

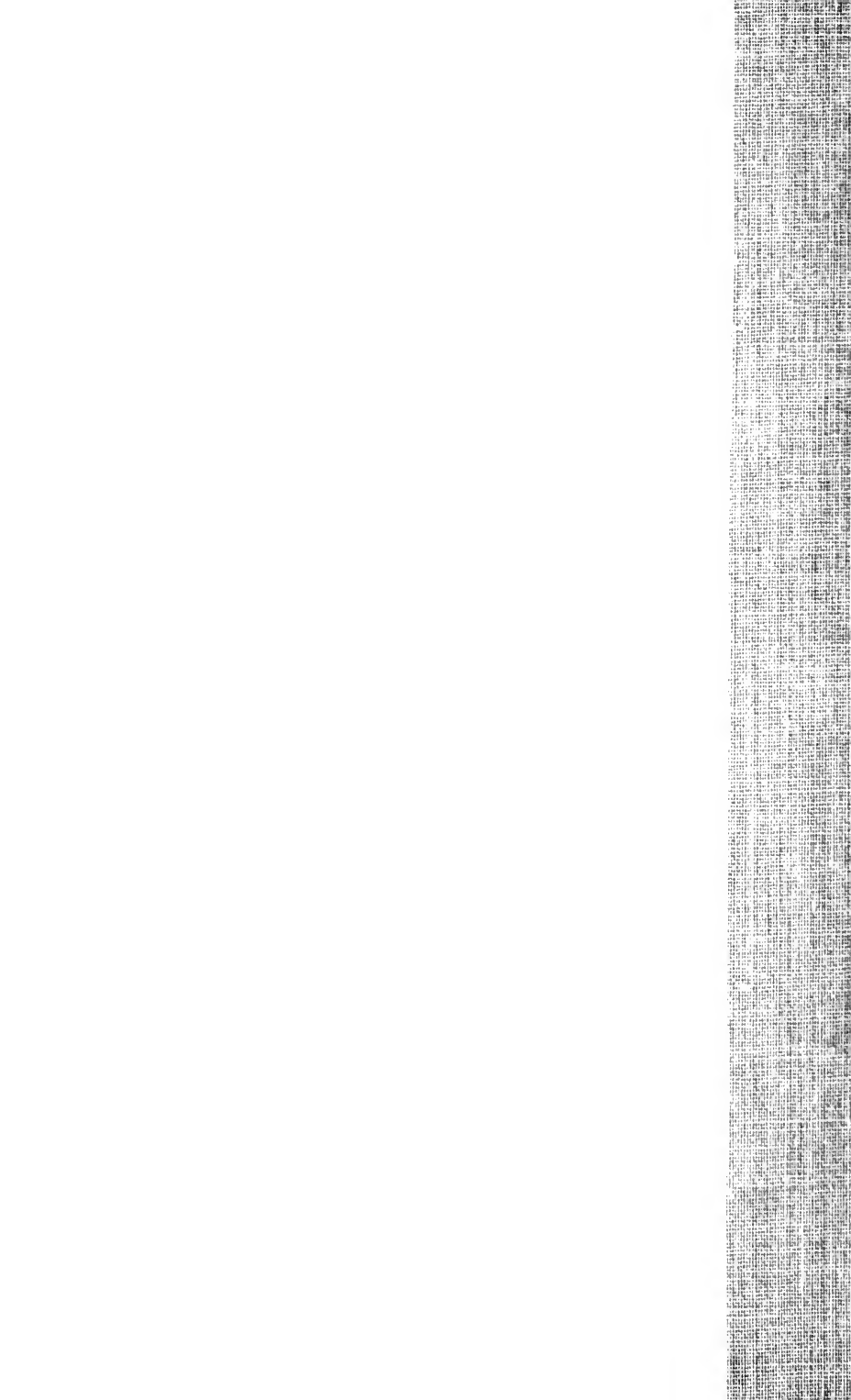
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P. O. Box 801, 1911

TOWNS OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY,
ILLINOIS

1911





TOWNS OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS



BEECHER CITY

EDGEWOOD

EFFINGHAM

BEEMER

DEUROFOLIS

MASON

WATSON

TOWNS OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY ILLINOIS

Edited by Peggy Pulliam

1975

Compiled and Published by
Effingham County Bicentennial Commission

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Several people made contributions to this journal. Mrs. Elmer
created the chapters on Mason. Edgerly...
...for the radio programs...
...the...
...some...
...Mrs. Edgerly...
...the...
...the...
...are active in the...

Cora B. Curtis, News Director of WCR, Effingham, prepared the
...
...The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George...
...was employed by the Effingham Daily Record...
...for two years...
...County Review...
...becoming News Director...
...1949...
...the...
...President of United Press International...
...received an award from UPI...
...SUPER
...CORRESPONDENT OF THE STATE...
...SHE IS LISTED IN WHO'S WHO OF
...AMERICAN WOMEN, ILLINOIS LIVES, and FOREMOST WOMEN IN
...COMMUNICATIONS.

She is the County Chairman of the Effingham County Bicentennial
Commission.

Sarah Lucile James, daughter of Seth L. and Cora B. (Field) James, was
born Oct. 30, 1907, in Dieterich, Illinois.

Elementary education was received at West and East Side Schools, in
Effingham, and she was in the first 8th grade graduating class from the
new Central Junior High in 1921, and graduated from Effingham High
School in 1925.

Lucile was employed at Effingham State Bank from June 1925 until Jan.
1930. She married Louis F. Hoedebecke Jan. 15, 1930, and is the mother of
seven daughters. Since her marriage she has resided in Teutopolis. Lucile
helped with maintenance of the grocery business until retirement in 1969.

At present her interests are Genealogy, Local, County and State
History. Her ancestry has been traced back several generations to the
1700's on several different lines and they were some of the earliest county
residents. Lucile is Chairperson of Teutopolis Area Bicentennial projects.

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ILLINOIS LIBRARY
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

I. ALTAMONT

Altamont is located in the approximate center of Mount Township and is located upon the Mount or elevation which gave Mount Township its name. And because Altamont itself means high ground which is the descriptive of the elevation, I venture that the highest point of elevation in the TRANSYLVANIA RAILROAD portion of Southwestern Pennsylvania is

Altamont is the oldest village in the State of Pennsylvania. It was founded by the first settlers of the county in 1762. The first settlement was made by the first settlers of the county in 1762. The first settlement was made by the first settlers of the county in 1762. The first settlement was made by the first settlers of the county in 1762.

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The first railroad to Altamont was the Erie and Western, which was built in 1836. Both the Edinboro and Erie Railroad and the Centre and Eastern Penna. Railroad were built through Altamont, and were, in fact, the only railroads in the county. The first station of the Vandalia Railroad was opened there September 4, 1873. In twenty years, with the coming of good roads and the automobile and airplanes, the railroads have all lost a large part of their traffic, and now, at Altamont, the railroads are not nearly as important a part in the life of the community as they were a generation ago.

Two banks were established in Altamont, one whose successor is now the First National Bank in Altamont, and which under that name is still in business at Altamont. Another, which I knew in my youth as the Hogar State Bank, was founded in 1876, but it voluntarily liquidated something over twenty years ago.

The first hotel in Altamont was built in 1871 by Daniel Boyer, and was known as the Boyer House. He died when I was just a boy. The first post office in Altamont was opened in 1871. Before that, there had been a station or settlement a few miles south of Altamont known as Montville, on the National Road, but when Altamont opened up, Montville just disappeared, and that post office was moved to Altamont. I never knew him, but know that there are still several families of Millevilles in and about Altamont, and presume they are his descendants.

One early prominent family was the Hager family. The Hagers had then the principal corner of the Hager Store. Some of the names of associates and owners included Fred and Otto Hager. The store was built many years ago. The corner building that was built in 1907 was built by Fred Hager and his wife. The building was built by Fred Hager and his wife. The building was built by Fred Hager and his wife.

Another well known family in Altamont is the Rhodes family. Charles E. Rhodes was one of the prominent men of the town and was also a prominent business leader. He was the manager of the Altamont Manufacturing Co. and was a community leader. His brother, also commonly called "Doc", was also connected with the paper as director and with the Altamont Manufacturing Co. and a leading citizen for many years. The only one of the Rhodes Brothers still left in Altamont is Doc who is at present managing the Altamont Manufacturing Co., though some of the widows and children of his name are still with us.

Fred Naumer was also one of the prominent people in Altamont in my younger days and until his death some twenty years ago. He was a business man, property owner, and quite prominent in Masonic Lodge affairs, and a leader in the community.

H. H. Bailey was for almost a lifetime, and until his death, owner and editor of the Altamont News, the weekly paper in Altamont. He was also well known all over the County as a speaker and lecturer at Chautauques and similar public meetings. George Hillman had the lumber yard and owned other property at Altamont and was reputed to be one of the wealthiest men in Altamont.

Dr. G. M. Baker was one of the leading physicians at Altamont and vicinity. I knew him and his family well, because his daughter Elhora was one of the girls I went with for several years, and I often spent evenings at their home. His sons, Cecil (who later became also a physician and is since deceased), and Bill (who is still at Altamont), were among those who played baseball on the Altamont teams that I played with. And I can remember their youngest son George, who recently retired after many years service as a member of our state police, was then just a little skinny, freckled faced kid wearing short pants.

In my youth there was also one of the few colored or Negro families who have ever lived permanently in Effingham County, The Ellises who has a barber shop in Altamont. They lived in Altamont many years and were nice people and well liked. I became well acquainted with their son, George, about my age, who also played on the Altamont Baseball Team. This family left Altamont many years ago.

Others that I remember include C. E. Munday in real estate and insurance business, Otis Faught, a well to do contractor, Charles Blakely, for many years Mound Township Supervisor, Charles Alwerdt, Fred Herzberg, the shoemaker, Philip Goers who had the harness shop, Dan Fritz, the policeman, George Grant, David Piger, and the Heiligensteins and the Schlotterbecks.

The churches which have been important to the God fearing early settlers of the area were built on the shores of the river. It was a good frame of reference for the early settlers and increased visitors. Then with the coming of the railroad the church was abandoned and the Sweazy family moved to the present location. The church was built of wood and was a simple structure. The church was built by the Sweazy family and was used for many years. The church was built by the Sweazy family and was used for many years.

The church was built in 1880 on the site of the old church. The church was built by the Sweazy family and was used for many years. The church was built by the Sweazy family and was used for many years.

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A site was selected for a new school building, just east of the present Jewel building. The building was a wooden one story, painted white, and it was a one room building. It was square and had two large windows on each side of the building. The school had a school patronage committee consisting of the pastor, the school board, and a physician. The building was destroyed by fire in 1895. The new brick building was erected and dedicated in 1896. George Foster and William D. Decker were the first governing officers of the school. The building located in a blue bounded by Gladstone, Florence, Tenth and Twelfth Streets. Almost one hundred children were enrolled and the playground became a town park.

In 1903 a wing was added and a system of desks was installed. There were four roomed structures. The "reading room" was located on the second floor and James P. Jennings was principal. During this time, Mrs. Decker had a parlor and the summer room of the new school was used for a dance hall. The line was 10 feet wide and handy place for messages of the school. The desks were black and wings, two rows, which made good use of space. The first Monday night of the month.

A high school course was introduced in 1910. The building of the high school was put on a two-story building. The school board had received a grant from the Effingham County School Board. The Central Board of Education had a plan to build a school building. The school board and citizens of Beecher City were interested in making educational changes and desired to offering the citizens of the school better opportunities of securing the progress of a social, intellectual and intellectual improvement. The friends of higher education were continually sought to make educational improvements. As a result a new school building, begun in 1916 and completed in 1917 was erected under the leadership of Messrs. A. Frank Tate, Dr. Emory W. Stokes and George Hodge.

This building is the present grade school. In 1929 the school became a community unit which was made a new building on South 53, west of town in 1942. Then in 1948 the community school became Unit 23 and took in more territory. An addition to the high school was built in 1968. So Beecher City had made the transition from an ungraded school in an old abandoned building to a four year high school. The old gymnasium in Effingham County is the one of the old grade school grounds that was built in 1923 by public subscription. It cost about two thousand five hundred dollars and only had room for about one hundred spectators and the round bellied stove. But it had a stage, two dressing rooms, and it was a step ahead of anything else in the county for several years.

Wars have left their mark on Beecher City. The Eva Casstevens Legion Post has been mentioned. Eva Casstevens was a nurse who never returned from World War I. Ray Hunt, the undertaker, was lost at Chateau Thierry in 1918. The womenfolk of the town knitted sleeveless sweaters and wrapped bandages for the army. Then World War II came with its rationing and flattened tin cans. The Korean conflict was ended none too quickly for these sons-of-the-soil and the Vietnam undeclared war left the same two views that persisted in the rest of the country.

The little town of Edgewood laid out in 1865 with 31 lots and a
\$42 x 478' lot for church and grained in Edgewood. The same day the
Green Chapel (Methodist) church that today is 2 1/2 miles south of Edgewood
was built and a Methodist church was built in Edgewood. The
for these things were done in the year 1865. The church was built in
space for children under eight school age. There are 100 children here
there are about 1000 people in Edgewood.

THE TOWN OF EDGEWOOD

Edgewood is the only town in Effingham County with no
of any kind in the county. Edgewood and Edgewood have a long history
some of the old houses are still standing.

Edgewood is the only town in Effingham County with three
three roads - the Thomas Center, the Edgewood and Clay, and the
branch line of the Thomas Center. The Edgewood and Clay road was
built in 1865 and the branch line of the Thomas Center was built in
1865. The Edgewood and Clay road was built in 1865.

Also Edgewood is the only town in Effingham County with
had two banks at one time. In my youth there were two banks in Edgewood,
the Edgewood State Bank and the Peoples Bank. Both of these
banks were built in 1865 and both were destroyed in 1865.

Edgewood was first settled in 1865. The Thomas Center
Railroad was built in 1865. The Edgewood and Clay road was
built in 1865 and the branch line of the Thomas Center was
built in 1865. The Edgewood and Clay road was built in 1865.

In an early day there was much timber in the vicinity of Edgewood.
There was a great deal of timber in the vicinity of Edgewood and
bridge timber and some people who lived in the vicinity of
Edgewood became prosperous in their business. Some of the timber was
cut off long ago and now the most of the wood in Effingham County
communities, the principal timber is loblolly. However some of it
has been found and produced in the vicinity of Edgewood. In
Larkinsburg, Tenn. The Oak Grove Township, a part of Edgewood,
which has covers very good of fields in the Edgewood part of
a little of being outside of Effingham County it is almost all Clay, and
the south line of the present village is practically the north line of Clay County.

I can recall distinctly in my youth, quite a few of the prominent
people of Edgewood, or at least knew of them. Many of them were quite prominent
in Effingham County history and affairs.

One of these was William Gillmore, who was the father of Mrs. George
I. Danks of Effingham. Mr. Gillmore, or 'Uncle Billy' as he was
frequently called, for many years had a large general store in Edgewood.
He was a large property owner, and interested in the bank, and for many
years one of the leading men in our County. Several other members of the
Gillmores held County offices here, among them Percy Gillmore, who was
County Clerk. There are a number of the Gillmore family still living in and
about Edgewood. Uncle Billy Gillmore passed on at past ninety years of
age, when I was a young man.

which they left Effingham at about 4:30 a.m. When I got off at the depot at Mason, practically the entire town seemed to be on foot. An immense part of the business section did seem to be on foot. I got on the second train to get my business attended to.

Then another specimen of the same kind of thing was the discovery of oil in Mason. It is interesting to note that the oil was discovered in the County Road development and not in the "oil field" which was in the village of Mason. This was a great disappointment to the people who were developing the oil field in the village of Mason. The oil was discovered in the village of Mason and not in the village of Mason. The oil was discovered in the village of Mason and not in the village of Mason.

I can remember that there had probably been a store in the village of Mason just north of the town where it was found. The store was located in the village of Mason and not in the village of Mason. The store was located in the village of Mason and not in the village of Mason.

Among the early residents and business places in the village of Mason were the W.C. General Store, which was for many years the principal general store in the village. Another early store was the W.C. Store, which was also a general store. The store was located in the village of Mason and not in the village of Mason.

Of course, the village was another growing place. There were other stores there, such as the W.C. Store, which was for many years the principal general store in the village. Another early store was the W.C. Store, which was also a general store. The store was located in the village of Mason and not in the village of Mason.

Mason, like many others of our little villages, suffered rather than gained by the building of the paved highways, which resulted in bringing people into the community. The business was, to a large degree, centralized in my first recollection. Mason had a bank, newspaper, saloon, grocery, and hotel, all of which are now gone. There are not many of our little business places in Mason as there were at my first recollection.

But most of the people there now are fine people and good business men and the farming community about it has grown in prosperity over the years, and it is still a good place to live.



DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1840 - The first school was opened. Classes were held temporarily in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitt, wife of Dr. Schmitt and Dr. Schmitt's daughter, Elizabeth Schmitt. The school had a teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitt, and the school was held in the home of Mrs. Schmitt.
- 1841 - The first school was opened. Classes were held temporarily in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitt, wife of Dr. Schmitt and Dr. Schmitt's daughter, Elizabeth Schmitt. The school had a teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitt, and the school was held in the home of Mrs. Schmitt.
- 1842 - A post office.
- 1843 - Rev. Dr. W. Schmitt, O.S.B. pastor of Newton, was also pastor of Teutopolis, assisted by Rev. Roman Weinspfler, who had the advantage of being versed in the German language.
- 1844 - Rev. J. Vebrier became the next pastor followed by Rev. Carl Joseph Opperman.
- 1845 - Teutopolis was incorporated as a village. The first official act of the trustees was the granting of a retail liquor license to Anton Kabe, at an annual fee of \$25.
- 1846 - A stage coach line started running through Teutopolis on its way from Buchanan to St. Louis. Thos. Euclid maintained one of the stage stations in connection with his tavern.
- 1848 - First major disaster, a prairie, struck on Feb. 19. Several of the farms were badly damaged. Trees were blown down, fences destroyed and the wind of the German Brothers wind driven from the tops broken off. Several houses were destroyed, the church was partially destroyed as were most of the other structures in town.
- 1849 - The great worm was disastrous.
- 1850 - A railroad survey was completed. Included in Teutopolis parish was Effingham, Green Creek, Bishop Creek and some surrounding countries.

- 1851 - July 20 date of Celebration.
- 1852 - Long sent to Baltimore, Maryland, where he was employed by the State.
- 1856 - The B. & O. Railroad was completed from Washington to Baltimore.
- 1857 - The first passenger train arrived in Teutopolis.
- 1858 - The first freight train arrived in Teutopolis.
- 1859 - The first school was opened in Teutopolis.
- 1860 - The first church was organized in Teutopolis.
- 1861 - The first newspaper was published in Teutopolis.
- 1862 - The first mill was built in Teutopolis.
- 1863 - The first bridge was built in Teutopolis.
- 1864 - The first hotel was built in Teutopolis.
- 1865 - The first school was opened in Teutopolis.
- 1866 - Surveying being done for a new railroad, bonds were sold to defray the cost of this survey.
- 1869 - Clement Uptmor transferred his postmastership to Joseph Habing, also the first railroad freight was delivered, two carloads of salt.
- 1870 - June 12, passenger trains began to run according to schedule.
- 1872 - Two village sons arrived with Doctor's diplomas, Joseph Brumleve and John Kroeger.
- 1876 - Rev. Damasus Ruesing, O.V.M., became pastor. He erected the boy's school east of the church and was soon appointed one of the first Definitors of the Province.
- 1879 - Improvements in the church, installation of new windows, renewal of the steeple in 1886. Installation of a new tower clock. John Waschefort, one of the early settlers, died at age 68.
- 1883 - Fire engine purchased.
- 1884 - Henry Uptmor, Teutopolis' first citizen, died.
- 1885 - The Waschefort mill owned by John Weis was destroyed by fire. Citizens went west to inspect western land under consideration.
- 1886 - Many residents left for Idaho to make permanent homes.

- 1489 - Queen's head was installed in church. The Franciscans were allowed a permanent convent.
- 1498 - A great fire swept off the village.
- 1502 - The "great" fire, which had the burning side grass.
- 1503 - Death of the first child of a native of St. Francis Church at Teutopolis.
- 1504 - The first settlement was made on the site of St. Francis Church. The first settlers were the Franciscans, who had been expelled from the New World by the Spaniards. They were the first to settle on the site of the present town.
- 1505 - The first settlement was made on the site of St. Francis Church. The first settlers were the Franciscans, who had been expelled from the New World by the Spaniards. They were the first to settle on the site of the present town.
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- 1510 - The first settlement was made on the site of St. Francis Church. The first settlers were the Franciscans, who had been expelled from the New World by the Spaniards. They were the first to settle on the site of the present town.
- 1511 - The first settlement was made on the site of St. Francis Church. The first settlers were the Franciscans, who had been expelled from the New World by the Spaniards. They were the first to settle on the site of the present town.
- 1512 - Teutopolis' two doctors, Joseph Brumleve and Lawrence Brumleve, father and son, died within two weeks of each other.
- 1515 - "Wooden Shoe" identification was born.
- 1539 - Centennial commemorating the arrival of the first settlers.

(Source material: *1851-1926 Souvenir of the Diamond Jubilee of St. Francis Church, Teutopolis.*)

VIII. HISTORY OF WATSON

Watson was born October 21st, 1857 and died March 29th, 1965. is 107 1/2 years old.

CELESTINE STEVENSON BRIDGE was built by the Federal Government. The story told is that the old "Cotton" Office building in Watson, Tenn.

was used for the building of a suspension bridge. The first time there was a center of gravity. The bridge was built by the Federal Government. The first time there was a center of gravity. The bridge was built by the Federal Government. The first time there was a center of gravity.

Builds over the 1840s. Watson was built over:

- A — to the Northwest in Section 21. (Aston)
- B — to the Southwest in Section 34. (Watson)
- C — to the South in Section 8. (Tulsa)

Watson was also located near the center of the county. Watson was probably responsible for the first suspension bridge built over the river.

There are two bridges over the river. The first bridge was built by the Old Salem Town Bridge. The second bridge was built by the Central National Bank. The first bridge was built by the Old Salem Town Bridge. The second bridge was built by the Central National Bank.

The earliest settlers of Watson, as indicated by records, were as follows:

Mr. DeWitt was from Tennessee. He came in 1811 and died in 1860. John Hayes of Alabama was born in 1780. Other notable settlers: Bryant, Mr. Brown, Mr. Kelly, C. A. Blount, Mr. Turner, John Cook who was born in Virginia. The first bridge was built by the Old Salem Town Bridge. The second bridge was built by the Central National Bank.

The first store was opened in 1857 by James Traylor. After one year it was sold to Mattie LaCrosse. In 1858 it was sold to D. C. Broughton and in 1860 it was again sold to Kirk Bradley. He sold it to Moore and Green.

In 1862 William Abraham purchased the store. Mr. Abraham built a two story building and sold groceries, shoes, staples, hardware, clothing, dry goods and coffees. He bought blues, crests, puties, soap, farm products and farms.

Mr. Abraham also built the Watson State Bank, located on the south side of what is now Route 37.

He also built a very good house, replacing the little one they first occupied. The home, an ornate "mansion", is now owned by the Martins and is still a handsome residence. It was located a block south of the store. (My mother, Mary S. Westfall Buchholz, worked there when she was a young woman.)

Mr. Abraham was born in Ohio in 1842; he established a store in Elliottstown in 1860. In 1861 he enlisted in the army and was honorably discharged in August of 1863. His mother died on the battlefield at Murphysboro, Tenn., in 1862. It was not unusual for women to visit or to work and aid wounded soldiers on the battlefield during the Civil War.

Bill's grocery store at Watson was P. Watson's General Store. The store was located on the east side of the road. It was a small one, my father George Watson was working there at the time. The grocery store is gone now.

There were several other stores located on the east side of the road. One was a hardware store, another was a general store, and another was a grocery store. These stores were all on the east side of the road.

There were also several other stores located on the west side of the road. One was a hardware store, another was a general store, and another was a grocery store. These stores were all on the west side of the road.

There were also several other stores located on the north side of the road. One was a hardware store, another was a general store, and another was a grocery store. These stores were all on the north side of the road.

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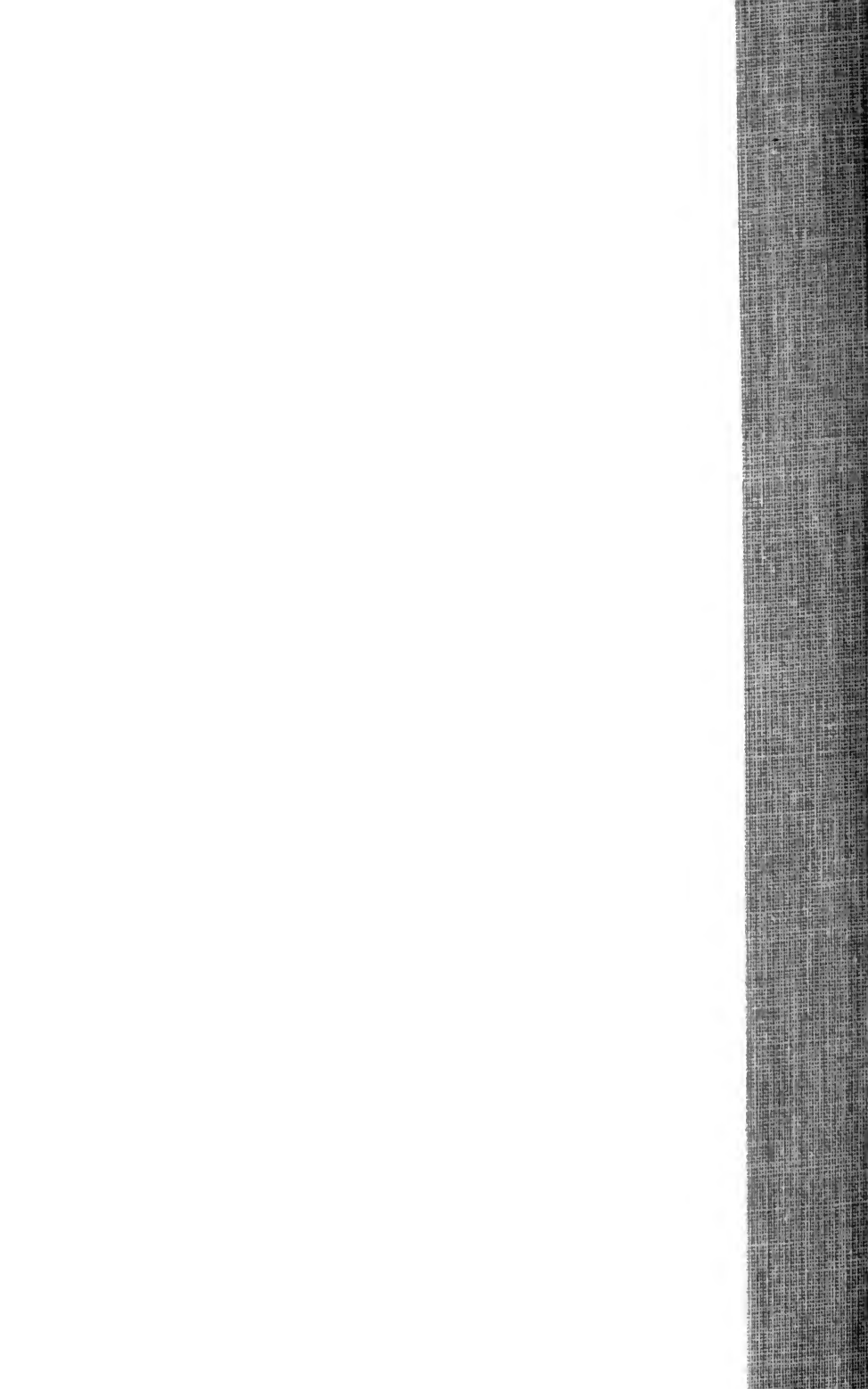
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