

*Illinois*  
 following is a list of the churches of the county with the dates of their organization, as nearly as could be procured;

**KNOX Co.**

MRS. CURTIS B. SMITH *IL*  
 2424 WEST 1ST #74 *KN*  
 SANTA ANA, CALIF. 92703 *1.4*

ORANGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL  
 SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA  
 No. 4056 Date: 10/7/

- Abingdon Methodist Church, 1833
- Altona Methodist Church, August 14, 1853
- Dahinda Methodist Church, December, 1903
- Henderson Methodist Church, 1874
- Louisville Methodist Church, 1842
- Warren Chapel, 1878
- Maquon Methodist Church, 1842
- Oneida Methodist Church, 1857
- Rio Methodist Church, 1850
- Victoria Methodist Church, 1836
- Wataga Methodist Church, January 9, 1858
- Williamsfield Methodist Church, 1890
- Galesburg First Methodist, 1847
- Galesburg Emmanuel Methodist, 1852
- African Methodist Church of Galesburg, 1876
- Knox Street Congregational, August, 1894
- East Main Street Congregational, August 8, 1894
- Altona Presbyterian, April 25, 1857
- Galesburg Presbyterian, February 26, 1837
- Second Presbyterian, Galesburg, 1851
- Old School Presbyterian Church of Galesburg, 1854
- Presbyterian United, Galesburg, March 1, 1870
- John Knox Church, Copley township, April 28, 1855
- Knoxville Presbyterian Church, July 4, 1835
- Oneida Presbyterian Church, May 4, 1863
- Yates City Presbyterian Church, November 16, 1866
- Old First Congregational Church of Galesburg, 1845
- First Congregational Church of Galesburg, 1855
- Central Congregational Church of Galesburg, 1895



KNOX COUNTY CHURCHES (Page two)

Ontario congregational church, August 12, 1848

Oneida congregational church, December 22, 1855

Wataga congregational church, June 10, 1855

Victoria congregational church, April, 1849

Altona congregational church, February 21, 1857

Rio congregational church, 1871

Rio community church

Abingdon congregational church, 1851

Delong congregational church, 1894

Swedish Methodist church of Victoria, December 15, 1846

Wataga Swedish, 1857

Swedish Baptist church of Galesburg

First Baptist church of Galesburg, January 15, 1848

Second Baptist church of Galesburg, 1865

Ontario Baptist church, April 29, 1854

~~Ontario Baptist church, April 29, 1854~~

St. Augustine Catholic church, 1836

Galesburg St. Patrick church, 1856

Galesburg Corpus Christi church, 1883

Wataga Catholic church, 1877

St. John's Episcopal church of Knoxville, 1904

Grace Episcopal of Galesburg, 1859

St. John's Episcopal of Galesburg, 1893

First Lutheran church of Galesburg, August 24, 1851

Knoxville Lutheran, August 21, 1853

Altona Lutheran, 1854

Wataga Lutheran, 1853

Trinity Lutheran of Galesburg, December 3, 1906

German Lutheran of Galesburg, 1861

Christian church of Henderson, about 1839

Christian Union church, 1850

KNOX COUNTY CHURCHES (Page three)

Galesburg Christian church, 1871

Knoxville Christian church, 1869

Abingdon Christian church, 1840

Hermon Christian church, 1854

St. Augustine Christian church, 1868

United Brethren, Gilson, 1866

United Brethren, Persifer, 1870

United Brethren, Mound, 1870

United Brethren, Haw Creek, 1870

United Brethren, Henderson township, in the '30's

Hazel Green, 1857

South Grove, U. B., 1862

Galesburg, U. B., 1906

Universalist of Galesburg, January, 1855

Universalist of Abingdon, 1910

Universalist of Oneida

Se Ven Day Adventists, 1895

Latter Day Saints, Henderson, 1870

Latter Day Saints, Abingdon, 1862

Latter Day Saints, Muro, 1875

Latter Day Saints, Victoria

Latter Day Saints, Dahinda, 1896

Christian Science church of Galesburg, 1886

Not all of these churches are now in existence, some of them having expired, and others having united with other churches to form union and community churches.



VERY FIRST HAPPENINGS

- First Settlers-----Daniel and Alexander Robertson and Richard Mathews settled in Henderson township in the latter part of February, 1828.
- First Sermon-----was preached by Elder Jacob Gum, a regular baptist preacher, at the house of John B. Gum, in 1818.
- First Birth-----was J. B. Gum, son of Zephaniah and Jane Gum, in 1829.
- First Death-----occurred January 9, 1829. A young man named Philip Nance, aged 17, who was buried on section 16, Henderson township. His grave is alone. A few years ago a neat stone slab was placed above it.
- First Town-----was laid out in 1831. It was then called Henderson, but the following year it was changed to Knoxville.
- First Church & Schoolhouse--was erected at Cherry Grove in 1832.
- First Courthouse-----was erected in 1831.
- First Circuit Judge-----was Richard M. Young
- First State's Attorney----was Thomas Ford
- First County Clerk-----was John G. Sanburn--also first circuit clerk.
- First Treasurer-----was John B. Gum
- First School Commissioner--was William McMurtry.
- First Probate Judge-----was John G. Sanburn.
- First Marriage-----occurred July, 1829. This was a double wedding. L. S. Hash and Miss Elizabeth Razor, and Alexander Osborn and Miss Annie Hendricks, were married by Philip Hash. The licenses were obtained at Lewistown, in Fulton county.
- First Marriage License-----was issued to Daniel Robertson, in 1830.
- First Election-----was held at John B. Gum's house, July 3, 1830.
- First County Commissioners--were Riggs Pennington, Dr. Charles Hansford, and Philip Nash.
- First Meeting of the commissioners' Court--was on July 7, 1830, at the residence of John B. Gum.
- First Court House-----was the residence of John B. Gum
- First Hotel-----was kept by Samuel S. White.



First saloon-----was kept by samuel S. white, to whom, also, the first license for tavern, or any kind, was granted.

First Meeting of the circuit court---was held October 1, 1830.

First case before circuit court-----was a bill for a divorce.

First County Order-----was paid March 7, 1831, to Jacob gum, for 75¢.

First Murder-----was committed in winter of 1837. Dr. Dalton was shot by silas rade, at Knoxville.

First Hanging-----occurred in March, 1873, at Knoxville. John M. Osborn was hung for killing Mrs. Adelia M. Mathews.

First Paper-----was the "Intelligencer", issued at Galesburg, in the early part of 1849.

First Physician in the county-----was Dr. Charles Hansford.

First Drug Store-----was kept by Dr. Duncan, at Knoxville.

First Steel Plow-----made in this or any other county, was made by H. H. May, of Galesburg, in May, 1842.

First County Anti-Slavery Society----formed in 1838.

First Republican-----elected to office in 1854.



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KNOX 001

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*Knox County, Illinois*

"MAQUON IN EARLY DAYS" by Charley T. Davis August 13, 1907 "The Maquon Chronicle"

Having learned by accident that Aaron Weir and family and Robert W. Sothard, my particular friends and Missouri neighbors <sup>were</sup> living near Maquon, induced me to come here in June 1864. The village presented an old neglected, faded appearance, and but for my wishing to live near my Missouri friends, I could not have entertained an idea of locating in such a place!

KNOX 001

Samuel Longwell was running a family grocery, and I soon bought him out on condition that I could get a dwelling to live in. Tenement houses were as scarce then as they are now! On inquiry, I could find no vacant house except the two south rooms of what was familiarly called the "Barbero Barracks", which stood where Joshua Burnett's residence now stands. In the north end lived a Mr. Tallent and wife, and in the wing or ell, <sup>take story</sup> Jim Warren and family resided. I wended my way to see Mr. Barbero, who lived where Frank Hurd now lives, and found him at dinner. He gave me an invitation to join them at dinner, but I thanked him, having just dined. I told him I wished to rent the two vacant rooms of the old "barracks" that I had learned he owned. "By goll," he said, "I will see about it and will be down in town directly and give you an answer." I waited a few hours and no Barbero appeared, so I went back to see him and found him plowing. When he neared the street, I remarked to him that he had failed to come down town and give me an answer as he had promised to do. "Well, goll, when I finish plowing this patch of corn I will walk down and give you an answer." "No, Sir," I said, "You will give me an answer now or I am off on the next train!" "Well, by goll, as you look like a pretty clever fellow you can have the rooms." <sup>rather my husband's great grandfather</sup> Mr. Ben McKenney was at this time selling goods in Gentry County, Missouri, and I requested him to sell and join me here in business, which he did on the 28th day of June, 1864. We closed the deal with Samuel Longwell and began business under the firm name of "Davis & McKenney" and have run longer as a firm without a change than any other concern in the State.

Being of Southern birth, and direct from Missouri, and the war feeling red hot, one might reasonably suppose that we would have been treated with coolness and suspicion. But to the Honor and Liberality of Maquon and vicinity we were received with cordiality and friendship and soon had many friends and a lucrative trade.

Soon after we began business, to our surprise, Mr. William Swigert came into our establishment and handed me \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) in bank bills, remarking that he was



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buying grain and livestock here and would cash his money out as he needed it. I shoved the bills back to him saying we had no safe and I might be robbed if many suspicious persons were around in these war times. He said, "Keep the money, Sir, and if it is lost by robbing or fire, the loss will be mine, not yours." Mr. Swigert, under so short an acquaintance, should place that much confidence in us was a mystery to me and has never to this day been made mention of or explained, and we can truthfully say that Mr. Swigert has been the best financial friend we have ever had, and we have had money transactions to more than half a million dollars with him without a clash or friction.

When we commenced here, we found the following persons in business:

Silas Price was keeping hotel in the stand known now as the Shearer House. James M. Grove was dealing in drugs in a two-story frame building on the corner where "Ouderkirk and Crabill" are in the grocery store. Next building south on Main Street, where the Star clothing now is, was occupied by Alfred Thurman in the dry goods business. Samuel Longwell was using the next building for a grocery. Joseph B. Crabill was in the Postoffice, a 12 x 14 frame building. Mr. Page, a groceryman, was next, in a small building. Next building was a squatty barn-appearing house, situated where the Con Maher's barbershop is. It was used by Housh & sons, dealers in general merchandise. Oliver Lindstrom's shoe-making shop was next, then a couple more saloons. Thomas Stevens had a blacksmith shop where Joe Bennett's dwelling is. On the east side of Main Street, the corner where the State Bank now is, Thomas Benson was conducting a hotel. North of this, on Main Street, all was vacant until you reach Cy Jones' dwelling, now occupied by J. L. Thurman. In the rear of the Hotel and along where Wash Simpkins' dwelling house is, was then covered by hazel brush and little oak saplings.

Of all the heads of families that were here 43 years ago, none are here now except A. C. Housh and wife; her twin sister, the widow of George Jones; the widow of James Groves; Mace M. Benson; widow Mahala Benson; and Tim Warren and wife.

Maquon was run then with the lid off and lost! four saloons were run day and night without legal objection and whiskey was kept in the rear end of most of the stores. Card playing was common in coal houses and stables at all hours of day and night. One day we witnessed a townsman seated on the edge of the sidewalk in front of where the butcher shop now is, shaking dice, and so absorbed was he in the game that he did not change position for four hours. A

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mob of 50 to 70 men and boys surrounded him and blocked the sidewalk that the ladies had to elevate their skirts to pass the mob and circle around the crowd and strike the walk again!

Christmas after we came here, the loud and angry fineable paths of a squad of belligerents attracted our attention to the store door where we beheld three pairs of combatants in the street pouncing each other with the ferocity of May stallions. When the fighting was brought to a close, the fighters followed by the boisterous crowd, adjourned to the "Old barracks" well and lifted with the windlass the old oaken buckets--water to remove the human gore from their lacerated faces. All hands then entered a saloon and after joking and jabbering for awhile, concluded that after all they had nothing against each other and they drank a toast to each other's good health and friendship!

Maquon at this time was the most tolerant and lenient town we ever witnessed. No little "400" or "class society" here then! The man with a flask of "circular saw" whiskey in one pocket and a deck of cards in the other was on a par with the one with a Bible in one pocket and a hymn book in the other!

The fire fiend seems to have had a special spite at Maquon, for she has suffered in the business portion five devastating burnouts, four of which we have witnessed. The one of 1874 to our big financial loss. We also suffered two damaging fires in London Mills and by our sympathy and credulity are carrying now more than \$10,000 of worthless paper. But when I reflect on a remark of an old and intelligent and honored citizen, made years ago, thus, "I do not like Charlie Davis' politics, but I am credibly informed that he gives honest measure and won't cheat children" This saying was made by Wesley Shreeves and is a whole page of eulogy in my favor, and my innate ambition and pride has always admonished me that when I shuffle off this mortal coil that this whole community where I am well-known can so claim as Uncle Wesley Shreeves did--"He gave honest measure and wouldn't cheat children."

Of the business men in Maquon 42 years ago, none are now here except Mace Benson and Davis & McKenney. We become dewy-eyed and dizzy to think what changes "Old Time" has made! Maquon was then rude and reckless, but now her citizens--for civility, hospitality, and morality--will compare favorably with any town in this section. Instead of shanties to do business in we now have elegant brick buildings. Instead of four saloons we have an elegant

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modern church, a costly and capacious schoolhouse, and a splendid Hotel! And two banks, officered by men whose honesty and integrity is beyond question, which guarantees fair treatment and safety to the depositors. And our merchants now liquidate their liabilities with draft instead of concealing their money in their belts when they went to the city to make their purchases.

In early times, Maquon was noted, as she is now, for its admiration for running and trotting horses, and there was a half mile track on the farm where Prosper Morrison now lives and when posters were used to invite the public to witness the championship of such well-known flyers as: "Mollie Jones", "Toby Drum", "Bell Mosier", "Bob Lee" and "Angeline Housh".

They had to call on some out-of-town printing office for the job, but now can boast of a printing press that does such work and issues a weekly paper, edited by its owner, C. M. Nelson, which for neatness and ability is a credit to our village.

(signed)

CHARLIE T. DAVIS

(Pioneer firm of "Davis & McKenney")

(Copied by Charles D. Briggs, Sunday, May 29, 1955--from the "Maquon Chronicle" of Thursday, August 13, 1907.)

