

977.359

Sa99

Saybrook Sesquicentennial,
1825-1975.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY.



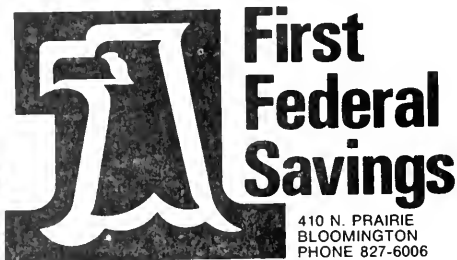
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Sd99



--the City of *Brookline*

A Salute To SAYBROOK

. . . We should say "a salute to the People of Saybrook" because, after all, it is People that build towns. . . . Past and present generations of People who plan and work and dream. People who want a decent place to live and raise their families. . . . People who are sincere, honest and hardworking. . . . People who get involved. . . . People who for 150 years have been building a better America by building the kind of town that helps form the backbone of America. . . . Congratulations "People of Saybrook"!



410 N. PRAIRIE
BLOOMINGTON
PHONE 827-6006

To A
Bicentennial Community



Cheney's Grove Township

1825

SESQUICENTENNIAL

1975

Saybrook, Illinois

Program

JULY 4TH

- 1:30 P.M. **Beard Judging**
Brothers of the Brush
Kangaroo Court
Antiques-City Buiding
Slides of Past History
- 2:30 P.M. **Youth Activities**
- 5:00 P.M. **Meal**
Tent west of Legion Building
- 7:30 P. M. **Welcome-Don Gibbens**
Crowning Of King & Queen
70 Years & Older
Crowning Prince & Princess
3 to 5 years Old
Steve Vogel, MC--WJBC
- 8:00 P.M. **Style Show**
- 9:00 P.M. **Fire Works Spectacular**

JULY 5TH

- 9:30 A.M. **Garden Tractor Derby**
West Lincoln Street
- 1:30 P.M. **Parade**
Antique Car Show
- 2:30 P.M. **Band Concert**
- 5:00 P.M. **Meal**
Tent west of Legion Building
- 9:00 P.M. **Pageant**
South of Park Shelter
- 9:00 P.M. - 12:00 **Dancing**
Teenagers-High School
Music-"Silver Bullets"

SUNDAY

JULY 6TH

- 10:30 A.M. **Open Air Church Services**
South of Park Shelter
Paul Davis--WCIA
Speaker
- 1:30 P.M. **Antique Show**
Recognition of Oldest Citizens
Former Mayors
- 2:30 P.M. **Gospel Quartet**
Bring basket lunch if you wish or patronize our
several food stands.

99.35
The following historical account of Cheney's Grove Township was taken, after much research from these various sources and with the

tremendous response of many, many, many, citizens of the community. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to those who contributed.

The Saybrook Gazette
The Daily Pantagraph
History of McLean County 1879 Edition
People of the Community

THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

W. Rex Butler, Chairman
Hester Arbogast
Alleen Jensen
Joe Streenz
Wm. Stack
Jay FitzHenry
Chas. Bane

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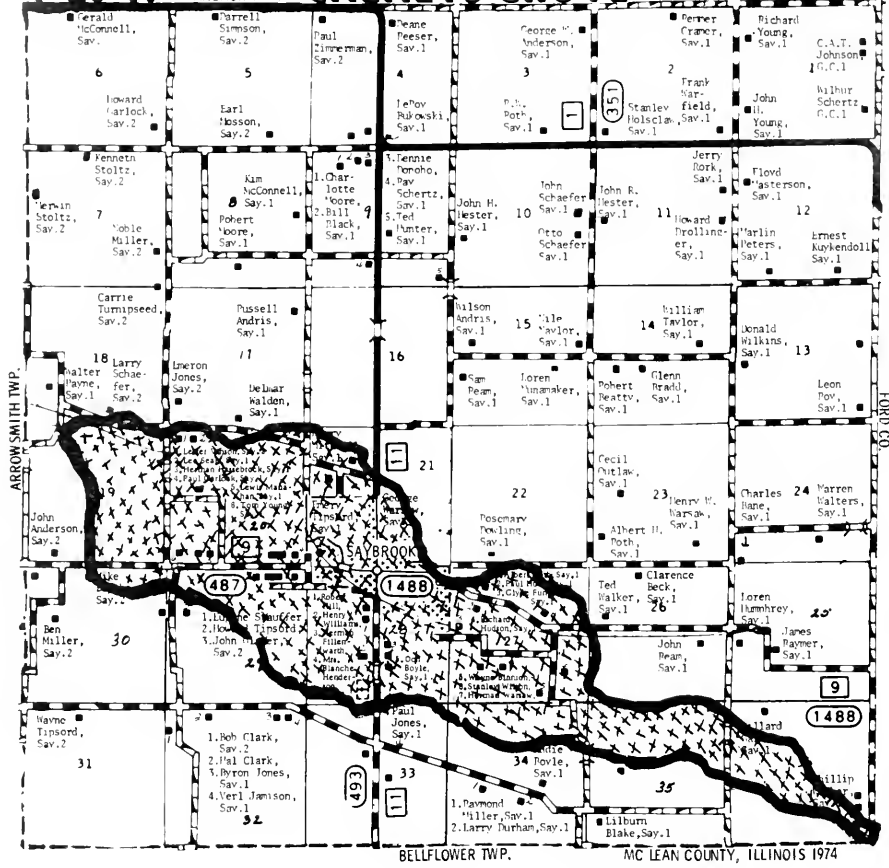
FARM MANAGEMENT

Drive In Banking Service

- Auto Loans
- Appliance Loans



T-23-N ANCHOR TWP. CHENEYS GROVE ANCHOR TWP. R-6-E



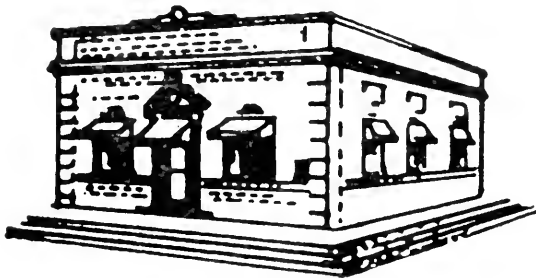
1974 MAP OF CHENEY'S GROVE TOWNSHIP

The area superimposed on this map shows the original extent of Cheney's Grove as of map of 1835. (Historical Society of McLean Co.) This is the section where the first pioneers in this area

settled. Living in the grove proper because of the timber for use as fuel and shelter and farming plots along the edge of the grove for food.

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District Manager

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HISTORICAL



Jonathan Cheney



Catherine Owen Cheney

Jonathan Cheney was born September 13, 1785, in Freemans's Fort, on Booth's Creek, Virginia. His parents were born in New York, and were Americans as far as can be ascertained. He was about five feet and ten inches in height, was straight and muscular, had large forehead, was a very determined man, and his appearance would show that when he undertook anything he tried very hard to carry it through. He was a pleasant, cheerful man, and loved practical jokes. He was the first settler at Cheney's Grove, which took its name from him.

Jonathan Cheney married, March 22, 1805, Catherine Owen. They were raised together. She was born Oct. 16, 1787, in Edward's Fort and was of Welch descent.

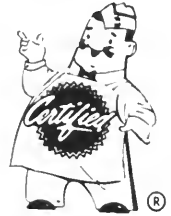
Mr. and Mrs. Cheney, after their marriage, moved about fifteen miles away to some land, which they owned, and remained there eighteen months, when they moved (in the fall of 1806) on horseback to Champaign County to about ten miles from where Urbana, Ohio now stands. Mary Cheney, afterwards Mrs. Stansbury, was born two days after their arrival. They lived there until the fall of 1817, when Mr. Cheney moved the family to southern Illinois. He crossed the Wabash and went out on the main road from Vincennes to St. Louis. When they came out on

the prairie, where nothing could be seen but the level earth and blue sky, and tall prairie grass, which blowing and swaying in the wind, gave the impression of being at high sea, Mary Cheney remarked that she had "never been so far from the land before." The ground was soft and quicksandy, and sometimes the horses would sink in up to their fetlocks. The Cheney family was obliged to get provisions some miles away across a swamp called Purgatory. This swamp was impassable except by a bridge. But a high water came and washed the bridge away, and they were left for three weeks with very little to eat, as it was impossible during that time to get provisions.

They then decided to go back to Ohio. There were at that time five children in the family. They crossed the Wabash River when it was very dangerous, and the water splashed over them. The weather was then very cold, so cold that the horses were whitened with frost of their own breath. Mr. Cheney walked and drove the horses while the family rode in the wagon on a feather bed with a feather tick over them as cover. They made good time in traveling, and returned to their old place in Ohio. But he was unsatisfied, and he was determined to come to Illinois.



Congratulations **Saybrook**



and

Cheney's Grove

Maupin's Market

and

Variety Store

Saybrook, Illinois

Don, Sharon, Jayme, Mary Beth, Margaret

Ed, Don, Lillian, Billie, Kathy, Rhonda, Kevin, John

The family started Sept. 21, 1825, and arrived Oct. 16, at Blooming Grove, at a John W. Dawson's place. The family had by this time grown to eight children. They lived two weeks with Mr. Dawson. On the 4th of Nov. they came to Cheney's Grove. Their cattle were grazed for a while at the head of Old Town timber upon blue grass, but soon a fire came and burned it off, and the cattle were brought to Cheney's Grove. His stock lived during the winter on the twigs of trees and came out in good condition in the spring.

During that winter Mr. Cheney went back to Ohio to settle up his business and sell that part of his land of which he had not previously disposed. While there he suddenly changed his mind and determined to bring his family back to Ohio. He wrote them to come back; but fortunately his letter never reached them. During that winter Mrs. Cheney remained alone with her family, and saw, during the whole time, four white people, two men and two women. This was from

Jan. 1 until April. The family lived in a cabin which Mr. Cheney had put up before he left, and their cattle lived on the twigs of trees, principally Linn brush; but the milk cows received a little corn in addition. The stock came through this winter in good condition without the loss of a single animal. The family ground their wheat in a coffee-mill and their corn at a horse-mill, twenty-five miles distant. When the boys made arrangements to go to the mill, they calculated how much provision would be necessary to support the family until their return, and they usually started in time to prevent the supply from being exhausted. But at one time they met with delay and Mrs. Cheney had to bring down her coffee-mill and grind wheat to support the family until their return. She first ground the wheat with the coffee-mill set coarse, and then again with the mill set fine. The flour made the best of bread.

DELMAR E. TIPSORD

Owner



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Congratulations To The City of Shade & Water

Delmar, Clarine, Danny & Mark

According to the "History of McLean County, Illinois 1879 Edition", a list of the men and their families who settled here in the first ten years and the dates they arrived is as follows:

Jonathan Cheney	1825
Benjamin Thomas	1826
Robert Cunningham	1829
Robert Means	1830
Ephraim S. Myers	1830
William M. Riggs	1830
Henry Pitts	1830
Henry Ball	1830
Ebenezer Cheney	1830
Elijah Britton	1830
George Spore	1830
Ezekiel Stansbury	1831
Abraham Stansbury	1832
Edward Stansbury	1833
Elias Owen	1834
Ethan Newcomb	1835
Isaac Stansbury	1835

There were doubtless many others but these families stand out in the history of Cheney's Grove Township as being the true founders and builders in this area.

Probably next to Jonathan Cheney, the man who did the most to "settle" Cheney's Grove and make life more comfortable here was Robert Cunningham, who came here from Clark county, Ind., in 1829. Again it was the inviting Sangamon River that caused him to take up a homestead here.

In the earlier days the Sangamon river and its tributaries provided water power for several industries. In 1833 Robert Cunningham built the first and only grist mill ever built on the Sangamon river in McLean county. In 1838, he built a sawmill. He continued to run these mills for over 15 years until a Mr. Blakeslee built the old steam mill. Many citizens here remember the Rush Wirt tile yard, the old brick yard up near the "Otter-Slide", that in late years was run by E.M. Kerr, along the banks of the Sangamon.

The Sangamon river has been an expensive treasure to this township with its numerous bridges and many roads to repair after it had been on a rampage in the spring months.

The gravel beds are unlimited along the Sangamon and not only has sufficient gravel been pulled to gravel every road in Cheney's Grove township but thousands of yards have been sold to other townships.

Not only did the Sangamon furnish water power for numerous industries in the early days but all through the years it has furnished a playground and recreation for the natives for miles around.

There are many tempting shaded spots along the banks of this little winding stream and many of them are within walking distance of the people of the town. Also the fishing has always been very good.

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The prairie grass in the early days grew very high, and its roots were tough and fibrous. It was therefore very hard for the settlers to break this ground. A good breaking team consisted of five or six yoke of oxen, and the plow was an old fashioned Barshear, which cut a furrow twenty two inches in width. It had a shear of cold hammered steel and was attached to a wooden mouldboard. The settlers were so far from market, and the cost of transportation was so great, that they could buy but few articles of every day use. They were obliged to make them or do without. They raised their own wool and flax and spun and wove their own cloth.

They wore homemade jeans and linsey woolsey. Their shoes were of their own make, and sometimes their leather was of their own tanning. They raised their own sheep. The earliest settlers say that it was easy to raise sheep at first; that the wolves would not molest them. But the wolves soon acquired a taste for mutton, and became the most vicious and troublesome enemies with which the settlers had to contend. It became as much the duty of settlers to chase wolves as to plow, sow and reap. They caught the wolves in traps and in pens, killed them with clubs while chasing them on horseback, made ring hunts for the purpose of exterminating them, poisoned them, offered bounties for their scalps and made warfare on

them in a thousand different ways.

The family raised their first corn on the south side of the timber without any fence, while the stock were kept with the family on the north side. On the south side of the grove some Indians were camped with a hundred head of horses, and they ran and capered over the ground, which Mr. Cheney had plowed and planted. He ordered them to leave, and at last he told them that if they did not make themselves scarce by a certain time, he would bring the white men down on them. Then he pointed a fire-brand at their wigwams in a significant manner, and they left in haste.

Jonathan Cheney died Mar. 21, 1862. As the first settler of the area, Cheney's Grove took its name from him. He and other members of his family are buried in the township cemetery, the land which he gave to the Riverside for that purpose. His daughter, Katureh was also buried there.

At this time it might be appropriate to mention that the Indian tribes who inhabited this area were first the Illinois, until their extermination at Starved Rock, the Kickapoo, Delaware, and Pottawatomie tribes. They ranged from the Wabash River to the Mississippi and from the Ohio to Lake Superior.

Their headquarters called Kickapoo Town, was located near Old Town.

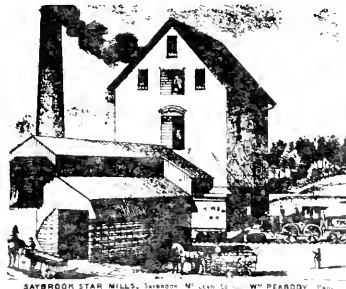


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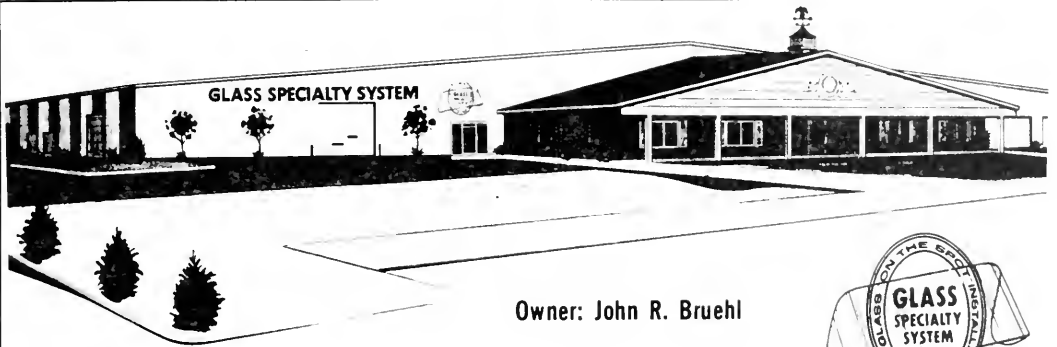
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Dr. Ballard came here from Bloomington, Ill., in 1857 and soon built up a large and lucrative practice which he held until he retired in about 1880. Dr. Ballard was one of the prominent men of the town and of the Grove for years, and at times held a number of important offices. He was collector, town clerk, supervisor and president of the town council, which offices he held to the satisfaction of his constituency.

In 1857 or 1858 Rev. H. Stoddard came to the Grove with his family and bought property. His daughter Miss Lida, said that the town then consisted of a total population of 21 which would pretty well verify our previous statement.

In about 1856, Ashley D. Horr and P. H. Hiett built the one story frame store building, then called the "Long Building" and afterwards as the "Twin Sisters," on the north end of the lots known as lots 5 and 6 of block 3, and for some time had a store therein. In about 1857 they sold out to Nute Bishop who conducted the store until he sold to Gallegher and another man, in about 1859. Nute Bishop was the first captain of Co. F.,

in the Union army and went to the war with that organization.

In August, 1862, Co. F., 116 Ill. Vol. Inf. was recruited here and soon after left for the front. This was the only company organized and entirely raised at the grove during the Civil war. The regiment left Decatur, Ill. with 840 men for duty Nov. 8, 1862. It was placed in active service and on its return to Young's Point Jan. 20th, 1863, it mustered less than 100 men for duty. The Grove had also a "Home Guard" to guard against any attack by the "copper heads", those treasonable sympathizers with the south, located in different parts of this state, and who were generally members of that organization the "Knights of the Golden Circle" who were supposed to be arming and preparing to strike as soon as the rebel army would get near enough to support them. There were two of these rebel communities near the grove, vis., at "Sodom" and "Hell's Neck". During the cold winter of 1862-63 there were sixty-two war widows who were moved into town in order to properly look



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after them and see that they did not starve or freeze.

At the close of the war, the town had quite a boom and this continued until after the building of the railroad. In 1864 an Academy was founded here, with Dr. J. L. Ballard, J. D. Lewis and John Lowery as the first board of trustees.

In the "forties", Ben Lucas of Bloomington, and a man by the name of Everly brought to the grove the first stock of general merchandise, and conducted a store in the west room of the old log house. This store was so small and changed owners so often that it would hardly be considered a store. J. B. Beckwith is, however, entitled to the honor of having the first general store, which he opened in 1852 in a small one story frame which he built himself and which he called the "Crystal Palace" after the Crystal Palace in New York City where he bought his goods. Harvey Taylor's store followed shortly after, being the Richards & Zimmerman stock moved to the town. Geo. Halford had a small store also about this time, but as one old settler says, it was not entitled to be called a store as it was more a beer joint and confectionery, than a store.

The town kept growing and in 1857 consisted of a grave yard, a saw mill, a school house, a blacksmith shop, one store, carpenter shop, the post office, doctors office, and eight dwelling, with a total population of 21.

While the town was initially named Saybrook, it was more generally known and called "Tuffy" and went by this name for years. It is said that Eph Myers gave the town this nickname, and it must have been recognized as appropriate, as it stuck. The old hack which used to carry the mail between the Grove and Bloomington, on this was displayed the name "Tuffy" and this was as late as 1867.

Notwithstanding, Polk called the town which he had laid out Saybrook. The post office continued to be known as Cheney's Grove for some time thereafter, and its name was not changed until Bill Beckwith became the post master. It is claimed that the Beckwiths gave the name, Saybrook, to the new town. They were Connecticut people, and came here from Old Saybrook, in Connecticut, and were therefore partial to the name of their old home. It is the only town in the United States by this name.

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1865-1876

The same year the M. E. church and the academy joined together and began the erection of a building for their joint use on what is now known as the "Park". This building was completed in 1865. The trustees of the academy opened up in the first story a school with a Mr. Barwick as principal. The church part was dedicated the same fall, Elder R. E. Buthrie following Bradshaw, the first pastor in the new church.

It is necessary to mention the small pox at Saybrook, if any satisfactory history of the town be written. In 1865 the smallpox raged here and several persons died. There was then no quarantine nor was any necessary. The people were so thoroughly scared that they did not need a yellow flag to remind them to keep away.

In 1865 Haines Cheney was elected to the legislature from the grove, and during the 1867 session of the legislature, he procured the passage of a special act incorporating the "Town of Saybrook". By this act the government was made to invest in a president and councilmen to be elected annually. The first president and board of councilmen elected under this charter was Dr. J. L. Ballard, president, and L. B. Grant, C. W. Atkinson, Hamilton Walford, J. L. Lowery and W. K. Stansbury councilmen.

The Masonic lodge was instituted here in the year 1866.

In 1866 the railroad was first surveyed through the town. Nothing came of this survey except to excite our people, and in order to get the railroad to come here the town council adopted the scheme of making it look as large on paper as possible.

They therefore employed the county surveyor and the "Town Council survey of Saybrook" to be made in 1867, so the platted part of the town would look big to the railroad promoters.

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The Mondell block was built the next year by Tom Warran and a man by the name of McKinsie. This was a large two story frame. The east part was to be a store for Warran, and the west part was intended for a hotel. McKinsie started therein a hotel which he named the "Mondell House". The same year the two and three story brick, on Lincoln street, where the Masonic Block and Racket store and the Colby block, were all erected and occupied. The Colby brick was put up by Colby and Kindell and had three store rooms on the ground floor, and a public hall up-stairs, the first public hall in town. In 1872 William Peabody erected a flour mill. This mill was a four story mill and had a very tall brick smoke stack. Thomas Poulson also erected a hotel called the "Sherman House" and for a time the town had three hotels.

John S. Harper of LeRoy brought to Saybrook, the first printing press and published the first

newspaper, the "Saybrook News". He came here about the time of the grading of the railroad and stayed for two years. After Harper left T. J. Horsley set up and published the "Herald" which was finally named the "Anti-Monopoly", and again back to the name of the "Herald". The paper was finally sold to Rev. M. H. Tipton and then to Geo. M. Adams who published the paper under the name of the "Saybrook Gazette".

Webster & Udell next acquired the paper and finally Mace Bros. acquired the entire interest and published the paper under the name of the "Independent". The paper was sold to the Woolley Bros., who have successfully published under the name of the "Saybrook Gazette" for many years. An account of the various newspaper ventures would not be complete without mention of the "Satellite". It was published for one issue and caused such a stormy reception that it was discontinued with this one issue.

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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Simpsen

Gayle and Cindy
GIBSON CITY, ILLINOIS

BASE BALL TOURNAMENT!

**Saybrook, Illinois,
Aug. 30-31, Sept. 1 and 2, 1910**



AUGUST 30
BELLFLOWER
VERSUS
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DERRY VS. ANCHOR

AUGUST 31
PAXTON
VERSUS
COOKSVILLE
FLETCHER
VERSUS
SAYBROOK

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all day. Big games for the money in the
afternoon.

SEPT. 2, BIG DAY

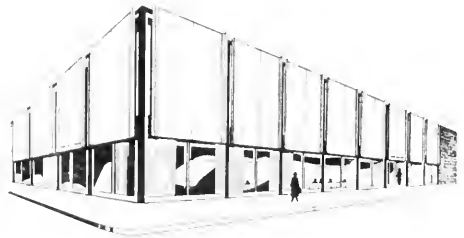
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Betty



Charlie



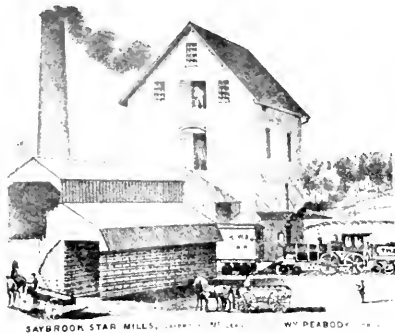
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In 1872 Sargent Bates, made his celebrated journey to England. After the Civil War he had made numerous journeys between the North and South carrying the flag and making speeches to prove to the people of the United States that even though they had been through a very tough war they were still united under one flag. His journey to England was made to prove to the people again that their flag was respected as well in foreign countries. Also to win a \$1,000 bet, he made many speeches and on his return in 1873 he was tendered a reception in Colby Hall and banquet at the Union House.



SAYBROOK STAR MILLS, BLOOMINGTON, ILL. BY PEABODY

In 1874 the boiler in the Peabody mill exploded with a loud report which aroused the town and on investigation it was found that the engineer, Jack Hatburn had been scalded to death, and that a few other persons had narrow escapes for their lives. The brick mill was damaged, the brick one story engine room was entirely destroyed, and a section of the shingle roof of the engine house had been, by the force of the explosion, securely deposited upon top of the smoke stack.

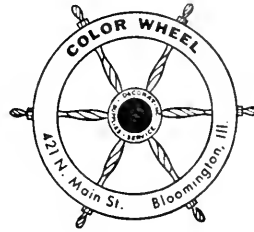
BASE BALL TOURNAMENT

Saybrook, Illinois,
Aug. 30-31, Sept 1 and 2, 1910



SEPT. 2, BIG DAY
 1000 CASH PRIZES. Games played at 4:00
 Admission 35c. Season Tickets \$1.00
 RICE AND AUTO FREE.

About 1869 Dr. J. M. Crigler introduced here the national game of baseball, and was a member of the first club. Since that time the town has been noted for its excellent base ball clubs having some of the best talent assemble in



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Colfax, Illinois

the entire country, several of whom had offers to play for the professionals.

Several attempts have been made from time to time to find coal at Saybrook by boring, but all appeared to be failures until undertaken by Mr. Harry Cheney. The first attempt was made by Henry M. Riggs, somewhere about the year 1868, who bored several holes but never succeeded in getting down any great depth. Several other attempts were made through the years but not until 1890, when Mr. Cheney took hold of the matter did anything look promising. He commenced boring for coal at the top of the hill west of town. (Known as Chapin's Hill) This hole was put down to a good depth but no report was made as to the find. However, it was understood that coal was found there. The boring machinery was then moved down the hill to a point near the creek and boring began again. This time success followed the effort and a good vein of coal was found. Immediately after the find the news spread, the bells began to ring and the anvils to crack, and although after twelve o'clock at night, the inhabitants of the town were aroused and the balance of the night was given over to a wild and noisy celebration of the event. Shortly after the finding of coal, a company was organized with Mr. Harry Cheney as president and A. G. Lewis, as vice president, to sink a shaft and mine the coal.

The shaft was started along near the railroad, a few feet south of the light plant, but so much water was encountered that the shaft was finally abandoned after the company had paid out several thousand dollars in the attempt.

Saybrook, being on the Sangamon river has seen several times of high waters, but the memorable flood of July 8, 1885, will always stand out in memory as the time of the flood. It was an exceptional flood, and came up so very rapidly that there must have been something like a cloud burst. It was on this occasion that William Rowe and S. C. Sohn, while down at the slaughter house, looking after their livestock,

come say hello the coffee's on us.

Whether you're meeting us for the first time. Or the hundredth. We're always happy to see you.

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were caught by the oncoming flood and had to take to a tree to save their lives. They were finally rescued by boat and on the boats return made its landing close up to the railroad, a few feet west of the water tank. This shows how high the water was on that occasion.

Another event of the "eighties" was the institution of the Knights of Pythias Lodge here. Mr. Fred Taylor was the tinner here and during the summer of 1885 conceived the idea of working up a lodge of that order. An application for a charter was signed up by the requisite number of applicants, and same having been granted in July of that year a lodge of the order,

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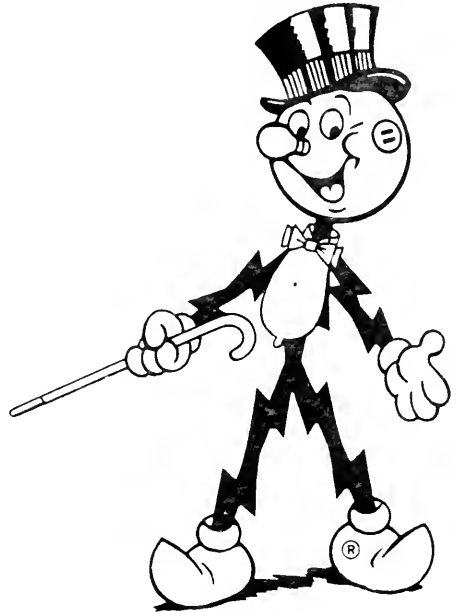
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**Congratulations,
Saybrook,
on your
150th
Anniversary!**



... from a youngster of 63

1825 was quite a year ... John Quincy Adams became America's sixth president; the "Codorus", first iron steamboat built in this country, was launched in Pennsylvania; the Erie Canal was opened; Edward Coles was Governor of Illinois, and Ulysses S. Grant celebrated his third birthday.

1919 was a good year, too. That's when seven-year-old CIPS began serving Saybrook, which already was a dignified ninety-four. That was the year the 18th Amendment became law. The Treaty of Versailles was signed; Jack Dempsey KO'd Jess Willard in three rounds; and Woodrow Wilson was in his second term as President.

The average use of electricity in Saybrook homes in 1919 was 202 kilowatthours for the year, at the cost of 9.94c per kilowatthour. Today, the average annual use is 34 times as much while the cost per kilowatthour is about one-third the price paid by Saybrook customers in 1919.

We are proud to be the one who brings you a service so important to your way of life, and we want to continue to help you use your energy service for all its worth.

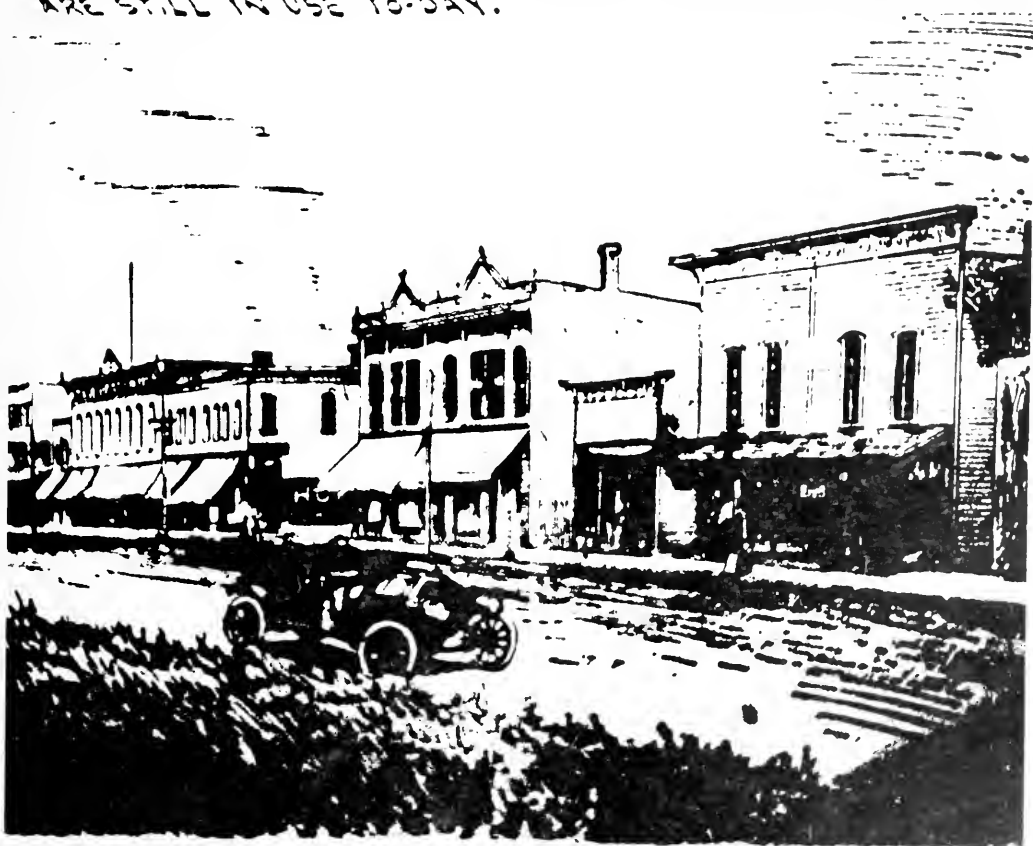
Happy Sesquicentennial!



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IF YOU OWNED AN AUTOMOBILE IN 1907 AND CAME TO SAYBROOK, ILL. TO VISIT OR SHOP, YOU PROBABLY COULD HAVE HAD YOUR PICK OF A PARKING SPACE ANYWHERE IN TOWN. SHOWN HERE IS LINCOLN STREET, SAYBROOK'S MAIN THOROUGHFARE AS IT LOOKED 53 YEARS AGO. VIEW IS NORTH SIDE OF THE STREET LOOKING WEST. SOME OF THE BUILDINGS SHOWN ARE STILL IN USE TO-DAY.



known as Hope Lodge, No. 140, was duly instituted in the I.O.O.F. hall.

The Odd Fellows lodge, known as Saybrook Lodge No. 460 was instituted here in 1871.

One day in the fall of 1885 the town was startled by the news that Dr. Barton had been shot down on the streets of Saybrook by another doctor. This shooting took place in front of the drug store. There appears to have been some trouble between the two men growing out of their practice, and on that morning Dr. Harris was sitting inside the door of the store, and overheard Dr. Barton and a blind man by the name of Rayburn talking, and in that Dr. Barton, so was claimed, used the words "that Dr. Harris was not a success at Foolsland before he came here."

This remark brought Dr. Harris out and in the altercations which ensued, Dr. Harris shot Dr. Barton and he died in a few minutes. Harris was immediately arrested, taken to Bloomington and after a trial was sent to the state's prison for five years.

The first McLean County Fair was started in Cheney's Grove in 1886. It was replete with horse racing, livestock show, horse shoe pitching contests, baseball games, etc. It flourished for a period of 22 years and enjoyed huge success until around 1908 when it was disbanded because of the failure to be self supporting. It closed with an indebtedness of \$2500 but this was soon settled by the people in the surrounding area.

These were "hard times" for the people of Cheney's Grove as reflected in the----"Saybrook Markets Quotation paid by our Merchants"

Aug. 19, 1899--Corrected at noon today.

Cabbage, per Doz.	25c to 40c
New Potatoes	40c
Roasting ears / dz.	8c
Butter	15c
Eggs	7c
Lard	6c
Plums / bu.	1.00
Apples / bu.	25c
Corn / bu.	28c
Oats, new	19¼c
Cattle, butcher stock	\$3.25 & \$3.50
Hogs, butcher stock	\$4.00

In June 1900 the population of Cheney's Grove reached 1200 people. Wm. Rowe was president of the village board. The town now has 2 dry goods stores, 6 grocery stores, one exclusive boot and shoe store, 2 jewelers, 1 livery stable, 1 feed store, 2 coal dealers, 1 lumber yard, 2 restaurants, 2 hotels, 2 dentists, 2 butcher shops, 1 feed mill, 1 photo gallery, 1 furniture store, 2 harness shops, 1 undertaker, 2 hardware stores, 2 barber shops, 5 physicians, 3 blacksmith shops, 4 real estate firms, 3 lawyers, and an envelope company and 3 firms which deal in stock.

Real estate has been proving a good investment. Dr. John M. Crigler bought a farm 23 years ago for \$25 per acre, and has just sold the same for \$90 per acre. Besides receiving a fair percent on the investment it has increased in

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value \$65 per acre in the 23 years.

Fire has always been a big hazard in the town as most of the early buildings were wood frame structures. In Sept. 1900 a big fire destroyed the large livery barn belonging to J. E. Scott. Two horses perished in the blaze which threatened the buggy shop and Wm. Rowe's ice house. All plate glass windows on Center street were broken and the business district was saved only through the efforts of the volunteer fire department.

June 17, 1903--Dr. J.M. Anderson purchased an Oldsmobile car. This is the first horseless carriage owned in Saybrook.

Another fire--Aug. 17, 1904, the Amphitheater at the Fair Grounds burned about 5:45 a.m. Already a crew is at work to rebuild it as the fair opens the following Tuesday.

Aug. 28, 1904--Dr. S.L. Chapin, one of Saybrooks most prominent citizens and physician was shot down this morning without a minutes warning, by Geo. F. Wilkinson. There was no apparent motive for this killing and people are non-pulsed at the atrocity of the crime.

Sept. 28, 1904--Saylor Bros. turned on the electricity in this city last night for the first time, making Saybrook one of the best lighted towns in the vicinity.

Things prospered in the Grove the next few years and at one time in Dec. 1909, 54 wagons filled with shelled corn stood in Lincoln street waiting their turn to unload at the Farmers Elevator. The congestion was the results of attempting to take the grain from 5 shellers, which was in excess of the elevators capacity. 133 loads were cared for that day which probably is a record for the Saybrook elevator.



Jan. 12, 1909--Due to the lack of coal the village has been in a blackout for the past week. However, a car load of coal arrived today so the lights can go on again.

Jan. 15, 1909--Mrs. Katurah McMackin, one of McLean county's first settlers, died in the home of her son, H.K. McMackin, northwest of town. Mrs. McMackin was born near Concord, Lewis county, Ky., Feb. 23, 1821, being at the time of her death aged 88 years, 10 months and 22 days. She was the daughter of Robert and Sarah Means. In the autumn of 1829, when she was eight years old, the family moved by wagon to Illinois. She located on a farm later occupied by Mrs. Margaret Van Scoyoc and family. They were among the pioneers of this part of Illinois, there being only three white families in Cheney's Grove township at the time.

Dec. 31, 1909--It was shortly before midnight that Wm. Proffit, just before entering the residence after attending Masonic installation, noticed flames issuing from the rear room of the Sartan meat market. He immediately gave the alarm and in what seemed an incredibly short time two or three hundred volunteer fire fighters were on hand, who worked heroically and succeeded in saving all the surrounding property except the three framed business buildings. Our little fire engine was unable to lend any aid for the usual reason that there was no water sufficiently near the surface to work with. Buckets and snow shovels were therefore brought into play with the splendid results. The doomed structures were bounded on the east by the C.B. Riggs dry goods store and on the west by the Saybrook Bank, and the greatest energy was expanded to save these. However, the post office, which faces Center Street and the E.H. Shores barn in the rear, were in considerable danger for a time and required some of the attention. The businesses burned out were the Sartan meat market, Geo. M. Rodman tailor shop, Chas. Galloway barbershop, and James Ingles barbershop.

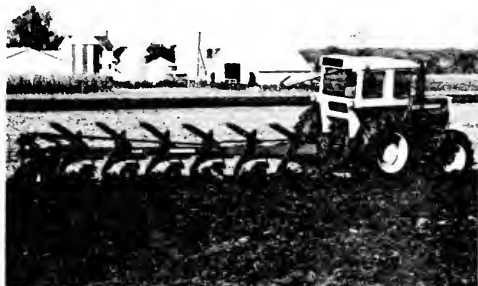


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Chautauquas were also an intricate part of this area. For many years they enjoyed huge success, having the best acts and speakers available on the Lincoln circuit. As an advertisement read in the paper:--"The time for the opening of the Chautauqua Assembly has been set, from July 4 through July 9. All the talent has been secured and the attractions include many of the big "Stars of the Lyceum Platform", who are constantly in demand all over the country for the largest lecture courses and chautauqua assemblies.

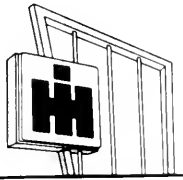
R. Foster Stone, the "Passion Play" man will

always find a welcome audience. The people will also be charmed with the Lilliputian Sisters, Sarah and Lucy Adams, the same day. These ladies are only 46 and 49 inches high and present a novel entertainment. They formerly traveled with Mrs. Tom Thumb.

Dr. Clarence True Wilson of Portland, Oregon, one of Americas truly great speakers--a brilliant, brainy, and powerful orator will speak."

Another fire, July 1911--Farmers Elevator burned when a box car of siding caught fire. Mr. Andrew Herdeen gave the alarm but firemen could not save the building. The elevator contained 3000 bushel of oats that were lost. The directors decided to rebuild immediately.

In February 1914, the worst storm that has struck this locality in 14 years, enveloped, everything in its grasp. It began along about Sunday noon and continued uninterruptedly during the rest of the day and night. Monday morning the ground was covered with more snow, in some places it being piled in drifts 5 and 6 feet high. Railroad service was tied up from Sunday night until Tuesday noon. Seventy-five passengers were marooned on a train between Saybrook and Bloomington with no food and very little heat. However, when the train was finally shoveled out everyone seemed in good spirits although very hungry.



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Saybrook, Illinois

Dec. 1915, Dr. Scott, postmaster, began erecting a new post office with promise that it would be occupied by next July.

January 1915 was the wettest in 23 years. Total precept, 6.9 inches, 18 cloudy days, 12 days clear sky, 13 days of rain fall. Highest temperature was 60 degrees on the 27th and lowest 14 degrees below zero on 13th and 14th, 25 days were below freezing.

1917 saw the First World War. The first act in getting recruits for the war was started. 136 men between the ages of 21 and 31 were drafted from Cheney's Grove Township. Cecil Hudson was the first man drafted from this township.

Fire again occurred in Saybrook in May 1918, when the J.E Wyckoff garage burned. The garage was filled with fifteen new cars and a number of old ones, and so rapidly did the fire spread that it was impossible to save the cars. The loss was estimated between \$30,000 and \$40,000. The State Bank was saved only through the heroic efforts of the fire department.

The energy shortage struck this area in January when the coal situation assumed serious proportions. The scarcity being greater than at any time during the winter. It has now been 2 weeks since a single car load of coal has been received and about half of the inhabitants are practically out of fuel. If conditions are not changed very soon there will be actual suffering. Every day will be a heatless day unless relief is given.

David Humphrey Daniels was the 1st Saybrook Soldier to meet death in the war. Today the modern American Legion Post is named in his honor.

Maple sugar & syrup making was also quite an industry in the township and enjoyed rather marked success during the twenties. The grove was well supplied with maples and during the spring many were employed in this occupation under the guidance of Hilary Means who tapped many trees in what was known as Byer's timber.



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Paul Zimmerman

Saybrook, Ill.

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Saybrook, Illinois

In 1923, T. O. Johnson & W. O. Butler, while operating a Ford Motor agency in the Village of Saybrook, also dealt in livestock. They would journey to Kentucky and purchase a car load of Jersey cows and ship them back to Saybrook and resell them to the farmers. While in Kentucky they ran into what was called "Court Day" which took place every Saturday when the farmers from surrounding area brought livestock or any other salable items to the court house and held public auctions. From this idea Johnson & Butler promoted the first "Community Day Sale" in Saybrook. This was the starting of quite an event in our town and became an annual affair with large quantities of merchandise and livestock changing hands at public auction on this day. This event ran for 25 years and was very popular with the people and brought great crowds to the town.



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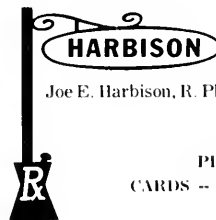
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Fifty years ago on August 25, 1925, Cheney's Grove Township began the celebration of the one hundred years since the first settler built his cabin in the grove. Long before the hour set for the beginning of the celebration, the roads leading into Saybrook were veiled with dust. The celebration lasted two days and following is the interesting program which was presented in those two days:

Wednesday--Music-Band; Song, "My Country Tis of Thee" led by Dr. J.M. Anderson

Prayer--Rev. U. G. Johnston

Short Address--Ex. Gov. Joseph Fifer

Music

Habits and Customs of the Indians of McLean County--Wm. Brigham

Pioneer Settlers of Cheney's Grove--W.C. Means

History of the Cheney Family--Mrs. Beckwith
Early History of Cheney's Grove Schools--F.M. Follick

History of the Christian Church, U.B. Church and M.E. Church

Wednesday Night Music

Address--Early Days of Cheney's Grove--Hon. Ely Stansbury, --former attorney general of Indiana

Addresses by other persons followed by a concert by the Colfax band

Thursday

Dedication of the Memorial Stone--Gov. Fifer
Music

Address--Hon. Frank Gillespie

Music

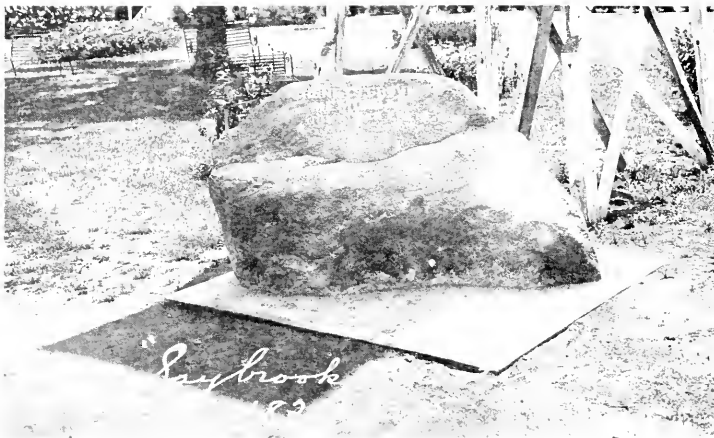
Address--(to be supplied)

Short talks by old settlers and former residents

Also on Wednesday there was a parade symbolizing the growth of transportation beginning with an ox team followed by covered wagons, a democrat wagon, block sled, stiff-tongued wagon with wide fives, buggies, carriages, an antiquated automobile and succeeding models, culminating in the quiet efficient motor car made in 1925.

In addition to the parade, Indians from a reservation brought to mind the early life of central Illinois settlers. Much interest was also shown in a museum which was built in the grove and an ancient schoolhouse which had been erected.

At the time of the Centennial Celebration, Saybrook was one of the most attractive towns in McLean county, and the country around it was some of the most interesting and prosperous farm regions of the county. Its population was about 900. Its business section included several blocks of stores, garages and other places of business and the main street boasted a park which was one of the main assets of the city. The town supported a volunteer fire department with a gasoline engine pump. The Lake Erie railroad tank located near the business center of the city could also be used in emergency.



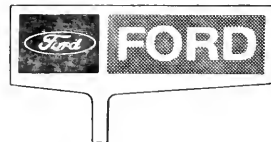
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Many social events took place in the city of Saybrook, and one of these was the fifth annual Saybrook Peony and Iris show which was held at the M.E. Church June 2, 1932. Many were in attendance from here and other towns. The show included old lace brocades and fans, unusual containers, one 200 years old, and display of formal dinner tables, garden tea tables, breakfast tables all featuring flower decorations. The balcony was draped with Spanish and Paisley shawls.

Also in 1932, the milk prices were reduced--the new prices for milk delivered were per pint 4c and quart 8c.

In March of 1933 the Cheney's Grove Unemployment and Relief organization was host to the community at a benefit party at the K. P. Hall. This organization had been active all winter in the distribution of food and clothing to the needy families of the community.

On April 20, 1933, Dr. Frank Stedem died. Dr. Stedem had practiced medicine in Saybrook from 1900 to 1933.

In June of 1933, the concrete block building next to the grade school was torn down. This building, a gymnasium, had been condemned for some time.

Farmers in the vicinity of Saybrook believed 1933 to be the poorest in the production of crops that that generation had seen. There was no more than half a corn crop and oats were a poor second. There had been a drouth for 6 weeks and then the great pest, the measley old chinch bug, arrived. Many farmers had to work overtime making barriers and putting down a line of creosote to defend their crops.

The Princess theatre kept up with modern improvements and in September of 1933, new sound equipment was being tried out. At that time these new wide range sound heads were the only ones installed downstate as they had only been on the market a few weeks.

A barber inspector raised a little storm in Saybrook in 1933--seems a number of people had been cutting hair for neighbors and friends and the inspector contended this was contrary to the state law.

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November 1, 1934 was a busy day in Saybrook when a hundred or more cars lined the streets, bidders and representatives for manufacturers of fire hydrants, pipes, etc. Ostrom Realty Construction Co. of Indianapolis with a bid of \$31,697 was the low bidder. Then in July of 1934 came the welcome news that the government had approved a PWA loan and grant of \$39,000 for the construction of a water works plant in Saybrook. Aside from the installation of electric lights this was the greatest improvement our little city had ever enjoyed. It was thought that 70 men would receive work for several months installing the plant.

Robberies in Saybrook in 1934 were becoming so numerous that the merchants were thinking of arming themselves and beating the robbers to the draw.

Early risers on August 16, 1934 witnessed a most unusual sight in this peaceful little city when a cavalcade of soldiers passed thru here about 7 o'clock--it was part of the 700 troops of the 6th U.S. Infantry from Jefferson barracks enroute to Camp Custer, Michigan. In the procession were a number of covered wagons, each drawn by a 4-mule team, a long string of mounted guns, each drawn by a single mule and a line of mounted soldiers. They planned to reach Camp Custer in about a week.

The townspeople were happy to be afforded banking facilities, missed since the closing of the bank in 1931, when the Money Exchange opened in July, 1934 in the building formerly occupied by the Saybrook State Bank.



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Plate Lunches

Grandma's Place

Saybrook, Illinois

Compliments of



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Saybrook, Illinois

In 1935, the Nickel Plate railroad started work on a new water tank and completed the job in about 4 months. The railroad had considered abandoning a tank here but an analysis showed that the water here was about the best on the entire system. Ever since the railroad was first built through Saybrook, a tank has been located here and at one time the pumping was done by horse power and D. H. Simmons had charge of the pump station.

J. E. Boudreau moved his harness shop to a building on Center St. in 1935 and the temperature on Christmas Day, 1935 was 10 below zero with a wind of gale force blowing all day.

The Princess Theatre seemed to be the center of entertainment--the Chief Deerfoot Medicine Show leased the building for two weeks and provided this territory with some clean wholesome shows, consisting of good comedy, singing and dancing, and everything was free. The drama department of Illinois State Normal University gave three one-act plays at the theatre, an orchestra furnished music and the cost was only 10c and 20c.

A drama of liquor traffic, "Prisoner at the Bar", was presented by the Anti-saloon league with a cast of 21 local citizens at the U.B. Church in November of 1935 and in December of the same year. Mr. Brigham of Funk's Grove township gave information on the consolidation of schools.

In February of 1936, Saybrook won the county Tourney by defeating McLean. This was the second time Saybrook had won the tourney--the other time in 1915.

The West Side elevator owned by the Clyde Brittain Grain Co. was destroyed by fire in 1936. About 10,000 bushels of oats and a thousand bushel of beans were destroyed.

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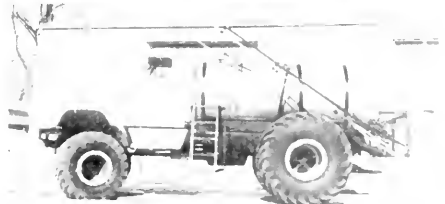
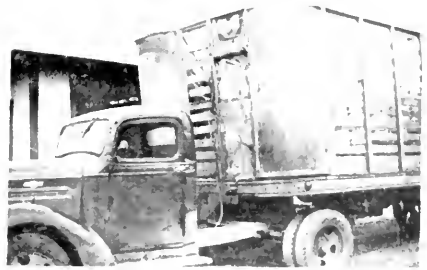
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 Pete Williams
 Mervin Stolz
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 Paul Dunham
 Frank Butler



Our 48th Year – 1927-1975



Harold Schertz and his brother Ralph started hauling livestock to Peoria stockyards about 1927 in a Model T Ford truck. Ralph continued farming and Harold continued trucking livestock, grain and coal with his farming until 1937. Harold and Edna moved to Saybrook in 1934 and business increased. In 1958 Harold's son Ray joined the business, now known as Schertz Service, Inc. Trucking is still a part of the business, traveling as far as New York and California hauling livestock, farm machinery, farm building material, or anything on the farm to anywhere. Schertz Service, Inc. also handles limestone, liquid and dry fertilizers and chemicals.



Ray Schertz, Paul Zimmerman, Ivan Van Note, Merle Coile, Buss Kirkpatrick, Duke Kirkpatrick, Pope Roberts, Herman Hassbrook, H. K. Schertz



SAYBROOK - This saybrook business block was a mass of ruins Tuesday after a \$20,000 fire destroyed five business houses, the opera house and K of P Hall. Numbered are: 1-Frigid Locker Company; 2-Pree's Creamery; 3-Rogers Barber Shop; 4-Saybrook Dry Goods Company; 5-Pfaff's Billiard Parlor and 6-Opera House and K of P Hall.

A soap box derby, held in Saybrook in 1937 was won by a low swung racer from Mansfield that crossed the finish line first and won the grand prize of \$10.00.

In April of 1937, the "The Old Hayloff Revue" was presented for three nights with a different cast each night. This "Revue" took place at the High School gym and was sponsored by the Alumni Association and was directed by Wilda Weaver of Chicago.

Basketball interest again captured the town in 1937 as Coach Martin's invincible hard court performers again won top flight honors when competing against a field of 19 other county high schools and brought home the McLean County Championship two years in a row.

A fire of unknown origin causing damage

estimated at \$20,000 raged through the northwest block of the Saybrook business district in August of 1941, completely gutting a two story brick building and causing damage to other nearby businesses. The building which was destroyed had an 80 foot frontage on the block and housed 5 places of business. The Locker Company, Pree's creamer, the Rogers barber shop, Saybrook Dry Goods Co. and Pfaff's billiard and pool hall. The old time opera house and the Knights of Pythias lodge rooms covered the second floor area. The local fire company, about 25 men, soon saw the fire was out of control and called Gibson City for help. The combined efforts of the two forces stopped the fire before it could reach other buildings but not before an ammonia tank in the locker exploded and flew up more than 300 feet in the air.



Firefighters in Gibson City, Ohio, are seen here spraying water on the Saybrook business block, Tuesday, August 12, 1941, after a fire destroyed five business houses, the opera house and K of P Hall.

The day following the fire there was little hilarity on the streets in Saybrook, but old man gloom didn't have a strangle hold on the community for there was a dogged persistence evident as some business moved to new locations and others were making arrangements for new plate glass windows. Though Saybrook wasn't exactly proud of the way their city would look during the homecoming week starting the next Monday, they wanted those windows repaired and the brick cleared away. Oldtimers harked back to when a similar fire hit the same block 30 years ago. The building housing the Seeger grocery remained after that fire and it was only slightly damaged this time even though the locker plant next to it was one of the hardest hit. The day after those fires years ago, owners were talking and planning rebuilding, but there were no reports of rebuilding after this last fire, in fact, there was apprehension as to whether the charred ruins would remain an eyesore in Saybrook's business district for some time to come.

The Star Route between Bloomington and Gibson City changed its schedule in 1943 and caused Saybrook to have two east bound mails in the morning and two west bound mails in the afternoon.

In 1945, you could have a turkey dinner for \$1.00 at the annual Thanksgiving Day bazaar at the Methodist Church.

In August of 1945, the word of the surrender of Japan was noisily greeted in Saybrook much as it was throughout the nation. Joyous crowds assembled on the streets, bells were rung, auto horns sounded, fire arms were shot off, sticks of dynamite set off, and in general a rousing time was had for several hours. The next day the business houses observed the occasion by remaining closed. A union Victory Service was planned for the following Sunday at the Methodist Church with all churches taking part.

In 1945 one of the items that was quite common in the newspaper was the notification of which ration stamps were good and for what period of time; Ration Calendar--meats and fats--Red stamps K2, L2, M2, good thru July 31, 1945 and shoes--airplane stamps 1, 2 and 3 in book 3 good for one pair each.

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In May of 1945, V E Day was observed with most of the places of business closing and short services held at the grade and high school after which the students were dismissed. Saybrook citizens received the announcement on Monday morning and stayed close to their radios throughout the day expecting Pres. Truman to make the report official but this didn't occur until 24 hours after the first report.

June saw another celebration in the form of a party for all servicemen discharged and on furloughs at the Easterbrook building.

A booklet entitled "Along the Line" and issued by the Nickel Plate RR had this to say about Saybrook in 1945: "Saybrook has the Brittain elevator as well as its silver water tower flaunting its name high above the trees. Saybrook, an exclusive Nickel Plate town is one of the oldest communities in this area--originally it was settled in 1825 by Jonathan Cheney, who had come from the state of Ohio. Early settlers found it a particularly advantageous site because of ample water and an abundant supply of logs and lumber from well wooded section in contrast to the prairie land surrounding it. It is still referred to as the city of Shade and Water. In its very early days the settlement was commonly referred to as "Tuffy" for rumors were abroad that the town had rough and ready characteristics."

Evidently some of those characteristics were still around in 1945 because in April of that year, the school board had to step in and dismiss school. The Supt. had been called out of town and the scholars became so unruly that this action had to be taken.

On November 14, 1946, the Memorial to the World Wars was dedicated with appropriate observance. A goodly number attended although the weather was chilly. The monument on which the plaque was attached was at the northeast corner of the city park and was presented as a lasting memorial to those who lost their lives in the great conflicts.



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In May of 1947 the following sad announcement appeared in the local paper; "Ten did not come back, Boyle, Bowen, Cooper, Frieberg, Hale, Manahan, Morefield, McKee, Rosenbaum and Tipsord. They were called to fight for our liberty and freedom. They gave their life to preserve the home they loved. That home is Saybrook, Illinois, U.S.A. We will not forget."

On May 15, 1952, the Saybrook and Arrowsmith school districts voted to consolidate.

On March 20, 1952, Dr. James Jensen, 74, who had been a physician here for 35 years passed away in the St. Joseph's hospital in Bloomington.

In November of 1953, space was purchased by the General Telephone Co. to build a dial system building. This will be located on the site of the old water tank that was used in the old days to fill the town water sprinkler. The telephone company planned to have the dial service ready by the first of April of that year.

In September of 1955, the Saybrook Methodist Church observed its 125th anniversary. Rev. R.C. Myers was the pastor at that time and much of the history of the church was prepared from material compiled by Miss Mabel Easterbrook and Rev. U.G. Johnson at the time of the centennial.

Voters in Saybrook-Arrowsmith school districts approved a \$495,000 bond issue for new construction and repairs in 1957.

An early morning blaze completely destroyed the Saybrook Lumber Company in July of 1965. An estimated 150 persons watched as the building went up in the worst fire in Saybrook in some years.



In 1955 construction was started on a new Post Office building and the following June the office was moved to this new location on Lincoln St. The following year another new building was erected next to the Post Office and shortly thereafter "Grandma's Cafe" was opened for business. These two buildings filled up the space where in 1941, Saybrook had one of its worst fires.

The October 1965 issue of American Heritage, the historical magazine, had an interesting story about Sgt. Gilbert Bates who is buried near the south edge of the Saybrook Township cemetery. Twice, Sgt. Bates bet that he could carry the American flag through unfriendly territory without trouble. The first venture was after the Civil War when he carried the flag from Vicksburg Miss. to Wash. D.C. without incident. The second time Sgt. Bates carried the flag from Gretna Green on the Scottish border to the Guildhall in London. On this latter undertaking, he had a bet with an unnamed Saybrook merchant. Bates won the \$1000 bet, but didn't take the money because he said the good will he engendered between England and the United States was compensation enough.

The Rowe Construction Co. widened the 5.96 miles of road between Saybrook and Bellflower in 1966 at a cost of approximately \$180,000.

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The doors on all sides swung open wide and people entered from all directions until the church was filled with people much to the surprise of only one person among the congregation. This happened in Saybrook on a Sunday evening in 1966 when perhaps one of the biggest conspiracy plots in the town came to a happy and wonderful climax. The one and only person baffled was Miss Geneva Harper, faithful worker of the church, ex-school teacher and civic worker as she was honored by her friends in a "This is Your Life, Miss Harper," Program.

In 1967, the building project for a new \$108,000 (estimated cost) of the Saybrook Christian Church was officially begun with a groundbreaking ceremony. This building replaced the one which had been in use since 1871 and which was constructed at a cost of \$3,400.

In 1968, the second meeting of the Indian Springs Recreation Area was held with 45 members present. At this meeting it was announced that construction was to begin on the golf course and lakes in the spring of 1968, and in July of 1970 the virtually completed clubhouse and golf course was open for inspection. This 80.9 acre recreation area which was a wonderful addition to Saybrook and the surrounding communities, is filled with legends of Indians and the first settlers of the area.

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The site is the place where one of the first families of Cheney's Grove settled in the year 1825 and the Indians encamped there on the banks of the Sangamon River, presumably because of the numerous natural springs. Water still flows from a natural spring there only a few feet from the Sangamon River. Today this spring

water is still being used and is well known for its delicious taste and clearness. The "Indian Springs Club", with its approximate 250 members, enjoy a beautiful club house and one of the best nine hole golf courses in the area. It has been developed into one of the most beautiful spots in McLean County.

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1973 saw more changes in our town. A new pavilion was erected in our park. Shell Service on the corner of Main & Lincoln was torn down and a new modern station was erected. Dr. J. A. Van Ham, due to ill health, gave up medical practice and moved to Arizona. This is the first time that Saybrook has been with out the services of a local doctor. Don Maupin purchased Winn's Supermarket and is redecorating and enlarging this area. When completed, this should give Saybrook an up to date modern grocery and department store. In the winter of 1973 Saybrook experienced one of the bigger snow storms. It has been said that the snow averaged 12 inches on the level and all traffic stopped for a couple of days until we dug out from under.

In 1974 a modern building for the storage of machinery and necessary working tools of the village was erected at the south end of State St. Also, the West Chapel of the Wesbein United Methodist Church was sold and at this writing is in the process of being razed.



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Pork is an important food of the **Meat Group** and



Byron Jones
Saybrook, Ill.

is a key source of many essential nutrients (2 or more servings per day from this group are recommended). Pork is an excellent source of body-building protein and is not high in fat. Its high-quality protein contains all of the essential amino acids needed to build, maintain and repair body tissue and help fight infection and disease. The mineral iron, together with the complete protein, is vital in the formation and maintenance of red blood and the prevention of anemia.

Pork is a major dietary source of the B vitamins, especially thiamin (3 times as much as any other food source). It is one of the most completely digestible and utilized foods. Pork reflects more value than good eating in its outstanding nutritive value that means so much to health and well-being.



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This brings us up to the great year of Cheney's Grove's "Sesquicentennial Celebration". Yes, 150 years have passed and many changes taken place. The last census taken shows Cheney's Grove Township (outside village) 1192 population, Village of Saybrook 844. There are approximately 63 businesses. Many of our people are working in Gibson City, Chanute Field, Champaign, and Bloomington. The area is not

only rich in history but it is noted for the rich soil and bounteous crops it produces. If Jonathan Cheney could return, we feel he would have the thoughts that his decision to settle here was 100 percent correct and that the good Lord must have directed his early efforts toward the settling and molding of this beautiful and bounteous piece of United States of America.

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Religion

Religion was an important part of the life of the families who settled in the grove. Meetings were held in the various homes with itinerant preachers or the family elders bringing the Word to those present. The Robert Cunninghams were "Hardshell" Baptists. Their house was the place of the stated preaching of that sect. The membership here was limited and finally disbanded.

Methodist History

William and Nancy Riggs came to Cheney's Grove in 1830 bringing their Methodist faith with them. With other settlers of that period they gathered in the Jonathan Cheney cabin to hold their first religious services.

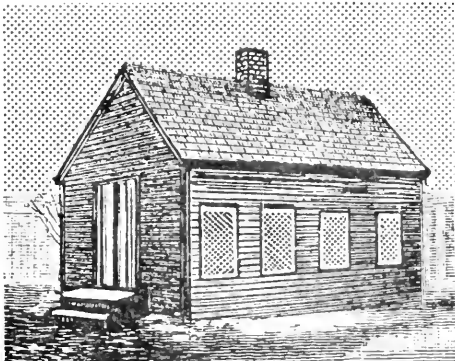
The first society of Methodists was organized by Mr. Duty, circuit rider, with 5 members. Father Riggs was chosen class leader. This group met regularly for reading and study of the Bible and prayer.

In 1840 a log school house was built northwest of the settlement. This was used for worship for ten years. A Sunday School was organized at this time.

In 1850 the society realized the need of a church so under the leadership of Wm. Riggs, Ezekiel Stansbury and John D. Lewis trees were cut and a church of walnut timber was built just north of the school. This was called the Ebenezer Church.



1830-1850



1850-1865

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THE HOW >

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The settlers increased and a desire and need for a larger church arose. A partnership was formed between the Methodists and the school district. Land belonging to the Cheneys was purchased where the present city park is and a two story edifice, called the Bradshaw church, was erected in 1864. The first bell in the community was hung in the belfry. A place had been built in the new church for an organ but because of dissension among the members it was 1866 before the majority ruled and an organ was purchased. At the time of the building of



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Bradshaw church a parsonage was built just north of the site of the old depot. It was moved in 1800 to the site north of the church on Main street.

The school and church partnership was discontinued in 1876 and the brick church was built on the present site. It cost \$6000 and the bricks used for it were made here in Saybrook. The bell was moved.

In 1899 the old parsonage was sold and a new one built for \$1200.



1876-1920

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Under the long pastorate of Rev. R. L. Steed, 1913-1922, an annex for Sunday School rooms, and a kitchen and dining room in the basement were added.



1920-1930

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In Dec. 1926 the parsonage burned and the Struebing home on Lincoln street was purchased for a parsonage.

June 15-June 22, 1930 the church observed Centennial week with special programs and a fine pageant under the direction of Mabel B. Easterbrook. The church was redecorated for this event.

In 1936 Mrs. Jennie Newcomb presented a fine home on Walnut St. for the parsonage. On April 8, 1951 Deegan Chimes were dedicated. In 1953-54, a new garage was built at the parsonage and the church was redecorated within and without.

September 11 to 18, 1955 the church observed its 125th anniversary. Special programs were planned under the guidance of Rev. R. C. Myers.

In 1960 Saybrook and Arrowsmith began sharing a pastor. This arrangement continued for six years.

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In 1967 the Methodist church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church became a yoked charge with Rev. Don Ferrill serving both congregations and the church buildings were called the East and West Chapels.

On June 2, 1968 the two congregations celebrated their uniting to form the Saybrook Wesbein United Methodist Church. After using the two buildings it was decided to make improvements on the East Chapel and to sell the West Chapel. This was done in 1974. Wesbein United Methodist is located at the corner of Grand and Main streets. As a part of the renovation of the church new chimes were installed. The cost of the chimes was met by generous contributions from church members and many friends in the community. The Christian hymns are heard twice daily and provide inspiration and pleasure to people of our community. The present pastor is Rev. Keith Simpsen.

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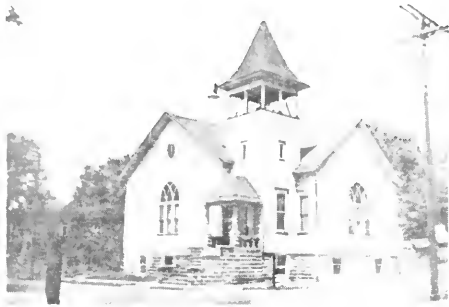
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Saybrook Christian Church History

The history of the Saybrook Christian Church goes back to 1860 when Mr. Jesse Richards helped form a small congregation which met in a schoolhouse west of Saybrook. However, it soon disbanded.

In 1867 Mr. J.M. Stagner began holding preaching services in the Thompson schoolhouse, one mile east of town. Conversions were made and scattered members gathered together. In the early winter of 1868 another meeting was held at the same place under the leadership of James Robeson and James Mitchell. Others were gained and the congregation was reorganized.

Services were held in Thompson schoolhouse until 1868 or 1869 when the congregation moved to Harrison Hall, a large room over a storeroom located on the northwest corner at Harrison and Main Streets. G. W. Cline became the pastor in 1869.

Owing to the condition of the hall and the large number who wished to attend, it was decided to erect a building. A lot at the corner of Walnut and Grove was selected, the lumber hauled from Bloomington and a frame church was erected. This was occupied in the fall of 1871.

During the ministry of J.F. Ghormly, in 1884, the building was moved to the corner of Washington and Harrison. In 1902 plans were made to remodel and repair the church building. The building was moved 30 feet south and as far east as possible. Steel ceilings, new pews, new windows and doors were added. The rebuilding and refurnishing resulted in an almost new building. Rededication to the Master's Cause was held December 7, 1902.

In 1908 the building was raised-a basement was dug and classrooms and a kitchen provided in this area. During the remodeling the congregation held services in the I.O.O.F. Hall. Dedication of this new part was January 3, 1909.

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A heating plant was installed in 1910. May 3, 1915, at the meeting of Elders and Deacons, the donation of a pipe organ was accepted. There was no expense to the church.

On the night of Oct. 28, 1951, the church suffered one of its greatest losses when the parsonage burned. Plans were quickly made to rebuild and on April 19, 1953 open house was held in the lovely brick house. The mortgage on the parsonage was burned on Nov. 6, 1955. William Gage ministered from Nov. 26, 1950 to May 20, 1956. From the Saybrook church the Gages went to Barbados, West Indies to serve in the mission field. The Saybrook church agreed to be their sponsors.

In 1957 the church purchased two lots directly west of the church building. These were used for some time as parking lots. In 1959 a new Hammond Spinet Organ was given anonymously to the church. The old pipe organ was removed.

On May 31, 1959 the congregation voted to build a new Educational Unit. The building was started July 10, 1959 and put into use in March 1960. The new unit provided ten modern classrooms and two restrooms. Centennial, Homecoming and Dedication of the Educational Unit occurred October 9, 1960.

Ground was broken for a new building the first part of April, 1967. Services were held in the old building as the new building was erected around it in the shape of an L. The first Sunday in Sept. services were held in the uncompleted new building and demolition of the old building started Labor Day and was completed in two weeks.



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The new church building was dedicated April 7, 1968. The new building consists of the sanctuary with a seating capacity of 240 persons, a fellowship hall, kitchen, 5 classrooms, restrooms, preacher's study, secretary's office and a nursery. The completely remodeled educational unit consists of a small chapel for Junior Church, 8 class rooms plus restroom facilities. The new building is air conditioned.

The bell tower topped by a 20 foot aluminum cross holds the original church bell from the old building and is used each Lord's Day to call the congregation to worship.

A property on the northeast corner of the church block was purchased in 1971 and graveled for parking. A new organ was purchased for the sanctuary in April 1971.

The property west of the church was purchased in 1967 and paid for in 1973. The house was torn down and with graveled this area is a second parking lot.

Rev. James L. Reed is the present pastor having served the church since July 1, 1970.

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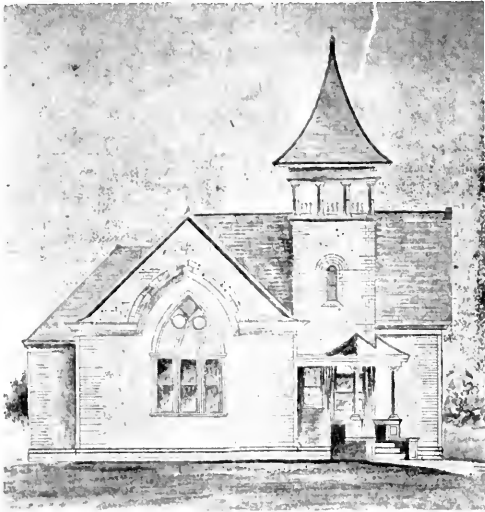
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United Brethren History

In 1857 Rev. Hiram Stoddard organized the First United Brethren church at the Cunningham school. The congregation grew rapidly and in 1866, under the leadership of Rev. J.W. Elliott the first church building was built in the village. It was located two blocks north and one block east of Harrison and Center street.

In 1889 with Rev. Z.T. Hatfield as pastor, the town church building was moved to Brooklyn. Here a fine Sunday School developed and societies for youth and children were organized.

When Rev. B.F. Dungan became pastor in 1895 he quickly sensed that a new building and a new location were necessary if the church was to grow. It was agreed to move back into town and the corner of Center and Harrison was selected as the site. Building began and the frame structure was dedicated in the fall of 1897.

The membership grew and in 1910 when work ceased at the Salem church many families joined the Saybrook worshippers. During Rev. Elmer Fowler's ministry work was begun on a brick structure to replace the frame church. The building was dedicated, free of debt, on January 23, 1916.

A memorable day in the history of the church was in 1918 when members of the Zion and Greenwood churches united with the Saybrook church to form one United Brethren fellowship.

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In 1919 a new parsonage was built and dedicated to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Sholly and family.

A Moller pipe organ was installed and dedicated in 1927.

Another uniting service of denominational importance was solemnized in the General Conference on November 16, 1946 when the United Brethren in Christ united with the Evangelical Church to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

The church faithfully served the community and on November 21, 1937, celebrated its eightieth anniversary.

Organ chimes were dedicated Aug. 22, 1948.

Centennial Week was observed November 10-17, 1957. Special programs were planned and a pageant written by Miss Geneva Harper was one of the highlights of the celebration.

With the denominational merger of the Methodist and the E.U.B. churches the two local churches became a yoked charge. Rev. Don Ferrill served the two churches and led the planning of the celebration uniting the local churches on June 2, 1968. The new church was named Wesbein United Methodist. Both buildings continued to be used until 1974.



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SCHOOLS

The first school house in the grove was built of logs in 1832. Its location, if standing now, would be in the street on the north side of the old cemetery. This school was run as a subscription school at \$2 a scholar. There were only about ten of the old settlers families living here when it was used, and the children that went to this had to pay this fee for a term. A Mr. Rowland taught this school and a Mr. Harbison also; and a lame man by the name of William Johnson was teaching when the building burned. The remainder of the term was finished in a vacant house belonging to Jonathan Cheney.

The settlers then built a school of logs at the lower end of the grove and another at the west end of the grove, and these were called the upper and lower school houses. Some of the early teachers were Mary Cheney, Elizabeth, Ireland, Mary Cottingham, W. F. Prosser, Arch Deland, William Clow, John Holderman, J.B. Henderson, and Enoch A. Gastman. The two log school houses were used up to and in the early fifties.

Then the settlers built a frame school building in the timber near Blakesley's saw mill. This stood about three blocks due east of where the first log school was that burned and it was not

long till the village of Tuffy sprang up in the woods, and it was called the Tuffy school. Then another frame building was built down in the east end of the grove and was called the Hard Scrabble school. Another frame building was built up at the west end of the grove in the south edge of the timber. This was first called the Merritt School, as a man by the name of Merritt lived just across the road from the school; then later on it was called the Woodland school. The building of these three frame buildings abandoned the use of any more log school houses in Cheney's Grove, and supplied the township until 1857 or 1858.

In 1857 three more frame school houses were started; one in the south edge of the grove, called Peg an Awl; one in the northeast, called the Stringtown school; and another in the northwest part of the township, called the McMackin school. The latter name was changed when a tailor spent a week at McMackins home making coats for the family and in that week the sun never shone once and he was heard to remark that "this was indeed a dark corner." Thereafter the school's name was changed to the "Dark Corner School."

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The Methodists, who had a primitive church west of town known as the Ebenezer Church joined with the school directors in 1864 to build a church and school combined on the ground where our present park is located. It was of two stories with a high spire reaching heavenward. It faced north to what is now Lincoln street. The second story of one large room was the church auditorium. The lower floor was partitioned for school rooms. The bell in the belfry is now in the present Methodist Church on the corner of Main and Grand Streets.

Dr. J.L. Ballard, J.D. Lewis and John Lowery were the first trustees of the proposed academy which was founded in 1865. It was considered a great asset to the village. Pupils came from far and near to attend this school of higher learning. The rules and regulations were rather quaint and rigid and a fee was charged for entrance. The church part was called the Bradshaw church after the minister at that time. Oliver Springstead, an eastern man and a graduate of Princeton with a master's degree, was the originator of the academy. Professor Barwick also taught in this school.

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A brick school building was erected in 1895 to house both the grade and high school. A gymnasium was built near the west side of the school in 1911. Ag classes met in a basement room of this building. The block structure was removed in 1933.

In 1928-29 a new high school building was constructed at the north edge of town. The first class to graduate from this fine building were the Seniors of 1930.

In the late 40's the rural schools in the township consolidated with the town grade school district. With all the elementary children coming to the town building an addition was added to the north of the brick structure. This provided cafeteria space and served as an all-purpose room.

The Saybrook school districts united with the Arrowsmith school districts in 1952, Saybrook-Arrowsmith Unit 11 being the name of the new district. The Arrowsmith High School building became the Junior High School and all high school students attended classes in the Saybrook High School. Classes for grades 2-6 met as usual in the two communities.



In 1957 another addition was joined to the northeast corner of the old brick building and this became the cafeteria space and all-purpose room. The area to the west was made into 2 classrooms with rest rooms. A new grade school building was erected in Arrowsmith in 1958.

A new gymnasium, with extensive remodeling of the old gym occurred in 1958. The Junior high students were given rooms in the high school building. Later grades 3 - 6 were moved to Arrowsmith and the Superintendent's office was moved from the high school to the brick grade school building.

At the present time the first floor of the original brick school has the Superintendent's office and two classrooms and the additions on the north continue in use, providing two classrooms and the all-purpose area which provides cafeteria service for the students in the building and also those in the High school building.

Saybrook-Arrowsmith Unit 11 statistics for 1974 follow:

Enrollment--135 High School, 77 Junior High, 74 Saybrook Grade, 127 Arrowsmith Grade.

Employs--28 teachers, 3 administrators, 2 secretaries, 6 cafeteria workers, 4 janitors and 7 bus drivers.



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September Club

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The "J" Club

Masonic Lodge

Lions International

Literary Club

Cotorie Club

Knights of Pythias

Mindell Club

Idlers Club

34 Club

Home Makers

Moderns Club

Order of the Eastern Star

Parent Teachers Association

4-H Clubs

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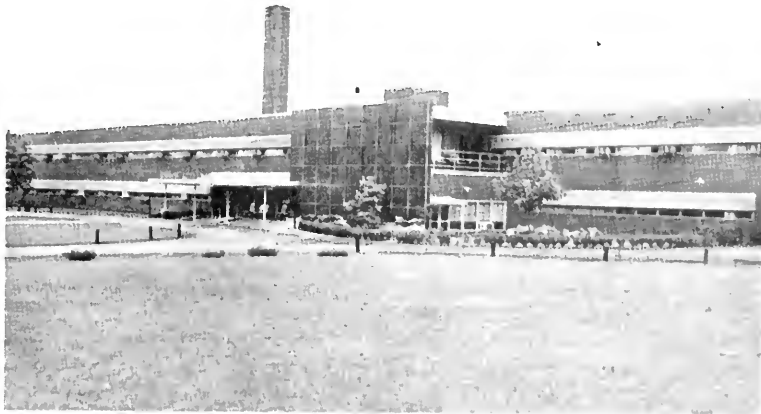
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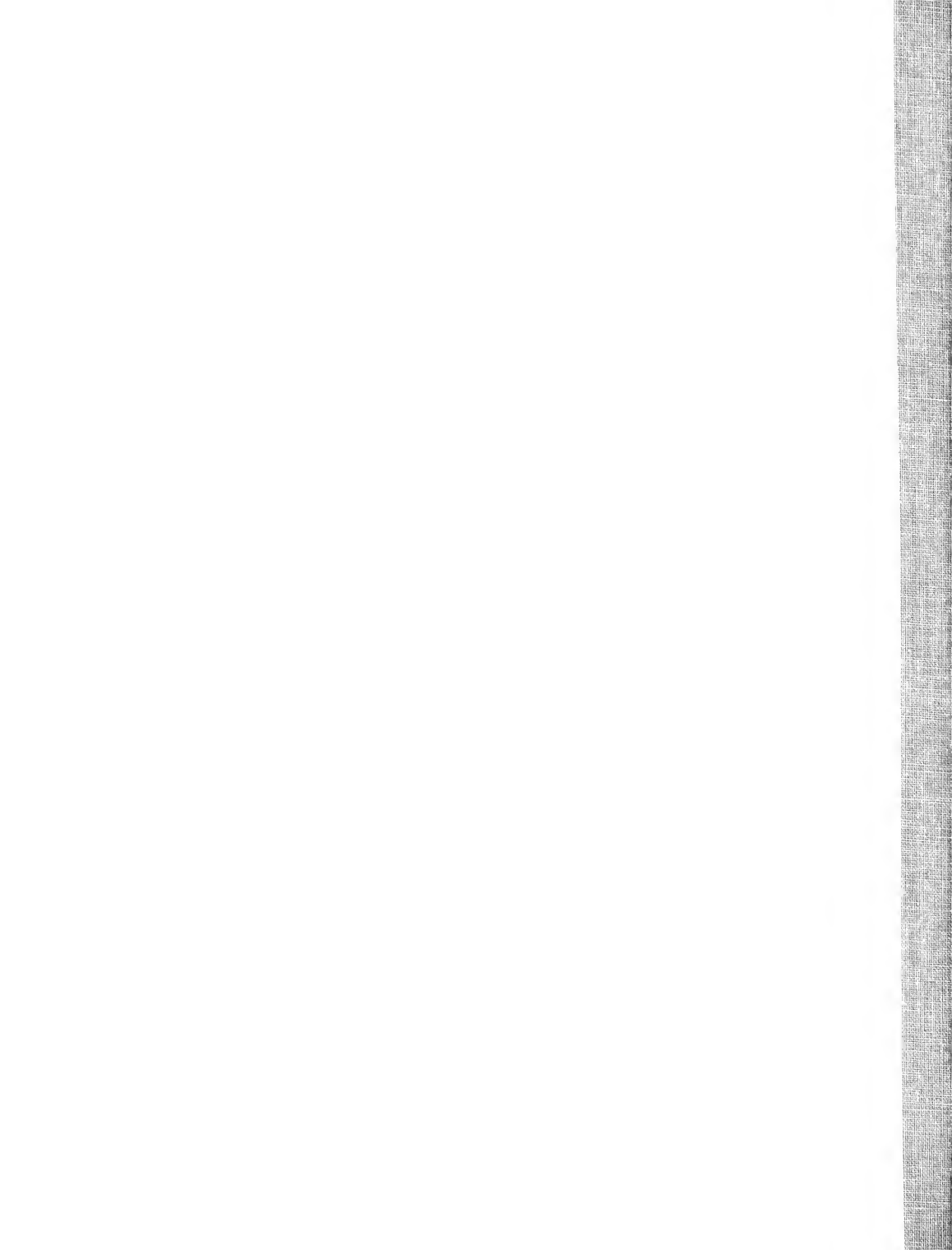
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