erected.

The statement that the fort was placed upon a rock on the bank of the river raises a doubt which is very difficult of solution. May not the word translated *rock* admit of a wider interpretation than the English word "rock," so as to include a "mound" or "hillock" such as that upon which Fort Creve Coeur had been erected by La Salle? It must be admitted this passage is enveloped in obscurity.

For the next ten years little is heard of the Peorias. That they were solely beset by hostile tribes is very apparent. Soon after the return of Marest to Kaskaskia, Father de Ville was sent to them as a missionary, but how long he remained does not appear.

In the beginning of October of the year 1721, Father Charlevoix made a voyage down the Illinois River and found a village on the west bank of Lake Peoria, which he terms a second village of the Illinois, the first having been found at the rock; but his estimate of distances and the courses of streams is so very unreliable as to render its exact location impossible. His description of the surrounding scenery, however, corresponds quite well with that at the old French village of Peoria. The most important statements made by him are that the village was called Pimiteoui, the same name the lake had borne from the time of LaSalle; that the Peorias were then at war with neighboring tribes, and that he found there four French Canadians apparently living with the Indians. If there had been more he would have certainly mentioned them, for he was sorely in need of their assistance. There the chief of the village invited him to a conference at a house where one of the missionaries had lodged some years before, and where probably they used to hold council. This account was written on the spot, at Pimiteoui. Nothing is said about a church or a fort or the number or character of the inhabitants.

It is a matter of history that during the next year, 1722, the Peorias, being harassed on all sides by their enemies, took their departure from the Illinois country and followed the Kaskaskias. We, therefore, hear nothing further of the mission at Peoria.

But information of a very popular kind comes from another source. The company of the Indies, the successor of the celebrated company of the west, having assumed jurisdiction over the Illinois Country, Philip Francis Renault, the director of its mines, pushed his explorations as far as Peoria. On June 14, 1723, two years after Charlevoix's visit, "in order to make his establishment upon the mines," as its preamble declares, he obtained a grant from the Commandant of Illinois as well as from the chief director of the company, of a tract of land described as follows: "One league in front at Pimitoui on the River Illinois, facing the east and adjoining the lake bearing the name of the village, and on the other side to the banks opposite the village, for a half league above it with a depth of five leagues, the point of the compass following the Illinois River down the same upon one side and ascending by the river of Arcary which forms the middle through the rest of the depth."

This is the origin of the famous Renault claim which has been several times before Congress for confirmation, but which has always failed. If not wholly impossible, it is at least exceedingly difficult of location; the latest claim of the Renault heirs being that it commences at the foot of the lower lake, and extends three miles down the river to a point about a mile below the mouth of the Kickapoo, which stream they claim forms its middle line for the greater portion of the depth. The historical significance of the grant lies in the fact that the village of Pimiteoui, which Charlevoix had mentioned by that name, was situated on Lake Pimiteoui, or Peoria, and not on the river below it; that the River Arcary, (called in other English and French copies of the grant Arescy and Arcoury; in the deed from Darneille to Russell Cartineaux; in the Commissioners report Coteneau and Mallet's River; in the report of Edward Coles Gatinan, and in recent times Red Bud and its Indian equivalent, Kickapoo) was none other than the Kickapoo, for there is no other stream in that vicinity of sufficient length to answer the call of the grant.

From the time of this grant until the year 1765, a period of forty years or more, a gap occurs in the history of "Old Peoria" which has never yet been filled. It is very evident that at the date of Renault's grant there were few,

if any, Frenchmen residing at the village. What influence that grant may have had in attracting a French population is not known, but it is certain that within that period of forty years, such a French population had centered there as to make it one of the principal trading posts in the Mississippi Valley.

## SLAVERY IN ILLINOIS.

By Ethan A. Snively.

As we look out from the north windows of the capitol and see, standing high above the surrounding forest trees, the monument erected to the memory of Abraham Lincoln; as we remember that less than three weeks ago there was inaugurated as our chief executive the son of Illinois' great war governor at whose call more than a quarter of a million sons of our Prairie State rallied to the defense of the Union in a war brought on by the slaveholders of the South; as we reflect that, with the present generation, the name Illinois has ever been a synonym of liberty, enterprise and progress, we can scarcely realize that our own State once tolerated slavery—that for more than a quarter of a century Illinois was as absolutely a slave State as was Mississippi. Cobb, in his most excellent work on slavery, defines it as the "condition of that individual over whose life, liberty and property another has unlimited control." That our State was, for years, cursed with the sin which the great lawyer so concisely defines will be new to many of those who have failed to make a study of the early history of our commonwealth.

In discussing the subject assigned me, I do not expect to offer anything new to the student of our State history. The field has been closely gleaned by the various historians—by some much more than others. All that I shall do will be to begin at the beginning and endeavor to present in chronological order, and in as concise a manner as possible the historical facts relating to the establishment of slavery in both the Territory and State of Illinois, and the efforts to perpetuate the curse upon our soil.

On April 23, 1615, Louis XIII issued an edict recognizing slavery in the French possessions in America, and the early French settlers who came to this country from Canada brought their slaves with them. In March, 1724, Louis XV published an ordinance re-enacting the edict of Louis XIII, which among other things provided for the regulation of the traffic in Negro slaves in the province of Louisiana, of which Illinois then formed a part. African slaves, so far as it is known, were first brought into that part of the territory which comprises our State in 1720, by a Frenchman named Renault. This man was the agent of a company which was possessed of a concession from the French government to come to this country and deal with the inhabitants, in the belief that the wealth of the western world consisted in its pearl fisheries, its gold and silver and the wool of its wild cattle. Renault, on his way to America, stopped at San Domingo and purchased five hundred slaves. It is not known just how many of these slaves he brought to the territory comprising our State. He founded a village, called St. Phillips, in what is now the southeast corner of Monroe county, and from this point he sent out exploring parties into the adjacent country to prospect for precious metals. These slaves bought by Renault and those coming from Canada are known in history as the French slaves.

By the treaty of peace concluded at Paris, February 10, 1763, this country, as a dependency of Canada, was ceded to Great Britain, and when General Gage took possession of the territory he promised that those who chose to retain their lands and become subjects of Great Britain, should enjoy the same rights and privileges and the same securities for their persons and effects as the old subjects of the king. And at this period England recognized



slavery in all her American colonies. In 1778 Virginia, by virtue of the successful expedition of George Rogers Clark in his conquest of Illinois, declared the entire northwestern territory within her chartered limits. Other states came forward with charter claims, but that of Virginia was equal to theirs while in addition she asserted the claim of conquest. Finally, on December 20, 1783, Virginia ceded the northwestern territory to the United States. The deed of cession contained the following:

“The French and Canadian inhabitants and other settlers of the Kaskius, St. Vincents, and neighboring villages who have professed themselves citizens of the state of Virginia, shall have their possessions and titles confirmed to them and be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties.”

An attempt was made to have Congress accept the deed of cession with a proviso that after 1800 there should be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the states to be formed out of the territory. This effort failed as it only received the vote of six states, whereas it required the vote of nine.

Subsequently, on the 1st of March, 1784, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Hardy, Arthur Lee and James Monroe, on behalf of the state of Virginia, conveyed and made over to the United States all the right, title, and claim of the state to the territory lying northwest of the Ohio river, for the purposes and on conditions recited in the deed of cession. On the same day Congress accepted the deed.

On the 13th of July, 1787, Congress passed an ordinance “for the government of territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio river.” Article 6 of that ordinance provided:

“There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in said territory, otherwise than in punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been convicted.”

The apparent conflict between the proviso in the deed of cession, which confirmed to the citizens their possessions, and the 6th article of the ordinance passed for the government of the territory, was a matter of great contention. One party claimed that the provision of the ordinance was invalid because it contravened the direct provision upon which the territory was ceded to the general government. The other party claimed that the United States, having come into possession of the territory, it was the duty of Congress to pass laws for the government of the same, and whatever laws were necessary must be binding upon the people and would supersede the conditions embraced in the deed of cession.

On May 7, 1800, the northwestern territory was divided into two separate governments and the parts embracing what is now the State of Illinois and Indiana were organized into a territory known as Indiana Territory. As the contention in regard to slavery continued, William Henry Harrison, the territorial governor, in November, 1802, issued a proclamation calling a convention for the purpose of memorializing Congress to suspend article 6 of the ordinance of 1787 and thereby end all controversy.

Delegates to this convention were elected, in accordance with the call, and on the 20th of December following, the convention met at Vincennes. Its deliberations resulted in the preparation of a memorial to Congress to repeal or suspend the operation of the offensive article. The memorial was as ingeniously prepared as the use of language would permit. It was contended that a suspension of the prohibiting clause would not increase the number of slaves; would meet with the approval of nine-tenths of the people of the territory; that the real question of slavery was in no way involved, but the introduction of slavery into the territory, where labor was scarce, and thus reducing the number of laborers where it was abundant, would be equally advantageous to both sections. As a crowning reason for the repeal or suspension of the clause, emphasis was placed on the fact that the ordinance was passed at a time when the territory was not represented in Congress—that the people of the territory had not been consulted, and the enforcement of the provision as to the northwestern territory, while slavery was allowed in other territories, was a discrimination that was alike unjust and injurious to the material progress of the territory.

Congress referred the memorial to a special committee, of which John Randolph, of Virginia, was chairman. In March following, Mr. Randolph, as chairman of the committee, reported adversely to the prayer of the memorialists. In submitting the report, Mr. Randolph must have been endowed with the spirit of prophecy, as he said:

“The rapidly increasing population of the state of Ohio sufficiently evinces in the opinion of your committee that the labor of slaves is not necessary to promote the growth and the settlement of colonies in that region. That this labor, demonstrably the dearest of any, can only be employed to advantage in the cultivation of products more valuable than any known to that quarter of the United States. The committee deem it highly dangerous and inexpedient to impair a provision wisely calculated to promote the happiness and prosperity of the northwestern country, and to give strength and security to that extensive frontier. In the salutary operation of this sagacious and benevolent restraint, it is believed that the inhabitants will, at no very distant day, find ample remuneration for a temporary privation of labor and emigration.”

No action, however, was taken on the report of the committee, but at the next session, the memorial was referred to another committee. This committee reported in favor of suspending the article for ten years, and allowing the importation of slaves from the states only, and providing the male descendants should be free at the age of twenty-five years, and the females at the age of twenty-one. No action was taken on this report, and a like fate was meted out to subsequent memorials.

The majority of the people were pro-slavery. They desired immigration from the slave states—they recognized slavery and wealth as synonymous terms. So long as there was uncertainty as to property right in slaves, so long there would be no immigration from slave states. It was evident Congress did not intend to give them any relief. They then resorted to legislative strategy and proceeded to do in an indirect way that which they could not do directly.

The territorial legislature on the 17th of September, 1807, passed a law providing that any person, being the owner of any negroes or mulattoes of and above the age of fifteen years, and owing service and labor as slaves in any of the states and territories of the United States, or any person purchasing negroes or mulattoes, might bring the same into the territory; provided, the owner or master within thirty days should take them before the clerk of the court and have an indenture between the slave and his owner entered upon record specifying the time which the slave was compelled to serve his master. If, however, the negro or mulatto was under fifteen years, the owner was given power to hold the males until they were thirty-five years of age and the females until they were thirty-two. Children born of a parent who owed service of labor, by indenture, were required to serve, the males until the age of thirty, and the females until the age of twenty-eight. The law further provided that when a slave was brought into the territory and refused to be indentured, the owner had sixty days in which to remove such slave to any state where such property could be legally held. The period of indenture was generally ninety-nine years.

On February 3, 1809, congress passed a law dividing Indiana Territory by creating the territory of Illinois. The governor and judges who constituted the first territorial council, adopted the laws of Indiana Territory in regard to the indenture of slaves. The first territorial legislature, on the 13th of December, 1812, readopted the law.

At the session of the territorial legislature in 1817, an act was passed repealing so much of the law as authorized the bringing of negroes and mulattoes into the territory. The preamble to the repealing act declared that the law was intended to introduce and tolerate slavery, under pretense of voluntary servitude in contravention of the permanent law of the land and the ordinance of 1787.

This act was vetoed by Gov. Ninian Edwards, the territorial governor. Though opposed to the principle of slavery, yet himself a slave-holder, he

contended that congress could not violate the deed of cession by which Virginia ceded the northwestern territory to the United States. And he further contended that the indenture system was founded upon the principles of law as well as common honesty.

It may not be out of place here, even at the risk of breaking the thread of the narrative to quote two advertisements. The first is signed by John Reynolds, who was subsequently a judge of the supreme court and governor of the State. It is dated May 14, 1815, and is as follows:

"Fifty dollars reward will be given to any person who will deliver to me in Cahokia a negro boy named 'Moses,' who ran away from me in Cahokia about two months since. He is about 16 years old, well made, and did belong to McKnight and Brady, in St. Louis, where he has been seen frequently, and is supposed to be harbored there or about there. He had on a hunting shirt when he left me."

The second advertisement is signed by Ninian Edwards, then territorial governor, and third governor of the State. It is dated Oct. 1, 1815, and is as follows:

"Notice: I have for sale twenty-two slaves, among them are several of both sexes between the years of ten and seventeen; if not shortly sold, I shall wish to hire them in Missouri territory. I have also for sale a full blooded horse, a very large English bull and several young ones."

Apropos of this latter advertisement, under date of Aug. 19, 1825, I find a letter from Gov. Edwards, written to Col. A. G. S. Wright, a prominent man in his day, and at that time, no doubt, a resident of Galena. The letter sufficiently explains itself, and is as follows:

"I have just received your letter of the 4th inst., and lose not a moment in replying to it.

"Whatever may have been the conceptions you had formed from my description, at Vandalia last winter, of the servants I have since sold you, I well know there was no intention on my part of deceiving you or any one else, and I should suppose your finding Charles so much better than you expected, sufficient to free me from any such suspicion, since, as he was capable of being the most valuable, if I had intended to deceive, I must have acted most strangely in representing him so much worse, and the others so much better than they respectively deserved. The truth is, that I said nothing then, which I did not at that time, and which I do not now, believe to be true.

"You remark that 'you are sorry to say also that Maria by no means tallies with the description you had of her; she is not a first-class cook, neither is she any part of a seamstress.' I have read this part of your letter to several ladies now at my house, all well acquainted with her, who are equally, with myself, surprised at it. She had been my only cook for seven years before I sold her to you, during which time I have lived pretty well and entertained much company, all of whom, I believe, would agree with me that she deserves to be considered, in this part of the world, at least, as a first-class cook. The ladies insist upon it that she is an excellent seamstress, and I know she has made and ruffled my shirts as well as I have ever been able to find any other person capable of doing. I can also prove that she has done almost all kinds of fine work, and that she can cut out and make her own dresses as well as any lady in this part of the country. It is true she has not done much sewing for the last seven years, and it is probable her present situation may prevent her from discharging her duties with her usual ability. She is, however, a faithful and valuable servant, whom no money could have got from me, if she had chosen to separate from her husband, and so far from having endeavored to enhance her value by any erroneous description, she has ten more years to serve than I represented to you at Vandalia.

"I could have had no motive to deceive by any description I gave of those servants, because I did not suppose anyone would have purchased them without seeing them and judging for himself.

"As, however, the situation of your family prevented your coming yourself for that purpose, and you say you are disappointed in your expectations and would not, if you could have come yourself, have been a purchaser, be-

cause these servants 'by no means suited you,' I can not think of holding you to your bargain. I would rather lose myself than insist upon a contract, under such circumstances, with any man, more especially with a gentleman and friend whom I so highly esteem and respect. If, therefore, you choose to transmit to me by the return mail the transfers I made to you of those servants, I will promptly return to you the consideration I received for them, and in the meantime you may hold them in your possession as security for my compliance with this proposition.

"I would far rather return to you the whole consideration I received than accede to your proposal of transferring to you Nelson and Ellen upon the grounds you urge, because by doing so it would be a tacit admission, at least, that I had intended to impose on you, which is a thing I am incapable of doing with any man upon this earth."

When Illinois was admitted into the Union, article 6 of the Constitution, in its first section, provided that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude should thereafter be introduced in the State except for the punishment of crimes; and that no male person of the age of twenty-one years, or female of the age of eighteen years, should be held to serve any person as a servant under any indenture thereafter made. It also rendered invalid any indenture thereafter made of any negro or mulatto where the term of service exceeded one year. The third section of article 6 of the Constitution provided:

"Each and every person who has been bound to service by contract or indenture in virtue of the laws of Illinois territory heretofore existing, and in conformity to the provisions of the same, without fraud or collusion, shall be held to a specific performance of their contracts or indentures; and such negroes and mulattoes as have registered in conformity with the aforesaid laws shall serve out the time appointed by said laws: *Provided, however,* that the children hereafter born of such persons, negroes and mulattoes, shall become free, the males at the age of twenty-one years; the females at the age of eighteen years."

On the 30th day of March, 1819, the first General Assembly of the State passed what was known as the "Black Laws." They provided that no negro or mulatto should settle in the State until he had first produced a certificate of freedom under seal of a court of record, which, together with a description of the person producing it, and also his family, if he had one, was to be duly recorded in the county in which he proposed to settle. The overseers of the poor were empowered to expel such negroes or mulattoes whenever they desired. Any person bringing slaves into the State with a view of emancipating them was required to execute a bond in the sum of one thousand dollars as a guaranty that the person emancipated would not become a county charge, and if he neglected to execute the bond, he was liable to a fine of two hundred dollars. All resident free negroes and mulattoes, before the first day of June following, were to enter their names and every member of their families with the clerk of the circuit court, together with their evidence of freedom. No person was permitted to employ a negro or mulatto without such evidence of freedom under penalty of one dollar and fifty cents per day for each day employed. To harbor any slave or servant, or to hinder the owner in retaking any slave was made a felony punishable by a fine two-fold the value of the slave and a whipping not to exceed thirty stripes. Any negro or mulatto not having a proper certificate of his freedom was deemed a runaway slave subject to arrest; he was to be advertised for six weeks by the sheriff and if no owner appeared, he was sold for one year, at the end of which time he was entitled to a certificate of his freedom, which was good unless an owner appeared and claimed him. No person was permitted to trade with a servant or slave without the consent of the master. A slave found ten miles from home was subject to arrest and to be punished by thirty-five stripes; or, if he appeared at any dwelling without leave of his master, the owner of the dwelling was permitted to give him ten stripes. Unlawful assemblies by slaves or servants were punished by thirty-nine stripes, while in all cases where free persons were punished by a fine, slaves were to be punished by whipping at the rate of twenty stripes for each eight dollars of fine, with the proviso that not more than forty lashes be given at any one time.

At the election in 1822, Edward Coles was elected as the second governor of the State. Four candidates stood for the suffrage of the people. The pro-slavery men brought out Joseph Phillips, who was then chief justice of the supreme court; and subsequently, with a view to keeping Governor Coles from receiving a large number of votes in the southeast part of the State, Judge Thomas C. Browns, of the supreme court, became a candidate. And Major General James B. Moore, of the State militia, also announced his candidacy. Phillips received 2,760 votes; Browns, 2,534; Coles, 2,810, and Moore, 522. Coles had only fifty more than Phillips. It was understood that Phillips and Brown, with a combined vote of 5,303, represented the pro-slavery strength of the State, while Coles and Moore, with a combined vote of 3,332, represented the opposite.

Governor Coles had been private secretary to President Madison and had held a number of important positions. Desiring to come west, on the 5th of March, 1819, he was appointed register of the land office, at Edwardsville. He was the owner of a number of slaves, but upon coming to the State, he gave them their freedom and provided them with homes, but omitted to have them registered as was required by the laws of March 30, 1819.

The legislature convened at Vandalia, on the first Monday in December, 1822. On account of the division of the pro-slavery vote between Phillips and Brown, the anomaly was presented of a legislature containing a large majority in favor of slavery and a governor opposed to the institution. When the Governor delivered his inaugural address before the legislature, he called attention to the fact that slavery really existed in Illinois notwithstanding the provisions of the ordinance of 1787, and urged upon the legislature such remedial legislation as would lead to the emancipation of the slaves, a repeal or revision of the "black laws," and such legislation as would make Illinois a free State in fact.

In the senate this part of his message was referred to a special committee consisting of Beard, of Monroe; Boone, of Jackson; Ladd, of Johnson; Kinney, of St. Clair, and White, of White.

This committee reported to the senate, going over the entire history of the slavery question, stating facts as I have given them. They concluded their report by the statement that "the people of Illinois have now the same right to alter their constitution as the people of the State of Virginia, or any other of the original states, and may make any disposition of Negro slaves they choose, without any breach of faith or violation of compact, ordinance or acts of congress; and if the reasoning employed be correct, there is no other course left by which to accomplish the object of this portion of the Governor's message, than to call a convention to alter the constitution."

This was a most surprising turn of affairs for Governor Coles. In his earnest efforts to make Illinois a free State, he now saw the danger that he might have been the means of laying the foundation for a plan whereby slavery might be fastened upon the State. In the preceding election, it was fully demonstrated that a very large majority of the voters of the State were pro-slavery, and it seemed certain, if a constitutional convention was held, it would undoubtedly frame a pro-slavery constitution.

The Senate committee submitted, with their report, a joint resolution calling a convention. It required a two-thirds vote in each house to pass this resolution. The requisite two-thirds vote was at hand in the Senate, but when the resolution was presented in the House it lacked one vote of the requisite number.

To secure the requisite two-thirds in the House, the convention partisans resorted to proceedings which will, for all time, stand out in history as the most infamous ever known. When the Legislature convened, Nicholas Hansen appeared holding a certificate of election from the counties of Pike and Fulton. His seat was contested by John Shaw, both men being residents of Pike county. The contest was referred to the proper committee, and one week from the day the Legislature convened, the committee unanimously reported, awarding Hansen the seat, and the report was adopted by the House and Shaw returned to his home.

The Senate resolution was permitted to lie quietly on the table in the House because there was uncertainty as to the result in that body. Finally, an original resolution was introduced in the House and received twenty-three votes, one less than was necessary, but Hansen voted for it. One of those who voted against the resolution was won over, and on the 11th of February the Senate resolution was placed on its passage, but, to the consternation of those favoring a convention, Hansen voted against it. The indignation of the convention men knew no bounds. In order to secure the necessary vote, a motion was made to reconsider the vote by which Hansen was awarded a seat. This motion was adopted and the resolution was once more before the House. A member arose and presented to the House an affidavit made on the 28th day of January, in which the affiant gave it as his opinion that Shaw received twenty-nine more votes than Hansen. The majority of the House then struck out the name of Hansen and inserted the name of Shaw in the resolution which had awarded the former the seat. At this time Shaw was at his home in Pike county, utterly oblivious to the fact that he had been made a member of the House by virtue of an *exparte* affidavit, which merely expressed the opinion of one of his friends. A messenger was at once sent for Shaw, as the distance to his home was great, and the time prior to the adjournment of the Legislature was short. Shaw appeared in the House, was sworn in as a member, voted for the Senate resolution to call a convention. The pro-slavery men were wild over their victory—they resorted to every means then known to make public manifestation of their joy. As Governor Reynolds says, "there was at the seat of government a wild and indecorous procession by torchlight and liquor."

Governor John Reynolds, who was a pro-slavery man, in his history says: "This proceeding in the General Assembly looked revolutionary, and was condemned by all honest and reflecting men. This outrage was a death blow to the convention."

Under the Constitution, the vote for and against the convention could not take place until August, 1824. A campaign lasting for eighteen months was at once entered upon. It was not only the longest, but the most bitterly fought of any campaign in the history of Illinois. It was started by each party holding a public meeting at the State capital and issuing an address to the people.

There were only five newspapers in the State, and four of these were in favor of the convention. But the anti-convention people had raised the enormous sum of one thousand dollars to conduct the campaign, and they purchased one of the four papers, and also established two others. Governor Ford says "the contest was mixed up with a perfect lava of detraction. Newspapers, hand bills and pamphlets were scattered broadcast. These missive weapons of a fiery contest were scattered everywhere, and everywhere they scorched and scathed as they flew. Almost every stump in every county had its bellowing, indignant orator, on one side or the other, and the whole people, for the space of eighteen months, did scarcely anything but read newspapers, hand bills and pamphlets, quarrel, wrangle and argue with each other whenever they met together to hear the violent harangues of their orators."

Governor Reynolds said: "The convention question gave rise to two years of the most furious and boisterous excitement and contest that ever visited Illinois. Men, women and children entered the arena of party warfare and strife, and the families and neighborhoods were so divided and furious and bitter against one another that it seemed a regular civil war might be the result. Many personal combats were indulged in on the question, and the whole country seemed at times to be ready and willing to resort to physical force to decide the contest. All the means known to man to convey ideas to one another were resorted to, and practiced with energy. The press teemed with publications on the subject. The stump orators were invoked, and the pulpit thundered anathemas against the introduction of slavery."

I have quoted from these two ex-governors and State historians in order to show the intensity and bitterness of the strife. One of the greatest agencies in the contest was the pulpit, and the leader, Rev. Dr. Peck, a Baptist clergy-

man, who rode over all the southern half of the State, and for seven days in the week, raised his voice in favor of freedom and in opposition to the convention.

When the election occurred in August, 1824, it was found there were 4,950 votes cast for the convention, and 6,822 votes cast against it.

The strongest evidence as to the feeling on this question is found in the fact that the total vote for and against a convention, aggregated 11,612, and at the presidential election in the following November, only 4,707 votes were cast.

The convention men, however, secured some little revenge. As has been noted, Governor Coles had freed his slaves, but had omitted to have them registered. As a result he was sued for violation of the Black Laws, and fined two thousand dollars. Before this suit was finally disposed of, the legislature passed an act releasing all penalties incurred under the act of 1819, and this act the supreme court upheld.

The question now presents itself, why did not the anti-slavery men make a test of the indenture laws in the courts. I presume the reason was that the judges, having been appointed by the legislature, which was pro-slavery, were presumed to hold the same views and would be controlled in their judgment by their political prejudices. However, at the December term, 1828, of the supreme court, that tribunal was called upon to pass upon the validity of the indenture law of 1807. The opinion of the court was delivered by Mr. Justice Samuel D. Lockwood, and it was held that the law of 1807 was void as being repugnant to the ordinance of 1787; but indentures executed under that law are made valid by the third section of the sixth article of the constitution. The court held that the constitution was supreme—that the people, represented in a constitutional convention, and in framing an organic law, could legally do that which a legislature could not do. It was held that accepting the constitution, and admitting the State into the union by Congress, abrogated so much of the ordinance of 1787 as was repugnant to the constitution. In another case at this same term the court decided that registered servants were goods and chattles and could be sold on execution. At the December term, 1831, of the supreme court, that tribunal decreed that the children of negroes and mulattoes registered under the laws of the territory of Indiana and Illinois were free.

At the May term, 1827, of the supreme court of the state of Missouri, that court decided that children of negro slaves in Illinois, born after the ordinance of 1787, were free. Subsequently, another case was decided by the supreme court of Missouri in which the same doctrine was held. This last case was removed to the supreme court of the United States by writ of error. The latter court delivered a very elaborate opinion to show that it had no jurisdiction, but reading between the lines it was easy to see that the majority of the court agreed with the holding of the lower tribunal.

The last legal struggle came before the supreme court of Illinois at the December term, 1845, and the majority of the court decided that the descendants of the old French slaves, born since the adoption of the ordinance of 1787, and before or since the adoption of the constitution of Illinois could not be held in slavery.

The census of 1830 showed 747 slaves in the State, while the census of 1840 showed only 331.

When the constitution of 1848 was adopted, section 16 of the declaration of rights was as follows:

“There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the State, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.”

The adoption of the constitution with this section sounded the death knell to slavery, and from that hour Illinois for the first time became, in fact, a free State.

## XI.

## EARLY REMINISCENCES.

(By A. W. French.)

The remarks I have thought to make to the Historical Society will perhaps be not well pointed, not relevant to one another, possibly not intrinsically interesting, but may serve to beguile a few moments and, it may be, leave something which will cling to the memory as part of our early history.

Some of the reminiscences of my early life in Illinois grow brighter and fresher in memory as they recede in the distance, and recur to the mind unbidden, but not always unwelcome. In 1847 I took steamboat at Buffalo for Sandusky, from that place by stage to Mansfield, then by stage after a few days' stay, to Columbus, a few days at Columbus, and then by stage to Springfield, O., to which a little spur of railroad had reached from Cincinnati—by this railroad to the then ambitious emporium of Ohio. On Sunday evening I took passage on a small steamboat for St. Louis. As was usual with the Ohio in October, it was more easily navigable on foot than by any craft larger than a canoe. There was little depth of water, and at frequent intervals the patient laborers on the deck had to get out the spars and apply the power of the capstan to drag the vessel over the often recurring shallows to a little deeper water, on which it would float along a few miles until the laborious operation had to be repeated.

The Mississippi after passing Cairo, was little better, and on one occasion, while lying stranded, diagonally across the stream, another boat, seeking the channel and coming too close to us, swept away our guard, on which three or four of our passengers were standing, dropping them into the river, where they were left to float away with the guard and rail. It was while so looking over the side of a stranded steamboat that Mr. Lincoln conceived the idea of lifting the boat temporarily till it should pass the bar. He would place an expansible contrivance beneath the boat on the water that should give a lift equal to the occasion and send the vessel on her way; but neither natural philosophy nor mechanics was Mr. Lincoln's "best hold," and he had not provided any power to expand the bag which was to do the lifting with a power equal to the weight of boat and cargo. Mr. Lincoln had, however, sufficient faith in his invention, to take out a patent on it.

What he claimed, was, "a combination of expansible buoyant chambers placed at the sides of the vessel with the main shaft or shafts C, by means of the sliding spurs or shafts D, which pass down through the buoyant chambers and be made fast to their bottoms and the series of ropes and pulleys, or their equivalents in such a manner that by turning the shaft or shafts in one direction, the buoyant chambers will be forced downwards into the water and at the same time expanded and filled with air for buoying up the vessel by displacement of water, and by turning the shaft in an opposite direction the buoyant chambers will be contracted into small space, and secured against injury.



Mr. Lincoln had a small model of his contrivance made and I saw him in 1850 trying its working in the horse trough which then stood at the southwest corner of the square within a few steps of my office.

The next Sunday evening brought St. Louis into view, seven days and two hours on the trip. As we neared the city the lead was constantly cast to give warning of shoals, and here I first learned the words which afterwards became the *nom de plume* now known throughout the civilized world to designate one of America's most pleasing and popular authors, "Mark Twain," alternating with the most dismal and depressing words, "no bottom"—"no bottom," as the lead sunk two fathoms or much more, screamed from the lower deck for the instruction of the pilot aloft, Mr. Clemens was at that time, I think, piloting boats up and down the river. The next day I took passage to go up the river to stop at a place made somewhat famous by tales of another distinguished writer, Mr. Hay, in his "Jim Bledso" and called Gilgal. The island, so called made by the Smy Cante Slough which comes out of the Mississippi above Hannibal and returns to it near Clarksburg, a distance of about 30 miles, was the home of many deer, and I saw them very often. A spot on these swampy plains would raise tens of thousands of geese and ducks—enough to darken the sky for a few moments.

In the spring of 1848 I spent a week or two in Beardstown. This was an ambitious place—had a brick tavern and a landing, and was the entrepot and the outlet of nearly all of the saleable products of a large part of the State. A traveler between Springfield and Beardstown would rarely be out of sight of heavily loaded wagons carrying out the productions or bringing in the merchants' goods. Several religious societies existed in the town of Beardstown and as many efforts had been made to erect places for worship but none of them had been brought sufficiently near completion to be used. So by common consent each church in turn used the courthouse as a place of worship. The Episcopalians would meet in the morning, have their spontaneous singing, responses, united oral prayer while sitting, responsive reading, etc. In the afternoon the Presbyterians would assemble, sing formal hymns first, read to them, rise for prayer, and sit during the singing and enjoy a formal and well studied sermon all with marked due solemnity. In the evening, the Methodists took their turn in the use of the public building, kneeled during prayers, stood in singing and as was their custom in those days relieved any dullness which an observer might feel by individually injecting into the ceremonies a little spontaneity by more than one speaking at the same time in the form ejaculatory agreement with sentiments uttered, etc.

Now, the queerest part of all this is, that with a half dozen exceptions in a full house, exactly the same men and women filled the seats and participated in the worship morning, afternoon and night, adapting themselves so well to what was expected of them by the man in the pulpit, or rather on the rostrum, and fulfilling the requirements of each mode of worship.

While in Beardstown I saw erected two tall masts on either side of the Illinois river for the purpose of conveying the telegraph wires across the river, it not yet having been learned that the current could be carried under as well as over the water. The telegraph was then being built across the State, for the first time and when I arrived in Springfield the first dispatch had been received and been paid for by a collection on the square.

On my way across Cass county I saw in a little place with a rather pretentious name, one of the numerous churches which had little hope of ever being completed. In my eastern home I had often heard from the pulpit appeals for aid for western, particularly Illinois churches, and there was a pretty steady flow of contributions for that purpose and here was one of the products. The building had got itself inclosed, but if doors or windows had been used they were now gone, and a flock of real sheep sought within a shade from the summer sun. A purer congregation is not conceivable, for not a goat was there.

Mr. Ruggles, in his interesting paper read at the last meeting of the Society, alluded to the nomination of Richard Yates to Congress in 1850. The districts in those days were so large, and the means of traveling so primitive and meagre, that it required some patriotism or some other powerful motive to bring a convention together.

The place which had been selected for the convention was Pekin, sixty long miles from Springfield. The delegation from Sangamon county was composed of ten men. There was a sort of carryall in the city, a cheap vehicle with seats running along the sides like those in an omnibus, but far enough from possessing any of the comforts of that conveyance. This, supplied with four horses, was furnished us, and in it we were to spend three long days in the annual hot spell of July, and to travel one hundred and twenty miles. With an early morning start we arrived at Delavan, forty miles, in the evening. With the forecast which first settlers nearly always possess, someone had built at Delavan a large wooden tavern, in the fond expectation of seeing a great city grow up around it. Here we met the delegation from Morgan and another from Logan counties.

Here were men enough to cover the floor of the house, as each laid down where he could. Early the next morning we were on the road to Pekin, 25 miles away, where we arrived before noon. The convention was called to order and the business was soon dispatched by the unanimous nomination of Mr. Yates, that great man, for Congress, who, in another and more responsible office, undoubtedly saved this State from the shame and horror of passing an act of secession from the Union.

Dr. Boal, of Pekin, was the only other candidate mentioned, though there was some expectation that the then last member, Mr. Lincoln, might be named. By the close of the day we had returned to Delavan, where the same agreeable experiences were enjoyed as on the previous night, and by four o'clock on the next day, we were on our way home. The prairie we were now crossing was one of the largest in the State. Grass formed the horizon. Not a tree or a shrub obstructed the view as far as the eye could reach. The beaten path was the width of the wagon and the tall grass whipped the wheels as they passed. About a half hour after sunrise, as our team was trotting slowly along, one of our number who had chosen to ride on the top of the vehicle with the driver, discovered running along before us one of those pretty (to look at) black and white little animals known as *mephitis mustela* (the English name is shorter), so adapting his pace to the speed of our team as to keep out of the way. This gentleman never was lacking in valor or in personal vigor, but had often given his friends reason to question his discretion. The inspiration of a most glorious morning and of the charming scenes with which we were surrounded, together with a fondness for the pursuit of game, disquieted him, and he sprang off and gave chase to the little animal, which kept the path rather than enter the dew laden grass. As missels are entirely wanting on the prairie, when he got near enough to his game he would throw his hat at it, then pick it up and cast again. This pursuit lasted till the tired creature took refuge in the grass and then our hunter came on board again. I need not draw out the story—the hat was left in the road, and our gentleman was requested to ride on deck the rest of the way home. Middletown was able to furnish a hat. The delegation arrived in Springfield late in the evening.

The nomination of Mr. Yates was in accordance with an agreement among the Whig politicians of the district made some years before, on the removal of Gen. E. D. Baker to another district, that the succession should be, after Baker, Lincoln, then Stephen T. Logan, and next Yates.

Major Harris, democrat, of Menard, coming into the field at this time covered with fresh laurels from the war in Mexico, defeated Judge Logan and interfered with the succession, but not with the whig nominations.

## XII.

## THE OLDEST CIVIL RECORD IN THE WEST.

By J. Nick Perrin.

While it may come to pass that in the course of time a nationality will be established in America that shall be characterized by a preponderating element of homogeneity, yet it is too soon to forget that we are the offshoot of European parentage; and in the midst of our national pride let us cherish at least a kindly memory for the European pioneer and immigrant who helped to build the foundation for our magnificent American superstructure.

Three great European streams entered into the discovery, settlement, colonization and civilization of North America: The Spanish in the Southland, the English along the Eastern seaboard, the French in the Northeast. Of these, the French and Spanish influences, constituting the Latin factor, have almost entirely disappeared beneath the weight of the paramount Anglo-Saxon influence, which has very largely impressed itself upon our institutions, in the shape of language, customs and laws supplemented and modified however to a great extent (and salutary extent too) by healthy Germanic and Celtic reinforcement. No matter what reasons we may attribute for this survival, the present fact is patent, that the survival has been accomplished; and the historic fact remains, that in the early stages of our history, those influences which are now scarcely discernible, were potent contributors to the march of progress. Hence it is a matter of historic fairness to render due credit to the Frenchman who in 1535 set foot in the Northeast and discovered the St. Lawrence River; for through this discovery, Canada was peopled by a branch of the world's dominant race; and the great waterway furnished a means to reach the great chain of lakes and thus the Northwest, as it was formerly termed, was opened up and Illinois became an off-spring of the new creation. Tracing our historic ancestry through this lineage, we would be remiss in our historic devotions if we did not worship, in a sensible way of course, at the shrine whereon we find engraved the names of Cartier and Champlain, of Marquette and Joliet and LaSalle.

More than a hundred years had passed and the French domination was recognized in the Northeast where Jacques Cartier had planted the regal arms. In 1670 a treaty was made between the Indians of the Northwest and the French in Canada by which the great Northwest passed to France in consideration of the protection furnished to those northwestern tribes against the encroachments of their eastern hostile neighbors. In this Indian cession was embraced the "Illinois country." Three years later (1673) Marquette and Joliet and their companions made the discovery of the "Illinois country" and planted a mission station among the Kaskaskias in the present LaSalle county.

In 1682 LaSalle descended the Illinois River and the Mississippi to its mouth where he took possession in the name of France, and thus completed the chain of title to the French possessions in North America. LaSalle called the country extending along the Mississippi and its tributaries—"Louisiana." The "Illinois country" then became a part of Louisiana.

In 1718 New Orleans was established and shortly thereafter a French marine station was established there and a marine officer was intrusted with the management of civil affairs. This officer had oversight of the territory

within his jurisdiction in which was included the "Illinois country." The village of the Kaskaskias had been removed from the upper Illinois river to its present site at the junction of the Mississippi and Kaskaskia rivers.

At Fort Chartres and Kaskaskia a notary was stationed whose business it was to look after the civil affairs of the "Illinois country." He kept a register in French. Some years ago I stumbled across this precious historic treasure in the archives of St. Clair county, where it had been buried for a century beneath a mass of documents, and I believe was never consulted by any historian except perhaps Governor Reynolds, whose "Pioneer History" indicates a possibility that he might have had access to this record fifty years ago.

In 1890 I was looking for matter from which to prepare a paper for the St. Clair County Centennial Celebration. St. Clair county was established in 1790 by the Governor of the Northwest Territory—Arthur St. Clair. It embraced all that part of Illinois which extends from Pekin to Cairo and from the Mississippi to the "banks of the Wabash far away." In October, 1795, the county was divided by running a line east and west through the present county of Monroe and all south became Randolph and the north remained St. Clair until later divisions took place. In sorting out the papers, documents and records, this record seems to have been allotted to St. Clair and has evidently remained in the possession of the successive clerks, though possibly without receiving any attention from any except the first clerk who received it, and the present gentlemanly and efficient clerk, who since its rediscovery, shows it with pride to the visiting stranger.

It dates back to 1737 and its entries cover a period from 1737 to 1769. It is bound in hog-hide, the cover having the appearance of being the skin of a pig, shaved and dried. The ends of the bristles are plainly discernible. In my judgment it is the oldest official record in the west containing civil entries. It contains a record of gifts by will, marriage contracts and otherwise. While the entries are not numerous, the book was well kept by the notary and was inspected from time to time by a marine officer who added his approval after examination. The writing is in a remarkable state of preservation. Some of the leaves, however, have been gnawed by the rats. It contains one hundred and forty-six pages and is called *Registre des Insinuations des Donations aux Siege des Illinois*. The first entry is a marriage contract between Louis Normand Labriere and Catherine Clement. There were six entries for the year 1737. The notary was Bertlot Barroir and he signed each one, attesting its genuineness after the French style by simply signing Barroir. There is an approval at the end of each year by Louis Auguste Delalceere Flancour, clerk of the marine department under the French government.

The record is exceedingly interesting in showing the existence of slavery in Illinois in the very earliest times. Thus by entry of September 25, 1751, Paul Bizet gave to Francoise Dizie, the wife of Josephus Braseau (a cousin of Bizet's), at whose house he had been sick, for her services, an Indian slave named Marianne. On November 18, 1751, Mr. and Mrs. Bourbonnais gave to Pierre Aubuchon, who was their son-in-law, an old negro slave, who in the language of the transfer, could only do the ordinary kitchen work and chores. On June 15, 1755, Francois Lacroix gave his property to his children on condition that they maintain him. He enumerates his slaves as one Indian man, two Indian women and one little Indian girl aged seven years. March 14, 1757, Joseph Guignon willed to Mr. Forget his house and negroes except a little negro named Francois aged about ten years.

This in brief is a synopsis of our venerable historic friend, who, a hundred years ago, was buried in his hog-hide, but has recently been resurrected and now claims priority of rank, on account of age, over the civil records of the west. True, the baptismal records at Kaskaskia date back to 1695, and there may be religious and military records which antedate 1737, but among the civil entries where are there any that antedate our hog-hide record? While waiting for competitors to present their claims we shall insist on the proud distinction of having the oldest western civil record right here in Illinois, where we have everything that is great in every material, mental and moral sense. Where we have a domain which in its extent dwarfs the states and

principalities of the old world into mere track patches; on which domain there have sprung up in the short space of two centuries and a quarter enough cities and villages to dot our hills and valleys as thickly as the stars dot the heavens on a clear December night; where we have prairie farms under the highest state of cultivation, whose beauty can not be surpassed by any dream of the hanging gardens of Babylon; where we have rich alluvial bottom soil along our great rivers which can not be equalled by the valleys of the Nile, the Rhine, the Seine, the Danube and the Thames put together; where we have a teeming, pushing population of five millions of energetic people who have built up a commerce whose continuing growth shall outstrip the rest of the world in the next decade; where we have magnificent forests and inexhaustible coal beds; where, in the midst of our harvests, nature smiles upon our prolific grain fields, and upon our orchards and our gardens with their choicest fruits resembling in their beauty that garden which was planted eastward in Eden as the climax of creation; where the God of nature himself looks with favor upon the Illinoisans as his chosen people; and where this chosen people has made a record which will fill the brightest page in universal history; for as we search the register wherein the records of the acts of men are placed we find this page with its vast array of facts which appeals to pride of home and state and whereon are written deeds of men of Illinois. The deeds of such as Lovejoy, who died for freedom's cause; Shields, who buckled on his sword, and wounded fell on Cerro Gordo's field, but rose again, and then in later years rode through the Shenandoah vale for his adopted country's weal; Douglas, who was called the "little giant;" Lincoln, the martyr president; Grant and Logan, who fought the country's battles in its time of greatest need; and Eugene Field, whose tender notes are lullabys in every home where childish forms are rocked to sleep at night.

## XIII.

## ILLINOIS DURING THE REVOLUTION.

(By Mrs. Laura Dayton Fessenden.)

While the revolting colonies were sending "committees of gentlemen" to "assist in adjusting, and framing certain articles of confederation," that portion of the North American continent now bordered by Wisconsin, Lake Michigan, Indiana, the Ohio river, Missouri and Iowa (then part of the Northwestern Territory; now the State of Illinois), was for the most made up of stretches of prairie land broken here and there with forests, and touched by a great inland sea.

The inhabitants were aborigines and a few French and English settlers; the latter—the French and the English—had in several localities formed villages, and established trading posts. The flag of Great Britain flaunted its colors over block house and stockade; and the Governor was a French-English gentleman, Chevalier de Rocheblau by name; and he held office for the English crown in the Illinois and elsewhere from 1775 to 1781, when upon his retirement he received from His Gracious Majesty, King George, twelve hundred pounds sterling for his services.

During his services in the Northwestern Territory, Chevalier Rocheblau occupied, with his wife and children, a large log house within the stockade at Kaskaskia.

Kaskaskia was founded in 1682 as a mission station. In 1721 the Jesuits established a college and monastery there, and, by reason of liberal grants from France to the religious establishment mentioned, Kaskaskia soon became the trade center of the central Mississippi valley.

In the year 1778—the year that brought our Illinois into the colonies, or states, of North America—Kaskaskia had two hundred and fifty dwellings and a Roman Catholic church. The college was even at that time becoming a memory—a memorial to those pious ones who, in Christ's name, and for His dear sake, had come to the new world wilderness to seek and to save souls.

We all realize how much of purpose lives on when individual effort has ceased to be; we all know that "all houses wherein men have lived and died are haunted houses;" that "owners and occupants of earlier date from graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands, and hold in mortmain still their old estates." 'Tis thus our little lives are kept in equipoise, by opposite attractions, from and through the influence of unseen stars, that form for us a bridge of light on which wander our thoughts.

Marquette had tarried long in these solitudes teaching the only lesson Heaven has ever asked earth to learn, the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of man. Paul Alloues had left preferment and many honors in sunny France that he might lift from a dying saint's shoulder the mantle of self-denial, and take from the bared head the crown of self-sacrifice. May not these consecrations have yielded untold, uncalculated spiritual harvests?

However that may be, the spirit of Kaskaskia was kindly enlightened and generous. The children attended a school, and any Indian thirsting for knowledge was cordially welcomed by the master—the priest of the settlement, and was faithfully instructed. The Kaskaskians were not content to take as the limit of their life the happenings within the stockade about their town; they were eager for news from beyond, and enjoyed discussing all that came to their knowledge of distant transpiring events with interest and intelligence.

This attitude finally succeeded in alarming Monsieur the Governor, and he made it his duty mirthful, scornfully mirthful, when reverting to the so-called Federal uprising to the eastward. This in the beginning had some effect; for the Northwestern Territory was so remote from the revolting colonies that for a year or more after the actual beginning of the American Revolution, the people of Kaskaskia were content to accept Chevalier Rocheblane's statements, such as that the Virginians were cannibals, and worthy the title of "Long Knives," and that the rest of the rebel crew were but a scattered company of ragged curs speedily to be whipped, by the English, into cringing subjection.

With a certain amount of belief, but by degrees the truth began to dawn upon their minds, through narrations brought to them by new settlers, hunters, traders and trappers, they came to know that there were grievous causes, in many given directions, calling upon the colonists for vengeance, and then it came to pass that the younger men of the settlement were missing.

At this juncture it seemed best to Chevalier Rocheblane to call the white men and the Indian chiefs together for a conference. When all were assembled they were bidden to renew their individual oath of allegiance to King George. This done, the white men were allowed to depart; the braves were detained until the Governor should offer them gold for successful depreatory incursions upon any border settlement known to be friendly to the American cause. The Governor also offered a separate and much larger allowance, or reward, for all the scalps of men, women and children secured during these slaughtering, pillaging and burning excursions.

It is written that the Indians listened in silence to the Governor until his conclusion; that then the chief sachem arose and made this reply: "My English brother with a French name and title who calls himself in the French tongue, an Englishman, has made his offer to us too late; for the American colonists will give us a much larger reward for live, unscalped English prisoners."

The year 1778 was a memorable one, as our American histories show; let us most briefly recall the incidents. In February of 1778, the English parliament passed two bills virtually conceding to the colonies all that had before been refused them; and commissioners were appointed to be sent across the Atlantic to make many concessions, and, if possible to adjust the existing differences. It was in February of 1778, that France acknowledged the independence of America, and concluded the treaty of commerce and alliance with the revolted colonies. It was in June of that year, that the British army evacuated Philadelphia and retreated to New York, followed cautiously by Washington with the main body of his army. In the same month the commissioners arranged for in February, in London, met with such a cool reception in the new world.

On the 21st of June the battle of Monmouth was fought, and disastrous as was our failure at the outset, the British finally met with signal defeat, and with great loss retreated to Sandy Hook; and it was in and through that victory the tattered army of the Continentals took heart of grace and stirred up reserves of courage with which to meet the bitter losses of Wyoming and Savannah that were to knell out the year. But there is still another incident of 1778 to recall. On the 4th day of July of that year our Illinois was born. Her birth cry was the shout the American soldiers gave when the English flag was lowered, and Colonel George Rogers Clark assumed command of the town of Kaskaskia.

In order to understand the detail of Clark's campaign, we must go back to the beginning of 1777, when it chanced that Virginia's attention was drawn to the fact that through some forgotten charter, now unearthed, she was entitled to claim, as part of her territory, all that is now the State of Illinois—and much more beside.

Following the example of Israel's great law-giver, Patrick Henry, governor of the province of Virginia, said: "We will send men before us, and they shall search out the land and bring us word again which way we shall go up, and possess this new Hebron." And the men went up and searched, and brought word again, saying: "It is a goodly land of forests and prairies. Rivers like silver ribbons thread the earth, and within its borders there is a great inland ocean. The prairies are treeless, save where one here and there comes upon a grove like an island in an emerald sea. The air is redolent with the fragrance of violets; then as summer comes follows a train of brilliant blossoms; and when the flower queen abdicates her throne, and autumn stoops to secure the crown from nature's hands, the tall prairie grasses—often growing to the height of nine feet—turn to a dull yellow, and then, as far as the eye can reach, one looks upon an endless field of undulating gold. Birds sing, bees hum, and through the glade wild things, both men and beasts, wander at will."

This was in substance the report that the trappers brought back to Virginia, and in consequence thereof, on the 10th day of December, 1777, Governor Patrick Henry held grave converse with George Wythe, George Mason and Thomas Jefferson; the subject in question being, shall we, or shall we not, as the State of Virginia, and at our individual and personal expense, as a state, send out a regiment into the Northwestern Territory to capture, and then to hold, the town of Kaskaskia, and such other small settlements as shall be named; and proving successful in this encounter, shall we not then proclaim Virginia the rightful owner of the entire territory?

The decision was unanimously affirmative; and it was then resolved to make their intentions publicly known and to report it in such plain and simple wording that all would understand that the regiment to be raised was for the specified purpose thereof. It was not to be listed into the already too heavily burdened Continental army; and its officers and men were to be impressed with the fact that no pension could ever come to them, or to their legal survivors, for military services, from the United States government. Governor Henry and his associates were pleased to consider that "the prospects attending upon the adventure were encouraging because of the fact of Burgoyne's failure," and it seemed to them "that the proposed regiment might, with comparative safety, carry war into the enemy's country at a point so remote and so feebly guarded."

The man selected as leader of this expedition, as we have said, was George Rogers Clark. Like Washington, Clark had been in his younger manhood a surveyor; then, with Boone and Crawford, he had seen active service during the western border warfare of 1775, '76 and '77, and perhaps more than any other Indian fighter, he realized what success in conquest would come in time to mean to the United States of America. In an old manuscript we find these words: "George Rogers Clark may compare with any general of our Revolution, except the 'Matchless One,' for he has decision, intrepidity, energy, forethought and good sense; he is the best soldier that ever led troops against the Indians, and he knows better than any other man living how to control these uncontrollable beings." And never before in all border warfare, had the Indians been so hard to manage. You see, for a century and a half they had been fighting the power of Great Britain; now the red coats were with them, offering the tribes protection, lands and gold in exchange for the scalp of every white brother who wore the buff and blue.

In their bewilderment the Indians often mistrusted the Redcoats—as they called the British—and inclined to the "Bostonians," as they called the Americans. Thus they wavered, now towards the one, then towards the other. The cause of this was the loss of integrity of the tribes. Pontiac was dead. Tecumseh was a little child, and Brand lacked something in training, inheritance and tone to constitute him an efficient leader. It was this lack of guidance that Clark recognized and took advantage of.



Colonel Clark was ordered to recruit seven companies, of fifty men each; and was to be allowed provisions for three months' service, and to be furnished with six hundred dollars in money. He was only able to obtain four companies. (You can easily understand why, when you recall how many Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution claim Virginia as their mother State.) The captains of these four companies were Joseph Brown, John Montgomery, William Harrod and Leonard Helm. On the 24th of June, 1778, with 180 private soldiers, this unlisted regiment set out from Louisville and ascended the falls of the Ohio. This was done in keel boats with double manned oars, and by having relays of rowers; and so, not stopping night or day, they reached, on the 28th of June, an island at the mouth of the Tennessee, upon which Clark landed his men.

On that island they found a party of American hunters under the leadership of a man named John Duff. These men had only left Kaskaskia three days previous to this meeting with Clarke's regiment, and much valuable information in many directions was elicited from them; and Col. Clark was glad to accept the offer of one of the hunters, John Saunders, to guide them to the town. So, on this same night Clark ran all his boats into a small creek, about a mile from the then Fort Massac, and after a few hours rest, without horses, baggage, wagons, or artillery, he began the march across the country to Kaskaskia, 120 miles distant.

The way lay through swamps and wilderness, but "wandering on by fragrant tangle and drift-choked streams," came the pioneer guard, scorching the trees as they marched for the old bazed road, that settlers might follow, and following, so come with their wives and their worldly gear to live, to labor, to plant and to rear a solid base for our future State—small worth in the "gear," but hope made it great. They frightened the deer from his noonday lair; they scared the fox to his gloomy den; they ruffled the temper of the wolf and bear, and echoed the catamount's scream again; but midway on the journey Saunders lost the trail! Col. Clark's men, and most of his officers, believed Saunders to be a British spy, and declared that he was decoying them into a trap; but Clark, a student of human nature, laughed at these theories and would not listen to a majority suggestion of hanging Saunders on the first convenient limb. Happily for all concerned, Saunders proved not unworthy of Col. Clark's confidence, for, after much marching and counter-marching, the guide recognized a familiar object in the landscape and rediscovered the trail.

So it came to pass, that after a six days' tramp, with only four days provisions to subsist upon, the command arrived within three miles of Kaskaskia on the late afternoon of July 4, 1778. Little did Chevalier Rochablaue dream that his power would so soon be a thing of the past as he sat beside his table, ink horn, drying sand, quill and paper before him, pouring out his woes to the Governor General at Quebec. His letter held such bits as these: "I am, monsieur, discouraged. No words in English can fittingly express my despair. These settlers—*Mon Dieu!* what settlers they are! There is not one among them loyal to our great and good Majesty, King George; and they are bold; they converse much concerning the Colonial troubles—*ma fois*, it is a bad trouble; but for all that, our young men are running away to join Mr. Washington's army, helped thither by the Indians and traders. Why! this very day, Governor, I heard with my own ears my daughter singing a rebel song as she sat at her wheel. And when I questioned her as to where she got the ballad she made answer that it had been writ by the priest and then by him set to a melody. Now if the shepard is so minded, what will the sheep do? *Viola!* The sheep they follow, and that my Governor may behold the spirit of Kaskaskia I copy the song.

## SONG.

'Twas a day in May, the sky was fair,  
A wealth of fragrance filled the air,  
From wildwood blossoms on bush and tree  
All the birds were singing; the drowsy bee  
Was abroad and taking his board  
From the deep-throated flowers of Kaskaskia.

In a trapper's hut in a forest glade  
Beside her wheel sat a little maid;  
She was singing a ballad quaint and sweet,  
And these are the words she did repeat,  
That morning in Kaskaskia.

Dear heart, sweetheart, where e'er thou be  
'Tis dreaming ever I am of thee,  
Praying that love, like a guiding star  
May bear you this message where e'er you are  
'Tis this, sweetheart, I loved you here  
Here, in the woods of Kaskaskia.

'Dear heart, sweetheart, where e'er thou be,  
'Tis dreaming ever I am of thee,  
Praying that love like a guiding star  
Will bear you this message wherever you are:  
'Tis this, sweetheart, I love you dear,  
Love you there as I loved you here,  
Here in the woods of Kaskaskia.'

"Oh, Monsieur, there is, I fear me, more than *billet d'amour* in this singing. It comes to me that when sweethearts march to meet a foe to such love-love-laden encouragement that God alone can save those they go to do battle with. I must have more troops here to save my people; for, hark you, it is said the Spanish threaten Kaskaskia, and that Chevalier Willing, of Philadelphia, is somewhere on the Mississippi shouting for Liberty; and his followers are constantly increasing."

As Rocheblauze thus wrote the twilight fell, and then deepened, and ere long faded into a night amid whose protecting shadows Colonel Clark and his little band came to the river bank where stood the ferry house with its empty anchored boats—the ferry house just one mile above Kaskaskia. The ferryman and his family were taken prisoners, and in two hours from that time, the Colonel and his four companies had crossed the river and gained possession of the town. Let us hear Colonel Clark's own description of the encounter: "Upon landing I divided my regiment into two divisions, ordering half to surround the town; with the rest I broke into the Fort and secured the Governor. In less than fifteen minutes after our arrival the place was ours. My men went from house to house securing all firearms, and forbidding people, on penalty of instant death, to come to either doors or windows. Before daylight we had possession of every implement of warfare that the town possessed. Early in the morning I commanded all persons not bed-ridden to assemble in the college, and then I told them the story of the American Revolution, and in conclusion said: 'Virginia is giving her bravest and best to the cause; the Virginia to whom from this hour you owe allegiance. Through me she bids you welcome; not as captives, but as brethren; through me she holds out the hand of fellowship to the Northwestern Territory.' Then the Kaskaskians flocked about me, striving with one another who should be first to take the oath of allegiance to Virginia. Thus we Americans have gained a bloodless victory. I next sent a courteous note to his Honor, the Governor, asking him to dine with me; but he was so deficient and wanting in courtesy that it seemed best in the interests of good government that the gentlemen in question be sent at once from Kaskaskia to Williamsburg as a hostage of war."

George Rogers Clark, the maker of Illinois, had no honor shown him on his victorious return to Virginia. This leader; this master spirit; this man of generous energy and enterprise; this man who first saw the great benefit it would be to the cause to meet the British beyond the mountains instead of suffering them to unite and concentrate the whole power of the Indians north and south upon the scattered positions along the mountain range, and by so doing create a powerful diversion for the English troops who were then hunting the bleeding Continentals from Long Island to Germantown. This man was set aside to give temporary place to many little lights long since blown out and individually forgotten.

It had been authoritatively stated that his lack of public appreciation was a bitter sorrow to Clark. Late in his life when the shadows of age were falling thick and fast; when he stood upon the sands of time that border the eternal ocean, when his life tide was going out, Virginia awoke to a realizing sense

of what this soldier had done for her, and, through her, for the United States of America. The legislature of Virginia voted him a splendid gold-hilted sword in recognition of his services, which he declined. To the messenger who bore it to him, and found him in squalid poverty, the old hero said: "Tell Virginia that when she needed a sword I furnished it. Now, I want no sword, I want bread."

George Rogers Clark did not live to know that his regiment was listed into the Continental army; that his officers and men were enrolled upon the pension lists. He could not dream that after many years there would be words of praise, and statues to his memory. The recalling of heroic men; of heroic times; heroic deeds, can only be useful when considered from Emerson's standpoint. "The past," he says, "is for us; but the sole terms on which it can become ours is through its application to our present needs."

## XIV.

## IN MEMORIAM.

## LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES OF HON. JOHN M. PALMER.

By Euclid B. Rogers.

It was once claimed that the genius of a nation was the creation of a single life: that remarkable ages were the outcome to remarkable individuals. To a certain extent that claim was true, but this is no less true, that the individual of mark represents, as well as creates, a state, a people, an age. John M. Palmer was not only creator, generator, cause, but he was also fruit, effect, result. There are books that nourish and strengthen: "pasturage of noble minds" they have been called. Life is a great thing, to be a man is a big thing, and that man who has been so much of a man as to have mastered the art of living becomes leader, inspirer, helper. Intellectual freedom and spiritual insight can only go and grow as they are lighted and guided. All ambitious spirits need men who hold lights close down upon the pathways of life: not soaring geniuses like Shakespeare, not philosophical giants like Spencer, but lives that beget such practical stuff as courage and force and nobility and common honesty. Such a man was John M. Palmer, and the service of his life in vitalization, inspiration and sustaining power of the largest and best in life is beyond expression. The subject is so large as to require no decking out, no working up. About him as the central figure there will cluster men, events, principles, history. It requires a large canvas on which to paint his life. A plain, simple recitation of fact, a condensed biographical sketch, with here and there a glance at conspiring cause and natural result is the pleasant task of this hour.

John McAuley Palmer, coming from Scotch Irish stock on his father's and English-Welch on his mother's side, was born in Scott county, Kentucky, on the 13th day of September, 1817. His parents were poor, pious and strong, and they wanted their boys to grow up good, strong men. In 1819 the family moved to Christian county, Kentucky. In 1829 or 1830 the neighborhood was greatly excited over what was called a "rising of the negroes," and patrols were appointed to hunt them and chastise them. If found on any man's premises without a pass signed by his owner the slave could be taken and flogged. Saturday night was chosen by patrols for their visitation, as this was the time selected by negro men to visit their wives and sweethearts. The Palmer family had a negro woman by the name of "America" whose husband "Abram" came one Saturday night to visit her, and about 9 o'clock the patrol surrounded the house to which the kitchen was attached and prepared to force the door. Mr. Louis D. Palmer, the father of the house, met them and objected to their entering his premises, and he was so firm and decided that they left the house threatening him with the law. The next morning he declared that he wouldn't live in a state where such scenes could occur, and announced his determination to leave Kentucky and remove to the free state of Illinois. In April of 1831 arrangements were perfected, and the family, consisting of seven boys and one girl, started for Illinois, John M. waiting until the fall of that year, and settled in Madison county, north of Edwardsville, on Paddock's Prairie, about ten miles east of Alton.

At 15 years of age young Palmer accepted General Semple's offer to accompany him on his campaign in the Black Hawk war, subject to the approval of his father. His father said "No," and that settled it: John didn't go. In the spring of 1833 he drove a prairie team, four yokes of oxen attached to a 24 inch plow, at eight dollars per month. In 1834 the subject of his education came up and his father told him that he would "give him his time," and he might go and get an education. That thrilled his heart and he was so excited with the thought that he had to leave the room. (That's a sacred hour and that a hallowed spot where an aspiring young heart begins to sprout its wings for flight.) After recovering his composure he returned to the room where his father sat. There was silence for a time—who knows what thoughts went through that father's mind, and what prayers went up from that father's heart?)—and then with tears in his eyes the father said: "I have no money to expend for your education but a healthy boy as you are needs no help. You may go tomorrow morning: I give you your time. Don't disgrace me: may God bless you." The student, the teacher, the lawyer, the judge, the general, the governor, the senator, never forgot that day and that place and that scene.

Next morning he started on foot, without money or change of clothes. The brothers and the dogs went with him to the top of the hill a mile away, and yonder on the bluff stood the father, watching his seventeen-year-old boy as he goes out to face the world. What prayers, what God bless yous, what benedictions were showered on the boy who was leaving home—you fathers and mothers know full well.

A manual labor school had been started at Upper Alton and that was his destination. On entering the town he saw a new house going up and the plastering was being done. He applied for the job of mixing and carrying mortar. He got it, and when he had finished the work he bought a shirt and pair of socks and had five dollars left, and so he entered Shurtleff College, paying his way for two years by cutting down and grubbing out a long row of trees, coopering, and doing odd jobs on Saturdays.

In May, 1837, he began selling clocks for a Connecticut firm, and in October, in Hancock county, while pursuing his business as a clock peddler, he first met Stephen A. Douglas. You'll be interested in knowing how it happened. After Mr. Breed, his partner, and Mr. Palmer had retired to their room, with two beds, the landlord went to the room with two gentlemen and introduced them as "Mr. Stewart" and "Mr. Douglas," opposing candidates for Congress." The landlord told Messrs. Palmer and Breed that they would have to occupy one bed and these gentlemen the other. Douglas then asked Palmer and Breed their politics. Breed was a Whig, Palmer a Democrat. Douglas replied, "Stewart, you are a Whig, you sleep with the Whig, and I'll sleep with the Democrat," an arrangement which was pleasing to all concerned. The next day Palmer heard Douglas speak, and in the August following cast his first vote for him, and was his devoted political friend until the Nebraska bill separation.

On the 20th of March he arrived in Carlinville, then a village of four hundred inhabitants, where his brother, Rev. Elihu J. Palmer, was pastor of the Baptist church. He had intended settling in Bloomington, but was persuaded by his brother to remain in Macoupin county. He began the study of the law: Blackstone and Coke on Littleton, with Hargrave and Butler's notes were his text-books. Never wonder at the accomplishment of men with so meagre outward furniture. Some men are more of a college than any college. They carry a university with a thousand doors and windows all wide open on their shoulders. In speaking of Daniel Webster, Theodore Parker once said: "It takes time and the sweat of oxen and the shouting of drivers, goading and whipping, to get a cart load of eider to the top of Mt. Washington; but the eagle flies there on his own wide wings and asks no help. Daniel Webster had little academic furniture to help him—he had the mountains of New Hampshire and his own great mountain of a head." Not a bad outfit. John M. Palmer had common sense, a brave heart and a big head, qualifications that no college can supply and no millionaire buy for his booby son. His education did not depend on text-book and master. The world was his text-book and his own will his master. Thus equipped he entered the law

office of Mr. John S. Greathouse. While a student he ran for county clerk against the late John A. Chestnut, of our city, but was defeated. December 11, 1839, he was admitted to the bar, his license to practice in the courts being signed by Thomas C. Brown and Theophilus W. Smith, the then justices of the Supreme Court. While here in Springfield at that time, he saw for the first time Lincoln, Baker, Alexander P. Field and O. H. Browning, all giants of that gigantic era. His first cause in the circuit court was tried before Judge Sidney Breese, who afterwards played so distinguished a part in the political and judicial annals of the State.

Then came on the bitter political contest of 1840, when General Harrison and VanBuren were pitted against each other, with such leading Whigs as E. D. Baker, Lincoln, Browning, John Hogan, a Methodist preacher, while Douglas, Breese, Lamborn and Calhoun championed the Democracy. No fight was ever more strongly contested. Young Palmer was a Democrat from principle and voted for VanBuren.

In 1842, December 20, Mr. Palmer married Malinda Ann Neely and they began housekeeping in a hewed log house which stood upon the ground now occupied by the Macoupin county court house. Ten children were born to them, and on the 9th of May, 1885, the wife and mother died. In that early day law and politics were part and parcel of each other. Every lawyer was a politician, and after court had adjourned speeches were made. The people expected it and demanded it, and there were always plenty of lawyer-politicians to fill the bill. Popularity at the bar depended not so much on legal lore as on the ability to make a stump speech. In 1843 Mr. Palmer was elected "probate justice of the peace," an office which was abolished by the Constitution of 1848. In June of 1847 he was a member of the constitutional revision convention and offered resolutions that showed he was a thinker on great public questions. Banks, courts, education and other paraphernalia of state, on all of which matters Mr. Palmer had a well digested opinion. On the 25th of June a resolution was offered directing the committee on the "Bill of Rights" to report a clause for the new Constitution prohibiting free negroes from hereafter settling in this State and to prevent owners of slaves from bringing them here and freeing them. Mr. Palmer opposed any constitutional provision whatever in regard to negroes, on the ground that it would raise objection on the part of many men to the Constitution as a whole. "Why," said he in his opposing speech, "why unnecessarily provoke a battle against the Constitution? Intemperance on one side is as objectionable as intemperance on the other. Every impulse of my heart and every feeling is in opposition to slavery, and if my acts or votes here would do anything to ameliorate the condition of those held in bondage, no man would exert himself more zealously than I; no one would do more to remove the great stain of moral guilt now upon this great republic." That speech had more of heat and heart in it than anything that was said during that session. He dared to take his stand on the rock of right back there in 1847. That speech cost him his re-election for probate justice of the peace, but manly eyes began to be turned toward John M. Palmer, and manly hearts began to feel that John M. Palmer was on the road to fame.

In May of 1848, Mr. Palmer was elected to the vacancy of probate justice of the peace, and under the new Constitution he was elected county judge of Macoupin county. In 1851 he was elected to the State Senate and his name appears on several committees and as the introducer of bills of importance. In caucus and in joint session he voted for Douglas for United States senator. It was at this session of the General Assembly that John A. Logan introduced "An act to prevent the immigration of negroes into this State," the provisions of which Mr. Palmer characterized as an example of barbarity which could only be excused by the prejudices of the people of Southern Illinois.

Now we're in the midst of exciting days. Great questions are on and they must be grappled and settled by great minds. We are living in the year 1851. A year ago last January Henry Clay submitted to the United States Senate a series of resolutions relating to slavery. On Thursday, the 7th of March, the Senate chamber was packed. Walker, of Wisconsin, and Seward, of New York, yielded the floor to their colleague from Massachusetts. They knew and everybody knew that every man in that great audience was there to hear

the Massachusetts senator. Mr. Webster rose and began: "Mr. President. I wish to speak today not as a Massachusetts man, not as a northern man, but as an American, and a member of the Senate of the United States," and then followed that great oration which has been titled a speech "For the Constitution and the Union." Peaceable secession was in all the air, and Mr. Webster's desire was to drive it out. His claim was that it was poison to freedom, and that eventually it would choke the Union to death. Who will ever forget his words? "Peaceable secession! Peaceable secession! The concurrent agreement of all the members of this great republic to separate! A voluntary separation with alimony on one side and on the other! What would be the result? Where is the line to be drawn? What states are to secede? What is to remain American? What am I to be? An American no longer? Am I to become a sectional man, a local man, a separatist, with no country in common with the gentlemen who sit around me here, and who fill the other house of Congress? Heaven forbid! Where is the flag of the republic to remain? Where is the eagle still to tower? or is he to cower and shrink and fall to the ground? Why, sir, our ancestors, our fathers and our grandfathers, those of them that are yet living amongst us with prolonged lives, would rebuke and reproach us, and our children and our grandchildren would cry out shame upon us if we of this generation should dishonor these ensigns of the power of government, and the harmony of that union which is daily felt among us with so much joy and gratitude." Noble words from a noble mind! But the speech as a whole was a disappointment. The south applauded, but brave hearts at the north felt that the Massachusetts Samson had been shorn of his locks. From that time on Daniel Webster was looked upon with suspicion by many men whose watchword was "liberty for all." Men felt that this native king had become somebody's peasant. They felt that social wells had been poisoned by his compromise measures, and the imperial scepter wielded by the Massachusetts Jupiter shriveled into a common stick. For days a silent, solemn sadness brooded over all. Men pitied, men wept, men thought and thought deeply, but felt

"Dumb be passion's stormy rage,  
When he who might  
Have lighted up and led his age  
Falls back in night."

For days, I say, there was a hush, and then the storm broke out. Faneuil hall spoke on the 25th of March, and then the great question was propounded, "Shall we extend slavery or shall we shut it up?"

Let's go back and rehearse our national history on the subject. In 1774 an agreement was made forbidding further importation of slaves. In 1776 we promulgated our vital tenet that all men are created equal. In 1778 came the Confederacy with no provision for the surrender of fugitive slaves. In 1787 Mr. Jefferson's celebrated proviso forever shut out slavery from the Northwest Territory. In 1788 the Constitution with its guarantees. In 1800 the seat of government was transferred from Philadelphia to the District of Columbia. Congress moved south and our federal government has its headquarters on slave soil. Through all the years that change meant much. In 1820 slavery was legally established in the territory west of the Mississippi, south of 36 degrees, 30 minutes. In 1845 Texas came into the Union as a slave state. In 1848, by conquest and treaty we acquired California and New Mexico with 204,383 square miles south of the slave line. And then in 1850, when the author of the Missouri compromise of 1820 proposed to consolidate all past compromises involving slavery, covering disputed subjects of territory, partial abolition in the District of Columbia and the rendition of fugitive slaves, into one "omnibus bill" of thirty-nine sections, the excitement grew intense. Hearts began to beat fast; blood began to boil and lips to flame. Abolitionism began to take on flesh; lights began to kindle all through the north and east, and they blazed like stars in all our sky.

Some modern historians are wont to speak slightly of the efforts of the abolitionists of that elder day. Wendell Phillips, at Faneuil hall, and wherever he could get free speech, with heart of mercy and lips that had been touched by coals from off the altar of liberty's great God, was thundering and lightning against the governmental sin. Lloyd Garrison was publishing

the Liberator, defying mobs and using a trip-hammer that drove his sentiments home to the hearts of men. Theodore Parker rocked New England from the rostrum of the Melodeon, and Henry Ward Beecher preached to the continent from the pulpit of Plymouth church. No influence in shaping policies? Halo too bright and too wide about their sacred forms? Never. The agitation of those days agitated, the movers of that era moved things and moved men. They felt and made others feel that "They enslave their children's children, who compromise with sin." Some men in Illinois were beginning to say "Amen" to that sentiment. Neither nations nor eras are created by acts of parliament or congress, nor are they made by treaties. Nations grow and ages grow from men, and out of the awful travail of the moral forces of these days in the '50's sprung men to form heroic purposes and do noble deeds. John M. Palmer heard the torrent and the storm, drew near, and about it all there was something large and sublime that appealed to something large and sublime within. Instead of shrinking before the majesty of the occasion his mind and heart dilated—instead of fear he'll be a hero when the hour strikes.

Eighteen hundred fifty-four and the Kansas-Nebraska bill came on apace. "Let the citizens of the territory settle the question: if they want slavery let them have it. If not, let it be prohibited." That was the gist of "squatter sovereignty," and its chief champion was Mr. Palmer's political idol, Stephen A. Douglas. At the special session of the Legislature, on the 9th day of February, 1854, a resolution endorsing Douglas' action in the United States Senate was introduced. Mr. Palmer was present and heard the resolution. He was a Democrat, and so much of a Democrat as he'd follow no man, not even Douglas, and no party, not even his own Democratic party, against his convictions of right and duty. That was John M. Palmer in 1854, and that was John M. Palmer to the day of his death. The time had come to act and he acted; he always took opportunities as vessels take the tides, as swimmers take the surf, and at once you see him on the very crest of the occasion. He prepares and presents a resolution as a substitute wherein he condemned any restrictions upon the introduction of slavery in the new territories imposed thereon by the Missouri compromise. Mr. Palmer's resolution was lost, and differing from his party in regard to important measures, he held himself aloof from its councils.

But I must hasten. Events thicken. The months are packed with historic interest. Palmer, as an independent candidate, had beaten the regular, Major Burke, for the Senate and was one of the Democrats who helped to defeat Shields and Matteson and elect Judge Trumbull to the United States Senate. Then came the "anti-slavery extension convention" at Bloomington, where all sorts of big men got together and aired big views—Whigs and Democrats and Abolitionists. In June of 1856, Mr. Palmer was present as a delegate to the first national Republican convention, held in Philadelphia, and placed in nomination for the vice-presidency the candidate who received the largest number of votes given to any man except the successful nominee, William L. Dayton, of New Jersey. That candidate's name? Abraham Lincoln.

The Democrat of Democrats was now a black, black Republican, and from this time on his history is an open book. By his personal influence he contributed to the nomination of Mr. Lincoln for the presidency in 1860. Then came the great division among men. Americans were divided into two parts, those who wanted slavery and wanted it to last, and those who hated it and meant it to die. The nation became a boiling gulf in which was perpetual conflict of acid and alkali, and the bubbles on the surface were men. An awful era. Men and principles were ground to powder, while other men and principles waxed sturdy and strong. Our sky grew black as night and then came Fort Sumter and the next morning, the sublimest hour in history—1640 in England, 1791 in France, 1775 in Colonial America were proud moments, but they meant their own freedom, there was self in them all, but 1861 meant utter and exact justice to an enslaved, helpless, hated race. Judge Palmer's valued and valuable assistance to Governor Yates in raising troops, his record as a warrior, his love for his men and his men's love for their general, are matters of common knowledge. They're written in the history of our State



and nation, and written large. Stone River, Lookout Mountain and Chickamauga will forever keep his military career green in the memory of his countrymen.

In 1867 General Palmer removed to this city and began the practice of law in partnership with Hon. Milton Hay. In '68 he was elected Governor and set himself to the herculean task of re-establishing and maintaining orderly, constitutional government throughout the State. He opposed many bills enacted by the Legislature on the ground of their extravagance and recklessness, and his book of vetoes has become a classic in that sort of literature. The Chicago fire and the subsequent friction between himself, as governor, and Gen. Grant, as president, are incidents that show the make-up of the man. He never contended for contention's sake, but when principle was involved he saw something worth fighting for and he fought.

In 1876 Governor Palmer, although favoring the resumption of specie payment, felt that "tariff reform" was the prominent issue, and he accordingly supported Samuel J. Tilden for the presidency. On the 4th of April, 1888, he was married to Mrs. Hannah L. Kimball, and their beautiful devotion to each other during these years has been remarked and admired by all their fellow-citizens.

His nomination for Governor by the democrats and his defeat by Gov. Fifer, although he ran 10,000 ahead of his ticket; his canvas for the senatorial office in 1890, and his subsequent election, are matters of recent history, known to all. It took courage that was nothing short of heroic to take his stand in '96 and permit his name to head the ticket for the Gold Democrats. And so his life was passed at work, busy to the last. Mr. Beecher in his sermon on "A Completed Year," said: "I love those streams that run full clear to the ocean. Some men there are who are like mountain streams, torrent fed, that boom in the spring with wondrous glory and fullness of power and go rushing through the earlier months, but slacken their speed and by midsummer are only a trickling reminiscence of the river. I like to think of streams like the old Merrimac, that begin work up near their headwaters and never run a league without turning some mighty wheel of industry, and have no vacation to the end, but go into the sea with the very foam on their surface." That was Senator Palmer, full-hearted and full-handed to the very last.

Now let us take a stern, careful, critical look at this life. In the first place he was a man and kept himself Antaenslike full-stretched along the ground of common things. The well-known line of Terence well fitted him: "I am a man, and nothing that concerns a man do I deem a matter of indifference to me." He was a real man and real men are rare. Most men are like other men. Only now and then does a man appear to be himself, and such a man is always subject to remark, that is, he is remarkable—worth a second look.

Have you heard Senator Palmer called politically inconsistent? What does "consistent" mean? It means "to stand with;" with whom? the crowd? The crowd doesn't stand—it wavers, vacillates, oscillates, tosses and tumbles like the sea. About consistency there is the idea of fixedness, compactness. It means to stand firm with one's self. In the spirit of defiance Pope says:

"Show me one that has it in his power  
To act consistent with himself an hour."

I accept the challenge and point to John M. Palmer as the man who was consistent with himself for a life-time. He never trimmed, he never knuckled, he never rhymed with unstable men, but was always and everywhere pre-eminently himself. He was the sworn friend of clean politics and manly positions, and the instinctive and inveterate foe of sham and pretense. He was so genuinely generous because he was so generously genuine.

As a lawyer he was true to his clients and tried each cause for all there was in it. He went to the bottom of things. In his preparation he pitted himself against himself. He was like the German badger dog, he'd hunt reason to its hole and there he'd sit until the reason showed itself or else he'd burrow

in after it and get it. To John M. Palmer law was law. His interpretations were not so much in accordance with its literal language as to rightly construe its purposes for the public good. He believed that constitutions were made to promote the general welfare. He held with Rufus Choate that "The law is not the transient and arbitrary creation of the major will, it is not the offspring of will at all, it is the absolute justice of the state, enlightened by the perfect reason of the state." Law to this great lawyer was perfect justice helping social nature to perfect itself by the social life.

In the realm of eloquence he did not disport lightly and airily but he deported himself grandly. His orations are noted for their saneness. Shall I cite you some? His address to the colored people of Springfield on the 7th anniversary of Emancipation; at the re-interment at Oak Ridge of Gov. Bissell, May 31, 1871. His address of welcome to your city of Gen. Grant, May 5, 1880; his address on the "Life and Services of Gen. John A. Logan" delivered in the hall of the House of Representatives early in 1887; his speeches in the Senate of the United States on such great questions as the "Election of Senators by the People," "The Homestead Act," and "Against the Alteration of the Constitution by Construction," are well worth the careful and prolonged study of men who are seeking parliamentary honors. There's landscape in them and a sweep of vision that writes him down a statesman. His speech at Snodgrass Hill, September 19, 1895, on the dedication of Chickamauga Park, and his oration at Galesburg, October 7, 1896, just four years ago today, the 38th anniversary of their great debate, contrasting Lincoln and Douglas, are models of platform effort. No man who is a student of the art of expression can afford to let them pass unread and unpared. Was Senator Palmer an orator? Yes—not glib of tongue. He thought his subject through and ideas laid all about his mind like crystals. He remembered that "a straight line is the shortest distance between two points," and spoke accordingly; he fed his hearers on bread and meat. He was not like Clay of the past, nor like Depew of the present; he was like Luther—he defied the conventional; in a right burly way he bluntly spoke his mind, and when occasion required he was as bold as an arch-angel. He was not an actor; self-conscious pose he detested, and he loathed anything that savored of mere mob-hyptonization. He was always actually eloquent because he was always factually strong. In some of his sentences there's enough political wisdom to construct a political system from base to highest stoué. His words will live long after the speeches of men who have been intoxicated with their own phraseology have faded from the minds of men.

John M. Palmer was a man of strong religious convictions. In nature he saw a revelation of God's thought, and in Jesus Christ he saw a revelation of God's heart. He studied the lower revelation for what it was designed to teach and he studied the higher revelation for what it was designed. God speaks in varied voices, and Mr. Palmer heard them all, and to his heart the blended utterances made up a harmony that was beautiful and complete. He heard God the Creator speak in the majesty of the thunder, and he heard God the Father speak in the pity of the Cross. He lived and grew to greatness in compliance with the Higher Law.

John M. Palmer was a Baptist, as he was what he was, from conviction, and he united with the Central Baptist church by letter from Carlisle, in July, 1888.

You'll be interested in these words of his former pastor, Dr. Fletcher: "He gave me cheer by his words of encouragement, and a completer view of life by his own outlook upon it. I always felt mentally exhilarated and more far-vised after conversation with him. He contributed more to me than he ever knew or I could tell."

He held tenaciously to the Baptist tenets that make for freedom. He yielded every man the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. Theology to him was a matter of the head—heads may go wrong, and he gave men the right to go wrong; religion is a matter of the heart, and he believed that the essential thing was all in the heart and not at all in the head. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

Did the time permit I could cite you instance after instance of his loyalty to friends, of perfect freedom from all malice, of his sympathy and help -why, all our air is full of stories of his kindly deeds.

Were I asked to point out just the qualities that made John M. Palmer and made him great, I'd put my right hand on his conscience and say, "By this he walked," and my left hand on his heart and say "With this he felt and loved."

## XV.

## GENERAL JOHN A. McCLEARNAND.

By Alfred Orendorff.

When it is considered that without the wondrous story of Illinois, our country's history could not be properly written, a potent reason is shown for the existence of the State Historical Society, and emphasis is given to its important feature of collecting and preserving all that relates to the public lives of those whose achievements are inseparably connected with the history of this commonwealth and nation.

This importance is augmented when we find that the well-written biographies of Lincoln, Grant, Douglas, Trumbull, McClelland and Palmer would deal with most of the important civil and military events that have transpired in the United States since Illinois' admission to the Union.

The limitations of this occasion preclude me from presenting more than an outline of the life and services of John Alexander McClelland. The value that may attach to this paper will be largely in the pointing out of the sources from which a biography of this distinguished citizen, jurist, statesman and soldier could be written.

To those who would pursue the various matters referred to further, I refer them to Wheeler's Biography of Congress, Moses' History of Illinois, the History of Sangamon County, Blaine's Thirty Years of Congress, The Records of the War of the Rebellion. Gen. McClelland left comprehensive manuscripts of his life and services which should be published.

## HIS ANCESTRY.

The McClelland family can be traced back to the reign of Malcolm the First of Scotland, and was then one of the stoutest clans, and the leader for his daring deeds obtained the name of Mac of the Clearlands, having cut his way to victory through the possessions of some of the most formidable chiefs. His crest was a hand, a dagger, and a bird in flight, signifying faithfulness, bravery and promptitude in action. These characteristics, so emphasized in the subject of this sketch, are striking proof of the law of heredity. From Scotland the family emigrated to the county of Antrim, Ireland, but being more fond of war and adventure than of rural life, and disliking the forms of the British government, after becoming involved in the civil disturbances of that period, bade farewell to the land of their nativity and cast their lot with and gave their allegiance to the then new republic in America.

The name of Mac of the Clearlands by gradual processes was contracted and changed to McClelland.

John Alexander McClelland was born near Hardinsburg, in Breckenridge county, Kentucky, on May 13, 1812. His parents, when he was four years old, removed from Kentucky to Illinois and engaged in farming near Shawneetown, that place being the metropolis of this State.

At the age of eight his father died, and, being the only child, at an early age much responsibility was placed on him. He commenced the study of law at sixteen and was admitted to practice before his majority. At the time of his death he was the oldest lawyer in the State. At the age of twenty

years he exhibited his natural fondness for military life by volunteering in the Black Hawk war, and served honorably until its close. As an aid-de-camp to the general in command, he carried a dispatch over one hundred miles through the country occupied by the hostile Indians.

In 1835 he established the first democratic newspaper ever published in Shawneetown and edited it with conspicuous ability.

#### IN THE LEGISLATURE.

The following year he was elected a representative in the General Assembly. His chief service at this session was securing the adoption of a report vindicating President Jackson from an attack made by Governor Duncan, and the advocacy of that mode of constructing the Illinois and Michigan canal known as the "deep cut" plan, which was finally adopted. The Legislature elected him a canal commissioner, a position he acceptably filled.

During this session the disastrous system of internal improvement by the State was adopted. McClernand, although opposed to it, was under instructions from his constituents to favor it, and felt that he should execute the will of the people who elected him or resign. In this dilemma he concluded that it involved a matter of policy rather than principle, and reluctantly voted for the measure. It is a remarkable coincidence that in this General Assembly Lincoln, Douglas, Baker and McClernand sat side by side and often supported the same measures. A quarter of a century afterwards found them at Washington, at the inauguration of Lincoln as president. Baker introduced him, and Douglas and McClernand joined in courteous consideration, the former holding the hat of his successful opponent while he read his address.

In 1840 he was elected a second time to the Legislature from the county of Gallatin. On account of some remarks by McClernand on the reform of the judiciary, Judge Smith, of the Supreme Court, sent him a challenge for a duel, which was promptly accepted. He went to the appointed place but the judge failing to appear no hostile meeting took place. At this time Gov. Carlin had been elected chief executive and claimed the right to appoint the Secretary of State and named McClernand, who was rejected by the Senate. After the adjournment of the General Assembly, he was again appointed, and on the refusal of the Secretary to vacate the office and transfer the State seal a writ of *quo warranto* was sent out, and, on hearing, Judge Breese in an elaborate opinion, ousted the Secretary from office. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, where the decision was reversed. The two whig judges sustained the whig secretary, one of the democratic judges sustained McClernand, while the other took no part on account of his relationship to McClernand. The decision caused great excitement, was discussed in the newspapers and at public meetings, and resulted in the reorganization of the Supreme Court and laid the foundation for the sentiment that secured the election of the judiciary by popular vote. Ford's History of Illinois, and an address of Hon. I. N. Arnold, before the Illinois State Bar Association, treat of this matter with the accuracy and detail that its importance demands.

McClernand was one of the leaders in the first formal organization of the democratic party at Vandalia in 1837.

#### A VAN BUREN ELECTOR.

He was nominated as a Van Buren elector and made an active canvass which was protracted for months. He was elected by about nineteen hundred majority. Afterwards he made a speech reviewing this contest, from which I quote a few sentences to illustrate his declamatory eloquence. He said:

"If there ever was a time that tried men's souls, that was one. The chaff was winnowed from the wheat, the dross was purged from the pure gold. Thousands and tens of thousands, professing the noble cause of Democracy

went over to the tents of the enemy to swell the siren peans of a chieftain, or to secure on the side of numbers what they could not expect from the defeat of principles. Where was I then? Did I not stand firm? Was not my voice heard loud and distinct, cheering on Democracy to duty and to combat? Did I not fight the good fight and keep the faith to the end? It is for you, fellow citizens, not me, to answer. Illinois, I am proud to say, stood unscathed and unshaken in that terrible conflict. She loomed up amid the infernal chaos that rolled around a sturdy and towering rock upon which the scanty but dauntless legions of Democracy have since rallied for renewed and victorious contest."

When McClernand entered the Legislature for the third time, he found the State laboring under the embarrassments resulting from the collapse of the internal improvement system, the failure of the chartered banks, and the suspension of the work on the Illinois and Michigan canal. Governor Ford recommended drastic measures, and McClernand, as chairman of the Committee on Finance, introduced and succeeded in passing the remedial legislation which enabled the State to emerge from its financial difficulties.

#### EIGHT YEARS IN CONGRESS.

During this term he was elected a Representative in the Congress of the United States, and made his first speech in support of a bill to remit the fine that had been imposed on General Jackson, growing out of the proclamation of martial law at New Orleans.

He remained in Congress for eight years. During this time he took high rank and his name is connected with many important measures. He remained in Congress during the Mexican war at the personal request of the President. He voted in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war by granting the requisite men and means and portrayed the benefits therefrom in an able and eloquent speech.

The paramount issue at that time was the slavery question. He introduced a compromise measure, but the one supported by Mr. Clay in the Senate having passed that body, he was made chairman of the Committee of the Whole during its consideration in the House, and delivered an able speech on that subject.

He introduced and aided in the passage of several bills affecting the public lands, making their entrance more easily secured, and bringing the mineral lands about Lake Superior subject to purchase.

He drafted a bill granting land to secure the building of the Illinois Central railroad and its Chicago branch. Senator Douglas being furnished a copy, introduced it in the Senate and, with amendments, it passed both houses and became a law.

In 1856, having declined to be a candidate for re-election, he removed to Jacksonville, and from there to Springfield, and practiced law with great success.

On the death of Hon. Thomas L. Harris, Representative in Congress from this district, he was elected to fill the vacancy.

He regarded polygamy in Utah as a relic of barbarism, and during this session of Congress he introduced a bill repealing the law creating Utah and merging that territory into the surrounding territories. His idea was that by dividing the territory over which the Mormons had control they would be unable to dominate the government of several territories, and thus he would have solved the problem of Mormon polygamy.

#### FAMOUS SPEECH IN CONGRESS.

He was re-elected to Congress, his opponent being Hon. John M. Palmer. In January, 1861, he delivered in the House of Representatives a speech on "The Union and the Phantom of No Coercion." The speech had a marked effect on the country, and especially in Illinois it aroused the people without distinction of party to the importance of the issue involved. Only two para-

graphs can be quoted, but the whole is commended as one of the most brilliant and conclusive arguments in favor of the preservation of the Union by military force. He said:

“No, the Mississippi valley is a geographical unit. Its grand river with its intersecting tributaries reaching out in every direction to its utmost limits is the hand of Almighty God binding it together in one homogeneous and complete whole. \* \* \* A higher law than the slave law must control the destiny of the Mississippi valley, the law of mutual attraction and cohesion.

“Sir, is it coercion of a state for us to do that we are sworn to do—to support the Constitution and the laws and treaties of the United States? Is it coercion for us to maintain possession of the treasures and other property of United States? To stay the violent and lawless that would tear down the noble structure of our government? Is it coercion for us to let the flag of the Union stand upon the bosom of our country where our fathers planted it? To let the eagle of America sweep with buoyant wing the entire domain of this great nation? Is this coercion? Why, sir, it is a perversion of all language, a mocking of all ideas to say so. Rather is it coercion for a state to require us to submit to her spoilation of the posts, arsenals, dock yards, custom houses, postoffices, and the arms and munitions of the United States.

“Such admission, sir, in my opinion, would be in the last degree reprehensible and disgraceful. Utter imbecility alone can tolerate it, and if that be the condition of our government, let us at once abolish it and proclaim to the world the sad fact that the last and most auspicious experiment of free government has signally failed.”

#### AT OUTBREAK OF WAR.

While still a member of Congress, at the request of Governor Yates, he accompanied an armed volunteer force from Springfield to Cairo, and occupied that place. While there, the steamers from St. Louis, Louisville and from intermediate points in Kentucky, were brought to at Cairo, and thus prevented delivery to the Confederate agents large quantities of munitions and arms. While there he learned that there was no Confederate force at Memphis, Columbus or Madrid, and that the people in those localities were undecided as to their course on the pending conflict, and he believed that an opportunity was still open to strike a decisive blow in favor of the Union.

He promptly returned to Springfield and laid the facts before Governor Yates, and he and the Governor proceeded at once to Washington to lay this plan of operation before the President, and at Mr. Lincoln's suggestion, before General Scott. The neutrality of Kentucky seemed to have stood in the way of this strategic movement, and the delay gave time for the Confederates to garrison these important points from which they were only removed after many battles.

In July, 1861, he took his seat in Congress, and was active in sustaining the President and preparing the nation for the conflict, which he recognized would be of vast proportions and long duration.

In the following month he and his colleagues were called upon by the President to recommend a list of persons to be appointed Brigadiers, and to fix their rank. His colleagues united in recommending him for appointment, but, refusing to recommend himself, and joining with the others in recommending Grant, the latter thus gained seniority of rank.

#### RAISES A BRIGADE.

He resigned his seat in Congress, returned home, and with written authority to raise a brigade, more regiments were offered than he could accept, and during the same month he was ordered to Cairo, and within two hours of his arrival there he provided the outfit and transports, which resulted in the occupation of Paducah by General Grant.

His war record in the main is within the common knowledge of us all, and can be found in every history of the civil war. No more gallant leader ever marshaled more gallant men than composed the brigade and the corps commanded by McClernand. He participated in many battles. After the battle of Fort Donelson, he was promoted to the rank of Major General.

After an interview with the President, in which he urged the importance of opening the Mississippi river to commerce, he was authorized to organize in the west a force for that purpose.

Men rallied around the man who had distinguished himself in the halls of Congress as their representative and who had recently won well merited glory on the battlefields of his country. In thirty-five days he raised forty thousand men.

He returned to the front and found that Gen. Grant had been placed in general command of the expedition and that he was to have the immediate command of the forces composing the same. He resolved to strike a blow at the enemy near the mouth of the Arkansas river, which resulted in the capture of Arkansas Post. It was McClernand's intention to follow up the victory by an attack on Little Rock, but General Grant peremptorily ordered him to Young's Point to dig canals.

#### A SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

General McClernand participated in the siege of Vicksburg, and undoubtedly a portion of his command carried the ditch, slope and bastion of the fort; some of the men rushed into the fort, and the colors of the 130th Illinois were planted on the counterscarp of the ditch; those of the 48th Ohio and 77th Illinois waved from the bastion.

He asked for reinforcements but failed to receive them in time, and darkness coming on terminated the battle.

Gen. Grant says that he did not see the invasion of the fort, although he claimed he occupied a better position for doing so than did McClernand.

On the 30th of May General McClernand issued a congratulatory order which was inadvertently not furnished by the adjutant to Gen. Grant. It found its way into the newspapers of the north and on the 18th of June this order was made the cause of the removal of Gen. McClernand from his command. Gen. McClernand demanded an investigation with much persistency, but failed to obtain it, the alleged cause being that the necessary officers could not be spared to form a court of inquiry. In a letter to the president he said:

#### CONTROVERSY WITH GRANT.

"I challenge an investigation both of General Grant's conduct and my own. If I was worthy to be trusted in leading the advance to Belmont, to Fort Henry, to Donelson, to Port Gibson, to Champion Hill and to Big Block; if I planned the successful battles of Arkansas Post, Port Gibson, Champion Hill, and Big Black and gained the largest, perhaps the only measure of success at Vicksburg on the 22d; if in all these battles I either bore the brunt or a material part; if only two days before my dismissal and banishment, Gen. Grant deemed himself justified in adding one division certainly and two other divisions contingently to my command, making it larger than the two others in my corps combined, why should I be prescribed at the moment when it was supposed Vicksburg must fall and the Mississippi river expedition, which I had early advocated, if not originated, would soon be crowned with success."

The controverted points between Gen. Grant and Gen. McClernand seem to be the importance or non-importance of the victories of Donelson and Arkansas Post and the justice or injustice of McClernand's dismissal.

Gen. Grant's memoirs present his position fully and are accessible to all.

Two letters to McClernand give the views of President Lincoln and Governor Yates.



Mr. Lincoln, after expressing his thanks to Gen. McClernand and his brave troops "for this great victory gained at a time when disaster after disaster was befalling our armies," closed his letter of gratitude with this remarkable declaration: "Your success on the Arkansas was both brilliant and valuable, and is fully appreciated by the country and the government."

Gov. Yates said: "I regard the victory of Arkansas Post gained under the energetic generalship of a distinguished officer and citizen of Illinois as second in importance and consequence to that of Fort Donelson, in which that officer also participated. Fort Donelson and Arkansas Post, my dear general, I regard as the two great positive victories of the war in the west,"

A letter from Senator Lyman Trumbull to McClernand said: "The president is aware that you have been unjustly treated and in reply to my suggestion that he do something for you, stated that when he got another matter off of his hands (alluding to the Missouri trouble) he would see what could be done for you."

Gen. McClernand then tendered his resignation which was not accepted, but he was soon afterwards, by order of President Lincoln restored to command of his old 13th army corps.

He reported in person to Gen. Banks at New Orleans, and remained in the service until his resignation was accepted in November, 1864.

#### AFTER THE WAR.

He resumed the practice of law in Springfield, and, in 1870, was elected Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District.

He was president of the Democratic National Convention in 1876. In 1882 he was appointed a member of the Utah Commission, and his valuable services in this capacity secured his retention during a succeeding administration not of his political faith.

He advocated the Spanish war and encouraged the enlistment of soldiers in the cause of Cuban independence.

He took an active interest in political affairs, and was the president and a regular attendant at the meetings of the Democratic Veteran Club of this city until within a few days of his death, which took place in Springfield on the 20th day of September, 1900. His wife and children, excepting his son, Col. Edward McClernand, of the regular army, in active service in the Philippines, were with him when full of years and honors, the great volunteer general of the civil war passed from earth. The old general who never surrendered to any human foe, at last was overcome by that inevitable fate, that no antagonism can successfully resist.

While General McClernand was an able lawyer and a profound statesman, I am persuaded that his fame will largely rest upon his military genius and achievements.

The controlling element in his character was intense love of country. He was ever ready to fight for, and if need be, die in its defense. He was a fighter. He marched and fought and fought and marched to other fights. He was a volunteer soldier, and recognized no higher appellation.

So long as loyalty and courage are appreciated and liberty held sacred, the deeds of McClernand in defense of the integrity of the Union will be cherished by all lovers of our free institutions.

## XVI.

## THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF GENERAL JAMES M. RUGGLES.

(By P. L. Diffenbacher, M. D.)

Since the last annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society, one of its best known and most highly esteemed honorary members, General James M. Ruggles, has gone to his last rest in the fullness of years and plenitude of honors. At the annual meeting of this Society at Peoria, in January, 1900, he was present and entertained the assembled audience with a brief but intensely interesting paper of reminiscences, recounting some of the important political events in this State in which he had been a conspicuous participant. He had then almost reached the eighty-second mile post on life's journey; and though enfeebled by the decrepitudes of passing time, his intellect was still luminous, and his memory wonderfully retentive.

His physical powers failed somewhat during the following year, and until near its close, when he fell a victim to the prevailing epidemic of catarrhal influenza. While the annual meeting of this Society was in progress in Springfield, in the closing days of January last, the life of General Ruggles was slowly ebbing away at the Hopping Sanitarium in Havana, Mason county; and there his spirit took its flight in the morning of the 9th of February, 1901, terminating his earthly career of 82 years, 11 months and 2 days duration.

From a biographical sketch of James Monroe Ruggles, dictated by himself, and published in a history of Mason county some years ago, it is learned that he was born in Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, on March 7, 1818, and came to Illinois in 1837. In casting around for a life avocation, at the age of fifteen, he chose "the art preservative of all arts," and learned to be a practical printer, and that art he practiced in country printing offices, in Winchester, and other towns, for some years after his arrival in Illinois.

He was fairly well educated in the elementary studies, in the common schools of his native state; and while engaged in the printing business in this State continued to store his active mind with a wide range of useful knowledge by continuous reading and observation. In the meantime he commenced the study of law, which he prosecuted vigorously, and was in time examined and admitted to the bar.

In 1846 he settled in the town of Bath, then the seat of justice of Mason county; but did not then undertake the practice of his profession. Preferring a more active—and lucrative—pursuit, he embarked in general merchandising, and became a popular and prosperous merchant.

All through the acrimonious contest waged by Havana to gain possession of the county seat, by its removal to that place, General Ruggles stood firm in defense of the claims of Bath, and contended against the strongest influences in Mason county, until at last he was compelled, by a majority vote of the people, to capitulate to Havana. In political principles he was a Whig, and deeply interested in the questions of public policy then agitating the people, and by them generally discussed. In 1852 he was elected State

Senator in the district composed of the counties of Sangamon, Menard and Mason, and served through his term of four years with marked credit. Among his contemporaries in the Senate were John M. Palmer, Norman B. Judd, Burton C. Cook, Joseph Gillespie, John Wood, Ashel Gridley and J. L. D. Morrison; and in the House, at the same time, were Ex Governor John Reynolds, Wm. R. Morrison, James W. Singleton, John A. Logan, Chauncy L. Higbee, Owen Lovejoy and Stephen T. Logan—men of superior talents, and famed in their day as able leaders of public opinion.

Mr. Ruggles was an ardent partisan, and always loyal to its principles and candidates. In the second session of his Senatorial term there occurred an election, by joint ballot of the Legislature, of a United States Senator to succeed General James Shields. Lyman Trumbull was the candidate of the Democrats, and Abraham Lincoln that of the Whig party. At the date of that election Senator Ruggles was confined to his bed by a severe attack of sickness; but such was his personal friendship for Mr. Lincoln, and the ardor of his political enthusiasm, that he caused himself to be carried, on a cot, into the hall of representatives, and there cast his vote for his party leader, Mr. Lincoln, for whom he always entertained the warmest friendship and admiration. General Ruggles is entitled to the honor of having, alone and unaided, drafted the first platform upon which the Republican party in Illinois was founded. As a delegate to the convention of Whigs and anti-Douglass Democrats, in February, 1856, himself, Abraham Lincoln and Ebenezer C. Peck, were appointed a committee on resolutions. The convention was held at Springfield before the close of the session of the Legislature. Messrs. Peck and Lincoln being otherwise engaged, the resolutions were written and reported by Mr. Ruggles, and unanimously adopted. They formed the basis of the platform of principles promulgated by the first Republican State convention held in Illinois, at Bloomington, in the month of May following. At that convention Mr. Ruggles was offered the nomination for Lieutenant Governor, but declined it.

Upon making Bath his home, or probably a few years later, Mr. Ruggles commenced agitating the construction of the Illinois River Railroad, from Pekin, in Tazewell county, down the river valley on its eastern side, to Alton. After his election to the Senate he wrote the bill providing for the incorporation of a company to build that road, and succeeded in having it adopted by both houses of the Legislature. He did not stop at that; but as one of the incorporators, continued his efforts for the enterprise until the requisite amount of stock was subscribed to put the road in operation as far as his town. The influence and exertions of Dr. Charles Chandler, of Chandlerville, on the south side of the Sangamon, then effected a deflection of the original route, and the road was built on a line southward from Bath, through Chandlerville, to Jacksonville instead of to Alton.

From the time of its inception until the rails were laid to Bath there was no relaxation of Mr. Ruggles' interest in the road. He was consulted about it in every stage of its progress; and even dictated the names of all the way stations between Pekin and Havana, declining, with characteristic modesty, to give to either one of them his own name.

When the report of the rebel shot fired upon Fort Sumter reverberated through Illinois in 1861, it stirred the patriotic zeal of Mr. Ruggles; and, at the first opportunity, he offered his services in defense of the insulted flag. He volunteered in the First Illinois Cavalry, and was appointed, by Governor Yates, its Quartermaster with rank of Lieutenant. This regiment was sent to Missouri early in the war, and was for some time employed upon guard duty. Dissatisfied with the inactivity of that service, by his earnest solicitation, Lieutenant Ruggles was transferred to the front, and, by order of General Grant, was promoted to the position of Major in the Third Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. For bravery displayed at the battle of Pea Ridge, in March, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and for a time commanded the regiment. For faithful service and gallantry on the field he was breveted Brigadier General, and, with his regiment, was mustered out of service in 1864. The only public position he afterwards held was that of Master in Chancery of his county.

He several times, when urged to do so, led the forlorn hope of his party in the face of overwhelming democratic majorities, not prompted by aspirations for public service, but to maintain the integrity of the organization to which he belonged and believed to be right in principles. When publishing a paper in Winchester, Scott county, in 1844, the whig members of the Legislature voted for him for Public Printer; and in later years he accepted the nomination of his party for high offices where no prospect of election existed.

General Ruggles had broad, comprehensive views on all subjects; was active and energetic, enterprising and public spirited. The improvement of the country and bettering of the people's condition always commanded his best and untiring efforts. In making wagon roads and building bridges in pioneer days, and constructing railroads in later times, General Ruggles was always found in advance of the community in which he lived. He was the author of the first drainage law enacted in Illinois, designed for reclaiming the swamp and overflowed lands of Hayana and Bath townships in Mason county. This measure for local purposes was the model for the general drainage laws of the State now upon our statute books.

The record of General Ruggles' life well sustains the distinction of his ancestral lineage. His father, Judge Spooner Ruggles, ably represented Ogle and Winnebago counties in the Illinois Senate in the fourteenth General Assembly, 1844-1846, and was conspicuous for his strong, clear mind and integrity of character, both in Ohio and this State. The brother of General Ruggles' grandfather, Brigadier General Timothy Ruggles, of sturdy Puritan stock, was president of the first American Congress that met in the city of New York in 1765, and was one of the most noted men of New England before the Revolutionary war. John Ruggles, another parental relative, was three times elected to the United States Senate in the State of Maine; and Benjamin Ruggles was first elected United States Senator in Ohio in 1818, in which body he served for eighteen years.

General Ruggles was always deeply interested in the political issues of the day, and sought to support those lines of policy that he thought would be most conducive to the welfare of the country and people. He was sincere and conscientious in his convictions, as he was in the discharge of all his duties and obligations. His kind, gentle nature and affable disposition attracted friendships in spite of the most radical differences of opinion, and the purity of his character, and probity of his every day life, commanded the respect and confidence of all.

The bent of the General's mind and tastes was in the direction of literature. He was an incessant reader, and fluent writer; preferring, however, the lighter and more fascinating field of newspaper work, to which he had devoted several years, and in it achieved flattering success. A history of Mason county from his pen, published some years ago, bears intrinsic evidence of his ability in the higher literary paths that require the inspiration of concentrated thought and serious application.

General Ruggles' bright intellect was fortified with an exhaustless store of general information and varied knowledge. He was a fair public speaker, an entertaining talker, and social, genial companion; but was singularly devoid of ambition in those spheres of intellectual activity in which his mental powers and natural aptitude would have enabled him to excel; namely, in the law and in literature. While well equipped for both, neither vocation tempted his aspirations, and he preferred the drudgery of active business to either. Love of justice, benevolence and charity were his prominent traits, and the suffering and misery of humanity, in all forms, elicited his heartfelt sympathy.

By the death of General Ruggles Illinois lost one of her sturdy, honored pioneers who acted well his part in the upbuilding of the State, and left upon the page of her history the enviable record of a long, useful life and unsullied character.

This inadequate tribute to the memory of our venerable departed friend may very appropriately be supplemented by the notice of his death and burial that appeared in the paper published at his home, the *Havana Republican*, of February 15, 1901, as follows:

“A student and soldier, General J. M. Ruggles died at the Hopping Sanitarium, on Saturday, February 9, 1901, at the age of eighty-two years, eleven months and two days.

“It had been noticed by the General’s nearest friends that for a year, or more, he had been gradually failing; and some weeks ago he was taken ill with la grippe, and was then removed for treatment to the sanitarium, where he remained until his death.

“The General was a remarkable man in many respects. He was a student, a statesman and a soldier. In earlier life he was the colleague of such men as Lincoln, Trumbull, Yates and Palmer; and stood, apparently as well, in the Republican party, of which he was one of the founders, as any of those great leaders. Had he been aggressive in pushing his claims for supremacy, he would undoubtedly have mounted the ladder of fame, and stood as high in the councils of the nation as did his early associates, who passed from power and position to the grave years before he answered the last bugle call.

“The General’s burial was as unostentatious as was his life. A small company of his former Grand Army comrades, with a few others, gathered at the soldiers’ headquarters, and after a short religious service conducted by the Rev. Mr. Britton, the coffin covered by the American flag, was placed in the hearse, and accompanied to the train, thence to Bath, where it was laid away amidst the scenes of the General’s early activities.

“The General leaves four sons and two daughters, viz.: Henry C. Ruggles, druggist, at Kilbourn, Ill.; A. S. Ruggles, druggist, at Peoria, Ill.; Mrs. Eloise R. Holmes, Bloomington, Ill.; Mrs. Lucy M. Settle, Kansas City, Mo.; T. W. Ruggles, Chicago, Ill., and Captain James Ruggles, of the United States Army, now stationed at Manila, P. I.”



---

---

# ADDENDUM.

---

*Original Papers Relating to Illinois History and Biography,  
Contributed to the Illinois State Historical Society.*

---

---





## THE WOOD RIVER MASSACRE.

(By Volney P. Richmond, of Liberty Prairie, Madison county, Illinois.)

Since my earliest recollection I have heard and read of the Wood river massacre, by the Indians, and have often had the place pointed out to me where it occurred. I was early acquainted with Captain Abel Moore, and with several of Captain Moore's children. Major Frank Moore can not tell when he did not know me. I often stopped to hear his father tell pioneer stories. I knew, but was not intimately acquainted with, the other members of the Moore family.

Some years ago some one published an account of the Wood river massacre so very incorrect that I answered it and told what I knew about it. In that paper the scene was laid near where the two railways and wagon road cross Wood river, at a place called Milton, some two miles or more from where I knew it to have taken place. Not long after I met Major Moore, and after thanking me for making the correction, said that I was nearer to it than any one who had written before me; but that I was still somewhat off. I said I would try again, and with his help, and his sister's, Mrs. Lydia Williams, I thought I could get a correct history of it. There has been no account of it heretofore written (not even my own), that is perfectly reliable; as this, being a part of the early history of Madison county, should be. Of course, there is no one who can personally vouch for the facts of this Indian massacre, in 1814, during the last war with England; but the remaining children of Captain Abel Moore would be able to come nearer to it than any one else. They have often heard the story from their father and mother; and I too, have heard it from their father.

This Indian massacre occurred on the southwest quarter of section 5, in Wood River township, Madison county, Illinois, on the 10th day of July, 1814. The persons killed were Mrs. Rachael Reagan and her two children, Elizabeth (or Betsey) aged seven, and Timothy, aged three years; two children of Captain Abel Moore's, William, aged ten, and Joel, aged eight years; and two children of William Moore's, John, aged ten, and George, aged three years. Mrs. Reagan and children went to spend the day at the house of William Moore, on the farm now owned by Mrs. William Badley. Returning in the afternoon by way of Captain Abel Moore's farm, now the property of George Cartwright, two of whose children, William and Joel, started home with them to get some green beans. Miss Hannah Bates, Mrs. Abel Moore's sister, visiting there, also started to accompany them to remain at Mrs. Reagan's; but after going a part of the way, she suddenly changed her mind, as if warned by some presentment, and against the earnest entreaties of Mrs. Reagan, retraced her steps and hastened back to Captain Moore's. At the point where she turned back she could not have been more than two or three hundred yards from where the dead body of Mrs. Reagan was found. Mrs. Reagan and the six children were all tomahawked and scalped, and they remained on the ground where they were murdered all night; the Indians stripped them of all their clothing, as well as scalping them.

William Moore having returned that day from Fort Butler, near the site of the present village of St. Jacob, where he was on military duty, to look after the women and children at home, became alarmed as night approached and the children not returned, and went in search of them, first going to his brother's, Abel Moore's, place to see if they were there. His wife, who was Mrs. Reagan's sister, also started to look for them on horseback, taking a

different route from the one her husband went. Although they did not meet until they both returned home, they both found the lifeless bodies in the darkness, lying by the wayside, and each placed a hand upon the bare shoulder of Mrs. Reagan. Mr. Moore returned as he went, by Abel's house, to notify the family there of the massacre, and warn them of possible danger that night. When Mrs. Wm. Moore found the children lying by the road she thought they had become tired and laid down to sleep. She got down from her horse to pick up the youngest child, but just then a crackling noise and flash of light from a burning hickory tree near by alarmed her, and fearing Indians might be in ambush there, she sprang on her horse and reached home in advance of her husband. Mrs. Reagan and her two children were killed nearest Capt. Abel Moore's place; the other children were found lying farther on, two at a place. One, the youngest child, three years old, when found was still alive. A messenger was sent for the nearest physician, who came and dressed the wounds of the little one, but it did not survive the treatment.

John Harris, a young man living at Capt. Abel Moore's, was sent that night to Fort Russell, near the present city of Edwardsville, where Captain Moore was in command, and to Fort Butler, commanded by Captain Whitesides, to notify them of the massacre. Leaving the latter post about one o'clock that same night, about seventy rangers from both forts, among whom were James and Solomon Preuitt, arrived at Moore's block house (on the farm owned by the late Wm. Gill, and now by a German named Klopmeier), just as the sun was rising and proceeded on to the scene of the massacre. They soon found the trail of the Indians marked by broken bushes and trampled grass, with some stains of blood, made probably by the fresh scalps. In hot pursuit the rangers pressed upon the fleeing red devils, and overtook them about sunset upon a small stream in the northern part of Morgan county. One of the Indians hid in the top of a fallen tree and was shot by James Preuitt; of the other nine (they being ten in number) but one escaped, and he got away by diving in the water. (The stream mentioned was called by the early French traders La Belleause, but after the occurrence narrated it has been known as Indian creek, and the spot where the Indian escaped is now known as Cracker's Bend.) The rangers, who were led by Capt. Whitesides, camped on the creek that night and returned to their forts next day.

The morning after the massacre the friends and relatives prepared to bury the dead; and that was no small undertaking. There was nothing like any sawed lumber in the whole country; and besides axes and hoes they had but few tools of any description. They decided to bury the dead bodies where a few of the early settlers, who had died some time before, were buried, on Section 24, four miles east of the Moore settlement; and that was the first burying ground in that part of the country. Their only means to convey the bodies to the burying ground was on rough steds drawn by oxen. The graves were dug with coffin-shaped vaults at the bottom, which were lined with slabs split from trees near by as nearly like plank as possible; and after the bodies were placed in the vaults they were covered over with the same kind of split slabs. The seven were buried in three graves; Mrs. Reagan and her two children in one grave; Captain Moore's two children in another, and William Moore's two children in the third.

When I first visited that grave yard, which was situated in a heavy growth of timber, there was an old church near by, built by setting poles in the ground and siding up with rough split boards, and covered with the same. "Moore's Settlement" in the forks of Wood river was commenced in 1808, by George, William and Abel Moore, William Bates, Ransom Reagan, Mr. Wright, Samuel Williams, Mr. Vickery, and a few others, and their families. On George Moore's farm was a block house fort where the settlers assembled when apprehensive of Indian attacks. At the time of the massacre of Mrs. Reagan and the children there was but one man in that fort. He was George Moore, a gunsmith, who made and repaired rifles, for the settlement. Of those who took refuge in the fort that night there is now (1898) probably but one living, Mrs. Nancy Hedden, a daughter of Captain Abel Moore's. She resides at Sau Diego, Cal., and was at that time about a year and a half old.

Such is the true history of the Wood river massacre. I have taken much time to trace out all the facts here stated, and I believe them to be correct. I have often been over the ground where it occurred and well acquainted with the Moores and their descendents all of my life.

(The writer of the foregoing sketch, Mr. Volney P. Richmond, who resided in Madison county from his early boyhood, died on the 14th of January, 1901, at the age of eighty-four.—ED.)

## THE STUART-BENNETT DUEL.

THE FIRST DUEL FOUGHT IN ILLINOIS, AT BELLEVILLE. IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ON FEBRUARY 8, 1819.

By James Affleck, a citizen of Belleville at the time of its occurrence.

The origin of the quarrel between the two men was a very trivial matter, growing out of Bennett's horse trespassing on Stuart's cornfield. The horse was a "breachy" animal, and repeatedly broke into Stuart's cornfield, which greatly enraged the latter, and he told Bennett if he didn't keep his horse out of his field he would shoot the horse. This threat was disregarded by Bennett, and the horse continued to break into the field, until one day Stuart carried his threat into execution—that is, he induced his hired man to shoot the horse with a gun loaded with powder and coarse salt, which he did, and the animal ran home bleeding and smarting with pain. Bennett became greatly enraged over the shooting of his horse, though the wound was but slight, and when he learned that Stuart was responsible for the shooting he was disposed to seek revenge. The animal was a great favorite with Bennett and the more he thought of how it had been treated the more his anger grew. While in this frame of mind he met with Jacob Short and Nathaniel Fike, a pair of young Bacchanalians, who made their haunt, and hibernated, at Tannehill's tavern, which then occupied the southwest corner of the public square on Main street, the site of the present National Hotel.

Short and Fike, thinking to have some sport out of the affair, advised Bennett to seek satisfaction from Stuart by challenging him to mortal combat. They told him that Stuart had grievously injured and insulted him, and that the only proper course for him to pursue was to challenge him to fight a duel. Bennett readily assented to this, and the challenge was sent. In the meantime Short and Fike saw Stuart and told him of their plan to have some sport out of Bennett, and they at once arranged for a sham duel. Short and Fike, who were to act as seconds, promised Stuart that the guns should be loaded with powder only. Although Stuart understood that it was to be a sham duel, and was only intended to enliven the monotony of life in the then small village, Bennett did not so understand it, and with him it was to be no mockery, as the sequel proved.

The arrangements for the duel were made in the court house, where the parties all met. The court house was then located on the southwest corner of Main and Illinois streets, in front of James Tannehill's tavern, with whom the writer was then living and continued to live for eight or nine years thereafter. The young men of the town teased and plagued Bennett a good deal about the proposed duel by telling him that he would take the "buck ague" and couldn't shoot with accuracy; and Bennett, to show them that he was a sure shot, loaded his rifle and shot the head off a chicken that was in the yard close by.

After the parties had made all arrangements for the duel, and were pretty full of Tannehill's whiskey, they repaired to the duelling ground, which was located about midway between Main street and the present mansion of the late Adam W. Snyder. The ground in that vicinity was all vacant then with only a few scattering trees. The principals were placed about twenty five steps apart, and just as the word "Fire," which was agreed on as the signal, was uttered, Bennett fired and Stuart fell, face downward, to the ground, shot in the region of the heart. He fell on his gun and immediately expired.

Fike, his second, went to him, and turning him over, took the rifle he had dropped and discharged it in the air, so that it was never known whether it contained a ball or not. There was a suspicion with many that the crack of the gun was that of one containing a ball. Bennett and both seconds were arrested immediately and committed to jail, the latter, however, soon being released on bail. The State had but lately (in 1818) been admitted into the Union, and, it appears from the records, that the State had neither law, nor officials, to try prisoners in St. Clair county. The Legislature being in session at the time, it proceeded at once to enact laws for the emergency and to appoint officials. A special term of court was called, and a bill of indictment was returned against all three for murder. On the eve of the trial Bennett succeeded in escaping from the jail, a log structure, by boring a series of holes in one of the logs, which he forced from its place and thus made his way out. Such was the sheriff's report when directed to bring the prisoner into court. Bennett fled into the wilds of Arkansas Territory, and was not heard from by the authorities for two and a half years. At the end of that time it was learned that he had been in communication with his wife; that he was at St. Genevieve, Missouri, and that he had arranged for her to meet and join him there, having sent a team and wagon for her and the children. A reward was still standing for his apprehension at that time.

James Tannehill and others followed the team and family, and on arriving at the Mississippi river met Bennett, and arresting him brought him back to Belleville. He was again indicted, tried and convicted, and sentenced to death by hanging. The execution took place on September 3, 1821, in a vacant field on which a part of West Belleville is now located. The execution was public, and was witnessed by one of the largest assemblages ever brought together in this county.

Poor Bennett! he lost his life for the love he had for his family. He stated on the scaffold that he was willing to risk his life for the pleasure of once more greeting his wife and children. He also denied that he had put the bullet in the gun that killed Stuart.

Bennett owned a lot and log cabin on North Illinois street (adjoining the present residence of Mr. Emil Feigenbutz) on the north, and was buried there. It was the current opinion on the street, however, that his body had been turned over to the doctors, and had been used to advance knowledge in medicine and surgery. Soon after Bennett's escape from the jail, the seconds had their trial, and were acquitted by the testimony of Rachael Tannehill, a girl of nine or ten years, who was looking out of an upper window in the Tannehill tavern at the time the party was starting for the duelling ground. She saw Bennett come around the court house, distant about seventy or eighty feet from her, and saw him put something into his gun which she and the jury construed to be a bullet. This testimony, together with their own, cleared the two seconds and went far to convict Bennett. Stuart and Bennett were both young men in the prime of life, each having a family. Alfonso C. Stuart was an educated man, from the state of New York, and a lawyer by profession, but unfortunately, his practice was more frequent at Tannehill's bar than at that of Judge Reynolds. He was buried about a hundred yards from where he fell, northwest.

John Reynolds, then residing in Cahokia, the then metropolis of the west, was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, and acting circuit judge; John Hay also of Cahokia, was circuit (as well as county) clerk, and William Anderson Baird, a bachelor farmer, was sheriff. Samuel D. Lockwood, attorney general, discharged the duties of prosecuting attorney, and Bennett was ably defended by Hon. Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri. All the officials in this case were specially appointed by the Legislature to try these prisoners. Lockwood, before entering upon the trial, took the following oath: "I do solemnly swear that I will, to the best of my judgment, execute the duties imposed upon me by the act for the suppression of dueling, so help me God."

Scipio Baird, a younger brother of Sheriff Baird, was deputy sheriff, and performed the duty of executing poor Bennett, of which I was an eye witness, and of which I never wish to see the like again.

Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois, December 26, 1899.

COURT RECORDS OF THE CASE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS. }  
ST. CLAIR COUNTY. } SS.

In pursuance of an act of the Legislature of the said State of Illinois, now in session, passed the 24 of February, 1819, entitled "An act authorizing a special term of the circuit in St. Clair county, for the trial of certain prisoners," be it remembered, that on Monday, the 8th day of March, being a day fixed upon by said statute of the said State, for holding a special circuit for the said county of St. Clair, John Reynolds, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the said State, by arrangement made to attend the said special circuit at the court house in the said county; and John Hay, by the said law, is authorized to act as clerk to the said court. And in pursuance of an act of the said Legislature passed the 2d of March, 1819, entitled "An act supplemental to an act entitled, 'An act authorizing a special term of the circuit court in St. Clair county for the trial of certain prisoners,'" William Baird is authorized to act as sheriff for the said special court.

Monday, the 8th of March, 1819. Members present: the Honorable John Reynolds, Justice; John Hay, Clerk; Wm. A. Beaird, Sheriff.

Names of the Grand Inquest: Benj. Watts, foreman; Solomon Teator, Robert Abernathy, James Marney, Francis Swares, Jacob Ogle, Jr., Wm. Padfield, Robert Lemen, Henry Hutton, Joshua Oglesby, Marshal Duncan, Cintes Moore, George Pricket, Wm. Bridges, Sam Everitt, Joseph Penn, John Leach, Theophelus M. Nicholas, James Walker, Odian Castleberry, William T. Kincade, Jeremiah Ham,—23,—who all appeared and received their charge and retired to consult of presentments. Persons sworn to go before the grand jury, to-wit: Reuben Anderson, James Parks, James Kincade, James Read, Andrew Million, Benj. Million, Peter Sprinkle and Rachel Tannehill. Nicholas Horner excused from serving on the traverse jury. The grand jury returned from their retirement and presented a bill of indictment against Timothy Bennett, Jacob Short and Nathan Fike, for murder.

The People &c.,  
*vs.* }  
Timothy Bennett, Jacob Short and Nathan Fike. } Murder.

And thereupon by order of the court, the clerk issued his process, directed to the sheriff of this county, to bring forth the body of the said Timothy Bennett; and thereupon the sheriff returns the following, to-wit: "The within named Timothy Bennett, has made his escape by breaking the jail, of St. Clair county; therefore, I cannot bring his body in the court as I am commanded."

WM. A. BEAIRD,

*Sheriff of St. Clair county.*

Ordered that the court adjourn *sine die*.

(Signed.) JOHN REYNOLDS.

(The case was called again at the next term, Tuesday, June 15, 1819, and the recognizances of James and Rachael Tannehill, witnesses, taken in the sum of \$100 each for their appearance on the following day to testify.) Wednesday, June 16th. The case against Jacob Short and Nathan Fike called. And thereupon comes as well the said defendants, to-wit: Jacob Short and Nathan Fike. As the Attorney General and the said defendants say, they are not guilty in the manner and form as in the indictment against them is alleged, and of this they put themselves upon the country, and the Attorney General doth the like. Therefore it is commanded that a jury of twelve good and lawful men who neither is, etc., because etc., and the jurors

of the jury of which mention is within made, being called, to-wit: Isaac Clark, Eli Hart, Isaac Bairey, Daniel Phillips, Henry Stout, Patrick Johnson, David Coons, Andrew Maurer, Peter Hill, William McNeal, Brice Virgin and John Cotton, who being duly elected, tried and swore the truth of and upon the premises to speak.

Ordered that the court adjourn to tomorrow morning, 8 o'clock, Thursday, June 17, 1819. Trial had and the following order entered up: Upon their oaths do say, that the said defendants are not guilty in manner and form as in the said indictment against them is alleged; therefore it is considered by the court that the said defendants be acquitted and discharged of the charge aforesaid, and go thereof without a day, etc.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
St. Clair county. } ss.

At a special circuit court called and held in the court house in Belleville, for and within the county of St. Clair, on Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Eighteen Hundred and Twenty-One, were present the Honorable John Reynolds, justice; Wm. A. Beaird, Esq., sheriff; John Hay, clerk. Names of grand inquest, William Glasgow, foreman, James Cohen, William L. Whiteside, Hosea Rigg, Richard W. Chandler, John Thomas, Archibald Allen, Henry Stout, John Leach, Thomas Gillham, John Scott, John Redei, David Sparks, Daniel Burky, James Marney, Jacob Whiteside, Daniel Phillips, James Pulliam, Joseph Willbanks, Daniel Million, Tilghman West, George Harris, John Glass, who all appeared and were sworn. Thereupon the grand jury having received their charge from the bench, retired to consider of presentments. The grand jury returned from their retirement, and presented the following bill of indictment:

The People }  
vs. } Indictment for Murder.  
Timothy Bennett. }

Thereupon it was ordered that process issue, to the Sheriff of St. Clair county commanding him that he have the body of Timothy Bennett a prisoner now in gaol of the county aforesaid, under safe and secure conduct, before the court here immediately, to answer an indictment against him for murder. The Sheriff of St. Clair county, agreeable to a process to him directed, commanding him to have the body of Timothy Bennett a prisoner, confined in the gaol of the county aforesaid, brings into court here the said Timothy Bennett accordingly; and being demanded of him, whether he is guilty of the felony aforesaid or not guilty: says he is not guilty; thereof, and for his trial puts himself, upon God and his country. And the Attorney General, in behalf of the People of the State of Illinois likewise. And thereupon it is ordered by the court, that a jury come instanter, who neither is &c as well as &c and the jurors of the jury of which mention is within made being called to-wit: Noah Mathany, John A. Mauzy, James Simmons, Bunill Hill, John Colton.

Ordered that the court adjourn to tomorrow 9 o'clock. John Reynolds.

Friday, the 27th July, 1821. Court opened according to adjournment. Present as before.

James C. Work, George W. Jack, James Wilson, Joel R. Small, Elijah Davis, James Fox, and Zachariah Stephenson who being duly elected, tried and sworn the truth to speak of and upon the premises and having heard the evidence.

Ordered that the court adjourn to tomorrow morning 7 o'clock. John Reynolds.

Saturday, the 28th July, 1821. Court opened according to adjournment. Present as before.

Upon their oath do say that Timothy Bennett, is guilty of the felony aforesaid, in manner and form as in the indictment against him is alleged; and it being demanded of him, if anything for himself he had or knew to say why the court, here to judgment and execution against him, if and upon the premises should not proceed; he said he had nothing, but what he had before

said: Therefore it is considered by the court, that he be hanged by the neck, until he be dead and that the Sheriff of this county, do cause execution of this judgment, to be done and performed on him the said Timothy Bennett on Monday, the third day of September, next, between the hours of ten in the forenoon and four in the afternoon, at or near the town of Belleville, &c.

Samuel D. Lockwood, came into court, and took the following oath: "I do solemnly swear, that I will to the best of my judgment, execute the duties imposed on me by the act for suppressing duelling, so help me God."

Ordered that the court adjourn *siné die*.



## JAMES AFFLECK, OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS.

### AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

I was born of Scotch parents, David and Ann (Gillespie) Affleck, at Dumfries, Scotland, August 15, 1813. My father was a navigator, commander of a sailing vessel, and traded between Glasgow, Scotland, and Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. In 1814 my parents emigrated to the United States, landing at Wilmington, North Carolina, and after a short sojourn there he removed to Tennessee and settled on Stone river, not far from where Murfreesboro is now located. Here my father taught school for some time. When the Illinois Territory began to loom up and everybody was emigrating to that land of milk and honey, my parents followed the throng, coming to St. Clair county, where they purchased land and resided until their death.

My mother's death occurred in 1818, and my father's the following year. A younger brother and I were left orphans at a tender age in a new country far from kindred ties. The probate court appointed guardians for us. I was placed with James Tannehill, who was to learn me a trade, with the essential branches of a common school education. He didn't give much attention to the culture of his own children, much less to that of a bound boy. After remaining with Tannehill until I was eighteen years of age, my guardian complained to the court and had me released from the contract. I was again indentured, to learn the art and trade of a cabinet or furniture maker, where I remained until I was twenty-one years of age.

November 12, 1835, I married a daughter of Wesley Coleman—Hester Ann. Five children were born of that union, but only two daughters remain, the eldest the wife of Edwin Park, a well-known lawyer of Decatur, Illinois, and the second the wife of Ex-Judge S. A. Wilderman of Belleville. After the death of my first wife, which occurred in 1857, I married again in 1863, my present wife. The children of this union are Cora, wife of Frank L. Stewart, a druggist of Carmi, Illinois; Estelle, wife of John A. Logan, of Carmi, a relative of the renowned soldier and statesman; Benjamin F., in business in St. Louis; Edward G., a machinist in the navy and who was on the flag ship New York during the war with Spain in Cuba; and Susie, the youngest daughter, at home.

Early in the spring of 1837 I visited my kindred in Scotland, and spent the summer with them. While there the king, William IV, died, and Queen Victoria ascended the throne of the British realm, on the 20th of June, 1837. Oh! what a harvest, lady, now is yours. Empire and fame and a universe's love. I attended the meeting in the Scotch kirk at this time with friends and assisted in singing some of David's psalms, and listened to the eulogy of the life of the king by the minister. He made no reference, however, to the five sons and five daughters, illegitimate children by his mistress, the celebrated actress, Mrs. Jordan.

After the services a Scotch toddy was served near by and all drank more than once to the health and longevity of the young queen, with little thought at the time her reign would reach January, 1900.

From 1852 to 1858 I served as alderman for the southeast quarter of Belleville. I have served several years as a school director, both before and since the free school law was in force. The lessons of my younger days were

object lessons, observed in Tannehill's bar room, taught by experts, one of which I shall never forget. It was a terrible thrashing Tannehill gave me for stealing whiskey for his wife. The old lady had an unquenchable thirst for liquor, so that it was necessary to keep the liquors locked in a small enclosure with a small opening for passing the drinks to the customers outside. I was a small boy of nine or ten years then. When the old lady's thirst could stand it no longer, she would poke me through that hole and I would after getting inside draw a teapot full of whiskey for her. Tannehill had forbid me, and threatened to whip me if I did that any more; but with the old lady's coaxing and bribing I still disregarded Tannehill's injunction until I was caught in the act and punished with a severity I shall always remember. Still, it did not entirely cure me; for I filled the teapot for the old lady several times afterward.

After I became of age and accumulated a little money I attended school a little while with Rev. John F. Brooks, who taught school here for some time. I finally turned my attention to following a permanent occupation for life; and worked as a journeymen cabinet maker for a time; then commenced housebuilding as a contractor, which I followed until 1860, during which time I erected more houses in Belleville than any other builder here. I drove the first and last nail in the Harrison mill when it was rebuilt in 1844. In 1860 I was employed by the Harrison Machine Works, where I remained for thirty-six years, eighteen years of which I was foreman of the woodworking department, and the latter eighteen years was a patternmaker for the foundry.

I am a member of the Scotch-Irish society of America. The late Robbert, of New York, was the president of the society, and the late Judge John M. Scott, of Bloomington, Ill., was the vice-president for Illinois.

I have outlived every improvement that was in Belleville when I came here. The whipping post and pillory were in successful operation for some time after I came. The third court house and fifth jail are now in use since I saw the first of each. Two epidemics of that dread scourge, the cholera, that of 1833 and of 1849, visited here and carried off many citizens, for some of whom I made coffins and assisted in their burial. Some were covered up, while yet warm, such was the dread of that fearful plague.

I have long been a member of the Presbyterian church, as were my parents in their native land.

In conclusion, being in good health, I am thankful to a kind Providence and trust I may be spared to see the one hundredth anniversary of Jefferson's Louisiana purchase, now near at hand.

JAMES AFFLECK.

Belleville, St. Clair county, Illinois, January 18, 1900.

## JOHN RUSSELL, OF BLUFFDALE, ILLINOIS.

By S. G. Russell.

Among the many that the tide of emigration swept from Vermont to the "far west," was John Russell, of Bluffdale, Greene county, Illinois.

He was born at Cavendish, Windsor county, Vermont, on the thirty-first day of July, 1793. He was the son of John Russell and Lucretia Preston. His father was an old-fashioned Baptist preacher, severely Calvinistic in his belief and puritanic in practice. His mother, like Dorcas of old, was renowned for her piety and good works. He had one brother older than himself, Bliss by name, and one younger, Elias, and three sisters, all of whom he survived, save one sister, Sally, who married David Perkins. Polly married Levi Jackson, Eunice married Dr. Joseph Gray. His parents were in very moderate circumstances, and could give their children no educational advantages, save what they could gather at the common schools during the winter months. John, however, had an inordinate thirst for knowledge, as most of his ancestors had been college graduates, teachers, preachers and writers; he determined to try for a better life than that of a small-fisted farmer, on the mountain slopes and huckleberry hills of old Vermont. So, contrary to parental advice, and almost contrary to parental command, he entered Middlebury College, March 25, 1814.

He had already commenced authorship, in order to acquire the needed funds for his collegiate education. His first literary venture was "The Authentic History of the Vermont State's Prison," a duodecimo volume of ninety pages; only one copy of which is known to be in existence, and that is in the archives of the Vermont State Historical Society. In the preface of his modest volume, he says: "It is not the unpardonable vanity of becoming an author but necessity, the mother of invention, that produces the present volume." The sale of the copyright of this book, materially aided him in his first year in college. Without any parental assistance, aided by only a few benevolent hands and by the feeble efforts of his pen, he encountered difficulties and obstacles, which very few would have had the persistence and hardihood to have resisted. This little book was published at Cavendish, Vermont, in 1812, by Preston Merrifield, with whom he had in earlier years, served an apprenticeship at the bookbinder's trade.

This book binding experience he very rarely referred to in after life, though he became a proficient in the business. Merrifield had a cow, and father said, "when the cow came up, they had mush and milk, and when the cow did not come up, they had mush." Yet his remembrance of Merrifield was always of the kindest.

The sale of his book, and the never failing recourse of indigent students—school teaching, carried him through the freshman and sophomore classes. Through the other two classes, he was assisted by William Slade, a young lawyer of Middlebury, and for whom father always cherished the most grateful feelings. Slade afterwards became the Governor of the state. Many years afterwards, while father was living in St. Louis county, Missouri, and in prosperous circumstances, he repaid Slade both interest and principal for all of his timely assistance.

During the interval between the junior and senior classes he taught school at Vergennes, Vt., where he not only became acquainted with my mother, but made a profession of religion and united with the Baptist church. He had hitherto been atheistic in his belief, led thereto by the rigid Calvinistic faith and stern puritanical practice of his father.

Upon his return to college he found himself the only Baptist student connected with the college.

He graduated in 1818. Soon after, he went to McIntosh county, Georgia, and commenced a school, but on account of his anti-slavery views he ended his school rather abruptly.

He had, during his teaching at Vergennes, Vt., become engaged to my mother, in fact, she was one of his scholars. On leaving Georgia he started after my grandfather and family, who were emigrating to the "far west," and overtook them at Whitewater, Harrison county, Indiana, where they had encamped for the winter, and here he was married to Laura Ann Spencer, on the 25th day of October, 1818, by one Mainwaring, who was a justice of the peace and a minister of the gospel. In the spring of 1819, he removed with his young wife to the Missouri Territory. Here, in St. Louis county, he became tutor to Augustus and Marcus Post, sons of Justus Post, then a prominent man in Missouri, for which service he received a salary of five hundred dollars per annum. Here he wrote his immortal "Venomous Worm," which, a few years after, John Pierpont, of Boston, Mass., introduced into his National Reader, as also did the McGuffies in their series of readers. After his tutorship had expired, which was about 1825, he taught school in the city of St. Louis, then only a small French town. In 1832 he taught a high school at Vandalia, Ill., then the capital of the State. Here he became intimately associated with James Hall, author of "Harp's Head" and many other literary works. Hall was then the editor of the Illinois Monthly Magazine, for which father contributed some of his best literary productions.

In 1833 and '34 he taught in the Alton Academy, which afterwards, by the endeavors of John Mason Peck, became Shurtleff College.

While living in "Bonhommie Bottom," Mo., he became intimately acquainted with John M. Peck, who was at that time at the head of the Baptist denomination in the west. The friendship was closely and warmly cherished during their whole lives.

In 1828 he removed from Missouri to a farm in Illinois (now occupied by the writer of this sketch), to which he gave the beautiful name of Bluffdale, and in the following year, Oct. 9, 1829, he was appointed postmaster by Postmaster General McLain, which office has continued on his farm ever since, descending from father to son (now 1900).

On the 9th day of February, 1833, father was licensed to preach. His license is signed by Elijah Dodson and Sears Crane, ministers, and David Woolley, clerk. His natural timidity and retiring disposition prevented him from ever being ordained; he had no confidence in himself—only in his pen.

In 1837, '38 and '39 he edited The Backwoodsman, at Grafton, Illinois, of which Paris Mason was the publisher and proprietor. For this paper he wrote "The Specter Hunter," "Cahokia," "Ellwood, the Outlaw," and "Sir William Dean; or, the Magic of Wealth."

In 1841 and '42 he was editor of The Louisville Advertiser; here he became intimately acquainted with Richard M. Johnson and George D. Prentice, the poet. At first he and Prentice were bitter political enemies. Prentice was editor of the Louisville Courier, which was intensely whig, while the Advertiser was democratic. Prentice threatened several times to challenge "Old Bluff," as he called father, but mutual friends interfered and he and Prentice became, as long as life, literary friends.

Father was principal of Spring Hill Academy, at Clinton, Parish of East Feliciana, La., for about six years, also superintendent of public schools. For two years, (1849-50) he taught the High School in Carrollton, Ill., when he retired from public life to his farm, and devoted himself exclusively to writing for the press.

For the Baptist Publication Society of Philadelphia, he wrote, "Alice Wade," "Going to Mill," "Lame Isaac" and "Little Granite," for the copyright of which, he received quite a sum of money. All of these have been stereotyped and may be found in a catalogue of their publications. About this time he also wrote "Clandine Lavolle" and "The Mormoness," "The Drama of Human Life," "The Emigrant" and "The Lost Patent," besides filling the Baptist papers week after week and year after year, with articles on all subjects, for which he hardly received thanks.

From his early manhood he was a bitter opponent of African slavery and some of his vainest efforts were leveled at the "divine institution." His letters to "John Kelly, born in Massachusetts," attracted national attention. John Kelly was a "Missouri Border Ruffian" in the Kansas troubles, and one of the most insanely devilish, of all of the cut-throats of that trying time; and publicly boasted that he was born in Massachusetts. Father more than "skinned him alive," along with others of his ilk. His articles were published in the St. Louis Intelligencer. Many attempts were made to discover the author, but in vain, the editor kept the secret well.

In 1843, he returned home from Louisville, Ky., and found that the "wolf of hell," in the form of one Chandler a half Atheistic, half Universalist preacher, had broken into the little fold of the Baptist church, and badly scattered the flock. He began preaching to the remnant of the flock, and finally, preached a sermon against the Universalist Salvation, from the text "Thou Shalt Not Surely Die," so hot and caustic that it made him so many bitter enemies, of those whom he had been accustomed to call brother, that he gave up preaching and went back to Louisiana, and went once more to teaching. I. M. Peck was at our house soon after the sermon was delivered, and father showed him the manuscript; Peck put the MSS. in his pocket, and its subsequent publication, with Peck as editor, was the outcome. The little book is entitled "The Serpent Uncoiled." It went through three editions and was in its time popular. In Little Granite, he had Governor Bissell as his hero. Bissell and he had long been friends.

About 1831, he wrote for the Illinois Monthly Magazine an article entitled "Three Hundred Years Hence." It was in the form of a dream and set forth what this country would be, three hundred years hence. Among other predictions, he dreamed that the river at St. Louis was spanned by a bridge. He ends his dream by saying, that if any one did not like his dreaming, he gave them full right to do their own dreaming.

Thomas Lippencot, who wrote under the *nom de plume* of "Salem," as my father did under that of "Bluffdale," in a criticism says, that he thinks that Bluffdale rather overdone the thing even for a dream, in dreaming a bridge across the turbulent, boiling Mississippi at St. Louis!

After that the Eads bridge became a foregone conclusion, Judge N. Ranny wrote to me to enquire if a copy of that dream was yet in existence, and if so, requested a copy for publication.

I answered by sending him a copy. It was reprinted in the Missouri Republican and read at the dedication of the bridge.

When the Mormons were driven out of Missouri in 1838, by mob violence, Sidney Rigdon, Parley Pratt and a number of fugitives stopped at our house for shelter and hospitality. Father heard from them the heartrending stories and barbarity of the cut-throat Missourians, hence came the story of "Mary Maverick, the Mormoness." In this book he has not overstated or exaggerated a single fact. The Rev. Mr. Merriek was a Baptist preacher and preached in Missouri and Illinois in early times, but was finally led astray, and went over to the Mormon faith (the wife of whom was the Mary Maverick of the story.) In their retreat from Missouri, he and others being closely pressed, took refuge in a blacksmith's shop, but they were betrayed, and captured, and shot down like dogs. His only son, a lad of eight years of age, had hidden under the bellows, but was dragged out by a ruffian; the boy bravely cried out, "I am an American citizen! I am an American citizen!"

but the Missouri barbarian put the muzzle of his gun to the brave boy's head and blew his brains out; the women they let go, and Mrs. Merrick came back to Illinois to her friends, and not to Nauvoo, for she was not herself a very bigoted Mormon.

Now, to relieve the sadness of the story, I will relate an anecdote of this same Merrick. Like a great many at the present time, he was very boisterous in his declamation, making much more noise than was absolutely necessary. Mother said, that one time after father had heard him preach, that he got up in the night and wrote something on a slip of paper. It was this:

Good Brother Merrick may screech and may holler,  
As if his lungs wasn't worth more'n six bits or a dollar;  
But of his throat and his lungs he'd best have a care,  
For his church is too stingy to buy a new pair!

In 1832 and '33 father was Sunday school agent, employed by some eastern society. He planted Sunday schools in almost all the counties in Southern Illinois.

My father was a small man, about 5 feet 6 inches in stature, with dark auburn hair, large, deep blue eyes, and of a very light complexion; he was of a cheerful, jovial disposition, very fond of a good joke well told; some of his best productions were of a humorous nature. Only a few of his most intimate friends knew the whole worth of his generous heart, his pure manhood, his patriotism, and more than loyal friendship. His intercourse with the world was marked by the most childlike gentleness. His simple reliance upon Providence, his unshaken faith in the power and efficacy of prayer, have marked with a ray of Divine light, his pathway down the rugged ways of life. His love for children was more than womanly in its tenderness; he never saw a child however humble and obscure, however unkempt or unwashed, but that he had a pat on the head for him, and a kind and cheerful word. He was the beloved playmate of all the ragged urchins in the neighborhood, and his kindness had left its mark upon their hearts; for many of them as they gathered around his coffin to take their last look upon a face that never met them without a smile—wept with a sorrow that would not be pacified.

Kind hearted as a woman, he would not have needlessly set his foot upon a worm. The poor and unfortunate, whatever might be their character, he never turned empty away from his door. He was generous to a fault, impoverishing himself that he might cast plenty into the lap of those he loved. Putting implicit confidence in the integrity of all mankind, he was overreached in almost every pecuniary transaction, as careless of worldly wealth as he was grasping after the wealth of science.

Few have been more ardently devoted to the welfare of the whole world, more earnestly striving for the liberty and education of all that bear the image of God.

He died on the 21st day of January, 1863. He died of old age; his close application to books and book making had worn him out prematurely.

Though his illness was severe, yet his death was calm and serene, like flowers at set of sun. He died with all the confident hope of a true Christian; he was not afraid to trust that God whom he had loved and served for fifty years. His last spoken words were "confidence! confidence!" After he could no longer speak, he wrote upon a slate, "see that Brother Bulkley's children have some apples." Justus Bulkley, D. D., preached the funeral sermon from Ecclesiastes chapter 2, first and second verses.

Bluffdale, Greene county, Illinois, May, 1900.

P. S.—I should have said in this sketch that the old Chicago University conferred upon John Russell the degree of LL. D., with which he was in his old age much more gratified than he would have been in his younger days. Father told me that for a long time he had had the idea of the "Venomous Worm" in his head, but had not yet committed a line of it to writing. That he had agreed with the editor of the "Columbian" to write two or three articles for his paper, in payment of his subscription, and that the editor had called upon him for one of the promised articles, and that he sat down and in

less than the quarter of an hour he committed "The Venomous Worm" to paper; that it was but once copied from the original draft, and that at that time he had no idea that he had written an article that would outlive all else that he had written or would write. Mr. Brown, editor of the Alton Courier, told me that he read "The Venomous Worm" when a school boy in the Highlands of Scotland. It has been rendered into poetry several times, and the authorship attributed to several different ones; and it has been published in all the temperance almanacs, and many temperance papers, both in England and America. John Knapp, editor of the Missouri Republican, was very anxious that I should say that it was first published in his paper, and offered me a life subscription if I would so assert. The Columbian was a small paper published at St. Charles, Missouri, in early days. S. S. R.

## AN INCIDENT IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF MORGAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

By John Yaple.

When I was a small boy, about five years of age, I witnessed an event that made a deep impression on my childish mind; and although more than seventy years have passed since it occurred, it is still retained vividly in my memory.

A few months before that time my father, Jacob Yaple, and his brother, John Yaple, had moved into the northeastern part of Morgan county, and taken up land on the headwaters of Indian Creek, that runs through the southern part of what is now Cass county, and empties into the Illinois river. They made improvements on the land, and each family (of the two brothers) occupied a cabin not far apart (in the present limits of Cass county), one on each side of the little branch, in order that they might use water from the same spring.

We children of both families played together and had all things for our use or amusement in common. One day late in the fall, in the year of 1827, I think it was, while playing in the woods a few hundred yards from our cabins, we children were suddenly greatly frightened by seeing a lot of Indians coming through the woods and making straight for our homes. There was quite a number of them, men, women and children, with a few horses and some dogs. On one of their horses they had several wild turkeys they had killed that morning; and going to my father's cabin, after all hands drinking out of the spring, they proposed to my mother swapping the turkeys for her chickens. My mother, I remember, was not inclined to part with her much-prized fowls, on which she partly depended for the support of the family; but the Indians, seeing that no men were about, caught several of the chickens, and left in their stead an equal number of turkeys, and then proceeded on their way to the northward. These Indians were not on the war path, having their families along, and were very good humored and friendly. They were a party of Sacs who had left their tribe encamped on, or above, Peoria lake, and had gone down the Illinois river on a hunting excursion, and were now on their return, traveling along the edge of the prairies.

At the time they arrived at our place father and Uncle John were gone to a neighbors, eight miles away, to assist in a "house raising," as was customary in those days. The house to be raised was a log cabin, such as ours, to be raised by "notching down" the corners as it was built up. We had no near neighbors, and my aunt had gone, a little while before, on horseback out into the prairie to look for the cows, leaving her baby, a few months old, asleep in its cradle. And I remember that cradle well—it was made of the bark of a large walnut tree with split board ends and rockers.

We children were very much afraid of the Indians, and we ran to our house on seeing them, and huddled together in the corner under the bed. Mother went out and shut the cabin door to keep them from coming in, and we watched her with great anxiety from our hiding place, through the cracks between the logs. After the Indians left we felt greatly relieved at their departure and crawled out. We were running around, looking over the ground and watching to see if our unwelcome visitors might be coming back again, when a noise in the direction of Uncle's cabin attracted our attention that way. We had not seen my aunt get back, but just then I saw her come out of her cabin door, and screaming to my mother to come there, she fell to



the ground as if shot. I ran into our house and told mother that Aunt Ellice had called her and then fell down dead. Mother rushed out and ran to her and caught hold of her, and seeing that she was not dead, went into her cabin for some spirits of camphor; and there she at once discovered the cause of aunt's distress. The cradle was empty, the Indians having stolen her child.

Of course nothing could be done until the return of the men folks, which could not be expected until about midnight; and neither mother or aunt knew just where they had gone, and if they had known, there was no one to send for them; and aunt was too much prostrated to go, and mother couldn't leave her. So they could do nothing but cry and wring their hands. On the arrival of father and uncle, late in the night, they were soon informed of what had occurred.

They were both resolute and fearless pioneers, and began right away to make arrangements to follow the Indians. Uncle John went for their two nearest neighbors, Daniel and Alex. Robertson, who saddled their horses, and getting their rifles and ammunition, came with him. The four men, mounted on good horses, and Aunt Ellice on another one, with an extra horse to carry bedding and provisions required for the expedition, started about daybreak, taking a due north course. There were then neither roads, ferries or bridges in this part of the State; and the sun was their guide by day to the direction they desired to follow. It soon began raining, and when they got to the Sangamon river the water was up, and they were delayed some little time in finding a suitable place for swimming their horses across. Though the Indians were all afoot, with two or three horses to carry their traps, they traveled fast, and the rain made their trail hard to follow. Father and his party pushed on all the day time, and camped wherever night overtook them, when they would build a big fire, and dry their clothes and cook supper; then be off again before day light next morning. The high water in the Mackinaw gave them considerable trouble; but they got across it too by swimming; and continuing the chase they finally came to the main camp of the Indians at the lower end of Peoria Lake. Going at once to the chief's lodge they soon told him, by aid of a half-breed who could speak English a little, what they had come for. The chief said he knew nothing about it, and did not know that the band that went down the river hunting had yet returned; and if they had returned he could not tell where they were, as the Indians of his tribe were scattered on both sides of the river from that point—at the foot the lake—to where Joliet now stands. He told them to hunt through the different camps, and if they could find the child to take it, and he sent an Indian with them for their protection. Then commenced the search in earnest. They crossed and recrossed the Illinois river several times, paddling over in canoes and leading the swimming horses behind them. The child was stolen from its cradle by a young squaw who had, while down the river, lost her babe, by death, of about the same age as this one. Seeing the white baby asleep in the cabin, with no one about the place, her motherly feelings overcame her and she carried the child off. It had replaced her dead babe in her affections, and she did not want to part with it; so, when she heard that its parents were in pursuit of it she hid it in a dark corner of one of the lodges. Father and Uncle John were very diligent in their search; and having the chief's authority, they looked into every place about the Indian camps where the child could possibly be secreted. At length their perseverance was rewarded. Looking in one of the lodges behind a stack of dry deer skins they found the lost child securely strapped to a board after the Indian method of cradling their children. The squaw-mother parted with the baby she had stolen very reluctantly, and wept piteously when its white mother took it away.

The captured child, while showing great need of a white woman's care, appeared rugged and healthy. As a boy he was always conspicuous for his erect figure; and we used to say that his straight back was the result of having been strapped to a board while in the hands of his Indian-mother. The party, having the additional care of the baby, and bad weather, had a rough

trip back home; but arrived all well and very tired, much to they relief of my mother, who had remained in the cabin alone with the children of both families. The stolen babe mentioned is now, December 30, 1899, an old man, residing in Hancock county, in this State; and often tells of his infant experience—not from memory of course; but as narrated to him by his courageous parents.

Virginia, Cass Co., Illinois, December 30, 1899.

Written by Dr. J. F. Snyder from the account given by him orrally by Mr. John Yapple.

## STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

## SOME OLD LETTERS BY, AND RELATING TO, THE DISTINGUISHED STATESMAN.

(By Joseph Wallace, A. M.)

The political history of Mr. Douglas is more widely known than that of any other public man of Illinois, living or dead, with the single exception of Mr. Lincoln. But the beginnings of his remarkable career are not so familiar to the reading public; and it is for the purpose of throwing some additional light upon the earlier portion of his history that the writer hereof presents this series of letters. The first of these was written and addressed by Mr. Douglas to the editor of the "Illinois Patriot" (a Whig organ at Jacksonville) under date of March 8, 1837, and it is a very spirited defense of his course as a member of the Legislature from Morgan county, particularly with reference to the question of the removal of the seat of government of the State from Vandalia to Springfield. The letter reads as follows:

"Mr. Editor:—In your paper of the 22d of February last, there appears an editorial in which you make the specific charge that I had made an arrangement with the Sangamon delegation by which they were to use their influence to secure my appointment as Register of the Land Office [at Springfield], and that in consideration of their services I had abandoned the interests of my own constituents and was acting in concert with the Sangamon delegation in supporting Springfield for the seat of government.

"Whilst I freely admit that the Representative who would be guilty of so flagrant an abuse of the trust reposed in him by a generous people would justly merit, as he would certainly receive, the execration of every honest man, I also hold that the man who would make and publish a false charge of that magnitude for the purpose of blasting the character of a political opponent who was absent on public duty, and consequently unable to defend himself, should meet with the same scorn and indignation of a virtuous people. Having made the charge, one which impeaches my integrity as a man and my fidelity as a Representative, you are bound by every principle of honor and honesty to exhibit the evidence to substantiate its truth, or publicly retract the slander, and the failure on your part to do so must be taken as conclusive evidence of the falsity of the charge and malice in which it had its origin. Conscious of my own innocence and of the rectitude of my conduct, I am impelled to demand the proof, so that the people may see whether I have been the traitor or you the slanderer.

"It is not true that any arrangement was made or any understanding existed between the Sangamon delegation and myself in relation to a land office, the seat of government, or any other measure. It is not true that one solitary member of that delegation signed a recommendation in my favor, or was in any way concerned in it. That recommendation was got up by my friends without my solicitation or knowledge, and when the fact was communicated to me I told them that I did not desire that or any other appoint-

ment under the government, that I looked to the people and not the government for any favor I might ask. So far from there being any arrangement or concert of action between the Sangamon delegation and myself, it was my misfortune to differ on almost every important question that came before the Legislature, and more especially on the location of the seat of government. That was the all-absorbing topic with them, and with that view they used every exertion and made every necessary sacrifice to secure the passage of the bill, which recently became a law, on that subject. To that bill I was opposed in every form and shape it assumed, from its first appearance in the House up to its final passage. My decided and uncompromising opposition to that bill, and to the object intended to be accomplished by its passage, arrayed the Sangamon delegation *en masse* against me. So notorious was this fact at the seat of government at the time your paper containing the above charge was received that no person of any political party who hesitated for an instant to pronounce it a base slander. I defy you to find any one of my colleagues, or any member of either branch of the Legislature, or any individual who will, in the slightest degree, confirm the charge and become responsible for its truth. I make the statement with the more assurance and fearlessness, because I feel confident that each and all of them must know and will do me the justice to say that the whole charge is a mere fabrication, false as the heart that conceived it and the hand that penned it. I therefore call upon you to establish its truth or admit its falsity.

"In relation to your remark that you had, 'before the last August election, told the people that S. A. Douglas was an office hunter,' I will only say that when I shall have applied for and accepted an office at the hands of the government, it will then be time enough for you to talk about office hunters.

"S. A. DOUGLAS.

"Jacksonville, March 8, 1837."

This vigorous and virile epistle is one among the earliest printed effusions from Mr. Douglas' pen, and for this reason it has a special significance for the reader. Considered with reference to his age at the time (he was a little under twenty-four), the letter shows uncommon maturity of mind as well as command of language, and it is otherwise marked by certain of those excellencies and defects of style which distinguish his later published utterances, whether written or spoken.

Having taken up his residence in Springfield, Mr. Douglas, in April, 1840, was nominated by the Democrats of Sangamon county as a candidate for Representative in the State General Assembly; but the great presidential campaign of that year, in which he took a prominent part, being then in active progress, he declined the nomination in the subjoined graceful letter:

"Colonel Robert Allen.

"Sir:—Your note, as president of the late Democratic county convention, informing me of my nomination as a candidate for Representative in our Legislature is received. I feel grateful to the Democracy of Sangamon for their continued confidence and esteem. Considerations of a private nature, however, constrain me to decline the nomination, and leave the field to those whose avocations and private affairs will enable them to devote the requisite portion of their time to the canvass. You will accept my thanks for the very complimentary manner in which you have pleased to communicate the result of the deliberations of the convention.

"I am, sir, very respectfully,

"Your fellow citizen,

"S. A. DOUGLAS.

"Springfield, Ill., April 29, 1840."

The following private and hitherto unpublished letter, written by Mr Douglas while he was a member of the Lower House of Congress to Col. Archer G. Herndon, of Springfield, (father of the late Hon. Wm. Herndon,) may be perused with interest, as it contains an allusion to the Oregon boundary dispute, which was at that time a burning issue in Congress:

“WASHINGTON, [D. C.] April 14, 1846.

“My Dear Sir:—I have delayed answering your several letters partly for want of time, and partly because I could not say with any certainty what would be done. But by this morning’s ‘Union’ I see that you have been re-appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. I claim no credit for this appointment, for it was made without my knowledge. I had not supposed that it would be decided upon by the President for some time to come, and for this reason had never spoken to him or the cabinet on the subject. This statement is due to you, as well as to others to whom you are indebted for the appointment.

“We are now engaged in the discussion of the bill to extend the laws over Oregon. The bill will pass in some shape on Thursday. I hope it will pass in a satisfactory shape.

“I shall be glad to hear from you often.

Your friend,

“S. A. DOUGLAS.”

“Col. A. G. Herndon.”

#### ANCESTRY OF SENATOR DOUGLAS.

In April, 1878, in answer to a letter of inquiry concerning the family and ancestry of Mr. Douglas, the writer of this paper received from Mr. Eugene J. Granger, of Clifton Springs, N. Y. (a nephew of Senator Douglas) an interesting letter, of which the following is the principal portion:

“CLIFTON SPRINGS, ONTARIO CO., N. Y., April 21, 1878.

“DEAR SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 17th I would state: 1st. That Senator Douglas’ sister, who married my father, Julius N. Granger, was named Sarah Arnold Douglas, and she was married Feb. 14, 1830. There were three children—myself, sister Emma, now Mrs. Sidney D. Jackson, and Adelaide. afterward Mrs. J. F. Hoyt. Mrs. Hoyt died the 12th of April, 1860.

“2d. The christian name of my grandfather Granger was Gehazi. He was married to Mrs. Sally Douglas, mother of Sarah A. and Stephen A. Douglas, Nov, 27, 1830.

“Third—The occupation of Benajah Douglass (grandfather of the senator) was farming, after he came to Brandon, Vt., and he died there. Can not say whether he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

“Fourth—Both of the grandmothers of Senator Douglass were named Arnold, and not known to be in anywise related.

“Fifth—My mother’s knowledge of matters embraced in your fifth inquiry consists of ancient memoranda, as follows: William Douglass (the first) was born in Scotland in 1610, and emigrated to America, date not known: but the birth of his son, William, is recorded in Boston, Mass., in March 1645. Wm. Douglas, born in 1610, was married in 1640 to Mary Ann, daughter of Thomas Marble, of Northampton, England. He died July 26, 1682, in his seventy-second year.

“William Douglass (2d) born March 1, 1645, was married December 16, 1667, to Abiah, daughter of William Hugh, of New London, Conn., where the father and family had removed from Boston. William Douglass (the second) had two sons and five daughters. His oldest son (also William by name) was born April 19, 1672, and removed to Plainfield, Connecticut. By his wife, Sarah, he had eight sons and three daughters. The youngest of these eight sons was Asa, born December 15, 1715, and died November 12, 1792. He married Rebecca Wheeler, who was born Aug. 26, 1718, and died June 12, 1809. Asa Douglass had thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters.

Benajah Douglass (the youngest of these sons and the maternal great grandfather of E. J. Granger), was born December 15, 1766, and died October 2, 1829.

"My mother has no means of informing you when my great grandfather came to Brandon, Vt. Our records show that the first William known to us, resided in Boston, Mass., and moved from there to New London, Conn., with his family,—the second William afterwards removing to Plainfield, Conn.

"I believe I have replied substantially to your inquiries, but will be glad to give you any further information in our power. \* \* \* \*

"Yours sincerely,

"E. J. GRANGER."

It appears from the foregoing genealogical record that Mr. Douglas was of mixed Scotch and English blood, but with a predominance of the latter. It further appears from this record, as also from inscriptions on the old family tombstones in the cemetery at Brandon, Vermont, that the paternal ancestors of the Senator spelled their surname with a double s, but he himself dropped the final s from his signature after coming to Illinois.

#### A VISIT TO THE BIRTHPLACE OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

In the spring of 1871, in passing by rail through western Vermont, the writer of this paper stopped for a short time at Brandon, the natal place and first home of Senator Douglas, and from that sequestered town he wrote and addressed to the "Illinois State Register" the following descriptive letter:

"BRANDON, Vt., April 14, 1871.

"To the Editor of State Register:—The readers of the Register are mostly aware of the fact that the late Senator Douglas was born in Brandon, but few of them, perhaps, have any definite knowledge of the place. Having spent some hours in rambling about through this picturesque old town, I thought the result of my observations might be of interest to your many patrons.

"Brandon lies on the Rutland and Burlington division of the Vermont Central Railway, seventeen miles north of Rutland (the county seat), in a beautiful valley on the western slope of the ever green Green Mountains. It was first settled in 1787, and now numbers a population of 3,500 souls. The streets cross each other at all possible angles, and are ornamented by grand old shade trees, which must render the place a delightful resort in the summer season.

"In this vicinity, and all along the eastern shore of Lake Champlain, are extensive quarries of Vermont marble, of which the new wings of the capitol at Washington were built. In fact marble is so plentiful and so cheap, that it is used for almost every building purpose. I was shown today the pulpit in the old Congregational church here, which is built of the purest white marble, highly polished, and was presented to the church by the owners of one of the quarries. It cost two thousand dollars.

"There are two hotels in the place, one called the Brandon House and the other the Douglas Hotel, at either of which the traveler will find good accommodations.

"The greatest curiosity in the town is its "frozen well," the only one of its kind, perhaps, in the whole country. Its depth to the surface of the water is twenty-eight feet, and it remains frozen for eleven months in the year. Scientific men from Boston and elsewhere have examined this well, but have not been able to satisfactorily explain the secret of its almost perpetual congelation.

"But to the Illinoisan Brandon is only of special interest from its connection with the early life of Stephen A. Douglas. I strolled through the old cemetery adjoining the Congregational church where the father of the senator was buried. On a plain stone of bluish marble at the head of his grave

is this simple inscription: "Dr. Stephen A. Douglass. Died July 1, 1813, in the 32d year of his age." By his side lie the remains of his father and mother, the former of whom deceased in 1829, aged 69, and the latter in 1818, in the 56th year of her age. Benajah Douglass, the grandfather of the senator, was one of the earliest settlers of the village. He was a farmer by occupation and accumulated considerable property for his day and place. I am told, however, by an old and well-informed resident of this town, that the senator's talents were supposed to be mainly inherited from his grandmother, Martha (Arnold) Douglass, who is said to have been a woman of more than ordinary intellect and force of character.

"I also visited the house where Stephen A. was born, and where his father died. It is a plain little brown frame, one and one-half stories high, and has been owned and occupied by a family of the name of Hyatt for about forty years. The front portion of the house has undergone but little alteration since the time of Mr. Douglas' birth. It will be remembered that the widow of Doctor Douglass, soon after his death, removed to a farm a few miles in the country, which she and her brother had jointly inherited from their father, and there lived until her second marriage, in 1830, when the family removed to Ontario county, New York.

"As I stood here in this quiet New England town, before the modest cottage where Senator Douglas first saw the light of day, I thought of the wonderful life of this wonderful little man,—how he was cradled and passed his childhood in obscurity among these verdant hills and mountains; of his transition hence to Canandaigua, New York, and schooling in the academy there; of his subsequent removal to Cleveland, Ohio, and entrance upon the study of law; of his tedious journey southward and westward, down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to St. Louis, and thence to Jacksonville, Illinois; of his advent in Winchester in the character of a village pedagogue; of the commencement of his marvelous public career at the early age of twenty-two; of the rapidity with which he ascended the rounds of the ladder of political distinction until he reached a seat in the Senate of the United States, and there, from that theatre of his great fame, for fourteen years, spoke to the toiling millions of his admiring countrymen with a power, eloquence and effect rarely equalled or surpassed. I thought, too, of his many journeys back and forth over the land; of the peculiar magnetism of his personal presence, and the talismanic touch of his hand; of his memorable senatorial campaign against his great rival, Lincoln, in 1858, and of his still more memorable canvass for the presidency in 1860; of his last great efforts in favor of peace and union in the Senate; of his return to his loved Illinois in the spring of 1861, and his speeches (in Springfield and Chicago) on the eve of a gigantic civil war; of his final illness and death in the commercial capital of the State, which he had helped to make great and famous. and of the sorrowing multitude that followed him to an honored grave.

"A decade has now elapsed since the dauntless spirit of the 'Little Giant' passed from time to eternity. During that brief period great events have followed each other in quick succession, and great political changes have come over this and other and distant lands, the full influence of which can as yet be only conjectured. Many of the Senator's contemporaries sleep in the house appointed for all living. Other men now stride across the public stage, where he once moved with the proud and self-reliant air of a master. Another man now occupies his seat, though he may not fill his place in the Senate chamber. In the hurry of this advancing age, many of the incidents of his checkered life are fading from the recollections of men; his great political speeches are comparatively seldom read or quoted; even his unfinished monument, emblematic of his unfinished career, is a ruin.\* But, still, the name of Douglas will live in the story of his country's history, a bright exemplar for aspiring youth, and be transmitted with increased luster to after ages.

"J. W."

#### THE DOUGLAS MONUMENT.

\*NOTE—Shortly after the lamented demise of Mr. Douglas, in June, 1861, an association was formed and chartered in Chicago for the purpose of rais-

ing money with which to erect a fitting monument to his memory. The corner stone of this monument was laid on the lake shore at Chicago with imposing ceremonies, September 6, 1866, and work on the same was continued until the sub-structure and vault were built. After this, for want of funds, the mausoleum was permitted to remain in an unfinished state for ten years. At length, in 1877, the Illinois Legislature appropriated fifty thousand dollars to complete the monument, and in 1879 a further appropriation of nine thousand dollars was made for that purpose. But it was not until some time in 1881 that the Douglas monument was finally completed. The total cost of the structure, including the cost of the large lot of ground on which it stands (which was purchased by the State under an act passed in 1865, and appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars for the purpose), must have amounted to something over one hundred thousand dollars. More recently the General Assembly, at the session of 1901, appropriated thirty-five hundred dollars for making needed repairs upon the monument.



## THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE GRAVES OF THE MEN WHO FELL  
IN THE "BATTLE OF STILLMAN'S RUN," ON MAY 14, 1862.

By Rev. R. W. Newlands, of Stillman Valley, Illinois.

Illinois has always been ready to give of her sons for the defense of her country, yet unlike many other states, she has seen but few battles on her own soil. Not merely because Major Stillman's fight was one of those few, but because of its far-reaching results, do I feel that the State should aid in commemorating an event, the importance of which is not appreciated as it ought to be. For it is undoubtedly true that in this engagement the blood of American soldiers was shed for the first time in the Black Hawk war. It is also true that the wild alarm that spread over Illinois on the defeat of Stillman and his small force, because of the exaggerated reports as to the number of Indians engaged, caused the calling out of several thousand of men, (Abraham Lincoln being one of them), and the final result was the complete overthrow and expulsion of the red man, and the opening of the beautiful and fertile Rock River valley for the settlement by the whites. The whole of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin was profoundly affected by this movement.

Having lived in Black Hawk's country for nearly six years, most of that time within twenty miles of what was once the chief town of the Sac nation, I have since been interested in the struggles of that great chief to retain the land of his fathers, and I have at different times examined the chief authorities on the subject. Coming to Stillman Valley nearly two years ago, I at once resumed my study of the Sac warrior, and particularly the part he played in the battle, if such it may be called, of "Stillman's Run." Putting together accounts in histories, and reliable statements made by some of our oldest settlers, I became convinced that it would not be difficult to get at the facts in the case. My interest naturally centered around the hill on which the fight took place, and where it was generally believed the dead were buried. But opinions varied as to the real place of burial, while some held they were not buried on the hill at all, but some distance to the south of it. And the number said to be buried there varied from five to eleven. It was generally believed, however, that the spot has been regarded as the place of sepulture by Joshua White, who received the land from the government, and had on that account refused to have the virgin soil broken by the plow.

A few years ago this ground was platted—Joshua White having died—and the property four years ago was bought by Dr. E. P. Allan, who, fifteen months ago, offered it for sale at public auction. Feeling that it might be bought by some one for building purposes, the sacred spot desecrated, and perhaps finally forgotten, I determined, if possible, to locate beyond a peradventure, the exact spot where the volunteers were laid.

On Tuesday afternoon, November 14, 1899, J. A. Atwood and I started for the hill, spade in hand. We first examined the stratification of the hill as revealed in the cut made for the road running east across the brow of the hill. The strata, as expected, were clearly marked. A loamy superficial soil about ten inches deep, then a yellowish sandy sub-soil of about the same depth, followed by a pea-gravel running into coarser gravel. With this information, we felt that if we located the graves, the spot would be identified by the mixed earth, sand and gravel, and particularly by the presence of gravel on

the surface. We tested the ground at every place where the grave was supposed to be, but we found only the pure black loam in every case. I presume we tried from forty to fifty different spots without a clue. Then I went over to the western slope of the hill and tried in several places there, although no one supposed the graves to be on that side. I noticed a little gravel on the surface at one place, but fancied it had fallen off some passing wagon, as wagon tracks were plainly visible, and the ground seemed somewhat uneven. In attempting to scrape the gravel off, I found it ran deeper, so, digging a hole some eighteen or twenty inches deep, and finding gravel still present, I was convinced that the ground here had been disturbed, and that in all probability this was the long lost grave we sought. As evening was upon us, we decided to continue our excavations the next day. On the following morning, November 15th, we were on the ground again. Enlarging the hole already made, by scraping toward the south, I soon came to the end of the mixed earth. I judged that point to be the limit of the grave or trench, and proceeded to dig a hole about three feet square. After going down about two feet, I decided to take the earth out in thin layers, lest the bones might be broken. At a depth of about three feet I unearthed one of the phalanges of the right hand, then others, then the thigh bones immediately below, and I saw that we had alighted on the middle of the body of the man who had been laid at the end of the row in the trench. Every bone was carefully removed one by one without breaking. The suggestion that it might be the skeleton of an Indian was quickly set aside when several buttons and a vest buckle were discovered, and a minute later the skull was taken out, showing every tooth present, and without a single sign of decay. The skull had not the prominent cheekbones, nor the retreating forehead of the Indian. But the lower limbs and feet, which were removed last, dispelled any doubt that may have remained in the minds of the crowd of spectators who had by this time assembled; for it was found that the cavalry boots which the soldiers wore when killed, were still intact, and the blanket in which he had been wrapped for burial was plainly seen, although it had rotted too much to permit of its being removed from the grave even in very small pieces. The skeleton was evidently that of a man over six feet in height, as the femur measured twenty-two inches in length. The body had been buried on its back, but the face was turned downward, showing that he had been decapitated. For a skeleton that had been in the grave for over sixty-seven years, it was in a remarkably well preserved condition, doubtless owing to the sandy nature of the soil and the dry location. The bones were all replaced in a suitable box and reinterred in the same spot. The other bodies were not disturbed, but the extent of the trench was determined and the limits marked by posts. Since then the property has been bought by the "Battleground Memorial Association" which was organized immediately after the recovery of the graves, and duly incorporated under the laws of the State. The sacred spot was decorated for the first time last Memorial Day.

It may not be inappropriate to recall the circumstances under which those men lost their lives.

The treaty of 1804, by which certain chiefs of the Sac and Fox Indians ceded to the United States government their lands on Rock River and elsewhere, was confirmed by other chiefs of the same nations in 1815, but Black Hawk, who was a leader by nature but not a chief by birth, bitterly opposed the sale, and always declared that the Indians who ceded the lands had been intoxicated and bribed by the whites, and insisted that the lands were not sold with the consent of the nation as a whole. Black Hawk with his people were, however, compelled to leave the Rock River valley for a government reservation in Iowa. In 1832, egged on by the false promises of the Prophet Neapope, of support from the Pottawottamies and Winnebagoes, Black Hawk recrossed the Mississippi with his women and children and three hundred braves, and took possession of the old cornfields. He was warned by Governor Atkinson to return to Iowa, but he refused. A call was made for volunteers, and these, under General's Atkinson and Whiteside, marched to Dixon's Ferry, where a reconnoissance was decided upon. Two officers, Majors Stillman and Bailey, neither of whom had ever seen any fighting, begged to be put forward on some difficult service. To gratify them, they,

with their two battalions or mounted volunteers consisting of 275 men all told, were ordered up Rock River to spy out the Indians. Pursuing his way on the east side of the river, Major Stillman came to what is now called Stillman creek, on May 14, 1832, and encamped at nightfall in the timber on the north side of the stream. As the volunteers were preparing for supper, three Indians appeared coming from the north, one of them carrying a white flag. They were met on approaching the camp, and one was ruthlessly shot, while the other two escaped. Another party of five Indians who had been sent to watch the truce party, on hearing the shots and seeing the others fleeing, started back with all haste to the camp of Black Hawk on the Kishwaukee river to give the alarm. A party of fifteen or twenty whites, chiefly of Captain Ead's company, without orders or commander, started in hot pursuit, and succeeded in overtaking and killing two of the fleeing Indians. Nearing the Indian camp the war whoop was raised, and Black Hawk, with about forty of his warriors—all that were in camp at that time, advanced to meet the whites. Ead's men, doubtless judging by the yells that they were greatly outnumbered, immediately turned and fled, followed by the Sacs on their ponies. Instead of drawing rein when they regained their camp, the terrified whites gave the alarm that hundreds of savages were at their heels. They could easily have formed in the timber and defeated ten times the number of those pursuing, but, panic-struck, the men sprang to their horses, many of them cutting the hitching straps after they had mounted, and in disorderly rabble crossed the ford and dashed southward. On reaching the rising ground on the south side of the creek, an attempt was made to rally the men but it was of no avail. Many of them never stopped until they reached Dixon, twenty-five miles away. Captain John G. Adams, with a dozen or so others, heroically covered the retreat of their companions and checked the career of the Indians, and many thereby escaped who would otherwise have fallen. But Adams himself, with three of his own company and five others, paid the price with their lives.

On the arrival of the routed soldiers at the camp at Dixon's Ferry, with exaggerated stories of the numbers of their pursuers, a council of war was held in the night, and early the next morning 2,000 men marched to the scene of the disaster and buried the dead. The nine who died on the hill were found scalped and fearfully mutilated, while Captain Adams and Major Perkins were also decapitated. These nine were laid in one trench. It is generally believed that eleven whites fell in the stampede but only ten names are to be found in the Adjutant General's report, and these are as follows:

Captain John G. Adams, Pekin, Ill.  
 Major Isaac Perkins, Pekin.  
 Sergeant John Walters, Fulton county.  
 Corporal Bird W. Ellis, Fulton county.  
 Corporal James Milton, Decatur.  
 Private Joseph Draper, Bloomington.  
 Private David Kreeps, Pekin.  
 Private Zadock Mendinall, Pekin.  
 Private Tyrus M. Childs, Fulton county.  
 Private Joseph B. Farris, Fulton county.

This report is, however, admittedly incomplete and inaccurate. The records were not collected and published until fifty years after the battle occurred.

The early settlers of Stillman Valley, (a few of whom still survive) found evidences of Stillman's camp in the remains of baggage wagons, whisky barrels, tents, tin cups and parts of hitching straps tied to trees.

No one can read the history of our Indian wars without feeling that many of them were far from being a credit to the nation. And the Black Hawk war in particular, was characterized by many acts, happily seldom heard of in civilized warfare. From the shameless shooting down of the bearer of a flag of truce, which shooting led to the utter routing of Stillman's men and undoubtedly precipitated the war, down to the final corraling and massacring of a worn-out handful of braves, on the eastern bank of the Mississippi, between an overwhelming force of whites on the shore, and the armed steamship "Warrior" on the river, the white man appears oftenest as the savage,

and perhaps it is well that full official details have not been preserved. Nevertheless, there were many brave men who shouldered a musket at the call of Governor Reynolds, and who shortly thereafter—in one case only sixteen days—yielded their lives that the white settler might live in peace and happiness in the beautiful country of the Sacs and Winnebagoes. And the student of history will feel that the remains of some of those heroes lie on the hillock in Stillman Valley, now happily in known and marked graves.

ROBERT W. NEWLANDS,

Stillman Valley, Ill., 15 Jan., 1901.

*Pastor Congregational Church.*

[ Note.—In 1901 the Forty-second General Assembly of Illinois appropriated the sum of \$5,000 for the erection of a monument near Stillman Valley, in Ogle county, in memory of the ten soldiers of Major Josiah Stillman's command slain by Black Hawk's Indians near the head of Old Man's creek, on the 14th of May, 1832, whose remains were discovered in 1900, as related in the foregoing paper.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY.

---

No. 1—A Bibliography of Newspapers Published in Illinois prior to 1880. Prepared by Edmund J. James, Ph. D., Professor in the University of Chicago, assisted by Milo J. Loveless, graduate student in the University of Chicago. 94 pages. 8°. Springfield, 1899.

Publication No. 2—Information Relating to the Territorial Laws of Illinois passed from 1809-1812. Prepared by Edmund J. James, Ph. D., Professor in the University of Chicago. 15 pages. 8°. Springfield, 1899.

Publication No. 3—The Territorial Records of Illinois. Edited by Edmund J. James, Ph. D., Professor in the University of Chicago. 143 pages. 8°. Springfield, 1901.

Publication No. 4—Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for the year 1900. Edited by E. B. Greene, Ph. D., Secretary of the Society. 55 pages. 8°. Springfield, 1900.

Publication No. 5—Alphabetic catalog of the books, manuscripts, pictures and curios of the Illinois State Historical Library. Authors, titles and subjects. Compiled under the direction of the Board of Trustees of the library, by the librarian, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber. 363 pages. Springfield, 1900.

## INDEX.

I. Constitution of the Illinois State Historical Society.....	5-6
II. List of Officers and members of the Society.....	7-9
III. Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the Society, January 30-31, 1901....	9-12
IV. Annual report of the Secretary and Treasurer.....	13-15
V. Suggestions. For organization of State Historical Society. By Dr. J. F. Snyder	16-18
VI. Annual Address. By Dr. Reuben S. Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.....	19-25
VII. The objects of the German-American Historical Society, of Chicago, by Hon. William Vocke, its President.....	26-29
VIII. The Influence of Government Land Grants for Educational Purposes upon the Educational System of the State. Jonathan Baldwin Turner, by Prof. Wm. L. Pillsbury.....	30-40
IX. Old Peoria. By Hon. David McCulloch.....	41-51
X. Slavery in Illinois. By Hon. E. A. Snively.....	52-59
XI. Early reminiscences By A. W. French, D. D. S.....	60-62
XII. The Oldest Civil Record in the West. By Hon. J. N. Perrin.....	63-65
XIII. Illinois During the Revolution. By Mrs. Laura Dayton Fessenden.....	66-71

## IN MEMORIAM.

XIV. Hon John M. Palmer. By Rev. Euclid B. Rogers.....	72-79
XV. Hon. John A. McClelland. By Gen. Alfred Orendorff.....	80-85
XVI. General James M. Ruggles. By P. L. Diefenbacher, M. D.....	86-89

## ADDENDUM.

The Wood River Massacre. By Volney P. Richmond.....	93-95
The Bennett-Stuart Duel. By James Affleck.....	96-102
Prof. John Russell. By S. G. Russell, Esq.....	103-107
An Incident in the Settling of Morgan County, Illinois. By John Yapple.....	108-110
Some Old Letters by, and Relating to Stephen A. Douglas. By Joseph Wallace, A. M.	111-116
Discovery of the Graves of the soldiers Who Fell at Stillman's Defeat.....	117-121
List of Publications of Illinois State Historical Library.....	122









UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA

977 3/L65

C003

PAPERS IN ILLINOIS HISTORY AND TRANSACTIONS

6 1901



3 0112 025381184