

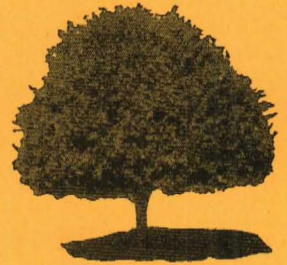
# Roots and Branches

Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society  
114 North Chicago Street Lincoln, Illinois 62656-2729  
Ph. (217) 732-3200

Hours are 11 am – 4pm Tues-Fri  
Saturdays 10am – 1pm

Web page: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcghs>

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SPRING ISSUE

2006

It has been a very busy time at the research center. For some time we have known that the floor at the research center was in dire need of repair. It was decided that the front portion of the floor was to be replaced. Starting in December 'phase one' was in progress which included the repair of the worst section of the floor. It was found the floor did not have any support columns at all and that the fireplace had been free standing on the pre-existing floor. A concrete base had to be poured for the pillars to stand on. Extra columns were placed to support the fireplace. Large beams were installed length ways on which flooring was laid. By making the floor level, the contractors found that the pre-existing floor had a six inch drop towards the back, leaving a six inch step down to the old section. The Executive Board agreed it was best to finish the front section of the floor. 'Phase two' started the first part of January. In order to continue, the office and front restroom had to be dismantled and the furnace suspended from the ceiling. Meantime the carpeting was ordered and a moisture barrier was placed on the soil under the floor to prevent moisture from evaporating from the soil. Volunteers have been kept busy moving books, furniture and shelving in order to keep ahead of the contractors. We want to say thank you to all those persons that helped.

Because of all the construction going on, our December meeting was cancelled. We held our January meeting at the Zion Lutheran Church. Our guest speaker was Geoff Ladd Logan County Director of Tourism. He spoke about "Future of Tourism and How Our Society Can Be Involved". He explained projects he is looking forward to completing; publishing a free monthly Community Calendar that anyone can sign up to receive. He is looking forward to more signs in Logan County that will direct tourists to historical attractions. Two billboards have been installed, one at Atlanta going south on Interstate 55 and one at the Broadwell exit for north bound traffic on Interstate 55. He is planning to reinvent Logan County's 35 year old Railsplitter Event. The Maverick Restaurant has changed owners and will open in March under a different name of Rusty's with fine dining. There will be banquet rooms and sports bar. The new owners are decorating in a historical motif of Route 66 and other Lincoln historical interest. He thought the Research Center might be interested in loaning some articles. Geoff Ladd then opened the meeting for questions. Following Geoff's presentation, Jean Cypher asked Gary Freese to speak about how he and his wife became interested in genealogical research and his involvement with the research center. When Gary finished his presentation, Dorothy Gleason conducted the installation ceremony of the elected officers. She had each board member light a candle in response to their pledge to serve on the board. The meeting closed and refreshments were served.

Our meeting on Feb. 20 was at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Lincoln. Bill Bryson, a longtime member, presented a program about "Pre-historic Artifacts of Logan County." Following Bill Bryson's presentation, Mary Ellen Martin explained how she became involved as a RSVP volunteer. (Her story is on page 23, President's Page) The meeting closed and refreshments were served.

By Carol Radespiel

The Society's GOALS are to encourage the preservation of the family from the past, to the present, for the future, to preserve local history and to maintain a Research Center for a centralized collection of Logan County's resources. The Research Center moved to its present location in November of 2000 due to a growing library, the need for additional research space and to expand into computer research. Our projects are aimed at documenting stories of people and eras that will be lost if we do not capture them now. Volunteers are working daily to document and reserve obituaries, weddings, family histories and births. Our list of family surname books and genealogy collections continues to grow. We are always looking to expand our research materials. Anyone willing to share copies of their family histories, birth, marriage, death records, or any other material that is a part of Logan County, please e-mails us. [lcghs1@msn.com](mailto:lcghs1@msn.com)

## Publications for Sale



1. History of Logan County 1878 \$45 + \$5 S/H  
Hard cover 560 pages, Index 73 pages (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
2. History of Logan County 1886 \$45 + \$5 S/H  
Hard cover 909 pages, Index 122 pages (reprint 2000)
3. Heirship Records \$15.00 + \$4 S/H  
Heirship records of 1920 - 1924; newspaper abstracts of 1839 - 1849, not available at the Logan County Courthouse due to the fire of 1857. Fully indexed, spiral bound soft cover 8 1/2 X 11" 148 pages (Updated due to faded print)
4. 1880 US Federal Census of Logan County \$30 + \$4 S/H soft cover/ two volumes combined.
5. Cemetery Records \$18 + \$3 S/H Soft cover, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition for Atlanta, Bethel, Green Hill & Hartsburg Union Cemeteries
6. "DAYS GONE BY" \$35 + \$5 S/H Order today! Only a few left!  
This book has stories and photos from the era of one-room schools told by those who attended or taught at these schools. Has a soft cover, approximately 400 pages, with hundreds of photos.
7. NEW Updated ATLANTA CEMETERY BOOK \$18.00 + \$3 S/H
8. NEW Updated Mt. PULASKI BOOK \$18.00 + \$3 S/H
9. NEW 1917 Farmers Almanac (Directory of Farmers & Breeders in Logan Co.)  
3-ring notebook with protective sleeves. \$25.00 + \$4 S/H or \$15 for soft cover
10. NEW Logan Co. Township Maps of one room schools & Cemeteries \$15 + \$4 S/H
11. NEW Logan County Courthouse 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary \$10 + \$4 S/H
12. NEW Logan Co., 2005, Land Atlas & Plat Book \$25 + \$4 S/H

We have a collection of postcard size photos of various buildings and settings in Logan County. Copies are available for a \$.50 donation per print. Please include a SASE, and allow for additional postage when ordering more than 6 prints. Please contact us if there is a specific photo you are looking for.

***** Order Form *****		
Name of Item	Price	S/H
1		
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<b>Total</b>	>>>>>>>>	

**Requests for Research:** Written requests should include as much information as possible. We ask a \$20 donation to do an initial search (\$15 donation for members), and \$20 per hour to continue (\$15 per hour for members), plus 25 cents per page copied from books, obits, marriage, birth, death and land records, 15 cents for members. We welcome questions and comments, as well as suggestions, through our e-mail address: [lcghs1@msn.com](mailto:lcghs1@msn.com).

**Donations:** If your donation is not listed, check our next issue. We do not intentionally omit donations.

**Betty McLellan:** Tuttle School booklet w/pictures.

**Bill Donath:** Time Machine Family Tree, Newspaper Index, "The Lincoln Weekly Herald 1861", and assorted obits and funeral cards.

**David H. Shroyer:** Abraham Lincoln 1853 plate, Abraham Lincoln 1809 - 1959 plate of 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and Mt. Pulaski 1836 - 1961 plate.

**Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Hassebrock:** Navy uniform & hat, information and patches & assorted pictures

**John Regan:** Collection of local news from Kenny, Midland City, Barnett, & Hallsville, Aug. 9, 1869- Dec. 28, 1877, Local News of Chestnut, Latham, Mt. Pulaski, Lake Fork, Midland City, Beason and Kenny. Oct. 6. 1908 - Sep. 29 1909

**David O. Culleton:** Navy cap, Navy book "Reflections 1964", & assorted booklets.

**Ruth Klokkenga:** four Pekin papers 1991, Lincoln Rendering, old yardstick.

**Bill Detmers:** Menard County Deaths. 1877 - 1910

**Jan Johnson:** John Family Tree, War record of McLean Co., World's Columbian Exposition, History of McLean Co. 1897, Three maps of Bloomington-Normal, Two Volumes "Person Memoirs of US Grant.

**Bill Gossett:** Past Commander 1939 American Legion pin, Honorable discharge papers, picture of Chautauqua Administrative Building.

**Louise Cobb:** book by William Maxwell - "So Long, See You Tomorrow", Katherine Diersing Kurtz

**Whitehall Printing Co.** Sample copies of 1866-1871 "Thank God We Have the Comfort

of Heaven", "During the Gettysburg Campaign"

**Laverda Taylor:** "Uncle Tom's Cabin" play, Lincoln College 1927-28, Class 1917 Logan Co. 10<sup>th</sup> grade, four season tickets to Lincoln Chautauqua

**Dorothy Gleason:** Logan Co. Courthouse 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, "The Oaks Mfg. Co.", Spellman & Co. yard stick, 1 egg scale, Logan Co. Courthouse 1905 - 2005

**Ruth Harry Hathaway:** two Lincoln cook books

**Victor Leon Reed:** New International World Atlas new census edition 1941, The Twentieth Century World Atlas 1900.

**Jan Gleason:** book "We Are Lincoln Men"

**Nancy Vannoy:** book "Who's who among America High School Students" 1984 -1985

**Rhonda Kennett:** Abraham Lincoln by Brand Whitlock, Hoke Beidler's Poems, Historical Pageant 1819 -1931, Lincoln Chautauqua

**Jean Cypher:** Replica of Logan County Courthouse 1905, Bock History

**Ernest Edwards:** Pig Hip on Route 66

**Warren Peters:** Wilmert Family History

**Gary Freese:** Piatt Co. Centennial Celebration.

**J. Stephens:** Hartsburg Centennial 1871 - 1971

**Pat Diersing:** Diersing and Comstock genealogies.

**Richard Sumrall:** Genealogical and Local History books

**Vernon Gehlbach:** New Orleans Genesis Jan. 1996 - 2005, Hartsburg Centennial Book 1871 - 1971, 1860 Census, and Consumer Guide

**Lawrence A. Bussard:** Lincoln State School 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteers Recognition Program may 12, 1973

The book by William Maxwell, "A Literary Life" by Barbara Burkhardt was purchased in memory of our deceased members. They are greatly missed.

### **In Memory of Eddie Dirks**

Written by Bill Detmers

Eddie Andrew Dirks died Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005, at the Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, IL. He was 76 years old. Eddie married Dorothy J. Allison on June 12, 1961 who survives, as well as a son, Allison (wife Sherrie) Dirks and a grandson, Bradley Dirks, all of Athens, IL.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 – 1955, and after being discharged, started working for Franklin Life Insurance Company, retiring from that company on Jan.1, 1987.

He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Athens, Athens VFW Post 5302, Menard County Historical Society, Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society, Knapp/Chestnut/Becker Historical Society of Middletown, Korean War Veterans and Deutsch American National Kongress (DANK), Springfield Chapter.

Eddie maintained a large collection of research documents he had done over the years, as well as an impressive library of research books on both America and Ostfriesland. Eddie also had a microfilm library and his own viewer. With this library, he could usually find what you wanted, and if not, told you where to look. When asked about using a computer, Eddie would reply, "Computers are fine, they're just not for me."

He served as Genealogist for LCGHS for several years, so his name will be recognized by many of you. He was known as a thorough and accurate researcher who never let go of a request until he had some results to send the requestor. His responses were complete and detailed, and always ended with the offer to "look for more."

Eddie gave freely of his time and resources, and also loved to "swap stories" concerning unusual pieces of history for an area or a family. One of his main loves was to talk about Ostfriesland where his family originated. He was in contact with relatives in Germany, and they regularly exchanged letters.

Thanks for everything Eddie – you've left your mark on many people who will miss you.

### **In Memory of Deane McKinley**

Written by Carol Radespiel

Deane was a true artist when it came to wood carving. He would pull out his pocket knife and in a short time have a small figurine carved. He gave a demonstration on wood carving at the Research Center during Lincoln's Sesquicentennial.

Deane Francis McKinley, 77, of Mt. Pulaski, IL died Monday, 18 July 2005 at his residence. He was born 09 October, 1927 in Lincoln, IL., a son of Harless and Grace Downey McKinley. He attended Mt. Pulaski Community High School. He married Geraldine Nelson 27 July, 1957 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

His hobbies were collecting bells, stereopticon cards, and postcards. He was an army veteran during the occupation of Germany 1946 -1947. His story will appear in the Logan County "This is My Story" Vol. II. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church of Mt. Pulaski and the South Suburban Chiselers.

Survivors include his wife Gerri, one son Paul McKinley of Griffith, IN and two brothers, Raymond McKinley of Jacksonville, IL and the Rev. Charles McKinley of Versailles, KY.

### **In Memory of Sheila Rae Mardis**

Shelia Rae Mardis of Mt. Pulaski, IL died 23 January 2005 at age 58. She was a retired high school English teacher. She taught in Hartsburg-Emden, IL and North Shelby High School in Shelbyville, MO. She was a member of the First Christian Church of Mt. Pulaski, the ABWA of Mt. Pulaski, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the Mt. Pulaski Historical Society, the Red Hat Society, Moose Lodge of Chicago, IL.

She was born 30 January 1946 in Logan County, IL, the daughter of Virgil "Skeet" Wayne and Maurine Elizabeth Green Wilham. She married Clarence T. Mardis in Shelbyville, MO 14 February 1988.

### **In Memory of Raymond A. Johnson**

Raymond A. Johnson of Normal, IL died 30 March 2005 at age 62. He was born 12 December 1942 in Lincoln to John O. and Norma Shoup Johnson. He married Janice M. Schultz Schieler on 21 May 1983. He was a member of the Lincoln Christian Church of Lincoln, IL. He was an independent insurance agent for over 30 years and most recently a computer technician in information technology.

# PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

## "THIS IS MY STORY" II

We need your **Pre-Publication order form** and **\$25** deposit for each book reserved. The balance will be due when you take possession of your book. Projected date of completion at this time will be sometime in November. This is subject to change. Our goal is to go to the publisher in September of this year. At that time we will have an estimate of what it will cost to have the books published. Our goal, Volume II should be comparable to Volume I in cost and size. At present we have over 200 pages of stories and 650 individual veterans' pictures. There will be a pictorial section with various topics of military interest. Also included are local monuments honoring Logan County veterans, and a section dedicated to the American flag. We ask for a deposit so we will have an idea of how many books we'll need to have published. Only a few above this count will be published, so to guarantee you a book, please order now.

**Please Print:**

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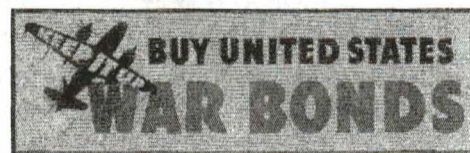
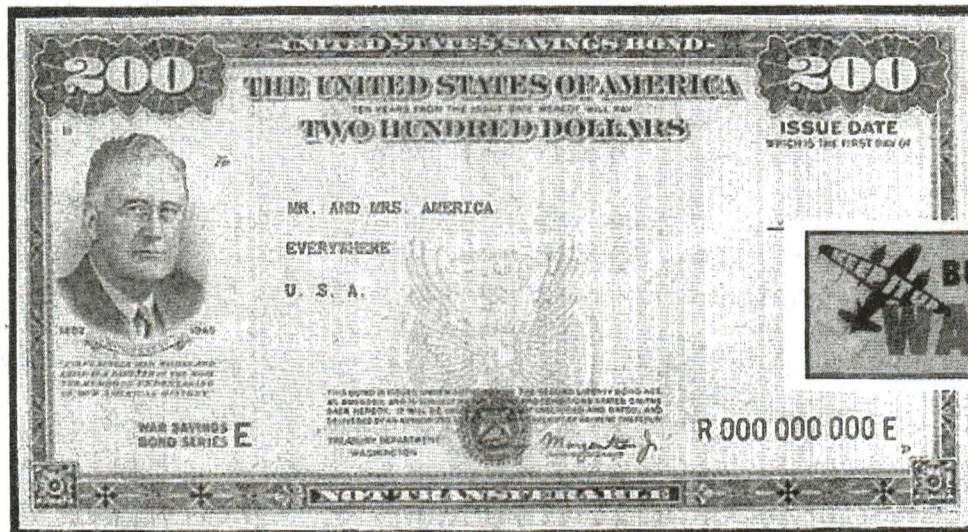
Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Number of books \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check or cash (circle one) Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society  
114 North Chicago Street  
Lincoln, Illinois 62656-2729

Ph. 217-732-3200

Please direct correspondences to either Carol or Phyllis.



Courtesy of Dorothy Gleason

Trivia Question: Where was there gold found in Logan County? Answer on page 10

## Mexican War Was First Conflict Known to County /Courier 8/26/1953

On the 11th day of May, 1846, Congress passed an act, declaring that "by the act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that government and the United States." This was the first war known to Logan County, as a political entity, and it was the one event in the whole history of Postville, then the county seat, which even approximated the exciting.

Illinois was called upon for three regiments, with pay at \$15.50 per soldier per month. The response to the call was prompt and within ten days, thirty-five companies had organized and reported.

The Governor was compelled to select thirty companies from the seventy-five that assembled and the others were doomed to remain at home. These thirty companies were organized into three regiments.

The Fourth Regiment included companies from the following counties: Sangamon, Logan, Macon, McLean, Menard, DeWitt, Tazewell and Edgar. For the first time in its history, Logan County presented to the nation a company of volunteers all of its own, to fight

for the flag. Captain John C. Hurt, of Postville, was the leading spirit in arousing patriotic fervor in and around Postville. He was instrumental in raising the company, was elected captain and the next year after his return from the war, was rewarded for his courage by being elected sheriff of the county.

### COMPANY MEMBERS

Captain Hurt's company was composed as follows: First Lieutenant, George M. Cowardin; Second Lieutenant, Jabor P. Shaum; Sergeants, John M. Handschey, Uriah Davenport, Willis Phillips, William H. Young, John Cowardin; Corporals, William Donovan, N. H. Milton, William Laughery, A. Vonderleith, James R. Phillips; Privates, John Allison, David A. Brown, Chris C. Mason, William J. Dudley, Hiram A. Bristol, W. J. Allison, Thomas Ashing, Fred Braucher, Leroy T. Brown, Joseph Barnes, Elmore S. Brown, Sol Brundage, M. W. Barney, John Bentley, Merrick Chapman, John E. Downing, Cyrus Davis, John Davenport, Charles Fanning, James Glenn, John W. Gibson, John Greenwood, Eli H. Hutchinson, Francis McGarvey, Austin P. Melton, Leo W. Meyers, Perry Melton, Thomas Mason, James Randolph, William Salmonds, Robert Sands, James I. Todd, C. Trumbull, Henry Wiley, James McGrew, Thomas Collins, Peter Clark, James Douglas, Robert Davis, L. M. Gregory, G. D. Glenn, Franklin Lee, F. A. Lucas, John G. Ray, George W. Robinson, James Stapleton, William Sutton, Emanuel Turner, William White, William Beason, John Bowman, John E. Brown, John Cavenaugh, Joseph Donovan, Abraham Devault, Alexander McGarvey, Henry Mundy, Henry McGarvey, Thomas

Rudder, Charles Rees, Robert Downing and Andrew Wilkinson.

The day this company departed marked a red letter day in Postville. The early settlers from all portions of the county collected, martial music stirred the air and, amid loud acclamations, the new volunteers turned their horses' heads to the south and took up their journey to the Mississippi. Captain Hurt's company was mustered in as Company 1 of the Fourth Regiment, the regiment hotly engaged in the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18th and gained great credit for bravery.

The Fourth Illinois had the distinction of capturing 6,000 prisoners, together with General Santa Anna's carriage and his famous wooden leg. Captain Hurt's company was brought to New Orleans, where it was discharged May 25, 1847, and from which point the survivors journeyed by river and overland back to Logan County.

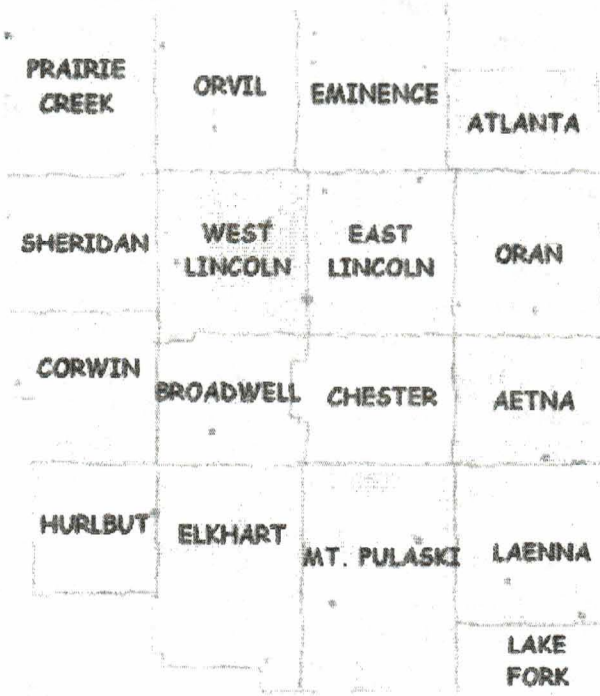
8-26-53  
Welcome to the Lincoln Centennial Celebration, a city rich in Lincoln lore and tradition.

### Attention All Members:

We will be featuring notable locations and facts about the 17 Townships of Logan County. We plan to include all townships as we receive articles. The quarterly committee is researching Logan County history and newspaper articles to gain material. Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Please submit any information and pictures regarding this project. All material will be placed on file for future use. If there is enough interest, a book might develop. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Our spring issue features Eminence Township.

Eminence Township is on the north east corner of Logan County. On the north is Tazewell County and to the east are McLean County and Atlanta Township. To the south is East Lincoln Township and to the west is Orvil Township. Eminence Township contains forty-two sections and is crossed on the southeast corner by the Chicago & Alton Railroad.

## Logan County, Illinois



This land which would someday be designated Eminence Township was not a prosperous land to which the first settlers came. It was beautiful, yes, but not prosperous, at least not prosperous in the early 1830's. For much of the flat prairie land that lies in what is now Logan County was then but swampy land, capable of growing only prairie grass. John P. Hieronymus told of riding a horse through ponds "belly deep to a horse" while traveling from his home in northeast Eminence Township to the academy in Atlanta, Illinois. It is recorded that prairie grass measured six to ten feet high or more. Riders on horseback had to frequently stand on the saddle of their mount to get a bearing on some distant tree or hill in order to maintain a sense of direction as they rode across the prairie.

SOI: "Eminence A Steeple Above The Prairie" by Lynn Hieronymus

## Eminence Township

Land area: 42.5 sq. miles

**Cemeteries:** Thompson, Howser, Union Station, Carlock, Niblick, Mountjoy, Morgan, Beverly, Miller and Orendorff-Medcalf

**Creeks:** West Fork of Sugar Creek, East Fork Sugar Creek, and Kickapoo Creek.

**Notable Locations:** Camp Griesheim, Eminence Township Hall, Gold Springs, Morgan's Mill, Union Station, Eminence Christian Church, and Davis Caves Construction Earth Sheltered Homes on Highway 136

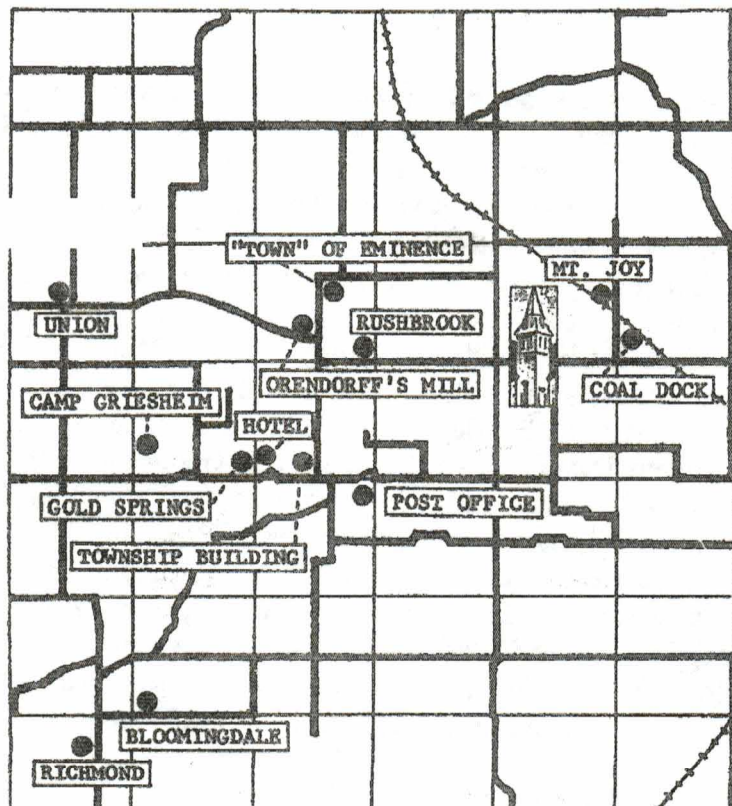
**One Room Schools:** Bloomingdale Sec. 29, Eminence Sec. 21, Hazel Dell Sec. 2, Hickory Grove Sec. 35, Pleasant Hill Sec. 18, Rose Hill Sec. 26, Walnut Row Sec. 23, and White Hall Sec. 3.

**Centennial Farms Program** honors generations of farmers who have worked to maintain family farms in Illinois. To qualify for Centennial Farm status, an agricultural property must have been owned by the same family of lineal or collateral descendants for at least 100 years.

Rogers: year of purchase = 1849

Klockenga: year of purchase = 1893

## Historical Sites in Eminence Township



### **Morgan's Mill:**

This mill was a great convenience to the Sugar Creek and Kickapoo settlers and had an extensive patronage. It was first known as Orendorff's Grist Mill. It was built for Christian Orendorff by Thomas Kirkpatrick, who had taken over the contract for the Orendorff Mill. An agreement was made on July 1, 1827. The contract called for the running gears for a mill, framing and planning a fore bay and framing the underpinning of a mill house. The burrs of the mill were made of "lost rocks", which were extremely hard large rocks found scattered over the prairie. Orendorff was to pay \$165 for the work. The Kirkpatrick brothers later sued Orendorff for \$200, the amount of the original contract plus material; also included room and board for the laborers. The mill was built where the West Fork and East Fork of Sugar Creek merge at Sugar Creek Bridge.

Christian Orendorff died soon after the mill was built; in his will, written 18 December 1829, he left the mill to his son, Alfred. Milling did not seem to provide enough profit to suit Alfred, and he decided to try his hand at town development. The prospective town was called Rushbrook from the fact that it was platted on Sugar Creek. Alfred's optimism was not rewarded and Rushbrook was never more than a plat in the Tazewell County Deed Books. Always seeking new frontiers, Alfred Orendorff was last heard from in Michigan when, on January 1, 1835, he executed a deed for more land in Logan County, Illinois.

In 1835, the mill and land was sold to John Morgan who then bought more land north of the mill and had a town surveyed there. This settlement he called "Eminence", because of the location which was on a small rise on the prairies. The plat is recorded in the deed books of Tazewell County, IL and shows a modest town of twenty-one lots. It was not advertised; consequently it was vacated 11 July 1842. An early cemetery was located on the hill above Sugar Creek on land originally owned by the Orendorff's; despite this, the cemetery became known as Morgan's Mill Graveyard; now called Morgan's Cemetery. SOI: 1886 History of Logan County; ISGS Quarterly Winter 1990

**Eminence Christian Church** was organized June 24, 1838. The first large frame church was situated on the banks of Sugar Creek where the West Fork Sugar Creek and East Fork Sugar Creek merge, near the location where Morgan's Mill was located; it cost about \$1,000 to build. (1886 Logan County History) The church was non-denominational and was named for its location, "The Sugar Creek Church". Judge Lawrence Stringer's Logan County History 1911 claims that the Eminence congregation was the oldest church in the county that had continuous meetings for worship. The following names were affixed as charter members: Robert Musick, James Hieronymus, Charles F. Ewing, Barbara Johnson, Mary Ewing, Melinda Johnson, Levi Johnson, Catherine (Stafford) Thompson, Sarah Miller, Esther Hawes, Sarah (Thompson) Stroud, and Sarah Hawes. Early ministers included Hugh Bowles, Abner Peeler, James Lindsey, H.D. Palmer, Amos Watkins, James Robinson, William Davenport, A.P. Young and George Minier. This same George Minier was honored by having the community of Minier, IL named after him. In 1856 a new building was erected on a site about a mile east from the first house of worship. This building site was donated by Smith Ewing and was frequently called the "Smith Ewing Church". This building burned down. In 1891 a new building was erected on the same site, having the seating capacity of almost 600 persons. A furnace and baptistery were included. The tall white steeple is visible for ten miles across the prairie. An 800 pound bell is housed in the steeple which provides a nostalgic tie with a heritage stretching back to the early nineteenth century settlers. SOI: 1982 History of Logan County

In 1866 T.T. Holton became pastor of the church at Vincennes, IN. In 1868 he became pastor of the church at Springfield, IL. Next he served the Berlin Church, and at the same time was principal of the public schools there for three years. In 1873 he moved to Lincoln, IL and served the church there and in Atlanta, IL. Thereafter, with Lincoln, IL as the center, he ministered to many churches; Broadwell, Mason City, Pekin, Old Union, Hallsville, Emden, Bethel, Delavan and Eminence. The Old Union Church he served fourteen and a half years. In the meantime, he moved to Tallulah, IL and served the church there four years, and to De Land also, with the same period of pastorate. During his first years in Lincoln, IL he did considerable secular work, clerking in a bank and bookstore. Later, he served eight years as Circuit Clerk in Logan County, IL; he stood for the State Legislature on the Prohibition ticket and received five thousand votes.

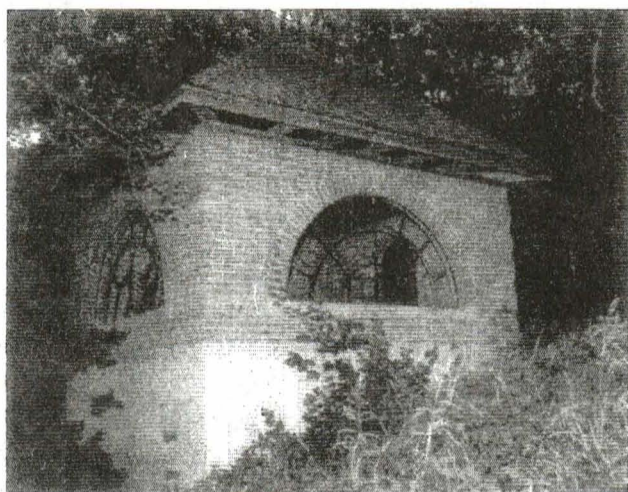
David Bowles was the oldest son. He was a farmer, residing on Delavan Prairie, Illinois. He read much, was decidedly conservative and a good public speaker. He assisted in the organization of several churches within the radius of his Christian service. March 10, 1903, from his home in Emden, IL, David Bowles wrote to T. T. Holton. From his communication the following is taken:

"I do not know of a meeting-house in this part of the State before 1840. The people met for worship in the summer-time in the groves, in the winter-time in their dwelling-houses. The houses were nearly all log cabins eighteen feet square. Two beds in this room. A big fireplace in one end. No windows. Glass could not be had. So, you see, this left but a small meeting-house. But you would be surprised at the number of people that would get into one of these houses for worship. The young women and some married women would pull off their shoes and get up on the beds, till sometimes there would be from eight to ten on each bed. Some people may say, "This is unreasonable--the beds could not hold them up." They were not such bedsteads as we have now. Usually there was but one post to the bedstead. Holes bored into the logs of the wall with a two-inch auger and a strong rail sharpened to fit was inserted and strong rope cords made at home of hemp made them very strong. Still, once in awhile, one of these cords would break and let them to the floor. Soon everything would be quiet again. With all our glorious meetings we would sometimes have some of the ridiculous. I will only name one or two. One cold winter day we met at old Father Hall's. Bro. Walter Bowles was to preach. The house was just such as I have described, with a loft laid with large clapboards. A ladder going up in the right-hand corner by the fireplace. The door shut. A lamp lighted. Brother Walter stood right by or under the ladder that led to the loft. He was lining his hymn, when a big tomcat raised a racket up in the loft and came tearing down the ladder. Brother Walter rather dodged. But some of the older ones were able to sing the hymn. The house was so crowded that none could kneel. Everybody's face was turned toward the fire. While Brother Walter was offering prayer the cat that had got whipped came and sat down in front of the fire. The cat that had whipped came slipping through the crowd, and, seeing the one he had whipped sitting before the fire, he aimed to give him a big lick. But the other saw him in time to slip out of the way. The boss cat went right under the fore-stick into the fire and came out squalling and carried the fire and coals back through the crowd. Old Mother Hall saw it would set the house on fire. Broke in with a broom on him. Everybody in the house saw it, and Brother Walt brought his prayer to a close very quickly. Soon we were dismissed. I will give just one more to show the inconveniences he had to labor under. We had prayer-meeting at old Bro. James Ferrice's one night. The old grease-lamp was stuck in the wall of the house just about as high as a man's shoulder. Bro. Ambrose Hall was up talking. Forgot himself and threw his head back, and the blaze was all over his head in an instant. Some of the brethren sprang to him and extinguished the flame. So that brought that meeting to a sudden close. This is enough of the ridiculous." David Bowles.

David Bowles was born at Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1825. He died at Emden, Illinois, 1911.

SOI: Text from Haynes, Nathaniel S. History of the Disciples of Christ in Illinois 1819-1914

**Bowles Family Biographical Sketch** William F. Bowles, Sr. was born in Bourbon Co. KY 5 October 1829. His father Hugh Bowles was a native of Virginia, born in 1786. Hugh had moved to Bourbon County, KY when William was quite young. William married Ruth Prather. Seven children were born to this union. Anderson, Walter P., died 1863; Joseph, died 1874; Henry, died 1884; Elizabeth, widow of Henry Hall; Verlinda and Ellen. Ruth died. William married Elizabeth Payne, and they had six children. David of Logan County, IL, Jessie P., William F. of Logan County; Rebecca R., widow of Charles Wallace; Julia married Peter J. Hawes; and Sarah A. In early life William become deeply concerned about religion and was licensed by the Baptist Church. He spent his early life in Kentucky and in 1830 moved with his family to DeWitt County, Illinois. William Bowles, known as "Father Bowles", was one of the most prominent and well-known pioneers, and did much to mold the moral and religious interest of this part of the Illinois. Mr. Bowles bought a farm in what was known as Tunbridge Township, Dewitt County. There he made a permanent home, where he lived till his death, his wife surviving him by only a few months. Mr. Bowles was a minister of the Christian Church for forty years. He organized many Christian Churches, starting the first church in central Illinois known as "The Old Union Christian Church" in October 1832, and organized "Sugar Creek Christian Church", "Rock Creek" and "Long Point" of Postville, IL. He had the pleasure of seeing all of his children active members in the church and all married but William F. He was only one year old when the family moved to Illinois. SIO: 1886 Logan County History



Spring House at left

### Gold Springs

Gold Springs are located where the glaciers stopped and large mounds of gravel, sand and sediment were deposited. Gold Springs is a thousand acre basin where rain water trickles through natural rock and sediment formations and is purified and then is captured in a limestone base. The natural springs flow from the ground into a stream and empties into Sugar Creek. In the early 1600s, native Indian tribes came to the springs to bathe and drink. About 1880, Thomas M. Quisenberry washed out of the black sand in the creek samples of gold dust, hence the name of "Gold Springs". (Rumor has it that there was never any proof that real gold was ever found there.) In 1883, a stock company consisting of 20 prominent gentlemen from Lincoln and Atlanta, IL was formed. They proposed to build a large stocked fish pond ten rods wide and one-fourth mile in length. In 1885, Mr. Quisenberry began construction of a 25 by 40 foot resort hotel-restaurant. Later that year, stock certificates for Gold Springs Park Association were printed and it was decided they were to be incorporated for the purpose of improving the park and not for private gain. Between 1885 and 1886 three large fish ponds were developed. Fishing and boating was enjoyed by many. The water was so pure and refreshing that it was trucked in a horse tank to the Atlanta Fair in 1886. Dippers hung on the edge of the tank for all to enjoy. (Continued to page 11)

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In 1901 Dr. Banks purchased 110 acres including Gold Springs and James A. Gemberling bought the 80 acre farm on which the resort hotel stood. About 1912 Abraham L. and Harriet Ellen Upton Vannoy rented the hotel as their private home. They lived there several years with their children Earl, Hazel (Simpson), Roy, Gladys (Bruner), Harold, Merton and Lois (Smith, Jones).

In 1916 Tony Bersch bought the 80 acre farm. In 1919 Jonathon L. & Mabel Vannoy rented the hotel from Tony Bersch. Jonathon died leaving his widow and one daughter Thelma (Mason). They continued to live there for some time. Three of their children had died of the influenza in 1918. By 1923 Mr. Bersch had torn down the deteriorating hotel and used part of the lumber to build his home on the hill between Gold Springs and Camp Gresham. In 1925 Watkins Beverage Co. bought the 5 acres that included Gold Springs from Will Gaddis. Watkins had tested 28 different sights in Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin for the bottling of their soda pop. Gold Springs tested suitable for their use. Year around temperature of Gold Springs is a remarkable 49 degrees Fahrenheit, which means the water stands within 17 degrees of freezing summer and winter. In 1928 Watkins Beverage Co. began to make arrangements for extensive improvements on their property. The water at the springs proved, under every test, to be especially fine for their use. In August 1928 Watkins finished building a spring house. (Picture: on page 9) The pipes they installed still carry the water from the spring into the spring house. The water stands 6 feet deep in the spring house. At the bottom in colored tile is to this day the words "Watkins' Gold Springs, every swallow pure". Water was hauled by tanker to Bloomington, IL. Once in Bloomington, Gold Springs water was sold to the elite in five gallon glass jars secured in wooden crates. (Picture on page 9) Watkins used the water for the production of Crème Soda, Pale Ale (Picture of bottle on top of page9) and other flavors of soda pop. In more recent time the spring water was used by the local Coca Cola Bottling Company in Lincoln, Illinois. In 1996 the Wurth Bottling Corp. near Hartsburg, Illinois began bottling Gold Springs Water. Jerrell and Lois Vannoy are the present owners of Gold Springs.

In different periods of the past two hundred years, these springs have been known by various names: Great Medicine Waters, Indian Springs, Crystal Water Springs, Hickory Hill Springs, Cold Water Springs, Gravel Valley Springs, Big Ridge Springs and several other descriptive names.

SOI: History of Logan County 1982 pg. 106 & 107 article by Lois Vannoy; additional information by Lois Vannoy; Pictures: Courtesy of Lois Vannoy

**Camp Griesheim:** Camp Griesheim Christian Retreat Center began Dec. 28, 1974 when a group of about 60 Kogodus people met in the parish hall of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Emden. "Kogodus" is an Estonian word meaning "Christian fellowship." It is a part of a renewal movement of the church. They proceed to go ahead with plans to lease, develop, and maintain Camp Griesheim, Once a Boy Scout camp, as a Christian Retreat Center. At that meeting, it was decided to incorporate and form a non-profit, non-denominational organization titled Camp Griesheim Christian Retreat Center, Inc. 1338 2400<sup>th</sup> Street Atlanta, IL 61723-9356

**Strong, John, Sec. 24, Eminence Township, Logan County, Illinois;** was born 2 September 1829 in Green County, Ohio; and settled in what was then DeWitt County, Illinois 20 September 1836, now Logan County, IL. He was married in Atlanta, IL, 25 January 1855 to Cerelda Pratt, who was born in Clermont County, Ohio September 24, 1835 and came to Illinois in 1854. John and Cerelda had four children. Anna M. was born 29 December 1856; Charles F. was born 5 November 1858; Lyman P. was born 4 April 1860 and Lucy N was born 26 July 1862. Their farm was on the S.E. quarter of Sec. (Continued to page 12)

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24, in Township 21 (Eminence) Range 2, N; also of the west half of the S.W. quarter of Sec. 19, in Township 21, Range 1, West. Sylvester Strong, father of John Strong, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, 3 September 1805; was married October 1828 to Elizabeth Downey born 3 September 1809. Their children consisted of one son and two daughters; the younger daughter died in 1868. Lanson Pratt, father of Cerelda Pratt, was born in Vermont 27 April 1798, and married Sallie McMains born 8 June 1804, and died in Atlanta, IL in 1858. Lanson and Sallie's children consisted of one son and seven daughters. SOI: Logan County History 1878.

**Applegate, Freedom S.** a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Eminence Township, was born 26 January 1826 in Monmouth, now Ocean County, New Jersey. His parents John W. and Eliza (Robbison) Applegate were of English and Irish descent. Freedom came to Logan County in 1854. He was married 19 February 1857 to Rebecca Nisewanger, daughter of Samuel and Nancy Nisewanger. They were early settler of Eminence Township. Five children were born to this union. SOI: Logan County History 1886

**Hieronimus, John P.** was a prominent and successful farmer of Eminence Township. He was born 20 September 1844, in Logan County, IL, a son of James and Melinda Hieronymus who were of German descent. John's grandfather, William Hieronymus was born 13 February 1788, immigrated with his family to Illinois from Kentucky in 1828 settling in what has been known for many years as Hieronymus Grove, in the southeast corner of Tazewell. More may be researched about the Hieronymus family in Logan County History 1886.



**The old interurban train depot in Union**

### **Union**

The 27.6 mile link between Lincoln and Mackinaw Junction opened for service 1 January 1908, providing service to Union. Passenger service ceased 11 June 1955.

The tiny town of Union is about nine miles north of Lincoln. Union was named after a church building erected in 1856, by a "union" of the Methodists and Baptists. They sold their interest to the Cumberland Presbyterians. In 1906, Cumberland united with Old School Presbyterians to become The Presbyterian Church of Union. Union once had a blacksmith shop, a store, the Union Station, a baseball diamond with lights and an armory. There were square dances at the armory on Saturday nights.

Edward Sanford Quisenberry moved to the area in the 1850's, about six miles north of Union. Edward Sanford bought the 1909 structure when it first went on the market. Ann (Quisenberry) Born and Mary Quisenberry inherited the structure. SOI: August 24, 2005 Courier

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## President Page

By Jean Cypher

I want to thank all that participated in the bakeless bake sale. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Donna Holton is a new face at the Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society. We entered into an agreement with the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland. Our society, the host agency, agrees to utilize the services of Donna in the training assignment of Research Assistant Trainee. Donna is an Enrollee of Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The purpose of this Title V program is to train, prepare and transition the Enrollee into an unsubsidized position employment in conjunction with Donna's individual employment plan. Donna's work program includes learning office management, filing, and computer skills. She will be exposed to researching on the internet and handling e-mail request. Donna is learning how to reproduce older publication that we resell. She is learning how to do indexing. Donna has been a widow for 42 years. She has a daughter, Kim, and two sons, Jim and Tim. She has one grandson, Jason Carlson. She retired from Abraham Lincoln Hospital after working 25 years as a nurse assistant. Donna is a very pleasant addition to our staff.

When we build let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight or for present use alone. Let it be such work that our descendants will thank us for; and let us think as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and people will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, "See! This our parents did for us!"

By John Ruskin

### R.S.V.R. Volunteer for January

Gary Freese is in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.). He works at the research center Tuesday and Thursday afternoon helping with research request by e-mails, correspondence and walk-ins. Gary has been a great help with moving furniture and books so that a new floor could be put in the front of our building. He also crawled under the front part of the finished floor

and laid a moisture barrier of plastic on a Saturday. Gary is polite and considerate. Other volunteers have fun teasing him. I call him "Mr. Congeniality"; he is a big asset to our staff and volunteers. Gary worked at Caterpillar in Decatur for 39 years. He and his wife Pat, have a daughter and one grandson.

### R.S.V.R. Volunteer for February

Mary Ellen Martin

"My first visit to the Logan County Genealogical and Historical Society was in the fall of 2003 to inquire about writing my one room school memories for the 'Day's Gone By' book. Jean Cypher and Carol Radespiel were very helpful and friendly. They asked if I would help locate the Logan County one room schools on a display map since I was familiar with the one room school era. I said 'yes'. I soon met Dorothy Gleason while working on the map project. Later Dorothy Gleason and Roseann Coers asked if I would serve on the one room school book committee. I agreed and it was a very time consuming and rewarding experience. I stopped by the Research Center on another occasion and I was happy to be greeted with a smile and a visit with Bill and Diane Detmers, friends from my teenage years. Everyone has been so friendly and helpful, including Bill and Phyllis Bryson and Jean Pyle.

In 2004, I became a RSVP Volunteer. I generally volunteer thirty to forty hours per month. I have become Corresponding Secretary on the LCGHS Board since August of 2004.

### New Members

Lois Vannoy, Nancy Whittington, Geoff Ladd, Mary Jane Johnson, Krista Lesson and Frances Gold (Surnames will be listed with the list of all members in the last quarterly of 2006.)

### Projected Scheduled meetings and programs:

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** Mt. Pulaski Historical Society Museum tour. 104 East Cook Street, Mt. Pulaski ph. 1-217-792-3719 John Durdle will give a presentation on windmills.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** Marcene Hines will speak on "Military Wife" (more later)

**September 2** Cemetery walk: We will be visiting people from the past in Holy Cross Cemetery and Old Union Cemetery. (More Later)

### Membership Application and Renewal Form

Our membership year is January 1 to December 31 of each year. Those who join in mid-year will receive all publications of "Roots and Branches" for the year.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: 2006 2007 2008 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check type of Membership Desired:

Regular \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 (Single Person)

Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 (Two Persons at same address)

Life \_\_\_\_\_ \$125.00 (Lifetime Single Person)

Life \_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 (Lifetime Couple)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Make checks payable to: Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society\*\***

**\*\*\*PLEASE:** enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) if you wish to have a membership card returned to you by mail OR if you are requesting research information that will require return mail. Copy charges are 15 cents per page for members; and 25 cents for non-members.

Surnames you are researching. PLEASE LIMIT TO FIVE. They will be published in the fall quarterly.

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**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR SOCIETY IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED!**

From:  
Logan County Genealogical &  
Historical Society  
114 North Chicago Street  
Lincoln, Illinois 62656 - 2729  
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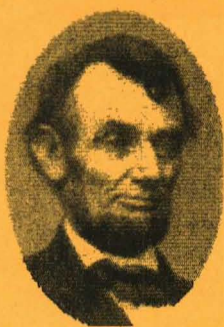
Ph. (217) 732-3200

Hours are 11 am – 4pm Tues-Fri

Saturdays 10am – 1pm

Web page: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~illeghs>

E-mail address [lghs1@msn.com](mailto:lghs1@msn.com)



SUMMER ISSUE

2006

## The Vertical File Collection

By Bill Donath

For nearly thirty years the Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society has been collecting letters from researchers, requests for genealogical searches, newspaper articles etc. These pieces of information were filed in file cabinets and the valuable information they contain was very much inaccessible to researchers. That situation has changed.

Over the past two years this collection has been sorted, the files labeled and a Surname Index constructed for the Vertical File. This collection now fills nine file drawers in two file cabinets. Information is continually being added to these files and new files are being created each week. An additional file cabinet is already needed to accept future additions to this collection.

An updated Surname Index will be produced every six months. The new Surname Index will be available on 01 July 2006.

Searching the Vertical File is not for the “faint of heart.” A researcher should have exhausted the Society’s more easily accessible collections such as Birth, Marriage and Death Records. The researcher using the Vertical File is looking for information that will help fill the time spans between Birth, Marriage and Death. Researching some files will take considerable time.

To use the Vertical File a researcher needs to understand the Surname Index. The Index consists of two columns. The first column is a list of Surnames that appear in the files of the Vertical File. The second column contains the names of the files in which that Surname can be found. For example: If I want to find references to the Donath Surname, I would look in the D’s, find Donath in the first column then look at the second column to determine the names of the files I need to ask a Volunteer to pull for me. In the given case I would ask for the files labeled: Auer, Bessler, Donath, Pause, St. John UCC and Twardos. Family researchers would hopefully be able to identify the file names that would most likely provide information on the Surname that is the focus of their research.

A Volunteer will retrieve one file at a time. When research of one file is completed another will be retrieved. This process will keep pages from migrating from one file to another. Once they move to another file the pages are lost forever.

**Publications for Sale**

**NEW!!!!!!!**

1840-1850-1855-1860-1870-1880 Logan Co. Census Index all on one CD. = \$35 + \$ 2 S/H

1860 Census CD = \$20 + \$1 S/H

Atlas CD = \$20 + \$1 S/H

Logan County Cemetery Index CD \$30 + \$2 S/H

**1. History of Logan County 1878** \$45 + \$5 S/H

Hard cover 560 pages, Index 73 pages (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

**2. History of Logan County 1886** \$45 + \$5 S/H

Hard cover 909 pages, Index 122 pages (reprint 2000)

**3. Heirship Records** \$15.00 + \$4 S/H

Heirship records of 1920 - 1924; newspaper abstracts of 1839 - 1849, not available at the Logan County Courthouse due to the fire of 1857. Fully indexed, spiral bound soft cover 8 1/2 X 11" 148 pages (Updated due to faded print)

**4. 1880 US Federal Census of Logan County** \$30 + \$4 S/H soft cover/ two volumes combined.

**5. Cemetery Records** \$18 + \$3 S/H Soft cover, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition for Atlanta, Bethel, Green Hill & Hartsburg Union Cemeteries

**6. "DAYS GONE BY"** \$35 + \$5 S/H Order today! Only a few left!

This book has stories and photos from the era of one-room schools told by those who attended or taught at these schools. Has a soft cover, approximately 400 pages, with hundreds of photos.

**7. NEW Updated ATLANTA CEMETERY BOOK** \$18.00 + \$3 S/H

**8. Updated Mt. PULASKI CEMETERY BOOK** \$18.00 + \$3 S/H

**9. NEW 1917 Farmers Almanac** (Directory of Farmers & Breeders in Logan Co.)

3-ring notebook with protective sleeves. \$25.00 + \$4 S/H or \$15 for soft cover

**10. Logan Co. Township Maps of one room schools & Cemeteries** \$15 + \$4 S/H

**11. Logan County Courthouse 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** \$10 +\$4 S/H

**12. Logan Co., 2005, Land Atlas & Plat Book** \$25 + \$4 S/H

We have a collection of postcard size photos of various buildings and settings in Logan County. Copies are available for a \$.50 donation per print. Please include a SASE, and allow for additional postage when ordering more than 6 prints. Please contact us if there is a specific photo you are looking for.

***** Order Form *****		
Name of Item	Price	S/H
1		
2		
3		
Sub-Total >>>>>>>>		
<b>Total</b>		

**Requests for Research:** Written requests should include as much information as possible. We ask a \$20 donation to do an initial search (\$15 donation for members), and \$20 per hour to continue (\$15 per hour for members), plus 25 cents per page copied from books, obits, marriage, birth, death and land records, 15 cents for members. We welcome questions and comments, as well as suggestions, through our e-mail address: lcghs1@msn.com.

**Trivia question:** Who was the first white person to step foot on Logan county soil? **Answer:** page 48

## LCG&HS Microform Collection

By Bill Donath

The Society has a microform collection that is currently made up of two types of micro-storage. The first type is called microfiche. Microfiche looks like a 3"x5" film negative. Many pages of information can be stored on a piece of microfiche. The Society has almost three thousand microfiche. Each microfiche contains mostly Christening and Marriage information for about 300 individuals. That means the Society has information on about 900,000 individuals who lived in Europe. About two-thirds of the microfiche hold information for England, one-quarter hold information for Germany and the remainder of the information is from Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

The Society also owns two viewers for the microfiche collection. One viewer can be used to locate information on the microfiche. If usable information is found, the second viewer can be used to print the page from the microfiche that contains the information the researcher needs. Along with the personal information, the microfiche has reference numbers that can be used to order microfilm through LDS church libraries which contain images of the original documents from which the data was extracted.

The second form of microform storage is the more familiar microfilm. Currently the following titles are available:

- Logan County Census 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920
- Logan County Marriage Licenses 1857-
- LCG&HS Quarterlies 1979-1986
- Partial NY Census 1900
- Perry County Ohio Census
- Indiana & Indian Territory Census
- Coshocton Democrat (OH) 1840-1859
- Coshocton Democrat (OH) 1863-1866

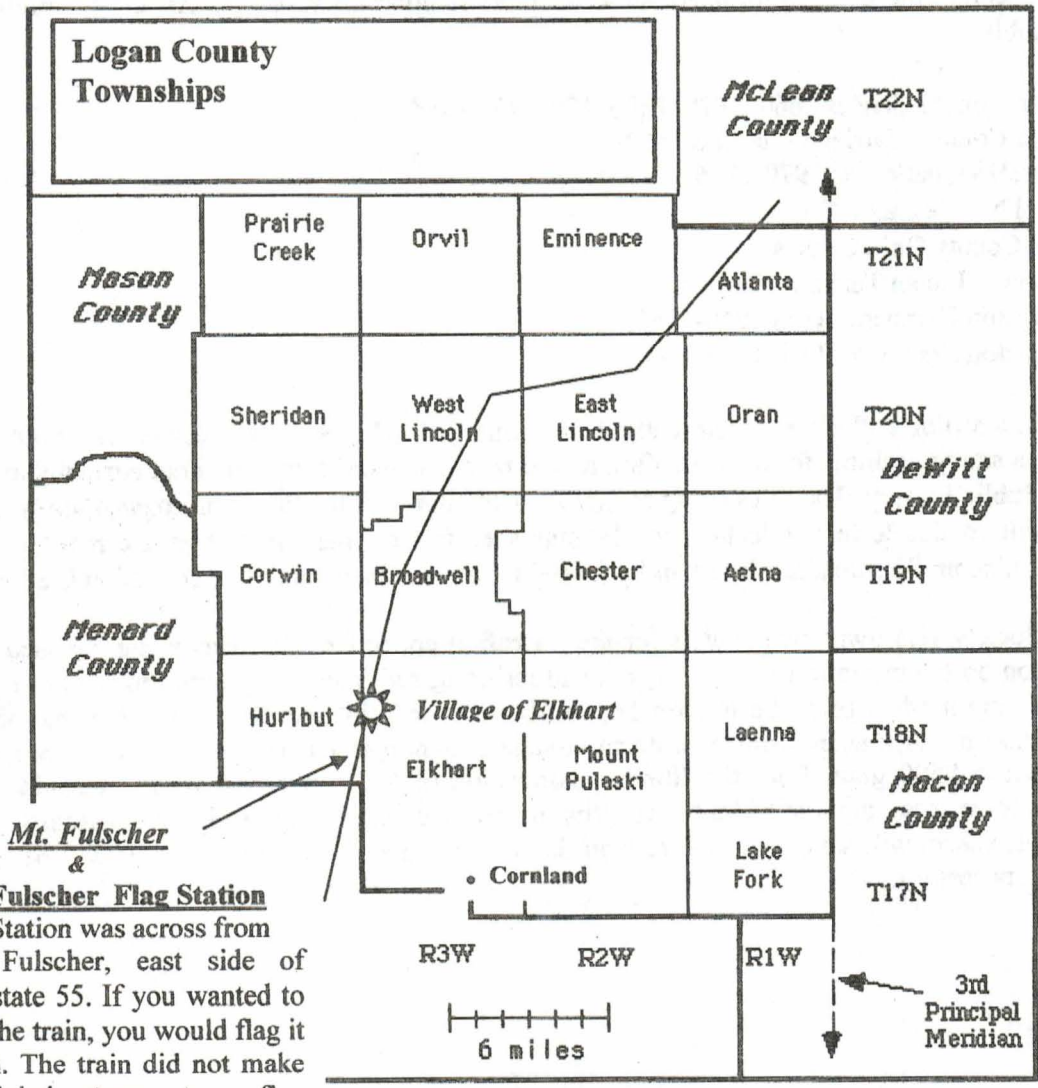
The microfilm collection is currently being enlarged. The Society received a \$2,000 grant to purchase a storage cabinet for the microfilm and to purchase microfilm that is not currently available at Lincoln Public Library. The titles being sought are from many of the towns in Logan County. The titles of microfilm added to this collection will be published in the Quarterly as they are received from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. Future expansion of this collection is anticipated.

The Society also owns two readers for the microfilm collection. One viewer can be used to locate information on the microfilm or for research and indexing activities. The second microfilm reader, the same machine used to print the microfiche, can be used to print the pages from the microfilm. The machine that prints images from microform storage was purchased last year by funds raised by the Society and a \$500 grant from the Illinois Association of Museums. This second machine must be converted from accepting microfilm to accepting microfiche. Having the reader only machines for each type of microform will save wear and tear on the machine that does the printing. It will be converted only when necessary.

We have a large amount of information on the Logan County townships at the Research Center. Logan County History 1878, Logan County History 1886, and Stringer's Logan County History 1911 are just the beginning of resources at our library. Volunteers are gleaning news paper articles, the internet, and family files in order to gain biographical sketches, family histories, marriages, obituaries, cemetery records to name a few, and have developed indexes to help the researcher in finding what they need. We have placed the index notebooks in a central location for your convenience. For easier accessibility our obituaries, marriages, and anniversaries are now in a notebook file system.

In this quarterly we are featuring Hurlbut Township, Elkhart Hill, Elkhart Township and the village of Elkhart. SOI: Material is from Logan Co. Genealogical & Historical Research Center, The books "Echoes from the Branches" and "Elkhart is Like a Box of Chocolates" by Gwen Suttory Rosenfeld and the newsletter "Elkhart Echo".

The main reason for featuring two townships at this time is because the village of Elkhart is located on a line dividing Elkhart Township and Hurlbut Township. County Road # 11 is the dividing line. County Road # 11 follows, as the crow flies, the south road (south from Gillett Street) to the north road (north of the new fire station building).



**Mt. Fulscher & Mt. Fulscher Flag Station**  
 The Station was across from Mt. Fulscher, east side of Interstate 55. If you wanted to ride the train, you would flag it down. The train did not make scheduled stops at a flag station.

Here is a tidbit concerning Hurlbut and Elkhart Townships from a resident who does not have to leave her home to live in both townships. Gwen Suttory Rosenfeld lives at 405 South Gillett in Elkhart and has the privilege of receiving two property tax billings on the same building. Over three fourths of her property is located in Elkhart Township, but the far south side of her bedroom, part of her attached garage and part of her two lots are in Hurlbut Township. She has told her children to be sure and notice where her bed is placed in case she dies in her bed at home. She has no idea why, but she says it may be important as to whether she died in Elkhart Township or Hurlbut Township. SIO: Courtesy of Gwen Rosenfeld

## HURLBUT TOWNSHIP

### **Old One Room Country Schools:**

**Hopedale** found at the Middle West line of section 12 on the Brennan property; **American Hill** once German Hill until the beginning of WWI. It is found at the center of Section 26 - **Constant/Superior** the northeast corner of Section 29, on the George W. Constant property.

**Cemetery:** **Walnut Hill Cemetery**, found on the southeast corner of Section 27 near the Sangamon County line.

**Hennebury Bridge:** On the northeast corner of Section 8 on the TJ Hennebury property.

**Early families:** Jacob Buttell, Sr. family came to Hurlbut Township in 1892. James R. Logue located on the old King homestead of 240 acres in 1881. James married Effie M. King December 21, 1881. J.C. King came to Logan Co. ca. 1850. Dr. Green Hill was the first Doctor to come to Logan County in 1836, by way of Hurlbut Township. He later located in Middletown where he practiced medicine until his death. John C. Graham born October 10, 1836, came to Illinois in 1855 and located in Hurlbut Township in 1892 on 120 acres. He married Margaret F. Goodpasture October 16, 1879.

**Prominent families:** The Dee family; the Brennan family; the John Danaher family; the Graham family; the Zacharias Drake family; Henry and Charles Drake families; and the David Herlehe family. The Pickett family lived on the Diller farm four miles west of Elkhart. They farmer the Diller land for 60 years.

**Township Hall:** Southeast corner of section 12

In August of 1998 Hurlbut Township built a large new building on the service road in Elkhart near the Shell Station. It was finished in the fall of 1999. In previous years, it was located in a large metal building on the back of a lot in the 200 block of South Latham Street and a small building located south of the Marathon Station was the Hurlbut Township voting hall. It was dismantled in 2000. The new building will hold all the township trucks, equipment and is also used as the Hurlbut township voting hall. Hurlbut has but twenty-five sections and is one of the smallest townships in Logan County. It occupies the southwest corner of Logan County, with Corwin Township on the north, Elkhart to the east, Sangamon County to the south and Menard County to the west.

**Township Officers** in 1867 were Supervisor, Elisha Crans; Clerk, Charles Thompson; Assessor, John Van Meter; Collector, Henry Moore; Highway Commissioners, J. C. King, William B. Bock and Abraham Larue; Justices, Thomas Alsop, A.J. Bronson and Charles S. Drake; Constables, Newton S. Dunn and Henry Drake. SIO: 1886 Logan County History

**Assessors:** William J. Fulscher 1900 -1901; N.E. Constant 1878 -1879; T.J. Hennebury 1890-1891; 1894-1895  
**Collector:** Dennis M. Dee 1906 - 1908

William J. Fulscher was born at Waverly, OH, August 11, 1870 the son of Herman and Louise (Koono) Fulscher. William J. spent the first eighteen years of his life at Waverly, OH and then removed to Petersburg, IN until 1896. In that year he moved to a farm three miles southwest of Elkhart and lived there until his death. The Fulscher farm was near old highway 66 about 2 to 3 miles south of Elkhart. Just a short distance southeast of their farm was the American Hill rural school. He owned two hundred and eighty-eight acres of highly improved and valuable land in Hurlbut Township. At 26 years of age he married Elizabeth Bock on September 16, 1896. She was the daughter of Abraham and Julia (Mohr) Bock. They farmed the land that Elizabeth's father owned. Her father, Abe Bock had broken sod in 1862. William and Elizabeth had three children Abraham, Ella and Julia. In his political views Mr. Fulscher was a Democrat. His fraternal relations were with Kenwood Lodge #405, K.P. at Elkhart, and both he and his wife belonged to Court of Honor #508. They were also members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Elkhart. They had made their home famous as the "Chicken Dinner at Mt. Fulcher". Their home was located between Williamsville and Elkhart on the west of side now Interstate 55. Their home housed all the modern conveniences. In the years of the depression, 1930-1933, the dinners were served on a reservation basis and were an entire family affair. Chickens were raised on the farm along with most of the vegetables that were served. Elizabeth's job was the killing and dressing of the chicken, as well as overseeing the preparation of all the food. Ella, Julia and Blanche, Abraham's wife, waited on the tables. Ella Gallion (an aunt) always made cottage cheese and the biscuits. Betty Gallion washed the dishes, and Walter Gallion, her brother, saw to the upkeep of the grounds. Meals were served family style with an allowance of one-half chicken per person, along with mashed potatoes, milk chicken gravy, a vegetable, and a salad. Usually an appetizer was served at the beginning of the meal and possibly home made ice cream with coffee or tea was served for dessert. The entire cost of the meal was \$1.00 per person. The dinners continued for almost ten years.

Mt. Fulscher was also known for assorted color of peonies grown on several acres on the south slope of the hill. They were sold at \$1.00 a dozen and most people would come out to buy them for Memorial Day.

SOI: "Logan County History 1911"

## ROY O. SCHILLING

SIO: from Roy O. Schilling's web page, courtesy of Mr. Roy O. Schilling

Roy O. Schilling and his twin brother, Ray, were born on a farm in Hurlbut Township three miles west of Elkhart, Illinois, on June 12, 1914. William Fulscher and Roy's father, Clarence Schilling, grew to manhood in Waverly, Pike County, OH. Roy wrote. "The Fulscher farm was near old highway 66 about 2 to 3 miles south of Elkhart. Just a short distance southeast of their farm was the American Hill rural school. The Interurban stopped at that intersection. I know this because one of the teachers would ride from Elkhart to get off there to go to (American Hill) school. In the 1930's Fulscher family served delicious chicken dinners on Sunday for the public. They also had a very large peony garden from which they sold their flowers." Also, "Thomas Henneberry had a farm about 4 ½ miles west of Elkhart and I used to visit the tenant farmer family. Their daughter Theresa taught many years in the Lincoln High School. Another daughter was married to a man named Ohmes".

After attending Elkhart Elementary and High Schools, Roy graduated in May 1933, and received a teaching diploma in May 1935 from Illinois State University. By attending summer school sessions there and at Western Illinois University and the University of Wyoming, he received his Bachelor of Education degree in August 1940. In August 1943, he received a Master's Degree in Elementary Administration and Supervision from the Teacher's College, Columbia University in New York City.

Roy Schilling's 44 years of teaching experience included the following: 1935-36: Maple Grove rural school in Menard County 5 ½ miles North West of Elkhart, Illinois. 1936-40: Teacher and Principal of Emden Illinois Elementary School. 1940-43: Sixth Grade Teacher and Principal of Elementary Schools in Lincoln, Illinois. 1943-44: Supervisor of Student Teachers in Eastern Oregon College of Education, La Grande, Oregon. 1944-45: Supervisor of Student Teachers at Pioneer State Teachers College, Platteville, Wisconsin. 1945-49: Principal of Washington Elementary School, River Forest, Illinois. 1949-79: Served as an Administrative Elementary Assistant in the Decatur Public Schools for eight years and as Principal of E.A. Gastman, Mound, Brush College #1, Dennis, and Southeast Schools. 1958-70: Visiting

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.

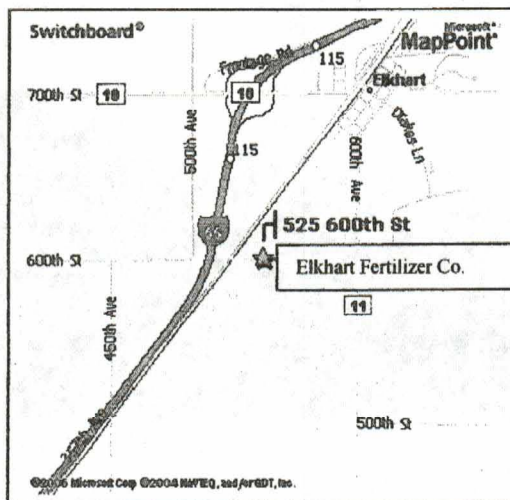
Roy and Rachel Rogers were married December 30, 1943, and have two daughters: Rachel Rogers Schilling was born on a farm in rural Delavan-Emden, Illinois, June 7, 1915. She died February 3, 1996.



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.

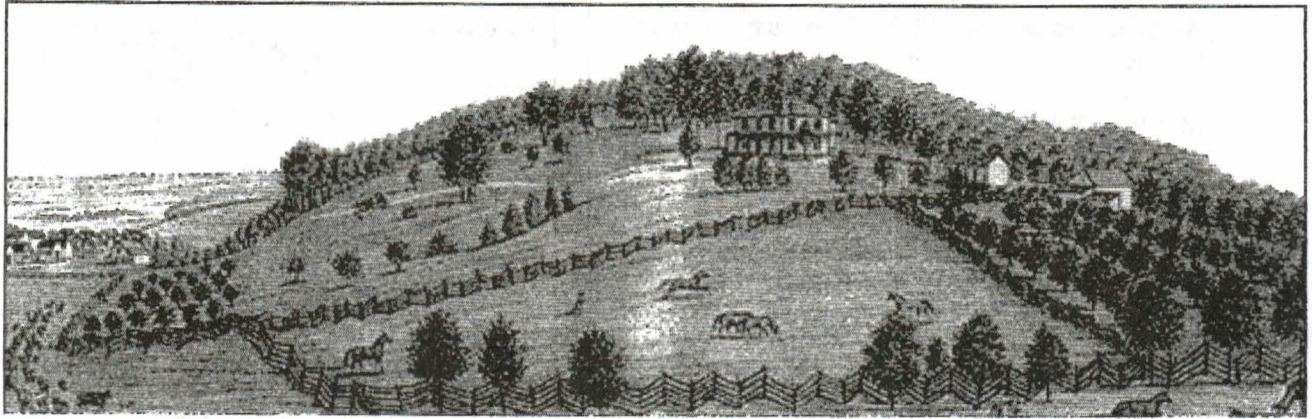


### Old Route 66 & Interstate 55

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.

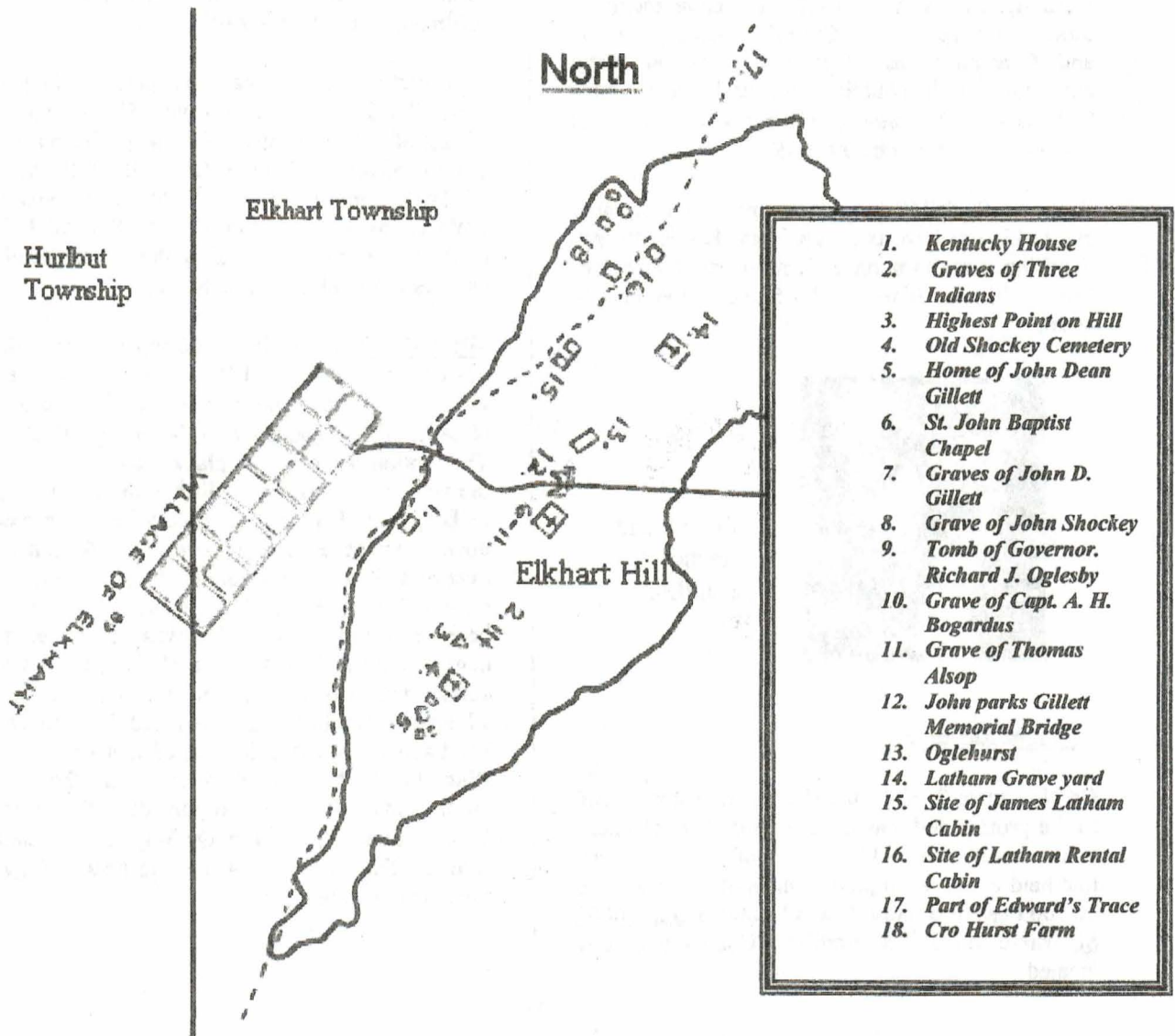


*The old Gillett Farm on south side of hill (above)*

**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



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.

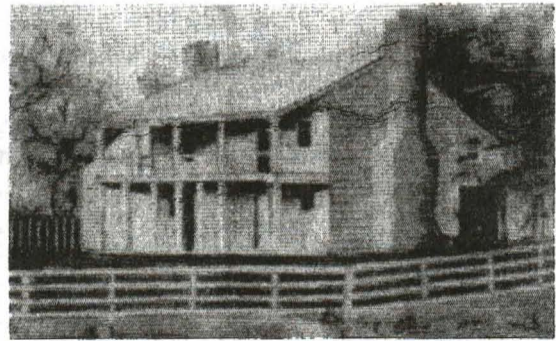
On May 9, 1995 Elkhart received a F3 tornado. Bingville was hit the worst because of the openness. Records show that many tornados have touched down near Elkhart Hill, but never has one touched down in the village. "The hill has always been our guardian angel." The F3 tornado came slowly allowing the 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 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, 1967, 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 descendents 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.**

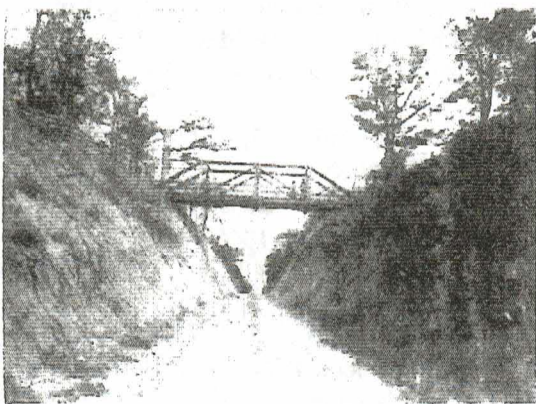
Captain Bogardus was born in Berne, New York September 17, 1833. His first public

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.

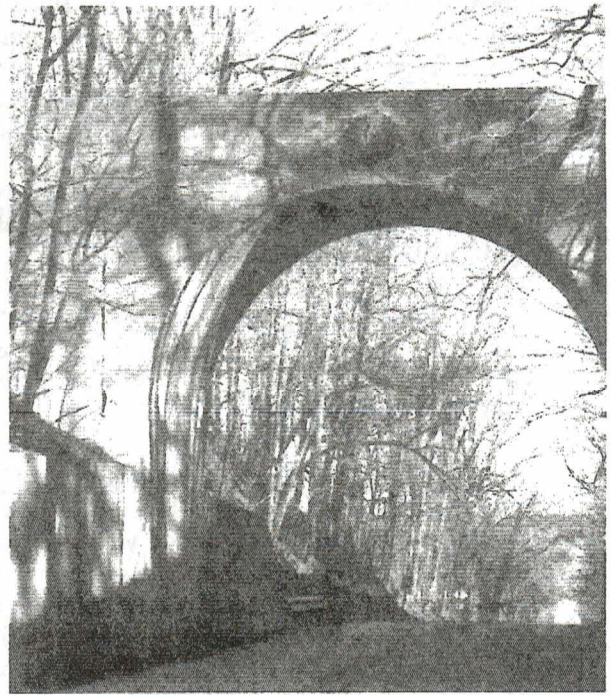
### 12. John Parke Gillett Memorial Bridge



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



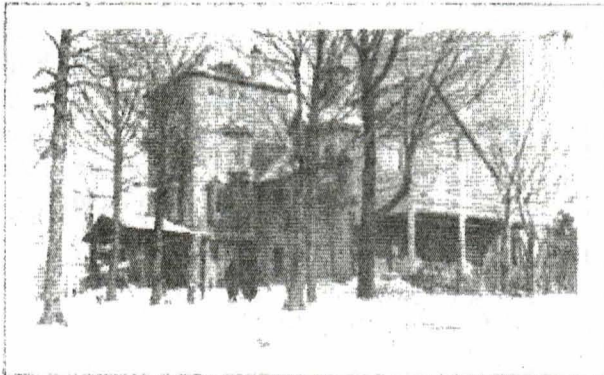
*John Parke Gillett Memorial Bridge*

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 ¼ acres was added in the 1870's by the Thompson family.

**15. Site of James Latham Cabin**



LATHAM DOUBLE 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

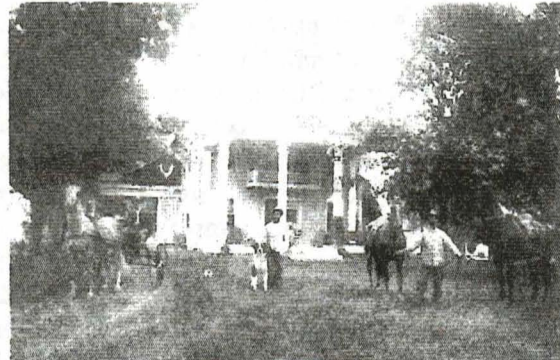
a council with the savages at Peoria in 1812, and a fresh interpretation of the treaties. Governor Ninian Edwards of the Illinois Territory arranged a meeting to include Indian chiefs and warriors of the Kickapoo, Pottawattomies, Ottawa and Chippewa nations. After this meeting hostilities broke out more 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 Post 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.

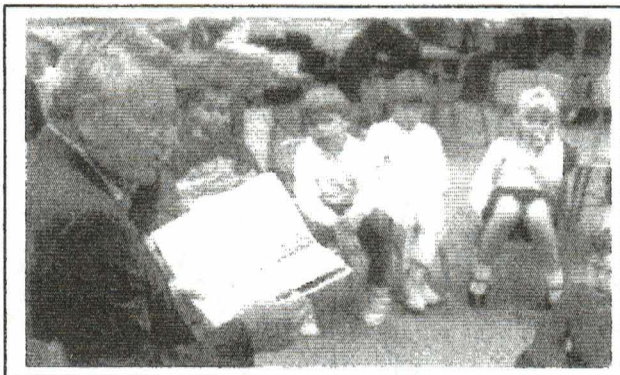
In 1885 the town was incorporated as a village under the general laws of the state, relinquishing the special charter. The first board under the new incorporation was Henry Stahl, C.P. Bridges, A.H. Bogardus, C.B. Taylor, David Lipper and Luther Wood. J.R. Saunders was the first postmaster and railroad 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.

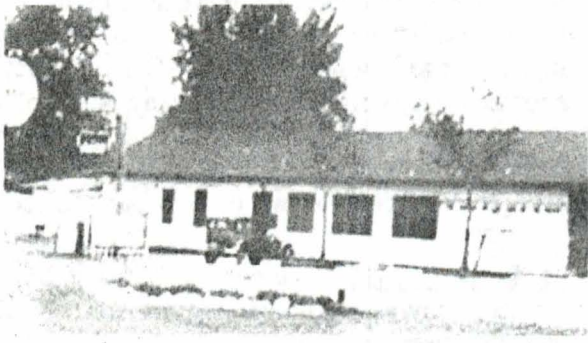
**In October of 1926**, electric poles were installed on all public streets, alleys and public grounds for

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 DeLuca (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

in the winning run. He also played in the 45, 46, and 47 major league ALL STAR games. The Cards traded him to the Phillies in '46 and in '48 he was traded to the Cubs. He played at Chicago through the 1950 season and ended his big league career with the Boston Braves in 1951. There is a society located in Washington D.C that is called the "Emil Verban Memorial Society". It is a group of die-hard Cub fans based in the DC area. They have many high officials in their membership. It has over 600 members. There are no dues to pay; all you have to do is write an essay on the Cubs chances for the upcoming season. He played for over 17 years. The society originally was named for Emil, pointing to his one major league home run as a symbol of the Cubs futility. Emil was a past Chairman of the Board of Elkhart Bank. He died at the age of 73 in 1989 and is buried in Holy Cross cemetery in Lincoln.

**Elkhart High School** made us proud again in 1948 when the Redbirds won the Logan County basketball tournament. The top eight who were the champions were: Bob Olson, Earl Davis Louis Anderson, John Deters, Loren Crowe, Larry Hanner, Ray Mercker and Bob Hahn.

In the year 1946 Pete Hinds started a school bus service for the village, and today almost 60 years later, in 2004, his grandson Brian is continuing to service the schools. They started out with two buses and now have 17. They service the Elkhart grade school and the Mt. Pulaski grade and high schools. Brian now owns the only part of the high school building still standing (that was added on in 1958) and it is where he warehouses the Elkhart school buses.

**Elkhart Businesses in 2003, old and new;** Blue Moon Bar, owner Teri Hanner, Miss Jessie's Art and Frames owned by James Ransom, The Blue Stem Bakery owned by Cynthia Hinton and Under the Prairie Museum owned by Bob Mazrim, The Talk of the Town, owner Peg Brown, The Illini Bank, Richardson's Repair owned by Bill and Kathy Cosby, Horsefeathers owned by Peter and Andrea Niehaus, The Hair Hut owned by Teri Hanner, Davis Truck Service owned by Karl Davis, Davis Bros. Trucking owned by Jerry Davis and we have Ron Davis Straw Co. and trucking, Elkhart Grain Company, D&T Construction owned by Dan and Teresa Durchholz, Bob Peters Construction, Elkhart Fertilizer owned by Steve Urish, S&W Contract Services owned by Warren and Sue

Rogers, Custom Wood Craft by Lacy Hall Sr., State Farm Insurance with Deron Powell, A to Z Antiques owned by Ed Dyer, Hinds Bus Service owned by Brian Hinds, Lyle Fout Construction, Phil Pickett Construction and Folkes Air Conditioning. I do hope I did not miss anyone. The village has many organizations; The American Legion has 64 members, The American Legion Auxiliary has 50 members, NAG, Senior lunches, Historical Society, United States Post Office, 62634 postmaster Kirk Duncan, Public Library, Librarian Donna Cunningham, Booster Club of the grade school, Village Board with President, Clerk, and 6 trustees being elected and the treasurer is appointed. The police department now numbers three part-time officers, Joe Danosky, Joe Luduke and Paul Poole. SIO: Elkhart Echo, Courtesy of Gwen Rosenfeld

### TURRIS COAL COMPANY

**Elkhart Mine Road, 600 N**

**Elkhart, IL 626334**

Office: 8100 E Main St. Williamsville, IL

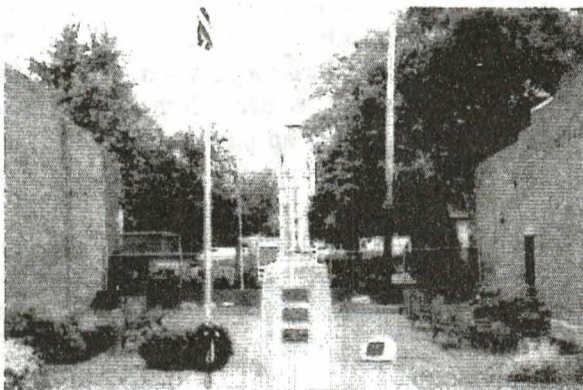
SOI: Tuesday, November 29, 2005 BY JESSICA L. ABERLE OF THE JOURNAL STAR

The Viper mine at Williamsville, Illinois, formerly Turris Coal Company, is a subsidiary of the International Coal Group. ICG bought and renamed the former Turris Coal Company (to Viper Coal Company) in October 2004 and is becoming a publicly traded company. Harper said the mine always has been owned by private interests, but the financial stability of new investors could help offset some of the major costs of running a mine. "In the last several years this has been a very successful mine and it continues to be," Harper said. Dale Harper, human resource and public affairs manager for ICG's Viper Mine, said ICG is "very excited about coal in Illinois, because it's coming back." The mine near the Logan County community of Elkhart made its first coal shipment in November 1982. The mine's main customer continues to be CWPL in Springfield, which is looking to expand. And a mine-mouth power plant project with Corn Belt Energy has received state and federal funding. "They would use our coal," Harper said, eliminating transportation costs and opening another market for the mine that has expanded in the last year; currently about 250 people work at the Viper mine main site near Williamsville. The processing plant in Elkhart, Illinois is now annexed as part of Elkhart. "We have mine reserves for 20 to 30 years and beyond that is available to us," Harper

said of the future of the mine. "We've done a lot of hiring this year because we're looking for the market to improve. We're beefing up." A third of ICG's Viper mine work force has less than three years experience as the company prefers to train workers from scratch. Harper said he foresees Illinois markets steadily increasing over the next 10 to 15 years or longer. "Illinois has a huge opportunity for employment. Just the economic opportunity based on Illinois' natural resource of coal," he said. "A very small fraction of the massive reserves of Illinois coal have been extracted. "When I started here in 1981, we were saying coal would be the intermediary resource. This is the bridge to the future ... to whatever resource is next."

### ELKHART, ILLINOIS VETERANS PARK

On March 15, 1919 the American Legion Post 616 was formed with the first commander being Howard Lanternan. During the First World War we lost three men during the First World War, namely Joe Fitzgerald, Roy Rogers, and John Laffey. There are three oak trees situated in the front yard of the grade school that were planted there in memory of these three men. Five hard maples were planted in the north yard of the grade school in memory to the men killed in WWII, Fred Durchholz, Thomas Taylor, Wilbur Mann, Harvey Davis and Cleo Smidgeon. There is one structure in the village that each resident cherishes. It is our Doughboy, which



stands tall in the Veterans Park. It was given by the returning men of WW I to honor the men who did not return. When we first received it, it was placed in the center of the intersection of Bogardus and Gov. Oglesby Street from 1919-1923. After the high school was built and by the request of the Elkhart Legion Post 616 and

the opinion of the public, the Soldier's Memorial (as it was first called) was placed on the front lawn of the high school on September 22, 1924. It was dedicated on November 1, 1924 at the same ceremony as the dedication of the high school. The 76 names listed on it are our veterans of this war. It is now 86 years old and has been repaired two times due to damage caused by vandals. On May 24, 1926 a letter was received by the High School Board in which the Legion requested the right to place the cannon they had acquired on the front lawn of the school. The cannon was then placed next to the Soldier's Memorial as a silent reminder of the war years. After the high school was demolished, the cannon was then placed on the library lawn. On July 14, 1995 a plaque was dedicated and placed on the base of the Doughboy in honor of all the veterans from the village who served in WW II.

On May 28, 2001 during our Memorial Day program we dedicated a plaque to honor all members of the Korean War. On that day we had two more plaques dedicated, one to honor all the men who were killed in action that were from Elkhart in the last four wars, and a plaque for Willard "Spud" Payne, (1950 ECHS graduate) who was killed in action in Korea. We also honored our three other men from ECHS, Tommy Taylor (1941 grad), Fred Durchholz (1941 grad) and Wilbur Mann (1939 grad) with a plaque, who were all killed in action during WW II. Harvey Davis and Cleo Schmedke were residents who lived here and were also killed in action.

The Legion now has 66 members, which includes Sons of the Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 616 was formed in May of 1922. They received their charter on February 9, 1923 with 36 members with Sara Brennan as the first President. The Auxiliary as of today has 50 members. "The American Legion holds Memorial services in the cemetery the last Sunday of May each and every year; this tradition began after WWI and probably has not missed a year. A memory shared by Jessie Burge is that Mr. Lucas had homemade ice cream in his restaurant (where Nellie's was) and each Memorial Day after the walk down the road from the cemetery Memorial program, he would give free ice cream cones to all the marchers, young and old. We show our pride in our service men and our family members in this

small way each year. In the 1980's and early 1990's, we had a very large gathering of all participants that joined together on Main Street for a community potluck held after the services on Elkhart Hill. Everyone brought a dish, and the men of the Legion prepared the main dish. This stopped for some reason, but today, the Legion and the Auxiliary still get together for the Legion Anniversary dinner in March and in December for Christmas." SIO: The Star, Lincoln, Illinois, Saturday, November 1, 1924

The Elkhart, IL community dedicated the Veterans Park to honor those who gave much in winning the World War and to those listed below who gave their all.

### Roll Call

\*Joseph Emmet Fitzgerald, Capt. William R. Holcomb, Capt. Joseph T. Woodard, Mabel Brest-RC Nurse, Felicite Ogelsby -AFFW, Lt. Eugene Robert Van Meter, Joseph R. Akridge, James Anderson, Lewis Anderson, James M. Batterton, Gerald Bock, Bernard B. Brennan, Gilmore Brest, David L. Brizendine, Lewis O. Broehl, Wylie Burge, Oliver Byerly, Samuel Byerly, Frank Clark, Archie D. Greer, Milvin Grisson, Thomas Gupton, Emmett W. Hickey, Ralph Hughes, Roy Hunter, William A. Johnson, William Kavanaugh, John G. Keys, Paul Keigan, Robert C. Kennedy, Jasper King, Earl Knoy, John F. Thomas, Howard S. Lanterman, Richie O. Lanterman, \*Roy E. Rogers, Frank Merritt, Bryan Murphy, Clarence Dain, Earl Davis, Luther F. Davis, Thomas Fagan, Elmer Farley, Ambrose W. Fitzgerald, Phillip John Fitzgerald, J. Delmar Follis, Fred Fuiten, James Gleason, Martin P. Gleason, Walter Graue, Elsa H. Green, Ernest M. Ogelsby, John R. Parson, James H. Randal, Elmer Reichle, Raymond Reichle, Gus C. Schroer, Paul Seabolt, John C. Showalter, Lawrence Skinner, Frank Slazwitz, Oscar Stackhouse, William I. Sullivan, William D. Suttory, Oscar H. Svensen, Earl Theobald, \*John H. Laffey, Scott Van Fossan, Conrad W. Welker, Pierce Welch, and William Yates SIO: Courtesy of Dorothy Gleason

JAMES T. HICKEY 73, of Elkhart died May 13, 1996 at St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL. He was born June 6, 1922 near Elkhart, a son of Emmet and Goldie Byrne Hickey. He married the former Miss Betty Brooker of Mt. Pulaski, IL August 30, 1947. Mr. Hickey lived in rural Elkhart, Illinois, near the site of Governor Ogelsby's

Oglehurst home. Mr. Hickey had a large collection of historical pictures, documents, and information relating mostly to Lincoln and the Logan County area. In the 1953 centennial celebration of Lincoln, Illinois, he played the role of founding father Virgil Hickox in the re-enactment ceremony of Abraham Lincoln's christening of Lincoln, Illinois.

Mr. Hickey was educated at Lakeside Grade School, Elkhart High School, Elkhart, IL Lincoln College, Lincoln, IL and Western Illinois State Teachers' College, Macomb, IL. During World War II, Jim served with the United States Army Air Force's 20<sup>th</sup> Div. Photographer Squadron. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was with the Third Photo Mapping Squadron. He later photographed atomic bomb attacks on the Japanese mainland.



James  
Thomas  
Hickey

Beside the time spent pursuing his historical interests, Mr. Hickey farmed a 360-acre farm near Elkhart, 160 acres of which has been handed down through two generations of the family. His ancestors were here 105 years ago, before the City of Lincoln was founded.

In 1958, the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, Illinois was reorganized with the Lincoln collection established as a separate department and Mr. Hickey as its curator, a position he retained until his retirement in November of 1985. In 1959, he was named historical consultant for the restoration of the Old State Capitol building. He selected and arranged for the purchase of nearly 3000 items. He was the primary historical consultant for the restorations of the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices in Springfield, the Great Western Railway Station where Lincoln gave his farewell speech to Springfield in 1861, the Illinois governor's mansion, and the childhood home of former President Ronald Reagan in Dixon, Illinois.

Mr. Hickey served as a member of Lincoln Centennial Committee in 1953 and was Chairman of the Elkhart Centennial Committee in 1955, during which he assisted in the acquisition of furnishings for restoration of both the Postville and Mount Pulaski Courthouses. He also served as trustee of St. Patrick's Church of Elkhart for 40 years, and was a past chairman and longtime member of the Lincoln College Board of Trustees. He was a member of Elkhart American Legion Post 616, the Logan County 40&8, the Knights of Columbus in Lincoln, The Abraham Lincoln Assoc., the Executive Mansion Assoc. of Springfield and the Friends of Hildene, Manchester, VT. THE LINCOLN FAMILY HOME SIO: Obituary; *Lincoln Evening Courier*, centennial edition, August 26, 1953, p. 12; "The Lincoln Newsletter"

**UNDER THE PRAIRIE MUSEUM** in the very center of downtown Elkhart features one of the largest displays of pre-Civil War and the frontier period of Illinois. Many artifacts have been excavated from sites in the immediate area, included in the exhibits are artifacts excavated at the hilltop site of James Latham's 1819 cabin. The museum will enhance your understanding of the pioneer life of Logan County. Also in the museum building is the **Bluestem Bake Shop**, specializing in traditional, made-from-scratch baked goods and lunches. <http://www.undertheprairie.com/>

#### **THE FIRST WHITE PERSON IN LOGAN COUNTY:**

*SOI: Logan County History 1911*

By 1812, the Kickapoo Indians inhabited the central portion of what is now Illinois. Their principal rendezvous was along Salt, Kickapoo and Sugar Creeks in what is now Logan County. Quoting Davidson and Stuve's History of Illinois, page 38: "The Kickapoo, in 1763, occupied the country, southwest of the southern extremity of Lake Michigan. They subsequently moved southward, and at more recent date dwelt in portions of the territory, on the Mackinaw and Sangamon rivers and had a village on Kickapoo Creek and at Elkhart Grove." Parrish's Historic Illinois says: "The principal towns of the Kickapoo were located on Kickapoo Creek and at Elkhart Grove."

Governor Reynolds, in his "Pioneer History of Illinois," writes a thrilling account of the kidnapping of James Gilham Sr.'s wife Ann, and

the three young children about the year 1790. James Gilham with his son Isaac, were tending the corn on his Kentucky farm. Several Kickapoo braves went to the cabin and captured James Gilham's whole family. The field was some distance from the cabin and James discovered much later that his wife and his three young children were gone. The cabin had been ransacked; they had opened the bed-ticks to carry articles out of the cabin. Mr. Gilham and his neighbors rallied to follow their trail, but time had passed and they could not overtake them.

Ann Gilham later told of her and the children's horrendous journey northward. She recalled how terrified she was. The first she recollected after the Kickapoo ransacked the cabin and took her and the children was her son Samuel saying: 'Mamma, we're all prisoners.' She and the children suffered misery from their hurried march and the want of food. "But human nature can endure much and will contrive many expedients, before suffering death." Ann Gilham patched up rags around her children's feet to protect them from briars and thorns. Seized with sympathy, the Indian braves finally "treated their prisoners with all the savage kindness and mercy in their power." Keeping from starving, the Indians gave the children a small portion of dry meat to eat and the grown ones had nothing. They were out of provisions, so they sent a party out to hunt and they returned with a poor summer raccoon. Ann Gilham feared her children would either die from hunger or that the Indians would kill them in order to save them from starvation. With most of the hair and fur off, and some of the contents of the extreme inside were thrown away, the raccoon was placed in a brass kettle and placed over a fire. Soon the mess of meat, bones, hide, some hair, entrails, claws and feet was cool enough to eat.

They came to the Ohio River near Hawesville, Kentucky and camped near the river until rafts could be built. They crossed at night so they would not be detected. "The warriors considered it a great triumph to take these four prisoners and conduct them in safety to the Indian town. In this proportion, they exercised all their talents of bravery and sagacity to accomplish it. But when they had crossed the Ohio, they considered themselves safe and released their watchfulness and caution to some extent. In the country south of White River, in the present state of Indiana, they hunted, marched slow, and lived well; in comparison to the time they ate the coon. They

steered clear of the small white settlements around Vincennes, IN and crossed the Wabash River, below Terre Haute, IN. They marched through the present counties of Clark, Coles and where Decatur, Illinois is located. Finally after a long and hazardous travel of three or four hundred miles from the south-western frontiers of Kentucky they reached safety, the Kickapoo town, which was situated on Salt Creek, northeast of the Elk Heart Grove, in Sangamon County." (Logan County History, 1911 pg. 44)

Meantime Mr. Gilham sold his Kentucky property and left his son Isaac with a friend in order to search for his family. After much delay and fatigue of mind and body, he found out they were alive and made arrangements to purchase them. His youngest son, Clement could not speak a word of English when he was regained by his father. In 1815, Ann Gilham was given a grant for 160 acres of land from Congress, as an honorable testimonial of the suffering and hardships while she was held captive by the Kickapoo Indians. Ann Gilham and her children were undoubtedly the first white people to set foot on Logan County soil thirty years before a permanent white settlement was attempted.

**"Disturbing the Dead"** Incompliance with the order of the grand jury, the body of William Shea, who died at Elkhart, near Lincoln, about a year ago rather suddenly, was exhumed on Wednesday of this week. It is believed that Shea was given poison by his widow, who now resides in Kansas, and as the air in that section has been full of rumors of foul play since the old farmer died, the grand jury of the county has decided to sift the matter to the bottom.

## Dreams

by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams  
for if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
that cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
for when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

SIO: Decatur Daily Republican 21 Jan 1882  
Courtesy of Phyllis Bryson

### Arkansas City Traveler, June 6, 1883. BRIDGE

FALL. As Mr. Evans, formerly of Logan County, Illinois, was crossing a herd of cattle on the Arkansas River bridge, last Thursday, the cattle crowded on and were met at the south end of the bridge by two wagons, which blocked the way, and caused the cattle to turn and run, when the south span of the new part of the bridge gave way and about 30 head of stock were precipitated into the river, killing five head and crippling others. The water was shallow and none were drowned. The township levied on the stock for damages, which was compromised by Mr. Evans paying \$400. The Bolton Township farmers will be inconvenienced considerably until the bridge is repaired. SIO: Bill Detmers

**PIONEER CERTIFICATES:** To be eligible for a pioneer certificate, the applicant must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in Logan County, Illinois prior to statehood, 1818 and through 1880. A gold seal will be affixed to the certificate with the Society's legal stamp. Each ancestor must have their own certificate. These are very impressive documents for framing to proudly proclaim your heritage. Call (217) 732-3200 or write to ask for an application. There is a \$10 charge with each application.

## TAPS

**"Day is Done"**

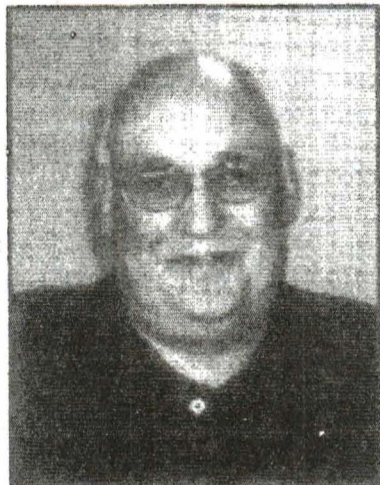
(Story on pg. 53)

Day is done. Gone the sun.  
From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky.  
All is well, Safety rest. God is nigh.  
Fading light Dims the sight, And a star Gems the sky.  
Gleaming bright, From afar.  
Drawing nigh, Falls the night.  
Thanks and praise, for our days,  
Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

**Look who was honored at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Dinner.** Each year all RSVP members are invited to the annual event. Nine of our members were able to go May 26, 2006. For all their labor for the research center, Phyllis Bryson and Bill Detmers were given the highest awards. They both have served as our president, Phyllis as Co-president with Dorothy Gleason for two terms. It was under their guidance and inspiration we obtained the building that now houses Logan County Genealogical and Historical Society. Bill Detmers with Bill Donath have been an inspiration to bring the Society into the 21 century via internet; providing Logan County research material on CD's and indexing volumes of material. Bill Detmers was inspirational in organizing our library; Phyllis was the one to place this into motion. At present Phyllis Bryson assisted by Carol Radespiel and Norma Shehorn have committed much time preparing "This is My Story II." This book will be going to the publishers late summer. Phyllis serves as "Membership Secretary". Bill Detmers was instrumental in preparing material for "This is My Story I" and "Days Gone By". Their accomplishments for the Society are too numerous to mention or space will allow.

The following article was published in the June/July RSVP Newsletter.

**Our top awards, the Josephine Knotts Humanitarian Award and the Lawrence Camp Volunteer Award, were**



**Bill Detmers**

**given, for the first time, to two volunteers who serve in Logan County, Phyllis Bryson and Bill Detmers.** When we prepared the feature about the Logan County Genealogical and Historical Society (LCGHS) for our February/March 2005 RSVP newsletter, the quality and quantity of work done by this volunteer-driven group (yes, no employees!) was evident. It takes a team effort every day to keep this organization moving forward. **Phyllis and Bill** have led the way, each quietly giving a hundred (or



**Phyllis Bryson**

more) hours of service each month for many years. They each have been very involved in the provision of the Society's services, have written grants, helped write several books, handled workshops and much more. These two multi-talented and dedicated volunteers have served together as Co-Presidents for the LCGHS and continue to support the Society in the tremendous amount of work done by all of its members. Congratulations, Phyllis and Bill, on your well-deserved awards!

## Lincoln City Rifle Team

By Bill Donath

From 1962 through 1977 the city of Lincoln was represented in the Central Illinois Rifle League by its own rifle team. The rifle team was begun by William H. Cadwallader with the support of Robert "Bob" Hickey. Bob had been trained as an Olympic level competitor. He formed a short lived team of Lincoln High School students who competed with other schools in the state from 1962-1964. Members of the high school team, who I can remember, were: Jim Ball, Joe Bunting, Ed Donath, Bill Donath, Bruce Goebel, and Steve Goebel.

The range for the Lincoln team was in the basement of the Logan County Court House. We had to go to the old County Jail to pick up the keys. We entered the north door of the courthouse unsupervised. We then carried all of our shooting equipment into the court house basement. The competing team also would carry in their shooting equipment. So, some Thursday nights we had as many as 20 weapons in the court house basement. I think maybe this would not be allowed to happen today. The team was affiliated with the Lincoln Sportsman's club and the National Rifle Association.

The range was 25 feet long and the backstop was ¼ inch boiler plate angled to deflect the bullets into a sand filled base. I was in the basement recently to search microfilmed records stored there. The firing line was still on the floor but the backstop had been replaced with storage for the county files.

The season of competition began in August and ended in April. Each team competed with each of the other teams twice during the season. The teams alternated between their respective home ranges.

Competitors followed the Olympic style shooting which included four positions: Prone (lying down); Sitting; Kneeling; and Off Hand (standing). Each competitor was allowed ten minutes to fire 10 shots in each position. A perfect score would have been 400 points; 100 points for each position, 10 points for each shot. My personal best during the 15 year existence of the team was a 397. That score was shot on a cold winter's night in the basement of a rural church outside of Virden, Illinois.

The rifles used were special competition rifles. They were single shot .22 caliber rifles. Use of sighting scopes was allowed, except by junior level competitors. The rifle I used was a Finish made Lion which weighed 9 pounds. The weight and heavy barrel helped make shooting more accurate. I donated two of my competition rifles to a junior club in Streator, Illinois when I was teaching in the area. I still have the rifle that Dad and I used in competition.

Members of the team came and went during its fifteen year existence. The core members of the team were Bill Cadwallader, Bill, Ed, Ray and Tony Donath, Bill Kelly, and Terry Sablotney. Members for whom records exist were: Joseph A. Bunting: 62-63; Carroll Burnham: 75-76; William H. Cadwallader: 62-70; John DeWilde: 75-76; Edward Donath: 63-77; Raymond A. Donath: 62-77; Shirley (Hermann) Donath: 68-72; Tony Donath: 64-77; William Donath: 62-77; Mike Dykstra: 69-70; Paul Gleason: 62-63; Bruce Goebel: 62-63; Stephen Goebel: 62-63; William R. Kelly: 63-71; D. Landis: 72-73; James C. Leathers: 62-63; Mark G. Masterson: 64-66; Mark McBryant: 74-75; Richard S. McCue: 62-63; Paul E. Neff: 63-64; Tim Noble: 74-77; William C. Robinson: 63-64; Terry Sablotney: 68-77; and Lawrence F. Smith: 62-64.

We may not have been the top team in the league, but Ed, Tony, and I always looked forward to Thursday nights because we spent quality time with Dad.

Teams in the Central Illinois Rifle League were: Abe Lincoln of Springfield, Decatur, Havana, 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance/Illinois National Guard of Springfield, Jacksonville, Lincoln, Petersburg, Springfield YMCA, Taylorville, and Virden.

## **POTLUCK DINNER**

**July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006** We are having Potluck dinner at noon - 3 pm to honor volunteers who worked on repairing our research center. Bring a dish to pass. Brenda Jones will give a presentation about, "How to research your English relatives over the internet."

## **BALLOON FEST August 27<sup>th</sup>**

We will be on the Postville Courthouse lawn. Jean Cypher will have a "wagon wheel weaving" class and demonstration under our tent. Come join the fun!

## **"WALK THRU THE PAST"**

**September 16 & 17**

The Logan County Genealogical and Historical Society, in conjunction with the Annual Railsplitter Festival, will be hosting a Cemetery Walk in Old Union Cemetery. Tours will be held on both days at 10 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM. "WALK THRU THE PAST" will feature "early" settlers and prominent people of Logan County. A brief history of each person will be given by local impersonators in period costume. This is a first for Lincoln. We are receiving a positive response.

The persons featured include the following:

- **Josephine (Davis) Wodetzki DAR**
- **Ed Wodetzki**
- **Fred C W Koehnle**
- **Samuel Evans**
- **James Primm**
- **Judge Stringer**
- **Aaron Dyer**
- **Edmund Rankin**

Donations of at least \$3 would be gratefully appreciated at the cemetery entrance.

Railsplitter Fest will provide tours by trolley car of Postville Courthouse, Lincoln College and Old Union Cemetery. They will continue downtown to places of interest, which include the Research Center. A trolley car will stop at the train depot for the "Watermelon Christening" right across the street from the Research Center. Our genealogists will be available to answer questions and informative displays will guide you through our newly remodeled library. We are proud of our Abraham Lincoln collection and have provided a room for this exhibit. There will be refreshments at the LCGHS building, as well as many publications for sale. For more information, please contact the LCGHS at 217-732-3200.

## **Help! Help! Help!**

Yes, we need the help of ALL our members to make this event a success. We need help at the research center, at our booth at the fairgrounds during Railsplitter Fest, and at the cemetery for the cemetery walk. You may call or come to the center to sign up to help.

We are having a contest:

Submit a catchy name for the Cemetery Walk! A drawing will determine the winner. The winner will receive free passage to the Cemetery Walk.

**TAPS:** Like Memorial Day itself, the melancholy strains of Taps trace their roots to the Civil War. After a battle near Richmond, Virginia, July 1862, the Union 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division suffered heavy casualties. Commander Colonel Daniel Butterfield was struck with a deep sadness. Inspired by his sorrow, he hummed a melody which an aide transcribed into musical notation. That night the company bugler, Oliver W. Norton of Chicago, IL, was the first to sound the new call and played the song to honor fallen comrades. Within months, "Taps" was used by both Union and Confederate forces. Later at a military funeral, Union officers had Taps substituted for the customary rifle volleys at the graveside fearing ceremonial gunshots would invite an attack from edgy Confederate troops. In 1874 Taps was officially recognized by the United States Army. In 1901 it was the funeral dirge for General Butterfield as he was laid to rest at West Point. His white marble monument still stands there. Today Taps remain the nation's requiem to soldiers, not only marking the end of the day but also denoting the end of a life given in service to this great country. SOI: Courtesy of Dorothy Gleason

"Taps" ("Butterfield's Lullaby") sometimes known by the lyrics of its second verse, "Day is Done," is a famous musical piece, played in the US military during flag ceremonies and funerals, generally on bugle or trumpet. The tune is also used at night to signal "lights out." You will find the words to "Day is Done" on page 48.



## PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

### "THIS IS MY STORY" II

We need your **Pre-Publication order form** and **\$25** deposit for each book reserved. The balance will be due when you take possession of your book. Projected date of completion at this time will be sometime in November. This is subject to change. Our goal is to go to the publisher in September of this year. At that time we will have an estimate of what it will cost to have the books published. Our goal is for Volume II to be comparable to Volume I in cost and size. At present we have over 200 pages of stories and 650 individual veterans' pictures. There will be a pictorial section with various topics of military interest. Also included are local monuments honoring Logan County veterans, and a section dedicated to the American flag. We ask for a deposit so we will have an idea of how many books we will need to have published. Only a few above this count will be published, so to guarantee you a book, please order now.

**Please Print:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Number of books \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check or cash (circle one) Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society

114 North Chicago Street  
Lincoln, Illinois 62656-2729

Ph. 217-732-3200

Please direct correspondences to either Carol or Phyllis.

**Membership Application and Renewal Form**

Our membership year is January 1 to December 31 of each year. Those who join in mid-year will receive all publications of "Roots and Branches" for the year.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: 2006 2007 2008 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check type of Membership Desired:

- Regular \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 (Single Person)
- Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 (Two Persons at same address)
- Life \_\_\_\_\_ \$125.00 (Lifetime Single Person)
- Life \_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 (Lifetime Couple)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Make checks payable to: Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society\*\***

**\*\*\*PLEASE:** enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) if you wish to have a membership card returned to you by mail OR if you are requesting research information that will require return mail. Copy charges are 15 cents per page for members; and 25 cents for non-members.

Surnames you are researching. PLEASE LIMIT TO FIVE. They will be published in the fall quarterly.

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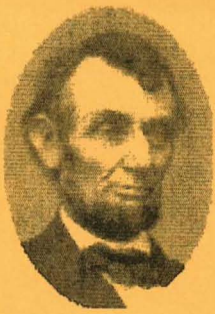


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**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR SOCIETY IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED!**

From:  
 Logan County Genealogical &  
 Historical Society  
 114 North Chicago Street  
 Lincoln, Illinois 62656 - 2729  
*Return Service Requested*

TO:



# Roots and Branches

Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society

114 North Chicago Street Lincoln, Illinois 62656-2729

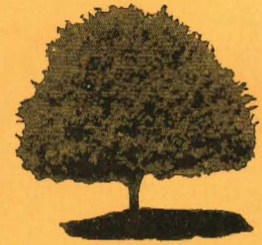
Ph. (217) 732-3200

Hours are 11 am – 4pm Tues-Fri

Saturdays 10am – 1pm

Web page: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgghs>

E-mail address [lcghs1@msn.com](mailto:lcghs1@msn.com)



Fall ISSUE

2006

## NOTICE

### MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

L.C.G. & H. Society's membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.

We publish a membership form stating the amounts of annual and lifetime fees in every Quarterly (four times a year). Please accept this as an apology if this is not the best way of notifying our members of when their membership fees are due. We are a non-profit organization and depend on volunteer help. We are funded by membership dues, donations, fundraisers, book sales and an occasional grant. We try to be very frugal with our finances that include keeping postage and other expenses at a minimum. Donna Holton works at the research center in a training program sponsored Area Agency on Aging. We are very fortunate to have her.

We greatly appreciate your membership in our Society. We have been able to accomplish a great deal including a comprehensive collection of Logan County History and Family Genealogy.

Our facility is a very pleasant and inviting environment for doing research. It is also a continuous expense. We have expense of utilities, insurance, supplies, equipment and maintenance. Unfortunately we do not have a benefactor that can provide these necessities.

**WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT.**

**PLEASE PLAN TO FORWARD YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2007 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2007.**

This would be a good time to update the surnames that you are researching. We will publish all members and their updated surname list in the January 2007 Roots and Branches. We publish your surname list so that our members may contact each other and share information. This is one of the benefits that we offer our members. If you do not want your name and address published let us know in writing.

Our genealogists will NOT automatically research your surnames, if you want your surnames to be researched, send a written request along with \$15. There will be an additional charge of \$15 for each hour spent after the initial research. There will be a fee for copies. State how many hours you would like for our genealogists to research your surnames. All fees will go to the maintenance of our research center.

## Attention

### Veterans Book, Volume II

We are happy to announce that the Logan County, Illinois Veterans Book, This Is My Story, Volume II is now at the printers. It will be sent to the binders sometime toward the end of September. We expect the binders to have their part of the project completed and the book to us by late October.

It will be red, hard bound, with gold foil lettering. The book has 365 pages, indexed, and includes a colorized section highlighting the American Flag. We have included a Pictorial Section, Story Section and a section for Monuments and Memorials of Logan County.

We have ordered a limited number of copies. Those who have pre-ordered a book will have priority. The total cost of the book is \$58.00. If it is to be mailed, include an additional \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

If you have reserved your copy and paid \$25 in advance the remaining balance will be a total of \$33.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling=\$38.00. Please remit as soon as possible. When the books arrive they will be forwarded as soon as possible.

If you have paid \$50 please plan to forward the balance at your earliest possible convenience.

(We had a "projected" price of \$50 but with the volume of accumulated information and pictures it has increased the number of pages, and therefore, the final cost.)

The Book Committee

#### Donations:

Darold Leigh Henson  
Joann Miller Mittelsteadt  
Pete & Dixie Ross  
Marcia Miller  
Mary Ellen Martin  
EM Fulton (Martha)  
Karen & Loren Birnbaum  
Paul Buckles  
Bill Bryson  
James E. Williams  
Marilee Thomas Cochran  
Jean Cypher  
Bill & Diane Detmers  
Emdry Van Gerpen  
Michael D. Entel  
Lawrence A. Bussard  
Dorothy Gleason  
Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your gifts are appreciated!

☺ **Thanks!**

#### New Members

Welcome!  
George & Annette Harris  
Linda Fay  
Jennifer Cunningham  
Roy Schilling  
Phyllis Boles  
George & Annette Harris  
Phillip Austin  
Eloise O'Dell  
Betty J. McAfee  
John R. McCue  
Steven P. Keim  
John W. Amberg  
Al & Doretta Hassebrock  
Mike Fak

#### In Memory

At the end of each year it is our policy to purchase a book in the memory of members who have passed away. For 2005 the Society purchased "William Maxwell "A Literary Life" by Barbara Burkhardt. Members deceased in 2005 were:

Shelia Rae Mardis

Deane McKinlay  
Raymond A. Johnson  
Eddie Dirks

Everett Lee Cobb passed in 2006, in memory of Everett, "An Incredible Journey" by Betty Kraus Hickey was purchased.

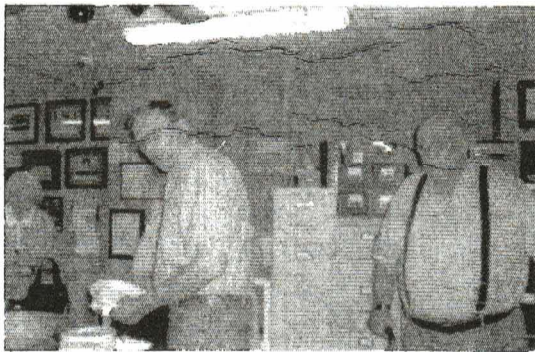
#### Requests for Research:

Written requests should include as much information as possible. We ask a \$20 donation to do an initial search (\$15 donation for members), and \$20 per hour to continue (\$15 per hour for members), plus 25 cents per page copied from books, obits, marriage, birth, death and land records, 15 cents for members. We welcome questions and comments, as well as suggestions, through our e-mail address: [lcqhs1@msn.com](mailto:lcqhs1@msn.com).

## July Meeting

The Society meeting for July was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month. We chose this time to celebrate the completion of the research building floor, new carpeting and new book shelves. We wanted to give special thanks to those that worked so hard in the remodeling. George Dahmn, Loren Birnbaum, Alfred & Doretta Hassebrock, Marian Smith, George Cypher, Keith Johnson, Bill Donath, Mike Kilhoffer, Harold Begolka, Mary Johnson, Joe Bob & David Gleason, Walt & Carol Radespiel, John Sutton, Steve Nichols, Pat and Gary Freese, Mary Ellen Martin, Donna Holton, Jean Cypher, Marcia Schaub, Dorothy Gleason, Phyllis & Bill Bryson. Everyone brought a covered dish for the pot luck dinner. Roseann Coers chaired a short business meeting. Brenda Jones gave a presentation on "How to research your English relatives over the Internet".

*Pictures taken during July meeting, courtesy of Carol Radespiel*



## August Meeting

Society membership meeting was August 21. Bob Sullivan and Wayne Schrader gave the presentation on "Americanism and the American Flag". Snacks were served.

## Monthly Meeting Fall Schedule

**October 16<sup>th</sup>:** Research Center 6:30 pm. 114 N. Chicago, Lincoln, Illinois. Bring snack foods for refreshments. Bob Church will give a presentation on "Early Surveys of Illinois"

**November 20<sup>th</sup>: 5:30pm** The annual dinner will be at Elizabeth's Café 123 South Sangamon, Lincoln, Illinois downtown by the Blue Dog Inn. Gillette M. Ransom will be our speaker. Call 732-3200 for reservations.

**December 18<sup>th</sup>:** Bring finger food for refreshments. We will be honoring our 2006 deceased members. A book is purchased and added to the library in their memory.

**All monthly meetings** are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night of each month at 6:30 pm unless otherwise announced. Members are asked to bring finger foods for refreshments. Tea, coffee and soft drinks are provided.

**Sorry!** We missed Andrew Gus Richard's name in last quarterly on page 46. The article featured the Elkhart Veterans Park in the 2006 Summer Issue.

## Township Organization

Government by County Court ceased in Logan County and government by a Board of Supervisors, under what is known as township organization began May 13, 1867. The constitution of 1848 provided that the General Assembly might make a judgment for a system of township organization to be adopted. The General Assembly of 1849 passed a township organization act and it was amended in 1851. This law provided that on a petition to the County Court, signed by fifty legal voters, or more for their adoption or disapproval. The first petition of this kind was filed in Logan County in 1858 and a vote was taken on the proposition at the general election that year. There were 921 votes for and 400 votes against the proposition. The proposition was carried by a majority of 521, but no further action was taken and the matter was abandoned. It came to the front again the following year and another petition was filed and a second election was held in November 1859 resulting in another favorable vote for the township organization, 983 for and 208 against; a majority of 775. An abstract was prepared and presented to the County Court and commissioners were appointed to divide the county into townships, but the commissioners appointed never acted. The matter again was dropped until 1865; a third effort was made by the proponents of township organization to put the will of the people into effect. A third petition was prepared and submitted in 1865. The result of the vote was as follows: For township organization 1,612 and against were 700, the majority in favor was 912. At the December term of 1865 of the County Court, three commissioners were again appointed to divide the county into townships. They were Asa C. Barnes of Atlanta, H.C. St. Clair of Mt. Pulaski and L.D. Dana of Elkhart. The commissioners did not report until February 29, 1867. Upon the filing of the commissioners' report, the County Clerk gave immediate notice, as required by law, for the holding of township meetings. In the newly created townships, the election of township officers, and the designation of the time and place of election was held. These elections were held April 2, 1867, and the first Board of Supervisors was elected for Logan County. The results were as follows: Atlanta, James Tuttle; Actna, Joshua Dunnuck; Broadwell, John A. Critchfield; Eminence, William Beazley; Elkhart, Lorenzo D. Dana; East Lincoln, James Beers; Hurlbut, Elisha Crane; Laenna, John L. Waddle; Lake Fork, James D. Gasaway; Mt. Pulaski, Alexander Fisher; Madison (now Chester), Michael Hinrichsen; Middletown (now Corwin), David G. Evans; Oran, William S. Curry; Orvil, Thomas Quisenberry; Prairie Creek, John Linbarger; Sheridan, George W. Gayle; and West Lincoln, John M. Garner. The first Board of Supervisors initial meeting was May 13, 1867 and was called to order by County Clerk John T. Jenkins.

*SOI: Logan County History 1911 pg 232 & 233*

## History of Chester Township:

Chester Township is located in the central part of Logan County, Illinois. It is served by U.S. mail carriers from Lincoln, Mt. Pulaski and Beason. It is one of the few townships that do not include a town, although it has residential areas such as Flamingo Heights, Grand Oaks and Grand Oaks Trailer Court and Home Avenue. State Highway #121 passes through Chester Township between Lincoln and Mt. Pulaski. Salt Creek and Deer Creek are the prominent creeks that run through Chester Township. Upon the organizations of townships in 1867, Chester's first elected officers were: Supervisor: Michael Hinrichson; Clerk: Jeremiah Matthews; Assessor: Jacob Baker; Highway Commissioners: Daniel French, William Layman and P.C. Bowen; Justices of Peace: I.T. McCoy, J.P. Evans; Constables: Lemuel Spangler, and John Stewart. For many years the Town Hall was located on rented railroad property at Chestervale. This property has now been purchased and the buildings replaced a new shed and town hall. In the mid-1960's, a bond referendum for the construction of black topped roads were put before the voters by the Town board. The issue passed and roads were black topped with some of the material being mixed at an old gravel pit site in the township. This site is still in operation, in 1982, supplying material for other townships.

Raising livestock and grain farming are the principal occupations along with the Chestervale Elevator, Allsopp Sand and Gravel, and Truman Woll Implement Company. Chestervale Elevator dates back to early the 1900's, Allsopp Sand and Gravel dates back to 1950's and Truman Woll Implement Company located in Chester Township in the late 1970's. In the fall of 1951, rural schools in Chester Township were consolidated with Chester-East Lincoln and Mt. Pulaski grade schools. High school students attend Lincoln and Mt. Pulaski high schools. *SOI: Logan county History 1982*

**Dorothy Gleason** organized a Chester Township Pioneer Day that was scheduled for July 28, 1990 at the Township Hall. Dorothy realized that the history of the township would be lost if nothing was done. Her committee included Margaret Wilmert, Ray Gimbel, Gwen Sheley, Edna Miller and Alan Pegram. In 1990 the township officials were Lowell "Bud" Petty, Supervisor; Homer S. Sheley, Road Commissioner; Laura L. Slayton, Clerk; and Wilbur Goldhammer, Alan Pegram, Eugene Hassebrock and Cecil McCrea, all trustees.

Their goal was to research the history of Chester Township. Dorothy Gleason found that much of the information she needed was stored in the Chester Township Hall, one of two structures marking the location of the town of Chester. The other building was the Chestervale Grain Elevator. She also gathered information about Oakwood Dance Hall which was located east of Route 121 near Salt Creek. The committee members gathered at the Township Hall to sift through boxes of township records stored in the attic of the building. Some of the parcels of papers dated back to 1867.

*SOL: Lincoln Courier July 1990.*

### **Madison:**

The Pioneer Day Committee discovered that the town of Madison, a paper town, was laid out by William Carpenter and surveyed April 11, 1836 by T. M. Neal, County Surveyor of Sangamon County. (Logan did not yet exist) Madison contained 16 blocks and the streets were named after presidents, Washington to Monroe and from First to Seventh. The plat was vacated six years later by the proprietor. The original town of Madison was located on the site of the Bowers-Templeman Cemetery. Lots were still being sold when the township organization was adopted. Grave markers at the site of Madison indicated that the area was settled before the town had been platted.

*SOL: History of Logan County 1911*

On August 23, 1836, another town of the same name was laid out in what is now Prairie Creek Township, in the northwest corner of the present Logan County. This area was Tazewell County at that time. Madison was a popular name then since President Madison had just died.

### **Chester Township Cemeteries:**

*Courtesy of Dorothy Gleason*

1. Downing, Sec. 33, south of Lincoln, Illinois on Route 121 across Salt Creek bridge about 7 miles. Turn west on 900N St., and follow the road. When the road turns west again the cemetery is on the North side of road.
2. Bowers-Templeman, Sec. 27, south from Lincoln, Illinois on route 121, 4 to 5 miles on your right. You will see a tall pine tree from Route 121. Enter the cemetery from Route 121. Bowers-Templeman Cemetery marks the site of the old "paper town" of Madison. The two earliest marked graves in the cemetery are those of John Jackson, died July 31, 1832 and Jacob Shoup died July 2, 1835.
3. Baker-Ruwe, the west Sec. 24, follow Primm Road South of Lincoln, Illinois past the High School to 1250E Ave. at top of the hill. Turn west and follow road to the entrance of Grand Oaks Trailer Park and turn south. The cemetery is located to the East. A pine tree marks the cemetery on the rise behind an implement shed. The Downing and Bowers cemeteries are associated with the Downing, Morrow, Shoup, and French settlement along Salt Creek.
4. The plat map of Chester Township shows three unidentified cemeteries. All were probably small private burial grounds. One is located in section 29 and consists of only one stone, located on a farm some distance from any road. The inscription reads as follows: "Charlie E. Died June 1, 1862 Aged 3 yrs. 6 mo. and Horace Jan. 6, 1857 Aged 8 mo. 1 day. Sons of M. and E. Hinrichsen". Another is shown just south of Lincoln, Illinois near Primm Road in section 7. Nothing remains of this one. Another was located in section 3 near the Chester-East Lincoln Township boundary line near Deer Creek. Nothing remains.

### **One Room Schools in Chester Township:**

You can read all about the "one room schoolhouses of Logan County in the book "Days Gone By" available at our research center. \$35 + S/H

Pleasant Grove, Section 26

Doolittle, Section 16

Sugar Grove, Section 33

Layman, Section 23

Industry, Section 19

Pegram, Section 2

Primm/Cutlip, Section 7

### **Centennial Farmers:**

Gehlbach 1902

Culnan Farm Trust 1871,

Wilmert 1871,

### **Chester Township in 1917:**

Logan County Collector: James Fitzsimmons

Chester/Mt. Pulaski Highway Commissioners:

B.H. Keck, Ben Pfeifer, Peter Sandel, and Philip Gehlbach

Chester Township Justices of Peace: Harry B. Fox

Logan County Police Magistrates: F.W. Obermiller, W.E. Mickle, and L.B. Masters

Logan County Supervisor for Chester Township: Samuel T. Sparks

Logan County Town Clerk for Chester Township: Gilbert Abbott

Logan County Assessor for Chester Township:

Edgar French

**April 1998:** The replacement of the existing four-span concrete deck beam bridge on Illinois 121 over Deer Creek nearly a mile south of Lincoln and replacement of the existing single span concrete slab bridge carrying Illinois 121 over a fork of Deer Creek nearly two miles southeast of Lincoln with a concrete box culvert. Cullinan of Tremont, Illinois received the contract for the \$1,068,950.86 for the 120 working day project.

**January 1999:** Lincoln and surrounding area received 11.8 inches of snow from the New Year's week-end storm that fell on top of 7 inches already on the ground from a pre-holiday Alberta Clipper that moved through the area. Central Illinois was battling cold temperatures as it dug out from the storm. The low the morning of January 4, 1999 was 7 below zero; the wind chill factor registered 35 below zero. Lincoln resident Vickie Simpson, 42, died at 7 am Saturday after she was stricken by an apparent heart attack while shoveling snow at her residence. *SOI: The Courier, January 4, 1999*

### **The Wide a Wake 4-H Club:**

Chesterettes merge with the boys club.

The Wide A Wake 4-H club was organized by Walter and Hilda (Klemm) Horn for young boys and girls living in rural Lincoln, Chester and East Lincoln Townships. The purpose of the 4-H club was to learn more about farming and homemaking, two of the noblest occupations engaged in by man. It was to be a democracy in action. Learning, sharing and caring would in turn establish responsibility, leadership and achievement in all walks of life. Eight members and twenty guests were present at the Sugar Grove School House on March 21, 1949 for the organization. The club was named and the constitution and by-laws were discussed by co-leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Horn. Requirements for a standard 4-H club were given by the Home Extension Advisor, Mabel Albrecht. Officers elected were: President, Glenn Michaels; Vice President, Charles Gehlbach; Secretary-Treasurer, Darrell Leimbach; Reporter, Donald Kline and recreation Leader, James Dunn. Enrollment cards were completed with six dairy and two swine projects. The next meeting was held at Doolittle School House.

*SOI: Logan County History 1982 pg 82*

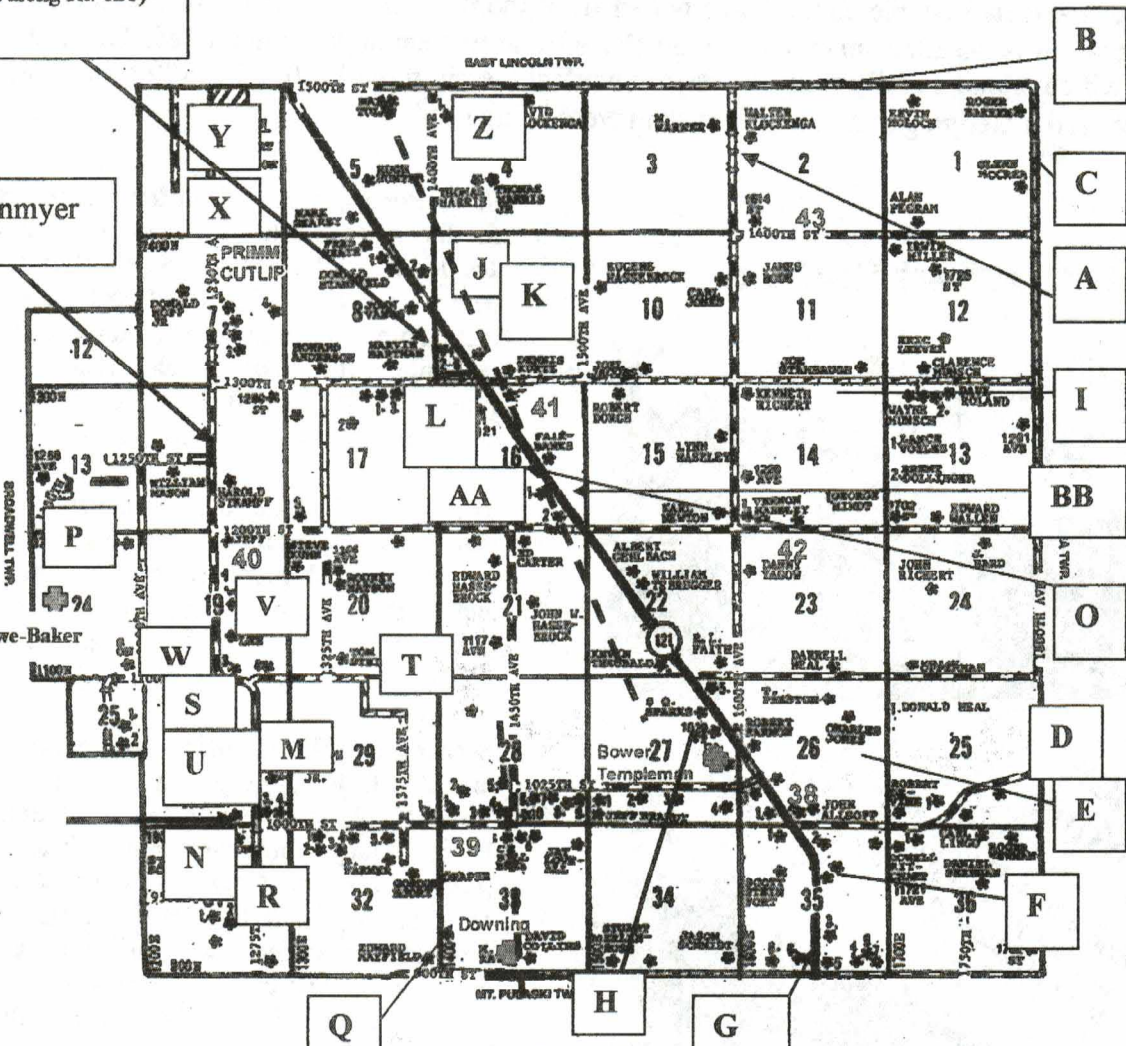
1. Pay Pond
2. Lazy H Camp Ground
3. Heartland Industries  
(all along Rt. 121)

## Important Places in Chester Township

*Information courtesy of Dorothy Gleason/Graphics by Carol Radespiel*

Lachenmyer Hill

Ruwe-Baker



- 38 Pleasant Grove
- 39 Sugar Grove
- 40 Industry
- 41 Doolittle
- 42 Layman
- 43 Pegram

Cutlip & Primm were believed to be the same school. The school was named Cutlip first, and then the name was changed to Primm. The site is on the west side of Primm Road north of Deer Creek on Primm property.

A= Warner Bridge B= Potter Baum Bridge C= Skelton Bridge D= The Christian Church E= United Brethren Church F= Allsopp Sand and Gravel G= Pleasant Valley Church H= Madison I= Layman ME Chapel J=Deer Creek Mine K= Newman Salvage L= Flamingo Heights Subdivision M= Ray Bernahl Sawmill N= Salt Creek Tree Farm and Spade Service O= Holmes & Maurer P= Grand Oak Estate and Trailer Park Q= Ruff Bridge R= French's Chapel S= Wilmert Curve T= Gehlbach Turkey Farm V= Wilmert Tree Farm U=Salt Creek Bridge (was a wood bridge now a culvert) W= Julius Wilmert Bridge X= Deer Creek Bridge Y= Salt Springs Z= Logan County First Fairgrounds AA= Chester Township Hall BB= Shew's Woodworking & Homes

F

## Businesses in Chester Township

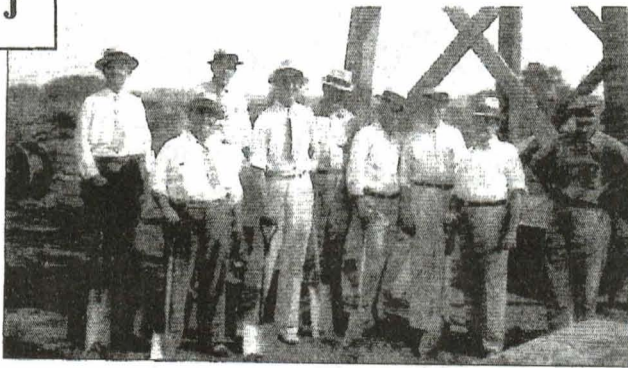
### Allsopp Sand and Gravel

SOI: Logan County History 1982

Allsopp Sand and Gravel was started by John Allsopp in the late 1950's. It is located along Salt Creek just east of Route #121. The business was started by a tractor with a scoop, two single axle dump trucks and two people. Gravel was pulled from the pit with a dragline. In the late 1960's, a crushing plant was installed, an end loader purchased, and two employees were hired. The gravel was pulled in with a crane. Family members started work at the pit in the 1970's. In 1980 a washing plant was added, and a dredging and pumping system were being used.

### The Deer Creek, or Bennis Coal Mine:

J



Steve Bennis (second from left) breaks ground for the Deer Creek Coal Mine on September 16, 1936. The Deer Creek, or Bennis Coal Mine was the last functional coal mine in the immediate Lincoln area. The mine was located one mile southeast of Lincoln, Illinois on State Route 121. The Bennis mine was sunk in 1937 and hit a five foot vein of coal at 273 feet.

Mr. Bennis had decided to develop a mine which would produce coal for the area as well as aid the local economy by providing jobs," and most of the coal "was used within a 50-mile radius of Lincoln" (Paul Gleason, *Lincoln: A Pictorial History*, p. 32).

**Lincoln Coal Mine**

Under new management by Mc Spadden Bros.  
 "You stretch your dollars when you buy our coal"  
 1/2 Mile S.E. Of Lincoln On Rt. 121  
 Box 155  
 Lincoln, Ill.

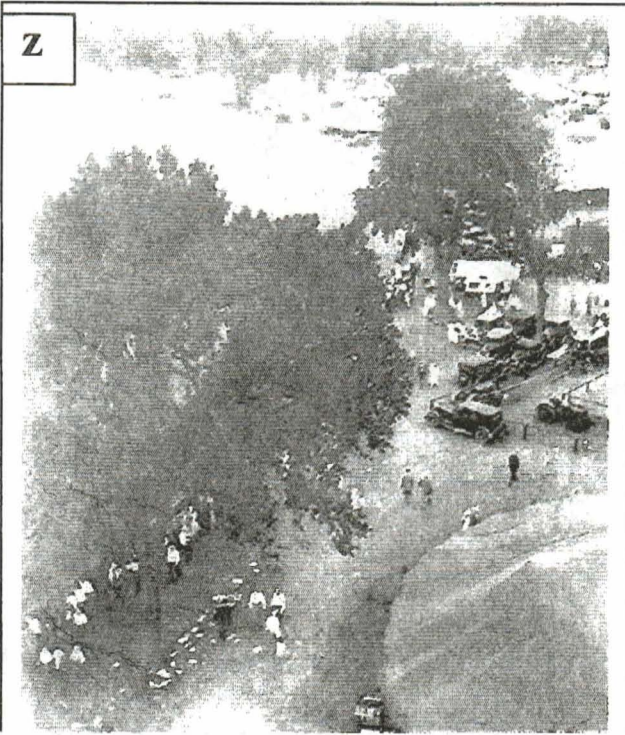
Under new management by Mc Spadden Bros. "You stretch your dollars when you buy our coal" 1/2 Mile S.E. of Lincoln on Rt. 121  
Ph. 732-6077 Box 155 Lincoln, IL

The above ad with photo is from the *Official County Plat Book and Farmers' Directory of Logan County, Illinois, 1962*, p. 12

Sol: Leigh Henson Web site:

<http://www.geocities.com/findinglincolnilinois/miningandutilities.html>

Because the Bennis Mine was developed in recent history, its story is well documented in "Deer Creek Mine Begun by Steve Bennis in 1936; Many Improvements Made Since (*Lincoln Evening Courier*, August 26, 1953, section 5, p. 15). In the 1940s and early 1950s, demand for stoker coal was high, and the owners continued to invest in new methods and innovative technology. "The price of the coal has been held below that of shipped-in coal of equal quality and during the life of the mine the payroll has totaled \$1,7653,686.66. Twenty one former miners and one miner's widow are drawing pensions from the miners' welfare fund; thus one can easily see that the Deer Creek Mine has been and is an asset to this community. The mine represents a total investment of approximately \$400,000 and seventeen years of effort." This account in the 1953 centennial edition of the *Courier* offers no hint that the mine would close in the following year.

**Z**

### **THE LOGAN COUNTY FIRST FAIR:**

The first fair association in Logan County, IL was what was known as the Logan County Agricultural Society. It antedated the Atlanta Associated fair by ten years and conducted annual county fairs at Lincoln from that time until 1889 when it ceased to be active.

Their first meeting was in Lincoln, June 14, 1856. Following this meeting, ten acres was purchased east of Lincoln, part of what was the Strawn farm, and the same was enclosed with a tight board fence and halls, barns, stalls and pens. The first fair was held October 9 and 10, 1856. A charter was secured February 19, 1857 and the incorporators were Colby Knapp, R.B. Latham, John D. Gillett, Wm H. Young, George Musick, W.N. Dustin, James Coddington, David G. Evans, Ezra Boren and I.V. Cunningham. Fairs were held each year under this charter until 1872, when there was an entire reorganization under the name of Logan County Agricultural & Mechanical Society.

In 1887, the agriculture features were abandoned and a race meeting was held that year. In 1888 the agriculture feature was re-established but was not a financial success and 1889 it was abandoned again. The grounds were sold in April of that same year for \$10,426.

*SOI: Logan County History 1911 Pg. 535*

In 1853, the Illinois State Agricultural Society was organized and chartered, and continued until 1871, when it was reorganized and continued under the name of the State Board of Agriculture.

In 1852, a "Rope Fair Company," as it was often called, was organized in Logan County, and that fall a public exhibition was held at Mt. Pulaski. A rope was stretched around the articles exhibited, and at the close of the day's exhibition a hat was passed around among those attending to raise the necessary funds to pay premiums. One or two other fairs were also held there, the same means being used to enclose the articles exhibited and to collect money. In 1856, a fair was held in Lincoln under the same circumstances. The General Assembly of 1857 incorporated the "Logan County Agricultural Society and Mechanical Institution," and under its management annual fairs were held until 1862 when the 106<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Army was quartered on the grounds. The booths caught fire which resulted in serious damage to the buildings. Because of the cost of improvements and the outbreak of the Civil War, the Association was disbanded.

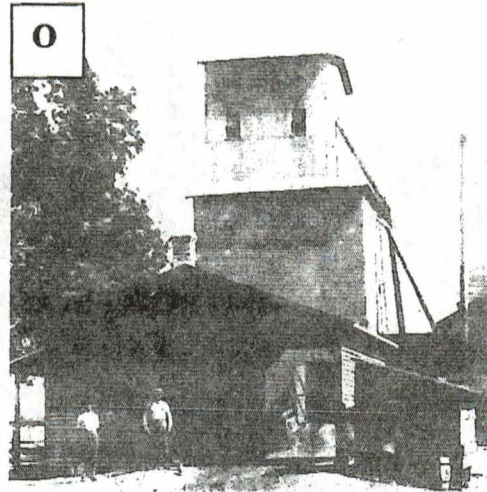
In the latter part of 1868 and in the early part of 1869, some of the leading citizens of the county, including the prominent "rope fair" company, organized a joint stock company, and formed the Logan County Agricultural Society and Mechanical Association. About a mile east of the County Courthouse 160 acres of highly improved land was purchased at a cost of \$70 an acre. Over \$20,000 was expended in improvements and grading. All but 71 acres were used for fair grounds. This land was sold to Martin Spitley. Here annual fairs were held until 1873, when a new stock company was organized and purchased the old ground. The grounds were about 600 yards east of the corporate limits of Lincoln, and were among the most eligible, well improved and beautiful fair grounds style in the state. Attached to the grounds is a full mile track laid off and completed in the most approved style. The association purposed to finally make it a part of the fair association property. In 1860, the citizens of Atlanta, joined by the majority of the people from the northern part of the county, and several citizens of Tazewell, McLean, and DeWitt Counties, organized the Atlanta Union Central Agricultural Society.

*SOI: Logan County History 1878 pages 223 & 224*

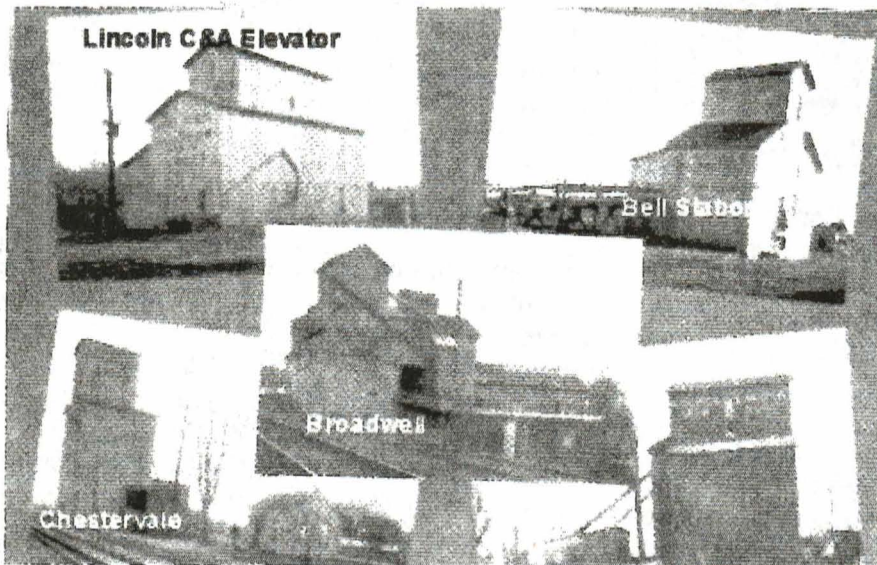
## **Chestervale Elevator**

*SOI: Logan County History 1982*

Chestervale Elevator dates back to the early 1900's and was owned by Holmes and Maurer. Ear corn was the primary business. According to the pictures which the present owners have, Holmes and Maurer had elevators at Kickapoo Siding, Burtonview, Lawndale, Johnson Siding, Bell Station and Broadwell. Cloyce Shew purchased Chestervale Elevator in 1954. In 1971 the business was incorporated as Chestervale, Inc. In 1982 Allen Shew was the manager.



Holmes and Maurer grain Elevator

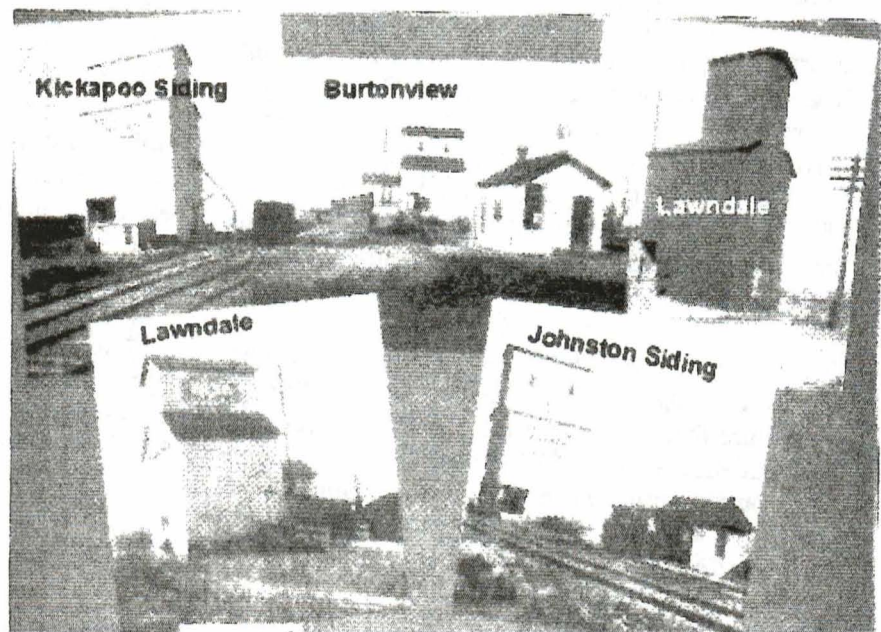


The elevator had a capacity of 42,000 bushels. A seed cleaning mill was installed in the late 1950's and grain storage was added. The grain and seed cleaning equipment have been upgraded with modern equipment; the elevator in 1982 had the capacity of 470,000 bushels.

## **BB Shew's Woodworking & Homes**

Mark Shew is willing to build almost anything of wood. Shew, who has dyslexia, discovered his talent for woodworking in high school. Mark's Shew's business is situated just a few feet away from Chestervale Grain Elevator.

*SOI: The Courier*



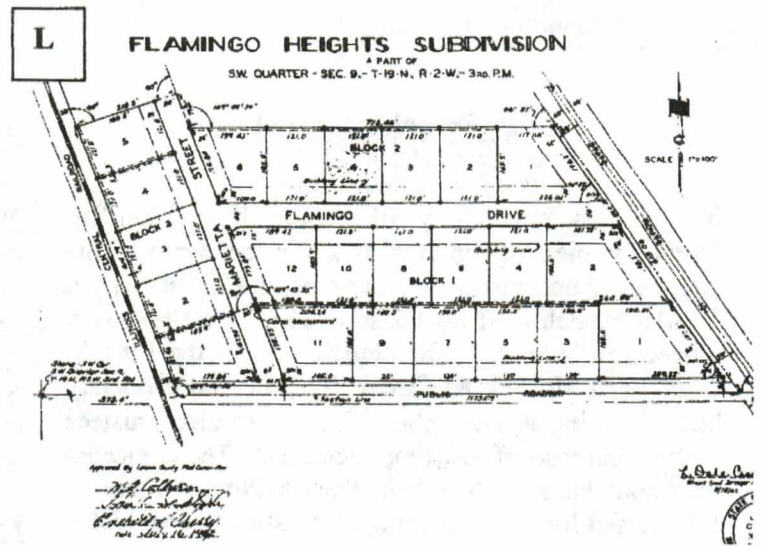
62 64

## Flamingo Heights Subdivision:

First Certificate of Entry was dated July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1852 by Hiram Walker. Entered was the SW1/4 of Section 9, Township 19 North, Range 2 West, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> PM containing 160 acres. Hiram Walker sold to George W. Doolittle January 7, 1859 for \$2000. Mike Werschey bought the property May 24, 1962. 23 lots were laid out. The Logan County Plat Committee approved Flamingo Heights Subdivision July 16, 1962.

A copy of the total abstract is available for viewing at the Research Center.

Sol: *Flamingo Heights Land Abstract*, courtesy of Mike Werschey

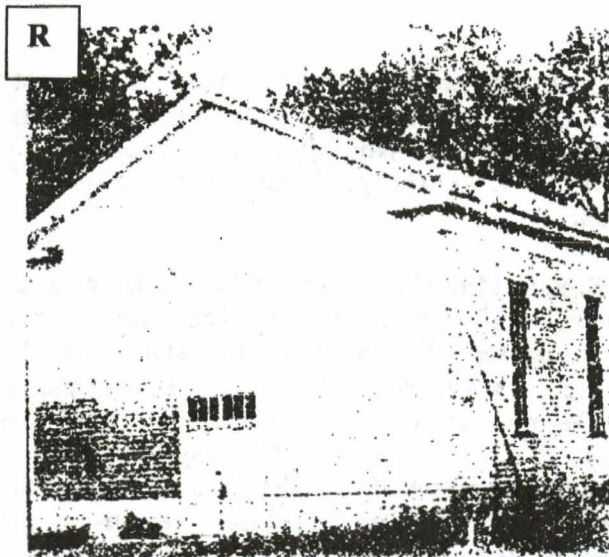


## P= Grand Oaks Estates and Grand Oaks Trailer Park:

**May 9, 1995:** A tornado passed approximately 2 miles southeast of Lincoln right over Grand Oaks Trailer Park. Several trailers were demolished and scattered across the corn fields. The early stages of this tornado were also visible from the Springfield NWS office, when the tornado was northwest of Springfield, Illinois. Multiple tornadoes tore through central Illinois early Tuesday evening, tossing trucks and cars off Interstate 55, heavily damaging a school and post office in Cantrall and twisting metal power line towers into farm fields. Despite the extensive damage, no serious injuries were reported. Still, unlucky motorists caught on I-55 just south of Elkhart scrambled for their lives as funnel clouds dropped from the sky, turned into tornadoes and marched down the road. The tornado, a category 3 (max. wind speeds 158-206 mph) injured 6 people and caused between \$5,000,000 and \$50,000,000 in damages.

## Churches in Chester Township

### French's Chapel



The Rev. Daniel Grimes of Mt. Pulaski Circuit was pastor when French's Chapel was built. The church had a membership of 40 persons and they held services alternate Sundays. Sunday school and prayer meetings were held every week. Approximately 100 years from the date French's Chapel began, the doors were closed and another icon faded into history on June 3, 1951. French's Chapel, a Logan County landmark, was located just off of Primm Road near Salt Creek, seven miles south of Lincoln and five miles east of Broadwell where Asa French bought 500 acres of land in section 36 of Chester Township. Today, the building has been torn down and the basement is all that remains. None of the French family live on or own land in Chester Township.

*By Grace Albert McKinley Lisk,*

*Great Grand-daughter of Ezekiel and Caroline French.*

### R= French's Chapel

Courtesy of Dorothy Gleason

SOI: 1982 Logan County History Pg. 94

In 1837, a community of people began holding Methodist meetings in Asa French's log cabin. This community became known as French's Chapel. When Charles French built his house in 1847, meetings were moved to his home. The church was on the Lincoln Circuit and Mt. Pulaski Circuit. The Methodist Society had a meeting in December 12, 1849 to elect trustees for the purpose of erecting a church. Those elected were John Harry, John Clark, Norman Norton, James J. Snyder and John M. Downing. It was not known if this Chapel was on the Springfield or Delavan mission organized by Peter Cartwright. Finally the people built their first church and it was dedicated in Sep 1870. At the time only the sons of Asa, Daniel, Ezekiel and John were living. They and their families had a major role in the construction of French's Church. In 1923 a basement was added to the church.

In the 1850's, the Methodist Society was the leading Methodist society in the county and was known as the Mt. Pulaski Circuit which included fourteen church societies. Those were Mt. Pulaski, Day's School House, Two Mile Grove, Downing's, Hurricane Point (later known as Yankeetown at the end of The Civil War) Whiteman's, French's, Metcalf's, Bateman's, Sugar Creek, Mt. Pleasant and Postville. In 1853 Lincoln and Lawndale were added to the circuit. Lincoln replaced Postville. In 1860 the circuit was divided, the Mt. Pulaski circuit included Chesnut, Cornland, French's Chapel and Pleasant Valley.

### G = Pleasant Valley Church The Pleasant Valley ME

society in the Logan County. Services were held as early as 1855 at the James Downing home and later at the David Laughrey and Nicholas Moore homes. In 1875 a Church was built in section 35 in Chester Township on the Lincoln - Mt. Pulaski Road at the cost of \$2,100. It was dedicated November 21, 1875 by Rev. W.R. Goodwin of Lincoln. Trustees were George Mantle, John E. Downing, George Ripley, James Downing, John Valentine and Rudolph Krise. It was on the Mt. Pulaski Circuit.

I= Layman ME Chapel Layman's Chapel was located in Section 14 of Chester Township and was included in the Lincoln Circuit. The original class was organized in the fall of 1866 in the Layman schoolhouse by Samuel, George and William Layman and their wives. The first pastor was S.E. Pendleton, with Samuel Johnston as assistant. On September 1, 1869 the ground where the church was built was deeded to the society by Samuel Layman and the building was known as Layman's Chapel. The corner stone was laid in the summer of 1869 with the Rev. WR Goodwin of Lincoln officiating and dedicatory services were held the following September. Rev. William Crain delivered the address. Rev. C. Arnold was the next pastor of the Lincoln Circuit of which the Layman's church was a part. Rev. H.C. Adams followed in the fall of 1869. In the spring of 1869 trustees were elected: Samuel, George, and William Layman, William Moore, W.A. Pegram and A.B. Hagerman. Rev. G.B. Wolfe followed Rev. Adams and held a remarkable revival in which the church was awakened and many members were added. Other pastors were Rev. Sampson, Rev. Shinn, Rev. John Everly, Rev. C. Powell, Rev. T.D. Weems, Rev. A.C. Armentrout and A.M. Danely in 1876. In February 1877, Rev. Johnston held a very

### D = New Union Christian Church

The New Union Christian Church in Chester Township was incorporated on January 6, 1875, with Monroe Shoup, Eli Fletcher and Jerome Shoup as trustees. Peter Arnfeldt donated land in Section 25 of Chester Township to the society upon which a church edifice was erected that year at a cost of \$1,800. Elder Henry Wright was the first pastor. Elder John England was for a number of years identified with the church as a minister. Others that served in that capacity were Elder Cain, Craig, Hutchison, and Doty.

E= United Brethren Church A church society of the United Brethren in Christ was organized in Pleasant Grove schoolhouse in Chester Township by Rev. Lewis D. Ambrose in 1856. In 1867, the society erected a brick church on the Lincoln-Mt. Pulaski road in Section 26 of Chester Township, at the cost of \$3000. The principal promoters of the organization were Rev. and Mrs. Mathias Ambrose, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis D. Ambrose, George Shoup and family, Reuben Bowers and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Lincoln. The trustees were Lewis D. Ambrose, D.D. James, Zimri Lawrence, Robin Bowers, W.H. Kretzinger and G.W. James. Among the members who were in charge of the church were Lewis D. Ambrose, Mathias Ambrose, George Keller, P. Brandenburg, John Watson, David O. Griffin, W.W. Nipple, William Mosier, James Young and B.F. Thrasher. Ministers were Rev. L.B. Ambrose, Mathias Ambrose, George Keller, Van Gordon, P. Brandenburg, John Watson, Goslin, David Giffon, W.W. Nipple, William Mosier, James Young and Thrasher.

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 Sheet corner. Work began in the spring of 1910.



Lincoln, IL U.S. Post Office being built 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.



Lincoln, IL U.S. Post Office built in 1910 - 1911

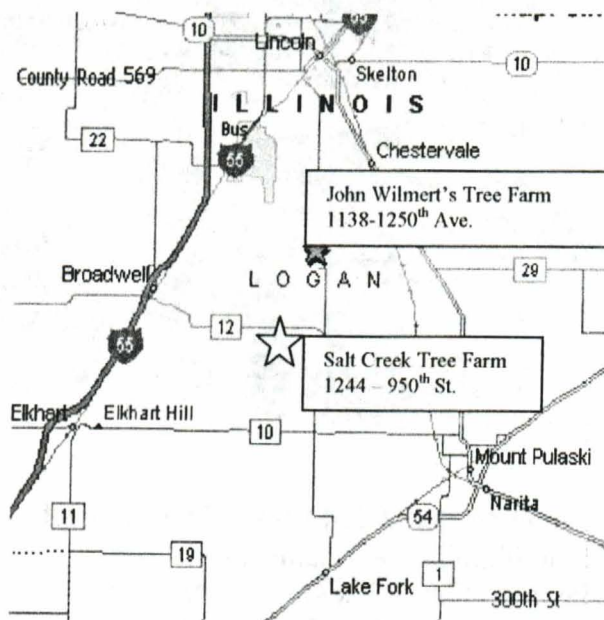
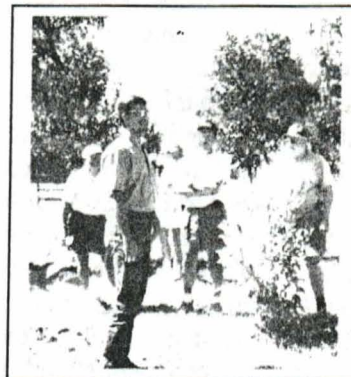
#### JOINT REGIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL MEETING

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'



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

## Salt Creek Tree Farm & Spade Service

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

**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 Spilty 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.

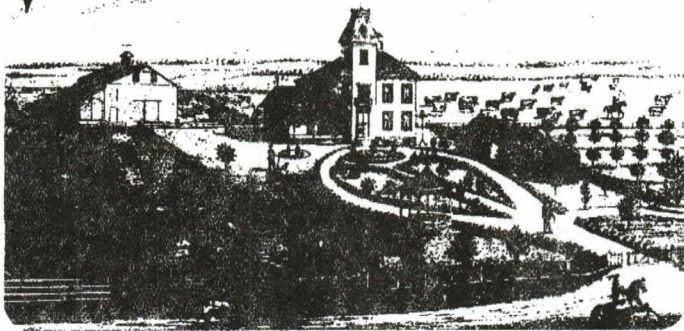
## **News Bulletin:**

### **AN EXPLOSION OF WHISKEY**

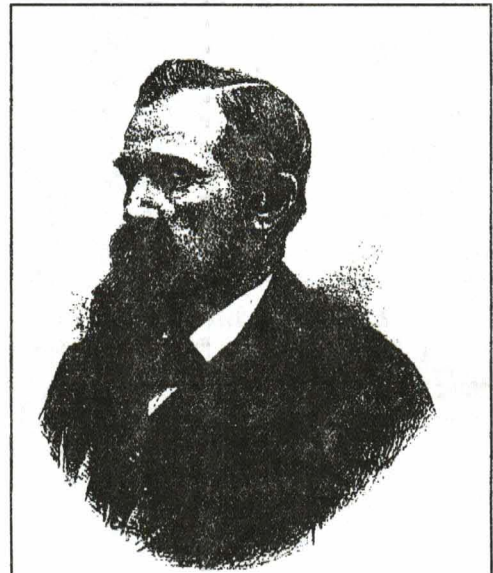
An empty whiskey barrel sat near the depot platform; a man sat on the barrel; the barrel was impregnated with whiskey gases. A boy bent on mischief, lights a fire cracker in the bunghole of the barrel. A fearful explosion follows, which for aught we know might have changed the county line between Macon 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*

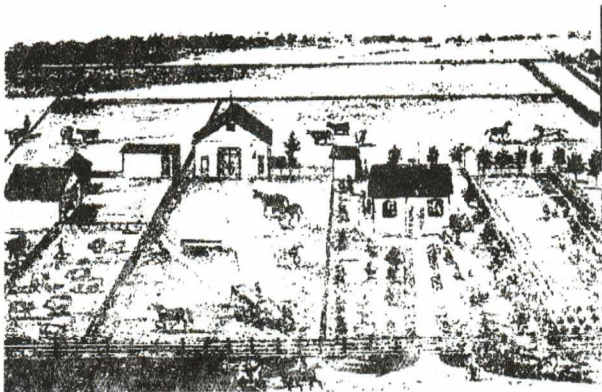
**Honorable Richard H. Templeman** was born near Fredericksburg, Virginia April 20, 1833. He was left an orphan at age eight. He came to Logan County, Illinois in 1853. He married Mary Shoup November 26, 1857. To this union was born six children. He taught school in the Laughery district, two miles north 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. Keguin, 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.

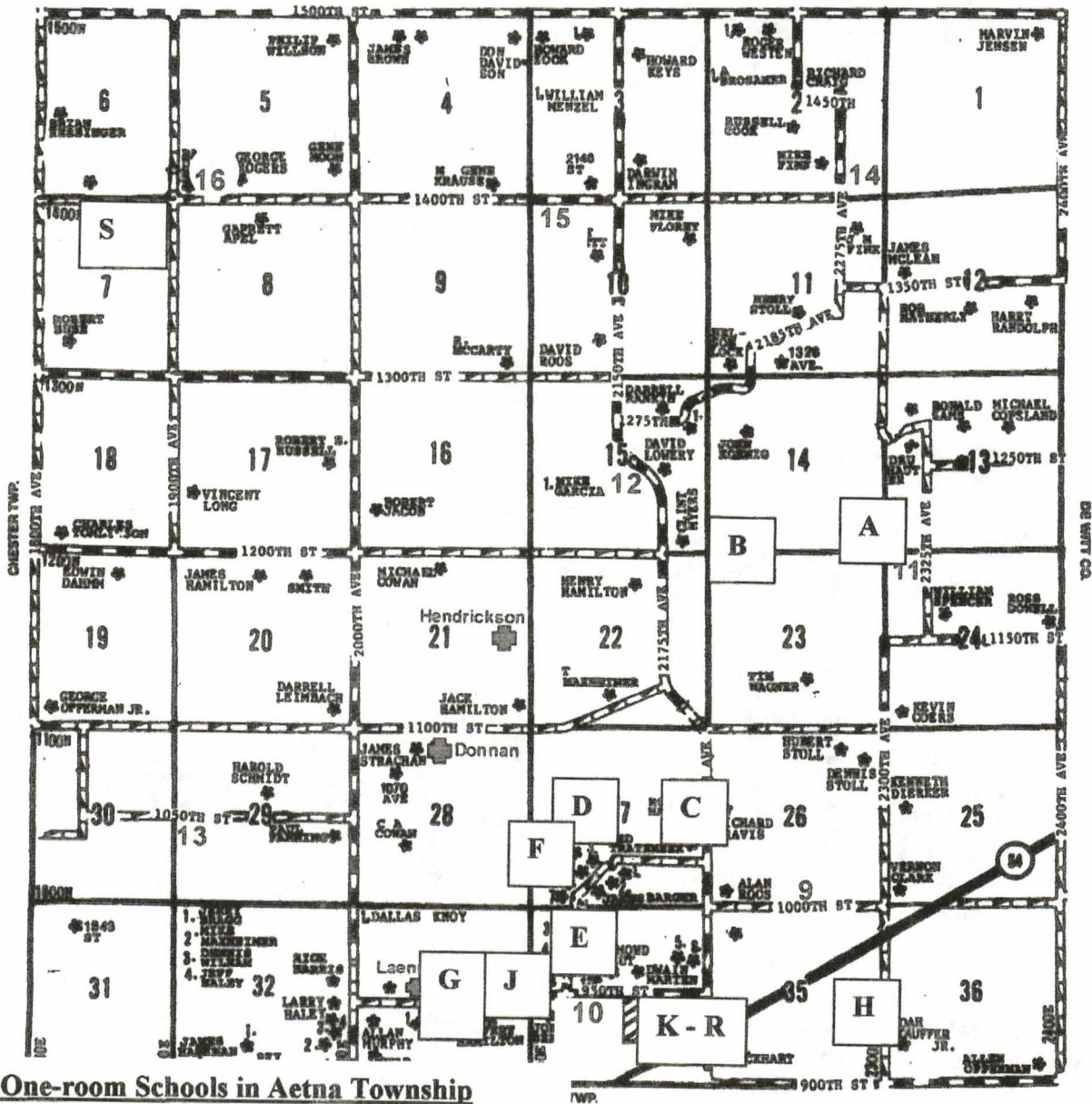
### AETNA TOWNSHIP

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, Blan 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

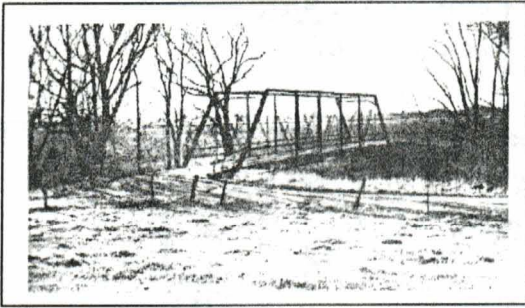


**One-room Schools in Aetna Township**

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

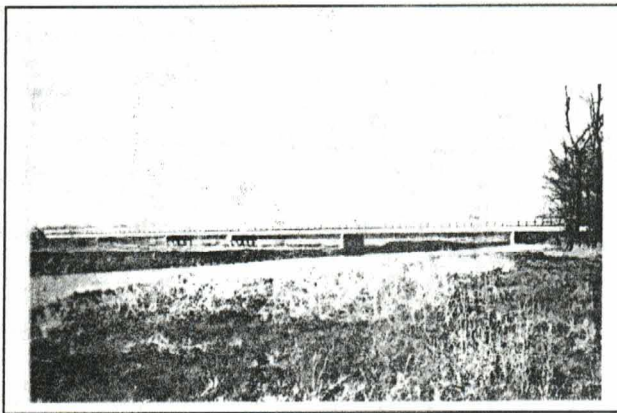
A=Regan Bridge B= Chestnut-Beason Park C= Hantel (Randolph) Bridge D=Killeman Hill  
 E= Donnan Bridge F=Bakerville G= Yankeetown Road - Hurricane Point H=Lincoln Trail  
 J= Schoolhouse K= Chestnut L = Allen & Humphrey Grocery and Meat Market  
 M= Bank of Chestnut N= Grocery Business O= Chestnut Churches 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.

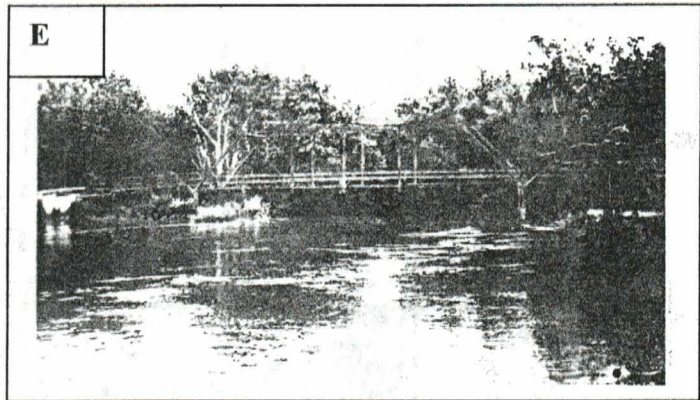
C =



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

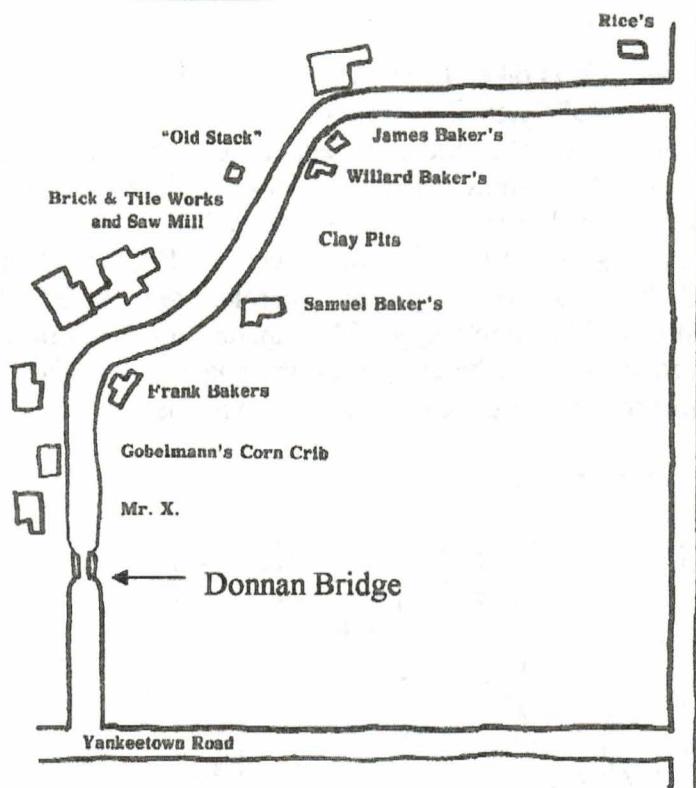
E



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.

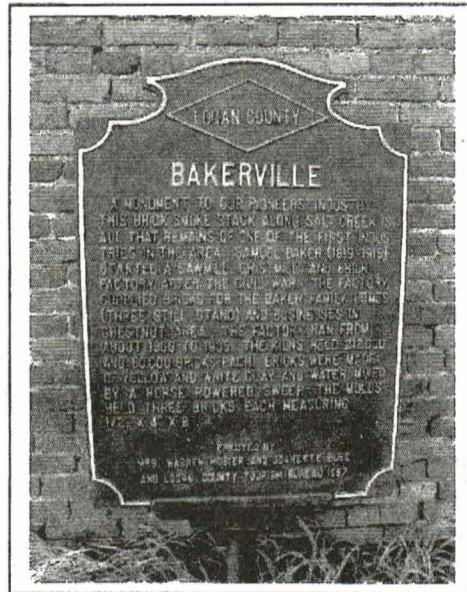
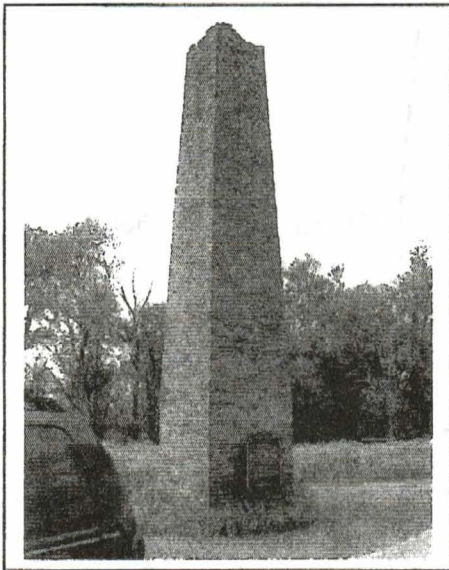
Richard, a grandson of Samuel Baker, described the manner in which bricks were made. A large hole was made in the ground. Four loads of white clay and four loads of yellow clay were dumped into the hole. A horse hitched to a sweep walked in a circle to mix the clay while someone would temper the clay with water to the correct consistency. The clay was then transferred to a slate slab. Two handfuls of clay made a brick measuring 2 1/2 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



## 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.

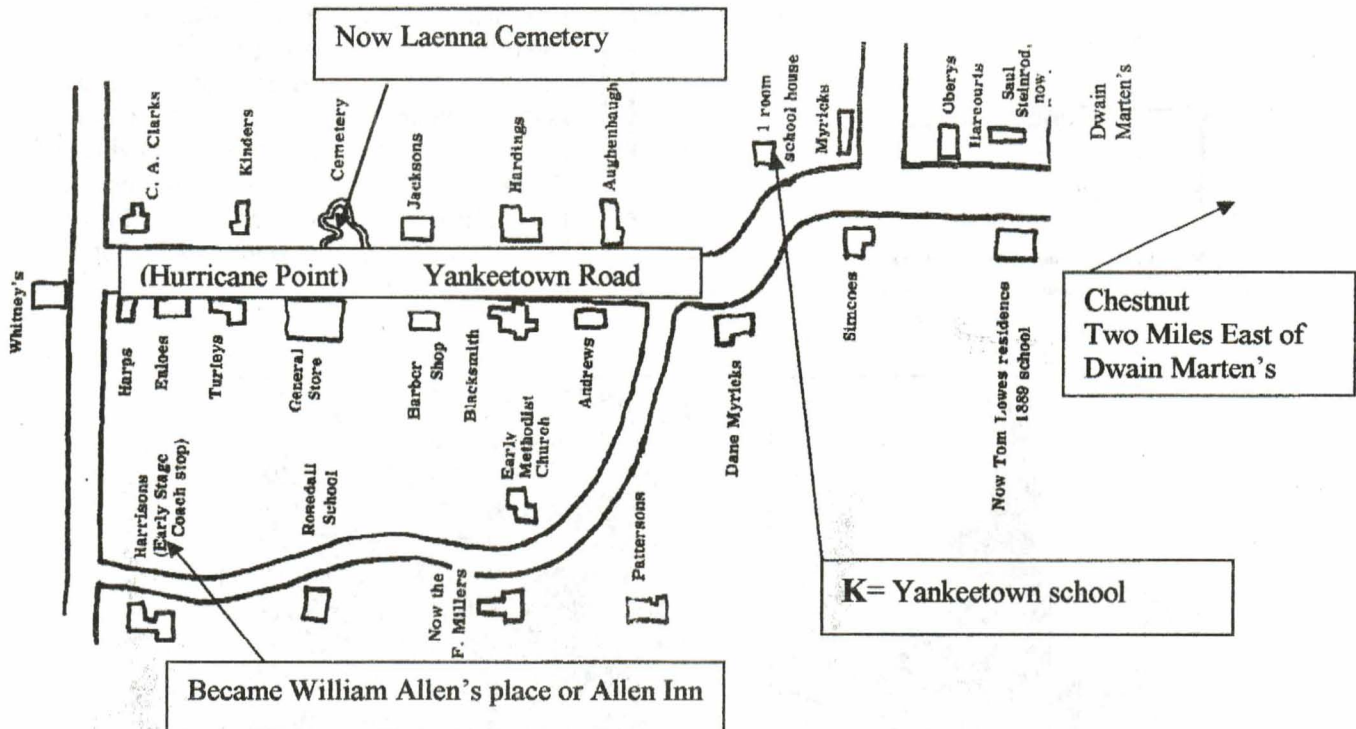


*Plaque on the brick smoke stack*

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.

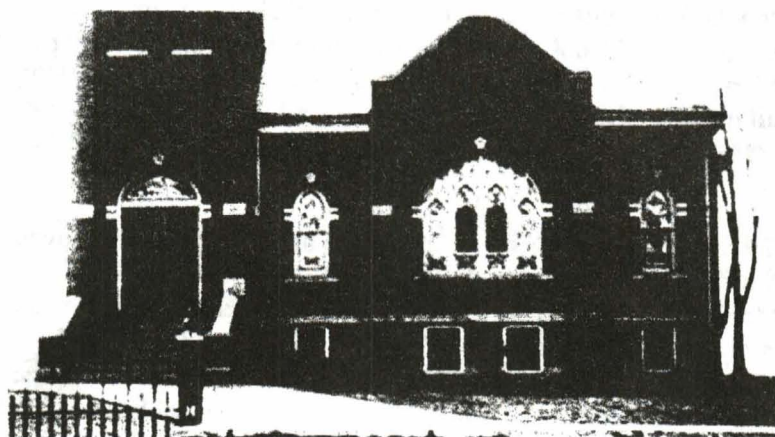
### **Harmony Cemetery:**

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.

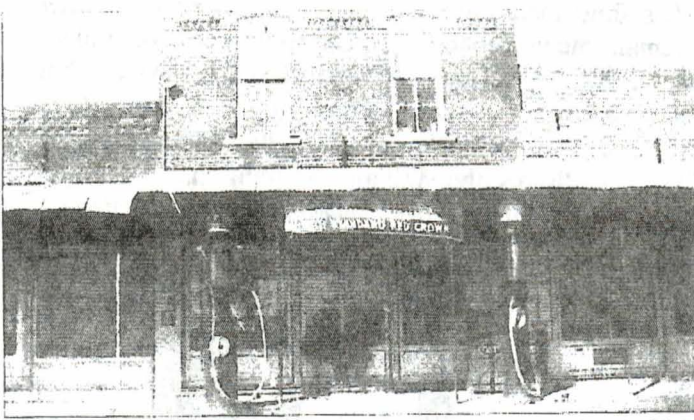


### **K= Chestnut:**

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.

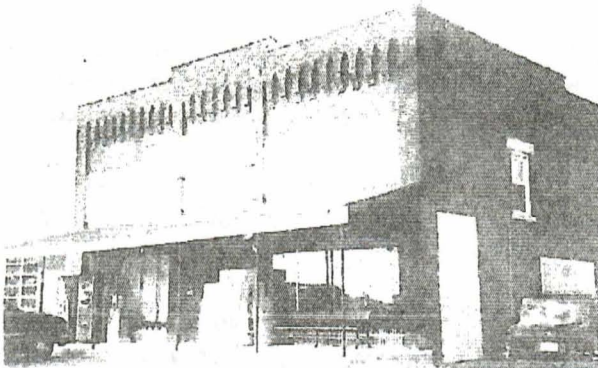
## M= Bank of Chestnut

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.



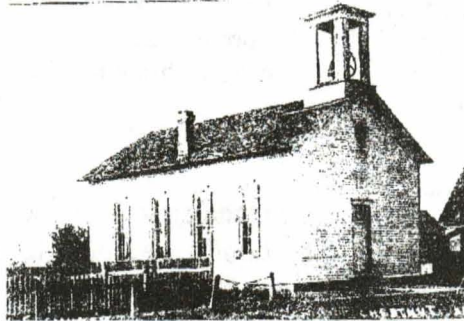
## N= Grocery Business:



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



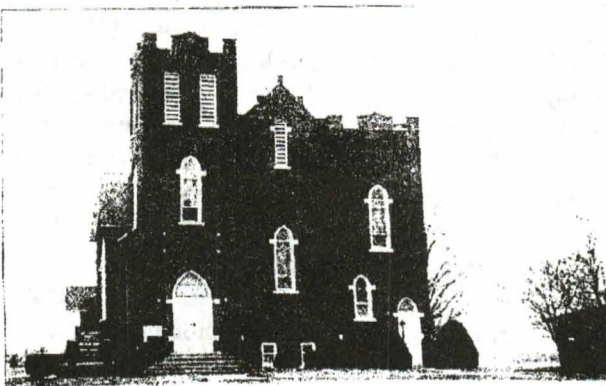
Bennie and Carol Aldrige

**O= Chestnut Churches:**



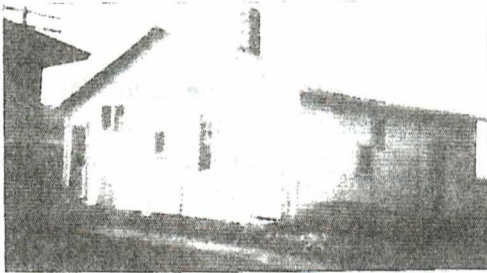
The Chestnut Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the farm house of Henry Dement in 1842. They met in the homes of the first settlers which included the Clarks, Dements, Brooks, and Potts. They continued to meet in private homes until they were financially able to build a church in 1849. A small 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 Mae 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.

## 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.

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Some of our members are interested in keeping all their Roots & Branches. Annually we publish an index for that year. The index is for your convenience so you may find names that we featured in previous Roots and Branches. Behind each name is the page number on which you will find that name. With each winter issue we start with page one and continue with that sequence of numbers through the fall issue.

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The following pages are a listing of all members. The information/surnames listed beside each name are available in the Membership Records. If you find an error in this mailing, PLEASE notify us at once so that a correction can be made. Any corrections will be listed in our next quarterly. **PLEASE WRITE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.** If you would like a change in your listing PLEASE notify us.

This listing is being provided so you can contact our members when you are searching the same Surname(s). Many contacts have been made in this manor. We make every attempt to assist you in your research and sharing the information we have available is another step in that direction.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT. WE WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR SEARCH.**

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Begolka; Coleman; Wilson

Jacob & Anna (Bebrends) Oltmanns; Jacob & Clara (Steinhauer) Oyer;

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Arnig; Schmidt; Erlenbusch; Stroble

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John Sumners of Logan, DeWitt, McLean Cos-1856-1882/  
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Rhoads

Dalzell; Wood; Brown; Mayer; Wren

Berend; Harms; Behrends; Anna J. Etmund

Anita & Marie Spitler; John Warren Spitler; Magdalena (Starr)  
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Schrader (Schroeder); Karr; Smart; Spencer; Schreiber; Coers/  
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Trepel; Rademaler; Utech; Krusemark; Smith/Schmidt

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Durchholz; Fitzgibbon; Ryan; VanMeter; Cleary; Lambert

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1897 Bronson St.  
Camarillo, CA 93010-4575  
[Mro739@aol.com](mailto:Mro739@aol.com)

Redus; Gayle; Fitzmaurice; Rimerman

**GEHLBACH, Vernon/ Amy**  
196 N. Evans St.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

Gehlbach; Werth; Kinder; Anderson

**GEPHART, Robert**  
505 3<sup>rd</sup>. St.  
Lincoln, IL 62656-2508  
[rrgephart@aol.com](mailto:rrgephart@aol.com)

Daniel; Smedley; Morrow; Dugan

**GILCHRIST, James E**  
21100 High Drive  
Lago Vista, TX 78645

Gilchrist

**GINGER, Esther/John**

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Lincoln, IL 62656-9328

**GLEASON, Paul**

1621 Rutledge St.  
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**GLEASON, Virginia**

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Stuart, FL 34996

**GORDON, Jack/Emily**

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214 Peoria St.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

**GRAUE, Joan**

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**GRESHAM, Stuart A**

54 Andover Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62704-5431

**GRIFFIN, Laura Marie**

115 Mayfair Dr.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

**HAMILTON, Neil Trevor**

60 Gail Dr.  
Owego, NY 13827-1027

**HARP, Suzanne/Marvin**

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[suzyharp@frontiernet.net](mailto:suzyharp@frontiernet.net)

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**HARTMAN, Douglas K.**

249 Glenbrook Rd. Unit 2033  
University of Connecticut  
Starrs, CT 06269-2033

**HASSEBROCK, Alfred/Doretta**

10221 W. Lake Fork Rd.  
RRI Box 49  
Kenney, IL 61749

Geo. W & Nancy Bishop-bur: Lawndale-grt gr par -lived in southern Indiana then moved to IL. Their son, Li or onza H. bur:@ Atlanta, 1950

Alfter, Peter, from Atlanta, shoemaker; Gaus, Xavier, brick maker from Lincoln; Edward left Lincoln about 1901

Damarin; Gasaway; Buckles; Scroggin

John & Rosie (Hoblit) Huff; Musick; Hoblit; Smith/Mowery

Frances Rosenthal (1865-1914) mar. Emanuel Salzenstien;  
Rosenthal; Rothschild

Huffman; Edwards; Ogden; Hutches; Parcell

Gordon; Laughlin; Smith; Laing; Gregg

Verna Bright (mar. Horney), Bloomington-believed to be dau. Of Charles E. Gossett

Lee; Patrick; Mary O'Hara

Gresham; Thompson; Ebert; Stafford; Schabinger

Wagner; Schafer; Vonderleith; Houseworth; Benscoter; Warren;  
Harp; Stone; Powell; Olson

Bogardus; Harris from Sangamon County, Illinois; Pankey

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**HASSEN, Priscilla(Wilkins)**

602 E. Roseburg  
Modesto, CA 95350

**HATFIELD, Clarine S.**

1330 Bel Aire Rd.  
San Mateo, CA 94402-3650

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Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

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Wilkins; Altik; Eveland; Baldwin; Lantis

Stumpe; Mowen; Hickey; Bushell; Gleason; Crouch

John & Lucinda Edwards lived south of Lincoln dur 1840's-dau,  
Amy, mar: James Braucher. Hines(Heinz); Edwards;  
Burrows(Burroughs) Bitler; Earl; Diday; Buechler; Kehbel

Miller, Hines

Nicholas Hubbard; George Hubbard

Ralph Coorts family(1848-1925-9 children); Ackerman; Kest; Schrader;  
Wubben; Paulus; Baker; Behrends; Hunter

Irwin; Wiseman; Shivlar; Zumwalt

Carl Bree b. 1838 Hamburg, Germany; Jacobs

Beaver; McBride

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**KING, Richard**  
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**KNOBLOCK, Judy E.**  
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Skokie, IL 60077-1224

**KOMNICK, Thomas W.**  
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120 Olive St.  
Emden, IL 62635-6315

**KOONTZ, Jane**  
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**LADD, Geoff**  
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Elkhart, IL 62634

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Hartsburg, IL 62643-0118

**LEESMAN, Jean**  
St. Clara's Manor  
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South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-6535

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**LUMPP, Michael/Judy**  
1708 Nichoson Rd.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

**Mac IVOR, Charles**  
1600 Terrie Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-2632

Herburger; Sewald(Siewald); Goehl

Katherine Shelton Keim from Pocahontas, Arkansas; Leroy Shelton Bell (Busit) Shelton

Haffey; Shannon; Bear; Schroeder

Any info' on Emil Gehlbach house, built 1882/carriage house?  
Homesteaded by Gehlbachs in 1850

King; Roberts; Musick; Judy

Larison; John A Snook; Greenberry

Holmer; McCann; Buttell

Musickville & Musickville Christian Church

Lohmeier; Leininger; Buttell; Knochel; Gschwindt; Riechel;  
Warnisher; Huston

Hawes; McIver; Miller; Phillips

---

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Van Buren; McCray

**McCUE, John R.**

406 W. Belmont St.  
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**McDANIEL, Melody**

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Mahomet, IL 61853

**McGEE, Mark/Mary**

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North Hollywood, CA 91601-1754

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1271 Richland Ave.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

Day

**McLELLAN, Betty M**

PO Box 621  
Atlanta, IL 61723-0621

**MADIGAN, Matthew J**

61707 E. County Rd., 1600 N.  
Charleston, IL 61920

**MARLIN, Jo Anne**

703 Grand Ave.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

**MARTIN, Mary Ellen**

542-1800<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

W.C.R. Kaesebier family; Harry Abraham Osborn; John Theobald; Fanny Lawrence. Mr. Burton responsible for Burtonview School, "We have records that show he lived east of the settlement where"?

**MARTIN, Richard**

640 1550<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

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Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548

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**MILLER, Yvonne Hume**

PO Box 483  
Newport Beach, CA 92662  
[vhmjem@earthlink.net](mailto:vhmjem@earthlink.net)

Lawrence Springer

McKinney; Boles; Chamness; Brown; John & Mary (Berry) Musick

Burger; Pfau; Gaus; Rentschler; Ott

Fredrick McLean m. Louise McMullen, Cowin Twsp; Robinson; Irish; McCoy; McMullen

**MORGAN, Ed**

609 Stoddard Ct.  
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Arthur; Swille; Weaver; Morgan, Sheley

---

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PO box 32  
Lincoln, IL 62656-0032  
**MYERS, Virgil L**  
1107 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556

Will; Seelfeldt; Briggs  
Scully (estate)

**NAUGLE, Robert**  
2507 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
**NEWMAN, Carol Ann**  
888 Gloucester Crossing  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
**NOLTING, D. Nadine**  
34 Monica LN.  
Springfield, IL 62702-3446  
[noltingn@aol.com](mailto:noltingn@aol.com)

Naugle; Rentmeister; Broughton

**OBCAMP, Vickie**  
38 Lambert Lane  
Springfield, IL 62704  
[Whimzy3777@yahoo.com](mailto:Whimzy3777@yahoo.com)

Roach; Harbin; Holbrook; Mills

**O'DELL, Eloise**  
408 N. Wesley  
Springfield, IL 62702

Peter William D. Obcamp; Goebel family; Sparks family; Hoblit;  
Schroeder

**OPPERMAN, Ruth**  
1810 1100<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, IL 62656

**OSBORN, Diane**  
2379 800<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
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**PALMER, Dorothy**  
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Holmes; Cox; Grathwohl; Baumann; Wagner; Duckett

**PALUMBO, SanDee J**  
17662 Caminito Hercuba  
San Diego, CA 92128

**PELFREY, Robin**  
Batavia, IL

Johnston; Evans; Dorestt; Brunton; Garfield; Armstrong; Gardner;  
Keys

**PENCE, Norman**  
4040 West 89<sup>th</sup> Way  
Westminster, CO 80031-3517  
[pencen@msn.com](mailto:pencen@msn.com)

Musick; Gallagher; Davis; Pence

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**PITTS, Virginia**  
6208 Thicket St. N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87120  
[vpitts@comcast.net](mailto:vpitts@comcast.net)

Cronin; Kimberger; Kief; Welch; Hegele; Ramstetter

**POLLACK, Helen**  
2217 B Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-3531

Read; Sams; Lloyd; Kline; Wildey; Chenowith

<b>PYLE, Jean (Adams)</b> 460 Campus View Dr. Lincoln, IL 62656	Miller; Patterson; Smith; Adams; Mountjoy; Atteberry; Stroud; Brawley
<b>RADESPIEL, Walter/Carol (Tyson)</b> 801 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, IL 62656 <a href="mailto:Radespiel_c@yahoo.com">Radespiel_c@yahoo.com</a>	William Stallings Holmes; Tyson; Ducker; Wagner; Radespiel; Link
<b>RADTKE, Mary Ann/Bill</b> 241 2000 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548-6025 <a href="mailto:Mar2@insightbb.com">Mar2@insightbb.com</a>	Gasaway; Peters; Huston; Sivert
<b>REESE, Patricia H.</b> 200 Park Place Lincoln, IL 62656	Klockenga; Rademaker
<b>REINERS, Judith E.</b> 5621 E. 114 <sup>th</sup> St. Tuska, OK 74137-8102 <a href="mailto:jreiners@swbell.net">jreiners@swbell.net</a>	Clare; Verdein; Reiners; Muller(Miller)
<b>ROBERTS, Camilla</b> 3126 W. Richwoods Blvd. Peoria, IL 61604-1070	Danner; Hare; Ebbert; Obcamp; Englebrecht Elden Clarence DANNER b. 4Jun1902, Astoria, IL par. Mary (Hare) & Nathaniel Danner. Remembers growing up in an orphanage & living with the Obcamp family in Lincoln. He's listed with William D & Caroline Obcamp, their children & AJ Englebrcht, 1920 Census, Lincoln Twsp, Logan co., IL Baker
<b>ROBY, Shirley Rouse</b> 1521 Hillcrest Rd. Santa Barbara, CA 93103-1840 <a href="mailto:ibushirl@cox.net">ibushirl@cox.net</a>	
<b>ROHLFS, Ronald/Mitzi</b> 1245-1150 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Lincoln, IL 62656	
<b>ROHLFS, Steven</b> 419 (rear) Delavan St. Lincoln, IL 62656	
<b>ROHRSCHEIB, Mary</b> PO box 52 209 N. Dauphin St. Chestnut, IL 62518-0052	Centers; Cutright; Shenneman; Wendling; Walters
<b>ROMSTAD, Barbara</b> 15423 Eagle Pass Dr. Chesterfield, MO 63017-2428 <a href="mailto:barbster@netzero.net">barbster@netzero.net</a>	Meyer; Mathein; Rock; Lohrenz; Musick; Lechleiter; Ryan; Hickey; Yarcho; Pegram; Reiter
<b>ROSS, Roberta James</b> 765 Lendl Lane. Lawrenceville, GA 30044	James
<b>ROTHWELL, Cheryl</b> 7261 Brikley Navarre, FL 32566	Downing; Clark; Harding; Lucas; wood; Scroggin; buckles
<b>RUCH, Judith Shores</b> 67 Forest Drive Palmyra, VA 22963 <a href="mailto:jshoruch@aol.com">jshoruch@aol.com</a>	Shores; Ewing; Musick; Harless; Pulleybank
<b>RUDER, Laramie</b> 535 S. Elm St. Lincoln, IL 62656 <a href="mailto:verizon2004@msn.com">verizon2004@msn.com</a>	Keen
<b>RUSSELL, Tammy</b> 5925 Cross Creek Rd. Lincoln, NE 68516-3772 <a href="mailto:Histree60@aol.com">Histree60@aol.com</a>	Kief; Flick; Kiest

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**SCHAUB, Marcia**

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**SMITH, Fred/Carolyn**

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Lincoln, Il 62656-1043

Stumpf; Hickey; Mowen; Stahl; Hoffman

William Holmes b. 3/6/1831 d. 1/20/1904; find siblings

Scroggin; Amberg; Mileham; Musick; Wren

Dale; Shipley; Hoblit; Weed; Dunnegan

Need to look for pre-1857 vital records for the above surnames esp. death, cemetery and/or church records in Atlanta, Oran township. I believe Alexander and Leah Dale may have died in Logan County ca. 1842-1850

Coates; Evans; Schroth; Letterle; Mattfeldt

Logan County history, Lake Fork

Ely; Taylor; Boss; VanMeter; Clarey (Cleary) Hodge

Lercher; Irving; McCue; Fay; Watts; Doty

Craig; Smith

Money; Adcock; Cochran; Hurley; Ingram

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<p><b>SMITH, Norma</b>  2479 Lavista Crt.  Dubuque, IL 52002-2705  <a href="mailto:wsmithol@mchsi.com">wsmithol@mchsi.com</a></p>	<p>Morris; Young; Richards; Coady; Winterbauer; Sturgeon</p>
<p><b>SNYDER, Gerald</b>  35326 Flute Ave.  Palm Desert, CA 92211</p>	<p>Snyder; Coil; Stevens</p>
<p><b>SPANIER, Carolyn</b>  134 W. Crestwood Dr.  Morton, IL 61550</p>	<p>Bernard &amp; Martha (McElroy) McGinty (1-13-1876)</p>
<p><b>STEPHENS, Thomas/Waneta (Febus)</b>  312 S. Vine St.  Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548-1338</p>	<p>Febus; Bryson; Peddycoart; Stephens; Keist; Archer; Dunn; Hood</p>
<p><b>STEPHENSON, William L.</b>  PO Box 1874  197 Satinwood Dr.  Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459</p>	<p>Bock family; Apel; Conrad; Fulscher; Glick; Gosda, Hahn; Hyde;  VanDeventer; Wilmert / Willmert; Steinhauer; Sparks.</p>
<p><b>STEWART, Delmar/Sue</b>  900 S. Arch St.  Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548</p>	<p>Bryson; Dunn; Hood; Haynes; Stewart; Eikelberry</p>
<p><b>STEWART, John</b>  1810 Albion St.  Denver, CO 80220</p>	
<p><b>STITES, Jacqueline</b>  3237 Warner Dr.  Springfield, IL 62703-4901</p>	<p>Allison; Hamilton; Lapin; Turley; Thompson; Weber; Weindorf(f)</p>
<p><b>STOCKTON, Brad/Kathleen Oliver</b>  1704-B Llano #136  Santa Fe, NM 87505  <a href="mailto:on@ix.netcom.com">on@ix.netcom.com</a></p>	<p>Davenport; Fouts; Stockton; Waymire/ Bacon; Baker; Burks; Lucas  Hurley; Jones; Leisch/Liesch; Lurton, McKinney; Oliver;  Pope;Staley; Turley; Winters; Oliver; Smitherman; Pierce; Lersch;  ScrogginsTref(t)s  (*Extensive research material on file at Center, if more info' is  desired).</p>
<p><b>STRINGER, Stan</b>  2633 Woodley PL.  Falls Church, VA 22046  <a href="mailto:ssringer@cox.net">ssringer@cox.net</a></p>	
<p><b>SULLIVAN, Robert F.</b>  17 Illini Drive  Lincoln, IL 62656</p>	
<p><b>TEICHMANN, Nelson</b>  4715 N. laurel Drive  Peoria, IL 61614-5533</p>	
<p><b>THOMSEN, Roland S.</b>  Po Box 175  326 Margaret St.  Round Lake, MN 56167-9770</p>	<p>Will; Habeck; Atzen; Schlapkohl; Thomsen</p>
<p><b>TIBBS, Gwen</b>  1526-450<sup>th</sup> Ave  New Holland, IL 62671  <a href="mailto:tibbs@abelink.com">tibbs@abelink.com</a></p>	<p>Daniel Rankin; Elizabeth Primm; Tibbs</p>
<p><b>TROTT, Barbara Martin</b>  2800 Hwy 297A  Cantonment, FL 32533-7639</p>	<p>Drake; Andes; Showalter</p>

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**WILHAM, John Dean**

34 Camelback Rd.  
Heyworth, IL 61745-4873

VanGerpen; Bruns B. Turner Koehler; Claust Hilke

Smith; Manley; Hayes

Suedmeier; McCann; Henn; Mayer; Schumacher

William O. Rickords; James Z. Powers; Michael Mann; Shilling; Icy  
(Lawson) Rickords

Wendell (Windle/Windal); Warren; Sparks; Ashbaugh; Dick; John  
Herny & Arthur Jay Wendell were b. New Holland

Robert & James Parks; Beason area 1867-1920  
Arthur Brown (Horace Eugene Brown, Lincoln, 1870-1950)  
Margaret Keys Parks

Buckalew; Sharp(e); Wickline/Wicklein

Grady; Campbell; Card; Blair; Mann; Wiles; Shanholtzer; Hart

Michael Mann; Hugh Collins; George Girtman

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Zeter; Hoelscher; Dorsett

**ZIMMER, Dave/ Jayne**

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### MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

L.C.G. & H. Society's membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.

We publish a membership form stating the amounts of annual and lifetime fees in every Quarterly (four times a year). Please accept this as an apology if this is not the best way of notifying our members of when their membership fees are due. We are a non-profit organization and depend on volunteer help. We are funded by membership dues, donations, fundraisers, book sales and an occasional grant. We try to be very frugal with our finances that include keeping postage and other expenses at a minimum.

We greatly appreciate your membership in our Society. We have been able to accomplish a great deal including a comprehensive collection of Logan County History and Family Genealogy.

Our facility is a very pleasant and inviting environment for doing research. It is also a continuous expense. We have expense of utilities, insurance, supplies, equipment and maintenance. Unfortunately we do not have a benefactor that can provide these necessities.

**WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT.**

**PLEASE PLAN TO FORWARD YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2007 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2007.**

This would be a good time to update the surnames that you are researching. We publish your surname list so that our members may contact each other and share information. This is one of the benefits that we offer our members. If you do not want your name and address published let us know in writing.

**Publications for Sale**

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ for the year of 2007  
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**\*\*Make checks payable to: Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society\*\***

**\*\*\*PLEASE:** enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) if you wish to have a membership card returned to you by mail OR if you are requesting research information that will require return mail. Copy charges are 15 cents per page for members; and 25 cents for non-members.

Write the surnames you are researching. PLEASE LIMIT TO FIVE.  
Your surnames will be published in the January 2007 news letter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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