



Part I: The Directory of DeKalb County Telephone Co. 1900 City of Sycamore

"Telephones are for the use of Subscribers only. Boarders and Hired Help are requested to pay for use of toll lines. All Toll Messages will be collected from subscribers over whose telephone such messages are sent."

Phone #	Subscriber	Location	Phone #	Subscriber	Location
173	Allen, J A	Residence	83	Chicago Great Western	Depot
77	Alden, P M	"	37	Chicago & Northwestern	Depot
65	Armstrong, S T	"	235	Churchill, Paul	Residence
60	Anderson, Uno	Meat Market	119	Christian, E T	"
3 on 126	Averill, Frank	Residence	132	Claycomb, F E	"
209	Anderson Bros.	Clothing	153	Chicago Insulated Wire Co	Factory
233	Allen, Fred	Residence	30	Circuit Clerk's Office	Court House
61	Bishop, Judge C A	"	19	County Clerk	A S Kinsloe
31	Bagden, Dr A D	"	2 on 19	County Treasurer	J N Shaffer
15	Bagden, Dr A D	Office	3 on 19	County Judge	W L Pond
80	Boies, E I "	True Republican	72	Conrad, C M	Abstract Office
130	Boies, E I	Residence	58	Cooper, E G	Residence
87	Boynton, Mrs C O	"	212	Culiehan, Wm	"
69	Branen, James	"	231	Carnes, John	"
81	Branen, James	Saloon	194	Collins & Durran Co	Shoe Store
32	Branen, T J	"	211	Cornwall, Fred	Residence
140	Branen, T J	Residence	230	Clark, W S	"
179	Brown, Geo	Law Office	239	Coleman, H H	"
114	Briggs, Geo	Residence		Coleman, H M	Farm Residence
30	Brown, Dr C B	"		Clarke, Alfred I	" "
66	Beach, C H	"	178	Dayton, James	Residence
190	Burst, E M	"	134	Dobbins, J A	Fruiterer
2 on 121	Burst, E M	Attorney	107	Dustin, Mrs Daniel	Residence
156	Board of Trade	H B Mason, Mgr	29	Dunton, G W	"
151	Boyle, J C	Oil and Feed	34	Dutton, Mrs E F	"
126	Butcher, Clarence	Residence	129	Dutton's Sons & Co, E F	Office
115	Bell, Rev R W	Baptist Parsonage	305	Dayton, James	Farm Residence
183	Blackford, J C	Residence	198	Doane, A C	Residence
205	Butzow, H C	"	199	Doane, A C	Marble Works
206	Butzow & Co, H C	Farm Machinery	221	Dutton, W P	Residence
14	Black, Fred	Residence	149	DeKalb Co Gas Co	Office
106	Bettis & Co, F B	New Music Store		Dick, Geo E	Farm Residence
75	Boyle, Ed	"Zeke" Restaurant	188	Early, H S	Residence
208	Brennan, John	Residence	169	Early, H S Law	Office
203	Becker, E E	"	90	Electric Light Co	Plant
105	Black, John	"	76	Ellwood, Mrs Abram	Residence
227	Buell & Mitchell	Office	154	Ellwood, J E	"
	Bickford, S S	Farm Residence	155	Ellwood, Mrs Alonzo	"
	Bowen, D W	" "	204	Evans, Dr A Pratt	"
4	City Weekly Office	Printing	197	Evans, Dr A Pratt	"
123	Cliffe, A C	Residence	98	East School	
50	Cliffe, T M	"	99	Forward & Co W M	Plumbers
93	Cliffe & Cliffe	Law Office	148	Fall, W B	Residence
100	Calaboose	City Marshall's Office	55	Faisler, John	"
48	Carnes, D J	Residence	92	Gabel, W G	Restaurant
5	Carnes & Dunton	Law Office	159	Gross, L M	Co. Supt. of Schools
25	Central School	Supt. Office	18	Gross, L M	Residence
136	Chandler, E C	Residence	184	Gallup, Henry	"
191	Chandler, E C	Cigar Factory	185	Gualano Bros	"

Phone #	Subscriber	Location	Phone #	Subscriber	Location
202	Gilbert, Wm L	Electrician	44	Masterson & Branen	Bottling Works
167	Green, A W	Residence	112	Miller, Dr E J	Residence
	Graham, Robert	Farm Residence	70	Miller, Dr E J	Office
195	Gardner & Hibbart	Feed Stables	26	Murphy, David	Supt Water Works
142	Harrington, J E.	Residence	214	Meeker, C G	Residence
170	Holcomb Bros	Lumber Yard	137	Mason, H H	"
51	Haigh Bros	Hardware	217	Montgomery, E	Confectionery
111	Haigh, Chas	Residence	87	Masterson, Mrs P	City Hotel
196	Hall, Elry	"	2	Nesbitt, Dr G W	Office
78	Herrick, O. P.	"	24	Nesbitt, Dr G W	Residence
138	Hills, F E	"	84	North Side Lumber Co	Shurtleff & Clark
11	Hoyt, C H	"	120	Nevins, Dr	Residence and Office
186	Holt & Roberts	Cloverdale Dairy	108	Oakley, I W	Drayman & Residence
228	Hall, Franklin	Residence	17	Ohlmacher C	Residence
96	Henrie, W V	Livery Stable	105	Ohlmacher & Root	Plumbers
166	Heideklang	Hotel	263	Organ, M J	Residence
161	Hix, F G	Residence	147	Ostrander, H	"
4	Hix & Sons	City Weekly	12	Oleson, Benj	"
73	Hoyt & Rogers	Dry Goods	9	Oleson, Harrington & Whittemore	Drugs, Groceries
	Huffman, J C	Wesleyan Church Parsonage		Osborne, Henry	Farm Residence
36	Jail	D Hohm, Sheriff	222	Prince Com Co	Board of Trade
104	Johnson & Beach	Furniture, Undert'k'g	172	Palmer, E L	Chicago Messenger
110	Johnson, Frank W	Furniture	2 on 3	Palmer, E L	Office
121	Jones & Rogers	Law Office	62	Patten, F C	Residence
23	Joslyn, J C	Residence	67	Patten Co F C	Factory Office
74	Joslyn & Herrick	Book Store	143	Phelps, E M	Residence
224	Joslyn, H A	Residence	21	Postal Telegraph Cable Co	Office
177	Jones, Miss Grace	C U Tel Office	86	Pumping Station	Water Works
57	Jones, P K	Residence	91	Pierce, Daniel Co	Bank
220	Johnson, Emil E	"	213	Plank, D D	Residence
304	James, Frank	Farm Residence	3 on 193	Peterson, Miss Anna	Residence
158	Kelley, N D	Residence	145	Robinson & Love	Threshing Machines
215	Kelley, N D	Saloon	187	Robinson, Mrs G S	Residence
116	Kellum, Wm C	Residence	64	Rogers, Elthom	"
2 on 12	Kellum, Wm C	Law Office	49	Rogers, Mrs J H	"
52	Kimball, Rev H D	M E Parsonage	63	Rogers, W H	"
27	Kinsloe, A S	Residence	28	Ronin, T J	"
	Keegan Bros	Farm Residence	152	Ronin, T J	Saloon
68	Langlois, Walter	Residence	20	Ryan, John	Livery Stable
2 on 1	Langlois, Walter	Office	176	Rogers, Byard	Saloon
43	Lewis, G G	Residence	232	Rykert, D B	Bicycles
135	Little, Mrs J H	"		Rote	Farm Residence
122	Lindsay, Mrs Jessie	Boarding House		Roose, Ed G	" "
128	Long Bros	Sheep Feeders Office		Renwick, R R	" "
35	Long, V F	Residence		Renwick	" "
97	Loptien, C	"		Reed, Wm	" "
79	Lather, J H	"	41	Sabin, Charles	Residence
193	Leinauer, Wm	Butcher	94	Sanford & Brown	Drugs, Groceries
201	Langhorn, Miss Elizabeth	Residence	102	Sell Bros	Meat Market
40	Little, George	Restaurant	180	Sheriffs Office	Court House
207	Lapp, J D	Residence	42	Sivright, Geo M	Residence
219	Lloyd, Sergius	"	56	Sivright, Irish & Co	Drugs, Groceries
234	Lovell & Witt	Musical Mdse & Jewelry	41	Smith, Dr O H	Dental Office
10	McAllister & Co W M	Dry Goods	175	South School	
192	McAllister, W M	Residence	236	Seidel, C H	Residence
125	Marsh, W W	"	59	Steenrod, C W	Undertaking
95	Masonic Lodge Room		1	Stephens, J B	Law Office
171	Meehan, Rev W J G	Catholic Parsonage	229	Stephens, J B	Residence
113	Mills, P R	Residence	133	Stevens, H M	"
163	Montgomery, E	"	101	Sycamore Preserve Works	
162	Murphy, J I	Elevator	38	Sycamore Lumber Co	

Phone #	Subscriber	Location
7	Sycamore National Bank	
6	Snow, B J	Residence
210	Scheidecker, V	Livery Stable
54	Southgate, Rev B M	Cong'l Parsonage
144	Syme, D A	Residence
160	Singer & Son, J	"
157	Smith, Dr H O Smith	"
168	Smith, F H	"
182	Shafter, J N	"
240	Smith, Mrs S G	"
85	Sycamore Steam Laundry	H E Tweedy
2 on 169	Simpson, Dr. W H	Dentist
88	Swinbank, Wm	Green House
216	Sell, Wm	Residence
3	Sivright & Chatfield	Groceries
	Scott, Mrs M A	Farm Residence
	Safford, E P	" "
241	Safford, E P	Residence
	Stark, Frank W	"
200	Thomas, E A	"
82	Townsend, F B	"
45	Townsend, Mrs E P	"
127	Trafford, John	Market Gardner
161	Truby, N G	Residence
80	True Republican	Printing Office
164	Taylor, R C	Lunch Room
22	Turk, Wm	Meat Market
189	Turk, Wm	Residence
238	Turner, H J	"
	Townsend, C Summer	Farm Residence
	Tower, David J	" "
218	Underwood, C P	Residence
109	VanGalder, P H	Brick Yards
13	Walker, C E	Residence
46	Waterman Hall	Office
134	Waterman, W	Residence
53	Waterman & Peters	Groceries
16	West School	
8	Westgate, Dr L A	Sycamore Hospital
71	Whittemore & Brower	Hardware
33	Whittemore, H C	Residence
124	Willard, C E	"
47	Wild, D P	"
117	Wild, G P	"
118	Williams House	
103	Winders, C R	Star Bakery
146	Wiseman, G B Tinner	Residence
237	Wheeler, A N	"
189	Winans, Geo	Well Driller
181	Westgate & Brown	Advertiser
150	Wier, Mrs H K	Residence
226	Whittemore, H M	"
174	Ward House	J H Peterman
306	Wyman, B F	Farm Residence
	Weeden, Samuel	" "
	Whitmore, H O	" "
	Wilkinson, Ralph N	" "
	Wilkinson, Alfred	" "
	Walrod, Mrs Ida	" "
	Watson, James	" "

(Watch for Part II in the next issue - other towns in the county)

(continued from cover)

Company M, 3rd Regiment Spanish American War

The 3rd Regiment was enrolled April 26, 1898, and mustered into service for two years at Camp Tanner, Springfield, IL. They sailed on the *St. Louis* for Porto Rico on July 25, 1898, arriving at Ponce on July 31. They participated in engagements in the Guayama area Aug. 5, 8, and 13, then served outpost duty until Nov. 2. Embarking for Roumania, New York, the regiment arrived on Nov. 9. They were ordered to home stations via railroad and mustered out at Joliet, Illinois on Jan. 24, 1899.

The following list of those who served in Company M was published in the *Malta Mail*, May 10, 1917. A complete list and more detailed service information can be found in the *Adjutant General's Report, Vol. 9* or the *Honor Roll of DeKalb County*, both available at the Joiner History Room at the Sycamore Public Library.

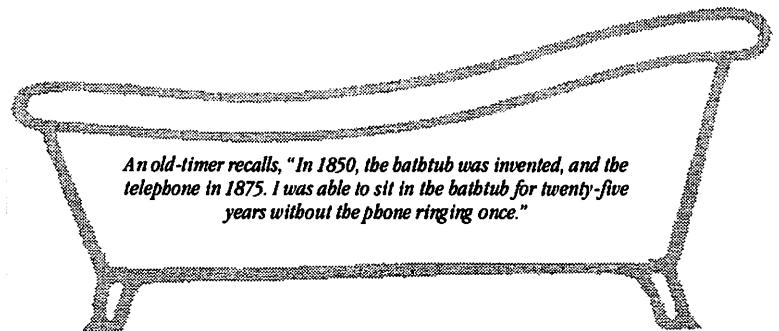
Arthur M. Chambers	Wm. J. Duffy	William Malcom
Ed. S. Pressler	Oscar A. Anderson	B.F. Atherton
Wm. Boardman	Arthur J. Buell	Roy L. Butler
Robert Coffee	Jo L. Callison	Richard Callison
Edward L. Dunn	Arthur Goodrich	Robert Graham
Ezra J. Hayden	Geo. Hilliker	James Hilliker
John W. Kylan	Alex E. Landers	Louis P. Larson
Martin Linds	Thos. S. Murray	Christ L. McNally
Wm. H. O'Neal	Ben Parker	Mitchell Robertson
Floyd J. Shoop	Wm. Seeley	Frank D. Morrison
Ernest L. Boardman	Frank Tarbell	Peter Traveland

Arthur Buell Home

Granted Sixty-Day Furlough to Recover His Health

Arthur Buell, of Co. M., 3rd Regt., U.S. Vols., arrived at his home in Sycamore Tuesday night, having been granted a leave of absence for sixty days. He is just recovering from a severe attack of spinal meningitis and was sent north that he might be more rapidly restored to perfect health. Although rather thin, "A n." with his handsome brown beard and blue uniform, looks every inch a soldier. His only regret is that he could not make the trip with his company to Porto Rico, but he hopes to join it fully restored in health when his furlough expires.

-Sycamore True Republican, July 23, 1898



An old-timer recalls, "In 1850, the bathtub was invented, and the telephone in 1875. I was able to sit in the bathtub for twenty-five years without the phone ringing once."

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

The Early History of
Milan Township

One of three townships in DeKalb County void of any town, the Milan area was regarded for many years as mainly wasteland. Without groves of trees to provide wood or shelter, the early settlers avoided this territory. The rather wet, almost swampy land was unusable.

The first settler, Lewis McEwen, a bachelor, arrived in 1852 from the California gold fields, built a small house, and subsisted on hunting for the first couple of years. Benjamin Banfield, Reuben Dodd, and Durdon Hewitt soon followed, purchasing land warrants for eighty cents per acre.

By 1854 a thrifty, hard working and energetic colony of Norwegian farmers had settled in the area. The portions of the township which were on higher ground proved to be excellent farm land. The Berg, Oleson, Sanderson, Oakland, Eames, Grover and Kettleson families produced unheard of crop yields from the land.

Milan, the youngest township in the county, was formed from portions of Malta and Shabbona Townships in 1857. Foresighted residents organized a drainage district. Thousands of rods of tile were laid and large ditches constructed to carry away water that once made the land too wet for farming. This resulted in good, solid, firm soil and serviceable roads that had previously been impassable. Farmers improved and beautified the land by repairing many miles of willow fences and planting black walnut and butternut trees.

The "Forty Years Ago" column of a 1908 *Sycamore True Republican* recounted that shortly after the Civil War, "The close proximity of these lands to markets, the virgin freshness of the soil and the rapid increase of population, make them [Milan] perhaps the most desirable part of the country for settlers or investment."

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the township had a population of only 285, but sent 38 soldiers to the conflict.

Although devoid of villages, Milan Township children were educated at nine country schools:

District #	School	Section #
078	Johnson	06
079	Stone	03
080	Browne	01
081	Powers	14
082	Milan Center	21
083	Berg	20
084	Toad Hollow	30
085	Sheridan	33
086	Hickey	35



Milan Town Hall and Milan Center School, 1948

Two schools became particularly significant to the history of the township. Realizing a need for a public building, a two-story frame structure was erected in 1868. The top story acted as a town hall and place to worship. The lower floor served as what became known as Milan Center School and educated children for almost 100 years, until it was closed in

1958. The building has since been razed.

The second notable school is Berg, which in 1997 was donated to Northern Illinois University and reconstructed on campus in 1999. It is now part of the Blackwell History of Education Museum, and stands as an important contribution to DeKalb County history.

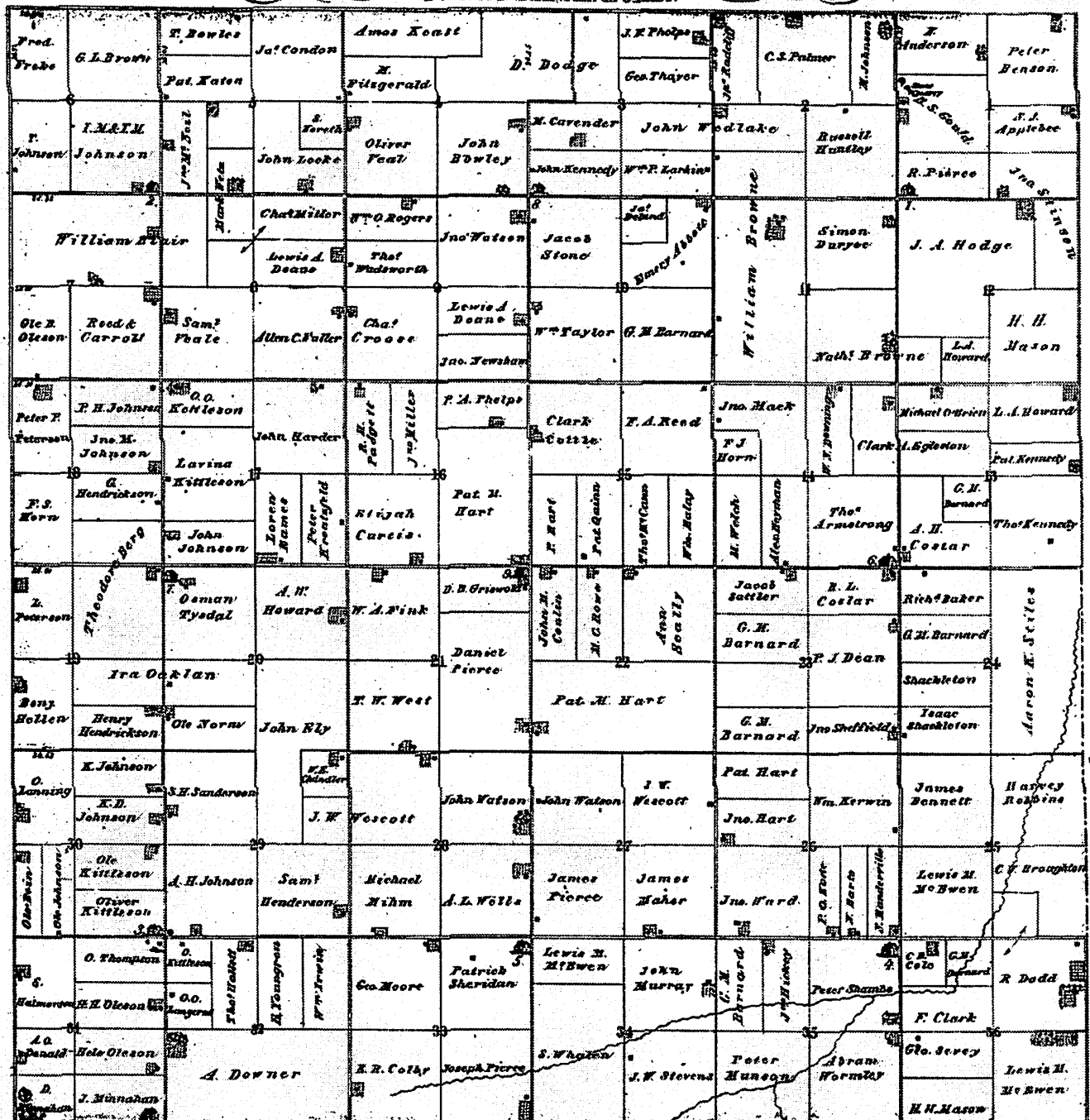
(Sources: *Sycamore True Republican*, 6/17/1908; *DeKalb Chronicle* 9/10/1934, 6/26/1999; *History of DeKalb County, IL*, 1868; Joiner History Room archives)

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MAP OF MILAN TOWNSHIP

TOWN 39 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST.

1871



STATISTICAL.

No. of Farms.....	563
No. of Cattle.....	1,104
No. of Sheep.....	274
No. of Hogs.....	615
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	9,430
No. of Dwellings.....	150
Total Population 1870.....	587

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

MILAN TOWNSHIP is the youngest town in the county and was organized in 1837. It was taken off of Mills and Shabena. Among the first settlers in this town were Lewis McEwen, Deak. Baudfeld, Benson Dodd and several others. Most of the land in the township was entered in 1834. It being so far from timber it was considered of little value previous to 1834, but since that time its settlements have been very rapid, and land has become quite valuable. In the Summer of 1866 a handsome two-story building was erected at the center of the town, the upper part of which belongs to the township, and is used as a town hall and place of worship, while the lower story is used as a district school. During the rebellion it furnished thirty-eight soldiers for the Union army.

Representative Views.

Residence of John Watson.....
 " Samuel Henderson.....

No. of Acres
 800 11
 100 15

South Grove Township

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

First Settlers

South Grove Township had about 400 acres of woods, one later known as **Driscoll's Grove**, the other **Orput's Grove**, and was watered by **Owen's Creek**. The balance was beautiful prairie. The first settler in South Grove came in 1836 and was **Wm. Driscoll** from Pennsylvania and Ohio and was the first claim made in the township. Thus South Grove became known as **Driscoll's Grove**.

Wm. Driscoll was the father of **Theo. Decatur Driscoll**, who was known as "Kate." In 1876 he married **Harriet Tindall** who was born in South Grove in 1843. Decatur was the first white child born in South Grove, 5 April 1838.

Solomon Well's family from Ohio was next, 1838, and he purchased the south end of the grove of Driscoll. He left in 1843 for Wisconsin. In 1840 came the **Orput** family from Ohio and settled in the Grove farther south which became known as **Orput's Grove**. They moved to Wisconsin about the same time as **Solomon Wells**.

The year 1841 brought **James Byers** from New York, born 1797 and married in Scotland. He came to America in 1818 and lived until 1874. His wife died on the homestead but he died in Polo, IL. This year, 1841, also brought **Benjamin Worden** and the father of **Thomas Tindall**, who was from New England. **Jesse Tindall** was a native of New York but came here from Michigan in January, 1842.

Scotch Settlement

There was also a Scotch settlement southwest of the Grove, the **McMurphy's**, the **McQueen's** and the **McKenzie's**. **James Givson** was from Scotland and purchased the Orput place in 1848 when the Orputs moved to Rockford.

Then Others Came

Henry Cristman drove a team, wagon and plow through from Herkimer County, NY, in 1854 and purchased 80 acres across the road from Dustin School house. **Tom VanHorn** owned the land where Esmond is now. **Jonathan Adee** and **Mathew Thompson** came from New York in 1843. In 1844 **John S. Brown** purchased the **Beeman** place and there is a cemetery stone for **Mary Brown** with a date of 1858.

In 1845 among those who came were **Henry Safford**, **W.H. Stebbins**, **Rickards**, **Beckers**, **Mason**, **Curriers** and **W.P. DeYoe**, whose wife **Agnes** was a sister of **Richard Becker**.



After the Mexican War

In 1842-43 the land office was located in Dixon, IL. After the Mexican War, land warrants were issued, giving each soldier 160 acres of land located wherever he chose. These could be bought on the market for \$112, making land value 70 cents per acre. In 1853, it was rumored that a railroad was to be built nearby, so speculators purchased nearly all Government land with land warrants.

The First Churches

The first religious services were conducted by a Baptist, **Rev. Norton**, who for \$35 agreed to hold services twice a month for one year. **Levi Lee** was the first Methodist preacher to hold meetings at the Grove School house, adjoining the South Grove Cemetery, which with Sunday School continued until the church was built in Clare in 1903.

A great camp meeting was held at the Grove in 1860 with vast audiences and much interest was shown. The Adventists held Sunday School and worshiped in the old District No. 2 as later known as Dustin School and organized in 1867. The Free Methodist Church was built adjoining the Dustin School in 1885 which lasted several years.

The First Post Offices

The year of 1841 a postoffice was established in South Grove and **Timothy Wells** was postmaster. **Deerfield Prairie** postoffice was established in 1858 with **P. Waterman** its first postmaster. This was at the first crossroads south of Esmond. Dustin was established in 1868 and named in honor of **Gen. Dustin** with **Henry Cristman** as postmaster. **Hicks Mill** postoffice showed up on the report of 1841 with **Henry Hicks** as postmaster.

Other Families

Other families who settled in South Grove were: **John Lloyd**, who came from South Wales in 1858; **Becker** came in 1852; **Henry Rand** who was born in NY; **James Decker** came in 1854; the **Dettmers** came from German parents from NY in 1858; **George Gillis** came from Franklin Township to South Grove in 1858; and **Thomas J. Tindall**.

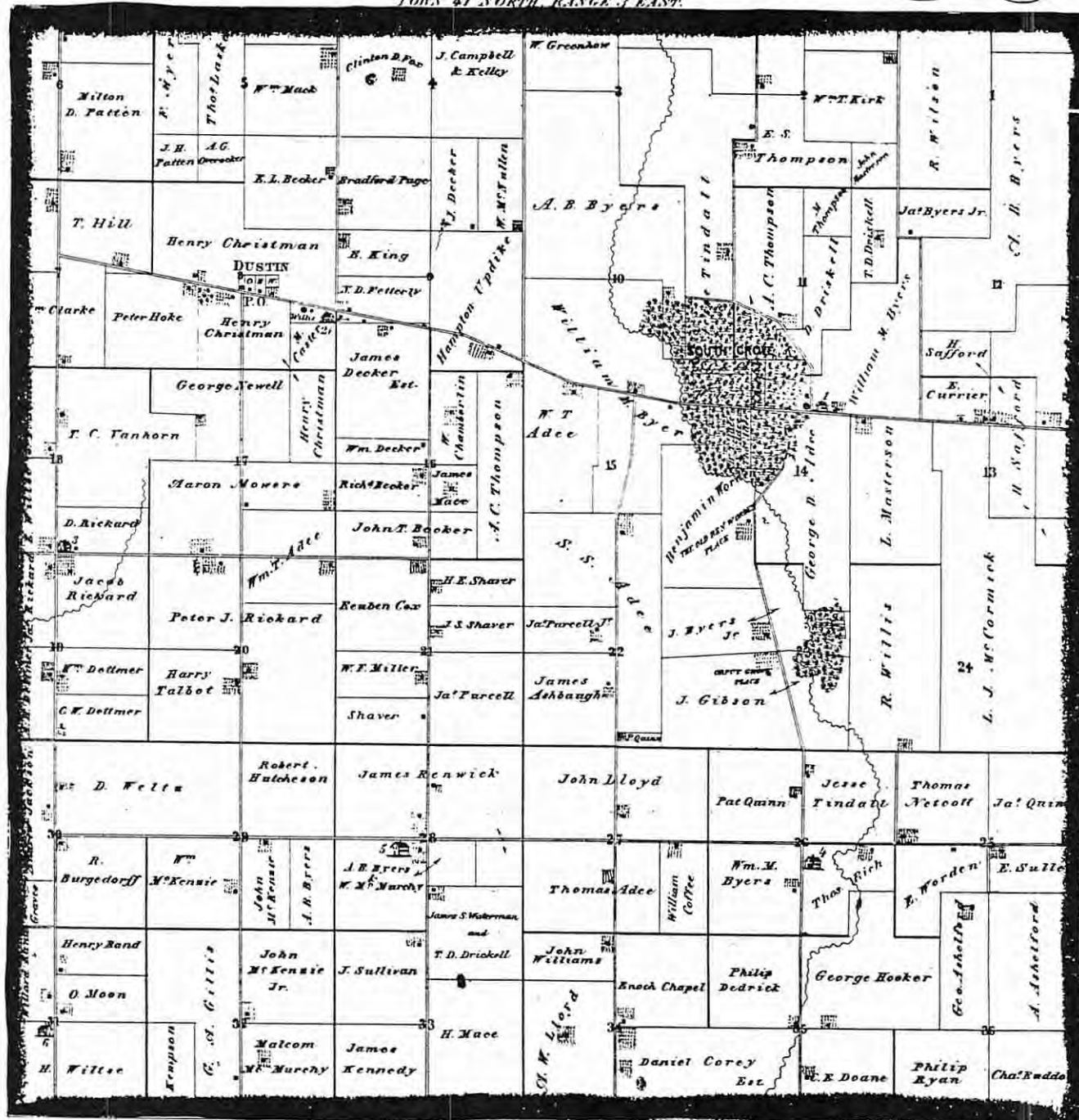
Civil War Veterans

During the Civil War (1861-65) there were 103 men in the service from South Grove township. There are seven buried in South Grove Cemetery: **William Ward**, **George Newell**, **Warren Decker**, **Thomas Tindall**, **Julius Thompson**, **John T. Becker** and one unknown soldier.

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MAP OF SOUTH GROVE TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST.



STATISTICAL.

No. of Horses.....	815
No. of Cattle.....	1,851
No. of Sheep.....	2,327
No. of Hogs.....	1,018
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	10,609
No. of Dwellings.....	142
Total Population 1870.....	800

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

SOUTH GROVE TOWNSHIP is considered one of the best farming towns in the county. This town is watered by what is called Owen's Creek, and has about four hundred acres of timber. It is said that the highest point of land between Chicago and the Mississippi River is in the southern portion of this town. In 1838 came the first settlers, Wm. Driscoll from Ohio, who built a log cabin on the east side of the Grove. Soon after came Solomon Wells, James Byers, Benj. Worden, Jonathan Adre and many others. The first school in South Grove was taught by James Byers in his old log cabin. The first school house was erected in the Grove, it was built of logs. In the late rebellion South Grove did her share towards suppressing it. At the present time South Grove has many well enclosed and highly cultivated farms, commodious and pleasant dwelling houses. The first settlements in this town were made on the east side of the Grove; it was some time before the prairies were settled.

Representative Views.

	No.	Acres	Pages
Residence of A. B. Byers.....	1400	15	
" " Henry Safford.....	220	19	
" " James Renwick.....	880	19	
Orput Grove Place, residence of J. J. Gibson.....	827	19	
Residence of Enoch Chapel.....	160	19	
" " J. H. Willis.....	224	19	
The Old Ben Worden Place, residence of Benj. Worden.....	251	17	
Residence of James Byers, Jr.....	800	17	

Afton Township

(Source: *The DeKalb Daily Chronicle*, Monday, September 10, 1934)

Rich prairie land, but far removed from any groves, the township of Afton was slow in being settled in comparison with the rest of the county. Immigrants from the east seeking their fortune in this new country were confident that woodlots were essential to the welfare of any settlement and for that reason avoided the open expanses of prairie which have proved to be the most fertile of the lands in this county.

W.R. Campbell claimed the honor of being the first settler and he was followed by John A. Hayden, who through his love for the song, "Flow Gently Sweet Afton" which he sang constantly while at work gave the name to the township. Afton boasted a small rivulet, the headwaters of the Little Rock creek which probably inspired the singing.

First Part of DeKalb & Clinton Townships

At first this township was included under that of DeKalb and Clinton but in 1853 it was organized as a township with Ezekiel Noble preparing the petition and circulating it, securing 21 signers, of whom only nine were legal voters at that time. Later the rest became legal voters and the petition was acted upon favorably. The first election was held in the house of E.A. Tyler, on April 1856 and Mr. Noble was elected supervisor with Sanford A. Tyler as town clerk, Clark Glidden, assessor and collector and Timothy Pierson and Orson Pearl, justices of the peace.

In 1855 the first school was held in a private house owned by Mr. Goodsell and taught by Mr. Lord. The next year the school section was sold, the town divided into two school districts and a school house was built on the east half of the township. In 1858 the town was divided into nine school districts, and later one more was added.

The church was built in 1867 mainly through the efforts of William Watson who contributed generously.

Where Did "Elva" Get Its Name?

The Chicago and North Western railroad built a line through the township in 1884 and a station was established which was known as Elva, in honor of Elva Glidden Bush, wife of William H. Bush of Chicago, a daughter of J.F. Glidden of DeKalb. The station attracted a general store and a creamery and is still in existence, being operated as a prepay freight station at this time, and being served by the agent out of the DeKalb depot.

During the war of the rebellion [CW] Afton came forth, 81 men were furnished to the union and the township paid a huge sum of money for the cause. During the World War [WWI], Afton was found just as ready and willing to give its manhood and funds to sponsor the cause of its country.

Some Early Names Still Familiar?

Among the many outstanding families that played an important part in the settlement of the township were J.W. Ward, C.W. Broughton, John Jones, John P. Newhall, Clark Glidden, B. Pierce, L. DeForest, M. DeForest, John Pooler, E.L. Mosher, H.P. Rollins, E.J. Farmer, James White, Sr., H. Kingsley, James Carter, Dan Earl, D.B. Striker, Daniel Lattin, Edward Boland, John and Martin Lyons, John McDole, Walker Bent, Benjamin Mosher, T. Knights, Newell Thompson, O.M. Tanner, George King, Erastus Dean and others.

Afton Cemetery

Afton Cemetery is located west of Route 23 on Perry Road and just west of Waterman Road on the south side of Perry. It is just before the old C&NW railroad tracks. The original plat shows space for approximately 400 graves. Actually the cemetery is in DeKalb Township.

Veterans buried there as of the Illinois Veterans' Commission of Oct. 1, 1956, were the following:

Civil War

Wm. M. Armlin, Co. A 105 Ill. Inf., Pvt. died 1908
 Oliver B. Cheseboro, Co. A 65 Ill. Inf, Pvt, died 16 Aug. 1886
 Eugene W. Dunbar, Co. E 13 Ill Inf, Pvt, died 11 Aug 1866
 S.T. Dunbar, Co. E 13 Ill Inf., Cpl, died 24 Feb 1868
 Ellis E. Ingham, Co. C 17 Ill Cav, Pvt, died 1914
 Thomas Purcell, Co. D 28 NY Inf, Pvt, died 25 Sep 1900
 Chas. J. Smith, Co. A 105 Ill Inf, Pvt, died 27 Jan 1910
 Wm P. Tyler, Co. D 13 Ill Inf, Pvt, died 30 Dec 1861

World War I

Stanley Roy Concidine, Hd. Co. 2 FA Ill., Pvt, died 8 Feb 1939
 Raymond G. Dye, 403 Motor Trans Co, died 23 Mar 1933
 Clinton Rosette Glidden, USMC, 84 Co. 2 Div, died 19 Jul 1918

TOWN 89 NORTH. RANGE 4 EAST



HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

Representative Views.

Residence of	No.	Acres	Page
T. R. Elliott	82	27	
" H. P. Robbins	356	27	
" C. W. Broughton	620	27	
" E. S. Perry	264	27	
" John McDole	280	27	
" J. W. Ward	160	27	

Squaw Grove Township

(Based on Henry L. Boies history of 1868 and other more recent sources.)

Squaw Grove was probably the first township settled in DeKalb County. In the summer of 1834 one **Hollenbeck**, a trapper who lived near Ottawa, made a journey into this *terra incognita* as far as Sycamore, and on his return made a claim to the fine grove in this town. This he called Squaw Grove because a large number of squaws with their papooses were left in camp. Their dusky partners, chiefs and warriors of the tribe, had gone on a hunting expedition. His claim was probably the first land claimed in the County. The present site of Hinckley was called **Papoose Grove**.

John S. Sebree, known as "Uncle Jack" and the first permanent white settler in DeKalb county, made his claim on land along the banks of the small stream that flowed through and near a fine grove. The location of this place is the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section fifteen. It is south of the C.B.&Q. railroad tracks, east of the Little Rock creek and west of the Sandwich-Cortland road. **

From Virginia, at first they may have occupied the deserted wigwams of the Indians or lived in the old prairie schooner in which they had traveled from Bloomington., But he later built a log cabin, in which he left his wife and children during the winter of 1834-35 while he returned east for teams and other livestock equipment. When he returned he brought him **Samuel Miller**, father of **Arch J. Miller**.

They lived principally upon deer and prairie fowl for the first six months. The latter game was not so numerous as they were in after fifty years, when grain fields were more plenty; but wolves abounded, and were very troublesome, snatching up everything eatable that chanced to be out of doors.

Martha Sebree was the first white child born in the county. Their son was **William Marshall**, about a year old, and they had also come with **Johnson Boyle**, eight years old. The log cabin or house was fourteen by sixteen, in which they lived for the next fourteen or fifteen years. The first child born in the town was **John Miller**. The first death was that of the energetic and industrious old Mrs. Sebree.

At the end of the year, five families began to form Hinckley: **John Sebree**, his brother **William**, his parents **Robert** and **Mrs. Sebree**, **David Leggett** and his wife and that fall **Samuel Miller**, a Kentuckian arrived.

Other settlers began to arrive. **William Legett** coming in the following spring arrived. **Jacob Lee** and **John Easterbrooks** came in 1836 and **William Ward** came late the same year, two families of **Fays**, the **Hummels**, the **Albees**, the **Cleveland**s and the **Pomeroy**s.

The nearest neighbors to the north were on the banks of the **Kishwaukee**, twenty miles distant. Of course all the farming was done in the most primitive manner. For three

years the only plow in the settlement was one owned by **Mr. Sebree**. The **Sebrees** also rejoiced in the possession of the only pair of hand mill stones to ground the corn they raised. The first produce sold from the land was thirty bushels of oats in 1835. These **Samuel Miller** hauled to Chicago and sold for fifty cents a bushel. With the proceeds he bought salt and boots for the men of the settlement.

The new comers lived in the most primitive manner. Most of them had cattle, horses, sheep, and swine. They broke up the prairie, sowed the oats, and planted corn. They made clothing from the wool of their sheep.

First School

The first school was taught in **Jacob Lee**'s house by **Jane Sanford** or by **Mr. Cleveland** [disputable] in 1840. But it is certain that a man usually taught in the winter and a woman in the summer. and two years later a log schoolhouse was built. They were the first township in DeKalb county to sell its sixteenth section for school purposes.

In 1838 a log school house was built in which **Mr. James H. Furman** kept an excellent school. By 1868 there were nine school districts.

The first physician to permanently locate in the township was **Dr. Winslow**, who lived about two miles west of the town of Hinckley. About the house of **John Sebree** and a little north, a village developed. A Methodist church was erected, **Frank Merrill** and **H.D. Wagner** conducted stores.

About 1850 a number of industrious Germans came here among them **William Leifheit**, **C. Hartman**, **James Morsch**, **F. Granart** and **August Bastian**. They were hard workers who tamed the prairies to fine farmlands.

Railroad Helped

When the **Chicago, Burlington & Quincy** railroad came through the township about 1873, the town of Hinckley began to develop. The Methodist church was moved into the town and because it was in a rich farming territory where the needs of a railroad were keenly demanded, the town developed rapidly.

Taxes already?

Mr. Miller, who paid his first tax in 1837, to **B.F. Fridley**, and paid sixty-two and-a-half cents, now [1868] has the doubtful pleasure of paying yearly over \$200 in taxes; and his property, then worth \$600 or \$800, would now sell for \$20,000.

[** The cabin location was marked by a pile of stones. The Daughters of the American Revolution erected a monument on this spot which was officially established by a party headed by the historian, **Herbert Wells Fay**, on Sunday morning, April 15, 1917. The **Hinckley Review** & The **Waterman Leader**, 1917.]

MAP OF SQUAW GROVE TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH RANGE 5 EAST.



STATISTICAL.

No. of Horses.....	623
No. of Cattle.....	1,306
No. of Sheep.....	1,060
No. of Hogs.....	1,897
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	6,273
No. of Dwellings.....	157
Total Population 1870.....	595

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

SQUAW GROVE TOWNSHIP is supposed to be the first town settled in the county. In the Summer of 1834 a Mr. Hollenbeck made a claim to the fine Grove in this town, this was probably the first land claimed in the county. He did not remain long on his claim. In September 1834, Wm. Sobree with a large family came to this town, who was its first permanent settler. In 1835 came Samuel Miller, Mr. Leggett and the Wards; in 1836 came Jacob Lee and John Easterbrooks. The first child born in this town was John Miller. The first death was that of old Mrs. Sobree. The first school was taught in Mr. Lee's house. In 1839 a log school house was built in the Grove, in which Mr. James Furman kept an excellent school. This township furnished ninety-three men for the war of the great rebellion.

Representative Views.

Residence of Philo Slater.....	No. of Acres.....	Page
" " Isaac Kirkpatrick.....	141	37
" " James W. French.....	161	37
Squaw Grove Place, residence of O. M. Tanner.....	150	27
Residence of Edwin H. Fay.....	181	37
" " N. Weaver.....	360	37

The Early History of Somonauk Township

Although Illinois achieved statehood in 1818, it was not settled north of Ottawa until the Indians were removed in 1835. The history of Somonauk township consists of a part of the earliest history of the county.

According to historian Henry Boise, an unknown trapper built the first log house northeast of the present United Presbyterian Church, five miles north of Somonauk. Finding it empty, a Mr. Robinson of Virginia lived in it for a short time in 1834, becoming the first temporary resident. Reuben Root was the first permanent settler, having constructed a log house at what became known as Freeland Corners.

William Poplin of Roaring Gap, North Carolina, also arrived in 1834, built his log cabin during the winter of '34 and, with his wife who joined him in the spring, moved into it in March 1835, becoming the second permanent settlers.

The settlement by the Root and Poplin families soon grew to be a prosperous little colony. Eastern settlers arrived in their muslin covered wagons, drawn by two to four or more yoke of oxen or horses, followed by a cow and calf or a porker, with a chicken pen tied to the rear, and with all the possessions they could carry in their wagon home.

The beautiful woodland along Somonauk Creek attracted the pioneers. After arriving, each settler chose 80 acres of timberland along Somonauk Creek for his farm and leased 160 acres of prairie land considered good only for stock. He then marked his claim of "Squatter's Rights" using his wooden plow and paid \$1.25 per acre.

By 1838, thirty log houses had been constructed by families including those of William and Joseph Slye, Simon Price, Major Dennis, Amos Harmon, William Davis, William Brook, John Burchims, Franklin Dales, Conway Rhodes, Neverson Newtons, Avery Townsends, the Frisbys and Dobbins, Otis Bliss, Owen and Simon

Price, John Eastabrooke, Major Bliss, Robert and David Merritt, Andrew Potter, and George Beveridge.

*"What you are doing now is
news . . . what you did
yesterday, that's history."
Somonauk Reveille*

The front cover of this issue depicts the first house, erected by William Poplin, which subsequently became the property of George Beveridge. For many years it stood at Freeland Corners as a five-room tavern which gave comfort to needy travelers. It was on the mail route from

Chicago to Dixon and in 1837, a post office was established in the log house which served as dwelling, government building, and in later days one of the depots of the underground railway.

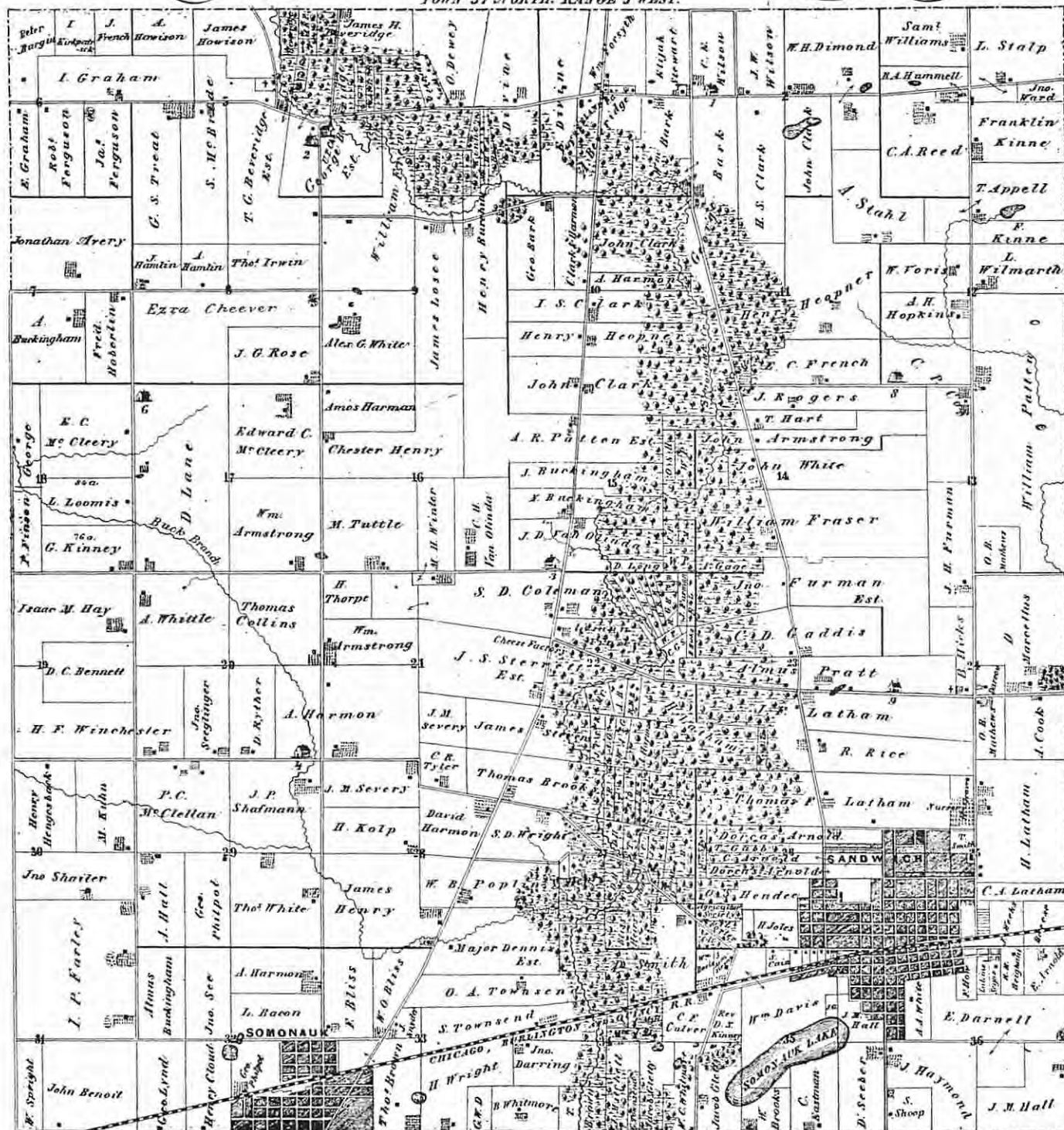
Somonauk Township Firsts

- 1836 First girl born: Harriet Poplin, January 25
- 1836 First boy born: Luther Hough to parents Barage and Mary Hough
- 1836 First death: Elizabeth Harmon, buried in a lot laid aside by her father, Amos Harmon, in what is now Oak Ridge Cemetery
- 1836 First religious service: held at the home of Simon Price by Rev. William Royal, a Methodist Episcopal minister
- 1836 First marriage: Isaac Potter and Elizabeth Brooks, by Elder Black
- 1836 First school: 12 students were taught at the home of Thomas and Lucius Frisbee
- 1836 First log school house: built on Section 32 in county, taught by Charles Eastabrooke at Somonauk Corners. Used as a meeting house on Sundays.
- 1936 First commissioned postmaster: Reuben Root at Somonauk Corners; first in county and the only one until 1839. Prior to that settlers got mail at Holderman's Grove, 12 miles southeast of village.
- 1841 First road through county—Ottawa Beloit State Road; 80 feet wide, reaching Somonauk and prolonged Depot Street, entering Somonauk at corner of Sycamore and LaSalle Streets, passing diagonally through Addition, out at East Street, then northerly through county.

(Sources: *The Beelman Story: A History of Somonauk 1843-1970* and *The DeKalb Chronicle Illustrated Souvenir Edition 1899-1900*)

MAP OF SOMONAUK TOWNSHIP

TOWN 37 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST.



HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

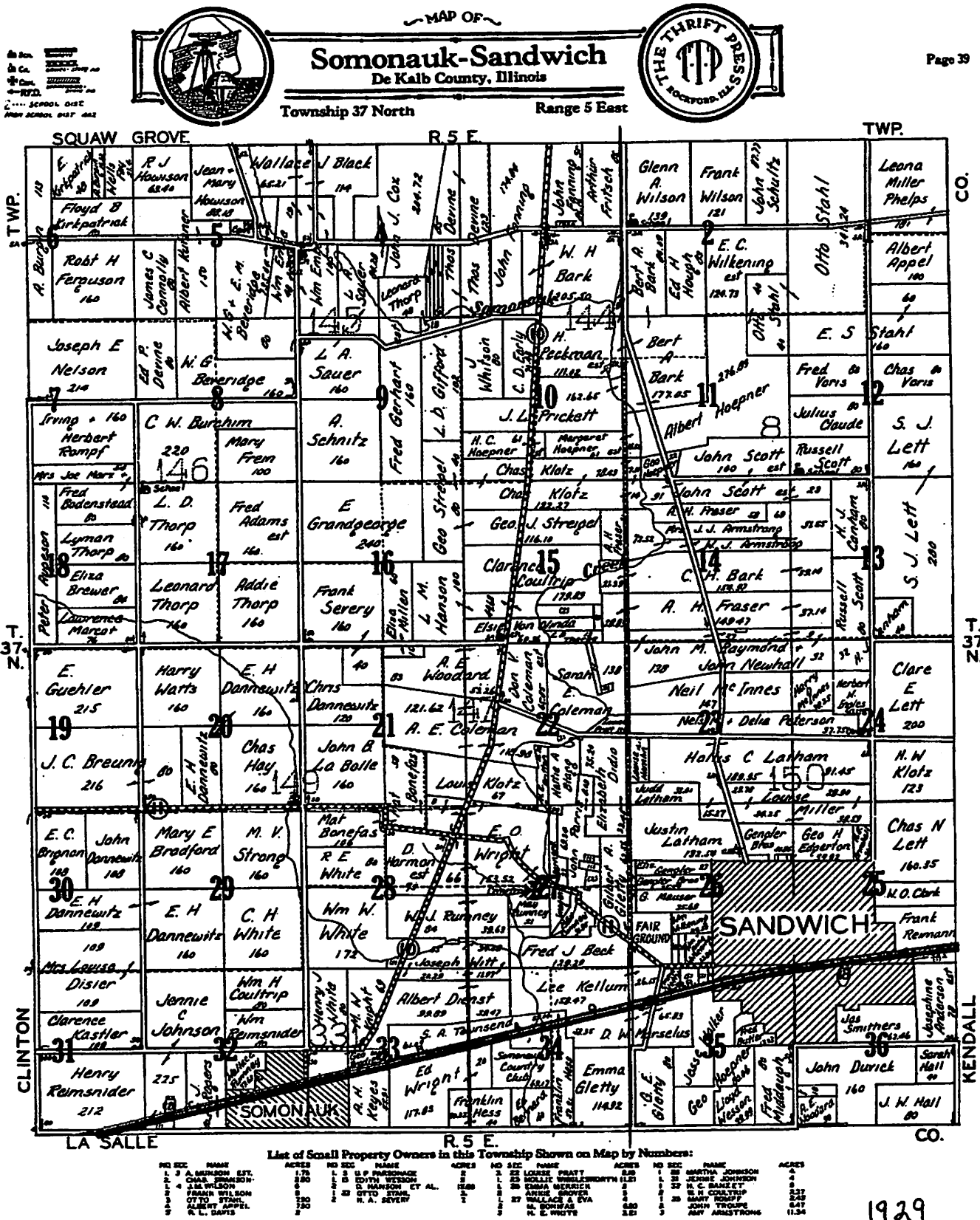
STATISTICAL.

No. of Horses.....	881
No. of Cattle.....	1,800
No. of Sheep.....	1,054
No. of Hogs.....	1,682
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	7,690
No. of Dwellings.....	703
Total Population 1870.....	3,261

SOMONAUK TOWNSHIP occupies the south-eastern portion of the county. It has a good supply of timber and is well watered by Somonauk Creek. The C. & Q. Quincy Railroad runs through the southern portion of the town and upon it a few miles apart; but within the town are the thriving villages of Sandwich and Somonauk; in this town was built the first white man's house in the county, it was built in 1834 and was used as a station house on the mail route between Chicago and Galena. In 1836, a number of families came into the town, among them were: Dr. Arnold, Joseph Sly, Thomas Brookes and Simon Price. In 1839 there were about thirty houses in the town. Through the influence of Wm. Patten and others, the thriving village of Sandwich was located and has continued to be one of the most lively villages in the county; and in 1857 a newspaper was started and is published at the present by J. H. Furman, one of the first settlers. The village of Somonauk is also very lively, and a great deal of business done there. This township furnished three hundred and eleven men for the late rebellion.

Representative Views.

Residence of	No. of Acres	Page
Wm. Patten.....	490	35
James Henry.....	225	35
D. E. Harmon.....	284	35
H. Latham.....	240	34
George Bark.....	404	35
Wm. Fraser.....	840	35
Alex. G. White.....	160	13
Andrew Beveridge.....	114	11
Milo Tuttle.....	160	11
Anthony Harmon.....	430	11
David Marsellus.....	186	11



The Early History of Sandwich Township

Although Sandwich and Somonauk are today two individual townships, they were not always so. It was after much strife and discussion over the division of tax moneys that the two townships were formed. So the early history of the townships runs congruently.

It is believed that the first temporary settlement of a white man in the territory was near Somonauk Creek, where the present United Presbyterian Church stands, five miles north of Somonauk. Reuben Root was the first permanent settler. This house was used for a time as a station house on the mail route between Chicago and Galena, by way of John Dixon's ferry. It was later occupied by John Easterbrooks and then became the property of the Beveridge family, one of the leading influential families of the district.

In 1835 a number of families moved to this territory, claiming the fine timberland along the stream, and in 1839 there were 30 houses in the township, including two taverns run by John and Henry Lane. Some notable men of the township were: Robert Sterrett, who erected a mill; Burrage Hough; Frank Dale; Joseph Sly; Frederick Witherspoon; Hubbard, Joseph, and Thomas Latham; Owen and Simon Price; Dr. Thomas Brooks; and William Poplin.

After the building of the CB&Q Railroad in 1853, the town of Somonauk became firmly established and grew rapidly. Enterprise alone is responsible for the beginning of Sandwich. In 1852, William Patten, Washington Walker and Lindsay Carr, living in the territory that is now Sandwich, called a mass meeting of the citizens of Newark, six miles south, in an effort to form a petition seeking a station on the newly established railroad. A survey showed about 200 potential customers and the railroad, upon learning of this market, agreed to stop on flag and called the place Newark Station.

That was just the edge that was needed. With Almon Gage offering free lots to anyone who would build, a town was quickly erected. Although the name Almon was first given the newly surveyed village, Mr. Gage was too modest to allow his name to be used and the

name Sandwich was substituted, originating from Sandwich, New Hampshire, hometown of the congressman for the area "Long John" Wentworth, a prominent Chicago politician.

James Clark built the first house in the village, known as the Donegana house [at the corner of Main and Railroad Sts.]. In 1855 the town received a great impetus with the establishment of an agricultural implement manufacturing plant, the Sandwich Manufacturing Company, by Augustus Adams, senator of the district, and evolving into the Enterprise Manufacturing Company. Early one-room schools in the township were the Freeland school in district 144, section 02 and a school located on the Russell Scott land [1929 Plat] district 008, section 12, whose name is unknown.

Sandwich was visited with a disastrous fire on Friday morning of last week. The frame buildings known as the Marcey block were nearly all burned to the ground. The buildings were occupied by T.D. Emerson, a cigar maker, Erb Schrader, a barber, Conrad Munch who conducted a restaurant and Sedgwick's bank. Mr. Munch and his wife lived over his restaurant and Dan Dickinson and wife resided in the rooms over the bank. Everything was consumed by the flames except the safe and some of the furniture in Sedgwick's bank.

Somonauk Reveille, February 24, 1893

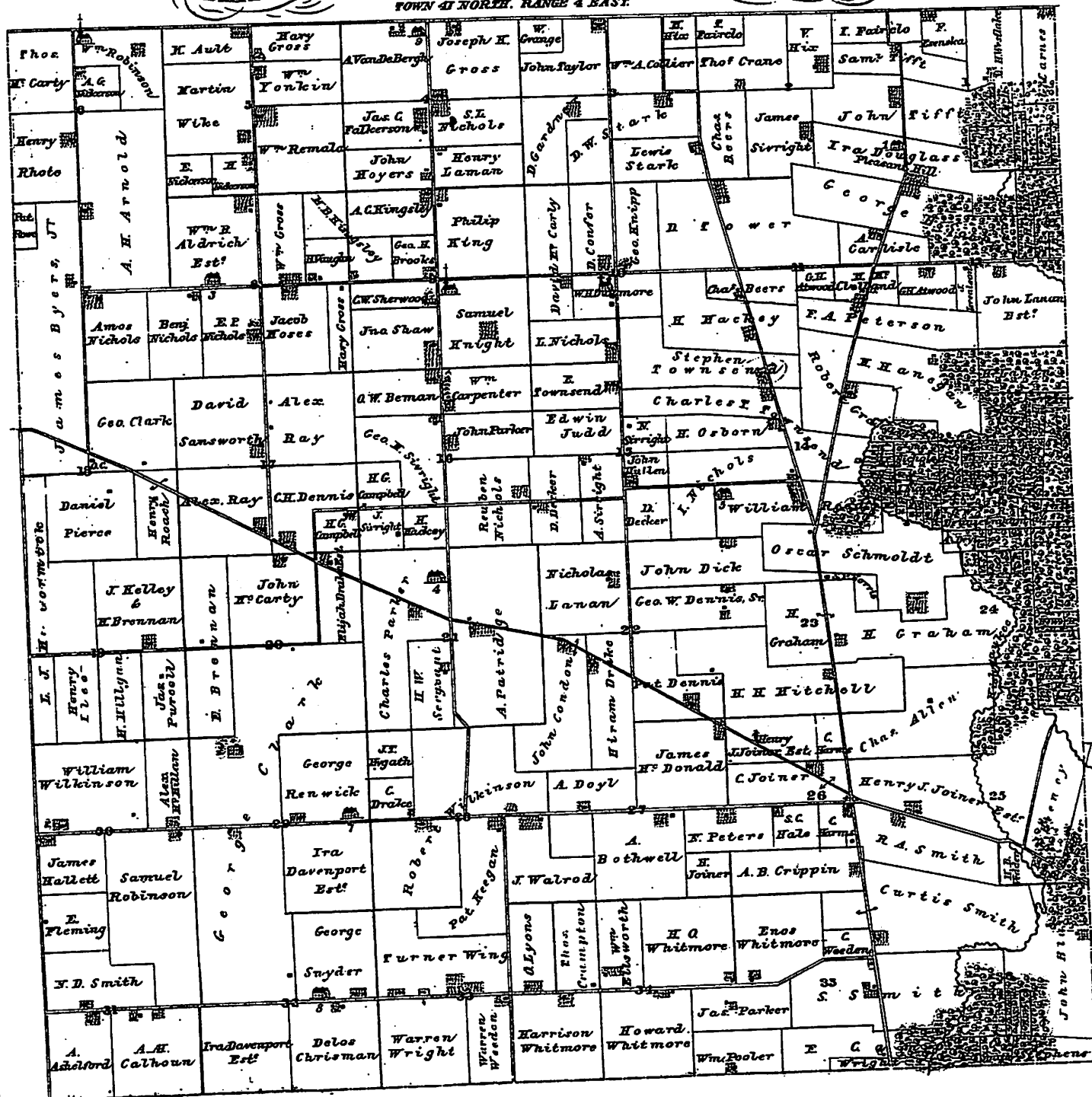
Sandwich Township Firsts

- 1839 Jacob Hall settled on what is now part of Sandwich
- 1844 First school in district built, near present fair grounds
- 1853 First church in Sandwich, built by the Baptists, followed by the Methodists in 1854, the Presbyterians in 1855, and others
- 1856 First bank, established by M.B. Castle
- 1857 First newspaper, Peoples Press, started
- 1859 Village of Sandwich organized and incorporated
- 1867 Sandwich Fair organized; held on Reiman farm in east part of town; called The Union Agricultural Institute
- 1872 First voting in town resulted in first mayor, W. W. Sedgwick

30.

MAP OF MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP

TOWN AT NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST.



HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP was first settled in 1835. The valuable timbered lands upon the shore of the Kichwau-
bee River, which courses along its eastern border, attracted the settlers at an early day. It was claimed and
occupied by white men before the departure of the Indians. Among its first settlers were John Town, Jan.
Thom, Morris and E. D. Walrod, James and Samuel Gilbert, Ira Douglass, Bobt. Graham, Jan. McCollum,
Henry Madden, Spafford and Curtis Smith. Mr. Madden of this Township was the first Representative to the
Legislature from this District, and labored to secure the location of the county seat at Coltonville, before Syracuse
had an existence. Mayfield sent one hundred and three men to fight the rebellion, and was very prompt in
responding to the calls of the Government. The first religious meetings in the township were held by the Meth-
odists, and for some time were held regularly at the house of Ira Douglass, afterwards held at the school houses
until a church was built at Pleasant Hill.

Representative Voters.

Residence of H. Mackey	183
Pleasant Hill, residence of Ira Douglass	204
Residence of Stephen Townsend	162
" " Samuel Knight	178
" " David Sansworth	160
" " Edwin P. Smith	302

STATISTICAL.

No. of Horses	919
No. of Cattle	2,087
No. of Sheep	982
No. of Hogs	965
No. of Acres under Cultivation	6,559
No. of Dwellings	185
Total Population 1870	995

Mayfield Township

(from Henry L. Boies' History of DeKalb County, Illinois, 1868)

This pleasant farming town, with its pretty name, so suggestive of green fields, May-flowers, and all of the beauties of spring-time, was first settled in 1835. The valuable timbered lands upon the shore of the Kishwaukee, which courses along its eastern border, early attracted settlers, and it was claimed and occupied by adventurous white men even before the departure of the Indians. A large Indian village then occupied the present site of Coltonville.

John Tower, John Thom, Morris and Erasmus D. Walrod, James and Samuel Gilbert, Ira Douglas, Robert Graham, James McCollum, and Henry Madden, were among the first to occupy this very attractive section of the County; but with them were a number of rough fellows, who made claims of great extent for the purpose selling them out, and who defied the regulations of the claim association, and kept up a war which drove emigrants away.

Stephen Mowry first settled the place afterwards purchased by Rufus Colton, and which, a few years after, was known as Coltonville. This, about 1838, became a smart little village, at which the courts of the County were first held, and which it was supposed would be the County Seat. Mr. Cox, Mr. Peaslee, Spafford and Curtis Smith, Phineas Stevens, and Timothy Richardson, first settled this southern portion of the town.

Dr. Henry Madden, an active and intelligent citizen at Brush Point, was the first Representative to the Legislature from this district and labored hard to secure the location of the County Seat at his place.

Before Sycamore had an existence there was a lively village of a dozen houses at Coltonville, with a lawyer and a doctor, a store, a tavern, post-office and shops.

A distillery was built by Phineas Stevens and Rufus Colton in 1840, but it never was a source of much profit. The proprietors couldn't prevent their fattening swine from getting drunk; and when Stevens finally barreled them up, took to market, and then obtained only two cents a pound for his port, the distillery was abandoned.

The little village at Coltonville gradually declined, its buildings were removed, and now the entire town contains no village, nor even a post-office, being better accommodated for these purposes by the neighboring village of Sycamore.

Liberty was the name given to the town upon its organization in 1850. It was elected by the Townsends, Nichols' and Nickersons, — those earnest, active members

of the Liberty party of those times, who were neither ashamed nor afraid to be known as station-agents on the underground railroads, — but the name had probably been previously given to other townships; for a few months, it was changed to Mayfield.

Deer, wolves, and massasaugers (or the prairie rattle snakes), were particularly numerous in the first years of the settlement. In the autumn of 1837, Mr. Godfrey Carnes killed twenty-five deer on his farm, and one new comer was startled, on finishing up the center farrow on a ten-acre "land" which he was breaking, to find twenty-five massasaugers hissing and rattling their warnings at him.

The town was kept in a broil for many years by claim jumpers; but when the claim wars were settled by the perfection of their titles through the purchase from government, and the claims of the rival points for the seat of justice had been disposed of, the affairs of the town moved on the even tenor of their way, with perfect quiet. The old settlers gradually acquired the comforts of life, the outlying prairie became settled, and the country increased in population and wealth.

In 1855 its population was 835, in 1860, 998, and in 1865, 1029.

Mayfield sent 103 men to fight the slaveholders' rebellion, and scarcely any town in the County was more prompt in responding to the calls of the government.

Those who gave their lives to the country in the war were: J.P. Young, W.H. Decker, G.G. Farewell, J. Patterson, Turner Wing, Alonzo Houghton, Wm. Stevenson, Joseph and Samuel Piper, Edward Howe, Elias Goble, Marvin Dennis, and William Kerr.

The assessment of 1868 shows that it is one of the most wealthy of the towns of the County, in proportion to the number of inhabitants.

The first religious meetings in the County were held in Mayfield, by the Methodists, and for a year or two they were held regularly at Mr. Ira Douglas' house; and in 1860 a fine church was built at Pleasant Hill, by that denomination, the inhabitants contributing with unusual liberality for its construction.

The town Supervisors have been: For the year 1850, Mulford Nickerson; 1851, Willis Lott; 1852, James Sivright; 1853-54, Agrippa Dow; 1855, James Parker; 1856, Henry Madden; 1857-58, W.A. Nickerson; 1859-60, A.B. Crippen; 1861-62, James Sivright; 1863-64, T. Wynkoop; 1865-66-67-68, Curtis Smith.

The following town names were diminished by the creation of new townships: Vernon to South Grove; Orange to DeKalb and some adjoining territory; Liberty to Mayfield; Richland to Cortland and Pierce. The County tax of 1849 was \$2,883.

The Early History of Malta Township

Early settlers in the county had made their homes around groves of trees and streams, necessities for fuel, daily living, and building. The remote prairie of Malta Township was one of the later townships settled, generally considered useless except for grazing herds. However, as farming in Illinois expanded in the early 1800s, settlers were amazed at the crops produced on prairie soil and began to realize that wells could be dug and timber transported to prairie home sites for building.

Once a railway station was established by the Galena Railroad Company in 1854, settlers rapidly filled the township. The station was called Malta for reasons unknown. The rail line was later to become the Chicago and Northwestern railroad.

In 1856 the population had grown sufficiently to form a township, initially named Milton, later changed to Etna, and finally to Malta. A post office was established in 1857.

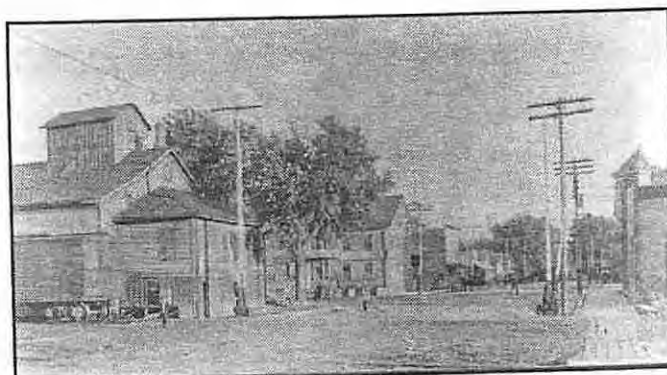
By 1868, the village of Malta was the most thriving and rapidly growing settlement in DeKalb County. The first census taken in 1860 showed 620 inhabitants, however by 1865 the population had increased to 849 and in 1868 was over 1200. Farms sold for as much as \$45 an acre. Wheat averaged about 18 bushels and barley 28 bushels an acre.

At one time the town was the largest shipping point for grain and livestock between Chicago and the Mississippi River.



Malta 1903 (photo courtesy Joiner Room)

Settlers arriving in the township were from Germany,



Malta 1903 (photo courtesy Joiner Room)

England, Ireland, Scotland, and other European countries. All were hard working, industrious, and eager to get ahead. Early settlers included R. Pendergrass, S.T. Wright, Chauncey Hooker, J.C. Pierce, D.A. Smith, W.S. Wolston, D.F. Pease, Henry Claxton, T.S. and G.A. Ingersoll, Henry Madden, G. W. Smiley, and Will Phelps.

In 1857 a frame schoolhouse was built and staffed by two teachers. In 1873 a two-story school was built, and later a two-room building was added. These schools served until 1937 when the consolidated school was built.

Additionally three country schools serviced the township:

District	School Name	Section #
075	Anderson	36
076	Lang	33
077	Rowe	32

As the Civil War commenced, Malta contributed ninety-four men to the Union army.

The first doctor in the county set up practice in Malta in 1863. Dr. Henry Madden, born in 1800, had come to the area in 1835. A 1981 article, "Malta Marks 125th Anniversary," from *The Midweek*, explains that "from a cabin at Brush Point on the Kishwaukee River he competed with Chief Shabbona for patients. Shabbona was an Indian medicine man who could reputedly cure rattlesnake bites and sundry other

(continued on page 6)

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

spring 2003, vol. 22 no. 1

JOINER CEMETERY in Mayfield township in Sycamore is located on Hwy 64 West or Old State Road West, near Five Corners [NW Section 25 of Township 41 N, Range 4, DeKalb County]. Land was owned by Adelbert Joiner and heirs of said Adelbert Joiner by warranty Deed dated 30 Jan 1880 and recorded in Book 64 of Deeds, page 215, conveyed a part of NW Section 25 as a family burial plot to be known as the *Joiner Cemetery*. Should anyone visit this Cemetery it is short walk off Old State Road through the corn field up to the cemetery with an old rusty fence surrounding it. Many of the stones have eroded to the point that it is difficult at best to read the inscriptions.

JOINER Sylvanus	1784	30 Dec 1866
JOINER Beaulah	4 Dec 1784	16 Sep 1863
JOINER Cyrus S	5 Oct 1813	13 Apr 1887
JOINER Elmina	3 Oct 1814	3 Feb 1891
JOINER Helen	27 Oct 1843	8 Feb 1848
JOINER Fransisco	23 Jan 1840	16 Sep 1847
JOINER Henry	16 Apr 1822	12 Dec 1869
JOINER Charlotte Eaton		
JOINER Adelburt	1853	18 Feb 1877
JOINER Manley P	1882	1883
JOINER Floretta {Garlock}	23 May 1827	31 Oct 1846
PARTRIDGE Ashman	16 May 1815	23 Apr 1893
PARTRIDGE Elmira	1814	8 Feb 1859
PARTRIDGE Harrison		26 May 1855
PARTRIDGE Pheobe A		21 May 1857
CRIPPEN William W	1853	1875
CRIPPEN Charlotte E	1855	1858
CRIPPEN Freddie W	1857	1858
CRIPPEN Francis W	1862	1862
CRIPPEN Diana	1859	1864
CRIPPEN Alfred	1870	
CRIPPEN Peter	1781	
CRIPPEN Charlotte Smith		
HELMER Mary C	1846	1848
HELMER James Washington		
HELMER Charlotte Crippen		
DENNIS George W		
HARMS Charles		
FRADENBURG		
STEPHENSON A		

Called To Her Reward.

Another of the first settlers of Ohio Grove was called to her reward and relieved of her sufferings when, at 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning, March 18, 1907, Mrs. Ruth Wood breathed her last, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Malinda Campbell.

Mrs. Wood had been confined to her bed for eight weeks, suffering from liver and stomach troubles, and for the last two weeks each day appeared to be her last.

Ruth Carey Wood was born in Madison county, O., on September 24, 1825, and was therefore over 81 years of age. She was united in marriage to David Wood on October 27, 1842. He died on March 24, 1865. The year after their marriage they drove with their team to the land four and a half miles southeast of Sycamore, which he took from the government the year before. Here they made their home in a log cabin for many years.

Mrs. Wood was the mother of seven children, five of whom survive, namely: John Wood, of Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Matilda Noell, of Grand Island, Neb.; Mrs. Pheba Parkinson, of Armour, S. D.; Mrs. Rhoda Westlake, of DeKalb, Ill.; and Mrs. Malinda Campbell, of Cortland, Ill.

Mrs. Wood had been a faithful member of the United Brethren church for 37 years, at which she was a regular attendant until the infirmities of age prevented. She was later a member of the Sycamore Methodist church, to which she belonged at the time of her death.

The funeral services were held at the Ohio Grove church on Friday afternoon, at 12:30 o'clock, Rev. Havener, now of Creston, officiating. The interment was in the Ohio Grove cemetery beside the remains of her husband and two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth.

November 8, 1913

SANDWICH'S NEW RAILWAY STATION

Citizens Of Sandwich Highly Elated
Over The New Burlington
Passenger Station.

Sandwich is proud of the new depot which has been erected by the Burlington railroad company and which was opened last week. It is of pressed brick with white stone trimmings, and 102 by 62 feet. The gables, of which there are four, are pebbled ash, and the roof tile, with wide overhanging eaves and projecting ends. The interior includes a large waiting room, ladies rest room and toilet, gentlemen's smoking room and toilet, a large roomy ticket office, and a large baggage room. A wide alleyway connects the waiting room with the baggage room and men's smoking room. The floors of the waiting room, rest room, smoking room and toilets are of mottled tile, with a wide border of the same material, but of different color, a few inches from the walls. The base boards are also of tile with marble effect. The sidewalls for about three feet high are of enameled white brick. The ceiling in the waiting room is box paneled, the woodwork being finished in oak. The building is lighted by electricity and steam heat is used for heating. The space about the depot has been enlarged and greatly improved.

Tried to Wreck Big Train.

Two young men attempted to wreck the fast train on the Burlington, near Sandwich Wednesday evening by placing a steel rail across the track. The train struck the obstruction, but no serious damage was done. Robert D. Campbell, aged 28, and Lewis Miller, aged 29, both of Sandwich, confessed to the crime and are under arrest. The railway company will prosecute them to the limit.

AUTOBUS TO SANDWICH.

LaSalle Man Looking Over The Road
For Purpose Of Establishing A
Line From Sandwich. Via
Hinckley To DeKalb.

Serious effort is being made to establish an autobus line between DeKalb and Sandwich by way of Hinckley. An enterprising promoter has been in DeKalb and Sandwich several times the last two weeks in the interests of the project. The DeKalb Advertiser of Friday said:

E. J. Drummond, who is thinking of establishing an autobus line between DeKalb and Sandwich, went over the ground today in an auto. He said he preferred a rainy day to a dry one, for then he could see the roads at their worst.

Mr. Drummond met members of the Commercial club at noon today and outlined his plan. His idea is to make the trip once a day both ways between Sandwich and DeKalb by way of Hinckley. He plans to leave Sandwich about 7 in the morning and to make the trip in two and one half to three hours, starting back in the afternoon at about 3 o'clock. The fare will be something like \$1.25 from Sandwich and 85 cents from Hinckley. He will be ready to start about the first of the month if the scheme looks good to him.

Clint Cook took Mr. Drummond and wife to Sandwich this afternoon. From there he returned to his home in LaSalle.

Aug. 6, 1913



The Schools of Those Days.

The children of the family began attending school in the middle forties. At first they went a mile and a half east to a log school house on the edge of the grove on the Alvin Dayton farm, now owned by his son James Dayton. Reuben Holcomb remembers the teacher, Bessie Ann Roberts, whom he much admired as a woman of strong character and tender sympathies. She married Robert Hodge.

After a few years a school house was erected near the Lovell place, near where a school is located at the present time. In the summer of 1860, eighteen years after the Holcombs came to Sycamore, the son Reuben finished farming and attended a select school in the village taught by Dr. and Mrs. Woodward, in a dwelling house on what is now the corner of Maple and Ottawa streets opposite the present residence of Judge Carnes, and where the house owned by W. W. Whitmore is located. He then taught school in the Boies district in South Grove in the winter of 1860 and 1861, and in the Coolidge district the following winter. He was away near Galesburg, Ill., with a lot of horses, in the summer of 1861, and within four or five days after he returned home, the Civil war had begun and Sycamore sent to war a company, organized by E. F. Dutton and Z. B. Mayo—Co. F, of the 13th infantry.



Shabbona Township

E.R. Grant wrote in 1926 "It is possible that very few of you remember when there was no town nor railroad here. The present site of Shabbona then being farm land belonging to John Palm, John Ray and Charles Stevens. The mail was brought by stage to the little village of Shabbona Grove and to Malma P.O., a farm house on Marryot hill just west of here."

"In 1870 the Chicago and Iowa railroad was built thru here and a shack built to serve as a depot. This was situated about a half mile west of here in John Ray's corn field, and the president of the road named it Cornnton."

No business was done until the spring 1871, when W.H. Ray was appointed station agent and also postmaster. John Ray built a small building and put in a stock of groceries for the accommodation of the farmers, also sold lumber, until Smith & Pollock and Samuel Bouslough began buying grain and handled lumber and coal.

During that summer, Wm. Husk who was running a store at Shabbona Grove, built a two-story building, using the lower story for a general store and the flat above for living rooms. When Mr. Husk started his store, W. H. Ray resigned as postmaster and Mr. Husk was appointed.

The name Cornnton so resembled that of another post office in the state, that Uncle Sam saw fit to change it to Shabbona, the name of the township in which it is located. The name honors that good friend of the early white settlers, whose home was in nearby grove --- Chief Shabbona.

In 1872 a permanent depot was erected at the corner where the three farms owned by Palm, Ray and Stevens joined, where E street now crosses the tracks. It was moved across the road to its present location the following year.

John Ray gave the ground west of the street to the village for a public park, and John Palm the land east of the street, where the village hall and waterworks now stand.

Wm. Husk moved his store building from Cornnton to its present location, and other business houses were added as time went on. The village of Shabbona was now on the map though not yet incorporated.

Application for incorporation was made to the County Clerk at Sycamore, Feb. 15, 1875, before Judge Luther Lowell, County Clerk Cassius M. Conrad, and Sheriff Reuben J. Holcomb. On Feb. 24, '75, the court convened and the Judge and two Justices of the Peace, Aaron C. Allen and Geo. Brown, canvassed the votes cast on Feb. 20th, at the store of

M. V. Allen. Fifty-one votes were cast ---Forty-seven for and four against corporation.

The first village election was held on the 20th day of April, 1875 and resulted in the election of Thomas Padgett, John Palm, Wm.. F. Heeg, A.P. Rogers, James Greenfield and S.H. Branscomb as Trustees; Samuel Harker, Village Clerk; James A Nutail, Police Magistrate.

The Masonic Hall was moved from Shabbona Grove in November, 1874. It together with several other buildings, the then main business portion of the village, burned March 23rd, 1877. All were rebuilt in a short time.

The cemetery located in the northwestern part of the village was platted by John Ray in 1874. After his death, it became the property of an association and is known as Rose Hill cemetery.

From the DeKalb Chronicle of Sept. 10, 1934:

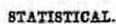
...the most historic name in this countyregarded by the Indians as one of the finest spots in the county ...on New Year's day in 1836 was celebrated the erection of the first dwelling built by Edmund Town and David Smith. Among those to locate here first were Jonas Miller, H.E. Allen, William White, Coleman Olmstead, Sr., Lewis Olmstead, Nathan Olmstead, Moses Foster, William Marks, Sr., Ira Park, Dexter Horton and Jefferson Sturtevent. Rev. Gmmon and others soon followed.

The first effort to organize some sort of government came in 1850 ... and William Marks was elected the first supervisor.Shabbona Grove was first selected ... mainly on account of the protection of wintry blasts afforded by the grove.

William Curtis was the first school teacher, opening classes at the W.C. Olmstead home in 1842 and receiving the sum of \$12.50 a month and boarding himself. The first school house was built near Indian Creek of logs in 1843 and Eliza Horton was the teacher.

In 1872 the village of Shabbona was surveyed and platted. ...A.S. Jackson moved from Shabbona Grove, in 1873 M.V. Allen opened a drug store and W.F. Heeg opened a furniture store in 1872. The first school was built in 1878.... When Edmond Towne's house was erected a bottle of whiskey was found nearby and this led to the general policy of free drinks on occasions of this type. When the first barn was raised in 1842, the whiskey was not to be found. However, Mrs. C. Olmstead provided a hot meal which was voted even more satisfactory and established a precedent which was followed.

TOWN 38 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST



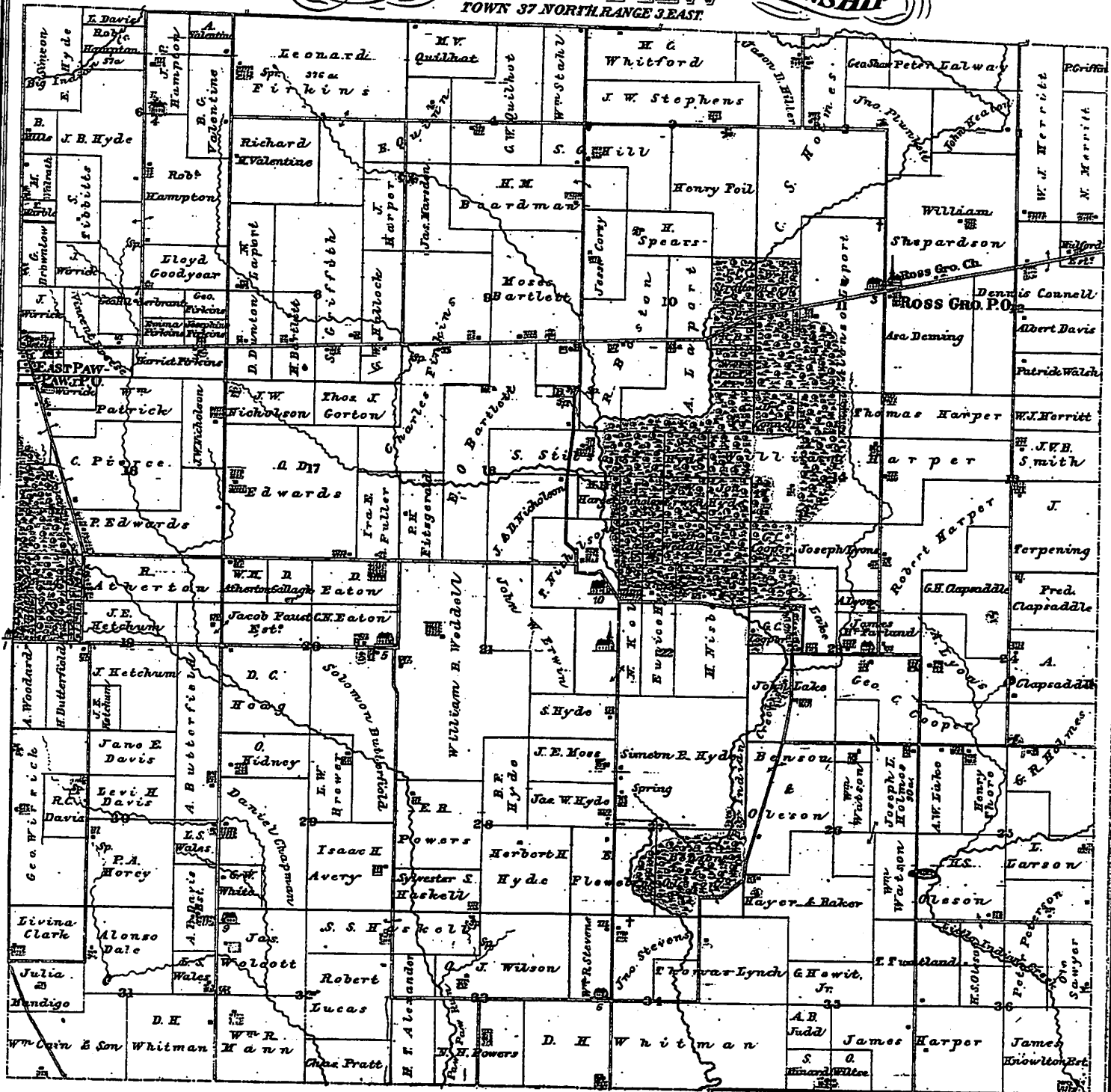
HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

Representative Views.

18

MAP OF PAW-PAW TOWNSHIP

TOWN 37 NORTH RANGE 3 EAST.



STATISTICAL.

No. of Horses.....	928
No. of Cattle.....	2,532
No. of Sheep.....	2,532
No. of Hogs.....	2,117
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	9,344
No. of Dwelling.....	204
Total Population 1870.....	970

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP is the south-west corner town in the county; most of its surface is occupied by rolling prairie. The Big Indian Creek and its tributaries which run through the town in various directions, furnish a good supply of running water. Ross Grove, Coen Grove and a portion of Paw Paw Grove lie in this township. These natural advantages attracted settlers at an early day. This township was settled in 1834 by David A. Town, Baldwin. In 1850 the township was organized, and the first town meeting was held at the house of G. Bailey. In 1855 a seminary was erected at East Paw Paw, which is now in operation. The first church was built in 1851 at Ross Grove. Paw Paw responded to all the calls of the Government, during the late rebellion she sent one hundred and thirty-six men.

Representative Views.

Residence of G. A. Holmes.
" " H. Merrill.

No.	Area	Per
370	22	
355	22	

Paw Paw Township

A Bit of Early History

David A. Towne settled in Paw Paw township in 1835, and later in the same year a party consisting of the Rev. Benoni Harris and his family, his son, Benjamin Harris, and his family; Edward Butterfield and family; John Plass and family; H.L. McDole and Joseph Harris, single men.

Benoni Harris was a Methodist Episcopal minister, and was both a mission and circuit preacher, being the first minister in this region. His wife died in the spring of 1836, which was the first death to occur in this part of the country, although some claim that a death took place in Squaw Grove in the previous year.

(Written by Lewis M. Gross and G.E. Congdon for the Standard Atlas and published by permission of the authors) Sycamore True Republican, Nov. 18, 1905.

We have received the catalogue of the officers and students of the Teachers Institute and Classical Seminary of East Paw Paw, in this county, J.W. Troger, President. One hundred and twenty three students are on its rolls: its course appears to be thorough and expenses low. Sycamore True Republican, August 15, 1877.

East Paw Paw Is Dying

Many pleasant gatherings in and around the Seminary are dying out, but will never be forgotten by those left here. The old bell as it rings forth to call a few Lyceum members seems to say: "ding, dong, ding, dong" "Sem. is gone, Sem. is gone."

Yes, our dear old Seminary, the pride and pet of our place, that has sent out so many good students, has at last been obliged to succumb to death. Our citizens have been leaving the place for the last five years.

Some have gone to their last resting place, others have homes in the East and the West, North and South, and last the West side comes in and with not a few of our best neighbors.

We have also seen some of our dwellings take wheels and go after them too; even our old correspondent has taken his wife, and gone to a better land, called Sandwich.

The store on the corner with its empty shelves and vacant seats, methinks: "I hear them murmur, 'come back to me,' but never more can it be while in the possession of Mr. V. Our side-walks and hay scales are giving way to time's sad decay.

We hear the prospective railroad which some of our friends are so sanguine about, cannot fan a breath of our life in our dear old Paw Paw. [Cor. Shabbona Express.]

New Presbyterian Church

A new Presbyterian church at Paw Paw was dedicated Sunday, April 6, 1902. The building is located in the main part of town and is a modern structure in every respect and cost \$13,000. Rev. Dr. Willis G. Craig, of Chicago, preached the dedication sermon.

Sycamore True Republican, April 23, 1902

East Paw Paw Seminary

Landmark Which Occupied Prominent Place In the History of This Section of the Country Is Torn Down.

A structure that bore no unimportant part in the history of this section was the old East Paw Paw seminary, which was razed this month.

The building was erected in the fifties and was occupied as a seminary, with Elder Jessup as principal. It was some years later sold to the school district with the understanding that the higher branches of learning were to be taught.

This arrangement continued until 1868, when a new building was erected, known as East Paw Paw Classical Seminary, with D.D. McGibeny as principal. This building burned in 1870, and the district turned over the other building, the original seminary building, to the company.

Prof. McGibeny was succeeded by J.W. Troeger, 1876-1880, and he was succeeded by J.H. Beitel, who continued until the close of the seminary in 1884 or 1886. The equipment of the East Paw Paw Seminary was equal to that of many of the larger institutions of learning of that time and the graduates have filled many high positions.

Sycamore True Republican, October 22, 1913.

Reunion of East Paw Paw Seminary Will Be Labor Day Next

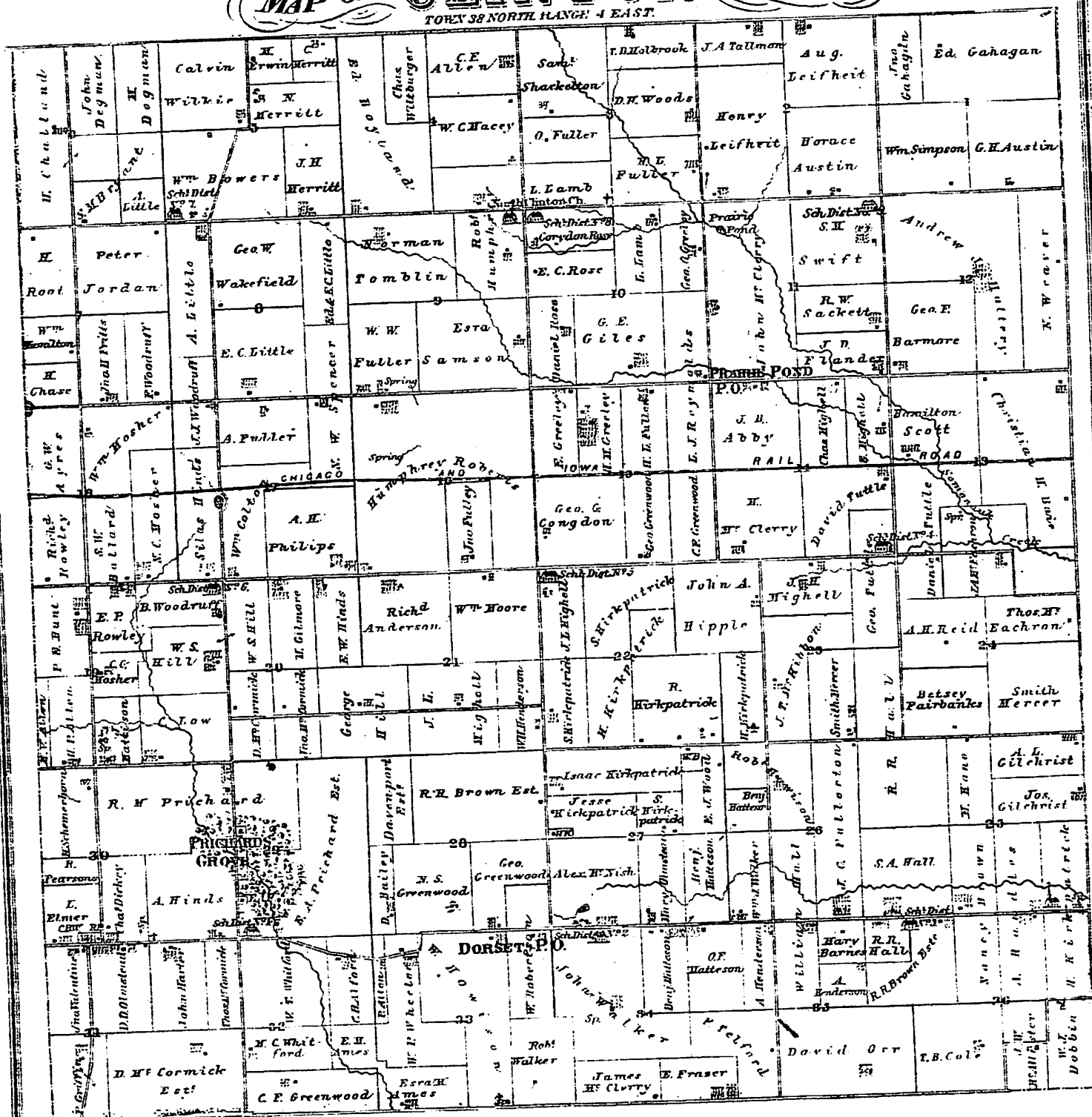
S.M. Henderson, of Sycamore, president of the Alumni Association of the old East Paw Paw Classical Seminary and East Paw Paw District school, announces that a reunion of the old "grads" of each of the schools will be held in conjunction with the Home Coming exercises on Labor Day at Paw Paw. W.A. Shepard of Wheaton is chairman of the program committee and Mrs. Ella Chichester of Paw Paw is secretary.

Graduates from many cities in northern Illinois as well as from other states are expected to be present.

The old East Paw Paw Seminary is one of the oldest seminaries in the state and many famous men and women are graduates. A stock company was organized in Paw Paw and build a seminary in 1855, but the movement did not prove a success, so the building was sold to the school district. The Philogean society, Philasphian lyceum, the Philorhetorian Debating Club and the Natural History society kept up the social life of the school.

Sycamore True Republican, August 28, 1929

TOPEKA 38 NORTH RANGE 4 EAST.

**STATISTICAL.**

No. of Horses.....	782
No. of Cattle.....	1,746
No. of Sheep.....	747
No. of Hogs.....	2,269
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	10,252
No. of Dwellings.....	120
Total Population 1870.....	1,003

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

CALHOUN TOWNSHIP is one of the most prosperous in the county. There is one small Grove in the town which contains about one hundred acres, the remainder is beautiful rolling prairie. Among first settlers were O. P. Johnson and Deacon Fritchard. In 1849, nine families composed the population of the town. In 1850 the township was organized, the boundaries of which included half of Victor and Africa as well as its present territory. In 1864 it was enlarged to include all the territory. In 1877 the first school was opened and was taught by Mrs. J. C. Smith. In 1887 the Methodist erected a handsome gothic church near the center of the township. About one person in nine of the total population of Calhoun enlisted in the Union army to suppress the rebellion, the sent one hundred and eleven men, and raised by taxation and contribution \$18,746 for war purposes.

	Acres	Value
Residence of Ruben M. Pritchard.....	338	25
" " Humphrey Roberts.....	560	25
" " Smiley Kirkpatrick.....	240	25
" " A. H. Phillips.....	160	25
" " E. Samson.....	200	25
" " J. S. Hunt.....	105	25
" " Siles Hinde.....	120	17

DeKalb Township

(This version of DeKalb Township history is taken from Henry L. Boies book of 1868.)

The town [now township] of DeKalb, located near the centre of the County, is second to none other in the County in its natural advantages, and in its prospects for future growth and wealth.

The surface of the town, like the remainder of the County, is mostly occupied by handsome rolling prairie; but, unlike some others, it is favored with a handsome stream, — the head waters of one branch of the Kishwaukee, — and is liberally supplied with timber from an extensive grove bordering this stream, formerly known far and wide as Huntley's Grove.

The first settlers of this township were John B. Collins and Norman C. Moore. Collins settled the farm now owned by Captain Burpee, and Moore made a claim a mile or two north of him. They came in the spring of 1835, and during that summer all of the timbered land in the town was claimed. McClellan claimed the south end of the grove afterward held by Mr. Huntley. James Cox claimed a farm now owned by C.W. Marsh, and James Paisley the place on which some of his family now reside.

There was a large Indian village at Coltonville, on the northern border of this township, but during this fall they were removed beyond the Mississippi.

It was probably a company of United States mounted troops, engaged in assembling these Indians at their rendezvous at Paw Paw Grove, preparatory to removal, that passed along the east side of the grove during this fall, and camped for the night on the site of the present village of De Kalb.

While here, one of their number attempted to desert, and he paid McClellan a sum of money to secrete him; but being threatened by the officer in command, McClellan gave him up again, and he was tied to the rear of the army wagon, and dragged on foot through the remainder of the route. The neighbors, indignant at McClellan's treachery, threatened to lynch him, and he was obliged to fly the country to secure his safety.

In the autumn of 1835, Messrs. Jenks & Co. claimed the land now occupied by Albert Schryver, dammed the creek, built a mill, and projected a town in the vicinity. The streams were much larger then than now, and it was thought that the water power would be of permanent value; but a dry summer or two convinced them of their mistake, and they never completed their proposed village.

In February, 1837, Mr. Russell Huntley, representing a company of capitalists, who designed to build mills and carry on farming, moved to the south end of the grove, and bought the claim of James Root, who had succeeded McClellan. Wild-cat money was plenty then, and claims sold at higher prices than they would bring ten years after. Mr. Huntley bought all of the south part of the grove, paying \$5300 to the several claimants. His purchase embraced about five hundred acres of woodland, and as much of the prairie as

he chose to call his own. As it seemed desirable, however, that each should know where his line was, he made an agreement with the Brodies, of Brodie's Grove, about ten miles west of him, that the division line between them should be half way between the two groves; and he made a similar verbal arrangement with the inhabitants of Shabbona Grove on the south.

In the autumn of 1836 was the first election held in the County. It was held in Captain Eli Barnes' house, in this town, and the voters came from all parts of the County. It was an election for Justice of the Peace. Mr. Samuel Miller, of Squaw Grove, relates that ten dollars was sent down to him by one of the candidates to pay him for bringing up ten voters, and that these ten voters carried the election, probably the first ten dollars spent to carry an election in this County, but not the last, by thousands.

After the first two years, settlers came in very rarely. Hard times came on, money became very scarce, the people grew poor, and in 1843, when the land, for the claims to which they had paid such liberal prices, came in market, most of them found great difficulty in raising the money to enter it. As late as 1850, Mr. Huntley was offering half of the land upon which DeKalb village now stands to any man who would furnish \$1.25 per acre to enter it.

In 1850 the township was organized, with the name of Orange, and Thomas M. Hopkins was chosen its first Supervisor. In that year the first store in the place was opened by J.M. Goodell, in one end of the dwelling now owned by Rufus Hopkins. In 1852, J.S. Waterman and Alvah Cartwright started another, and they, with Goodell and Ruby's store, Huntley's tavern, and a blacksmith's shop, constituted the village in 1853, when the railroad was built, revolutionizing the business affairs of the country. After this, a large and flourishing village was speedily built up at this place. Its progress was remarkable. Houses sprang up as by magic. The neighboring farmers who visited it one month would hardly recognize the place when they visited it the next. Mr. Huntley sold part of his land to three directors of the railroad company, — Holland, Robinson, and Van Nortwick, — and they together laid out the village, and speedily sold the lots at good price. Stores, shops, warehouses, hotels, and dwellings, filled up the village plat, and the evidences of taste and refinement were to be seen in its streets and dwellings. For several years it went by the name of Buena Vista.

In 1855 its population was 557. It was confidently expected that, owing to its central location and its being upon a railroad, it would soon be made the seat of justice for the County.

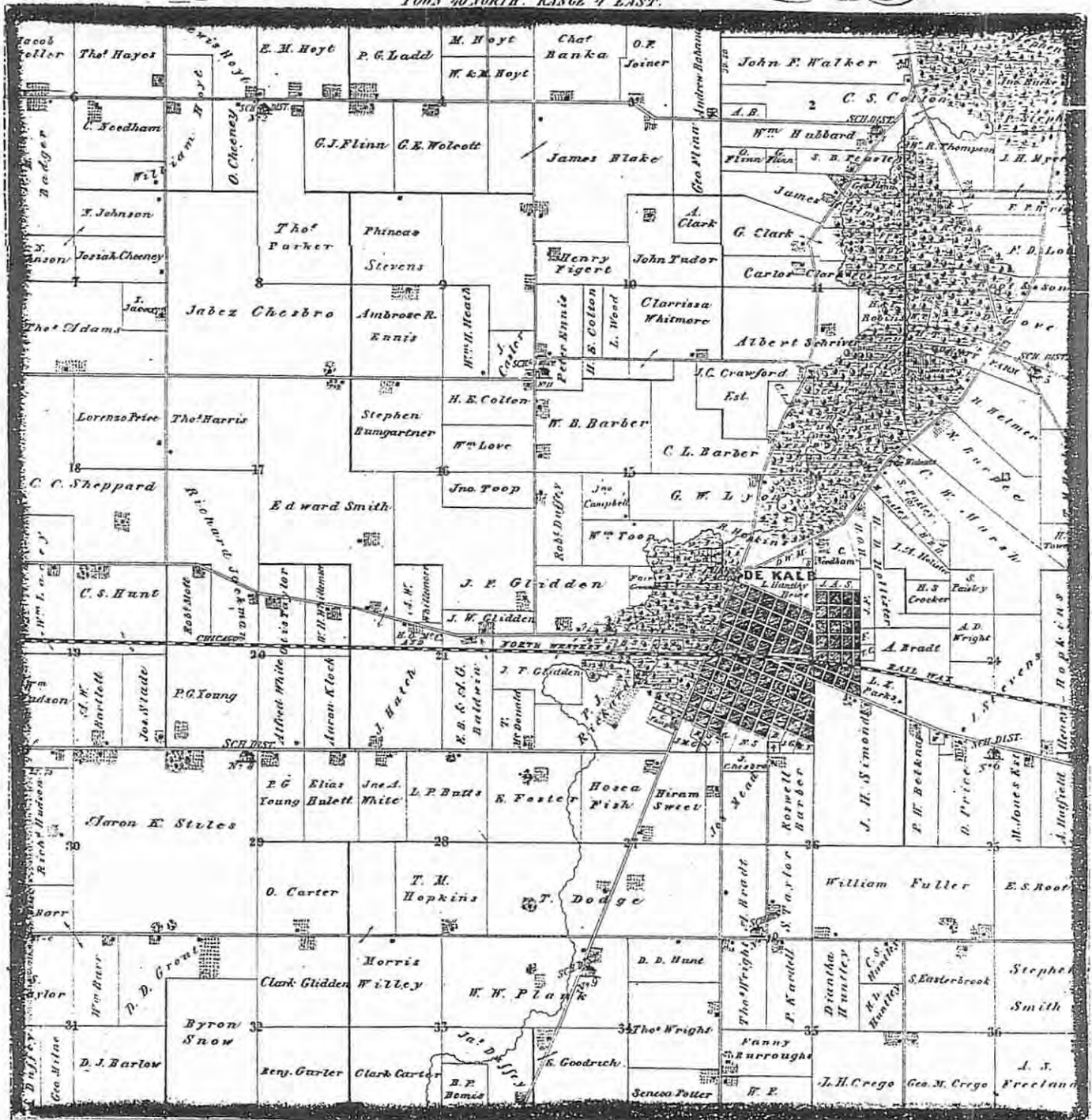
The financial crash of 1857 impeded the progress of the thriving little village. They taxed themselves heavily for all needed improvements, and worked ... for the good of their town.

1871

28.

MAP OF DE KALB TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST.



STATISTICAL

No. of Horses.....	707
No. of Cattle.....	1,616
No. of Sheep.....	1,092
No. of Hogs.....	597
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	7,294
No. of Dwellings.....	463
Total Population 1870.....	2,842

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL

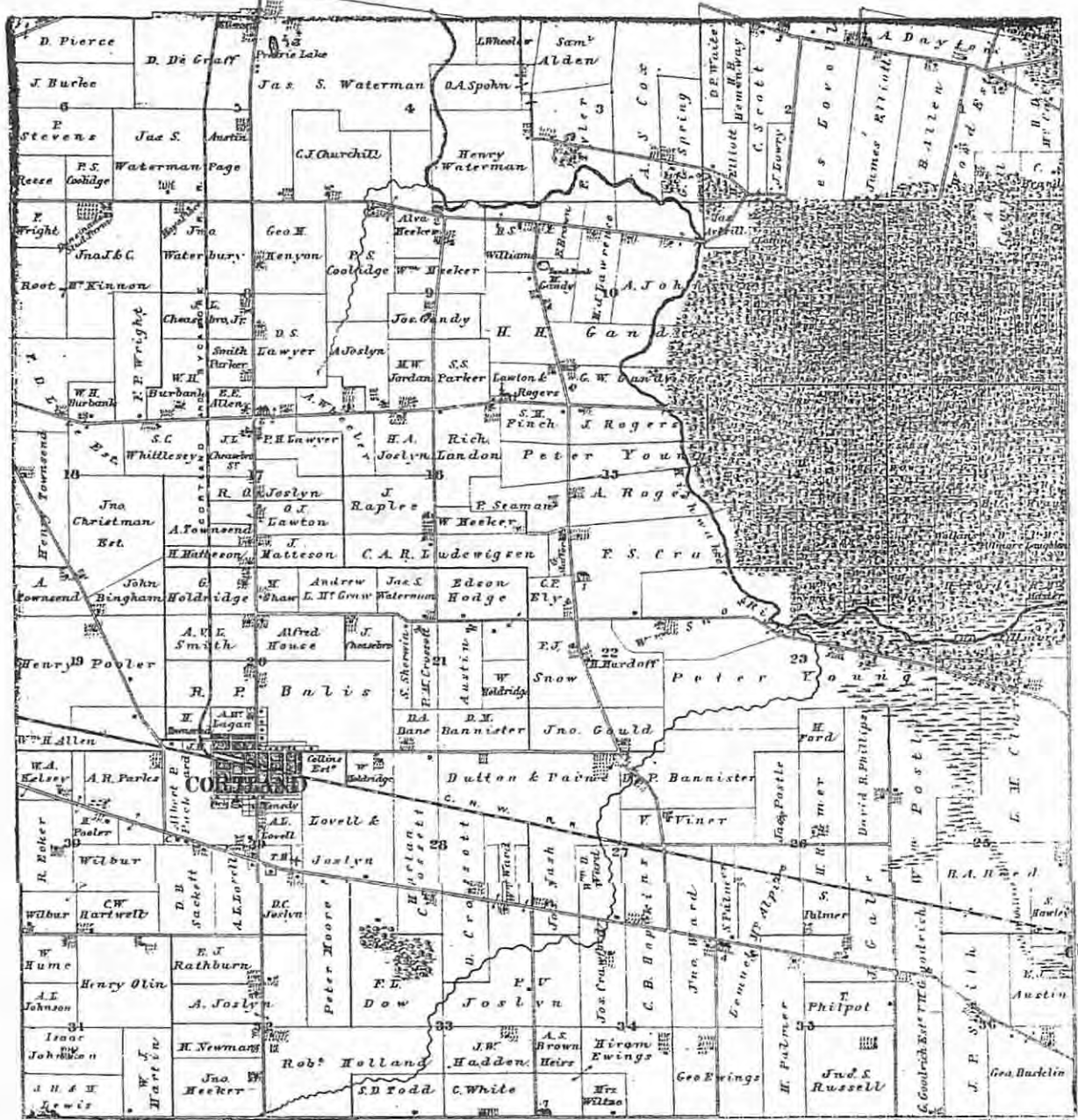
DE KALB TOWNSHIP is located near the center of the county; it is one of the best towns in the county; it is mostly rolling prairie, but is favored with a beautiful stream and is liberally supplied with timber. The first settlers of this town were John B. Collins and N. C. Moore—they came in the Spring of 1835, but many others followed them very soon. In 1836 was the first election held in the county; it was held in Capt. Eli Barnes' house in this town. In 1839 the township was organized with the name of Orange, but after changed to DeKalb. In 1858 the first newspaper was started in the village of DeKalb. DeKalb furnished two hundred and twenty-three men for the preservation of our nation from the armed rebellion.

Representative Views.

Residence of John Wright.....	125	25
Farm House of A. K. Siles.....	110	34
The Walnuts, residence of C. W. Marsh.....	206	23
Residence of J. F. Glidden.....	560	23
" " Elisha Foster.....	160	23
" " Benjamin Gurley.....	168	29
" " C. S. Hunt.....	169	23
" " G. W. Lyon.....	120	29

40.

MAP OF CORTLAND TOWNSHIP TOWN 40 NORTH-RANGE 5 WEST



STATISTICAL

No. of Horses.....	685
No. of Cattle.....	1,979
No. of Sheep.....	1,728
No. of Hogs.....	774
No. of Acres under Cultivation.....	7,200
No. of Dwellings.....	272
Total Population 1870.....	1,294

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

CORTLAND TOWNSHIP was settled in 1835 by a party of emigrants passing northward from Ottawa who was so much pleased with the beautiful appearance of the country, proceeded to make claims. The party consisted of Geo. W. and Isaac Gandy, John and Perry Elliott, David Wood and Henry Smith, with their families. In the following year they were joined by a considerable number of new settlers. The Railroad was built in 1857, and a little village soon grew up around the station. The first name given the township was Richmond, this was soon after changed to Pampas; in 1864 this name was changed by the Legislature to Cortland, the name of its village and postal station. The first school house in the town was a log hut built in 1828; in 1866 a fine school house was built by the village of Cortland, a view of which is here inserted. Cortland came forward to the defence of the flag when traitors assembled in—some hundred and thirty-four men enlisted in the Union army.

Representative Views.

Residence of H. H. Gandy.....	254
" " George Bucklin.....	254
" " Porter E. Condit.....	254
" " Robert Holland.....	254
" " G. U. Spring.....	124
" " Frederick J. Shaw.....	111
Danishman Stud Farm, residence of John J. McKinnon.....	254
Residence of James Lovell.....	629
" " P. S. Crane.....	215
" " Samuel Hawley.....	39
Mayo Place, residence of John Waterbury.....	164
Residence of Daniel Pierce.....	124

1871

Real Estate Abstracts

a meeting presentation
summary by EvaMarie Leonard

Representatives of county historical societies were royally welcomed at the Malta Historical Society on March 15. They have done wonders with their space, now most attractive and usable, and the spread presented would have served for breakfast and lunch.

Our speaker, Gloria Donato Hindenburg, has worked 34 years at Chicago Title Company. Until about 1960 the Abstracts were used by lawyers investigating land titles. Now they are no longer used and the title company has wanted to get rid of them. Gloria Donato was asked to collect the boxes and sort through them and became fascinated with what these 19th and early 20th century documents revealed about the life and doings of the people at that time. She feels they should be preserved for future historians and genealogists and hopes that members of the county historical societies would value such a record of their property.

Land in this country was allotted to first comers. In the eastern states large tracts of land were given large investors, people with influence, by the kings of the Colonial powers, who then divided it into sections, some of which were sold to wealthy settlers who then divided it into individual lots for sale. By the time of the Revolution all states had transfer laws for the recording of property transactions. The original deed required two witnesses and the turning over of a shovel of earth. It was usually up to the new purchaser to have the boundaries ascertained by walking the bounds and marking them, usually by natural features such as rocks, big trees, groves, brooks.

In Illinois and all the new areas to be settled, land was secured by building some kind of building on it and cultivating a part within the first year. Here the U.S. government was the proprietor and war veterans were given until 1830 to apply for a grant. Every time a property was transferred by sale, inheritance or forfeiture for debt or conditions of grant not having been met, this had to be recorded and witnessed. The record of this was kept and updated each time a property changed hands and this became the ABSTRACT. The circumstances of the transfer and all lawsuits involving the property were recorded. The number of lawsuits was amazing! If original owners had moved out of

state, they had to be tracked down and attest to their original ownership. In a nation where people moved often this was quite a task. Ms. Donato found wills and probate records attached to many of these abstracts since they pertained to the division of the property or its disposal. It is these that are of special value to the genealogist.

Gloria brought lists of names from these records which she distributed. She also passed around maps and samples of wills. She read fascinating tidbits and explained conditional warranties and conveyances. Some of her examples dealt with the town of Coltonville which had 12 houses, and the town of Paw Paw. She was amused at the phrase in wills that left property for "the natural life of" She showed the Book of Wills, 1865-1899. She answered a question that the abstracts are stored by "PIN numbers" (Property Identification Numbers).

The abstracts are being distributed to local historical societies and museums, and property owners can obtain a copy from their local society if the abstract has been found. •

(Sears Homes continued from page 1)

sale of the eggs would pay the mortgage. Bay City, Michigan, home of Aladdin Homes, constructed in Bay City one of each model they sold. In Crete, Illinois, there are reportedly 42 Sears houses. In Aurora, there are about 100 Sears homes and in Marseilles, there are at least 20 Sears homes.

Concrete block or brick homes could also be mail-order houses. A concrete block machine came with (or could be purchased) with some homes. They made their own blocks, and surprisingly, it didn't take as long to do as one may think. Most of the brick homes seemed to have identical bricks.

There were 8 million homes that lost their mortgages during the depression. Checking with the County Recorder of Deeds in an area to see who the Grantor-Grantee was may help to determine if it was a Sears repossessed home.

There are several homes in the southern end of DeKalb County that appear to be of mail-order origin, but have not been confirmed. There are probably several more in other parts of the county. There are a number of publications on mail-order homes that include drawings and photos.

[Editor's note: The Internet contains additional information about Sears homes. Among the sites are www.Searsmodernhomes.com]

The Early History of Franklin Township

In the early 1800s, a settlement of Pottowatamie Indians lived in Franklin Township, in the most northwesterly corner of DeKalb County. Their place of worship, a totem pole surmounted by an idol, stood high amidst their village as they went about their daily labors grinding corn for food. But the abundant streams and timber of the area attracted the White Man in 1836.

Andrew and William Miles and Samuel Corey are believed to be the first white settlers, followed by Daniel Gilchrist; T.H. Humphrey; Theophilus Watkins; Samuel, Charles and Henry Hicks; Andrew Brown; Harry Holmes; Allen Gardner; W.T. Kirk; Mr. Owen; B.M. Dean; John McDowell; Alvah and James Bennett; Daniel Cronkhite; Martin Mack; Spence Myers; Ira Dibble; and Squire J.M. Riddle.

The Hicks brothers soon erected a mill, and around it sprang up the village of Hicks Mill with stores, a blacksmith shop, and by 1841, a post office. Eventually, several other villages dotted the township; since, all but Fairdale and Kirkland have died out:

Section	Settlement	Established
2	Blood's Point	1848
12	Charter Oak	1866
19	Fielding, changed to Fairdale	bef 1848
16	Hick's Mill	1837
26	Kirkland	1875
25	Lacey	1849
17	South Mills	1844
19	Wallace	bef 1875

Kirkland, platted in 1876, became among the largest and most prosperous communities in the county. It surpassed the thriving community of Fairdale in size due in part to the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific railroad when it made Kirkland its coaling and watering station.



Main Street in Kirkland, Illinois
(photo courtesy Joiner History Room)

Over half a century later, in 1943, Kirkland became one of 38 sites on which the U.S. government built a hemp mill to be used for military purposes. Sixty displaced Japanese-

Americans from the west coast chose to come to the camp to work rather than join the army or live in internment camps, as American-born Japanese were forced to do during WWII.

Formal education in the township began as early as 1842 in a log schoolhouse in section 20. Betsey Rand was the first teacher. Other schools were:

Section	School	Dist. #	Closed
14	Canada	025	
29	Cronktown	032	1948
14	Forest Eagle	030	1944
8	Franklin	026	1941
8	Gunn	027	1946
7	Willowdale	200	1945

All these schools became part of Community Unit #426 in the late 1940s.



Built in 1866, Charter Oak Methodist Episcopal Church on Old State Rd. stands as only a shell in 1942 (photo courtesy Joiner History Room, Ritzman Collection)

Ninety-nine men from Franklin Township served the nation honorably during the Civil War. Twenty-one gave their lives. One of the most notable was General Thomas Humphrey who died at the battle of Guntown at the age of 29. •

(Sources: Past and Present of DeKalb County, Area Place Names, Daily Chronicle 9/10/1934, Sycamore News 2/26/2003, Joiner History Room archives)

