

# *Will/Grundy Genealogical Society*

honors a pioneer,

*Seneca Sly,*

who lived in Will County in 1846.

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Lockport township is described as "Township 36 North, Range 10 East of the Third Principal Meridian, bounded on the north by Dupage Township, east by Homer, south by Joliet, west by Plainfield, and is one of the wealthy towns of Will County," according to the 1878 History of Will County.

Although not one of the first settlers of the township, Seneca Sly did arrive there in 1846, having traveled to the area from his home state of New York. A son of Mathew and Abigail (Ripley) Sly, he was born at Queensburg, Washington Co., New York on the 25th day of May 1816. His father had served in the 121st Regiment of the New York militia in the War of 1812.

Mathew Ripley died in September of 1832 at Galen, Wayne Co., New York, where the family had made its home sometime after the end of the war. It was here that Seneca Sly was united in marriage with Sarah Jane Gordon of Carlisle, Schoharie Co., New York, circa 1837. Their first three children - Rosetta, Eugene and Rosella were born in Wayne county. After the move to Illinois, two sons - Winfield Scott and Millard Filmore - were born to the couple.

The 1850 federal census of Lockport Township lists Seneca's occupation as farmer. He was also involved in the affairs of the township, serving a two-year term, 1860-1861, on the Board of Supervisors. The March 6, 1878, issue of the Joliet Republican newspaper mentioned that "a public meeting was held last Saturday afternoon at the Town Hall to devise ways to repair the Lockport and Plainfield road. No decisive action was taken, but a committee consisting of George Norton, George Spangler and Seneca Sly was appointed to see about the cost of such repairs at a future meeting."

On 3 June 1862 Sarah Jane, Seneca's wife of 25 years, died. Five years later, on the 27th of October 1867, he married Mrs. Susan E. Dayton. She also preceded Seneca in death.

Seneca Sly died at the age of 80 on 6 January 1897, after an illness of about six weeks, at the home of his daughter Rosetta (Mrs. I. Clark Felt) in Lockport, Illinois. Burial was in the Lockport cemetery. A Necrology of Will Co. Pioneers 1892-1897 states he had also lived in Plainfield, Illinois, where he was "an honored, worthy citizen."

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NOTE: WGGG member Mary Lucile Gregory is a descendant of Seneca Sly.

