

# Eddie's Gleanings From Lincoln Herald

## February 27, 1879

**Marriages:** John Keys to Maggie Foster  
William Graham to Viola King  
Noah Walker to Susan Atterberry  
John Thomas to Jennie Ambrose

**Births:** Son to Mrs. Richard Jones  
Dau. to Mrs. Jas. T. Brown  
Dau. to Mrs. Henry Shoup  
Dau. to Mrs. John C. Fisher  
Dau. To Mrs. S. M. Guttery  
Son to Mrs. Albert Alspach  
Son to Mrs. G.P. Aylesworth  
Son to Mrs. Wayne J. Jacobs  
Son to Mrs. John Vance  
Son to Solomon Shinbarger  
Son to Mrs. John S. Rigg  
Dau. to Mrs. John Johnson  
Son to Mrs. Charles C. Graham  
Dau. to Mrs. Joseph Semple  
Son to Mrs. William Toomey  
Dau. to Mrs. James W. Simmons  
Son to Mrs. David Mitchell  
Son to Mrs. John F. Braughton  
Dau. to Mrs. Morris M. Kendrick  
Dau. to Mrs. John L. Cowardin

## March 6, 1879

**Marriages:** Henry Finster to Lucy J. Ferris  
Martin Homer to Reka Klaasen  
Jesse F. Harvey to Sarah Hoblitt  
John Shoup to Mary Manger  
William H. Murry to Alice Culp  
Jacob F. Long to Rosie A. Murry

**Deaths:** Mary Volle  
John T. Ward  
August Schmeitz

**Births:** Son to Mrs. Rueben C. Ewing  
Dau. to Mrs. J.T. Green  
Dau. to Mrs. T.T. Ewing  
Twin sons to Mrs. Felix Crawford  
Dau. to Mrs. Lander Wright  
Dau. to Mrs. Emma Dillard

## March 13, 1879

**Deaths:** J.W. Yeazell  
J.M. Nicholson  
William Robert Edgar  
Charles Herbeck  
Harry C. Hendrickson  
Infant of Mrs. Lydia Eberly  
Lina M. Auer

## March 13, 1879 Cont.

**Deaths:** George W. Turley  
Minnie R. Stewart  
William H. Lowe Jr. Infant  
A. Rieman  
A. Alberts

## Marriages:

Warren Armington to Rosamond Kendall

**Births:** Son to Mrs. B.F. Braucher  
Son to Mrs. W.A. Lindamood  
Son to Mrs. Frank Klatt  
Dau. to Mrs. William T. Coultis  
Son to Mrs. Squire Branstuter  
Dau. To Mrs. George Nichols  
Son to Mrs. Andrew Kepler  
Dau. to Mrs. Anthony Dacey  
Dau. to Mrs. J. E. Hammon  
Dau. to Mrs. Alfred Walker  
Son to Mrs. Hilarius Theis  
Dau. to Mrs. I.N. Ewing  
Dau. to Mrs. M.D. Bevan  
Dau. to Mrs. Jerimian Seese  
Son to Mrs. B.F. McDaniel  
Dau. to Mrs. Richard Monnett  
Dau. To Mrs. Christ Witkopf  
Son to Mrs. George Haines  
Dau. to Mrs. Abraham Richards  
Dau. to Mrs. N.L. Laughery  
Son to Mrs. Smith Bracy  
Dau. to Mrs. J.H. Donson

## March 20, 1879

**Deaths:** John W. Ward  
Samuel Fleming  
Mrs. G.W. Wendle

**Births:** Son to Mrs. Tjark Buhs  
Son to Mrs. Anderson Horn  
Dau. To Mrs. James Vance  
Son to Mrs. Franklin Fisk  
Dau. to Mrs. Edgar Hanna  
Son to Mrs. Charles Fusch

## March 27, 1879

## Marriages:

Joseph L. Hoy to Margaret E. Follis  
John Lucas to Susia A. Staley  
John J. Barnes to Dora C. Gordon  
Francis M. Martin to Mrs. Hannah L. Birks  
Harvey Basta to Sarah J. Stanley  
Christopher C. Keller to Mary E. Trimble  
Edward D. Sherwood to Delilah Stotler

## March 27, 1879

**Deaths:** Eliz M. Huston  
Rebecca Broughton  
Mary E. Taylor  
John Donovan  
Carry M. Morley

## Births:

Dau. to Mrs. William Wilmoth  
Son to Mrs. Edwin Baker  
Son to Mrs. Charles S. Giles  
Dau. to Mrs. Clifton Trollop  
Son to Mrs. David Huff  
Son to Mrs. Michael Bulger  
Son to Mrs. Theodore Gardner  
Dau. to Mrs. William Irvine

## April 3, 1879

## Marriages:

Jesse Newman to  
Mrs. Marilda Hooton

William H. Williams to  
Sarah J. Crabtree

George T. Davis to  
Ursula E. Lowry

**Deaths:** John Allen Duncan  
W. Durwood Kiln  
Elizabeth E. Wendle  
James Linder  
Francis M. Hall

## Births:

Son to Mrs. John W. Martling  
Son to Mrs. John W. Johnson  
Son to Mrs. Zacariah T. Taylor  
Son to Mrs. Robert J. Canada  
Dau. to Mrs. John C. Gehres  
Dau. to Mrs. Charles L. Adams  
Son to Mrs. John Sewell  
Dau. to Mrs. Walter P. Sawyer  
Son to Mrs. Timothy L. Shoup  
Dau. to Mrs. David Linacomfelter

## April 10, 1879

## Deaths:

Asel Sweet  
Son of John Danner  
Joseph Lumpf  
D.F. Wright  
Gottlieben Reinhardt  
Henry John Diers  
Elizabeth Daugherty  
Hughey Niewold

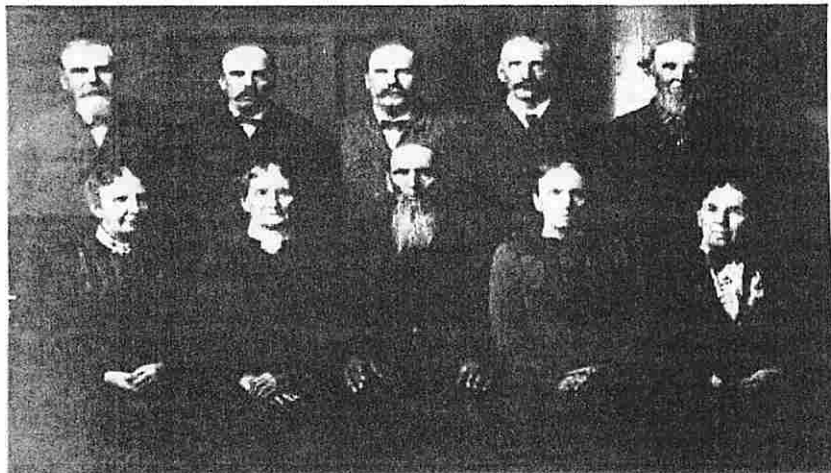
### **"John Musick" by Angie Petro**

**John Musick was one of the earliest pioneers of Logan County, IL. He was born in Wolford Co, KY, March 10, 1807, the youngest son of Jesse and Hannah Gudgel Musick, both natives of Virginia. They were married about 1802. Other siblings included: Polly, Ephraim, Jefferson, Nancy and Abraham. In March 1807 shortly after John was born, Jesse moved his family to Gibson County, IN. He was a volunteer soldier in the War of 1812 and received a wound at the Battle of Tippecanoe in which he died shortly after receiving. Hannah remarried a few years later.**



**John received a limited education in the schools of Gibson Co. From thirteen to eighteen years of age he lived with his brother-in-law John Forbis. In 1825 John moved to what is now Logan Co. IL and farmed in what is known as West Lincoln Township for the remainder of his life. John served as a private in the Black Hawk War.**

**John married Mary Johnson, March 18, 1830 in Sangamon Co, IL and to this union were born 18 children of which only 10 lived to adulthood. They were: Levi J., Sarah Jane (who married Frank Ducan), William H., Mary (who married T.H. Denney), Leanna (who married J.H. Gallagher), John T., Jesse S., Jonathan, Permelia (who married J.P. Staats) and Ephraim. The 1886 History of Logan County, IL. states that at the time it was written John Musick had 80 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, John Musick died January 31, 1888 in Lincoln, IL. He and his wife are buried in Zion Cemetery in Lincoln, IL.**



**Pictured Here are the Children of John & Mary Musick:  
FRONT(L to R): Betty Staats, Jane Duncan, Bill, Lena Gallagher, Mary Denny.  
Back: (L to R): John Thomas, Jesse S., Ephraim, Jonathan, Levi.**



### Central School Memories

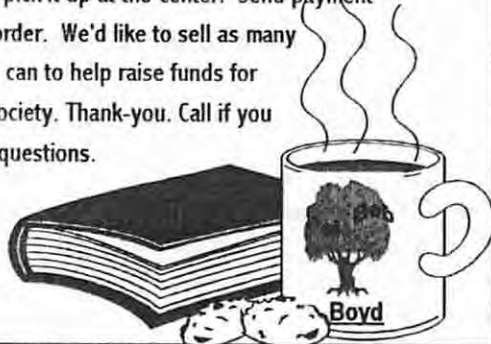
For all of you that graced the halls of Central School at Lincoln, Illinois, we would like for you to submit any experiences of your school years there. We are working to compile the History of Central School and would like your input. If we have enough information, we will form a book.

Thank-you Very Much.

Co-Presidents: Phyllis Bryson & Dorthoy Gleason

### Personalized Coffee Mugs for Sale!

Get your very own personalized Coffee Mug and support our Society! Nice White 10oz Coffee Mugs Hand Painted with a beautiful "Family Tree" look by Phyllis Bryson, to your order. Mugs are \$10.00 with 2 Surnames included. For more names on mug add \$1 each. To order send a letter with what names you would like on Mug. Also add \$4.00 for shipping, if you can't come pick it up at the Center. Send payment with order. We'd like to sell as many as we can to help raise funds for our Society. Thank-you. Call if you have questions.



### INTERNET LINKS

GenForum

[www.genforum.com](http://www.genforum.com)

Family Tree

[www.familytreemaker.com](http://www.familytreemaker.com)

Family Forest

[www.familyforest.com](http://www.familyforest.com)

Roots Web

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)

Ohio Genealogy

[www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org)



### Eddie's Gleanings from Lincoln Herald Cont.

April 10, 1879

**Births:** Son to Mrs. Sammel W. David

Dau. to Mrs. Charles W.

Ewing

Dau. to Mrs. W.C.R. Kasbier

Dau. to Mrs. Euke Hayenga

Son to Mrs. Sammel Coe

Son to Mrs. G.W. Dominic

Dau. to Mrs. R. T. Hall

Dau. to Mrs. Louis Teller

Dau. to Mrs. John M. Jones

April 17, 1879

**Deaths:** Grace Jones, James M. Nicholson, James W. Yeazell, Dorrel F. Wrights, Mary E. Chamberlain.

**Marriages:**

Uriah McDonald to Mrs. Nancy J. Bigger

Arthur C. Mountjoy to Linnie Duncan

John Conradi to Katie Harms

Columbus Sams to Annie Clark

**Births:** Son to Mrs. Louis R. Smith

Son to Mrs. Harman Barker

Dau. to Mrs. Joseph A. Uhr

Son to Mrs. Charles Starkey

Son to Mrs. Arthur P. Miller

### Donations:

Paul Orr donated the Orr Family History Book, Love Family Letters, Decatur Genealogical Society Quarterlies, Mercer County, PA Post Times, Louisa County, Iowa Newsletters, ten Everton's Genealogical Helpers, 2 photo Albums,

20 Hawkeye Heritage Quarterlies, Orr Family Heritage Book, Past Times, Family History Catalog, Genealogy Bulletin and 3 Genealogy Books.

Yvonne Janssen donated a Polaroid Automatic 103 land Camera.

Robert Cross donated Emden Centennial Book, Centennial plate for Emden, Plate with St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Emden, IL.

Brent A. Wielt (Historic Sites Manager) donated a Rx FORM dated July 24, 1908.

Margaret Lahr donated her brother's WWII military uniform.

Ivan Ray donated two glass show cases and one large file cabinet.

Cheryl Rothwell donated Federal and State census records for Edwards County, IL 1820-1840.

Barb Seegle donated the address labels for Winter Newsletter, 2 tri-fold story boards, and 8 yards of patriotic fabric.

Catherine Solman donated a generous Monetary Gift.

### Obituary of Inez Levi

Lincoln Daily News-Herald Aug. 20, 1906

Inez, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Levi, died Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at the home of the parents, on Seventeenth street, aged 1 year and 6 months. The cause of death was Brain Fever. Funeral Tuesday at 10 O'clock at the home. Burial in Union Cemetery.

### 2002 Pal-Am National Conference

June 27-29, 2002, The National Conference of Palatines to America will be in Springfield, IL. Topics Include: "Rivers to Trails To Roads to Canals to Trains.", "You Don't Have to be English to Have Royal Blood.", "Discovering Real Stories of Your Immigrant Ancestors".

For More details -Phone 309-691-0292 or Email: [RalphKroehler@prodigy.net](mailto:RalphKroehler@prodigy.net)



## THE TRIPLE MURDER

A crime came to light on Sunday, August 20, 1882, that was characterized by the press and citizens as the most atrocious ever perpetrated in Logan County.

It occurred on a farm two miles south of Chestnut, the victims were Charles McMahan, Robert Matheny and John Carlock, the last two being hired men of McMahan. The McMahan house stood alone in the field, one-half mile from any road, making it a fat scene for such a crime. There were no fences and no garden, the building standing in an untidy clump of weeds. The house itself was a one-story building 18x30 feet. It was never painted, and was black with the storms of 30 winters. The interior of this gloomy place was equally forbidding.

The last time the three men were seen alive was on Friday evening, when the neighbors noticed them at work stacking oats. Several days later a neighbor, David Long, became quite perturbed at McMahan's horse being left in the corral unattended and it seemed to be trying to warn someone.

David Long went to the house and noticed quilts were hung at the windows, and that some things were out of place. Frank Lyon and Alfred Ayres afterward joined in the search, which lasted, perhaps, two hours, when, led by a sickening odor from a clump of tall weeds near some pens, they came upon the bodies of the three slain men. All three were found lying on their backs with their throats cut from ear to ear. All were blindfolded and gagged with their hands tied behind their backs and their feet hobbled. Their hands had clutched the weeds beneath them so tightly in their death agony that the weeds had to be cut before they could be removed. "Dead men tell no tales."

Governor Cullom offered \$200 each for the arrest of the murderer. The Board of Supervisors offered \$1,000 reward, in addition the relatives of McMahan offered \$500; residents of Latham and vicinity \$500; and Mt. Pulaski \$500, a total of \$6,600.00.

These heavy rewards attracted a number of detectives and many arrests were made during the succeeding months. No evidence sufficient to convict anyone was found. January 1, 1884, the matter was placed by the authorities directly into the hands of the Pinkerton Agency, and they arrested J. H. Hall. The jury found Hall guilty and sent him to the penitentiary for life.

Hall professed his innocence up until the time he died, and the guards of the prison believed that an innocent man suffered for the crime that someone else committed.

## TOMBSTONE

Just inside the main gate of Laenna Cemetery, one mile west of Chestnut, stands a monument erected to the memory of Charley McMahan, Robert Matheny and John Carlock, which in addition to the names, bears this inscription: "McMahan murdered for his money August 18, 1882, by a person or persons unknown. McMahan age (46 years and 2 months), Robert Matheny (20 years) and John Carlock (17 years)."



**The Horse That Dug a Well (A Supplement to *The Triple Murder*)**

"The horse that dug a well" which leads up to a remarkable feat of a dumb animal.

The incident took place at the murdered man's home 2-3/4 miles southwest of Chestnut. Mr. McMahan had sold a load of hogs in Lincoln and was supposed to have the receipts of the sale on his person. (This led into the preceding story.) He had put his horse away for the night tied to his manger and the barn doors closed and fastened.

A neighbor who lived nearby was passing the place and noticed the horse in the barnlot acting in a very peculiar manner. The horse ran to the fence and seemed to be trying to warn him something was wrong. This is when the search for McMahan and his hired men began.

The horse had broken loose from the manger, desperate from three days of starvation and thirst and had managed to batter down the barn door, thus gaining access to the barnlot which was strongly fenced and there was no water to be found inside the enclosure. He had selected a spot and began to paw the earth and by digging with his front feet and walking in a circle with his back feet he had dug a hole about 2-1/2 feet deep. Some thought the horse's instinct told him that water could be found in that spot. Accordingly a well was dug there and at 18 feet an adequate supply of water was found and the well has never been known to fail. Mr. Ben Schroth (father of Wilbur C. and Norbert Schroth) had drunk water from this well and had the story verified. This site is still occupied by the Schroth family today.

--The Lincoln Weekly Times, T. H. Stokes, Publisher, Lincoln IL Thurs., June 5, 1884

**Genealogical Gleanings from The Lincoln Herald**

Submitted by Eddie Dirks

October 31, 1878

Births: Son to Mrs. John **Layman**, dau. to Mrs. William **Mahan**, son to Mrs. James **McAvin**, son to Mrs. Eratus **Mundy** and dau. to Mrs. John C. **Reed**

November 7, 1878

Deaths: Anna **Ivey**, John **Anderson**, Harvey Ray **Laughery**, Emma **Martain**, Mona May **Lewis**, Sarah J. **Barker**, Mrs. John **Schilling**, Bennie **Lanham** and Isaac **Booker**

Births: Dau. to Mrs. William H. **Crain**, dau. to Mrs. Frederick **Joint**, dau. to Mrs. Frank **Rogers**, dau. to Mrs. Jacob **Shyer**, son to Mrs. William B. **Putnam**, dau. to Mrs. Geo. **Ewing**, dau. to Mrs. Edward **Flinn**, dau. to Mrs. Frank **Stillman**, son to Mrs. Henry **Brown**, dau. to Mrs. Frank X. **Streiker**, son to Mrs. Fred **Marvin**, son to Mrs. Martin **Moriure**, son to Mrs. William **Windle**, dau. to Mrs. Eugene **Riley**, son to Mrs. Thomas E. **Shafer**, dau. to Mrs. John **Weaver**

November 14, 1878

Deaths: Mrs. **Keeney**, John **Riddle**, William R. **Sponsler**, Rosetta **Perry**, Myrtle **Sypult**

Births: Dau. to Mrs. John **Luz**, son to Mrs. Tjark G. **Riemann**, son to Mrs. Heindert **Ubbenga**, son to Mrs. Peter **Hitchell**, son to Mrs. John **Carmen**, son to Mrs. William **Barnum**, dau. to Mrs. Claas **Gerper**, son to Mrs. Edward A. **Church**, son to Mrs. Newton C. **Sutphin**, dau. to Mrs. John H. **Clay**, dau. to Mrs. John **Garner**, son to Mrs. William **Johnston**, son to Mrs. George **Wiley**

**Genealogical Gleanings, November 14, 1878 cont'd**

**Marriages:** James S. **McMath** & Mary L. **Musick**, John O. **Mason** & Mrs. Delilah **Murry**, Geo. W. **Billings** & Fannie **Billings**, Adolp **Ruf** & Ellen E. **Roach**, Steven **Nichols** & Mollie **Thompson**, John **Joyce** & Mrs. Rosalie **Alexander**, Adam **Lochbaum** & Mary **Coats**, Paul **Hartwig** & Lena **Ahrens**, Henry M. **Steadley** & Lena **Hepperley**

History of Zion Lutheran Church on the last page

November 21, 1878

**Births:** Dau. to Mrs. John **Arends**, dau. to Mrs. John **Stints**, dau. to Mrs. John **Mickle**, son to Mrs. Samuel N. **McClure**, dau. to Mrs. John **Snyder**, son to Mrs. David M. **Tucker**, dau. to Mrs. Alexander **Hughes**

**Marriages:** Frank **Bumcrots** & Rosa **Hawley**, C. M. **Smith** & Caroline **Hannah**

**Deaths:** John E. **Glines**, Benjamin **Lanham**, Madison **Rogers**

November 28, 1878

**Deaths:** Louis **Rock**, Susan **Valentine**, G. O. **Caughman**, Eva Etta **Beers** and Susanna **Tyrell**

**Births:** Dau. to Mrs. John R. **Ash**, Twin daus. to Mrs. Enoch **Perkins**, dau. to Mrs. John L.

**Wren**, son to Mrs. Andrew **Brock**, dau. to Mrs. Cornelia **DeVries**

**Marriages:** William R. **Smith** & Nancy J. **Brown/Bunn**, Richard E. **Wilson** & Josephine

**Hoagland**, Joseph C. **Reece** & Helen A. **Lilly**, Franklin **Lucas** & Mary A. **Ingram**

December 5, 1878

**Deaths:** Nancy **Lemley**, Albert **Ring**, Haltu **Barrett**, Allen M. **Smith**

**Births:** Twin sons to Mrs. Peter **Maus**, dau. to Mrs. W. W. **Richmond**, son to Mrs. Heinrich **Ott**, dau. to Mrs. Elizabeth E. **Woodside**, dau. to Mrs. Wm. **Nymion**, dau. to Mrs. Frank M. **Lyon**, dau. to Mrs. August **Wilmerth**, son to Mrs. John **McColry**, dau. to Mrs. Howard H. **Gilchrist**

**Marriages:** Rev. L. P. **Crawford** & Helen **Maltby**, W. T. **Wright** & Lucinda J. **Gasaway**, Wesley **Montgomery** & Emma **Gibbs**, Newton **Coy** & Sarah **Simons**, H. C. **Hunter** & Deborah A. **Burdick**

December 12, 1878

**Deaths:** Meadows **Child**, J. H. **Weaver**, Albert **King**, Hattie **Barrett**

**Marriages:** Robert M. **League** & Mrs. Cornelia **Potts**, Jacob **Stanfield** & Elizabeth **Elliot**, Francis M. **Larison** & Mary E. **Levalley**

**Births:** Dau. to Mrs. James M. **Baker**, dau. to Mrs. Andy **Tomaldson**, dau. to Mrs. William **Simpson**, dau. to Mrs. Frederick **Miller**, son to Mrs. Charles A. **Clark**, son to Mrs. Harlan W. **Sanford**, son to Mrs. Charles **Gather**, dau. to Mrs. George **Arnel**, dau. to Mrs. William **Cline**, son to Mrs. William **Harman**, son to Mrs. Charles F. **Heiserman**, dau. to Mrs. Joseph N. **Horran**, child to Mrs. Adam **Briney**, son to Mrs. D. H. **Harts**

December 19, 1878

**Deaths:** Dau. of Thomas **Billings**, dau. of Mary **Garnes**, Mary **Stillman**, Barney **Wachter**, Mary **Woland**, Wm. **Spnsler**

**Marriages:** John W. **Harmon** & Nancy E. **Musick**, August **Lauterbach** & Sophia **Herberger**, William **Smith** & Clara **Henrickson**

**Genealogical Gleanings, December 19, 1878 cont'd**

**Births:** Son to Mrs. Gebke **Oltmanns**, son to Mrs. Henry **Whartman**, dau. to Heinrich **Alberts**, son to Mrs. Anton **Oltmanns**, dau. to Mrs. Levi **Johnson**, son to Mrs. John **Pigman**, son to Mrs. Benjamin **Perrine**

No Issue for December 26, 1878

January 2, 1879

**Deaths:** Mrs. Wiley **Buckles**, Mrs. Ira **Martin**, Mrs. Albert **Kaughman**, Nicholas **Arnold**, Catherine **Turner**, Harry **Talbott** (murdered by S. S. **Bell**), Anna **Junger**, Joseph G. **Starr**

**Births:** Dau. to Mrs. John **Gabbert**, son to Mrs. John **Smith**

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**Tips on Preserving Your Documents****Tip #1 – Don't Laminate**

Although it seems like a solution it actually accelerates the chemical aging of documents and other paper items. Use encapsulation or archival quality containers instead of lamination for document protection.

**Tip #2 – Photo Sleeves**

Enclosing your photographs in archival quality transparent sleeves will make them both visually enjoyable and protected. Brand names to look for include Mylar and Print File. If your items are fragile, include a piece of acid free board or acid free folder stock for support. Archival quality paper envelopes are also acceptable for long term storage.

**Tip #3 – Archival Products**

You need to use archival quality storage materials.

--from Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium

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**Research Preservation**

Would you like to have the result of your genealogical efforts preserved and/or make it more accessible to others? If you donate a copy of your family history to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT, they will microfilm it for you.

They must have written authorization from the copyright holder (usually author) to do this. A copy will be kept permanently in the Granite Mountain Vault, and one copy will be kept in the main library in Salt Lake. Other copies will be made for circulation to branch centers throughout the world as requested.

You may purchase up to three additional copies for yourself at \$9 each if you request them at the time you send the original. The whole process takes 10-12 weeks. For further information, write to the Genealogical Dept., 35 North West Temple St., Salt Lake City UT 84150, Attn. Donations.

--Elgin (IL) Genealogical Society, June 2000 25:2



**Thank You to the Following for Items Donated to the Research Center.**

1. Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Netoff of Huntsville, TX, 77340, donated a Hammond United States History Atlas and a Hammond Historical Atlas of the world.
2. Jean and George Cypher of Lincoln donated two fans, one large oscillating and one round floor fan.
3. Paul R. Orr of Lincoln donated a computerized Family file on 251 micro film fiche and 30 editions of Everton's Genealogical Helper.
4. William and Diane Detmers of Normal, IL, donated Family Tree Maker, ver. 6,7 and a German to English – English to German dictionary, also a list of German words used in official documents, German to English translation.

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**The Lincoln Courier, Friday, April 8, 1898 – Twice-a-Week****Bitten by a Mad Horse****Horse, Two Pigs and a Dog Slain on Fogarty Place**

Tuesday afternoon James Fogarty, a boy about 17 years old, living on the farm of William Fogarty Sr., five miles south of Lincoln, was severely bitten by a mad horse. Besides the boy being bitten, there were two pigs, two goats, a dog and another horse bitten. The boy on Tuesday afternoon was working in the barn yard, when he noticed his 4-year-old colt with a young pig in its mouth, swinging the same many times in the air. He picked up a stick of wood and made the horse drop the pig, only to see it grab a young goat. The boy finally forced the mad horse into the barn after it had jumped a couple of fences and tied it. Young Fogarty shortly after went into the barn and was horrified to see that the wild animal had chewed large pieces of flesh from its own chest. While he was standing there thinking what best could be done the animal jumped over the manger and planted his teeth through the boy's coat and shirt and into the flesh of the left arm between the wrist and elbow. Aid came quickly, and the animal, with others that had been bitten, were securely locked up.

Treatment was afforded the boy and Dr. T. A. Donald dispatched from Lincoln to examine the animals. The next morning Dr. Donald pronounced the horse suffering with a genuine case of rabies, as were also two pigs, two goats and a dog, all of which were at once shot.

It is thought that, although the boy's arm is badly swollen and giving him much pain, he will not suffer serious results, as the horse's teeth passed through his coat sleeve before piercing the flesh. The young man went to Chicago for treatment.

The horse which bit the boy was bitten a week ago by Mr. Fogarty's large Newfoundland dog, which became mad and was shot.

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"Immigrants are heroes who made an adventure on our behalf." --Garrison Keillor in *Newsweek*

"Old genealogists never die – they just lose their census." –Assn. of Professional Genealogists

ALABAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



EDDIE'S GLEANINGSJanuary 20, 1881

**Marriages:** Christopher G. Brady & Isabelle White, Samuel H. Florville & Mrs. Annie Wilson, William H. Rice & Florence M. Work, Phillip Swagu & Mrs. Mahala Jones, Henry Horn & Lydia Harbold, Frank E. Livermore & Laura A. Willis, Jefferson C. Harkrader & Sara E. Higgins, Lammert Foortman & Hilka Etmond

**Births:** Son to Mrs. James T. Hardy, dau to John C. Martin, son & dau to Mrs. Miletus Burnside, son to Mrs. John Carmody, son to Mrs. MP Carlock, son to Mrs. Isaac N Ewing

January 27, 1881

**Deaths:** Son of Len Reed, Emily Crayton, Boston Hoblit, Nancy Kern, James C. Musick

February 03, 1881

**Deaths:** Child of Andrew Buoy, Mrs. George Veaille, Mrs. Samuel Biggs, Margaret S. Ragsdale, John B Davidson, Mattie L Roberts

**Marriages:** Solomon Shinbarger & Mary AE Tohy, Frederick Jencen & Rosa Ames, Rueben W. Guy & Mollie A Beck, Johnson W. Dowdy & Mrs. EP Killebrew, Mark A Simpson & Mary J. Tribbett, William A Stewart & Katie Wodetzky, James A Sisk & Sadie A Carson, George W. Clark & Lillie F Brooker, Joseph E Richmond & Emma Britt, Perry Albert Groves & Alice Gunther

**Births:** Son to Mrs. John H Hawes, son to Mrs. Benjamin F Shipley, dau to Mrs. Frank Deuterman, son of Mrs. WH Gullett, dau to Mrs. John M. Copett, son to Mrs. Allen Chance, son to Mrs. S.O. McKinnon, son to Mrs. Henry Pettitt, son to Mrs. Jacob Leininger, son to Mrs. Edmund Molloy, son to Mrs. NL Laughery, son to Mrs. Charles Oglesby, son to Mrs. John A. Gilchrist, son to Mrs. SW Carroll

February 10, 1881

**Deaths:** Lucy Tomlinson, Elizabeth Gilchrist, and James H Buswell

**Marriages:** Jacob Eberle & Maggie Meyer

**Births:** Dau to Mrs. WT Coultis, Dau to Mrs. Harry M. Beidler

February 17, 1881

**Deaths:** Allen J Cutlip, Hattie Musick, and Maggie Hargodine

**Births:** Twin sons to Mrs. Robert Berger, son to Mrs. Amaziah Bently, son to Mrs. Herschel VJ Chadwick, son to Mrs. Anthony Dacy, dau to Mrs. Cornelius DeFries, son to Mrs. Joseph M. Horrem, son to Mrs. Wilhelm CR Kasebier, son to Mrs. Cornelius D. Lambert, son to Mrs. Robert Rock, son to Mrs. Comley Starkey

February 24, 1881

**Deaths:** Dau of Mrs. Halloway, James Worrell, Mike McCabe, F.S. Dyer

**Marriages:** Robert M. Wiley & Mary A. Sims, John E. Hoblit & Mrs. Presh Bush, John J. Johnston & Maggie L. Keys, Martin Pluth & Lizzie Amberg, John A. Snyder & Emma F. Howen, John S. Mason & Lizzie Horn, Philander Simcoe & Mrs. E.W. Dawson, John Quinsenberry & M.C. Mountjoy, Elijah Shull & May Higgins, Charles Schuckmakm & L.A. Joesting, John Crouse & Kate C. Rhorer, William J. Mann & Delilah J. Buckles, John Hammerton & Carrie A. Fortman, Charles A. Simonton & Ada M. Smith, William Green & Emma Horton, Timothy Downey & Emma Horton, Timothy Downey & Mamie Griffin, Charles W. Layman & Lucy Barr, Louis Lashen & Mary Evans

**Births:** Dau to Mrs. William Theobald, son to Mrs. William L. Windle, dau to Mrs. John Shields, son to Mrs. Peter L. Edwards, dau to Mrs. Henry M. Steidley, son to Mrs. Henry B. Pankey, son to Mrs. James Grennan, son to Mrs. Wesley Hamrick, son to Mrs. Joseph H. Wilhite, son to Mrs. Clarence L. Waddell, dau to Mrs. H.W.L. Middlecoff, dau to Mrs. John A. Spainhour, dau to Mrs. Gilaruis Theis, son to Mrs. John H. Reed

March 03, 1881

**Deaths:** William Dougherty, Paris Horney, James E. Miller, Michael Loetterle

**Marriages:** John C. England & Mary F. buckles, Allen Bauman & Mary J. McCollinson, Eugene A. Wright & Emma R. Garrard, Edwin O. Fletcher & Mary E. Webster, Brow Gatewood & Mary Robinson, Edwin O Chapman & Ada H. Morrow, Gustave Schott & Mrs. Margaret Damerlein, Henry Hensley & Louisa J. Fletcher, John C. Morrow & Mary A. Carrigan



## **PATRIOTISM IN LOGAN COUNTY**

### **In Honor of Our Servicemen**

**Memorial Day** (Decoration Day) originated during the Civil War when a group of women chose May 30 to decorate the soldiers' graves. It is believed that a Virginia woman, Cassandra Oliver Moncure, was largely responsible. Being of French origin, she may have chosen May 30 because in France this date was "The Day of the Ashes". This French Memorial Day commemorated the return of Napoleon Bonaparte's remains to France from St. Helena. Major General John A. Logan in 1868 named May 30 as a special day for honoring the graves of Union soldiers. Logan served as commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. The Grand Army of the Republic was in charge of Memorial Day celebrations in the Northern States for many years. The American Legion took over this duty after World War I.

**Flag Day** is celebrated on June 14 in memory of the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. Flag Day was first officially observed in 1877 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the selection of the Flag. In 1885, Bernard J. Cigrand (1866 -1932), a school teacher in Waubeka, WS, began a lifetime fight to establish Flag Day as an annual national celebration. President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day as an annual national celebration in his proclamation issued on May 30, 1916.

*Information from the World Book Encyclopedia/Transcribed by Carol Radespiel*

### **The Cronin Brothers**

The heroes behind the name of Lincoln's VFW post

*The Courier "Life Styles" November 3, 2004/ transcribed by Carol Radespiel*

The Post was officially mustered into the Veterans of Foreign Wars Nov. 6, 1929 located at 915 Fifth St. The Cronin brothers, Peter and Edward, for whom the post was named, were killed during WWI. Their headstones are in Holy Cross Cemetery. During WWI Peter served in France with the 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 35<sup>th</sup> Army Division. Peter Cronin was killed in action September 26, 1918. Edward Cronin was killed just 17 days later, October 13, 1918, during the Muesse Argonne offensive in France. Less than a month later, on November 11, 1918, the war was over. Peter and Edward were awarded the Purple Heart. When the local VFW organized, the Cronin family gave permission for the post to be designated "Cronin Brothers Post" in their honor. 60 years ago the post met in a little white house between Lincoln Theater and Vaughn's Coca Cola Bottling Plant. The next location was above a tavern at the corner of Pulaski and Kankakee streets. Then the post was over by Alvey's Drug Store above a fish market. In the 1920's, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary bought the property at 915 Fifth Street, where the current home was erected on the site of the historic Deskins' Tavern, in Postville. They met in the basement and in 1957 or 1958 a top was built. Members are now planning a \$100,000 update that will include installing an elevator and handicapped-accessible restrooms. The kitchen will be remodeled and a new walk-in cooler will be added in the back room.

The VFW is the oldest military service organization in the United States. On September 29, 1899, 13 veterans of the US 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment met in a tailor's shop in Columbus, Ohio, to form the American Veterans of Foreign Service. Their purpose was to address the health concerns and care of Spanish American War veterans. In 1914, that organization merged with two additional veteran groups to form VFW.

### **Scroggin-Gee Memorial Post # 777 Mt. Pulaski**

"It's not the price you pay to belong-it's the price you paid to be eligible to belong".

This post is named in honor of **Michael Scroggin** (s/o Wilford & Margaret Schick Scroggin); and **Raymond Gee** (s/o Raymond & Verna Centers Gee) they gave their lives as the supreme sacrifice for their country during the Viet Nam War. The post was chartered 21 April 1969. Post # 777's Auxiliary charter was signed 13 November 1972.

### **Ryman-Fuiten American Legion Post #447 Mt. Pulaski, Illinois**

"No greater honor hath any man than to lay down his life in service to God and Country".

A charter was signed 12 Jan 1920 establishing the Ryman-Fuiten American Legion Post # 447 at Mt. Pulaski. The post was established with the above quote in mind. It was named in honor of Herbert R. Ryman, Mt. Pulaski, and Zachary T Fuiten, Lake Fork who were killed in duty during WWI. (Continued on page 19)

**Civil War Ancestor Information**

Submitted by Priscilla Wilkins Hassen  
In Spring Quarterly 1983

**James Wilkins**

James Wilkins was born 15 January 1841, Logan County, Illinois, a son of Bryant and Catherine Altic Wilkins. He joined the army 16<sup>th</sup> August 1861, in Atlanta, Illinois. He was assigned as private in Captain Mead's company "F", 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Illinois Infantry Volunteers.

He was killed in action 31 December 1862 in the evening at Murfreesboro, TN. This was the "Battle of Stone's river". They engaged in battle from 30 December 1862 to 4 January 1863. The Regiment lost in this engagement—34 killed, 100 wounded, 34 missing.

In 1865, two years after the battle, the scattered Union dead were removed from their battlefield and camp gravesites to the newly established national cemetery—"Stone's River National Cemetery". James was removed from his battlefield grave "F" 74 to a redesigned plot. Section G, Grave 2760.

**Abraham Wilkins**

Abraham Wilkins, brother of James Wilkins, was born 15 June 1842. Logan County, Illinois. Abraham enlisted in the army along with brother, James, 16 August 1861 in Atlanta, Illinois for three years in Captain Mead's Company "F", 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Illinois Infantry Volunteers.

His military records show that as of 20 December 1862 he was driving a team. He was mustered out 28 February 1864. He then reenlisted as a veteran volunteer 29 February 1864 for 3 years in 16<sup>th</sup> March 1864 Ooltewah, Tennessee. He was promoted to corporal 23 March 1865. He was given daily duty as Regiment Color Bearer starting 17 June 1865. He was mustered out—Victoria, Texas, 20 March 1866. While on furlough in Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois, he married Minerva Elizabeth Altic, 12 March 1865.

To this family 7 children were born. He and his family moved to Kansas in 1884. Abraham died 26 November 1932 at age 90, 5 months, 11 days. He is buried in Pleasanton Cemetery, Pleasanton, Linn County Kansas.

James and Abraham Wilkins were uncles of Priscilla Wilkins Hassen.

**HUMPHREY SCROGGIN**

Born: 1763 in the Carolinas

Died July 1845, Logan County, Illinois.

Buried: Steenberg, Mt. Pulaski Township.

Spouse: Sarah Kirby

Service: Private: Virginia – Served in Captain S. Tarrant's Company with Major George Waller, Col. Abram Penn's Regiment. In 1781, his regiment was ordered from Henry County, Virginia to the assistance of General Edward Stevens and General Nathaniel Greene at the battle of Guilford Court House. He was also at the siege of Yorktown.

Pension: R9362 (Virginia)

Residence: Living in Sangamon County, Illinois when pension claim was rejected for "not having had six months service".

Sources: DAR, Patriot Index, Pension

**The name of the above veteran appears on a plaque in the Logan County Court House, Lincoln, Illinois along with James Turley, placed by the Abraham Lincoln Chapter of the DAR on June 27, 1975.**

**HAIL TO OUR VETERANS- THEN AND NOW!**

**"Diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have your way."**

(Continued from page 15)

The Ladies Auxiliary was then chartered on 14 February 1923 and remains an intricate part of the Legion, Post # 447.

The male descendants of the Legion members signed a Charter on 10 July 1984-forming the **Ryman- Fuiten Sons of the American Legion**. They continue working to preserve the principles for which America stands and to ensure that America will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all". The last surviving WWI Legion member of Post #447 was Antone "Tony" Wachter, born 1896, near Latham and died 17 Dec. 1988

**GAR-1883 Samuel Walker Post # 205 Mt. Pulaski, Illinois**

Samuel A. Walker (s/o James Walker) of Mt. Pulaski was one of six sons who fought in the Civil War, 3 of these sons died while serving. Post # 205 named their Post after Samuel Walker-he served in Co H, 7<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. He was promoted to Corporal for gallantry in action, and was killed at Allatoona Pass, Georgia during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.

*Mt. Pulaski information provided by Phyllis Bryson*

.....

*The following was contributed by Dorothy Gleason*

**PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**For God and Country**

*We associate ourselves together for the following purpose:*

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

**LEGION AUXILIARY PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN**

**For God and Country**

*We associate ourselves together for the following purpose:*

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

**Logan County American Legion Post Commanders**

Atlanta 341-Leon Renfro  
Chestnut-Beason 848-  
Wayne Rodman  
Elkhart 616 – Charles Mathews  
Emden 506- Mike Kavanaugh  
Hartsburg 1146 –  
Wayne Coffey

Lincoln 263 – Jim Sloan  
Middletown 672-  
Archie Brown  
Mt. Pulaski 447-  
Charles "Chuck" McQue  
New Holland 715 –  
David Coers

Department Headquarters  
The American legion  
Department of Illinois  
PO Box 2910  
Bloomington, IL 61702  
Ph. 309-633-0361



## AN EARLY SETTLER OF LOGAN COUNTY

### NATURALIZATION OF FREDERICK SCHAUB

In the matter of the Naturalization of Frederick Schaub, an alien, Be it remembered that On the 11<sup>th</sup> day March in the year of our Lord one Thousand and eight hundred and 90 personally appeared before Hon. J.T. Hoblit presiding Judge of the County Court of the County of Logan and state aforesaid, the same being a Court of Record, having and exercising common law jurisdiction, a Seal and a Clerk and sitting Judicially for the dispatch of business, at the Court House in Lincoln in the County aforesaid Frederick Schaub an alien born, free, white, male person, above the age of twenty one years and applied to the said Court to be admitted to become a Naturalized Citizen of the United States of America, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform rule of Naturalization and to repeal the Acts heretofore approved the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1802. And in further additions to an act to establish a uniform rule of naturalization and to repeal the Acts passed in the subject passed May 26<sup>th</sup> 1824 and the said Frederick Schaub having thereupon produced to the Court, Record testimony of his intention to become a citizen of the United States according to the provisions of the said several Acts of Congress and the Court being satisfied, a will from the oath of the said Frederick Schaub as from the testimony of Frank W. Kiest and Adolph Schroeder who are known to be citizens of the United States, that the said has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for at least five years last past and at least one year last past within the State of Ill. And that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the deed order, well being and happiness the same and two years and upwards having elapsed since the said Frederick Schaub reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention as afore said IT WAS ORDERED that the said Frederick Schaub be permitted to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the usual oath whereby he renounced all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatever and more particularly to The Emperor of Germany whereof he was heretofore a subject, which said Oath, having been administered to the said Frederick Schaub by the Clerk of the said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said Frederick Schaub of the said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said Frederick be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges, and immunities of a Naturalized citizen of the United States and that the same be certified by Naturalized citizen of the United States and that the same be certified the Clerk of this Court, under the Seal of the said Court accordingly, the Clerk of this Court, under the Seal of the said Court accordingly,

ATTEST C. W. Knapp clerk

Note: Because of the law, not permitting a copy of the actual document, I submit this as proof of Frederick Schaub's citizenship record as copied by myself from the records of the Circuit Clerk of Logan County, Lincoln, Ill.

Betty A. Emmons March 13, 1979

\*\*\*\*\*

(Donations continued from page 15)

**Gerri McKinley:** One white Avon after shave bottle & Abraham Lincoln figurine

**Mr. & Mrs. James Griffith:** donated a large collection of Abraham Lincoln books in memory of his father.

*We would like to thank our patrons for their support and generous gifts!*

Trivia Answer: Elkhart



## First Wagon & Buggy Shop

In 1865 the Sheer's Wagon and Buggy Shop opened in Postville, Illinois. John Sheer was an early entrepreneur and willing to work hard for what would become a "family" business. When the business became a success, he took on a partner. The business then became Sheer & Schweikert. After John Sheer's death his wife managed the business until their son, Eugene, was able to take over. It was moved to the corner of Broadway and McLean, in 1869, where the present day Post Office now stands. After almost 40 years it was to be relocated again, this time to 716 Broadway Street, 1909. The three story brick building had an elevator to move cars between the first and second floors. It was told that one of the employees put a car in gear going forward, instead of reverse, when doing so; he ended up on the first floor so shook up that he went home for the rest of the day. Nothing was injured except for his pride.

By 1925 horses and buggies were rapidly being replaced and it was at this time that Arthur Gimbel bought the business from Mr. Sheer. Keeping the Sheer's family name, he operated with the same employees and continued to service the buggy and wagon trade. It was 1930; Gimbel was looking into the future, consequently he began selling auto parts to keep pace with demand for automobile service. It became the first auto parts store in Logan County. During WWII, because the craftsmen at Sheer's could sometimes be called upon to make the part, people of Logan County came when they couldn't get a part anywhere else. On Jan. 20, 1947, at the end of the war, Vernon Gehlbach came to Sheer's. He took a job as an auto parts salesman. Vernon Gehlbach or "Gillie" was one of 4 men in the parts department. At this time there were 5 mechanics and 5 body men, a front end man and a blacksmith.

At the time of the Centennial Celebration of Lincoln, Illinois, Sheer's had been in business for 71 years. They served customers throughout the

entire Central Illinois area. In 1954, Gimbel sold an interest of the company to Vernon Gehlbach and Joseph Gormick. That realignment led to the name change of Sheer's Auto Supply. The business was incorporated in 1970. Gormick died in 1989 and Gimbel had already retired leaving Gehlbach the only owner still active in the business.

Vernon started a "going out-of-business sale" on January 20, 1991. This was 44 years to the day after starting at Sheer's. At the age of 71 years, he closed the business. The building was purchased by the Lincoln Sand and Gravel Company (Orr family). Because the building was too far gone for renovation Lincoln Sand and Gravel Company planned to tear it down and sell the lot. "Gillie" summed up his feelings with one word, "Progress", when asked about the planned demolition.

Sheer's diversified services and willingness to serve their customers greatly contributed to the longevity and success of the company.

(\*On display at the Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society, donated by Vernon, is a blue print of an old car that was manufactured in Lincoln at the Sheer's business. )

Written by Phyllis Vaughn -Bryson

Sheers on the corner of Broadway & McLean







OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

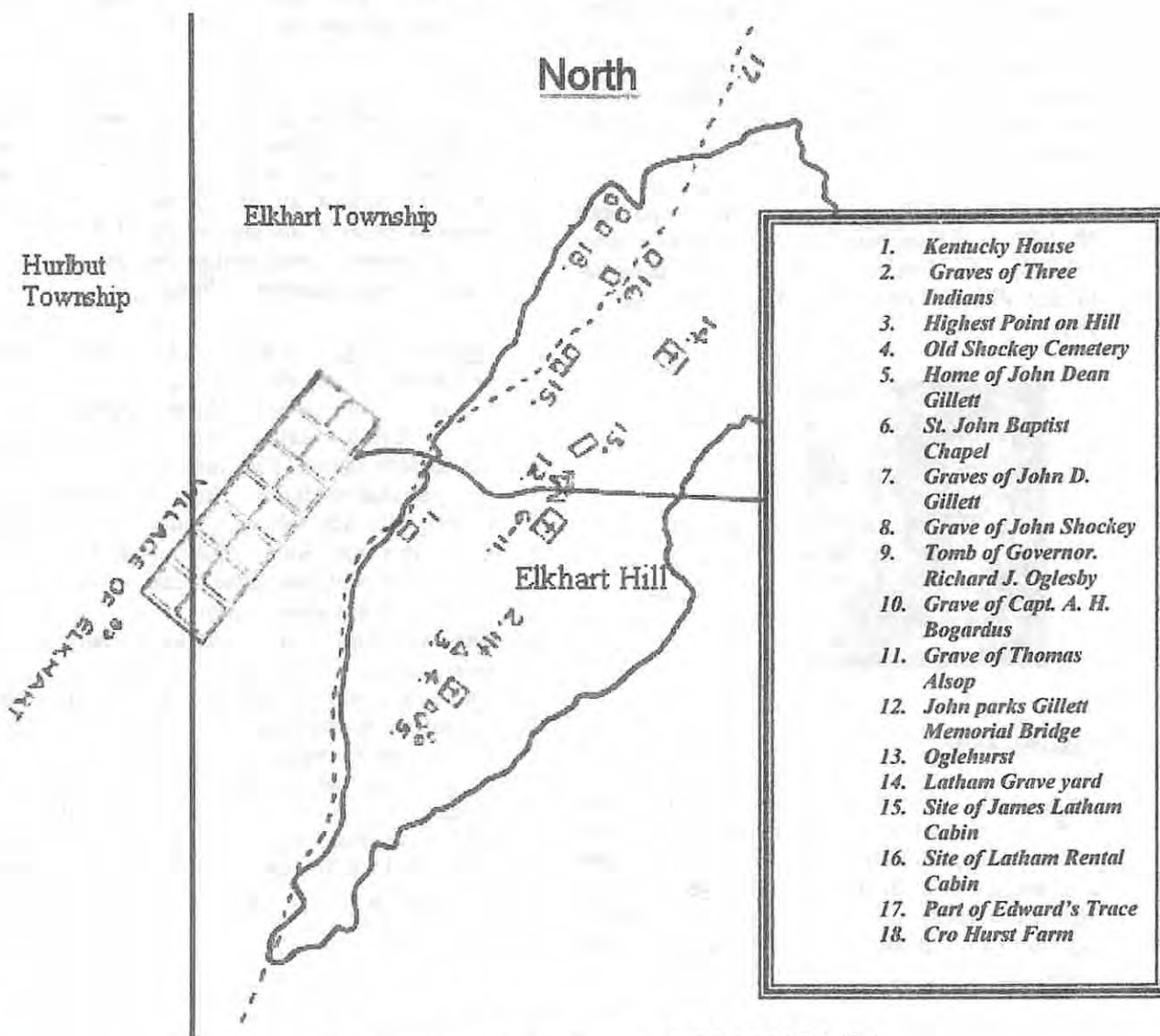


The old Gillett Farm on south side of hill (above)

### Elkhart Hill,

**"The hill has always been our guardian angel"**

SOI: The following historical facts were verified by J.T. Hickey  
Elkhart Historical Society Brochure, courtesy of Dorothy Gleason  
Stringers Logan County History 1911



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

IL  
Logan  
1.5

OCCGS

Associate Professor at Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois

Mr. Roy Schilling served as a Director of the Illinois Education Association, Delegate to the annual meetings of the National Education Association, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Association for Childhood Education International. He is a life member of the National Education Association and the Illinois Congress of Parent-Teacher Associations.

Locally, Mr. Schilling served as President of the Decatur Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, President of Decatur-Macon County Children and Family Services, President of Macon County Historical Society, and the first Chairman of the Macon County Historical Society Museum.

Roy and Rachel joined Central Christian Church in Decatur, Illinois April 1950. As active members they served as Sunday School Teachers, Deacon and Deaconess, as well as serving on many committees in the church. Roy is an Elder Emeritus and served for almost 15 years as Financial Secretary, retiring January 1, 1995.

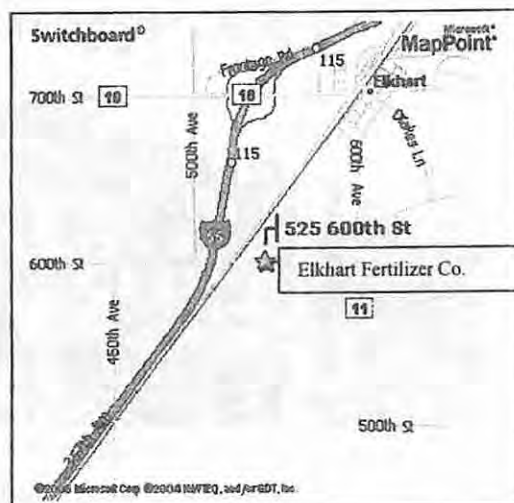
Roy and Rachel Rogers were married December 30, 1943, and have two daughters: Rachel Rogers Schilling was born on a farm in rural Delavan-Emden, Illinois, June 7, 1915. She died February 3, 1996.



Roy O. and  
Rachel R.  
Schilling

### Hurlbut Elevator

On November 2, 1944, the Hurlbut Elevator burned to the ground and was never rebuilt. The elevator, which was built in 1916, was one of twin elevators that held a total of 80,000 bushels of soybeans and 36,000 bushels of corn. It was located at 525 - 600<sup>th</sup> St. where the Elkhart Fertilizer Company is now located.



### Old Route 66 & Interstate 55

The location of Route 66 (1926-1960) throughout Illinois was built parallel to the Chicago and Alton Railroad; its predecessor being Route 4.

Construction of Interstate 55 actually began in 1961, but did not start in Logan County until the spring of 1973; because of labor problems it was not completed until November 2, 1977. By the end of 1977, almost all of US 66 in Illinois was replaced by I-55. In January of 1978 all US 66 markers were removed, ending the life of one of the nation's most celebrated highways.

**BINGVILLE:** Old Route 66 separates the village of Elkhart. On July 08, 1916 a special town meeting was held for the purpose of considering the plat of Nina L. Gillett's addition to the village of Elkhart. The motion passed. This plat of land is located on the west side of Highway Route 66 known as part of Bingville. The following story has been passed down from generation to generation. A man lived over on the west side of the tracks. He would come over to Elkhart Main Street, have a "couple" and become a little rowdy. He was remembered as being comical. At that point of time, there was a comic strip with a character named Bing. This is whom the residents said he acted like. Since he lived across the road, they called that part of town Bingville. At that time, there were very few homes on that side of town. To this day, that part of Elkhart is called Bingville. On May 9, 1995 Elkhart received the full brunt of a F3 tornado. Bingville sustained the most damage.



Elkhart Hill rises unexpectedly from the Illinois Prairie 18 miles north of Springfield on old Route 66, and Interstate 55. The hill was formed by the icy embrace of the glaciers; which left the hill behind at the end of the Buffalo Hart Glacial Moraine. This moraine runs a distance of about thirty-five miles from Mt. Auburn to Elkhart. The moraine is covered with 12 to 15 feet of topsoil with a great underlying drift of clay, sand, gravel and boulders intermingled. Geologist can tell about the glaciers by cutting down into the hill's foundations, a historian can tell the history of the community and nation by touring Elkhart Hill and digging into its secrets.

On May 9, 1995 Elkhart received a F3 tornado. Bingville was hit the worst because of the openness. Records show that many tornados have touched down near Elkhart Hill, but never has one touched down in the village. "The hill has always been our guardian angel." The F3 tornado came slowly allowing the residence time to find shelter. They lost Davis Truck Service and Davis Bro. Trucking. One house was moved five inches off its foundation which was replaced with a new house. With all Elkhart's residents and farmers helping each other, most the clean up was done within 36 hours.

Elkhart Historical Society conducts tours of Elkhart Hill's colorful history. Call (217) 947-2238 for information and schedules. The following information on the map on page 32 was taken from a tour brochure. The tour and scenic ride lasts about an hour and 15 minutes. The tour is accommodated with hay filled racks drawn by tractors and leaves from downtown Elkhart village. The hill is privately owned by descendants of the families of Richard J. Oglesby and pioneer John D. Gillett. Places on the tour coincide with the numbers on the map. (pg. 32)

### 1. Site of Kentucky House

The Richard Latham Family built a home at the base of Elkhart Hill in the 1820's along a 300 year old Indian trail known as "Edward's Trace". The trail was later used by fur traders and pioneers traveling from Peoria and the Great Lakes region to St. Louis. Due to the volume of travelers along this route James Latham converted their cabin into a tavern which became known as "The Kentucky House". It provided meals and lodging to travelers, one of which was Abraham Lincoln as he rode the rural 8th Judicial Circuit as a lawyer. Also John T. Stuart, Stephen A. Douglas, David Davis, and Stephen T. Logan all stopped here while riding the circuit. Richard Latham owned this hotel until 1853 when the railroad came through; he then sold out to John Shockey December 5, 1854 nearly 1400 acres of land which was most of the South part of the hill which included all of Elkhart Village. Richard then moved to Springfield. After Mr. Shockey's death it became the property of Edward Rigney who sold 1216 acres to John D. Gillett on December 18, 1864. Gillett attempted to buy the land ten years earlier. A lawsuit between John Shockey and James White,

plus Mr. Shockey's death, the sale was prevented. The Kentucky House was destroyed by fire in 1876.



*The Kentucky House*

### 2. Graves of Three Indians

Tradition tells of a man and wife being captured by the Kickapoo Indians in Kentucky and were taken back to the chief village on Salt Creek. When they reached Elkhart Hill the Indians left their two captives at this spot on the map to go get wood and food for the night camp. While they were gone the woman who had been carrying a pair of scissors in her clothing as pioneer woman used to fasten such items as scissors to the waist band of their shirt. She cut herself loose and freed her husband. Her husband took one of the Indian's guns and shot all three Indians when they returned. The man and his wife were then able to escape.

### 3. The highest point on Elkhart Hill

The brow of the hill is 771 feet above sea level. Elkhart Hill is the most conspicuous physical feature that adorns the landscape of Logan County with virgin timber on its summit.



#### 4. Old Shockey Cemetery

All except a few graves were moved to the Elkhart Cemetery at a very early date. John Parks Gillett was given permission to remove some remains to the public part of Elkhart Cemetery on January 5, 1892. It is assumed some unmarked graves may remain. The village of Elkhart purchased two acres of ground from Edward Rigney July 14, 1864 for Elkhart Cemetery. A year later a plank fence was built around it. In 1866 the village paid for the first cut through the hill past the cemetery. May 1, 1874 an agreement was reached with John D. Gillett for an addition to the cemetery.

5. Home of John Dean Gillett: The original house had been built by and was the home of John Shockey. John Dean Gillett purchased the estate from the Shockey heirs in 1868. They built their house on Elkhart Hill in 1870. In 1871 the home was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by 1873. Here they raised eight children. For many years in the late 1800's the town of Elkhart was one of the largest shipping points on the C&A (Chicago & Alton) Railroad, due to the large stock raising farms of John Dean Gillett. Noted for importing Durham cattle from Scotland and developing the Shorthorn cattle breed, Gillett shipped over 2,000 head of cattle and 1,000 head of hogs to Europe annually. The London Gazette dubbed him "The Cattle King of the World". Mr. Gillett and his grandson Hiram Keays won numerous awards at the Chicago Livestock Shows. After John Gillett's death and the death of his widow, it became the home of his son, John Parks Gillett, who built the original house and barns in 1870; this beautiful farm encompasses 700 acres of lawns, gardens, woodlands and open fields.

After John Dean Gillett's death, his grandson Hiram Gillett Keays born at Elkhart, June 8, 1867, continued raising cattle and expanded the agricultural operations. He and his wife Lucy Cecelia Herod Keays later added a 22 room addition to the original farm house. German wood carvers and stone masons began work in 1906, using walnut from timber on the farm for the interior paneling and staircase. A stone water tower was constructed at the same time. In addition to the main house, a 3-bedroom guesthouse and chapel were added. Hiram's oldest daughter, Elizabeth Rogers Keays, married William Drake of the Drake Hotel family in Chicago. After Hiram's death, the property became Elizabeth's. The Drakes daughter, Susan, married Gordon Bent and raised two children in Lake Forest, Illinois. Susan and Gordon Bent's two daughters,

Elizabeth and Catherine own and operate the family farms today. This historic seventh generation family farm located on Elkhart Hill is still owned by the descendants of John Dean Gillett. The farm is available for private bookings. Overnight accommodations, special events, weddings and tours are arranged on an individual basis.

#### 6. St. John the Baptist Chapel

John Dean Gillette moved into this area, buying a great deal of land. He became very prosperous and a very prominent figure in the area. On May 1, 1874 a town meeting was held and a request for more cemetery land was made. Gillette offered a portion of his land he called Gillette Grove. He was made the Board of Trustees Executor and made a fine profit of the sales of each lot. In 1890 his wife, Lemira, had a chapel built in Gillette Grove in honor of her husband. This Episcopalian Chapel, known as Chapel of St. John the Baptist, is the only privately owned chapel in the state of Illinois. Culver Stone and Marble Company of Springfield, Illinois constructed the building, and it is one of the few remaining Culver buildings in the area. Designed in Gothic Revival style, it houses one of the oldest working pipe organs in the state. The pipe organ was built by Hook and Hasting Company from Boston. Beautiful Tiffany style stained-glass windows grace the interior of this historic Chapel. Weddings and memorial services may be held in the Chapel by special arrangement.



*St. John the Baptist Chapel*

7. Grave of John Dean Gillett "Cattle King of America" Mr. Gillett came to Illinois from Connecticut in 1838 to work for his Uncle John Gillett at Bald Knob near Cornland, Illinois. After two years he improved his own farm just north of Cornland where he remained for 28 years. After the death of his Uncle John in 1848, John Dean Gillett managed the large land holdings of his uncle

John, Horace Hotchkiss and Smith Tuttle's in Illinois. They owned the town of "Commerce" which they sold to Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet who renamed it "Nauvoo". In 1864, John purchased the Shockey estate at Elkhart Hill but didn't move there until 1868. By 1874 he owned over 16,000 acres of land. 1200 head of cattle, 1000 hogs and a large number of horses and sheep and had 13 tenant houses. His selective breeding of the Durham Cattle became Gillett's Breed and later the "Short-horn". He died August 25, 1888. At his death he owned 23,000 acres of land, 2000 cows and 1000 steers. Mrs. Gillett died September 21, 1901.

#### **8. Grave of John Shockey "Founder of Elkhart"**

Elkhart Cemetery was begun 1864. First grave was that of Martin Gehr John Shockey. He was from Franklin County PA. A town site was at one time projected by Aquilla Davis but nothing came of it until the Alton & Sangamon railroad was built in 1853. John Shockey came to the area to buy cattle in 1848. He returned in 1850 with his family and they built a large home on the hill. Within a year he had purchased over 5000 acres of land, which consisted of the hill acreage, and acres west and south of which is now the village. One day sitting atop his lawn on the hill, he looked down and had a vision, one of a village set at the base of the hill. He had the land surveyed and platted and the village of Elkhart was founded on April 11, 1855. John Shockey called the new village Elkhart City to distinguish it from Elkhart Hill and Elkhart Grove. Abe Lincoln was his attorney in many matters. In the fall of 1856 the area had a huge crop failure and in March of 1857 John Shockey had to hold one of the largest sales around, the hill and other acreage was sold. His wife Catherine died in November of 1858 and John died one year later in November of 1859, beaten by the land that he loved so well. In John's will though, he left land for churches, schools, businesses and homes to be built.

#### **9. Tomb of Governor Richard J. Oglesby**



Richard J. Oglesby, who was elected Governor of Illinois in 1864, 1872 and 1884, is buried in the Elkhart Cemetery; the ghost of his wife (*the eldest daughter of John Dean Gillett*) visits his tomb. She will be seen sitting outside his tomb for a few minutes when a group of Indian ghosts come up and chase her off across the bridge leading over the road to the cemetery. A fence separates the woods at the back and the cemetery. There's a step stool and sign next to the fence. The sign says, "grounds keepers don't wander back here, neither should ladies and gents." There is a path past the fence going up the hill. You don't want to explore to far up the path. You can hear voices and footsteps through the woods and you can see black apparitions like they are watching you. Urban Legend is that at the top of the hill the path branches and you have to pick which way to go but you have to pick correctly or you don't come back.

Governor Oglesby was born in Floydsburg, Oldham County, Kentucky. He was orphaned and moved to live with his uncle in Decatur, Illinois. Governor Richard J. Oglesby nominated Abraham Lincoln for President at Republican State Convention at Decatur, May 9, 1860. The Governor died April 24, 1899. His funeral was held April 28, 1899 with over 4000 in attendance including Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln. Interment took place May 8, 1899.

- Born July 25, 1824 Oldham county, Kentucky
- Admitted to the Bar 1844
- Mexican War 1846 – 1848
- California 1849 – 1852 Overland St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA
- Law 1852 – 1855 Practiced in Decatur, IL
- Traveled 1856 – 1857 Europe, Africa & Holy Land
- State Senate 1860 – 1861
- Civil War 1861 – 1864
- Governor of Illinois 1864 – 1868
- Governor of Illinois 1872 – 1873
- United States Senate 1873 – 1879
- Governor of Illinois 1884 – 1888
- Died April 25, 1899 Oglehurst, Elkhart, Illinois SIO: Dorothy Gleason

#### **10. Grave of Captain A. H. Bogardus.**

Captain Bogardus was born in Berne, New York September 17, 1833. His first public

appearance was at St. Louis in 1868. He came to Illinois in 1856 and settled near Petersburg in 1858. He then moved to Elkhart where he lived until his death March 23, 1913. (Captain Bogardus was featured in the 2005 summer issue of Roots and Branches.)

#### 11. Grave of Thomas Alsop

Thomas Alsop was born in Pennsylvania in 1815 and came to Springfield, IL. His occupation was a watch and clock maker. He also owned and operated the Springfield Mill. In 1862 he became agent for Elkhart Mill. In 1875 he purchased the mill from Edward Rigney and Addison Hickox. The mill was located just south of the bridge over the town branch. The home which was part of the mill property later became the home of Captain A. H. Bogardus. Thomas was Elkhart's Postmaster in 1878. He died September 26, 1891 in Cook County, IL and his remains were returned for burial at Elkhart Cemetery, September 29, 1891. While living in Springfield he was Abraham Lincoln's neighbor.

#### 12. John Parke Gillett Memorial Bridge



Wood Bridge as it was in 1899

In November of 1863 the north road leading out of Elkhart was constructed and the south road in July of 1865. The west road was finished in March of 1869 and the east road was completed in March of 1866. To construct the east road over the hill, a cut through the hill had to be made.

The arched concrete and stone bridge above County Road 10 was erected July 1915/16 by John Parke Gillett's sister, the former Illinois first lady, Emma Gillett Oglesby. She had the bridge built to make a passage over the East Road Hill Cut so she could cross over the road from her estate to visit the grave of her brother in the family cemetery. John's only



*John Parke Gillett Memorial Bridge*

son John Dean Gillett died at age 40 September 8, 1901. His estate included his father's old home. He left the estate to his nephew, Hiram Keays. Hiram was the son of Emma Oglesby by her first marriage. A family lawsuit resulted which was carried daily in the Chicago Tribune. As the court found in her son's favor, Mrs. Emma Oglesby built the bridge as a memorial to her brother. The Bridge was one of the first poured concrete bridges in Illinois. It was built by Porter-McCully Construction Company of Mackinaw, IL at the cost of \$2,029.80.

The clock is ticking - and the John Park Gillett Memorial Bridge is again in jeopardy. The Logan County Road and Bridge Committee granted the Elkhart Historical Society and village officials an additional month to solidify ownership and liability issues concerning the 90-year-old pedestrian bridge. But the extended time frame also was accompanied by a stern warning from county officials that the bridge's status needs to be resolved quickly.

**13. Oglehurst**- was built by Governor Richard J. Oglesby to replace the house destroyed by fire. This house replaced the original Latham cabin site which burned March 2, 1891. They built their home across the hill from the Gillett house, # 5 on map. Governor Oglesby supervised several working farms in the Elkhart area and had secured the



"Thompson Farm" on the northwest slope of Elkhart Hill below the Gillett mansion. The Oglesbys were able to build a substantial house on the Thompson farm, also known as "the old Latham place". The 46 room mansion had a pipe organ in the Great Hall. On the fourth floor a school room was provided where the children were tutored and a music room with a musical score detailed in the gesso work around the ceiling. Soon Emma was insisting that they build a larger house a few hundred yards up the slope of Elkhart Hill. She estimated the cost at \$10,000, but Governor Oglesby thought it would be no less than \$20,000. A Springfield architect was engaged, but no contracts were let until after their existing house burned to the ground on March 2, 1891. Oglesby estimated the loss at \$25,000, all uninsured. Many items from the first floor, including portraits, books, and the piano, were saved, but Oglesby's mementos and trophies, including a \$2,200 gold sword presented to him in commemoration of the Battle of Corinth either melted or burned. Some villagers suspected that Emma Oglesby had won the argument for a new house when



*Oglehurst*

they heard that the architect was on the train to Elkhart when the fire began. A Springfield architect, however, had been employed months before the fire. Emma Oglesby's skin and hair were "deeply scorched" during the evacuation of the house, and she lost all her jewelry and her "fine Parisian gowns." Oglesby escaped with a burn on "his magnificent forehead and a big hole burned through his hat brim." The governor concluded that the fire had started in Colonel Walkup's upstairs room, where some additional hired hands were staying. The Oglesbys found temporary quarters nearby and

began building a thirty-two-room mansion, "Oglehurst." Emma (Gillett) Oglesby owned property and inherited 1,118 acres of land on four farms near Elkhart after her father, John Dean Gillett, died.

**14. Latham Grave Yard** is the oldest cemetery in Logan County. Emily, wife of Richard Latham was the first person buried in the cemetery. She died February of 1826. The grave yard was laid out nine rods square with James Latham's grave in the center. An addition of  $\frac{1}{4}$  acres was added in the 1870's by the Thompson family.

**15. Site of James Latham Cabin**



James Latham 1768 – 1826, was born October 25, 1768, in Loudon County, Virginia, of English parents. He emigrated when a young man to Kentucky, and there married Mary Briggs, 21 June 1792, born 3 February 1772 in Virginia, of Scotch parents. They had nine children in Kentucky, and moved to Elkhart Grove on the brow of the hill in the spring of 1819. As the first settlement in Logan County, then Sangamon County, he went about building a double cabin with a covered porch between the two cabins. Mrs. Latham built a new house here in 1836. Later her son Robert B. sold it in 1850 to Francis Thompson. Mr. Thompson's son Gue F. sold it in 1885 to Governor and Mrs. Richard Oglesby. They used the old fireplace and chimney as a nucleus for the new house. The first marriage took place in the Latham cabin when their son Richard Latham married Emily Hubbard on September 16, 1824. The area where the cabin would be built was a camping ground for the pioneers. Tradition has it that Governor Ninian Edwards and his men camped here on their trek to Fort Clark. Here is found the depressions of Edward's Trace.

Mr. Latham and his son Richard built the first mill powered by a horse north of the Sangamon River at



Elkhart, in 1822. The nearest mill was at Edwardsville, more than one hundred miles south. When Sangamon County was organized, James Latham was appointed Judge of the Probate Court, May 27, 1821. He was also Justice of the Peace. After Mr. Latham had served a year or two as Judge of the Probate Court of Sangamon County, he was appointed by President John Quincy Adams, on behalf of the United States Government, to superintend the Indians around Fort Clark (Peoria). Soon after, he moved his family there, making that place his headquarters. Judge Latham died there, December 23, 1826. His widow returned to Elkhart with her family and Judge Latham's body. He was buried in Latham Cemetery on the north side of Elkhart Hill. Mary lived the rest of her life on Elkhart Hill.

Richard Latham was born December 23, 1798, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Richard came to Illinois in 1818 with his sister Elizabeth (Betsy) and her husband James W. Chapman. The next year he moved with his father James Latham to Elkhart Hill and entered land in section 18 later known as the Gillett Homestead. Richard was married September 16, 1824, at Elkhart, Illinois, to Emily Hubbard. They had one child. Emily and the child died shortly after at Elkhart. Richard Latham was married November 27, 1825, to Mrs. Margaret Stephenson Broadwell. She was the daughter of John Stephenson who came to Sangamon County in 1820 bringing her and her two brothers, John and James. James was the first surveyor in Sangamon County. Margaret was first married to William Broadwell and their son William Broadwell laid out the present town of Broadwell, Illinois. Mr. William Broadwell was killed November 22, 1824 while assisting at the raising of a barn at the old town of Sangamon. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Latham had thirteen children, seven of whom died young. Mary A., born February 25, 1829, was married November 25, 1848, to Dr. Timothy Leeds. Martha E. married James S. Major. She died September 20, 1852. Henry C. was born April 11, 1837, at Elkhart and dealt with conveyance of and furnished real estate abstract titles. He lived in Springfield. Lucy lived with her mother. Kittie S., was born January 24, 1841, at Elkhart, and married in Springfield, January 30, 1868, to Elder J.H. McCullough. He was a minister of the Christian Church, and lived in Denver, Colorado. Nannie, born December 6, 1843, at Elkhart, was married September 16, 1873, in Springfield, to George H. Souther. They had one child, Latham, and lived in Springfield. Mary L. was born in Kentucky and

married John Constant. Philip C. was born January 25, 1804. Nancy lived with Mrs. Richard Latham. Maria was born 1809 in Kentucky; and married to Archibald Constant. John was born September 9, 1812, in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and married in Sangamon County, to Lucy Bennett, a native of Kentucky. Robert B. was born June 21, 1818, in Union County, Kentucky, and married in Sangamon County, November 5, 1846, to Georgianna Gillette, a native of New Haven, Connecticut. She died in 1853. Robert B. Latham was married July 24, 1857, in Logan County, to Savilla Wyatt, a native of Morgan County, Illinois. Robert B. Latham was elected Sheriff of Logan County in 1850, and served two years. He was elected Representative in the Illinois Legislature for 1861-62. He raised a regiment and became Colonel of the One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served twenty months in the war to suppress the rebellion, and then resigned.

**16. Site of Latham Rental Cabin** This was the site of the first school in Logan County. Erastus Wright, born 1779 in New England, came to Elkhart in 1821. He taught school which included the Latham children. He moved to Springfield and drove an Elk hitched to a cart, which made him well known in the town. At an old age he and his elk with cart were struck by a train and both he and his elk were killed November 21, 1870.

#### **17. Part of Edwards Trace**

The next record of a white person in Logan County is found in the annals of the Illinois Territory. About 1810, the Indian tribes, including the Kickapoo, had become hostile and were raiding the scattered white settlements in the southern portions of the state. Territorial Governor Harrison sent deputies to various tribes in Illinois to implement a treaty. Davidson and Stuve's History of Illinois (page 256) "A mission in charge of Joseph Trotier, a sagacious French Creole, of Cahokia, was also sent to the Kickapoos, who inhabited the country along Sugar Creek, in the northern part of the present county of Logan. The usual talks or speeches, with many fair promises were made by this rather shrewd, treacherous and implacable (Kickapoo) nation."

The Native Americans in 1810 committed sundry depredations in the Territory, crossing the Mississippi from the Territory of Louisiana. A long correspondence followed between the respective Governors concerning the remedies, which ended in

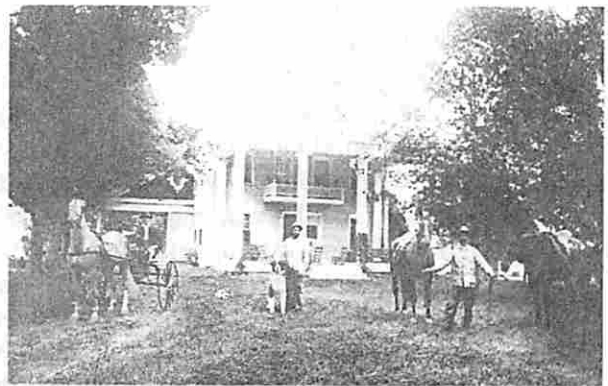
a council with the savages at Peoria in 1812, and a fresh interpretation of the treaties. Governor Ninian Edwards of the Illinois Territory arranged a meeting to include Indian chiefs and warriors of the Kickapoo, Pottawattomies, Ottawa and Chippewa nations. After this meeting hostilities broke out more fiercely than ever. Fort Clark (Peoria) was depopulated by these depredations, and was not resettled for many years later. Governor Edwards then organized an army of early settlers to subdue the warring Indians. On October 18, 1812, 400 crude mounted men marched northward following the natural Indian trails where deer and buffalo hooves had worn down the bluestem sod to get from water source to water source, and salt licks. There were probably several trails that eventually were connected into a single continuous trail that followed the timber line. The army traveled on the west side of Cahokia Creek on to Macoupin where they crossed at the present site of Carlinville; traveling on northeastward they crossed below the junction of the north and south forks of Sangamon River just west of now Springfield. His army passed west of Elkhart Grove, camped over night and continued on crossing Salt Creek not far from where the town of Lincoln would be located. They pressed northward over Sugar Creek to the abandon Kickapoo village reducing it to ashes. From this point the army moved on to Lake Peoria.

Later the road made by Edward's army became known as "**Edwards Trace.**" The state road from Springfield through Logan County to Peoria, was once known as the "the Fort Clark Road". Fort Clark became Peoria. The men and families who began the settlement of the Sangamon country reached it by following a well-marked Indian Trail, which was the main north and south land route in mid-Illinois. In 1825, a county road was established by the commissioners of Sangamon County from Springfield to Fort Clark (Peoria), and it followed the "old Edwards' Trace" past Elkhart Grove, McClure's Ferry on Salt Creek and Musick's on Sugar Creek. Later, in 1834, McClure's Ferry was abandoned and the road crossed Salt Creek at Evan's Ferry at the foot of the hill where Old Union Cemetery is now located. Traces of the historic trail may still be seen on Elkhart Hill. This is the only place where the historical Edward's Trace of more that one hundred mile length may be found.

On July 30, 1819 the Native Americans deeded Illinois to the United States and started to move out.

By 1836 there were but a few Native Americans remaining in Illinois. SOI: Logan County History 1911

**18. Cro Hurst Farm** was the former home of Dr. and Mrs. S.W. McArthur, granddaughter of John D. Gillett. The original part of the house was built by John Latham 1836-1841. It became the property of John D. Gillett in 1855 and on John's death; it became the property of Miss Jessie D. Gillett. The name of the farm probably comes from G.R. Crow who owned part of the farm in the 1870's. The tour stops here view the beautiful grounds.



*Cro Hurst Farm*

## **PROMINENT PEOPLE AND PLACES OF ELKHART TOWNSHIP**

**One room County Schools:** Sunnyside Section 4 & 5 north on the line- Intelligence Section 28 – Plainview Section 11 – Prairie College Section 32 – Elkhart Section 18 – Northside Section 8 south – Lakeside Section 21

An election was held July 11, 1946, consolidating the Elkhart school with several country Schools to form the Elkhart Community Consolidated Grade School District 264. The schools included in this consolidation were: Prairie College, Maple Grove, American Hill, Constant, Sunnyside, Hopedale, lakeside, Plainview and Elkhart Grade School. During the summer of 1975, the grade and high school consolidated with Mt. Pulaski and chestnut schools, to form the Mt. Pulaski Community Unit District 232.

**Cemeteries:** Latham- Thompson Section 7 north – Elkhart Section 18 – Lawrence Section 14

**CORNLAND:** Joshua Day, the owner of land, caused the location of the future Cornland

consisting of 40 acres, to be surveyed August 1871. It was then that the town was laid off into blocks, lots, streets and alleys. Mr. Day chose the name of Cornland. The town was dedicated September 28, 1871.

Cornland in 1902 had a new brick Grade School. Later they had a two year high school. There were two grocery stores; S&E Phares owned the store on the north side of the street and sold a full line of groceries. He also sold work clothes, shoes, rubber boots and overshoes. He had a gasoline pump and sold gas, free air, coal and he had wagon scales. On the south side of the street was a General Grocery Store owned by Ford and Son. Mr. Hughes had a garage east of General Grocery. William Johnson operated the garage for six months, and then Lawrence and Nubby Holmes ran the Cornland Garage. This building also housed the Barber Shop. East of the Garage was Sheeny Hughes' Hardware Store; later became a tavern operated by Don Agnew and happy Montgomery. South of the tavern was the Snake House. The Snake House was 80'x30' and held two pool tables and eight card tables. There were Nickel slot machines, candy, soda pop, and punch boards. Every thing was a nickel; except for the penny gum machine. The place was open every night, seven nights a week.

One block south of the Methodist Church was Jake Zimmerly's Blacksmith Shop. One block east of the Blacksmith Shop was Elder Gaffney's Mill. He ground wheat flour, corn meal and chicken feed.

Cornland had two elevators. The east one was run by Miles Leach. Nick Schaeffer and Honus Penneman ran the elevator. Miles took care of the buying and selling. Tommy Ford took care of the weighing and bookkeeping.

The west elevator was run by John Melvin. John operated the grain Office, which also housed the Posst Office. John was the Postmaster. Fred Bohn worked the elevator. The elevator was run by steam.

Cornland is located in the southeast corner of Elkhart Township in Section 11. Cornland is on Route 54 southwest of Lake Fork. The population is 150. It was laid out in 1871. The greatest change to the village came April 19, 1927 when Illinois' 10th deadliest tornado outbreak on record took a path across the central part of Illinois, killing 21

people. The first tornado touched down near Hardin, traveling northeast through Carrollton, then skimmed the south side of Springfield. At Carrollton, a teacher was killed as she held the door of the school shut, saving the lives of her students. The second tornado, peaking at F4 intensity, touched down on the southeast side of Springfield, then moved to affect the towns of Riverton, Buffalo Hart, Chestnut, and Cornland. In Buffalo Hart, only 3 houses were left standing, while the northern half of Cornland was leveled. The tornado track was 65 miles in length, ending in Ford County. Afterward, the residents gathered together and rebuilt. Electricity came that same year in late summer.

### Churches of Cornland

It is a source of regret that no written records have been left of the first work of the preachers of the Disciples of Christ in Logan County. Without doubt there was preaching at a number of places in the thirties and forties by W. P. Bowles and his father (Hughes Bowles), by John England, Wm. Ryan, A. J. Kane and others. SIO: Text from Nathaniel S. Haynes, History of the Disciples in Illinois 1819-1914

The First Church of Christ known, was formed about 1848. It was located seven miles west of Mt. Pulaski, on the Springfield road. It was known as the Bridge Church because it stood near the bridge that spanned the stream called Lake Fork. It was probably organized by Father Morrow, he preached there for years. Residing on his farm, it was his custom to come from his home to the meeting-house, riding a mule, with a sheepskin saddle and saddlebags. This congregation continued until about 1860. Those members who lived on the west of the lake formed a congregation known as the Turley Church and built a small chapel four miles north of the site of Cornland. A few years prior to this the Cornland congregation had been formed, and a small house erected four miles north of the town site, was called the Turley Church.

A series of meetings was held in the Day Schoolhouse in the village by D. D. Miller in 1874, which resulted in the formation of the church there. The Turley congregation joined them and moved into town. The congregation was strengthened by a series of meetings conducted by Min. J. E. Cain in 1875.

**The Cornland Christian Church:** Years ago the ladies of the church organized a group and were known as the Loyal Ladies. They aided in many ways to help the work of the church and made financial contributions. Later their name was changed to Ladies Circle. In 1921 the old church was remodeled and was made into a new building with a cement block construction with a full basement. This building stood until the tornado of April 19, 1927 passed through the town and destroyed the church building. The members rallied after their loss and commenced to rebuild. The minister at the time was Rev. W.T. Kellums. The church observed its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary September 15, 1975.

**The Cornland Banking Center** was established at the corner of Day & Locust St., Cornland, Illinois, with full banking services available in 1990.

**P. J. Telfer and George Hobkirk** laid out the first telephone line from Elkhart to Cornland about 1901 or 1902. It was a private owned line with Dr. G. G. Taylor as manager. Years later the Lincoln Telephone Company purchased the system.

**Martin Bogarte Drake** was born in Plum Tree, IN August 11, 1889. He was the first child of Warren and Abigail (Mount) Drake. Martin taught at Fair Haven School southeast of Chestnut.



April 25, 1911 Martin and Miss Alma Leimbach of Chestnut were married at Mt. Pulaski and departed for Bowen, Illinois where he was publishing a weekly newspaper, The Bowen Chronicle. Their son Michael Warren was born October 29, 1913 and Alma died November 22, 1913. Martin sold his business in Bowen and moved to Chestnut in January of 1914. He lived with Mr. and Mrs. Michael Leimbach and worked in the Bank of Chestnut for six years. February 22, 1920 he married Miss Clara Belle Robinson of Beason. She

had taught at Popcorn School. They moved to Cornland when the new State Bank of Cornland opened for business March 2, 1920. He served there as cashier for 29 years. They became active in the Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, and community affairs. After the 1927 tornado struck Cornland killing two people, Mr. Drake ran home. He found his family safe, he then hurried back to help those less fortunate.

All of Mr. and Mrs. Drakes children were born at home in Cornland, IL, delivered by Dr. L.L. Dennison of Lake Fork. They were David Luther born May 19, 1921; Donald Louis born August 22, 1922; Robert Eugene born October 8, 1923; Richard Kenneth born January 12, 1928. The boys attended school at Cornland.

In 1950 they moved to Farmer City and Martin joined the staff of the Farmer City State Bank. He died August 12, 1961 and Belle remained in Farmer City until her death December 20, 1969. At the time of her death there were twelve grandsons and twelve granddaughters. SOI: 1982 Logan County History

**Henry Ford** was born August 22, 1863 and lived in Cornland all of his life. He was orphaned at an early age and was placed in an orphanage at Springfield, IL. At the age of nine he went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lynn of Buffalo Hart. He attended Business College in Dixon, IL, and came to Cornland to work in the general store owned by William Mackie. He married Delpha Cooper of Lincoln, Illinois and started his own business with his son, Delbert, as a partner. Delpha died August 11, 1903 and Henry married Emma Lang. Henry died May 27, 1947, and Emma died January 26, 1950.

When the tornado struck Cornland, April 19, 1927, the Ford Store and Henry's residence were destroyed. Henry bought new merchandise and carried on business in the old school house. His new residence and store were completed in the fall of 1927. His residence was the first modern home in Cornland. The old store building was demolished in 1977 to make way for the new bank.

**William B. Irving** was born in Scotland, 1833-1879. He married Margaret Ross in 1854. She was born in Scotland, 1836-1902. They traveled three months to America by a sailing vessel. They settled on a farm in Southwest Elkhart Township. Twelve children were born to this couple, eight



survived. William was Tax Collector in Elkhart Township for a time.

John Thomas Irving, the second oldest son of William and Margaret (Ross) Irving, married Sarah Catherine McCue, daughter of Bernard McCue, March 23, 1881. He taught school in the Turley neighborhood, then farmed and operated farm equipment for farmers. They lived in Cornland most of their adult life. He was Road Commissioner in South Elkhart Township for many years. He was a Mason, bank director of Cornland Bank, trustee of Cornland M.E. Church and school director. Their home was destroyed by the tornado in 1927. A new home was built.

#### Jesse James

There is an interesting story about the outlaw Jesse James involving this area. Jesse James is known to have worked on a farm (the first house on the left of the Elkhart-Cornland road) for over a year in the 1870's. There is a man in town who remembers a visit from one of Jesse's family who stopped in ca.1955 to ask about certain vaults that were known to be on the property.

#### Elkhart



A town site was at one time projected by Aquilla Davis, but nothing definite was done until the railroad came in 1853. The Chicago, Mississippi (Gulf, Mobile, and Ohio) Railroad Company was being built, and reached Elkhart Grove August 1, 1853. As soon as the railroad had been completed to this point, the old horse mill was moved to Elkhart from Springfield and was made into a warehouse. In 1855 the village was laid out by John Shockey

John Gibbs In 1858 erected a warehouse. Shockey's addition of 16 acres was added to the original town January 19, 1858. Rigney's addition was laid out in 1863 and Thompson's addition was added in 1865. A small district school house was moved into the town in 1856.

Elkhart was incorporated February 22, 1861 by a special legislative act. The first officers were James Rigney, President; W. M. Helm, Clerk, T. H. Cantrall, Treasurer; L. D. Dana, Justice; Martin Bussard, Constable; and A.H. Bogardus, Street Commissioner. A Methodist Church was built in the village in 1863, a Catholic Church in 1864 and a Christian Church in 1867.

In 1885 the town was incorporated as a village under the general laws of the state, relinquishing the special charter. The first board under the new incorporation was Henry Stahl, C.P. Bridges, A.H. Bogardus, C.B. Taylor, David Lipper and Luther Wood. J.R. Saunders was the first postmaster and railroad agent and William Rankin was his assistant. The first depot was built at Elkhart in 1888. A library was erected in 1904, a gift from the Gillett family. An Illinois Traction System was built through the village in 1904.

Jack Stahl was born in Elkhart and in 1952 when he was seventeen and a junior at ECHS; he made a move to New Mexico because of asthma. In his adulthood, he became a teacher, and then went into the real estate business. In 1968, he was elected to the House of Representatives in New Mexico. He was elected to the Senate in 1980 and was re-elected in 1983. In 1987 he was elected to fill the office of Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Mexico. At the end of his term he retired to the real estate business and in 1995 went into the retail furniture business. He is a great friend to the village and comes home often. Today he is back into the real estate business.

Dr. James and Sarah Taylor came to Elkhart in 1872 with their five sons from Adair County, KY. He had practiced medicine there for fifty years. He continued his practice at Elkhart until 1883. Sarah had died in 1861 and later Dr. Taylor married Carrie Bright of Ohio. Dr. James returned to Kentucky and died there in 1889. His son George O. also a doctor, established a drug store in Elkhart and later his brothers James Cory and Zechariah Thomas associated with him and added a general merchandise store. In 1900 James Cory Taylor was elected to the State Legislature. They sold their business in 1946.

Bob Leininger graduated from ECHS in 1956. After College he became a teacher. He became Assistant Illinois State Superintendent of Education in 1976 and in 1979 he was named Executive

Assistant for the State Superintendent. He was Chief of Staff from 1986 - 1989, when he assumed the position of State Superintendent. He then resigned to become a senior vice president of Administration for Magna Group Inc of St Louis, MO in 1994. The Illinois Education Funding Advisory Board was created by Public Act 90-548 in December of 1997. The five-member Board, along with 12 ex-officio members, was seated by Governor Ryan in June 2000. Mr. Robert Leininger, was seated Chair. Today he is retired and living in Lake Barkley, Ky. He enjoys fishing, golfing and traveling.



*Photo courtesy of Illinois State Board of Education*  
Illinois school Supt. Robert Leininger is in a storytelling session with kindergartners.

David Lippott came to Elkhart after the Civil War. He owned a blacksmith shop. He died in 1897, leaving his wife with small children, Merle, Guy, Fern, and Ruby. Mrs. Lippott managed a boarding house in Elkhart for a number of years in order to provide for her family. Merle also lived in Elkhart, Illinois, and was postmaster from 1908-1912. He then became an associate with the bank.

Bob Olson graduated from ECHS in 1948. He started out in public life as a farm manager for many farms in the area. In 1972 he became an associate with the Bank of Elkhart. In 1986 he was selected to fill the vacancy of House Representative Sam Vinson. He was later elected to a full term in November of 1986, and re-elected in 1988, 1990 and 1992. His territory as a representative was part of Logan County. Before he left office he was responsible for having a bill passed to save, resurface and keep old Rte 66 a four-lane highway around the city of Lincoln. Today he is retired and lives with his wife Norma (Van Fossan) near Broadwell.

In October of 1926, electric poles were installed on all public streets, alleys and public grounds for

the system to distribute electric current in the village. Earlier the lines only went to certain areas in the village, but not the entire village. In October another request from John Shockey Jr. to place a service gas pumps on Main Street just east of Arthur Nevil's barbershop. We must have had enough cars around to support two gas stations!

In the early 1920's and before, the same building we use today as a Village /Elkhart Township Hall was also used as the high school, along with the library and the science building until the new one was built. In comparing pictures of the two buildings (the town hall), the original township hall was apparently cut off from the front and some of the windows covered up and received a face lift sometime after 1925 and before the late 1940's. The science building stills sits in the village today on the property of Harold Schilling at 119 North Gillett as his garage. It has had about four feet added to it for length and siding has been added. The nucleus of the building is still the old school building. It is believed to have been at this location since 1924, ironically that year the new school opened. In 1920 a meeting was held by the residents to discuss building a high school in the village. On January 14, 1922 there was an election held to buy a site and build the high school, and in May they decided on a \$75,000 bond for the project. Land was acquired from the Keays family. The building was erected during the summer of 1923 for the final cost of \$83,000. The high school was located in the area north and south and east and west of Steller Street and the alley behind Elizabeth Ct. and to the pond north and south to Kennedy Road, where the Community Park is located. We consolidated with Mt Pulaski in 1974 due to low attendance and sadly the building was torn down in 1981.

#### "THE HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD" 1927 - 1943"

In 1927, G. Ernest Smith with his father, John R. opened a restaurant and two gas stations. Ernest later built three single cabins and three double cabins for tourists. This was located on land that is called the service road by the Marathon Station. It is between the two railroad crossings, our present main one and one that was closed south of it at Stahl Street years ago. The restaurant became famous not only because of its good food, but because a celebrity stopped there and had lunch one day. On June 16, 1938, the first showing of the



*The House By The Side of The Road.*

movie "Little Miss Broadway" had its premiere in Springfield at the Fox Lincoln Theatre, and its star was also on a coast to coast vacation with her parents and five other friends. After the premiere, they headed north and stopped here for lunch. The star was none other than Miss Shirley Temple. She was so kind as to autograph a menu and the sales slip which was later placed on the red checkered tablecloth. The table and chairs where she and those that accompanied her sat were roped off. A large cardboard cutout of her was placed inside the roping. This was done in the memory of her stop here at Elkhart City at the "House on the Side of the Road" which was owned by J. Smith. Because of the new four lanes of Route 66 coming through town, on March 15, 1943 "The House by the Side of the Road" restaurant was taken down, not piece by piece as most buildings are but in two sections by Harold Pankey and Ellis Turner. Each had a handsaw and started in each direction and split it in two. They cut straight through the shingles. The buildings were then moved to the farm of Eugene Lucas and are still being used today. (It has always been wondered where the Shirley Temple autograph went!!!!) SIO: Gwen Rosenfeld

In 1932 we had a dentist (Dr. Reese) and a doctor (Dr. Heiss) who had their offices in the old bank building (now Horse Feathers). Also during this decade we had the Elkhart State Bank, James Havey who owned the elevator and also a grain, feed and coal company, The Town Tavern (where the Talk of the Town is) owned by Hank Stahl, Pat Lee's Grocery store where Miss Jessie's is now, and across the street was The Cash Meat Market owned by Elmer Fossett. Johnson's Machine Shop was also an Allis Chalmers dealership and a Chevrolet truck and car dealer (the corner where the bank is). We had the Elkhart Lumber Co, owned by Ed Barry and "good ole" R.B. Lanterman's grocery store on the corner; remember the ladder he had to push

along the walls to get items high up and the potbelly stove the men sat around talking?

The Post office was located in the part of the building which is now the Blue Stem Cafe-Bakery. The other part of this same building held Stahl's, hardware store run now by Henry's son, Charles. We had Laffey's barber shop, the Billiards Hall owned by Frank Steller, the Sugar Creek Creamery run by Virgil Steller, and Sherbondy's had a meat market and groceries, and a repair shop owned by Joe DeLucca (now Richardson's Repair).

Charlie Ward owned the Standard Oil Station and S.L. Bair owned the Elkhart Oil Company which was located across from one another on Rte 66 and J.B. Taylor's general store was still going strong. John Smith owned the House by the Side of the Road, Corrigan's Sinclair Station, Elkhart Recreation Parlor (Pool Hall) run by Bob Lee, Splains' Corner Tavern (Blue Moon) and Stahl's skating rink. We had the Worthem Circus come to town often and they set up in the alley behind where the Veterans Park is Lee's Cafe, Shell station ran by J.W. Hall, McDonald's Grocery and Johnson's gasoline run by Wayne Harris were well known businesses.

In 1938, the grade school boys won the State Championship in Basketball with the game being played in Farmer City. Only three of the players are living today, 2003, Harold Pankey, Tom Fitzgibbon and John Hinman.

#### EMIL VERBAN

Born 27 Aug. 1915 Lincoln, IL

Died 8 June 1944 Quincy, IL

In 1942, one of Elkhart's residents became famous in the sports field. Emil Verban began his career with the St Louis Cardinals and led the World Champion Cardinals in batting with a .412 average in the 1944 All St Louis World Series (The other team being the St. Louis Browns.) He was a three-time National League All Star second baseman with a .982 fielding percentage in '45, playing in every inning of the Cardinals 155 games, and thus earning the all-star status. He held the former National League record for most double plays by a second baseman in one game, five in '45, and most assists in one game, 11 in '47. He led the league in double plays in '44, in fielding percentages in '45, and in assists in '46. He played in only one World Series where he helped the Cardinals win four games to two and went 3 for 3 and in the final game, driving





successful revival meeting, and nearly the whole community united with the church and became pillars of the church. *SOI: Logan County History 1911 and Logan County History 1886*

### Biographical Sketches of Chester Township:

*SOI: Logan County History 1886 pages 629 - 642*

**Benjamin F. Baker** lived in section 30 of Chester Township. He was born in Shelby County, Ohio in 1831. His parents were George and Susannah Baker, natives of Virginia. George and Susannah were married in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio. In 1852 they moved to Morgan County, Illinois and in 1854 came to Logan County, Illinois. They settled on Salt Creek in Chester Township and remained there until their deaths. They had fourteen children, ten sons and four daughters. Eight of the sons and two daughters survived. Benjamin came with his parents to this county with his parents. July 28, 1861 he married Mrs. Mary Jane Scroggin. She was the widow of William Scroggin. Her maiden name was Mary Jane Greenslate. Benjamin died in 1899.

**William T. Barnard**, a farmer in Section 34, was born in 1834, in Ohio County, Kentucky and is a son of Garrett and Martha A. (Morton) Barnard, both Kentuckians by birth. They had eight children. William joined an exploring party of five and came by team to Illinois in 1864. They arrived in Lincoln and soon bought 160 acres of land in Chester Township. They sold the land the next spring, and bought 800 sheep and sold them for a profit. He went back to Kentucky returning to Illinois with his brother Alonzo, and brother-in-law W.H. Barns. He bought 293 acres of land in Mt. Pulaski Township.

**John E. Downing** was born in Chester Township, June 10, 1826 a son of James Downing. He enlisted June 1864, Company I Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and served a year in the Army. He married Elizabeth Roberts born December 26, 1834 in Menard County, Illinois.

**Robert Hardin Downing** was a farmer living in section 2 of Chester Township settling there in 1822. He was born December 3, 1793 in Woodbridge, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. He is a son of John and Hannah (Frakes) Downing, who removed to Ross County, Ohio, about the commencement of the present century. Here Robert Downing grew to manhood, accustomed to farm work and wood-craft. In 1813 he enlisted in an Ohio battalion and served some months in the War of 1812. He was one of the few surviving pensioners of that struggle. In 1822, he came with his father and two brothers from Madison County, Ohio, to Salt Creek, Logan County (then Sangamon County), Illinois. They came with horse teams and covered wagons, crossing Indiana, then a wilderness, with scarce any vestige of improvement. The settlers on Salt Creek were Patrick Frakes, Nicholas Moore and James Scott, with their families. Mr. Downing entered eighty acres and began life in a rough-hewn log house, the floor was made of rough hewn boards and the roofed with clapboards. Springfield, thirty miles south west, a small "huddle" of log buildings, was the nearest "town," their county-seat and post office. During the first year the corn for these settlers was pounded on a log by means of a spring pole and wooden pestle. In 1824 Mr. Downing hauled a load of oats and a quantity of butter to Chicago, receiving three "bits" for oats and a "bit" for butter. (A bit was a small coin worth about 12 ½ cents.) Cows, pigs and chickens were almost unknown luxuries among them for a year or two. About 1826 Mr. Downing went to the "lead region," where he spent two years and found pork worth \$18 per barrel and flour at \$12, and general hard times prevailing. One pair of boots lasted him all this time, and those he made himself from a rudely cut and sewn cow-hide. With money earned here he was enabled to "prove" on his pre-emption, the patent, signed by Andrew Jackson, the property was still theirs. Mr. Downing's homestead now consisted of 540 acres. A substantial farm house was built in 1851; the old place with its village of barns and the native timber surrounding it, presented a most homelike and picturesque appearance. Robert Downing was a man who was nearing the end of life in the enjoyment of the fullest respect of all who know him, and a type of the brave and resolute pioneers of Illinois. His wife, Jane (Morrow) Downing, was born April 23, 1802 in Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York and died in 1881. They were married October 28, 1819 in Madison County, Ohio. She was a faithful helper in the stormy days of frontier troubles, and a trusted companion in the later and brighter days. Their children, the eldest being John M., was

born September 22, 1822 on Salt Creek, Logan County, Illinois, and died fifty-seven years later. Hannah, born March 3, 1828; Mary born August 3, 1827, was the wife of George Roberts. Lorenzo born December 27, 1829, was a farmer in Logan County, Illinois. Alexander born February 26, 1832, was a carpenter in Lincoln, Illinois. He served three years in the Civil War and became a Sergeant of the One Hundred and Sixth, Illinois Infantry. Melita was born March 26, 1834 and was the widow of Thomas Downing of Mount Pulaski Township, Illinois. Clay was born August 10, 1838. He enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry and died while in the service. Elizabeth born February 24, 1839, was the wife is of Samuel Downing of Chester Township, Illinois. Delilah born February 10, 1842, was the wife of David Shellhamer. R. Harden Downing born August 9, 1844, was the owner of a large farm and managed the homestead. Robert and his sons were Republicans since the organization of the party. Robert died June 14, 1887 in Logan County, Illinois the oldest settler alive in his time being 94 year, 6 months and 8 days old.

**Lorenzo D. Downing** was born in Mt. Pulaski, December 27, 1829, son of Robert Downing. He lived on 354 acres in the north quarter of section 22 and owned 40 acres of timber. In Mt. Pulaski Township he owned 80 acres of land and in Laenna Township he owned 80 acres of land.

**Samuel Evans** was a farmer and raised stock in Chester Township. He was born in Tyrone County, Ireland in 1838. When he was fourteen, his father Charles Evans came to America with the family and settled in Pike County, Illinois in 1860. In 1865 the family moved to Aetna Township, Illinois. His father died in 1881. Mrs. Charles Evans had died on the steam boat coming up the Mississippi River. The family was coming north from New Orleans where they had embarked. Samuel came to Logan County in 1860, where he purchased a farm of 760 acres and lived there until 1865. 250 acres of his farm were in Aetna Township, the rest was in sections 13 and 24 in Chester Township. Mr. Evans was one of the most successful farmers of his time in Chester Township. In 1884 he built a fine residence at the cost of \$6,000 and a barn. In 1860 Mr. Evans married Miss Jane Boyd, daughter of John and Sarah Boyd.

**Albert Gehlbach** was born February 14, 1912 in Chester Township, a son of Adolph and Katherine (Brautigam) Gehlbach. Albert married Iola Garton July 30, 1938. He grew up on the family farm near Lincoln, and graduated from Lincoln Community High School in 1930. Albert started one of the first commercial turkey farms in Illinois with his brother George. He began farming the home farm in 1938 and specialized in pork production. He built his own shelled-corn dryer in 1946, before commercial dryers were available. He also was one of the first farmers to use slotted floors in confinement buildings and developed the Gehlbach Pour-N-Place forms for pouring concrete slotted floors in place. Mr. Gehlbach helped organize the Logan County Pork Producers Association and the National Pork Producers Council and was the director of the National Livestock and Meat Board. He received the National Hog Farmer Award for Outstanding Service to the Pork Industry, the Ford Motor Co. Farm Efficiency Award and the Prairie Farmer Master Farmer Award. The National Pork Producers Council named him to the Pork Industry Hall of Fame in 1986. Mr. Gehlbach was a member of St. John United Church of Christ, where he had served as president of the church council, and was a member of Kiwanis and the Regional Board of School Trustees. He was a Lincoln Daily Courier Man of the Month in January 1965, and was a former president of the Lincoln Community High School Board and had served as president of Logan County Agricultural Toastmasters Club and the Logan County Extension Council. On April 23, 2003 Mr. Gehlbach died at the age of 91. He was survived by two sons, Gerald D. and Donald D., four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**David Gehlbach**, a son of Philip and Mary Gehlbach, was born May 23, 1836 in Bavaria, Germany. When he was a child his father died and his mother with her family of four children came to America in 1852, landing in New Orleans, December 25 of that same year. After reaching New Orleans the family went up the Mississippi River to St. Louis and up the Illinois River to Bath, Mason County, Illinois where one brother was living. They finally settled in Logan County, Illinois. David owned 281 acres in section 24, Chester Township and another 196 acres in another part of Chester Township. David married Barbara Rentchler born in Wurtemberg, Germany in 1845. To this couple ten children were born, three sons and seven daughters.

**Andrew B. Hageman** settled in section 24 of Chester Township, Illinois. He was born April 4, 1824, in Somerset County, New Jersey, a son of Isaac and Maria (Vandereer) Hageman. In 1838 the family moved to Fulton County, Illinois. The family went as far as Wheeling, Virginia in wagons with several other families. Isaac decided to go by water to avoid the rough roads through Ohio and Indiana. They arrived in Illinois before the other families who had come the entire way by wagon. Isaac was a mechanic and could do any kind of mechanical work. The family first moved to Fairview, Fulton County, Illinois. He was the first mechanic there and Isaac lived in Fairview, Illinois until his death. Andrew was the youngest of eleven children. He was married to Miss Sarah Ross, November 13, 1845 in Fulton County, Illinois. In April of 1850, they moved to Pike County, Illinois. On February 14, 1865 they moved to Logan County, Illinois. To this union was born eleven children.

**Milton L. Holler** was a stock farmer on 245 acres in section 31 of Chester Township, Illinois. Milton specialized in breeding Poland-China hogs and had purchased thoroughbred animals from Messrs. A.M. Caldwell, William Jones and others. In 1871 he came to Logan County. In November 1878 he married Mrs. Mary J. Brucker, widow of Jacob Brucker. Jacob Brucker had been crushed to death in November 1874 by a saw log rolling over him. He left four children. Milton and Mary had three children. He was the son of Lawson Holler, born in 1848 in Gilmer County, Georgia. He came to Illinois with his parents in 1854.

**John Lachenmyer** lived on section 18, Chester Township, Logan County, Illinois. John was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, born October 30, 1833 a son of Jacob Lachenmyer. Jacob died in Germany in 1882. John left for America in December 1853 and arrived in New York March, 1854. He went to Michigan and lived with a sister for three years. He then came to Lincoln, Illinois and stayed. He bought 200 acres in section 18 and 19 of Chester Township. His residence was in section 18. He married Magdalena Rentchler, born in Wurtemberg, Germany. To this union ten children were born, Caroline died in 1900 at the age of 31, John Jr., George, Rose wife of Fred Bock, Margaret wife of John Damarin, Anna, wife of Ralph Lambert, William, and Lena. Adam and Charles, the last two were left in charge of the family farm. Mr. Lachenmyer cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, but after that he voted the Democratic ticket. He retired from farming in 1908 and moved to Lincoln, IL and built a home on Wyatt Ave. John died March 28, 1911 two weeks after they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, March 14, 1911. He was buried in Old Union Cemetery. (Sol: The Lincoln Daily Courier, March 30, 1911)

**Andrew Layman** was the youngest son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kretzinger) Layman. He was born in Mason County, Illinois, April 14, 1852. Andrew married Blanche Pegram, who was born in Pike County, Illinois in 1854.

**Edward Rell Madigan** (January 13, 1936 – December 7, 1994) He was born in Lincoln, Illinois. He graduated from Lincoln College with an AA degree in business in 1955 and managed the family Yellow and Lincoln Cab Company from 1958 to 1973. In 1966, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served until 1971. In 1972, Madigan was elected to the US Congress, where he spent eighteen years serving on the agriculture committee. Madigan was chairman of the House Republican Planning and Research Committee in the Ninety-Seventh Congress. He also served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce as the ranking Republican member on the Sub committee on Health and Environment. Madigan was Secretary of Agriculture in the Bush administration from 1991 to 1992. He died on December 7, 1994 in Springfield, IL and was interred in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Lincoln, IL. His home was on Home Ave, Chester Township, Logan County, IL. Edward R. Madigan was honored for his lifelong dedication to state and national public service when Railsplitter State park was renamed in his memory in 1995. The site is along Salt Creek in Logan County on the south edge of Lincoln. The State of Illinois acquired the land in 1970 from the Department of Mental health. Development of the park started in 1971. The Lincoln Post Office building was also named for him.

**John Van Deventer** erected a mill on Salt Creek in the southwestern part of Chester Township.  
SOI: Pg. 143 Logan County History 1911



**Roy H. Johnson** of rural Route 3 Lincoln was a former chairman of Logan County Board of Supervisors and former Dewitt County superintendent of schools. He taught school in Dewitt County for 25 years before moving to Lincoln. He was a past district governor of Rotary International and a past eminent commander of Clinton Commandery of Knights Templar. He transferred his membership to Constantine Commandery 51, Knights Templar in Lincoln. He was the only member of Constantine to receive a 50 year membership honor. Roy was born in Dewitt County October 3, 1882, the son of Solomon and Elizabeth (Lewis) Johnson. He married Icie Foley December 26, 1905 in Springfield, IL. He died January 17, 1972.



**Roy H. and Icie (Foley) Johnson**

Mr. & Mrs. Johnson served from 1926 to 1940 as Superintendent and Matron of the Odd Fellows Orphans Home of Lincoln, Illinois. Icie Foley Johnson was born June 30, 1882 near Wapella, Illinois, a daughter of Nicholas and Emma Thorp Foley. Icie taught for many years in the rural schools of DeWitt County, Illinois. She was a member of Lincoln First United Methodist Church, Chestnut Woman's Club, Lincoln Rebekah Lodge and the National and State Retired Teachers Association. To this union two sons were born, James L. and Robert H. Icie Died at age 97 September 1979.

**Ray Bernahl** uses a 1964 Ford truck engine to power his saw mill. (Picture below) After the wood is cut, he puts it in a solar dryer. The air-dried lumber is cured for a year for each inch of thickness before it is ready to use. Ray lives in Chester Township at 1010 - 1275<sup>th</sup>.

SOL: *Lincoln Courier Lifestyles* Wed. Aug. 5, 1992

Article: *Courtesy of Dorothy Gleason*



### **Early Mail Service in Logan County:**

Article: *Courtesy of Dorothy Gleason*

The history of Logan County includes the heritage of postal services since the county became a distinct entity in 1839. A post office was established in Postville in 1840 with James Primm serving as the first Postmaster. Primm served until the year 1848 after which Solomon Kahn had the position. When Postville was joined to Lincoln as a section of the city, the postmaster position was abolished in Postville. Postville and Mt. Pulaski were joined by a road in 1848. The period of time between the creation of Logan County and the beginning of the Mexican War witnessed the delivery of mail by horseback. After the Mexican War, mail service changed

from horseback to using a mail hack, a two-seated vehicle drawn by a team of horses. Mail hacks were used in the mail service which extended from Springfield to Bloomington. They also went from Middletown through Postville and then on to Mt. Pulaski. John L. Clough was the first mail driver to use a mail hack.

The first Postmaster of the Lincoln Post Office was Michael Hinrichsen. He operated the office from his place of business. It was located along the alley on the north side of Broadway across the street from the Lincoln State Bank. Hinrichsen's residence was located next to his store. He was one of the incorporators of the Lincoln Library Association in 1874. Robert Leslie succeeded Hinrichsen as Postmaster and served until 1861. John S. Metcalf became the third Postmaster at that time until 1869. Albert D. Cadwallader was appointed as the fourth Lincoln Postmaster in 1869 until 1886. During his tenure the post office was moved three doors east of the original building that Hinrichsen used. A.M. Miller was appointed Postmaster in 1886 and consequently the post office was moved to the corner of the Lincoln House, that section of the building being occupied by Avery's Drug Store. Jacob A. Morris became Postmaster in 1889 and served in that position until 1892 and 1893 when P.C. Maxwell and Samuel L. Wallace served as temporary Postmasters for those years respectively. Thomas H. Stokes was appointed permanent Postmaster in 1894 and served for a period of four years. He was replaced by the appointment of Wallace as a permanent Postmaster in 1898. The latter served throughout the turn of the century until 1903 after which L.B. Davis was appointed to the office. During Davis' administration, the post office was moved to the Edmunds building which was located on the east side of the courthouse square. In the meantime a bill was introduced into congress by Congressman John A. Sterling of this District (1906) which called for an appropriation of \$75,000 for the construction of a new post office building.

The location of the U.S. Post Office in Lincoln, IL.  
On November 7, 1907, the government purchased the property at 102-104 South McLean Street. This location was known as the Sheer corner. Work began in the spring of 1910.



This building at 102-104 South McLean Street Lincoln, Illinois is now called the Edward Madigan Building. The research center has these pictures for sale at 50 cents each.



#### **JOINT REGIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL MEETING**

On September 5, 2002, the West Central Regional Urban and Community Forestry Council and the Tree Care Council of Central Illinois met jointly to explore the commercial nurseries and tree features of Lincoln, Illinois. This group, along with local Lincoln residents interested in community beautification, met at the SWCD office. Together they toured the city parks and then went to Chester Township to John Wilmert's Tree Farm and Steve Schilling's Salt Creek Tree Farm where local media joined them, and finally a tour of Mrs. Scully's

homestead and tree collection. The group shared their expertise in tree structure and performance. The event provided the group with an opportunity to explore a new potential market area and to see two tree farm operations first hand. John Wilmert and Steve Schilling had the opportunity to hear what potential consumers look for in a tree. The professional urban forestry managers discussed experiences they have had with nursery practices and tree transport as it relates to tree survivability. An enjoyable day was had by all. Below is a list of trees developed by the attending municipal foresters. It represents trees that they would like to see on the market.

## Trees Grown

Turkish Filbert  
 Lacebark Elm  
 Amur Cork tree  
 Japanese Tree Lilac 'Ivory silk'  
 Elm Hybrids 'Accolade' 'Frontier' ...  
 Tree Form Serviceberry  
 Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)  
 Bald Cypress including 'Shawnee Brave'  
 Tree form Black Haw viburnum  
 Oaks - swamp white oak, bur, red, chinkapin, overcup, sawtooth  
 Ginkgo  
 Crabapples 'Sugartyme' 'Red Jewel' 'Harvest gold'  
 Paperbark Maple  
 Blue Ash  
 Linden 'Glenleven'



Steve Schilling, Owner & Operator  
 1244 - 950<sup>th</sup> Ave. Lincoln, Illinois



• LINCOLN, ILLINOIS • SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1998 • 5

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Asa French was born in Ohio, and remained there until 1837, when he came to Logan County with his family, passing his first winter in Chestnut. The following spring he bought 500 acres of land in section 36, Chester Township. Here he developed his homestead and lived there until his death. Asa was a man of high standards being a member and class leader of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically he was a Whig. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. French. Daniel, John C. and Ezekiel lived near the homestead. David their fourth son died April 6, 1854 at age eighteen. Daughter Nancy married Robert Applegate, Phebe married Joseph Barnes, and Sarah died at age 17.

Daniel French married Susan Bunfell, daughter of William and Elizabeth Bunfell. Daniel and Elizabeth were the parents of ten children, John W., Nancy C., Myrtus B., Edgar E., Harrison W., Anna E., Orpheus Q., Adeline S., Edith L., and Sylvester E.

Thomas G. O'Brien was the owner of one of the finest chicken farms in the state and breeder of an almost perfect class of White Leghorn chickens. His 120 acre farm was in section 28, Chester Township, Logan County, Illinois. Thomas was born in Chester Township, October 12, 1883 the son of Peter and Johanna (Fitzgibbons) O'Brien. Peter, a native of Ireland, died at the age of thirty-five. Peter had come to Logan County and purchased the 120 acres that Thomas inherited upon his father's death.

*SOI: Logan County History 1911 pg. 320*

Frank Klatt was born in Prussia, Germany January 29, 1839, a son of Frank and Barbara Klatt. He was the only son of five children and came to America in the fall of 1855 at the age of seventeen. He made his way directly to Chicago to secure employment. He then made his way to Middletown in Logan County, Illinois. He found employment and fifteen months later enlisted in the Second Illinois Cavalry of Company B. He served three years in the army and was mustered out August 11, 1864. He then came to Lincoln, Illinois and was an employee of Martin Spitly and managed a feed barn. He then became a partner in that business until 1871 and purchased his partners interest becoming sole proprietor, managing a livery and feed barn. Besides his livery property and his residence in Lincoln, Mr. Klatt owned 150 acres of valuable farming property in Chester Township. On December 17, 1868, Frank married Miss Rosina Yeagar, daughter of August and Rosa Yeagar. To this union thirteen children were born. *SOI: Logan County history 1911 pg 50-52*

Frederick Charles Koehnle was born May 19, 1855 in Pottsville, Pennsylvania a son of F.C.W. and Louise Koehnle. Frederick was about a year old when his family moved to Logan County 1856. In 1872 he became assistant postmaster in Lincoln and served in that capacity for four years. The next few years he was employed by several establishments. When his brother William died, he moved back to Lincoln and went into business with his father and Mr. Trapp as clerk. He purchased 368 acres in Chester Township. In 1877 he married Miss Agnes Lederman from Pekin, Illinois. To this union were born three children. Agnes died in 1883 and was buried in Old Union Cemetery. Frederick married Miss Marie Zeigler, a native of Germany. To this union were born five children.

Samuel T. Sparks lived in section 26, Chester Township, Logan County, Illinois. He was the son of Samuel and Sarah Ellen (Wendell) Sparks. Samuel was born October 8, 1876 on the old homestead in Sheridan Township, Logan County, Illinois. At age 21 he began farming for himself, renting from his father the farm on which he lived. He married Miss Minnie C. Raber, daughter of Ernest and Mary Raber of New Holland, Illinois. Samuel and Minnie were the parents of four children.

Andrew Layman was the youngest son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kretzinger) Layman. He was born in Mason County, Illinois, April 14, 1852. Andrew married Blanche Pegram, who was born in Pike County, Illinois, Illinois in 1854, the daughter of Alexander and Martha (Ward) Pegram. Andrew and Martha had four children. They lived on the North West quarter of section 14, Chester Township and owned 380 acres of land in sections 11 & 14.

George Layman next to the eldest son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kretzinger) Layman settled on 320 acres in Chester Township in 1866. In the same year his parents came to Chester Township. Their two sons, George and Samuel bought a tract of 600 acres in Chester Township on which their father, Henry developed a homestead on

the northeast quarter of section 15 and lived there until his death. George had four brothers and four sisters. He was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, July 26, 1835. On May 30, 1861 he married Elizabeth Plaster. She was born November 5, 1843.

**William Matthews** was one of the early pioneers of Chester Township, Logan County, Illinois. He was born in Pike County, Ohio in 1810. He was a son of Thomas Matthews. He married Mary Wilday January 13, 1836. William came to Illinois with his wife and child in 1838 carrying everything they had in a wagon drawn by three yoke of oxen. They traveled the distance of 430 miles in 17 days averaging 25 plus miles a day. Upon arrival, William bought a quarter section of land in section 31 of Chester Township, Logan County, Illinois. He paid \$9 per acre. He broke ground on fifty acres of land and built a log house. Elizabeth died February 23, 1880. To this union eleven children were born. Their eldest son Alonzo accidentally shot himself at age seventeen. Their second son died at age twenty-three. They had a set of twins Arvilla and Prucilla. Another son, Allen, died at age twenty one. Mary Ann was a twin and her infant sister died an infant and was never named. The family was members of the Christian Church.

**John Maurer** came to Chester Township in 1869 and settled in section 21. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany in 1830, a son of Christian Maurer. John learned the trade of a stone-mason architect in Germany. In 1848 when he was eighteen years of age, he came to America. He first located in Tuscarawas County, Ohio and worked on a farm for a year. While in Ohio, he married Katherine Seklen. She was also a Native of Wurtemberg, Germany. He then came to Mason County, Illinois and bought a partially improved farm of 160 acres. He remained there about 20 years, then came to Logan County, Illinois and bought 320 acres of property in Chester Township, Logan County, Illinois and later added 250 acres of land. To this union five children were born. Mr. Maurer was in charge of the Chestervale station, near his residence, and engaged in buying and shipping grain. He also served as road commissioner, and school treasurer.

**James Primm** was born in St. Clair County, Illinois in 1809. His father was Thomas Primm and his grandfather was a native of Virginia. James came to Logan County, Illinois in 1835 and married Miss Maria Russell in 1839. To this union were born nine children. Seth Tinsley erected a store on the corner of Fifth and Main streets in Postville and Mr. Primm managed the store for him. In 1865 he settled on a farm in Chester Township, where he lived until his death in 1872. He was buried in old Union Cemetery.

**Martin Spitly**, one of the early settlers of Postville, was a native of Bavaria, Germany, born in 1818. His father died when Martin was twelve years of age. His father's death left his mother with eleven children, two sons and nine daughters. Since Martin was the oldest, he accepted the responsibility of the care of the family. He lived at home until he was thirty years of age. By this time the other children had grown and in 1850 he came to America. After landing in New York in April of 1850, he went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to work on the steamer, Mayflower. In the fall of 1850, he came to Logan County, Illinois and found work on a farm near Middletown. A year later he located in Postville to manage a hotel and livery business. In 1858 he rebuilt the Foster House at Lincoln, Illinois and changed the name to the Spitly House. He exchanged that property for 3,000 acres of land in Colfax County, Nebraska. There he laid out a town he called Spitly. Martin had a home on section 5 in Chester Township, Logan County, Illinois which joined the Agriculture fair grounds. He lived there until 1878. He was one of the organizers of the Logan County Agriculture Society. Mr. Spitly married Burdena Frank in 1854 in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a native of Bavaria, Germany. To this union were born three children.

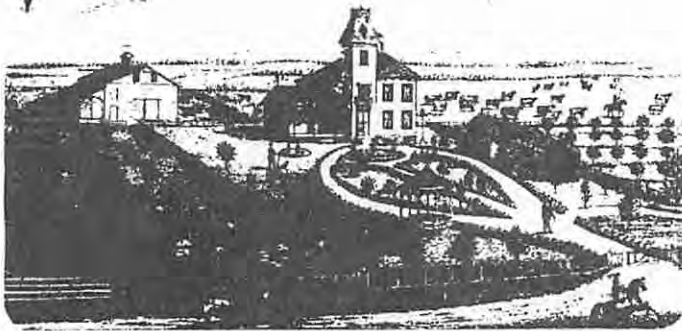
## **News Bulletin:**

### **AN EXPLOSION OF WHISKEY**

An empty whiskey barrel sat near the depot platform; a man sat on the barrel; the barrel was impregnated with whiskey gases. A boy bent on mischief, lights a fire cracker in the bunghole of the barrel. A fearful explosion follows, which for aught we know might have changed the county line between Macon and Logan. Every hoop is burst on the barrel; the man that was on the barrel makes an aerial evolution some six or seven feet in the air, descending very gracefully uninjured. But the boy, oh, where was he? A piece of flying splinter had left its mark on his nose.

*SOI: July 14, 1887 the Lincoln Herald, Courtesy of John Regan*

**Honorable Richard H. Templeman** was born near Fredericksburg, Virginia April 20, 1833. He was left an orphan at age eight. He came to Logan County, Illinois in 1853. He married Mary Shoup November 26, 1857. To this union was born six children. He taught school in the Laughery district, two miles north of Mt. Pulaski. He bought 268 acres of land in Chester Township. He was commissioner of highways for one term, school treasurer for a term, and township clerk for two years. In 1882 and 1884 he was elected to the Legislature. He bought a home in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois.



James Primm Farm, Chester Township,  
Logan County, Illinois  
*SOI: Logan County, Illinois Atlas*



Honorable Richard H. Templeman



To the left:  
Samuel Layman Farm  
Chester Township, Illinois  
*SOI: Logan County, Illinois Atlas*

**Logan County Board** members Tuesday unanimously approved the start of much-anticipated roadwork in southern Logan County, affecting areas near Elkhart and Mount Pulaski. Board members approved reconstructing two intersections on County Highway 10, or 700th Street, where Primm Road (1250th Avenue) and 800th Avenue intersect, resurfacing Elkhart Hill and repairing a bridge on 1400th Avenue about two miles northwest of Mount Pulaski. Logan County highway superintendent Bret Aukamp said the lowest of the four bids he received for the intersection work totaled \$224,779 and was submitted by Illinois Valley Paving of Springfield.

The contract to repair the bridge on 1400th Avenue was awarded to Smith Construction of Mount Zion for a price tag of \$85,112. Twenty percent of that work will be paid in equal shares from the highway department's bridge fund and by Mount Pulaski Township, with the Illinois Department of Transportation paying the remaining 80 percent balance.

Board members appointed veterinarian Michael Sanborn to fill the remaining five months as the Logan County Animal Control Administrator.

*SOI: THE COURIER: Published Wednesday, July 19, 2006*



## **Early Settlers Entering Land in Logan County, Illinois**

SOI: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~illogan/>

### **Chester Township**

1829, Eli Fletcher, Preston Pendleton, John Van Deventer, Samuel Evans, Nicholas Moore; 1830, Andrew Lee; 1831, Gershorn Payne, John Downing; 1833, David Laughery, John Shoup, John Laughlin, James Downing, Jacob Shoup, Robert Downing; 1835, William L. May, Jacob Early, William Carpenter, Samuel H. Treat, James Bell, Joshua F. Bell, Seth M. Tinsley, Abraham Van Deventer, Edmund Sams, Alfred Sams, John Sams, William Hackney, James Martin, John Martin, Samuel Martin, James Jackson, Alexander Patterson, Moses Patterson, Nathan Laughery; 1836, Moses L. Knapp, Samuel Mitchell, Simeon Ryder, Hannibal Miller, Virgil Hickox, Sampson Sams, William Frakes, James Van Deventer, John Grigg, H. B. Truett, S. Roberts, David Witter, Archer G. Herndon, Thomas Shoup, Thomas L. Campbell, William Gilliford, Joshua F. Davis; 1837, Elisha Park, Asa French, Clearer Johnson; 1839, John S. French, Daniel Witter; 1845, Leroy T. Brown; 1846, William Southern, Mary Edwards; 1848, Marquis Bacon, Henry Alexander, Jacob Applegate, Chesley Bashaw, Isaac Geldon, James McGraw; 1849, John Ritchhart, Peter Morris, John Bashaw, Mary Smith; 1850, Daniel C. Primm, Ebenezer Town, E. S. Toron, John M. Edwards, James O. Turley, Robert B. Latham, Thomas N. Gill; 1851, William H. Young, Nathaniel Whittaker, Horace G. Ballou, John J. Bradshaw; 1852, Hiram Walker, Francis Holliday, Henry Owsley, Edward Jones, John D. Gillett, John Williams, William Habberset, Jesse D. Blackledge, M. C. Goltra, Jonathan Miller, Ninian E. Primm, Henry Bonfay, John Hayney, Phil. H. Thompson, Thomas Officer, John S. Officer, Archibald Towne, Richard T. Gill, Gilbert S. Manning, Thomas E. Quisenberry, Andrew F. Wilson, Samuel Emmett, William Stephenson, William Shaver, S. S. Keguvin, David Brunk, Josiah Pierce, Caleb Birchall, Charles C. Henry, A. J. Morrison, William D. Henry, Lewis Keeling; 1853, George Roberts, Luther Hill, John D. Ball; 1854, James Cheney.

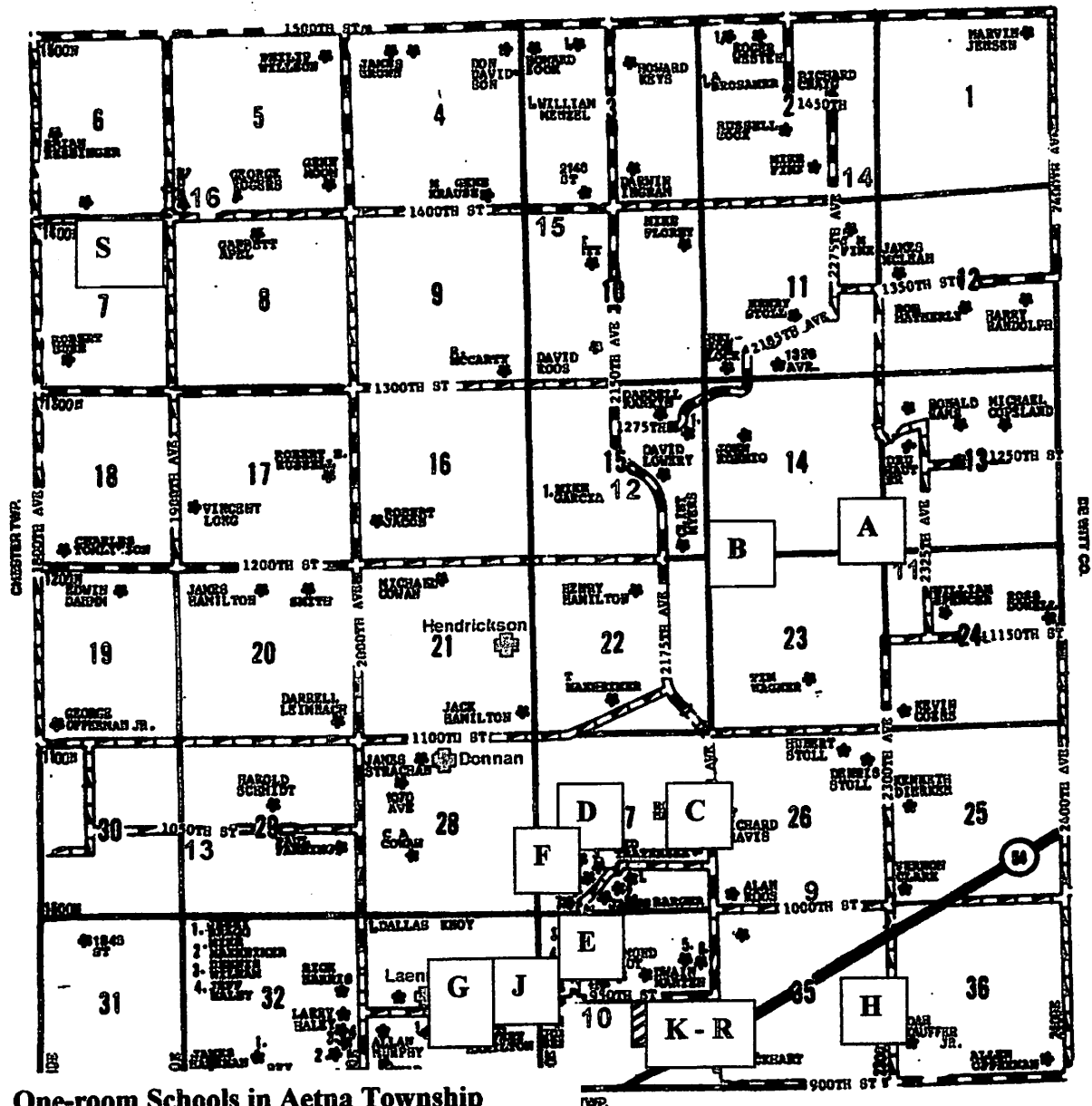
### **AETNA TOWNSHIP**

SOI: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~illogan/>

1835, Elizabeth Dodson, Hugh Collins, Henry Dement; 1836, Brooks Randolph, James Randolph, Willoughby Randolph, Brookins Chapman, William Chapman; 1838, John E. Martin, Hiram Daniel, Nathaniel Neal, William Randolph, Archer G. Herndon, Jesse G. Woodward, James W. Woodward, Isaac Dement, David T. Woodward, J. B. Loose, S. Stover, Eli Fletcher, Zachariah Fletcher, John Harry, Harrison Barnes, Mahlon Hall, John F. Reed, Daniel Brooks, Daniel Clark, John Clark, David Clark; 1839, Hiram Doter, Polly Dougherty, John S. Poulk, Clarkson F. Brooks, John M. Burkhardt, Samuel Powers, Azariah Smalley; 1840, John Mitchell; 1841, R. B. Whitaker; 1845, Nathan Longberg; 1846, Nathaniel M. Whitaker, Eben M. Douglas; 1847, Peter Coppenbarger, Isaac R. Braucher; 1848, McCarthy Hildreth, Joseph Bowles, J. H. Regan, H. Thompson, Susannah Poulk, Mary Hood, Blain B. Whitaker; 1849, Richard P. Gill, William Donnan, Eliza Ray, Rebecca Clymer, William M. Allen, Cornelius Bowers, Francis Daniel, Francis Knowing, Cynthia Thompson, James R. Huston, Isaac Clark; 1850, Samuel Emmett, William F. Sudduth, James Clark, John H. Douglas; 1851, Jesse Jackman, William H. Young, Samuel Dement, Mathew Wylie; 1852, Thomas N. Gill, William Hannaford, Greenleaf Wilby, Israel Hemingway, Ebenezer Duff, Andrew M. Duff, Abraham J. Duff, Thompson J. Flint, Isaac Dyer, Ephraim Flint, Benjamin Thompson, McCarthy Hildreth, Daniel C. Lamb, Latham & Gillett, Hiram Walker, Thomas Patterson, John Davis, William South, William Rutherford, Harrison Stallings; 1854, James Cheney; 1855, William Randolph, Jr.; 1858, Joseph Ream; 1860, William Williams, Edward F. Leonard; 1861, Richard Faris, Thompson Flint, John H. Regan, Marquis Canady, Nelson Wolcott; 1862, James Marvel, Solomon Ely, Columbus Hildreth, William D. Lakin, James S. Randolph, John M. Harcourt; 1863, James M. Duff, Elias Ellis; 1864, Adam C. Wood, H. Alexander; 1865, Torrence Conner, John A. Conner, Squire Dawson; 1866, Isaac T. Lane, John Roos; 1867, Anselm T. Blake, Eli Barrett, Dorilas Lincoln, David C. Lincoln

# Important Places in Aetna Township

Graphics: Courtesy of Carol Radespiel



**One-room Schools in Aetna Township**

- |             |             |                 |            |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| 9 Pop Corn  | 10 Chestnut | 11 Regan        | 12 Union   |
| 13 Mt. Airy | 14 Bowles   | 15 Independence | 16 Harmony |

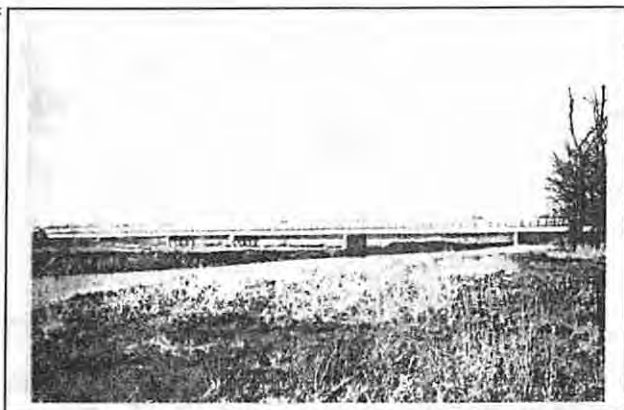
A=Regan Bridge B= Chestnut-Beason Park C= Hantel (Randolph) Bridge D=Killeman Hill  
 E= Donnan Bridge F=Bakerville G= Yankeetown Road - Hurricane Point H=Lincoln Trail  
 J= Schoolhouse K= Chestnut L = Allen & Humphrey Grocery and Meat Market  
 M= Bank of Chestnut N= Grocery Business O= Chestnut Churches P= Chestnut Hatchery  
 Q= Chestnut's First Gas Station R= Farmers Grain Company S= Harmony Church &  
 Cemetery

A =



A= The Regan Bridge was built by King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The Contract was awarded May 28, 1889 and was completed November 6, 1889. The bridge was 120 feet long. The total cost of the Regan Bridge was \$2,297.00.

C=



C= Hantel (Randolph) Bridge (The county Bridge) is the Iron Bridge north of Chestnut and was built by King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The contract was awarded April 23, 1887 and was completed and approved July 13, 1887. The length of the bridge was 120 feet. The total cost of the bridge was \$2,134.50. May 8, 1961 after high water completely washed the bridge foundation away, the community was caught off guard, not knowing of the poor condition of the bridge. The bridge had collapsed just after a school bus had crossed it. A new concrete bridge was erected and completed December 1, 1961. The length being 421 feet and the cost was \$172,024.40.

E= Donnan Bridge once known as the Braucher Bridge was built by King Iron Bridge Co., Cleveland, Ohio. The contract was awarded March 29, 1888, and the bridge was completed July 15, 1888. The bridge's main span is 100 feet. The total cost of the bridge was \$3,730.06

E



**F = Bakerville** was a mile north of Chestnut, on a winding road following Salt Creek. This is the location Samuel Baker established a grist mill, saw mill and a brick factory. In 1833, Samuel Baker came to Illinois when he was fourteen years old. Bakerville was one of the first settlements in Aetna Township. Five brick cottages were there in the early days. The brick stack still stands on the old factory site. It served the factory, grist mill and lumber yard. After Mr. Baker retired, the brickyard was continued for more than 20 years by his sons James and Frank.

Richard, a grandson of Samuel Baker, described the manner in which bricks were made. A large hole was made in the ground. Four loads of white clay and four loads of yellow clay were dumped into the hole. A horse hitched to a sweep walked in a circle to mix the clay while someone would temper the clay with water to the correct consistency. The clay was then transferred to a slate slab. Two handfuls of clay made a brick measuring 2 ½ X 4" X 8". They had two kilns that would hold 212, 000 bricks. After about two weeks, the smoke from the kiln would turn white. Only then were the bricks removed from the fire. It took another week for the bricks to cool down so they could be handled.

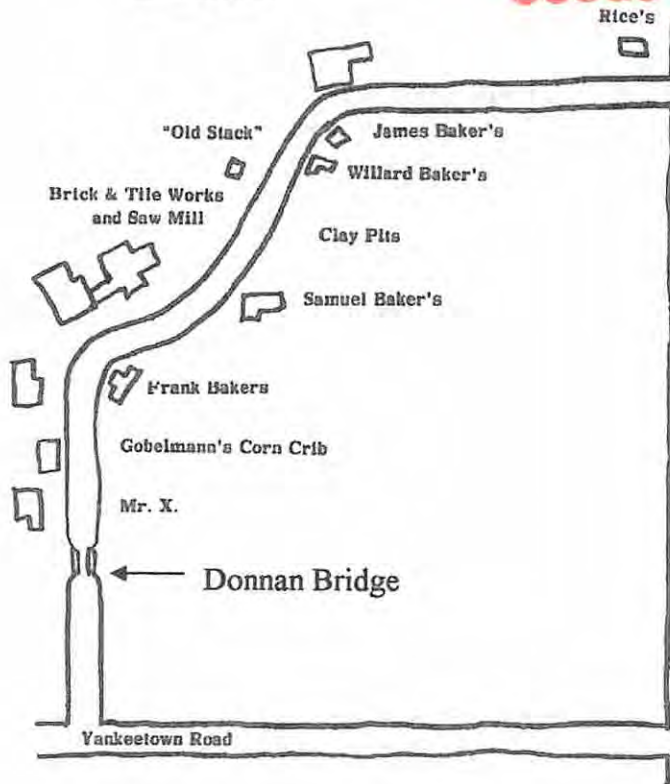


## Bakerville

## OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

### Samuel Baker:

Samuel Baker came to Illinois in 1833 when he was fourteen years old. He traveled alone and stopped at a small settlement, later to be named Broadwell (Illinois). In April 1845, Samuel arrived with other settlers at Yankeetown. Samuel was born in Ohio in 1819. Samuel married Mary Ripley in 1841. To this union three children were born, James, Frank and Betty (Sheridan). In 1862 he enlisted for three years in company E, 106 Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He took part in an attack on the Mississippi River just below Vicksburg and the siege of Vicksburg. He was discharged in 1865. After the war he came back to Bakerville and started a brick business. Mary died at age 62. Samuel married Sarah Gerhard in 1884 and three children were born, Charles, Edwin and Benjamin. After Samuel retired, the brickyard continued for more than 20 years by his sons James and Frank. Mr. Baker died at age 96 in 1915.



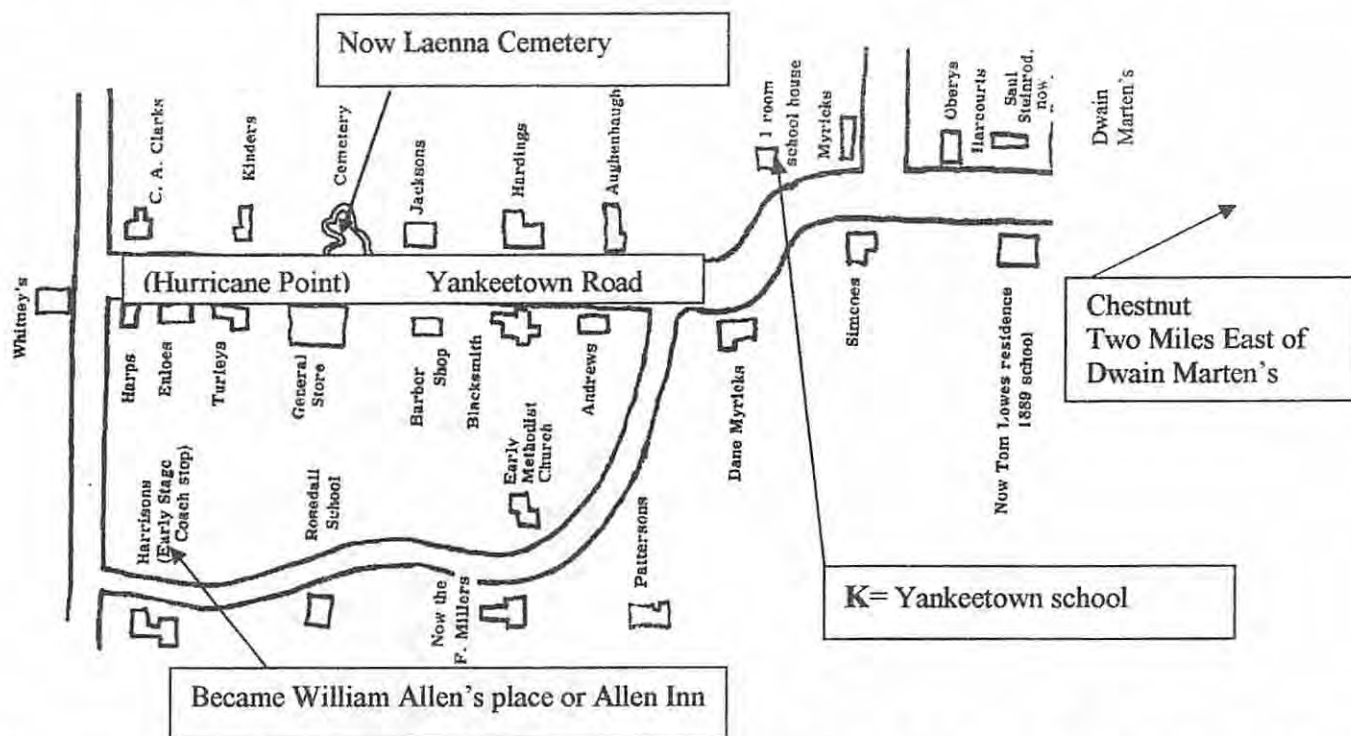
Plaque on the brick smoke stack

The Plaque inscription reads: A monument to our pioneers' industry. This brick smoke stack along Salt Creek is all that remains of one of the first industries in the area. Samuel Baker (1819-1915) started a saw mill, grist mill and brick factory after the Civil War. The factory supplied bricks for the Baker family homes (three still stand) and businesses in the Chestnut area. The factory ran from about 1866 to 1935. The kilns held 212,000 and 60,000 bricks each. Bricks were made of yellow and white clay and water mixed by horse powered sweep. The molds held three bricks each measuring 2 1/2" X 4" X 8". Plaque erected by: Mrs. Warren Moser and Jeanette Buse and the Logan County Tourism Bureau 1987. Pictures: Courtesy of Steve Heinzel.



## Yankeetown Road

In 1839, the first map of Logan County was drawn. It was taken from a land survey made in 1822. In the area on the southern part of Salt Creek, surrounded by timber, was a two mile east – west road called Hurricane Point. During the Civil War, because most of the early settlers fought for the North, Hurricane Point was renamed Yankeetown Road. Yankeetown Road is a two mile road west of Chestnut. At one time 13 homes were scattered along the road and approximately 75 people were living there. Yankeetown derived its name in the manner of the following story. A Southern family living in a house west of Dwain Martens place disliked the North and made a careless remark about the “Darn Yankees.” A group of neighbors heard him and became angry. They made him climb up and stand on the roof of his house waving the American Flag. If he slowed down, some of the Yankees below would fire an encouraging bullet. After this the road was named Yankeetown Road.



The earliest settlers in Yankeetown were Tom Patterson, George Andrews, Dehaven, Whitneys (Whitney Hill) and Samuel Baker. Willard Whitney ran a grist mill on Salt Creek, Bruce Dement operated a general store, Daniels a blacksmith shop, and Samuel Baker ran a grist mill, a wagon shop and was a maker of coffins. There was a Methodist Church nearby and a one-room school house. The site of Samuel's mill was just north of the Harold Bell home, as was the first school house. Part of the Yankeetown road was used as the old stage coach road. It turned south by the Andrew place and angled southwest toward Springfield. Abe Lincoln could have traveled this way as he rode the 8<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit in 1840. There is a plaque two miles east of Chestnut stating "The Lincoln Trail" A. Lincoln rode this way." The coming of the railroad brought the history of Yankeetown to a close.

**H= Lincoln Trail:** Abraham Lincoln traveled this way as he rode the Circuit of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. There is a plaque located on this trail 2 miles east of Chestnut. Judge Davis presided over the Logan County Circuit Court and Abraham Lincoln traveled the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in 1840. He was too poor to own a horse so he borrowed one. Finally he owned his own horse. He would be away from Springfield for weeks at a time, with no baggage except for a change of linens and an old umbrella.

One of the cases that Lincoln tried was the Dement case. The old Dement Mill was the first mill built on Salt Creek. Below the Dement Mill, a dam was built and backed up the water which stopped the Dement water wheel from turning. Dement brought suit and hired Abraham Lincoln to represent him. They won the case while court was being held under a white oak tree. *SOI: Chestnut 100 Years 1872-1972*

### **K= Yankeetown School**

Yankeetown provided a school for the children. This was a small one room frame school house that stood south of Hurricane Point on the curve about a ¼ mile west of Mr. Ray Simcoe's house. Most of the children were in lower grades. One of the early teachers was Miss LaVica Harcourt. The school grew in number, and the Yankeetown businesses had moved to the newly established Chestnut. A larger school and a more convenient location were needed. The Board of Directors agreed and the Yankeetown School was moved in 1889 to a two story school building ½ mile east of the original site on the west edge of chestnut. Tom Lowe's residence stood on that location in 1972. Two teachers each had a room of four grades. The lower room was for the first four grades and the upper room housed the other grades. Later, grades nine and ten were added. Improvements to the Chestnut school were made in 1914. By 1920 enrollment had grown to the point where the three upper grades were taught in rooms above the Neuschafer Hardware. A school bond issue was passed, and in 1923 a new building was completed. Chester rural schools were consolidated in 1946, and included Regan, Union, Popcorn, Mt. Airy and Fair Haven. The Chestnut High School closed in 1946, with the students going to Beason and Mt. Pulaski. In 1975, the Chestnut Grade School joined Mt. Pulaski's Unit District #23. In 1980, Chestnut's Grade School closed and Chestnut children attended Mt. Pulaski Grade School.

*SOI: Chestnut 100 Years 1872-1972 & Logan county History 1982 pg 63*

### **William Allen/Allenville:**

William Allen was born August 16, 1805 in Morris County, New Jersey and at the age of nine years moved with his parents to Ohio. He was married in Ohio to Miss Jane Lyon on October 20, 1828. They left Ohio in 1839 on their way to Logan County, Illinois. It took them eighteen days by wagon. They located west of what would be Chestnut. Mr. Allen bought 140 acres of land and built a home. He called his home "The Allen Inn" because many travelers would stay at his place overnight. Jane died May 1867 and he then married Mrs. Orpha Wright. In 1870 a town was laid out and platted. It had been surveyed on a section of land owned by William Allen and S. Beidler. A small group of homes and a post office was established under the name of Allenville in honor of Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen was also the owner of Allen Inn and was a prosperous farmer. Allen Inn formerly known as the J.B. Harrison place was located half way between Mt. Pulaski and Chestnut and north of the railroad. In recent years the Stoll family has built a new home on the prior location of the Allen Inn.

In March 1867, the Illinois State Legislature granted a charter to a group of businessmen headed by Samuel Melvin and J.T. Stuart of Springfield for the construction of the Gilman, Clinton and Springfield Railroad. In later years it was known as the Illinois Central Railroad. Construction began in the spring of 1871 and the last spike was driven September 15, 1871. The first train ran from Springfield to Chicago in November 1871. The Chicago fire occurred October 10, 1871 and the Railroad Company ran a special trip for the tourist to see the Chicago ruins. April 25, 1872 there appeared in the Lincoln Herald news that Gilman, Clinton and Springfield Railroad line would bypass Allenville and was to run through a new town nearby. A depot had been built in Allenville with anticipation of the railroad. The depot was later moved to Chestnut, Illinois.

### **Harmony Cemetery:**

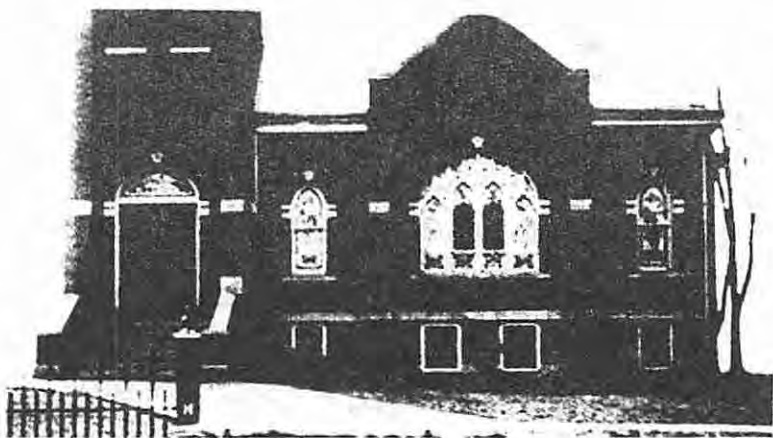
From 1860 to 1880 there was a burial ground on the farm of the late Francis Keys, located one mile east of Harmony School. Many early members of the Harmony Church were buried there. In 1880 the bodies were removed from Francis Key's farm to the location adjoining Harmony Church. In 1882 the Aetna Cemetery Association was formed. In 1913 an acre of land south of the existing cemetery was purchased for an addition to the old cemetery. In 1919 the cemetery was officially called Harmony Cemetery. *SOI: 1882 Logan County History*



On the east side of the cemetery is a small white marker bearing the inscription, "Maggie, daughter of D.M. and L. Lincoln, aged 5 months, 16 days." This child died ca. 1869 and was a first cousin of Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln family lived two mile east of the Harmony School on the farm that was to become the property of Mrs. Louella Whittaker. The names of Hester Lincoln and Lydia Lincoln were listed among the membership of the "Duff Society" in 1870 - 1875.

"On Memorial Sunday, appropriate services were held at Harmony church. Rev. J.E. Artz, the pastor, preached the sermon. At the conclusion of the service, the congregation went to the beautiful cemetery adjoining the church and decorated the graves with floral tributes, not forgetting to place a flag on the grave of the late David Johnston. He is the only veteran of the Civil War buried in the Harmony Cemetery. Mr. Johnston was a brother of Mrs. Sarah Armstrong, mother of Andrew, William and Hugh Armstrong." *SOL: Lincoln Herald 1893*

With the consolidation of country schools, the Harmony School building was no longer used for a school, and in 1947 it was purchased by the Harmony Cemetery Association for a home for the caretaker of the cemetery and Harmony Church.



**S= Harmony M.E. Church** was on the Lincoln Circuit. The Harmony M.E. Church was located on section 7 in Aetna Township. The society was organized at the Duff Schoolhouse in 1861 and remained there until 1869, when the Harmony Chapel was erected. The cost was \$3000. The trustees in 1869 were Andrew Johnston, James Johnston, William Johnston, Andrew M. Duff and William Armstrong. When the church was dedicated it was free of debt.



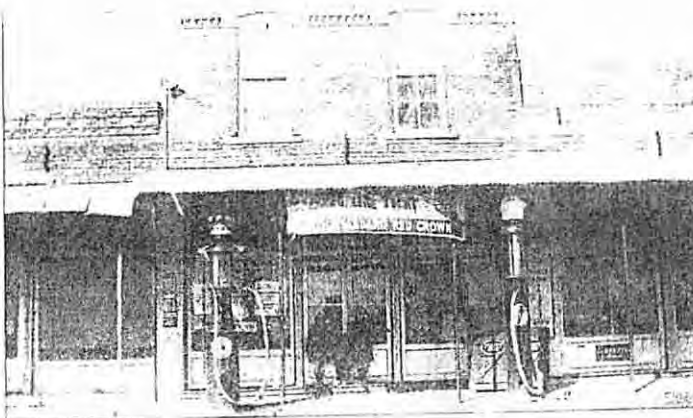
#### **K= Chestnut:**

The town of Chestnut, Illinois was laid out in 1872 by David Clark in conjunction with the directors of the newly completed Gilman, Clinton and Springfield Railroad. It was surveyed April 24, 1872. Chestnut was named in honor of a railroad official by the name of Logan B. Chestnut. The four original streets were named for Isaac Clark's children: Albert, Olive, Dauphine and Winans. The post office that was established in Allenville was moved to Chestnut into the Herman Britton's store. Business places began to be established. The first general store was moved from Yankeetown by Herman Britton and

located where Joe's market was. It was destroyed by fire in 1876. A blacksmith shop from Yankeetown operated by W.M. Daniels was moved to Chestnut. Mr. Bishop operated a barber shop. John Hoover built the first house in Chestnut.

**Phone Service:** The earliest telephone service was a small switchboard personally owned by Dr. Kirby and Henry Gobleman. In 1902, a central telephone office was established in the home of Henry Gobleman. Later Frona and Pearl Walker were operators for a number of years. The Mt. Pulaski Telephone Company purchased the Chestnut exchange in 1911 with 30 subscribers. The switchboards were moved to a new site with Mrs. Alta Abbott as the operator. The dial system was installed in 1952. Telephone history was made September 11, 1952 when Mayor Purcell of Latham, Illinois called Clifford Leimbach, a cashier at the Bank of Chestnut. The new dial system was put into operation for the first time.

## L= Allen & Humphrey Grocery and Meat Market



There was the Allen and Humphrey Grocery and Meat Market, later owned by Myrick and Humphrey. In the early 1900's Ezra Clark Myrick became a partner with Walter Humphrey in the grocery store which became known as Myrick-Humphrey.

Upon Mr. Humphrey's death, Myrick became sole owner. It became Myrick's Grocery and Meat Market. He later sold the store to Delbert Humphrey in the late 1930s. The Goble & Bapst Store was destroyed by fire and was later replaced by a modern brick building and became the Bahn Restaurant.

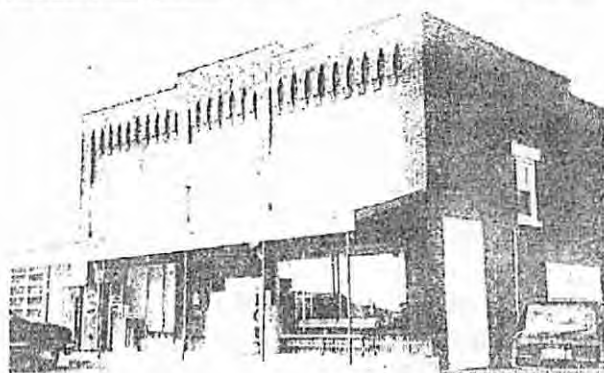
## M= Bank of Chestnut

Bank of Chestnut was formed as a private bank in 1902 by Michael Leimbach, the first president. In 1919, the Bank of Chestnut was issued a charter by the State of Illinois. The family continues to own and manage the Bank and from then until now, it has been their mission to deliver financial services that satisfy the needs of their customers, staff, and community. They have maintained their same location since 1902. They are located in the Village of Chestnut, Illinois, which is the geographic center of the

State. It was the third bank in the county to re-open after the "Bank Holiday" in 1933. During 1967, the bank began remodeling which doubled its size to meet increased demands.



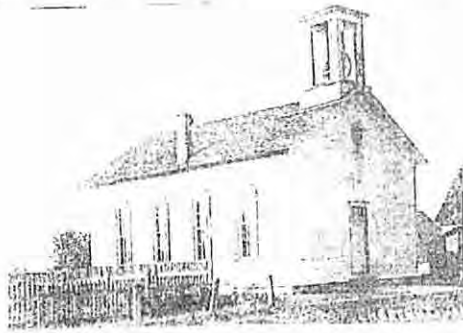
## N= Grocery Business:



Three generations of the Williams family operated a grocery store when Chestnut had three grocery stores. William E. Williams established the wood frame store in 1883. This building was destroyed by fire and a more modern brick building was erected on the same site. After the Williams family retired from the grocery and general store business, Guy Hathorn came to Chestnut and was in the grocery business for two years in the same location. After Guy left, Mr. Probst opened the grocery store there for a short time. When he closed the grocery store the building stood empty

and Chestnut was left with only one grocery store. Obery's had the local restaurant and carried a limited supply of everyday necessities. In 1955, Joseph Hunter retired from farming and moved to Chestnut and re-opened the Williams grocery store. Joe and his wife bought the Williams store in 1963. Joe offered his own cuts of meat to the customer's preference. Joe's had installed the modern convenience of air conditioning. Bennie and Carol Aldridge purchased the building in 1987 from Bob and Janet Gerdes and called the business B & C Tradin' Post. In addition to a full line of groceries, Bennie and Carol were well known for their fresh meats and cheese. People would drive many miles to get special cut steaks, fresh chicken or fresh ground sausage and hamburger. They were also known for their fresh deli sandwiches called the "Benwich". In February 2006 they decided to retire. A

fire in July 2006 shut down the Chestnut Food Center. It was the town's only grocery store. Like many small-town residences, 10-year-old Jesse Kennedy of Chestnut has fond memories of riding his bike to the corner grocery store to buy candy, pop and ice cream. Those will remain memories for Kennedy and his friends, unless they want to ride several miles out of town to another store. "I'd go up there and get sodas. I can't do that anymore," Kennedy said while sitting on his bicycle down the road from the damaged building. "I used to get ice cream. Gone! Heck, I can't even get a candy bar anymore." Firefighters battled the July 20, 2006 fire in the Chestnut Food Center to no avail. An icon in downtown Chestnut, Illinois, the Williams building, has faded into history, or has it? At this time the fate of the Williams building is uncertain. *SOI: (The Pantagraph /STEVE SMEDLEY)*



Church of 1849 on  
Hurricane Point



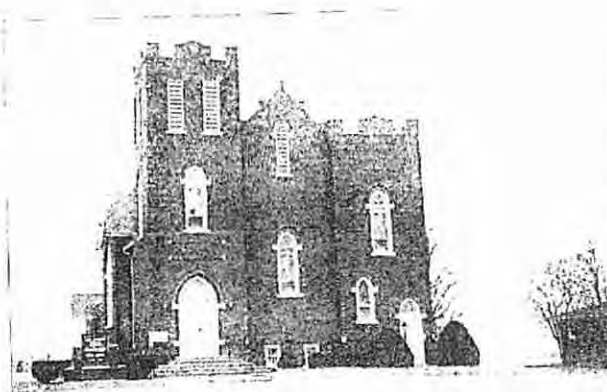
Bennie and Carol Aldrige

### O= Chestnut Churches:



The Chestnut Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the farm house of Henry Dement in 1842. They met in the homes of the first settlers which included the Clarks, Dements, Brooks, and Potts. They continued to meet in private homes until they were financially able to build a church in 1849. A small brick church was built on the Harry Miller farm. When Chestnut was laid out, a wood framed church was built at the corner of Logan and North Streets in 1872. The first pastors were J.D. Weems and Hiram Buck.

A new Methodist Church was dedicated on June 30, 1912. Rev. C.R. Booth was the first resident pastor. The building celebrated its eighty-fifth anniversary in 1997. In 1968, the merge of the Methodist Churches and the Evangelical Brethren Churches of German heritage, resulted in the name being changed to the Chestnut United Methodist Church. The Beason United Methodist and the United Methodist of Chestnut shared a pastor since 1966 when Rev. Robert Beesley first ministered both congregations. Abraham Lincoln graces a stained glass window funded by the Grand Army of the Republic. Chestnut United Methodist Church historian Mac Kretzinger has information on the Chestnut church's history. *SOI: Logan County History 1982 pg. 59*



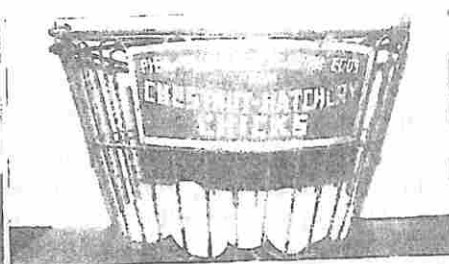
In 1889, members of the Zion Lutheran Church in Mt. Pulaski were granted permission to conduct services in the Methodist Church of Chestnut. Two years later the members began to acquire church property. George Schaffenacker Sr. donated a piece of property and the first parsonage was donated by William Hagenbuch. The First Lutheran Church was dedicated on August 15, 1891. The Lutheran Church and Sunday school suffered extensive damage by the April 19, 1927 tornado. Work began on new church with classrooms on June 13, 1927. Dedication of the church occurred December 11, 1927.



**P= Chestnut Hatchery:** Ezra C. and Ruth Myrick began the first hatchery in Chestnut. Their first hatchery building was located behind their home. Eggs were purchased from local farmers. One incubator was capable of producing 500 chicks a week. The 1927 tornado destroyed the building pictured, so they built a larger one on the main business street. The Chestnut Hatchery business grew. Chicks were shipped throughout the Midwest and south. Two expansion hatcheries were opened in 1928 and 1933. The three combined hatcheries produced more than 3000,000 chicks a week. Eventually the main office was moved from Chestnut to Mt. Pulaski in the early 1940's. Egg baskets bearing the name of the Chestnut Hatchery were available to regular customers who purchased Myrick chicks. A Chestnut ad stated "When you order from us, you get healthier chicks from High Producing Flocks, bred for winter layers and the kind that pays."



First hatchery building



Egg basket

**Q= Chestnut's First Gas Station:** Chestnut's first filling station was located on Route 54 in 1938. It was called the Suedmeier and McCann Brothers Texaco Service. Albert Bahn was also employed there. Leonard McCann sold his interest in 1944 to the Suedmeiers and the name was changed to the Suedmeier Texaco Service. Returning WWII veteran Albert Bahn purchased the station from the Suedmeiers in 1954. Later he changed from the Texaco Oil Company to the Continental Oil Company and adopted the trade name of Al's Conoco Service.



Chestnut's First Gas Station

**R= Farmers Grain Company of Chestnut** There were several land transactions between 1872 and the time that Block 14 was bought from the Pease Grain Company, by the newly organized Farmers Grain Company of Chestnut on May 1, 1917. Their first meeting was on February 14, 1917. A group of area farmers established a grain cooperative in Chestnut as the Farmer's Grain Company. On March 3, 1917 the group met to organize and elect directors. The first manager was A.E. Foster. He received a salary of \$125 a month and a house. On August 10, 1920 the directors voted to add a lumber shed on the west side.



Farmers Grain Company of Chestnut

Farmers Grain Company owned the white concrete block building across the street from the elevator. Oscar Downey occupied the building and established a garage named Jack Rabbit Garage. At the front entrance embedded in the concrete were two nine inch brass jackrabbit automobiles. This was his trade mark. The trade mark has since been pried up, but the imprint still was visible.

## OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

### Biographical Sketches of Aetna Township:

William Sidney Whitaker came with his parents to Illinois at four years of age in 1835. He was a native of Johnson County, Indiana. He was born November 13, 1831 son of Bland Ballard and Nancy (Wiggington) Whitaker. Bland and Nancy were parents of fourteen children. Bland Ballard Whitaker was named for a noted Indian warrior. William lived with his parents until 1852. They had gone through many hardships as prairie pioneers. In 1857 William rented farm land and then he purchased 160 acres of land on section 20 in Aetna Township. He lived on that farm until 1862 and continued to build up his land holdings. He added 400 more acres for cultivation and 30 more of timber land to his holdings in Aetna Township. He was married to Miss Lucetta Wiggington August 18, 1861. Thirteen children were born to this union. Mr. Whitaker also purchased 320 acres of land in Philips County, Nebraska, and a home in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois.

SOI: Logan County History 1911 pg. 373

Benjamin M. Donnan lived in section 21 of Aetna Township, and was an honored veteran of the Civil War. He was born August 10, 1835 in Ross County, Ohio, the fifth child of William and Priscilla (Moore) Donnan. At two years of age he came to Illinois with his parents. They located in what was then Sangamon County and what was to become section 22 of Aetna Township, Logan County, Illinois. William Donnan added to his property until at his death he owned 600 acres of land. He had successfully engaged in farming and raising cattle. Benjamin remained with his parents until twenty-eight years of age and then began farming on his own. August 8, 1862 he enlisted at Yankeetown, Illinois and served in Company E, 106 Volunteer Infantry, and U.S. Army. Benjamin participated in a number of important engagements, including the battles of Jackson and Bolivar, Tennessee. He was in the siege of Vicksburg for twenty-one days. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged at Pine Bluff, Arkansas August 12, 1865 and returned home with an honorable military record. Benjamin was able to purchase 160 acres of land on section 21 in Aetna Township, Logan County, Illinois. Later he purchased 80 acres of land. In 1869 he married Miss Nancy Hoover. To this union four children were born. Nancy died May 9, 1877. In 1883, Benjamin married Sarah Jane McClimans. One child was born to this union.

Jesse Malone came to Chestnut in March 1914. He was employed by Oscar Downey as a mechanic. In 1917 he enlisted in the United States Army and spent two years in France during WWI. Jesse was wounded in the "Battle of Saissons." He received the Croix de Guerre for bravery. Jesse returned to Chestnut in 1930. He became sick with meningitis and was told that he would have to work outdoors. He operated a saw mill behind his house until 1949.

William E. Williams was born in Oneida County, New York, May 3, 1849, a son of William Williams, a native of Wales. William E. came west in 1857 and located in Logan County, Illinois. He owned 165 acres of land and devoted his attention to agriculture. He owned part interest in the Aetna Tile Works in Bakerville and owned a general store in Chestnut. In the war of the Rebellion, he enlisted in Company E, 106 Illinois Infantry. During most of his service he had guard duty. He was honorably discharged at the end of the war. William married Sarah E. Donnan December 26, 1865, daughter of William Donnan of Aetna Township. Eight children were born to this union. Mr. Williams served as highway commissioner for a year and director of his school district fifteen years.

E.C. Myrick, the founder of Chestnut Hatchery, was born in the Chestnut area on March 14, 1877. He was the son of Sylvester and Alice (Patterson) Myrick. In Lincoln, November 28, 1900, he married Miss Ruth Williams, also from Chestnut. During 1903 - 1910, Mr. Myrick operated an extensive farm of 640 acres of land along Salt Creek north of Chestnut. He moved into Chestnut and for several years. He was associated with the firm of Myrick and Humphrey. In 1923 he became interested in the hatchery business. He invented the "mammoth" incubator.

### Sesquicentennial Farms in Aetna Township In 1837

David S. Randolph Section 12, Harry M. Randolph Section 12, Robert M. Randolph Section 12, John E. Randolph Section 12



