

HISTORY  
OF  
SALEM, ILLINOIS  
AND  
VICINITY

CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU

HISTORY  
OF  
SALEM, ILLINOIS  
AND  
SURROUNDING TERRITORY

by the  
CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL  
BUREAU  
of  
MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

## P R E F A C E

The community of Salem, Illinois, and the surrounding area has played a prominent part in the development of the culture of Southern Illinois. The economic and social activities of the community from the time of its founding has been wide and varied. Some of the nation's most distinguished citizens were products of this vicinity. As Salem and the community that surrounds it is one of the cleanest and most progressive in the middle west, it is only fitting and proper a current history should be compiled and published for the benefit of its citizens and posterity that will follow.

The Continental Historical Bureau has endeavored to prepare and publish a history of the vicinity that we believe will not only be interesting, but will yield beneficial results in future years. It is true that certain historic information that we would have liked to procure were not available; but the publishers have tried to gather the history of the past that seems both valuable and interesting.

It will be observed by the reader that a number of biographies are contained in this volume, including some pioneers of the area as well as people who are living at the time of publication. In accepting and publishing biographies this Bureau has not been partial to individuals or families. Some families said they did not have any biographical information to offer, while others failed to submit information of this nature to the Bureau. Naturally, it is impossible to publish information that we could not get.

In the preparation of this volume the Bureau has tried to make the contents of the text material as accurate as possible; but due to the fact that it is impossible to make verification of all the material that was submitted to us, we cannot and will not assume any responsibility regarding the complete authenticity of the contents of this volume.

If the pioneering citizens had not come to virgin territory and settled and developed it, the Salem community could not boast

*of its progress and neither could it enjoy the benefits that it has today. If we are to appreciate our current existence, we have to review the past. The conveniences that the people of Salem enjoy today are the results of the sacrifices of those who "blazed the trail" decades and scores of years ago.*

*It is our sincere hope and belief that you will find this history both interesting and helpful. With this thought in mind, we are happy to submit this book to you.*

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THE CITY OF SALEM, ILLINOIS, located near the central part of Marion County, is and must always continue to be the county seat of Marion County. According to the terms of a gift, the land was granted for this purpose. The land that was donated to the county for this purpose was in the possession of James Roberts prior to the time that it became the property of Marion County. Mr. Roberts was owner of this land by right of squatter sovereignty and entry in 1819, the next year after Illinois was admitted as a state to the Union. The actual deeding of the land was not performed by Roberts, but that was left to his successors in title, who were Rufus Ricker and Mark Tulley. Ricker and Tulley made confirmation of the gift by a deed that was dated June 6, 1826.

It will be of interest to the reader to know that the official action that provided for the capital of Marion County, Illinois, and thus created what is now the city of Salem, occurred just twenty-eight days prior to the simultaneous deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who were two of the strongest advocates of the Declaration of Independence and who later served as presidents of the new Republic.

In 1826, Marion County was not operating under the township form of government, but was governed by a board of three commissioners. The first commissioners for this county were: John S. Davis, Leonard P. Pyles and Benjamin (Blackbear) Vermillion.

The first dwelling house in the new town of Salem was constructed of logs and was owned by James Roberts. It was first located on Main Street and was east of the public square, but strangely enough it was not located within the boundaries of the new county seat town. The Roberts home was built a little beyond the village limits. This house was still standing after the coming of the Twentieth Century.

The next house that was built in Salem was built by Mark Tulley, who, as stated above, was one of the men who made a gift of the land for the public square of Marion County. It was Tulley's desire that the house that he constructed should be used

as a stopping place for the Vincennes stage coach. It is quite interesting to know that Salem was between the historic city of Vincennes, Indiana, which at one time was a territorial capital of Indiana, and the famous midwest metropolis on the Mississippi, St. Louis. This stage coach route was in use two years after Illinois was admitted as a state. Salem was fortunate in being geographically situated between the two well known cities. The route of the stage coach that ran a southwesterly-northeasterly course was in constant use as early as 1820, and may have been in use for some time prior to that year. Tolley's place was erected about the time that Ricker and Tulley purchased the property from James Roberts, and it remained later as the home of A. R. Bryan for the remainder of his life. This building had numerous improvements and additions, and has furnished shelter for three or more generations of families.

The first merchant in the new town of Salem was Martin Hill. His store was a frame building and small in size. Mr. Hill's place of business was located west of the court house near the middle of the block and a short distance north of Main Street. This store building disappeared from its location long ago. The inventory of this first store in Salem was very small--his stock consisted of a few groceries and some notions. As there were no railroads and no river transportation during this period, it is believed that Martin Hill's merchandise was hauled from St. Louis by wagon.

Some time after Hill began his enterprise, he was faced with some competition. Thomas Higgins opened a store on the southwest corner of the public square, where the Salem National Bank is now located. As Hill did not carry dry goods (which was an item that was much in demand for making clothing), Higgins saw the possibility of picking up some additional profit from this item. He is said to have been the first person to sell dry goods in the town that gave William Jennings Bryan his birth.

Formal education had its beginning in Salem fourteen years after the founding of the town. The first school building was

erected in 1840. This school building, instead of being made of logs as many schools were in other parts of the country, was a frame structure. It was rather small in size, and of course had a limited seating capacity. The building remained there for many years. This first school was razed between the turn of the century and 1970. Unlike many schools of early origin, its existence continued for nearly three-fourths of a century. The training of children was carried on in this locality from the time of the inception of the community until the erection of the first public school house; but during that period classes were held at times and places that instructors and patrons found convenient.

The Baptist people were the first to arrange for public worship. They built their first church in 1837. This building was located northeast of the county court house, near the place where a creamery operated years ago. The builders of Salem's first church later decided to discontinue using this building, and sold it to a colored Baptist organization. This building went out of existence many years ago.

While the city was located on a stage coach line between St. Louis and Vincennes, for some reason the progress of the community was slow for several years. After the hamlet had been a county seat for possibly a dozen years, there had been less than ten houses built. By the year of 1837 (which as stated above saw the founding of the first church), the hamlet had grown to the point that some of its citizens decided that it should be incorporated. A meeting was arranged to be held the first day of July to discuss and determine if such a project were feasible.

As the population was small and did not require a large space in which to hold such meetings, this historic assembly was held in a local store operated by Col. W. N. Dobbins. The first two officers were Uriah Mills, who was elected Chairman, and Thomas Ray was the first Clerk. Their oath of office required them to do their duties to the best of their abilities. At this historic meeting when the hamlet was being incorporated it was requested

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that an explanation of the meeting be given so that all concerned could have a clear understanding of what the meeting was all about. The vote to incorporate the town was unanimous. The names of those who voted affirmatively were as follows: William D. Hayric, James Marshall, Thomas Ray, George W. Pace, John Harner, W. H. Barens, Uriah Mills (the chairman), Col. William Dobbins, and H. B. Nelems. They reported: "No opposition voats. We certify that there ware nine voats in favor of incorporating the town, and none against." (Spelling taken from the minutes!)

For some reason that seems unexplainable, we do not find recorded evidence that would even indicate that any further action was taken for a period of seventeen years in regard to incorporating the village. In the year 1854, a proposition was brought to the attention of the town's people to take the necessary steps to legally organize as a village. We don't know how many bona fide voters were residents of Salem at the time, but a special election was called and eighty-nine citizens cast their vote on this issue. Seventy-six voters favored the proposition, and thirteen voted against it. It was decided that the executive governing body of this new governmental unit would be in the hands of a board of trustees. A special election was held and the following persons were elected to the Board of Trustees: Samuel Hull, T. D. Leffingwell, S. W. Cunningham, Thomas Day, and B. F. Marshall. W. W. Jennings got the assignment of Constable. Salem continued to operate under a village charter for eleven years.

It was the year that the Civil War came to an end, 1865, that by a special act of the state legislature the community of Salem was changed from a village to a city. It has continued as a city ever since that time. One of Salem's pioneer citizens, W. E. McClackin, was elected the first mayor. Mr. McClackin also at another period of his life served as a lieutenant colonel in a regiment commanded by General Grant in the Civil War.

When Salem was about three or four years old, the population consisted of less than a half dozen families. They consisted of

the following: Martin Hill, Rufus Ricker, James Pyles, James Chance, and Mark Tulley. Two of these family heads held public office: Tulley was Sheriff of Marion County and Ricker served as Clerk of the Court and Postmaster. James Chance was the community blacksmith, Martin Hill was in the merchandising business, and James Pyle was a tiller of the soil.

Like other American communities, Salem for quite a while used the power of steam to do many of the things that had to be done in order to maintain the economic life of the community. About the turn of the century, this city could boast of two steam-operated mills that were making flour. The products of these two local industries no doubt were used locally and also shipped to many other places. These flour mills also provided a local market for soft wheat that was grown in Marion and surrounding counties. A steam operated brick-making plant was in operation some sixty years ago. (We do not have the name of the owner nor the date this enterprise went into business.)

After the community had been in existence for approximately three-fourths of a century, the population had risen from a handful of families to three thousand or more people. By the year 1900, the community had made some drastic changes. By then Salem was blessed with three railroads, they had two jewelry stores, two drug stores, there were three miles of brick streets in the town, there were about ten miles of granitoid sidewalks, there was a poultry house to furnish a market for farmers, and there were ten grocery stores in the town. Salem also had two furniture stores, and it was reported that one of them was the largest of its kind south of Springfield. There were two large and six medium sized places that sold dry goods (one of them carried a stock in excess of thirty thousand dollars, and the others had inventories ranging from six thousand to ten thousand dollars). The community was well equipped to supply clothing for ladies, as there were two millinery stores in town. In addition, the progressive town had the following: four butcher shops, one machine shop, two clothing stores and one china store.

Some time prior to 1910, Salem, which had far-sighted citizens who were desirous of keeping abreast of the changing times, saw the great necessity of bringing electric service to its citizens and installed a municipally operated electric plant. This plant furnished electric service of all kinds for the residents of the community. This plant continued to be locally owned and operated until very recently, when it was taken over by Commercial Electric Corporation.

There are always people in every community who desire to play their jokes and pull their pranks. In 1884 or 1885 (versions vary), while the excavation work for a well known building was in progress, some of the workmen found the skeleton of a woman in an abandoned well. This skeleton was well covered with debris, and we might say was a perfect piece of sabotage. An old house had been located on the spot for many years, and this led to the belief that some one had murdered the woman and had thrown her body into the well, probably years before. Rumors began to circulate rapidly as to who the victim might have been. Naturally, many of those expressing their opinions drew largely on their imagination. The stories were told and retold, growing in the telling, so much so that it looked for a while as though the community might be haunted. The news spread "like a prairie fire." Many families living miles from Salem drove to town day after day to inquire and try to satisfy their curiosity. This event stirred so much excitement that some of the city's most stable citizens were about to be influenced by some of the rumors that were circulated in every direction. When the perpetrators began to realize that many people were ready to act (and apparently fearful of the probable outcome), they quietly let the facts leak out and let it be known that it was all a joke. The trick was played by a trio of men who were living in the community. They admitted that they had thrown the skeleton in the well the night before it was discovered. The three jokers were Dr. G. S. Rainey (who at one time was chief surgeon for the C & E I Railroad), W. S. Slack (one time operator of the marble works in Salem) and Dr. Will McHarkin. After the crowd learned of the cruel joke, they began

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to disperse, and many of them said, "I knew it was some joke of Doctor Rainey's."

At one time Salem had a producing coal mine. The quantity was not as large as many mines, but it is said that the quality was very superior. It is reported that the depth of this mine was in excess of nine hundred feet and that during its heyday it was the deepest in the State of Illinois. The mine had a vein of coal four and a half feet thick. It is said that the coal was of such excellent quality that it would leave no clinkers in the ash, and produced a tremendous heat equal to one and a half times the unit of other coal.

When a community begins to be developed with people, it is necessary to provide a burial ground, as we all sooner or later occupy the "silent city of the dead." The Salem cemetery was located on the east side of the town. The cemetery had its beginning a few years after the village had its birth. It was named East Lawn Cemetery and carries the name yet. East Lawn as a burial place started in 1830. While proof is not found, the belief is that the first burial was a man whose surname was Hammers. A number of years ago a soldiers' monument was erected in the center of the cemetery by the Women's Relief Corps, an organization of women who are descendents of men of the Union forces of the Civil War. In recent years a new cemetery was established a short distance south of Salem on the east side of the Route 37 highway.

Five years after the turn of the century, the Salem community was benefitted with some industrial activity that materially affected the economy. The C & E I Railroad, which was operating through Salem, decided to remove their repair shops from St. Elmo, Illinois, to Salem. The census of 1900 showed less than seventeen hundred residing at Salem. A number of local citizens were so anxious to get the industry located here that they purchased from landowners and gave to the railroad a strip of land that was two miles in length and one thousand feet wide that was to be used for yards for switching trains. In addition

to establishing repair shops here, the company decided to make Salem a division of the line. They established an office for the superintendent, engineer, a freight and dispatcher's headquarters for the division. The result of all of this not only brought extra employment to the community, but very materially increased the local population in a very short time. The C & E I continues to operate daily train service through Salem. The steam locomotives are no longer seen passing through the community playing the role of the mighty "iron horse", but their successor, the diesel engine with its blasting call, is daily operating over the same tracks that the mighty steam engine rolled on. This transition was in keeping with the changing times.

At one time Salem furnished a huge market for red top hay seed. Marion County was in the heart of the area that produced red top hay. The hay was used for feed for livestock, and much of the seed after harvesting and threshing was shipped to Europe every year. Some of the seed is reported to have been used in Europe for making a dye used for fabric coloring. At one time it was reported that red top seed was being used on the dykes of Holland to grow grass there to prevent erosion of their dykes. The era of red top seed production in the Southern Illinois area has almost faded into the pages of agricultural history. Soy bean production has largely replaced the production of the once famous fields of red top. Again, this goes to prove that the onward march of time causes great changes in human progress.

#### FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Cumberland Presbyterian organization was begun in Salem in 1830, and was a part of the Presbytery of Illinois.

The first preacher was Jonathan Brittain, who held services in the home of Abner Stewart in 1830. In 1833 David Campbell preached in the Rickers Hotel. These two men continued their services until Reverend William (Uncle Billy) Finley began his work about 1846. "Uncle Billy" is known as the founder of the

Presbyterian Church in Salem, and was the father of almost all the Presbyterian churches in this section of the state.

Another early organizer in the church was William T. Lackey, also called Uncle Billy. He planned the first Sabbath School in Salem, of which he was superintendent. He also was instrumental in securing the Reverend Finley, then a resident of Bond County, as minister. Uncle Billy Lackey was ordained an elder and led the singing for a number of years. He personally assisted in the erection of the first church in Salem.

Through the efforts of William Finley, the first Cumberland Presbyterian Church was built north of the home of J. W. White on Washington Avenue. Membership grew rapidly, and that building was used until 1858, when a frame church was erected on the site of the present building. Reverend Finley devoted his life to the upbuilding of churches. Born in 1800, he lived until 1906. He was the father of Dr. William Finley and Mrs. Erasmus Hull.

J. W. Woods was the first pastor to occupy the pulpit in the new frame building in 1858. After two years, he was followed by J. H. Nickells, who was minister in the trying period of the Civil War. He died in 1864, and is buried in the cemetery along with Reverend R. S. Rees, Dr. and Mrs. Sprowls, and Reverend H. C. Temple.

The following men served in the church for a short time each: Robert S. Reed, J. E. Sharp, W. B. Farr, A. A. Bell, L. P. Deatherage, J. L. Riley, B. Miller, J. H. Hendricks, M. A. Marlow, J. B. Self, and James C. Lackey (Uncle Jim).

The Reverend Mr. Lackey was one of the earliest ministers in Illinois; he died in 1886 at the age of 74. He was an associate of William Finley.

Following Reverend J. C. Lackey in the Salem Church were: W. E. McMackin, H. W. Eagan, T. H. Padgett, N. D. Johnson (who was preaching when "Uncle Jim" died), J. P. Sprowls (pastor twice), G. N. Wall, C. W. Yates, W. C. Logan, L. D. Beck, A. R. Brown, H. C. Bird, H. G. McVicker, H. C. Temple (Pastor twice), W. C. Ahr,

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John E. Thomas, H. H. Rhule, W. Malcolm Gwaltney, replaced in January, 1945, by A. Cadman Garretson.

In the early days of the second church, the Episcopalians also used the building, as they had no meeting place. At the time, S. S. Chance led music in the Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. Helen Meredith Drake played the instrument used for the Episcopal Church; they helped each other, and Mrs. Drake was the first organist of the church.

One of the most conscientious church workers was Granville R. Pace. He served as Sunday School superintendent from 1866 to 1893. Other active workers of the Nineteenth Century were Samuel Hull, an elder, Albert Allman, Mr. Landis, and Lewin Allman.

Organizations of the church include: the Ladies Aid Society (organized in December, 1884), the Drennan Missionary Society (organized during the ministry of Dr. Sprouls -- Mrs. Drennan was a missionary in Japan, hence the name), the Needlework Club, the Men's Fellowship Group, and the Westminster Fellowship.

In 1906 the Cumberland Presbyterian Church united with the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

The Salem Presbyterian Church has always had reason to be proud of its music, with a continuing heritage of talented singers and a tradition of exceptional choirs and choral music.

The pulpit in the church was a gift from William Jennings Bryan, famous orator and three-time nominee for President, who united with the church January 7, 1874. Beneath a mother-of-pearl inlay depicting the burning bush is the Latin inscription, "Nec Tamen Consumebatur", meaning "And yet not consumed." It is suggestive not only of the church but of the unyielding faith of the donor.

One of the earliest gifts to the Church was the first communion service, given by Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Alderson of Odin. Another gift is the bench on the altar which the pastors occupy, given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Allman by their children.

The last four ministers serving the church have been: W. Malcolm Gwaltney (1939-1944); A. Cadman Garretson (1945-1950); W. A. Perschbacher (1950-1955); and Robert A. Bielenberg (1955 - ). In membership, giving, attendance and interest, the Church is at the flood-tide of her history, and is achieving its great destiny in the Kingdom of God.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Salem First Baptist Church was organized on November 9, 1837, in the old log court house. The organization was conducted by Elders W. F. Boyakin and Nathan Annot, missionaries, assisted by Miss Mary P. Rand, a missionary teacher, graduate of the Baptist Seminary, of New Hampton, New Hampshire.

The charter members were: Mary P. Rand, William Daniels, H. P. Harey, Milo Jones, Hannah Breeze, Martha Ray, Bryan W. Lester and his wife and four children, and Elder W. F. Boyakin, pastor.

Miss Mary Rand began teaching her classes in the home of Mr. Rufus Ricker until, through her efforts and gifts, a two-story brick seminary was built on North College Avenue where the church and school held their sessions, Elder Boyakin helping and favoring its location. In 1842, Miss Rand became the bride of Benjamin F. Lemen, the son of one of the five Lemen brothers -- missionaries from Virginia who settled in New Design, Illinois, who were associated with our pioneer, John M. Peck, who organized the Sunday School in Salem five years prior to this church's organization. Mrs. Rand Lemen became Sunday School superintendent for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Lemen became the foster parents of Miss Anna Judson Lemen (a near relative), our Mrs. Anna Judson Adams of Fairman, she having joined this church in 1877.

Missionary John M. Peck of Rock Springs, Illinois, was a power and a blessing by his labors of evangelism and organization in Illinois. His granddaughter, Maude Purcell Stackhouse, and several other relatives are still with us today. The State Memorial is a continual reminder of a good and great leader.

The seminary building was destroyed in 1844, and Bryan W. Lester, a charter member and grandfather of Mrs. Ida Huddle, gave the church a lot on which to build a frame church in the year 1858. It was built over his grave.

In 1859 several strong Baptist families came. Among them were: McQuinn's Purcell's, Odin's, Burnes's, Clark's, Wancey's, and Bryan's.

The church building was lost by fire, and for quite a while they met in other church buildings and at the Court House for services. Judge Silas Bryan (William Jennings Bryan's father) and George Lester became the trustees, and they called a pastor from Kentucky, Elder John M. Billingsley. They began to build a new house of worship in 1871. It was ready for services, and in September, 1872, the dedication took place. The pastor lived in Judge Bryan's house, now the memorial birthplace of William Jennings Bryan. The pastor visited the convention in Chicago and was able to raise a large sum of money which enabled the church to pay for the building. His daughter and three children now live in Ewing, Illinois.

Pastor Billingsley resigned in 1874, leaving a large membership and a new building. Many new families came, among them the Fyfe family. Mr. George Fyfe was a staunch friend and worker in the church. The Clark family were all workers and made a fine home for all our pastors and traveling preachers. Miss Jennie Clark gave her entire interest to the church. She passed away in April, 1938, after a long life of service. She had come to the church in 1879. Mrs. Ella Richey was another untiring worker in the early days of the church. She passed to her reward on January 29, 1951.

After Elder Billingsley left, the next pastor was the son of Benjamin Lemen. In 1880 he resigned to become the founder of the orphanage in Council Bluffs, Iowa. His son is still there.

The church continued through many trying and yet rewarding days and years, always with some strong pastor to give encouragement when most needed. In 1929, the church was remodeled under

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the pastorate of Elder Ira Smith of Effingham. He was a strong Baptist and an untiring worker, and the church was much more comfortable and beautiful under his leadership. The church was able to burn the mortgage on May 19, 1940. The pastor, Seville Borum, and Deacon Frank G. Brown performed the ceremony.

Salem Baptist Church has maintained full-time preaching since about 1910. Its pastors have been loyal and capable, sponsoring many successful revivals and have had help and cooperation from the Association and Home Mission Board.

About 1910, the Women's Missionary Society was reorganized by the state worker, Miss Dona Cain, a real missionary leader. Mrs. T. E. Whitson became the president while Elder John Cozad was pastor. Later the W.M.S. prospered under the pastorate of J. L. Weeks.

Since September 17, 1909, the church has been indebted to Deacon Theodore Harley for its membership in the Southern Baptist Convention, as it came about largely through his influence. A. J. Chance and Theodore Harley were active deacons. Mr. Harley was the son of a former deacon, Mr. Rudolph Harley, who addressed the Sunday School, at a picnic, after he had passed his 104th birthday.

Elder J. L. Hill came to pastor Salem Baptist Church in October, 1912, and Mrs. Hill, with her fine missionary spirit, was the means of strengthening the women of the church to greater helpfulness and understanding. The church is reaping the fruits of the consecrated W.M.S. of the past years at the present time. The following ladies have been among the leaders of the mission-minded women of the church: Mrs. Hester Middleton (Mrs. Ethel Williams' mother), Mrs. O. B. Klausen (who introduced the circle plan in 1921), Mrs. Prince (Sager), Mrs. Pflanz, Mrs. Seville Borum (who sponsored the first school of missions with Mrs. H. C. Moore as teacher), and Mrs. Thelma Farthing. Mrs. Erline Kohrig is the present president.

In the year 1949 the church purchased property on West Main Street, which is the present location. Work was started on the

new building in 1950 and completed in 1953, first services being held on Sunday, October 4, 1953. Besides the sanctuary, there is an educational building, library, kitchen and an office for each member of the staff. All of this was done during the pastorate of Dr. J. M. Baldwin.

Names of pastors of the church include: W. F. Boyakin (1837), W. H. Mahan (1840), Elder Bennett (1845), Elder Webb (1858), W. J. Green (1866), J. M. Billingsley (1869), J. Goff Lemen (1878), R. C. Keele (1879), J. H. Elkin (1880), J. M. Cochran (1881), J. W. Hough (1882), J. M. Wadding (1884), W. J. Williams (1885), H. Clay Howard (1887), R. G. Echols (1889), W. J. Stevens (1892), Elder Mundell (1895), S. D. Badger (1896), R. M. Goodwin (1898), H. A. Belton (1900), G. W. Stoddard (1901), H. L. Derr (1903), J. T. Malcom (1904), J. S. Hicks (1906), H. E. Pettus (1907), John Cozad (1908), Marion Darnell (1909), J. L. Jeeks (1910), J. L. Hill (1912), C. W. Henderson (1915), G. W. Syfert (1918), E. L. Carr (1921), H. M. Tipswond (1922), Charles Zensche (1923), R. P. Hay (1926), Ina Smith (1928), H. R. Tuttle (1930), L. L. Burnett (1931), John L. Phillips, Jr. (1932), Seville Borum (1935), C. Y. Dossey (1940), J. M. Baldwin (1943), and Olive R. Rice (1958).

Names of deacons of the church include: Rudolph Harley, Theodore Harley, William McQuinn, William Metcal, William Jdin, John F. Young, Benjamin Lemen, Jordan Betts, A. C. Purdue, Robert Ingram, Philip Stacer, S. D. Bryan, A. J. Chance, C. C. Trompson, S. T. Purcell, Frank Gaskill, J. R. McHaney, A. C. Stewart, Esta Elem, Ina Whitlock, Roy Simpson, Charles Davis, R. C. Young, Virgil Ivy, F. G. Brown, Pat O'Brien, C. P. Latting, H. B. Waddell, Clyde Fulkerson, Frank Bird, John Hamilton, J. W. Melton, Jay F. Minton, Herman Branson, Ronald Barrall, George Kohrig, Vic Vance, John May, Murrell Reese, David Johnson, R. L. Prince, Ples Collum, Harry Keele, Harry Parker.

### HARVEY'S POINT

Several tribes of Indians were roaming the south half of what is now Illinois in the period from 1810 to 1814. The famous "Rangers" were traveling the area where these Indians were making their constant attacks on the white settlers. The Rangers had built some rude forts at different places as a source of protection during their fights with the Indians. One such fort was erected on the banks of the Kaskaskia River where Carlyle is now located. This fort was put in use as early as 1811. It is believed that the Rangers reached the borders of what is now Marion County this same year, but there is no way we can verify this contention.

There were, the Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Kickapoo and possibly some other tribes operating in this area, seeking to get rid of the white families whenever opportunity came their way. An experience of this was shown at what is now known as Harvey's Point. A tribe of Indians had slain an entire white family near the village of Kaskaskia. This act stirred the feelings of a number of white men to the "boiling point," and a group of white men led by a Colonel Harvey left in pursuit of the Indian slayers. Some have thought that these Indians were a band of the Kickapoo tribe. The pursuit continued apparently in a northeasterly direction for many miles. There were said to have been twenty white men and about fifty Indians. Harvey's men and the Indians came together in a wooded area. During this engagement, according to one version, Colonel Harvey was killed and five Indians were slain. Harvey was buried on the field and his headstone is still visible. In the engagement both parties fought from behind trees.

The location mentioned above is in Section Seven of Haines Township in Marion County. It is two miles east and six miles south of Salem, and one-fourth mile east and one-half mile north of the village of Carter.

Samuel Huff, who had camped near the place of the Kaskaskia massacre, came to and settled in Marion County the year that



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Illinois became a state and later purchased the land where the battle is said to have occurred and established a home where he remained until his death.

A creek ran through the battlefield, and at one place there is a deep hole. Neighboring women used to use this place to do their laundering. On one occasion a loud noise was heard by some of the white settlers "down at the creek", and a couple of ladies went near the scene to learn the nature of it. Upon arrival at the creek, they saw a number of Indian families; the fathers were throwing their small boys in the water to teach them to swim. They were not giving the little boys any lessons about swimming, but were throwing them in the deep hole and letting them learn the best they could. One of the children drowned, and the squaws were crying loudly as a result of the tragedy.

There is another version about this location. It has been stated by various people that Harvey's death was not the result of a clash between the Indians and the whites, but that he was a deputy sheriff (county of residence is unknown) and had a prisoner accused of horse stealing in his custody and was taking the prisoner to Vincennes, Indiana. He and the prisoner stopped at the place that is now known as Harvey's Point to water the horses and relax; due to negligence, Harvey laid his rifle down and his prisoner seized it quickly and then slayed Harvey and left the scene as quickly as he could. It is said that some people living in the area discovered the body several days after the slaying and found that most of the flesh had been eaten by wild animals that roved the area. They buried the remains close by the place where it was found.

As verification cannot be made as to the cause of Harvey's death, we will let the reader decide for himself which report he believes. There seems to be no doubt that Harvey was the first white man buried in Marion County, Illinois.

Fifty-three years after Harvey was killed, a church was organized and a building erected near the place where he was buried. This was the Disciples of Christ faith, more commonly

known as the Christian Church. The founding of this church was in July, 1866. It is now known as Harvey's Point Christian Church. The carpenters that did the construction work on the first building were William J. and Gus Beasley and L. D. Swain.

The original elders of the church were James McD. Hill, W. J. Charlton and William C. Hill. The first deacons were Sidney Charlton, David Brasel, William J. Beasley, W. B. Louis and W. J. Charlton.

Ministers at this church include: William C. Hill, George W. Griffith, C. W. Stevenson, P. Bakelymer, John A. Williams, Rev. Rasborough, T. Vance, Rev. Farthen, L. D. Hill, Charles Wood, Rev. Nelson, Rev. Fannon, K. A. Williams, H. B. Solomon, Charles Cooper, Chester Esquire, J. G. Parsons, and Rev. Hargraves. This may be only a partial list.

Here is a list of charter members who helped organize the church: William C. Hill, William J. Beasley, Lydia Beasley, Louisa Bryant, G. H. Bryant, James Hill, Fariba Hill, Susan Brasel, David Brasel, W. J. Charlton, Sidney Charlton, W. B. Louis.

Twenty-seven years after the church had been founded, it was decided that there was a need for a public burial ground at this place. A cemetery was established in 1893. The cemetery is located directly in front of the present church building. Isaac C. Hill surveyed the land for the cemetery on June 24, 1893. Samuel Kiel made the plot for the "final resting place," but the date is not known. The first burial was an infant child of R. J. Brasel in January, 1895, and the second person to be buried here was Louisa B. Dilg two months later.

It has been reported that the name of this historic place was due to the fact that a short distance west of the cemetery two creeks come together as a fork and the hill above them forms a point. Hence the name "Harvey's Point."

We have been informed that during the period that the state capital was at Vandalia, there were two trails that went through Marion County. One of these trails ran from Vandalia to Shaumee-town and the other ran from Vincennes to Kaskaskia. These two

famous and much-traveled trails crossed each other between Colonel Harvey's grave and the place where the present church building is now located. The Vincennes-Kaskaskia trail is said to have been about fifteen feet north of the present church building.

The historic Harvey's Point is one of the most interesting landmarks of Marion County. This place has played a prominent role in developing a fine community for posterity.

#### SALEM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

On October 17, 1939, a committee was appointed by the president of the Salem Lion's Club to investigate the possibilities of promoting and acquiring a modern hospital for Salem. Members of this committee went before the leading civic and fraternal groups in Salem in an effort to secure their support in the movement. After it was determined that the desire for a hospital was great and the need very acute, they started procuring information and data in order to formulate plans to promote the movement. November 23, 1939, the first public meeting was held to discuss plans for the hospital.

On December 5, 1939, the Salem Lions Club voted to transfer the \$711.71 receipts from the Child Welfare Benefit Dance to the Lions Club Hospital Fund Committee, this money to be used to defray expenses incurred by the committee, necessary in publicity and promotion of the hospital plans.

During the next three months much work was accomplished. It was decided, however, that the proposition was much too large to be promoted by a single civic body. It was decided to hold a straw poll ballot in order to elect a permanent organization to carry on with the work. The notice of this election, together with the names of fifty-one suggested candidates, fifteen of whom were to be elected, was published on March 28, 1940. On April 2, 1940, seventeen ballot boxes, equipped with padlocks, were placed around the county to receive the vote of the general public. The balloting was to be carried on for the full month of April.

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April 27, 1940, a parade was sponsored by thirty-two civic organizations, clubs, and fraternal bodies on behalf of the hospital project. There were some fifty-odd units in the parade, comprised of bands, cars with suitable streamers and signs, fire trucks, ambulances and wreckers, together with a bicycle squadron from the grade schools and a cowboy contingent from the local riding academy.

The balloting was closed on April 30, 1940 with 960 ballots having been cast, and the fifteen people with the highest number of votes were notified of their election. Six of these original directors are still serving at the present time.

May 22, 1940, the Board of Directors approved and adopted by-laws, elected officers, and applied for a charter.

July 3, 1940, the Salem Lions Club Hospital Committee transferred to the Salem Memorial Hospital Association all funds which had been received in the form of contributions, which amounted to \$3595.05.

September 10, 1940, a tract of land of approximately five acres was leased for a period of 99 years from the City of Salem, this tract of land being located in the northwest corner of the Bryan Memorial Park.

January 24, 1941, a campaign to solicit funds for a 35-45 bed hospital, costing approximately \$100,000, was inaugurated. This campaign was concluded on February 26 with cash and subscriptions totaling approximately \$102,000 having been received or pledged.

April 29, 1941, bids were opened and contracts awarded.

May 3, 1941, ground breaking ceremonies were held. May 12, 1941, construction was started. December 10, 1941, May C. Busch, R.N., was employed as administrator to start work on January 19, 1942. May 9 and May 10, 1942, open house was held. May 12, 1942, the hospital was officially opened for business.

In February, 1952, the John C. Martin Benevolent Fund was established to be used for the hospitalization of medically indigent patients. Many contributions have been received for this fund in the form of donations and memorials.

In June, 1959, the Woman's Auxiliary was organized. At the present time the Auxiliary has approximately eighty members.

In March, 1960, a Chaplain's Association for the hospital was organized. Approximately twenty ministers from Salem and the surrounding communities serve in this organization. Each chaplain serves one week at a time and daily calls upon all patients. He also notifies the minister of the appropriate church when a member of his church is admitted as a patient.

Salem Memorial Hospital is now a forty-three bed hospital with eight bassinets. It has full accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and is a member of the American Hospital Association and the Illinois Hospital Association. It is a non-profit corporation.

The present Board of Directors are: L. J. McMackin, President; B. E. Gum, First Vice President; F. T. Tresslar, Second Vice President; V. A. Williams, Secretary; P. B. Chance, Treasurer; J. M. Kagy, Jean McMackin, D. W. Young, George Black, Mrs. R. H. Bell, Mrs. J. R. Hiatt, B. E. Martin, A. W. Crowley, A. J. Sweeney, and C. H. Roberts, members. May C. Busch is administrator.

#### GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

Methodism is an old institution in Marion County.

In 1830, Grand Prairie Mission was founded including all territory between the Little Wabash and the O Kan Rivers, covering all of Marion County with the exception of a part of the Mt. Vernon Circuit.

In 1831, the first Methodist Society was organized in Salem village by Simeon Walker.

In 1832, Phillip Conder was sent here as pastor, followed by James Graham, who served the circuit of Salem, Sandy Branch, Walnut Hill and Fosterburg.

In 1834, Rev. James Harsha made his home in Salem with Esquire Ricker. During this time "Southern Illinois Female

College" was located here and taken under the administration of the church conference in 1856. William Covington was president and Mrs. B. F. Lemon was Professor of Mathematics. Many older residents will remember Mrs. Lemon, who visited here in the early 1900's.

In 1836, the old court house was bought and made into a place of worship. This was the only meeting house on the circuit for many years.

From 1837 until 1850, the following served as ministers or elders: J. E. Richardson, J. W. McCarty, John Gillham, J. Van-Cleve, G. W. Robbins, Levi Anderson, Thomas Jones, Samson Shinn, Grienburg Gainer, C. D. James, and C. D. Jay.

In 1850, the first church was built in Salem, pastor Isaac Groves. It was a frame building and stood where Salem Episcopal Church on West Main Street now stands. The first Sunday School was organized there. This building was used until 1865 when the new brick, remembered by older residents, was built on the lot. This red brick building stood until 1906, when it was torn down and the lot sold to the newly formed Episcopal Congregation.

Following 1850, J. B. Covington, R. J. Hall, J. J. Richardson, James Massey and D. H. Stubblefield served as ministers.

The first Annual Conference was held in 1856, presided over by Bishop Matthew Simpson, a close friend and adviser of President Abraham Lincoln.

Later pastors were: L. W. Thrall, followed by N. Crow.

In 1892, J. B. Thompson came, and passed away in the third year of his service. He was followed by a young man, S. P. Young, who remained until 1901. Reverend Young married the elder daughter of Reverend J. B. Thompson.

T. DeWitt Peake transferred from Wisconsin and served four years. On Sunday, March 12, 1905 -- the thirty-seventh anniversary of the old church -- a subscription drive for the present church was started. The church was to cost \$17,000 and subscriptions were made to that amount. J. G. Tucker followed as pastor.

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In the meantime, the chairman of the building committee, and one of the congregation's leading members, went into bankruptcy, leaving the church an enormous debt.

At the time the congregation moved to their new building, the name of the church was changed from Northern Methodist to Grace Methodist.

Ministers were unwilling to come to the church under those conditions, but J. T. Houns came and stayed two years, as did J. G. Dee who was followed by C. L. Peterson, who was much loved by his congregation. Then F. J. Wilson was minister for a year and was followed by P. R. Glotfelty in 1916, and to him goes the honor of conquering the debt by his careful plans. During his stay, A. H. Bachman passed away leaving \$5,000 to the church and Reverend Glotfelty raised in February, 1919, \$10,000 by a contribution of Liberty Bonds.

P. H. Hearn came and died in his third term. During his pastorate, the pipe organ was installed and dedicated by Bishop Gayle, with a full cash payment of \$3,300. J. G. Dee returned to finish the year.

In 1922, E. T. Carroll came as pastor. At that time the official board consisted of the following: Board of Trustees -- C. A. Porter, John C. Martin, E. J. Telford, C. B. Vandervort, J. S. Stonment, S. E. Martin, Jr., Harvey Lechrone. Stewards were: B. F. Bachman, Harvey Lechrone, H. J. Golloway, A. C. Miller, C. A. Robbins, F. L. Felpe, J. S. Conson, Marshall Beard, Ed Jones, Walter Donahue, Arthur Staniford, Mattie Knight, Mrs. Amy Stonecipher was President of the Ladies Aid. Clark Kagy was Sunday School Superintendent; Anna Johnson and Mrs. C. A. Robbins were superintendents of the Epworth and Union Leagues; Mrs. J. S. Stonment was President of I. F. W. S.; Chorister was C. L. Edwards.

From 1923 to 1960 the following ministers served the church: J. D. Shaddrick, J. E. Shafer, J. J. Tannestock, G. R. Goodman, Herbert Bennett (the youngest man to serve the charge), Ferrill Jenkins, E. H. Dycus, Heber Burge, Clarence Tolley, Carl C. Hearn and H. Hilton Longberry. The new parsonage located at 503 North Broadway was purchased during the stay of Reverend Carl C.

Hearn. The old parsonage, located next to the church, was torn down and plans for a new education building were started. Rev. H. Hilton Longberry served until February, 1960, when he was appointed to the Board of Pensions in Mt. Vernon. Reverend Carl D. Mitchell was then appointed to the Grace Methodist Church.

Sunday, March 12, 1961, the church observed an important day when the doors of its new educational building were opened for church school classes. The building, whose erection and furnishing will cost approximately \$225,000, is a three-story stone and steel constructed building, fireproof, with automatic gas heat and air conditioning. The building provides class room for twenty-five classes, a recreation room and an additional dining hall. Auditoriums for church school class devotions are provided. A new pastor's study and the secretary's office are located on the second floor. In front of the new building is a retaining wall and a new bulletin board for church announcements. The art glass window in the building displays the great symbols of the Christian faith.

Guest speaker for this special service was Dr. Bayne D. Wilson, District Superintendent of the Carbondale District. James Davidson, local church school superintendent, presided at the service. Lewis Barenfanger and Jack Cunningham were the contractors for the construction. Gatewood and Fields, architects of Mt. Vernon, were designers of the building.

The following members served as the Building Committee: Walter A. Donahue, B. E. Martin, Ray Dickinson, Walter Broom, John Ritchie, George Bachmann, Arthur Decker, Mrs. Paul Swenej, Sr., Mrs. Charles Jones, and Mrs. Walter Broom. The following trustees signed all legal papers: Ray Dickinson, Walter A. Donahue, B. E. Martin, Robert Bachman, Mrs. Ruth Vursell, Sam McCarty, Wilbur Wells, C. W. Raemer, and V. A. Williams.

Reverend Carl E. Hearn and Reverend H. Hilton Longberry, former pastors, led in the planning and raising of funds for the project. The building was constructed during the first year of Reverend Carl D. Mitchell's pastorate. He was appointed pastor

February 7, 1960. The building began in March, 1960, and was completed in March, 1961.

The Finance Commission promoted the raising of funds of the new building. The following are members of this commission: Walter Snoom, Mrs. D. E. Tollner, George Sachmann, Brad Brinkerhoff, E. E. Bruce, Bryan Davidson, Ray Dickinson, Lelkel Fry, Clifford Heck, Leo Mendenall, Sam McCarty, Clifford Raemer, Mrs. Paul Sweney, Sr., Mrs. Charles Vursell, James Davidson, Alfred Pfaff and John Ritchie. The present chairman of the Official Board is Adolph Dietrick.

### THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This church became a constituted body in Salem near the close of the year 1866. Its message had been preached in the community at fairly regular times for at least thirty-five years. The first record of such preaching appears about 1825 when David R. Chance and William Chaffin preached in the log courthouse and in the homes of residents of the village. These men lived south of the town and were leaders in the action of changing the Mt. Moriah Church from Free Will Baptists to the Church of Christ in 1841. In addition to these men, itinerant preachers held services on their visits to the community and shortly their calls became regular. The effect of their work in the face of frontier hardships left an imprint on the people that resulted in the organizing of many Christian churches in the county. Later, in the 1850's, the names of three men appear: Elders James Trott, Marshall Wilcox and Joseph Morgan. Many of the residents of the area had migrated from Kentucky and other states where the Christian church was known. As such, they had come under the influence of the early leaders of the Restoration movement and carried their teachings to their new homes.

The constitution of the church in Salem was largely through the efforts of Elder John A. Williams. Mr. Williams had become a Christian in the Mt. Moriah Church in 1842. He began preaching a short time later and travelled over a wide area of southern Illinois with the message. By invitation, a small group of interested

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people assembled in the home of John A. and Susanna Williams in Salem on the evening of December 18, 1866, and effected the organization of the congregation. The names of all at the meeting are not now known, but among them undoubtedly were Barton W. Smith, Aaron Welty, Joel E. House, and Miles G. Bevill along with their families. The assumption is made because the names of these men appear on the Certificate of Trusteeship which was filed in the County Recorder's office on the eighth day of the following January.

Plans were soon made to obtain a house of worship for the infant congregation. Such a house was found in the property then owned by the Cumberland Presbyterians located at the south-east corner of the intersection of North Washington and East Rogers Streets. This building was the first church-house erected in Salem, having been constructed in 1846 on the property of William Finley, a dentist and Presbyterian minister.

Regular "preaching" was had once a month by Elder Williams. Others preached at other times between those occasions. Among this faithful group of men is found the name of John Monahan who was a school teacher and one-time County Superintendent of Schools. Other ministers who lived in the area were John Bradley and a Mr. Hite. From "abroad" came Elders Mulkey, Hawley, VanDusen, Jacob Wright, Lemuel Martin, Abraham Harrell, R. B. Henry, F. M. Phillips, Taylor Maupin and J. G. Burroughs.

During the summer of 1879, property was purchased in the then south part of town. The two lots then obtained is the present site of the church. The purchase price of the two lots was \$285.15. Construction of the house of worship was begun in the fall and completed early the following year. The new building was of brick construction, thirty-four by fifty feet, with a tower ten feet square at the front. The pulpit stood on a platform at the east end, with the baptistry beneath. Water for the baptistry was obtained from a well at the rear of the building, and was unheated. The choir was seated at the left of the pulpit and the music was supplied by a reed organ. The seating capacity was said to be about three hundred by using

chairs in the aisles. A large stove near the north wall provided heat, and oil lamps provided light. A circular stone bearing the inscription "Christian Church A. D. 1879" was placed in the wall of the tower over the front entrance. This stone now is in the floor of the porch of the present building. The structure cost twenty-five hundred dollars and was considered an imposing addition to the town.

For several years, Elder Williams continued to hold services once a month. On the intervening Lord's Days, the brethren met for "breaking of bread and prayer" and for Lord's Day School. A prayer meeting was held regularly on Thursday nights. It is not known whether there was a Bible School prior to the removal to the new place, but in the years following a strong Bible School was held with Thomas B. Pyles as superintendent. Mr. Pyles was described as: "an uncompromising Democrat. Religiously, he is an active faithful member of the Christian Church." He served as editor of the *WORLD WIDE* for some years and wrote articles for publication in magazines. After serving as superintendent for several years, he removed to Colorado.

Among the preachers who served the church in addition to Mr. Williams were J. H. G. Brinkerhoff, Elder Rowe and Jerome Smart. Mr. Brinkerhoff was a well known educator, serving as superintendent of the Salem schools for a time. He preached not only at Salem, but perhaps at nearly all of the churches in the area. With H. G. Huff he organized the Gaston Grove congregation which in more recent years united with the nearby Harvey's Point congregation. Elder Smart preached at Centralia and with Mr. Rowe organized the church at Kinmundy in 1900. Elder Black and Clark Braden served during this time also, but the exact date of their ministry is not certain. Mr. Braden was one of the outstanding preachers of his time. He strongly opposed slavery and vigorously defended that stand. Volumes of material flowed from his pen and he delivered more than six thousand lectures in addition to participating in more than a hundred debates on subjects pertaining to the Scriptures. Many other debates were

cancelled when his opponents failed to appear. He served as president of three colleges in Illinois, and was the author of a number of books.

Available information indicates that the Ladies Aid Society dates at least to 1833. In that year, Mrs. Susanna Williams was the president and her daughter, Mary Jane Tracy, was secretary.

In 1902, F. O. Fannon was called and during his ministry the congregation in 1906 resolved to erect a new house of worship. The membership now numbered 220, a gain of two hundred in twenty-five years. The old building was sold for \$400 and removed from the site. The new building cost \$22,000 and was much the same as it stands today. The basement was not completed for a number of years, and the kitchen and dining rooms were on the second floor, being moved to their present location when the basement was finished. The first pipe-organ in Salem was installed in this building and is still in use.

One noted Bible School Superintendent was Charles C. Hull, who assumed that office in 1891 and served for about twenty-five years. His wife, Lu Hull, served as organist for about thirty-five years. Just two months after the dedication of the new building, it was the scene of the funeral of Elder John A. Williams. His funeral was one of the largest ever held in Southern Illinois; about twenty of his friends and fellow ministers spoke eulogies over one whom all loved.

Following are some interesting notes of the Bible School: On December 3, 1911, 76 were enrolled; the average attendance in 1912 was 62. April 12, 1914, was Easter Sunday, and the number present was 94. In August of 1914, R. O. Rogers was called as minister at a salary of \$1200 per year. December 5, 1915, attendance was 155. Attendance for 1920 ranged from 49 to 196. The record attendance of all time seems to have been on February 21, 1921, when 401 were present as a result of a contest. The names of R. J. Branson, W. A. Thrasher, C. J. Jones, O. A. James, B. E. McCarty, Lenard Daniels, Clifford Chandler and Gail Fielder appear as Bible School Superintendents. The first Daily Vacation Bible School was organized in 1943. The Boy Scout Movement was

started on April 5, 1955, and on February 7, 1956 an Explorer Post was started.

At the Church Board meeting in June of 1948, a resolution was passed asserting that the First Christian Church of Salem would not be affiliated with nor support the United Christian Missionary Society on any of its subsidiary organizations. At the annual congregational meeting on the 31st day of December, 1949, a resolution was adopted denying the use of the church building to the same organizations for their meetings. Shortly afterward, twenty-eight members of the congregation, being in disagreement with this action, filed suit in the circuit court to gain possession of the church property from the other members. The claim was made by the complainants that the defendants in the suit had departed from the faith of the founders of the local church. After four years of litigation, the court was not convinced that such was the case and found in favor of the defendants. The decision was appealed to the Supreme Court, which remanded it to the Appellate Court. This court upheld the original decision, and the status of the congregation remained as before.

The first parsonage owned by the church was purchased on Pruyn Avenue in 1947. It was used as the minister's residence until 1954, when the property adjacent to the east side of the church-house was purchased with the idea of not only moving the minister closer to his center of work, but also to provide room for future expansion of the present house of worship to include an educational plant.

One of the high lights of the church's history was the revival conducted by the Stansbury-Cameron evangelistic team in January of 1957. This resulted in the addition of thirty-five souls to the church by baptism and thirteen by transfer from other places.

Following is a list of names of the men who have served as ministers of the congregation. The list is believed to be complete; however, the dates are uncertain. J. A. Williams, J. W. Monahan, John Bradley, Elder Hite, Elder Mulkey, Henry Van Jusen, John Ross, H. R. Trickett, J. W. Hawley, Jacob Wright, Lemuel

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#### TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

The First M. E. Church South, now known as the Trinity Methodist Church, was an outgrowth of the Evangelical and Christian Union Church which were united September 22, 1865, in a convention held at Xenia, Illinois.

During the Civil War many ministers and some churches assumed a political attitude and took sides in political questions. The services in the sanctuary were often interspersed with political questions. Church buildings were opened for political mass meetings, and the pulpits were polluted and made to serve the interests of a political party in the neglect of the interests of souls. Under these circumstances, many pious persons left off attending church.

Rev. J. J. Wescott of Xenia, Illinois, being of the number that felt themselves aggrieved, withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church and called a convention to meet in the Salem court house June 22, 1864. The convention was called to order by Rev. Wescott. Rev. Thomas Middleton was elected president and Thomas D. Deeds secretary. There was also present at this convention of ministers and laymen: Rev. William Finley, Rev. James B. Gray, Rev. William Layson, Thomas Baring, Arthur Foster, Thomas Smith, Charles Smith, James Charleton, John Holt, J. C. Connell, Elijah Wimberly, Isaac Wisenhammer, Mondeca Smith, and others.

The convention organized a system of church polity and government under the name of the Evangelical Church. The first class

organized, according to the best evidence at hand, was at the residence of John Holt in Romine Prairie the second Sunday in July, 1864.

Since the Methodist element was largely predominant in the church, the name was changed to Methodist in the year 1867. In the fall of that year the church was formally received at the annual conference into the convention of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, with all rights of other annual conferences, by Bishop David S. Doggett.

The first building of this church was on the square of Salem near the southeast corner. It was a brick structure. From the best evidence obtainable, this Salem church was organized about 1867 or 1868. It was one among the first organized in the area, the first one being near the present New Haven Church close to Xenia, Illinois, which was organized and erected in 1865.

About the year 1903, a lot was purchased from Jacob O. Chance at the corner of South Washington and East Locust Streets. A new church was erected here in 1904.

Due to the merging of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church in the year 1939, the congregation decided a new name should be given this church since there were two Methodist churches in town,....hence, the name Trinity Methodist Church.

Mr. Frank Hicks purchased the first new organ for the new church at Washington and Locust Street at a cost of \$18.00. He also served the church as the first janitor and had the opportunity of being the first to ring the new bell that was installed about two years later.

On the evening of February 24, 1955, the church building was completely destroyed by fire, with all of its contents. The fire was caused by faulty wiring. The congregation received permission from the Board of Education of the public schools to use the Junior High School for their temporary meeting place. This situation existed for about two years. However, the congregation got busy immediately after the fire with plans for a new church building. A building committee was appointed and architects

were contacted. Then the congregation decided it would be advantageous to move to a new location where there would be more space to build a larger building and to have parking facilities. So the location on West Boone Street at the end of Indiana Avenue was purchased, architect's plans were drawn and accepted, and the church building was started. The contract price was \$56,585 not including the ground. Half of this price in cash and tangible assets had to be available before the building could be started.

The ground-breaking ceremony was Sunday morning, April 22, 1956, at 9:00 before services in the Junior High School. Then, Sunday evening, November 25, 1956, the Bishop, Charles Brashares, and District Superintendent, Walter Smith, came for the laying of the connerstone. This ceremony took place during a terrible snowstorm. The new building was completed and the congregation moved into it March 24, 1957, and then had a formal opening on Sunday April 7, 1957, with an all day meeting.

The church is enjoying the new location, and interest and attendance continues to grow. Over the many years of its existence many souls have dedicated themselves to the Lord's work and several have gone into full-time service from this group.

Following is a list of ministers who have served this church: (1873) J. L. Branstetter, (1875) Thomas A. Scruggs, (1876) A. Smith, (1877) J. W. McGraw, (1878) W. A. Cross, (1882) J. W. Toothaker, (1883) N. A. Auld, (1884) Francis C. Mabry, (1885) George W. Gilmore, (1886) G. T. Clauson, (1887) W. H. Nelson, (1891) A. J. Ewing, (1892) M. M. Dward, (1893) J. M. Smith, (1894) W. M. Nesbit, (1895) A. C. Glendering, (1896) H. W. Bostwick, (1898) R. J. Brewer, (1899) W. N. Nelson, (1902) J. E. Garrett, (1903) C. J. Presley, (1904) J. W. Reeves, (1905) C. O. Whisnant, (1908) A. F. Waters, (1910) C. O. Whisnant, (1911) W. F. Atkins, (1913) M. A. Cox, (1914) A. D. Hocker, (1917) H. W. Davis, (1918) O. H. Free, (1922) W. T. Mathis, (1923) S. W. Dean, (1924) O. H. Free, (1929) C. F. Conzine, (1931) W. S. Wright, (1933) A. N. Burris, (1934) W. T. Mathis, (1939) O. E. Merker,

(1940) R. M. Stockton, (1942) A. B. Clodfelder, (1944) Ernest Connett, (1946) C. B. Johnston, (1953) James Powell, (1955) Leo Mabry, (1956 - present) J. F. Watson,

#### ISAAC HULL CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

In 1915, a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in Salem. A report of the first secretary, Effie B. Brinkerhoff, shows that: "Pursuant to a call from the organizing regent, Mrs. Lulu H. Hull, seven members at large met at the Hull home, 303 North Broadway, on Saturday afternoon, July 17, 1915, and organized a D. A. R. Chapter. In view of the fact that half of the members (nine) trace their ancestry to one man, the chapter was named for him and will be known as the Isaac Hull Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Charter members of the chapter were: Lulu H. Hull, Lucy Hull Parks, Effie Bradford Brinkerhoff, Lovell Hull Bell, Mary Ruth Williams, Martha Rogers Bennett, Nellie Moore, Susan Hull Kell, Lotta Kell Pribble, Margaret Hicklin Wilson, Nomie Badger, Adele Moore, Mary E. Bradford, Bertha Hull Warren, Gertrude Hull, Myrtle Hull, Lizzie Hicklin, and Dona Badger.

The Constitution and the By-Laws for the chapter were adopted on February 12, 1916. The charter was received on May 13, 1916.

The organizing regent, Mrs. Lulu H. Hull, passed away on August 2, 1919, and the "Resolutions of Respect" were printed and signed by Claire J. McGlumphy, Lillian V. Kaufman, Amy Charlton, Nellie L. Moore and Mattie Knight. In 1927, the chapter voted to allow \$150.00 for a chair to be placed in Memorial Continental Hall in Washington, D. C., in memory of the first regent, and in 1961 a bronze marker was placed at her grave in Salem.

The National Society was organized in Washington, D. C., in 1890 with Mrs. Benjamin Harrison as the first president. The founders sought through their organization to stimulate patriotism by erecting monuments to preserve the ideals of early American patriots; to preserve historical spots, relics and documents; to

promote education, and especially the study of history; and mold public opinion on the principles on which the nation was founded. Each local chapter works in cooperation with the state and national organizations on most of the National Society D. A. R. projects. Since 1917, essay contests on American history have been conducted in the eighth grade, thereby creating additional interest in history. The D. A. R. Magazine is available in the Bryan-Bennett Library and the high school library.

Through the efforts of Mrs. C. L. McMackin, Constitution Week was first recognized in 1923, and has continued to be an annual event. The week is proclaimed by our mayor and publicized both locally and nationally in newspapers and on radio. On the Sunday ending Constitution Week, a program is held at one of the Salem churches. At that time there is a massing of the colors of all of the patriotic organizations of the community, and the pastor's message is on some phase of the Constitution.

The Children of the American Revolution was organized by Mrs. C. L. McMackin in 1923 and has been active through the years. The C. A. R. Chapter is known as the General Marion Chapter.

For several years Isaac Hull Chapter placed a tent on the Soldiers and Sailors Reunion grounds and served refreshments to all old soldiers. During the Reunion in 1934, the Honorary President-General of the N. S. D. A. R., Mrs. Grace Hall Brosseau of Greenwich, Connecticut, was the speaker.

Many years ago the Illinois State Flag was originally given to the City of Salem by the Isaac Hull Chapter, to be flown next to the flag of the U. S. A. in front of the court house. In 1961, the gift was repeated and a flag was presented to the mayor, Homer C. Clark, by the Regent. In 1934, the chapter presented the Illinois Flag to the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C.

One of the most outstanding of the D. A. R. projects is the D. A. R. Schools Committee, to which the Salem chapter generously subscribes. Scholarships are provided in every state for students who need assistance. Approximately 6,500 high school girls in the United States are selected each year by their teachers and fellow students to receive the Good Citizenship Awards. The

Isaac Hull Chapter so honors six senior girls, one from each high school in Salem, Kinmundy, Patoka, Vandalia, Sandoval and Odin.

The Bryan Museum is one of the places of historical significance in which the chapter takes particular interest. Though it is now city owned and supported, much of the care and organization of William Jennings Bryan's possessions is assumed by the chapter. For many years Bryan's birthday, March 19th, has been the date for a special open house and tea given by the chapter for Salem Junior High School students and the public.

In 1940, the grave of Samuel Young, a Revolutionary War soldier, in Young's Cemetery, was marked with a head stone. One of the members, Miss Helen McMackin, was State Regent at the time and chairman of the event. She secured Senator Wayland C. Brooks as speaker.

The chapter received a citation from the War Department in 1944, and during the war years was cited for sale of bonds, stamps, for blood plasma donations, and for American Red Cross volunteer work. Many of the members are active in the Hospital Auxiliary as volunteer workers.

During the years, members of the Isaac Hull Chapter have served as National Chairmen, State Chairmen, members of National and State Committees, pages at Continental Congress and State Conference, and have received recognition in many organizations.

The "Illinois D.A.R. News" originated in Salem in 1958 with Miss Helen McMackin financing the first issue. It has become an outstanding source of news in Illinois D.A.R. circles, with Mrs. Ralph R. Wilson as editor and Miss McMackin as managing editor.

The Sixty-Ninth Continental Congress, in 1960, elected Miss Helen McMackin, having served as Vice President General, as Honorary Vice-President General.

Those who have served the Isaac Hull Chapter as regents are: Lulu H. Hull, Clair McGlumphy, Louise Hull Rodden, Amy Charlton, Florence Donahue, Sara Rohrbough, Ada Duffy, Nellie Moore, Alice Vaughn, Clara Schwartz, Nora McLaughlin, Helen McMackin, Lotta Pribble, Leila Cope, Eugenia McMackin, Bessie Cope McMackin, Adele

Moore, Maude Larimer, Margaret Young, Grace Taylor, Helen Wilson, Eugenia Coverstone, Frances Heil, Lena Gum, Cecil M. Kell, Evelyn G. Jones, Mary K. Bowers, Rita K. Ridgway and Nedra C. Yohe.

The present officers are: Mrs. Richard Yohe, regent, Mrs. William A. Miller, vice-regent; Mrs. J. Ross Mercer, chaplain; Miss Naida Telford, recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas Garrett, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Cope McMackin, treasurer; Mrs. E. C. Rainey, registrar; Mrs. Robert Bachman, historian; Mrs. E. B. Pribble, librarian; and Mrs. Ralph R. Wilson, musician.

### SALEM FREE METHODIST CHURCH

This church is not old in years. The Reverend C. A. McDonald conducted services on Sunday, February 12, 1956, to a group of sixty-eight men, women and children at the V.F.W. Hall in Salem. Many of these same people became the constituency of this society in Salem. It was from this first Sunday until camp meeting time that Reverend McDonald was in charge of the work, either preaching himself or getting some one else to fill the pulpit. Some of the pastors who preached on different occasions were: David Foster, Lester Banning, William Hopkins, C. H. Coates and Foster.

The Reverend Myron Henry, who had just graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary, was the first appointed pastor to the work at Salem, beginning his duties Sunday, August 26, 1956. Services were held in the V.F.W. Hall until a suitable location could be obtained on which to construct the church.

On September 30, 1956, it was decided to purchase the two vacant lots on the corner of McMackin and Marion Streets from Mr. C. M. Brinkerhoff for \$2500.00 on which to build. It was on October 11, 1956, that the men from the Street and Alley Department of the City cut down the trees on the lots and hauled them away so the ground could be broken for the basement. Mr. John Kepner and Rush Wilkins laid out and staked off the lots for the church on October 15, and the ground was broken by the caterpillar of Mr. Harry Bridges from Centralia on October 17, 1956. The footing of the foundation was dug by the men of the church. On October 29, the mason contractor, Mr. Wayne S. Crouch and son, Louis, began

laying blocks for the basement walls. From this time on the men and women of the church and interested from the town and throughout the conference labored tirelessly to help cut down expenses.

The Conference Evangelistic Board recommended that the superstructure be completed but suggested that the basement be prepared for worship until sufficient funds permitted the completion of the upstairs sanctuary. Mr. Robert Norton, a loyal constituent, did most of the partitioning in the basement in knotty pine and built the cabinets in the kitchen.

The first service in the new church was held on March 17, 1957. There were ninety-three in Sunday School, of which Mr. John Kepner assumed duties as Superintendent.

Work proceeded on the church in a "piece-meal" manner. Leaded art-glass windows were purchased by different ones in the congregation; a vestibule was added to the basic structure, all of which was stone-veneered.

The Salem society was officially organized on Wednesday, July 17, 1957, by District Superintendent C. A. McDonald, who also supervised much of the basic building. The following became charter members; Mr. and Mrs. John F. Kepner, Paul Kepner, Mrs. Myron Henry, Miss Louise Hauth, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tockstein, Ronnie Wright, Mr. Alfred Davis, Mrs. Ethel Chance, Mrs. Harry Britt, Mrs. Gordon Garrett, and Mrs. Josephine McGlumphy Campbell.

After many paper drives for additional funds and much more donated help, the sanctuary was finally readied for worship. On March 19, 1961, the first service was held in the upstairs. As soon as funds permit, new church pews will be purchased, thus completing the "venture of faith" to build another "house-beautiful" for God.

The bulletin board in front of the church was built by Norman Rankin and Mr. Nan Silvey in memory of Mr. Wayne S. Crouch, the mason contractor who was a personal friend and who took a personal interest in the building of the church.

--Rev. Myron Henry

### SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

This church is a member of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and is located at 337 Ohio Street, Salem.

The first Lutheran service conducted in Salem was on January 25, 1925, by Reverend O. Keyle, who was the pastor of the Lutheran Church at Tuka, Illinois. He continued holding divine worship every two or three weeks until autumn of that year.

In September, 1925, arrangements were made with the Southern Methodist Church in Salem to use their building for twice-a-month services. Mr. E. C. Zimmerman, a student of Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, was called to conduct the worship services. At the same time the mission work was turned over to the Central Illinois District Mission Board to be sponsored. Mr. Zimmerman left the field during 1926 to go back for further study at the Seminary. Mr. Herman Neitzel, also a student from that Seminary, continued services but had them every Sunday afternoon at the Southern Methodist Church building. During his time the first class of catechumen was confirmed, on June 5, 1927, a class of five persons.

In September, 1927, the Mission again called on Mr. E. C. Zimmerman (who in 1961 is pastor of the Lutheran Church in Adair, Iowa) to take charge. It was an expensive program for the little flock, since the members were now carrying all expenses - rent five dollars a service plus the missionary's travelling expenses.

Important steps in the history of the Salem Lutheran Mission were made during the year 1927-1928. The members desired morning services and a Sunday School. In March, 1928, the mission was transferred to the third floor of the Salem National Bank Building, morning services were started and also a Sunday School. On April 22, 1928, the Salem Lutheran Church was organized with six voting members, namely: Herman Behnke, R. V. Horst, Detlef Peters, Theodore Dietrich, E. F. Bauer, and Harold Fuehr. This congregation adopted a constitution and extended a call to Candidate F. Henning of San Francisco, California, through the Mission Board. Mr. Henning accepted the call and was installed on September 2, 1928,

at 10:45 a.m., with Pastor Schimmel of Strasburg, Illinois, officiating. In November of that year the first baptism was performed. The members bought fifty hymnals and a complete individual communion set was purchased.

Pastor Henning served this congregation until 1935. During his pastorate, in September 20, 1931, the congregation began holding services in the American Legion Hall (one block east of the court house on Main Street.)

Candidate Alfred Winter of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was next called to the pastorate. He was ordained to the ministry and installed as pastor in February, 1936. By consecrated effort, the membership of the church grew to about a hundred members. During the following years they felt the possibility of building their own church home, and a movement started which resulted in the construction of the present church building at the corner of Ohio and Cedar Streets. The dedication of the completed church home was on Sunday, October 26, 1941, with three special services. Rev. Winter, pastor of the church, preached the dedicatory sermon; and guest ministers in the afternoon and evening services were Rev. J. F. Duecker, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of St. Peter, Illinois, and the Rev. Louis Grother, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Chicago.

Salem Lutheran Church has always been a rather small church but very active. The following pastors served here after Rev. Winter accepted a call in Indiana: Rev. L. A. Wolf (1942), Rev. A. H. Brutlog (1947), Rev. C. T. Knippel (1953), Rev. M. L. Albers (1955); Rev. R. J. Mueller has served as pastor of this congregation since November 1, 1957.

At present Salem Lutheran Church has about 200 souls, about 50 children attending the Sunday School. There are two Bible classes, the adult and the junior. The young people are organized and their society is called the Walther League, which is affiliated with the National Walther League. The men are organized, and their society is called the Men's Fellowship. The Lutheran Ladies' Circle is for the women of the church; it has a membership of about twenty women and belongs to the Lutheran Women's

Missionary League. This Ladies' Circle is very active and has done a great deal for the church and missions. This group also sponsors a Family Night each month; makes cancer dressings and bandages; and makes special donations to the Children's Service in Addison, Illinois. The Lord has blessed this congregation abundantly.

R. J. Mueller, B. D.,  
Pastor

### CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The story of Central Christian Church began through the efforts of Mrs. Albert Millican, Charles Starnes and Mrs. Nellie Howell, who arranged for the first meeting to be held in the home of Mrs. Howell in Salem. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Thomas Wilson. By the following Sunday, September 21, 1952, arrangements were made to conduct worship services in the county court room.

On World Communion Sunday, October 5, 1952, the Rev. James M. Flanagan of St. Louis, the associate editor of the Christian-Evangelist, began services as supply pastor. For three years he ministered to the group before it formed the nucleus for Central Christian Church when it was established in 1955. He continued to serve as the minister until October 2, 1960.

The new church in Salem was organized by a group made up largely of members of First Christian Church in Salem who protested when a majority took action severing all relations with Christian churches nationally, barred support by the church of agencies among the Disciples of Christ and adopted "Articles of Faith" contrary to the minority's understanding of historic practices of the Christian Churches. The minority group, meeting regularly in the court house, sought to regain possession of the church building and parsonage through legal action, but the Appellate Court of Illinois dismissed the suit and termed as "non essentials" the issues which caused the schism. The minority group dropped plans for appeal, preferring not to further prolong the controversy.

Central Christian Church was formally established on October 2, 1955, when forty members were received. By the time the charter was closed at the end of the year, there were sixty-eight members.

An historic occasion for the new church was the ground-breaking for the sanctuary on January 19, 1958. The new building is at the corner of Warmouth and Ohio Streets in a growing area of the city. The contemporary structure, the first unit in a master plan, is of brick construction, featuring the use of laminated arches. The plans, prepared by Charles Betts, advisory architect for the Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ, represent a new design in contemporary church architecture. The first unit has been constructed at a cost of \$40,000, including lots and furnishings.

In early 1960, the congregation began to feel that they were ready to secure the services of a full time pastor. Reverend Flanagan, who had faithfully served the congregation on a part time ministry since its inception, assisted in securing the services of Rev. Randall P. Sims, a recent graduate of Drake Divinity School, Des Moines, Iowa. The Reverend Sims was installed as the first resident pastor of Central Christian Church on Sunday, October 9, 1960.

As of Palm Sunday, 1961, the resident membership of the church was one hundred eighteen souls.

#### SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Salem Fire Department was first officially founded by the Salem City Council on August 17, 1892, by the appointment of a Mr. Joines as Fire Night Watchman to patrol the city during the dry months of that year. Water from local wells had to be used, as the city did not have a reservoir or city water system.

Some time between 1892 and 1900, a hand drawn handpumper was purchased and the Fire Department was officially organized with George Simcox as the first Fire Chief.

After the installation of the Salem Water System, a horse-drawn fire wagon, chemical and hose was purchased from the city of

Webster Grove, Missouri, and given the designation of Number 2. Since that date to the present, every succeeding piece of apparatus has been numbered with the next highest number.

In 1917, the Fire Department became motorized with the purchase of a Model T one-ton truck; all the equipment from Number 2 was transferred to Number 3, and it was the sole defense the City of Salem had against fire until February, 1928, when Fire Engine Number 4 was placed in service. The Fire Department was revitalized at this date under the direction of Mayor Joseph Schwartz, and the Fire Station was moved from McHackerin Street to 201 South Broadway. Until the administration of Mayor Schwartz, the Fire Department was "on its own", receiving very little help from any of the city administrations since its founding. The Fire Chief and his members kept the ball rolling as best they could, and much credit is due H. E. "Stoney" Vogt, Sr., who was Chief from 1900 to 1935. He was succeeded by Orville Hanes, who served until 1937 when he was succeeded by H. Y. Stonment.

Under Chief Stonment the Fire Department had in service Engine Number 4, Number 5, Number 6, and Auxiliary Pumper No. 8. These were the years of the Salem oil boom, and every month saw at least six calls to the Salem-Centralia oil field with Number 5, which was converted to a Foamite Truck. In 1939 the Fire Department responded to 265 alarms, the most of any year to date.

Chief Stonment was followed by Clarence Leshner, who resigned in 1947 to be succeeded by H. Paul Sweney, Jr., who is the present Fire Chief.

The Salem Fire District came into being December 15, 1955, which as of the date of this writing comprises 103 square miles surrounding and including the City of Salem. Now in service are: Engine Number 7, Engine Number 12, Auxiliary Pumper Number 8, Emergency Truck Number 9, Ladder Truck Number 11, Brush and Forest Fire Jeep 13, Rural Pumper 14. All apparatus is radio equipped. Each Fireman has radio communication in his home, direct with Fire Department Headquarters. There is no more modern fire department in Southern Illinois than the Salem department.

An interesting side light of the Salem Fire Department is the use of its apparatus bells. As a new piece of apparatus replaces an old one, the bell is moved to the new engine or truck. One apparatus bell has been in constant service since 1916. Another apparatus bell was once on a Murphysboro, Illinois, steam pumper and has been in constant service since "the horse-drawn days." Another vital factor is the Salem Fire Alarm System. In 1892 a large fire alarm bell was placed in service and used until 1957 when it was replaced after developing a crack. A steam fire whistle was used as a parallel alarm in 1898, being blown from the City Electric Light Plant. This was replaced by an electric siren in 1949. But a bell still remains as the emergency and last ditch fire alarm, hand rung and always ready, as the Fire Department of Salem has always been since 1892.

Present officials of the Salem Fire District are: Trustees, Kenneth Milam, John Hoover and Omar Squibb; Fire Chief Paul Sweney, Jr., Assistant Chief Thayer Damon, Deputy Assistant Chief Harper Sweney, Fire Captain Lyle Geary, Fire Lieutenant James Raver, Secretary Leon Geary, Fire Marshal Jim Somer.

In addition to the past Fire Chiefs named, the following men have been the Assistant Chiefs, dating from 1892: Jake Holmes, H. E. Vogt, Sr., Lucien Beasley, Hammond White, Orville Hanes, H. Y. Stornent, John W. White (also secretary), Omar H. (Bill) Purcell, Charles L. McMackin II (also first city fire marshal).

#### THE BIRTH OF THE G. I. BILL OF RIGHTS

(We credit Omar J. McMackin of Salem for supplying us with most of the data of this famous legislation.)

The community of Salem, Illinois is nationally known for more reasons than one. Salem has received nation-wide recognition as a result of being the birthplace of the "Great Commoner" William Jennings Bryan; it is known from coast to coast as having the oldest annual Veterans Reunion that has been in continuous existence since the time of its inception; and this vicinity has made history across the nation by being the community that

produced the original idea which led to the enactment of Public Law Number 346, commonly known as the "G. I. Bill of Rights." The official name of this legislation is "The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944."

From the time of the War for Independence and the seven major military conflicts in which American troops have participated, there have been numerous acts of legislation by Congress and the various state legislatures that provided benefits for veterans and their families. Some of these acts have provided rehabilitation for veterans, others have provided pensions for disabled servicemen and older veterans when they reached the retirement age, some were designed to provide death benefits for widows and children of deceased military personnel, while some legislation was passed for the purpose of furnishing hospitalization for those veterans that were suffering disabilities from various causes. The first federal legislation that we have any record of was an Act of Congress passed in June of 1832 to provide pensions for veterans of the Revolutionary War. This act was passed and approved fifty-one years after the closing of the first conflict with Great Britain. The surviving recipients of this conflict had reached an elderly age when they were eligible for a cash reward for their service in time of war.

Of the numerous pieces of legislation that have been written by legislative bodies (both federal and state), we know of none that is as broad in its provisions and as comprehensive as the legislation known as the "G. I. Bill of Rights." Many millions of dollars have been expended to veterans of the Second World War in various ways. The section of this Act that provided for training has enabled countless men across the nation to learn new trades and professions that have enabled them to pursue the vocation in life that they desired. Like all other things in the world, everything has to have a beginning.

The nation currently has in excess of 160,000,000 inhabitants and is made up of fifty states; but, the city that is the capital of Marion County, Illinois, has the credit and honor of being the place that gave birth to one of America's foremost and

greatest congressional acts that provided benefits for American war veterans.

The initial action that brought about placing this famous legislation on federal statutes took place in the American Legion Hall at Salem, Illinois, November 4, 1943. A dinner was given by the local Legion post on this date that was known as a "One Hundred Per Cent Dinner," meaning that the local post had a one hundred per cent paid membership for the following year of 1944. After the dinner was finished and the majority of the audience had left the hall, eight Legionnaires remained and held an informal discussion concerning the adjustment of the men of the armed forces to civilian life. The eight men who participated in this history-making conference were: the late Dr. Leonard W. Esper, James Ringley, Al Starshak, John Stelle, George H. Bauer, the late William R. McCaulley, Earl Merritt and Omar J. McKackin. John Stelle reported that he had received a letter from his son, John Albert Stelle then serving in Germany, stating that he felt that some kind of rehabilitation should be brought about for the men in the armed forces in America's Second World War.

The eight Legionnaires who did the pioneering of America's most comprehensive piece of veteran legislation were gravely concerned about history not repeating itself in the way of many former servicemen being without employment and in need of hospitalization as they had witnessed during the early 1920's. The eight men had seen many of their former comrades suffer the results of economic insecurity after returning to their homeland from overseas service. During this conference various phases of rehabilitation were discussed, including: loans to veterans, compensation for disabled servicemen, pensions for the survivors of deceased personnel, training of trades and professions, on-the-job training, etc.

Dr. Esper was Department Commander of the American Legion of Illinois at that time. The National Executive Committee of the Legion had a conference scheduled to be held a few weeks later. Realizing the importance of getting quick action on this

program, Dr. Esper called a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Department of the American Legion and explained to them the idea of a new legislative program of rehabilitation for military personnel that would be returning to their homes after war's end. The Executive Committee was so strongly impressed with the idea that they set aside \$50,000 to be used, if need be, to push this program through Congress.

The action of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Department was brought to the attention of the National Executive Committee of the American Legion at their meeting later in November of that same year. It was the opinion of the committee of the national organization that the idea that had been conceived in Salem a few weeks before was not only logical, but was a necessity. The national committee approved the plan and urged that a bill be written to incorporate the suggestions that were discussed at the Salem meeting and be introduced in Congress.

A bill was written the early part of the following year and introduced in Congress. Charles W. Vursell, a resident of Salem, was a member of Congress and was serving on the Veteran's Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. Vursell took great interest in this legislation and assisted in drafting the bill and worked diligently toward the enactment of this history-making legislation.

John Stelle was appointed chairman of a committee of the American Legion that was assigned the task of putting this program through Congress. After the bill had been introduced in Congress, some opposition arose in committee. According to reports, the most difficult struggle was to get the bill approved by the committee and get it on the House floor. Enough members of the committee were contacted who were in favor on enactment of the bill that it was enabled to be placed on the floor for consideration.

The vast majority of both House and Senate realized the importance of the legislation and were willing to vote "Yea" on the issue when it was called up for passage. It is common knowledge that when many bills of major scope are introduced in the

halls of Congress they are for various reasons often delayed, held up in committee, amended in either House of Representatives or Senate, then returned to the source that gave them their origin and started all over again. Some bills pass both houses and are then vetoed at the White House; then a new bill has to be written and started through the whole procedure. It is interesting and heartening to know that this legislation met with the popular approval of nearly all members of Congress, and after it was reported out of committee it went sweeping through both houses of the legislative branch of the federal government. In the short space of seven months and eighteen days after the conference was held in Salem, this unprecedented piece of legislation was approved and became on its effective date a national law of the land.

Thus the community of Salem, Illinois, and the eight men who held that historic conference in the American Legion Hall in that city, wrote history that will be long remembered by generations to come.

#### SALEM CHURCH OF CHRIST

The first organized congregation of the Church of Christ at Salem began meeting in August of 1939. Organization was made possible at this time by the arrival in Salem of members of the church from the south and western parts of the nation. These families as part of the oil industry, along with a few natives of Salem who had been meeting in local homes, began holding services in the K. P. Hall located above the present Johnson's Drug Store. Membership in the first few months varied considerably, due to the fact that families working in the oil industry were ever moving in and out of town as their work directed them.

The congregation in its first four years of activity reached a high of sixty members and a low of twenty. The spirit of determination was high among these members, and by June of 1943 they were able to purchase a building at the corner of Church and Walnut Streets. This building was the former French Food Store,

and much remodeling work was done by the members of the congregation to fit the building for services. Class rooms were constructed, and an auditorium was completed with a seating capacity of 125.

Membership at the time of completion of this work was 35, with an attendance of 40 to 50 at each service. In these early years, Ray B. Wright and Hugh Piper, who is now working with the Church at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, preached for the church. They, along with Robert Randolph leading the singing, led the effort in the first years of meeting in the new building.

Full time ministers also included: Charles Williams, Donald Kester, W. T. Hines, Clayton Anderson, J. Basil Goodrum, R. L. Thomas, J. F. Wiseman, Claude E. Parker, J. G. Peevhouse, and R. C. Thompson.

The church is now meeting in a new building constructed at the corner of Main and Lacky Streets. Presently serving as Elders are: Frank Beard, Cecil Bookhout, and Lewis Weaver. Serving as Deacons are: Elwood Smith and Donald Riggs.

-- R. C. Thompson, Minister

#### ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

This Regiment was composed mostly of Marion County men, and is the one in which Salem was primarily concerned during the Civil War, though a few of her men served in other regiments.

The One Hundred Eleventh Infantry Regiment was organized by Colonel James S. Martin, by order of President Lincoln, in June, 1862, and was mustered into the service of the United States at Salem, Illinois, on September 18, 1862. The strength of the Regiment on the date it was mustered into service was 886 men and officers. Six of the companies comprising the Regiment were raised in Marion County, Illinois, and one company was composed of men from Wayne and Marion Counties, thus making the Regiment a home organization. The other companies of the Regiment were composed of one company from each of the following Southern Illinois Counties: Clay County, Washington County, and Clinton County.

Special Order Number 211, dated August 16, 1862, designated Salem as the place of rendezvous and gave the Regiment the designation of One Hundred Eleventh Infantry Regiment. Our camp at Salem was given the name of Camp Marshall, in honor of B. F. Marshall of Salem who took an active part in the organization of the Regiment and who was afterwards appointed Quartermaster of the Regiment.

The Regiment remained at Camp Marshall until October 31, 1862, and on that date numbered 930 officers and men.

Orders came for the Regiment to report to Brigadier General Tuttle, commanding at Cairo, Illinois. In obedience to these orders, the Regiment broke camp on the morning of October 31, 1862, and marched three miles across the country to Tonti Station on the Illinois Central Railroad. They went by rail from Tonti Station to Cairo, Illinois, arriving at Cairo at six o'clock that same evening. Their officers reported to General Tuttle, and then they and the men went into camp on the levee in front of Cairo.

On the morning of November 1, 1862, they embarked on transports for crossing the river and arrived in Columbus, Kentucky, at 2:00 p. m. that day. They reported to Brigadier General Davies, commanding at Columbus, and went into camp on the bank of the river, awaiting transportation to the front.

On November 2, 1862, they received orders from General Davies assigning the One Hundred Eleventh to garrison duty of the post of Columbus. Every effort was made to get the order countermanded; but they failed, and a camp site was selected on the bluff overlooking the town and the river. The erection of winter quarters commenced which, together with the drill and garrison duty, made up the monotonous duties of the days.

On January 12, 1863, by order of Brigadier General Alboth, commanding, Colonel Martin assumed command of the post, and Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Black of the Regiment.

On March 12, 1863, the Regiment, under command of Colonel Black, embarked for Fort Heiman, Kentucky, arriving at the Fort

on the evening of the 13th, and went into camp as a garrison for the fort. While stationed at Fort Heiman the Regiment made frequent raids into the country, capturing a large amount of rebel property and a number of prisoners. The Regiment remained at Fort Heiman until May 28, 1863.

Orders came for the Regiment to report to Colonel Martin, who was then commanding the post at Paducah, Kentucky. They remained at Paducah from May 28 until October 31, 1863, doing garrison duty.

By order of General Sherman, Colonel Martin was relieved from duty as commander of the post at Paducah and was ordered to report with the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment at Florence, Alabama. On November 2, 1863, the Regiment embarked on boats, moved up the Tennessee River, and landed at East Port, Mississippi.

On the morning of November 5th, they disembarked and started marching for Florence. While on this march, they received orders from General Dodge, commanding the left wing of the Sixteenth Army Corps to go into camp at Gravel Springs, fifteen miles out, and await the arrival of his command. Information came that General Sherman had broken camp at Florence and was marching three days in advance. On this day's advance the Regiment lost two wounded and five missing in a skirmish with the enemy.

On November 7, 1863, General Dodge ordered the Regiment temporarily assigned to the Second Brigade, Second Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, with orders to report to Brigade Commander Colonel Mercy and to move with Colonel Mercy as directed. They marched to Pulaski, Tennessee, arriving there on November 12th. They went into winter quarters with the command.

On February 25, 1864, the Regiment received orders to march to Decatur Junction, Alabama, to go into camp and await orders. They went into camp on the evening of February 27th, finding the enemy occupying the town on the opposite side of the river. On March 7th, they marched to a point on the river about six miles above Decatur, Alabama, and under cover of night they

float down the river in pontoon boats and captured the town.

On March 16, 1864, they received orders to report to Major General John A. Logan, commanding the Fifteenth Corps at Huntsville, Alabama. They reported to General Logan on March 18th, and went into camp there at Huntsville.

On March 19th, they were assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, with orders to report to Brigadier General Smith at Lankinsville, Alabama, for duty. They went into camp at Lankinsville on March 20th, remaining there at garrison duty for several weeks.

On May 1, 1864, the Division broke camp and started on the Atlanta Campaign. Their command moved across the Tennessee River at Bridgeport, crossed Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee, and made a halt at Rossville, Georgia, on May 6, with orders to turn over their tents and all extra baggage to the Quartermaster assigned to receive them and receipt for them. They resumed the march with pack mules, tent flies and dog tents. But the men did not murmur at the loss of the comforts of camp life. They had learned the laws that govern military life -- obey orders.

Now the Regiment entered into some nerve-wracking experiences. They crossed Taylor's Ridge, passed Gordon's Springs, and entered Snake Creek Gap, skirmishing with the enemy continually as they advanced. On May 9th they passed through the Gap and went into camp at the crossroads near the railroad, to the rear of the Confederate army.

On May 10, 1864, the Regiment was in line of battle all day, with heavy skirmishing at their front in which a part of the Regiment engaged. During the night the One Hundred Eleventh broke camp and retreated into the Snake Creek Gap.

On May 12th the Army of the Tennessee moved out of Snake Creek Gap and formed a battle line at the crossroads where they had been before.

On May 13th they advanced to take possession of a ridge overlooking the town of Resaca, Georgia. After gaining the ridge the Regiment was ordered to advance and secure possession.

of a small stream at the foot of the ridge. In this battle the One Hundred Eleventh Infantry Regiment lost seven killed and eight wounded. This being their fight of greatest magnitude to date, the Regiment was complimented by Brigade and Division Commanders for their good behavior under fire.

On May 14, 1864, heavy fighting was heard to the left of the Regiment, and a portion of the Confederate troops were discovered moving in that direction. To check this move, the Regiment was ordered to charge the enemy's line and to drive them from a small stream immediately to the front of the One Hundred Eleventh. The Regiment drove them from the stream and got possession of a hill beyond, and held the hill until reinforced. The Corps was advancing during the night to cover the Regiment's position. The One Hundred Eleventh lost seven killed and twenty-eight wounded in this fight; among the killed was Lieutenant Stover of Company G. The Regiment was complimented by General Logan, Corps Commander, for their bravery.

On May 16th, the Regiment crossed the Ostanola River in pursuit of Confederate General Johnson's retreating army. The next day they marched through Adairsville and Rome, Georgia, going into camp near Kingston where they remained until the morning of May 23.

On May 23rd, they broke camp and moved on toward Dallas, Georgia. They struck the enemy on May 25, 1864, near Dallas and skirmished all that day, with the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment in advance. The enemy fell back, and the Regiment marched into Dallas. This was a bad mistake, and the Regiment's brigade was almost surrounded and barely escaped capture. The Confederates, after leaving the town, fell back without further resistance, and the Union Brigade with which our Regiment was serving followed, moving by the flanks. When about two miles from the town, the Regiment ran into the main line of the Rebel army, and they and their Brigade were attacked on the right, left and front. They formed battle lines under heavy fire and managed to hold their position until reinforcements came to their aid.

The Union forces were in great confusion. Sherman says in his Memoirs: "The convergence of our columns towards Dallas produced much confusion. I am sure similar confusion existed in the army opposed to us, for we were all mixed up." The One Hundred Eleventh Regiment's men admitted later they certainly were "mixed up" at this time!

On May 27th, the Regiment skirmished all day, feeling for the enemy and finishing their work.

May 28th the Regiment attempted to withdraw from its position, when its Corps was charged by the enemy, the heaviest forces striking their Division. The Confederates seemed determined to break our line and advanced with fixed bayonets to our very works, but the Regiment repulsed them and drove them back with heavy loss. The Regiment lost in this engagement five killed and fifteen wounded. Among the wounded was Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Black, whose temporary loss was felt heavily because he was a brave officer and true soldier.

On June 1, 1864, the Regiment was withdrawn from its position at daybreak, moved to the left and went into camp at New Hope Church.

On June 5th, they again broke camp and moved to the left and pitched their tents at Ackworth on the railroad.

On June 10th, they moved to the front and went into camp at Big Shanty.

On June 13th, they were ordered to the left in support of the Fourth Division, who assaulted the Confederate works and captured a large number of prisoners.

June 15th, they were in line of battle all day with heavy fighting to their front. On the 16th they were ordered to the support of Osterhaus with information that the enemy were massing in his front.

On June 19th, 1864, the Regiment advanced and took a position at the base of Kennesaw Mountain.

On the 24th of June, the Regiment was ordered to advance their line up the side of Kennesaw Mountain. After a hotly contested fight they forced the enemy back and took a new position.

They lost two killed and two men wounded in this "little" fight, as the Regiment's veterans called it in later years.

On June 26, 1864, the Regiment received orders to be ready to move at dark. Their division was relieved by a Division of the Sixteenth Corps, and they moved three miles to the right. The men of the Regiment went into camp and "slept on their arms" with orders to be in readiness by eight o'clock the next morning for another assault on Little Kenesaw Mountain.

The next morning they formed in battle line at the hour directed and moved forward. They drove in the Confederate pickets and charged the works which were located well up the side of the mountain. They advanced to the abatis (felled trees with their branches pointing toward the enemy, in this case toward the Union men) in front of the enemy's line and held this position for nearly an hour under heavy fire. They found it impossible to impregnate through or past the abatis and were most thankful when the orders came to fall back and take up a position on a ridge facing Kenesaw. This charge cost the One Hundred Eleventh one man killed and sixteen wounded. Captain J. V. Andrews of Company A was killed, and Captain W. H. Walker of Company B was severely wounded.

General Sherman in his Memoirs says, "This was the hardest fight of the campaign." A portion of General Thomas' command was assaulted at the same time about a mile to the right of the position of the One Hundred Eleventh, with the same result.

On July 3, 1864, the Regiment was engaged in a heavy skirmish on the extreme right of the army.

On July 8th, they moved three miles to the left and skirmished all day with the Confederates.

Johnson's army had by July 12th crossed the Chattahoochie River, so the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment broke camp and moved through Marietta and Rossville to Decatur, Georgia. They were then on the extreme left of the army.

On July 20th, the Regiment moved in the direction of Atlanta, destroying the railroads as they marched. The One Hundred Eleventh

Regiment had the advance and skirmished all that day. They struck the Confederates in force about two miles east of Atlanta, so they had to form a battle line and hurriedly construct earthworks for protection.

At early dawn on July 22, the pickets reported that the Confederates had abandoned their fortifications and had evacuated. The One Hundred Eleventh moved forward at eight o'clock that morning and occupied the former Confederate works, believing that General Hood was evacuating Atlanta.

The First and Second Brigade of our Regiment's Division were each ordered to send a regiment along the railroad to the front and to take positions close up to the fortifications with a view of being the first to enter the city. The One Hundred Eleventh Regiment was selected for this honor from the First Brigade, with Major Mabry in command, Colonel Martin being in command of the Brigade. The Regiment advanced to within a half to three-quarters of a mile of the enemy's works, selected a favorable position and threw up temporary earthworks and made ready to give their regimental flag the honor of being the first to wave over the doomed city.

However, their hopes were soon dashed. About noon of that day heavy cannonading was heard on the extreme left of the army. They soon heard heavy musketry firing and began to realize that instead of Hood leaving Atlanta he had commenced a great battle. The sound of the conflict grew in volume as it swept down the line toward the station of the Regiment. At about four o'clock of that fateful day, Claiborn's Division sallied from their works, forming a line in front of the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment. The Regiment, having no orders to fall back, prepared to meet the Confederate advance. Here the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment made as bold a stand and put up as gallant a fight as was ever made by a regiment of men. They were pitted against a whole division of the Confederate army! The One Hundred Eleventh held their position until they were flanked, and then until they were surrounded. Then and only then they abandoned their works

and cut their way through to their own line. The Confederates, still advancing, charged the Union main line and drove our Regiment's division back in confusion.

General Logan rushed up in person and rallied the Union men, who fought on and finally gained their lost position, driving the Confederates back into Atlanta. The loss of the Regiment in this fight was twenty killed, forty-five wounded and eighty missing. Captain McGuire of Company E, Lieutenant Larimer of Company H, and Lieutenant Shull of Company B were among those killed. Major Mabry was severely wounded. Sergeant David Kelly, color bearer, received seven wounds from musket balls. One the following morning 110 of the enemy's dead were found in front of the position held by the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment.

General Logan's undaunted courage as a soldier and his great ability as an officer to handle and inspire his army in the midst of a great battle was what won the day and saved the Army of the Tennessee.

The One Hundred Eleventh was engaged in battle on July 28th west of Atlanta, with a loss of ten wounded and one missing.

On July 30th they had a heavy skirmish in front of their division while trying to advance the Union lines.

On August 3rd they again skirmished all day. On August 26th they returned from their position under cover of night and moved to the right.

On August 31, 1864, the Regiment engaged in the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia. The Confederates assaulted the Regiment's works in great force but were repulsed and driven back with terrible slaughter. The Regiment lost one killed and seven wounded in this battle. After this battle, Hood evacuated Atlanta. The One Hundred Eleventh's command moved back toward Atlanta and went into camp at Eastport, where they remained for some time.

On October 4th, they received orders to march in pursuit of Hood, who had gotten into the rear of the Federal forces and was destroying the Union railroads.

On October 20th, the Regiment went into camp on Little River, Alabama, about six miles west of Galesville. On October 23rd they skirmished with Wheeler's cavalry at Bulls Gap.

On October 29th, they took up the line of march for Atlanta; and on November 3, 1864, they went into camp at Whitehall, Georgia, two miles southwest of Atlanta.

On November 15th, though they had no knowledge of their line of march at the time, the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment broke camp and started on the great "March to the Sea." They bade Atlanta adieu with their memories of hard fought battles and desperate struggles, and took up the line of march feeling confident in their ability to go anywhere Sherman might lead.

On December 10, 1864, with heavy cannonading in their front, they went into camp two miles east of Savannah, Georgia.

On December 13th they were given information that they were marching on Fort McAllister, located on the Ogeechee River, at the head of Onson Sound. At two o'clock that afternoon, their division was in sight of the fort. About four o'clock that day the bugle sounded the charge and in less than twenty minutes the fort was theirs. The regimental flag of the One Hundred Eleventh Infantry Regiment had the honor of being the first inside the Fort. The commanding officer of the Fort surrendered to Colonel Martin, and Captain Castle of Company H was given the garrison flag of the fort as a souvenir. The Regiment's loss in the taking of the Fort was five killed and fifteen wounded. Lieutenant Lewis J. Land of Company B and Lieutenant G. W. Smith of Company D were among the killed, and Captain John Foster of Company D was severely wounded. General Sherman took a boat from the opposite side of the river and communicated with the fleet below. Thus ended the "March to the Sea."

On December 17, 1864, the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment marched with its brigade to McIntosh Station on the Grand Gulf Railway, with orders to destroy nine miles of the railroad by burning the ties and twisting the rails. This the Regiment was happy to do, and obeyed the order to the letter.

By December 21 they were on the return march ready to take part in an assault on the fortifications at Savannah, Georgia, the following morning. They went forward on "quick time", crossed the river and reported as ordered. During the night they received the good news that the Confederate leader Hardee had retired and that Savannah was in Union possession.

On January 27, 1865, they embarked for Beaufort, South Carolina, landing there on January 28th, took up the line of march, and on the 29th went into camp at Pocatoligo.

On February 1st they started on the Carolina Campaign.

The Regiment skirmished with the Confederates at South Edisto River in South Carolina on February 9th, and at North Edisto on the 12th. Here they lost one killed and one wounded.

On February 17th, after a heavy skirmish, the One Hundred Eleventh went into camp at Columbia, South Carolina. The witness the great fire that destroyed the city. They bade adieu to the once beautiful but now desolate city on February 20th, and resumed the march northward.

They crossed the Pedee River at Cheraw, South Carolina, on March 6, 1865, where they had a skirmish with the desperate Confederates.

On March 10th they went into camp at Fayetteville, North Carolina, leaving there on March 15, 1865.

On March 20th they were engaged in the Battle of Bentonville, and by the 23rd of March they pitched their tents near Goldsboro, North Carolina.

On April 10, 1865, they took up the line of march for Raleigh, North Carolina, going into camp at Raleigh on the 13th of April and remaining here until after the surrender of Johnson's army, when they again broke camp and took up the line of march, passing through Richmond, Virginia, on their way to Washington, D. C. Before they reached Washington, word came that President Lincoln was dead from the assassin's bullet, and the victorious Union army was turned into a horrified and grief-stricken one.

On April 19, 1865, the Regiment went into camp near Alexandria, Virginia, just across the Potomac from our nation's capital.

The One Hundred Eleventh Infantry Regiment of Illinois participated in the Grand Review held in Washington of May 21, 1865, and went into camp near the city. On June 7, 1865, they were mustered out of the service.

On June 10th they broke camp at Washington and moved by rail to Springfield, Illinois. They arrived at Camp Butler and went into camp, June 15th and remained in camp until the 27th, when they were paid and received their final discharges from the service of the United States, disbanded and returned to their homes.

Altogether, the One Hundred Eleventh was engaged in eight battles and seventeen skirmishes. 46 of its men were killed in battle, 144 were wounded, 11 died in prison, 93 died in the hospital, 71 were discharged for disability, making a total loss of 365 men. The Regiment marched 1,836 miles, was transported by steamers 650 miles, and by railroads 1,250 miles.

#### VINCENNES = ST. LOUIS STAGE COACH LINE

Half-Way Tavern between St. Louis and Vincennes is said to be exactly seventy-nine miles each way between the two cities.

Legend has it that a band of Indians held up the stage coach on this line near here and took some gold and buried it in some timber north of the Tavern. Some excavations were made, but the gold was never found. Many times in past years when farmers were plowing nearby, they have found Indian arrowheads, but no one knows from what tribe of Indians they were.

The Tavern was four rooms in length on the ground floor and four rooms upstairs. It had a front porch that ran the full length of the building. The Half-Way Tavern was used as an inn and livery stable. It is believed that the stage coach line was discontinued when the Ohio and Mississippi (Now B & O) Railroad was constructed a few years prior to the beginning of the Civil War.

We have been told many times that Abraham Lincoln stopped over at the Half-Way Tavern often on his travels during his law practice.

### GRACE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

On September 14, 1958, Grace Church of the Nazarene began its first service. It was conducted in a new two-car garage at the Hugh Applegate residence, three miles north on Shelby Street, Salem, Illinois. Thirty-nine were present in Sunday School that first Sunday.

Reverend Paul W. Lee of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, came as the pastor.

The congregation was growing, and on October 5, 1958, Reverend Harold Daniels from Springfield, Illinois, District Superintendent of the Illinois District, Church of the Nazarene, came and organized the church with twenty-five charter members.

In December, 1958, the present church building was purchased from the Marion County Farm Bureau, Pryor and Elm Streets, Salem. The building was redecorated, and new pews, pulpit and rugs were installed.

The record Sunday School attendance to date is 121. Rev. Paul W. Lee is the present pastor.

### SUMMIT PRAIRIE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

This church was organized in the early 1840's by a group of people who were believers of the Primitive Baptist faith. The church is located in Section Four, Stevenson Township, Marion County, Illinois. The church building and the cemetery which is located next to the church grounds are a few miles northeast of Salem.

The deed record shows that land for the church was purchased on March 2, 1844. The land was conveyed by Elizabeth Hite to Andrew Hite, Samuel Beaver and Abraham Beaver, Trustees of "Summit Prairie Predestinarian Baptist Church."

Records have not been found to show when the cemetery was established, but there were some burials prior to the organization of the church. An infant child whose surname was Hite was buried November 4, 1843. Barbara Hite is said to be the first person buried at this place. She was the daughter of Andrew Hite and was twenty-one years of age at the time of her death. The exact

date of her death could not be ascertained, as the inscription on her monument is not legible.

Worship services have not been held at this place for a number of years.

#### CABBAGE CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

Prior to the building of the Cabbage Chapel in Tonti Township, there was a clan of Methodists who held Sunday School and preaching services at the Woodard School. In the spring of 1878 the schoolhouse burned, and then it was that the people of the vicinity conceived the idea of building a church. There being a number of Southern Methodists to the north of this territory, it was decided to build a Union Church.

During the following winter of 1878-1879, a committee was selected to obtain pledges of money and material. Traveling mostly by sled, Mrs. Matt Woodard, Mrs. Sarah Davidson, Mrs. Jennie McGlumphy, Mrs. Lizzie Scott and Mrs. Rachel Clayton went throughout the community seeking solicitations for the church construction. In the spring of 1879 the site was selected, and William J. Davidson donated an acre of land, the present site of the church. Mr. Hiram Somerville donated and laid the foundation. Mrs. Judith Black and her sons, Charles and Rerrick, donated most of the timber for the frame of the building. The sills for the foundation were hewn in the timber, and logs were cut and hauled to the sawmill for the frame. This was all done with labor donated by the people of the community. A Mr. Logan from Odin was the main carpenter in the church construction, driving a team of small black mules hitched to a light spring wagon to and from the construction site.

The church was finished and dedicated in June, 1880, by the Reverend John Phillips of Salem and was named Cabbage Chapel. It was named after the first minister to hold services in the new church. Mr. Cabbage was a local preacher who lived on the place which is now the oil field south of Tonti. For a number of years the Northern Methodist class was on the Odin Circuit

and the Southern Methodist on the Patoka Circuit.

The first revival of note was held by W. R. Bradley of Odin and Reverend Reed of Patoka. It was at this meeting that the Reverend Donald W. Nichols started his ministry; he was later sent to China for sixteen years as a missionary by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Reverend Nichols' tour of duty in China was during the Boxers Uprising, and being unable to speak the native language, he encountered a great deal of difficulty.

Two other ministers coming from Cabbage Chapel are Clarence Prichard, now serving in the Missouri Conference, and Ina Meredith.

Miss Lois Davidson, granddaughter of Sarah and William J. Davidson, has served for several years as a missionary in the Central and South American countries, and is presently serving in Mexico.

Church picnics, home-comings and ice cream socials have added to the many pleasant memories of Cabbage Chapel. In recent years extensive interior remodeling has been made on the church building.

Some of the families most prominent in the building and the success of the church were: the family of Charles Scott, who was the leader of the wives of William and John McGlumphy; William, Joseph and J. H. Scott; the Davidsons, the Woodards, the Blacks, Sommervilles, Grays, Hines and Smiths. Then followed the coming of the Claytons, Groffs, Hollenbecks, Renros, Fletchers, as well as others. Many of these families have members buried in the cemetery adjoining the church.

The descendants of these early pioneers and others who have more recently moved into the community, as well as those who will later come, will long appreciate the effort of the builders of Cabbage Chapel in establishing a place in the community where they could join together in worshipping God.

### ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church at Salem, Marion County, Illinois, located in the Diocese of Springfield, was organized, as far as can be ascertained from the uncertain information available, in the year 1858 or 1859. It is reported that there was a membership of twelve persons, including: Louis Walker Drake; Helen Merryfield Drake; Robert W. Whittaker (1818-1889); Kate D. Atkin Whittaker (1813-1881); Anabella Whittaker (later Castle), daughter of Robert and Kate Whittaker (1857-1934); Miss George (I) Atkin; Mary G. Atkin (1826 to 1908), sister of Kate Whittaker. The Reverend John W. Osborne celebrated the Holy Eucharist once a month for an uncertain period.

The first chalice of the church was given by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Drake, and later when the church closed it was given to a church in Bristol, Pennsylvania. The church functioned for only a short time, and little more is known until 1899.

On February 6, 1899, Omar James McClackin and Helen May McClackin were baptized at Salem by Edward Seymour, missionary. Sponsors were Margaret H. Goodnow and May Rainey. Eugenia Aline McClackin was confirmed on this same date by Charles R. Hall, Bishop of Cairo.

On the evening of July 13, 1899, the parish was reorganized by the Reverend Edward F. Seymour, Vicar of Christ Church, Carlyle, Illinois, with twenty-two persons in attendance. At that time plans were made for bi-monthly services. At a business meeting following Evening Prayer, Miss Harriett Merritt was elected Secretary. By August of that year, arrangements had been made for services to be held at the G. A. R. Hall, and a choir was organized with Mr. James Castle as president and Mr. Marcellus Goodnow as secretary-treasurer. A Sunday church school was begun under the supervision of Mrs. Eugenia McClackin on September 3, 1899. The parishes in Carlyle and Centralia supplied prayer books, liners, and a chalice for the services of the church. Mrs. J. L. Martin was elected the president of St. Thomas' Guild of Episcopal Church Women on September 5, 1899. The

Guild met at the home of Mrs. Martin every Tuesday afternoon.

By February 11, 1900, a confirmation class had been prepared and ten persons were presented to the Right Reverend George F. Seymour, first Bishop of Springfield. Those in the class were Mr. James Castle, Mrs. Arabella Whittaker Castle, Mr. Omer H. Merrifield, Mrs. Nellie Fuller Merrifield, Mrs. Alice Medona McKinney Merritt, Mrs. Margaret Savage Martin, Miss Margaret Adele Moore, Miss Nellie L. Moore, Miss Nancy Brownlow Martin, and Miss Corinne Lyon Williamson. The following had previously received the Sacrament of Confirmation: Miss M. Georgia Athin, Miss Sallie G. Owens, Mrs. Eugenia McKinlin, Mrs. Clara Merritt Martin, a Miss Dougherty, and Miss Harriett Moore. At the end of seven months' work the parish could report a membership of sixteen, a choir, St. Thomas' Guild, and a Sunday church school.

One of the early baptisms reported was Roy Arthur Kaiser at the home of Mrs. J. L. Martin.

In the spring of 1900, it was arranged for Father Seymour to have a service on one Sunday and one Thursday each month. For this, he was to receive expenses and \$125.00 per year. He was followed by the Reverend Dr. A. A. Cairns in 1903, who served the parish until 1909.

The Springfield Churchman, the diocesan newspaper, of July, 1906, reported, "The contract for the new church has been let and the lumber is on the ground. It is expected that it will be finished by St. Michael's Day, if not before. The cost will be about \$2,500.00, the church being designed by Mr. John Sutcliffe, the Diocesan Architect, on the same general lines as the beautiful little church lately built at Carlyle." For some reason, however, the connerstone was not laid until July 1, 1908. The church building was consecrated March 5, 1926, by the Right Rev. Granville Hudson Sherwood, third Bishop of Springfield.

In the period that followed, the parish held its own membershipwise, but there was a rather rapid changed in the priests who served the parish. In the late forties and early fifties, the parish began again to make strides toward self improvement.

In 1950, St. Anne's Guild of Episcopal Church Women was organized. A great many improvements were made to the material fabric of the parish. The house and lot to the east of the church were purchased in 1957 and is presently used as a parish house. The property bounding the church on the west and north was left to the parish by Miss Nancy Martin.

The parish at present numbers seventy-five communicants.

#### GENERAL MARION SOCIETY, CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) was organized in Salem, Marion County, Illinois, on January 27, 1923, by Eugenia Drake McKackin (Mrs. C. L.). The first meeting was held in her home with the following charter members: Maynard Easley, Clara Margaret Hays, Gertrude Kagy, James Blake Charlton, Oma Maude Voght, Lois A. Voght, Leonora M. Smith, Mary Louise Bell, Winifred Verner, John Martin Duffy, Eva Lois Telford, Marion Virginia Telford, Darwin Logan Kell, Eugene Hull Kell, Lorin C. McKackin, John Hull Pribble, Mary S. Brinkerhoff, Eloise Stonement, Christine Schwartz, Henry Lee Webster, John Robert Larimer, Virginia Rose Larimer, Charlotte Davenport Norval, Chester Pierce Munroe, William Neil Donohue, Eugenia Donohue, Charles Lincoln McKackin, Virginia Rohbrough, Eugenia Drake McKackin (organizing president).

The National Board granted to the Salem Society the title of "General Marion". With a few exceptions the meetings have been fairly regular. The Society has always maintained a splendid civic record. They contributed generously to the "Living Flag" a project under Miss Myrtle Hull, a charter member of Isaac Hull Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, who was then a teacher at Central School. They also assisted in purchasing flags to be flown from staffs for our two grade schools.

General Marion Society contributed a sum of five dollars to the Unknown Soldier's Tomb in Washington, D. C. Names of the members at that time are on file in the church at Alexandria,

### Virginia

Their most outstanding project was the placing of a bronze tablet on the stone approach to the south entrance of the Marion County Court House. This tablet honors the eight Revolutionary Soldiers buried in the county, and shows their names as follows: Thomas Ashe, Samuel Eblin, Peter Finn, William Gaston, George Roper and Samuel Young. This historical tablet was dedicated by Isaac Hull Chapter and General Marion Society on January 18, 1936; presented by Lonin Cope McEachin, Junior President; unveiled by Dwight William Larimer, Jr., Vice President; Bessie Cope McEachin, Senior President of C. A. R. had charge of the program. Mona McLaughlin (Mrs. J. C.) was Senior President in 1935 and assisted Miss Leila Cope, Regent of Isaac Hull Chapter, whose untiring efforts through that summer and fall made it possible to find the records and graves of the soldiers. H. H. Hanes, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, accepted the tablet on behalf of the County. Pictures were published in the April, 1936, Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine and in the February 23, 1936, Illinois Pictorial Supplement of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Helen Wilson (Mrs. Ralph R.) is Senior President of General Marion Society for 1961.

### MARION COUNTY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS REUNION

On August 8, 1884, the John S. Chandler Post 102 of the Grand Army of the Republic of Salem, Illinois, met in regular session with its Commander, William Houchen, in the chair and the Adjutant, J. Pyles, in attendance. At this meeting, according to the minutes, "after some talk as to holding a reunion it was decided the Adjutant correspond with the other Posts of the GAR in the County thereunto."

At the next meeting, August 17, 1884, according to the Post records, a Committee "to confer with the Posts in regard to holding a reunion" was appointed; the first Reunion Committee appointed by William Houchen, Commander of the Salem GAR Post

#102 then became effective August 17, 1884, and thus was born the Marion County Soldiers and Sailors Reunion.

The First General Chairman of the Reunion was John Smith, and his Executive Committee was David Shultz and J. Pyles, all of Salem. The Quartermaster, who was John Smith as above, was instructed to collect ten cents from each member (there were twenty-eight) to defray the expenses to Kimmundy -- so the first Marion County Soldiers and Sailors Reunion was held in Kimmundy; but it was on the initiation and instigation of the Salem Post 102 of the Grand Army of the Republic that the Reunion for soldiers, sailors and marines who had served their country in both war and peace came into existence 77 years ago. It has become an annual event, never changing its purpose: to provide the Marion County veteran with a means of having a yearly reunion with his comrades-at-arms, both with Marion County men and those from far away.

"THE REUNION," as it has been known almost since its conception, has been held all over Marion County, but the records reveal the Salem GAR held a firm hand on its appointed officials until about 1921, when the ageing Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic turned the management over to the Salem Commercial Club. But with the exception of the first committee, when Commander William Houchen back in 1884 named his Quartermaster John Smith the General Chairman, the records of the Salem GAR show that the elected Post Commander was always General Chairman, even under the Salem Commercial Club.

In 1927 the management of the Reunion was placed under the jurisdiction of the Luther B. Easley Post 128, the American Legion of Salem, Illinois, with Earl W. Merritt appointed as General Chairman. He was succeeded by Omar James McLackin, who handed the badge of authority to Frederick E. Merritt, who is the present General Chairman.

During the World War Two period, Allen Compton was appointed General Chairman to hold token one-day Reunions so the continuity of the affair would not be broken.

"Old Settlers Day," a separate Marion County celebration, was combined with the Reunion in 1927, and it has been an integral part of it ever since.

Hull's Grove, now Salem's Bryan Memorial Park, has always been and is at present the "Reunion Grounds." The eighty-eight acres concerned came into being and became a part of the City of Salem's Park System through the wishes of its owner, the late Senator Charles Hull and a succeeding purchaser who sold the grove to the City of Salem under the administration of the late Mayor Joseph Schwartz "providing the grounds would always be available for the Soldiers and Sailors Reunion."

Since the days of its early existence when each member was assessed ten cents to carry out the expenses of the Reunion, this organization as sponsored by the Salem American Legion and under the able leadership of Bud Merritt has grown into a great public benefactor, returning its profits into the betterment of Bryan Memorial Park, erecting a permanent outdoor theatre with an up-to-date dressing room facility and each year adding improvements, such as permanent seats and providing an area for outdoor meetings, church Easter services, band concerts and Little Theatre plays.

The Reunion brings as many as 30,000 people to Salem daily during its six days each year, generally during the last week in July. It has always been surmised that at least one dollar is spent by each visitor somewhere in Salem each day of the Reunion.

The best in free entertainment is provided each evening at the outdoor stage and auditorium, with a one-hour show composed of acts hired from theatrical agents in Chicago. The largest of carnivals, which play only at State Fair cities, now are the regular Midway entertainers of the Reunion.

It has always been said, "This year it will be bigger and better," and so it has always been.

As the Old Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic so willed, as "the boys in blue" so wished, the American Legion carries on with the Reunion.

### SALEM NATIONAL BANK

At 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 1870, the Salem National Bank opened for business. For ninety-one years, through two world wars, stock exchange panics, several recessions, and a major depression, the Bank has stood as a bulwark of financial strength in this community.

Salem National was a successor to the Marion County Trust and Loan Company, a private loan company established by John Cunningham, grandfather of John C. and B. E. "Jack" Martin.

Original incorporators and stockholders of the bank were: General James S. Martin, Benjamin F. Marshall, Erastus Hull, Josiah J. Bennett, George Henry Webster, David J. Allmon, Samuel E. Stevenson, Basil B. Smith and Elizabeth Haynie. The stockholders invested \$50,000 in the new bank and elected General Martin, Erastus Hull, Josiah J. Bennett, Henry Webster, and Benjamin F. Marshall as the first Board of Directors. The directors elected Josiah J. Bennett as the first President. Ben Marshall, who was formerly Cashier of the Marion County Trust and Loan Company, became the bank's first Cashier.

Bennett served as president for thirteen years, until 1883 when General Martin succeeded him. General Martin served for the next twenty-four years, until his death in 1907. A. H. Bachman, Sr., was then elected president and served for eleven years until January 14, 1918, when B. E. Martin, Sr., was elected. When Martin died in 1923, Colonel J. J. Bell became president and served until his death in 1925. Matthew Hinderer was then elected and served until his death in 1933. John C. Martin was elected and served until his death on January 31, 1952. He was succeeded by his brother, B. E. "Jack" Martin, who served until his death in 1961. V. A. Williams was then elected and is now serving as president of the bank.

Some of the cashiers of the bank in addition to Marshall were: Thomas E. Marshall, Charles E. Hull, John E. Martin, John C. Martin, A. H. Bachman (who later became vice-president), Kenneth Milam (who is now serving as executive vice-president), and Onlie Cook, the present cashier.

In 1908 the present four-story building was constructed. In 1931, Salem National Bank assumed the assets and liabilities of the Salem State Bank and undertook a major remodeling job. The bank at the time of this writing is in the process of another remodeling.

In 1932, the bank's capital stock was increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000; in 1933 to \$100,000; in 1945 to \$150,000. In 1948, the capital stock was increased to \$200,000.

The history of this bank is much like reading the history of the City of Salem, because most of the officers and directors down through the years have been community leaders and greatly interested in the growth and prosperity of Salem.

The only mishap of record was on February 13, 1890, when burglars blew open and safe and vault door and escaped with \$11,949.16.

Today with assets in excess of ten million dollars, Salem National Bank continues to perpetuate the policy established ninety-one years ago of financial service and guidance to the entire Salem area.

—Gerald Sinclair,  
Asst. Vice-President

#### COMPANY I OF SALEM

Company I, a part of the Fourth Regiment of the Illinois Militia, was organized in 1812 during the administration of Governor Ninian Edwards. It served as such in the Federal Service October 14th to November 5, 1812; again in the Black Hawk War, April 21st to May 27, 1832; in the Mexican War from June 5, 1846 to May 23, 1847; and answered the call of the President for volunteers in 1861, being mustered into the service April 29th as a part of the Tenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, this designation being given by Act of the Illinois Legislature which met April 23, 1861, as a mark of deference to the Mexican War Service.

Upon reorganization of the State Militia after the Civil War, the entire regiment was reorganized in the same territory and given the same name as the original organization.

The unit served during the Spanish-American War as a part of the Fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from April 26, 1898, to May 2nd, 1899.

In the Mexican Border Service they served as a part of the Fourth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, from June 27, 1916, to March 15, 1917.

In World War One, this unit was again mustered into the Federal Service as a part of the Fourth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, and subsequently the One Hundred Thirtieth Infantry, Thirty-third Division, and was in the United States Service from July 25, 1917, to May 31, 1919.

The company reorganized as a part of the Fourth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, in 1921. The Fourth and Fifth Regiments, Illinois National Guard, consolidated under the name of the Fourth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, June 22, 1921. Later it was to be designated as the One Hundred Thirtieth Infantry, National Guard of the United States, and assigned to the Sixty-fifth Brigade, Thirty-third Division.

In World War Two this unit was again mustered into Federal Service as a part of the One Hundred Thirtieth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, and was a part of the only regiment that remained with the Division from the date of induction, March 5, 1941, to the end of the war. During this period they took part in the Monotai Operation, leaving there for the Luzon Operation where they took part in the attack on Question Mark Hill, the seizure of Monastery Hill and on to Baguio; in all about four and a half months of fighting over hills that ranged from two thousand to seven thousand feet in elevation. On September 25, 1945, Company I landed on Honshu Island, Japan, thus completing the last leg of a long journey that took almost four and a half years to complete.

*In addition to the above World War Two service, the Regimental Colons are decorated with streamers from eight campaigns, and the Regiment has participated with distinction in twenty-eight battles and engagements.*

*Company I of the One Hundred Thirtieth Infantry, Thirty-third Division, was mobilized into the Federal Service for the Korean Conflict and is now designated Company A, Lt. Battle Group One Hundred Thirtieth Infantry Thirty-third Division.*

*This National Guard Company has been part of the Salem scene since 1917. Its first Captain in Salem was Omar J. McMackin. The present company commander is Captain Jim Broughton.*

#### *COLONIAL DAUGHTERS OF THE 17TH CENTURY*

*The official visit of the president general, Mrs. William Carroll Langston of York, Pennsylvania, completed the organization of the first chapter in Illinois of the Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century on Monday, July 10, 1961.*

*The Illinois chapter was organized by Miss Helen May McMackin, who entertained the group to luncheon at the Robbins Dining Room. Miss McMackin was appointed the organizing chapter president by the national executive council during a meeting at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C., on April 14, 1961.*

*Mrs. Langston was accompanied to Salem by Mrs. Ralph J. Miller of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, the president of the Pennsylvania chapter, and by Mrs. Jeromen Powers of Richmond, Indiana, honorary national president of the national society, Daughters of the American Colonists, who is also a member of the New Jersey Society, Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century.*

*The official ribbon of her office was presented to Miss McMackin by Mrs. Langston and Mrs. Miller, the latter placing the ribbon on Miss McMackin's shoulder following the installation of the officers. Many of the members of the Illinois chapter, including the president, were former members of the Pennsylvania chapter.*

For use during this meeting, Mrs. Langston brought the "charter oak" gavel belonging to the national society.

The charter oak was a tree which formerly stood in Hartford, Connecticut, in the hollow trunk of which the colonial charter is said to have been hidden. The story is that when Governor Andros went to Hartford in 1687 to demand the surrender of the charter, the debate in the Assembly over his demand was prolonged until darkness set in, when the lights were suddenly extinguished, and a patriot, Captain Wadsworth, escaped with the document and hid it in the oak. The venerable tree was preserved with great care until 1856, when it was blown down in a storm.

This beautiful gavel was presented to the national society in 1900.

The room was beautifully decorated with flowers dominated by historic flags belonging to the national society and representing the countries of England, Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands and France, the countries which established the first permanent colonies in America.

The officers of the Illinois chapter are: president, Miss Helen May McKachin; first vice president, Mrs. Robert M. Beak; second vice president, Mrs. Otto C. Dunbar; chaplain, Mrs. Clyde Honnbuckle; recording secretary, Mrs. Rees Lewis; corresponding secretary, Mrs. William J. Sweeney; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Davis; registrar, Mrs. Frank Davis; historian, Mrs. Donald Wolf; Librarian, Mrs. Herbert Torrence.

Those attending the organization meeting other than the guests of honor and Miss McKachin were: Mrs. Clyde A. Honnbuckle, Mrs. Ralph R. Wilson, Mrs. J. F. Schafly, Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Mrs. William Small, Mrs. Harry V. Troup, Mrs. Bessie Cope McKachin, Mrs. C. M. Allen, Miss Louise Money, Mrs. Charles Watson, Mrs. Frank V. Davis, Mrs. Clayton A. Durham, Mrs. John P. Carson, Mrs. Russell S. Cooke, Mrs. Henry C. Warner, Mrs. Paul G. Meyer, Mrs. Edward G. Gross, Mrs. Lloyd Springer, Mrs. Curtis Williams, Mrs. Rita Ridgeway, Mrs. B. E. Gum, and Mrs. William Overturf, Sr.

"CHILDHOOD MEMORIES" - - - - - By Judd Green

I love to think of my childhood  
 home,  
 And the days I used to roam  
 Out to the woods when it was  
 thick,  
 With my fishing tackle on Big  
 Creek,  
 Long Hole, if there in time,  
 I'd find Ephriam Schultz with  
 hook and line.  
 "Uncle Eph," went early and  
 stayed late;  
 The same thing was done by  
 Samuel Tate,  
 "Uncle Tom" Spencer and  
 Allie Garner,  
 Could always be found in a  
 cozy conner;  
 Gilbert Williams, another old  
 friend,  
 You sure could find him around  
 the bend,  
 While writing here on the edge  
 of my couch,  
 I think of another whose name  
 was Foutch;  
 His first name was Allen, a  
 painter by trade,  
 He would rather hunt than fish  
 in the shade,  
 Speaking of hunting in the  
 various lines,  
 I oft times think of the good  
 old times  
 When we would go out by the  
 light of the moon,  
 To hunt for the foxes as well  
 as the "coon."  
 "Uncle Dave" Magness, whom you  
 all know well,  
 Will vouch for the truth I'm  
 going to tell;  
 Dr. Rainey, too, must not be  
 left out,  
 He was always on hand, like a  
 good old scout.  
 "Whoopy" McClackin would come  
 with his horn;  
 He could blow it, I believe,  
 from the day he was born,  
 And when the hounds came  
 running at last,  
 You could bank your last dollar  
 on John Snodgrass,  
 "Ike" Shanafelt was always in  
 line,  
 And to tell you the truth he  
 was never behind,  
 The Donoho boys were always  
 there,  
 And could let out yells that  
 would raise your hair,  
 'Twas exciting times when we'd  
 turn Housh's conner,  
 And come face to face with  
 "Uncle Jim" Garner,  
 Felix Moser was there and  
 enjoyed it too,  
 Just the same as his son, whose  
 name is Lew,  
 Now there was Ed Bryan, who en-  
 joyed it great,  
 And would say "By doggie" as  
 I will relate;  
 And when we would get away out  
 in the flat,  
 We'd find Shannon Kagy, that  
 old Democrat.  
 Why, it seems to me a very  
 short spell,  
 When old man Wimberly dug the  
 town well;  
 I remember it was open at the  
 top,  
 The day Merritt's blind dog  
 went in ker-flop,  
 I remember, too, when Mr.  
 Fankbonner  
 Was running his store just  
 around the conner;  
 Fred Eagan, too, was not a-  
 kickin'  
 The day he sold the frozen  
 chicken;  
 And Uncle "Abe", the old show  
 man  
 Would always play music you  
 could understand,  
 Lew Aker, too, would always  
 listen

To the instruction given by  
 "Uncle Joe" Peirson;  
 And many a time in the court  
 house yard,  
 Where we would all gather when  
 we were tire,  
 Someone would start that good  
 old song,  
 "Merrily We'll Roll Along,"  
 Now I want to tell you of a  
 tenor voice;  
 It belonged to Wess Watson,  
 the people's choice;  
 If ever on earth a man could  
 sing,  
 Wess Watson could do that  
 very thing.  
 Speaking of characters you  
 can bet  
 There never was one like  
 "Uncle Pet;"

Crenshaw, too, would make you  
 laugh  
 To tell about Bachman scalding  
 a calf,  
 There have been many changes in  
 the last few years;  
 Changes that fill my eyes with  
 tears.  
 I don't know but it seems to  
 me,  
 You don't find the friendship  
 there used to be.  
 Now I believe I have taken the  
 Editor's limit,  
 And will have to stop this very  
 minute.  
 All of you must have seen,  
 That this was written by Old  
 Judd Green.

(THIS POEM was published at  
 least three times in the "Demo-  
 crat", the second time on  
 March 29, 1928.)

#### MOUNT MORIAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

The first meeting place in Raccoon Township was either Mt. Moriah or Antioch, both places claiming the distinction. Certain it is that they are the two oldest churches in Marion County, and were built at or about the same time.

Mt. Moriah was founded as a Baptist church, in either 1828 or 1829, and the site was a "camp meeting" ground long before the first church was built.

About 1837, the Baptist Church, as such, ceased to carry on, and, according to old church records, on July 10, 1841, fourteen persons met at the home of "Widow" Morrison, whom we believe to have been the widow of Joseph Morrison of Revolutionary fame, who was buried in our cemetery in 1835. With the Elders J. Daugh, John Wilburn and Alexander Hays, these fourteen persons organized the Mount Moriah Church of Christ, which has continued to this time, one hundred twenty years later. The fourteen charter members of the church were: JOSHUA P. HUFF, S. W. L. MORRISON, PEGGY ANN MORRISON, RUTH MORRISON, RUTH FIELDS, NATHAN

FIELDS, NANCY FIELDS, ELIJAH M. HAYS, DEMOSHA HAYS, ELIZABETH MORRISON, RACHEL (HUFF) HAYS, SALLY FORD, POLLY JOSHUA P. McDANIEL.

So far as we have been able to learn, the most of these early members, if not all of them, were of southern extraction, having come from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and other states south of the Mason-Dixon line. Indian wars were not uncommon in those days, massacres always to be feared, and tradition tells us that in the early days after the founding of Mt. Zion as a church, the men used to sit with rifles across their knees during services, fearing attacks by Indians.

The old church records disclose that Joshua P. Huff was the first Clerk of the Church, and that on July 17, 1841, the day following its organization, that Elizabeth Hays Fields, a sister of Elijah M. Hays, and Mrs. Nancy Hays, wife of Stephen D. Hays, united with the church.

On August 17, 1841, Elijah M. Hays was chosen deacon, and on that same day forty-four more persons united with the church: STEPHEN D. HAYS, LOUISA McDANIEL, SAMUEL A. HUFF, DAVID GREEN, SAMUEL TATE, L. R. CUTCHON, MARY CUTCHON, REBECCA WALDON, SOLAS MERCER, LUCY ANN McINTOSH, REBECCA MERCER, MOLLANA T. McINTOSH, ELIZABETH MERCER, ROBERT EASLEY, SUSAN EASLEY, RACHEL GASTON, RODA WALCOM, MOLLANA EVANS, ELIZABETH HAYN, JOHN YOUNG, MATTIE YOUNG, MOLLANA HAYS, DELILAH HAYS, THOMAS LITTRELL, MAHALA LITTRELL, ANGELINE LITTRELL, MARGARET ANN HUFF, MELBA GASTON, LUCINDA BRYANT, HULDAH BRYANT, MARGA L. HUFF, RADFORD TELCH, MALSHA TELCH, DAVID R. CHANCE, MOLLANA H. CHANCE, THOMAS HILL, MARY RAY, SARAH HAYN, MARY L. EVANS (EVANS?), WASHINGTON CHANCE, DAVID YOUNG, SAMUEL HUFF, PANTHERIA ROGERS.

The first church was a small log cabin, eighteen by twenty-two feet, unchinked, with rude benches as seats.

The old church record has no other entries until December 10, 1842, when Wiley G. Mercer was appointed a deacon, and eighteen new members united with the church. These new members were:

WILLIAM V. WATSON, NANCY WATSON, TALITHA HUFF, MARY HUFF, CYNTHIA MERCER, LUTISHA HUFF, RACHEL HUFF, MARY ANN HUFF, REBECCA BERGE (BURGE?), IRVINA H. HUFF, MARY CHANCE, FERDIBY HOLL, MARGARET GREEN, MARY ANN COPPLE, MARY J. CUTCHON, HENDERSON LITTRELL, WERTHA SHELTON, JOHN MORGAN.

There seems to be little information available covering the period between 1842 and 1851, when, on October 10th, the membership was listed as sixty.

On March 12, 1854, we have the first record of the election of elders. They were: NEWTON CHANCE, JOSHUA P. HUFF, SILAS MERCER, JOHN D. RAY, WASHINGTON CHANCE.

On September 8, 1854, the first trustees were elected. They were: ELIJAH M. HAYS, JOSHUA P. HUFF, BURRELL J. CRANE, ELZA H. RAY, JAMES BRYANT.

On February 23, 1855, a business meeting was held, at which time it was urged that the Trustees arrange for the completion of the "meeting house", and we believe this to be the second building.

The record indicates that Joshua P. Huff resigned as Clerk on April 12, 1856, as he was moving from the neighborhood and could not continue his duties. Silas Mercer, whom many remember as "Uncle Sol," and who was for sixty-nine years a member of Mt. Moriah, was Elected Clerk in his stead. He filled this office for twenty-one years, until James Pitts was elected to the position in 1877.

A deed on file in the court house at Salem shows that on June 21, 1856, a deed was executed by Silas Mercer and Caroline Mercer, his wife, conveying ten acres of land to the Trustees "to be used for church and cemetery purposes and none other forever" quoting from the deed. This ten acres comprises the land on which the church now stands and that on which the west cemetery is located.

Some fifty-five years ago, the second church was damaged by a windstorm, and in 1905 the present church building was erected. The church members donated the labor, and the ladies

of the congregation took turns in furnishing dinners to the workers. We are told that Mrs. Isaac McBride, better remembered as "Aunt 'Ginny" McBride, and Mrs. Lucy Hays were on hand every day to assist with the dinners.

The new church was dedicated on November 25, 1905, the dedicatory address being delivered by Elder J. F. Rosborough, a well-known minister of Salem.

Now, let us speak of some of the other ministers who have addressed the Mt. Moriah congregation from time to time.

"Bill" Hill, of the evangelist type, was a farmer-preacher who lived some ten miles to the east, a man of crude attainments, but enough scriptural knowledge to weave Biblical language and oratorical ability to excel all others in scaring sinners and bringing them into church membership. It was then the practice to offer religion as a sort of "fire insurance," and Brother Hill could make the "Pearly Gates" glisten for Christians and the "fires of hell" roar for sinners. He could pick up an old third reader, then common in the schools, and tear the heart strings by singing:

"Give me three grains of corn, mother,  
Only three grains of corn;  
It will keep the little life I have  
Till the coming of the morn."

Then, there was James Snow. He was a type common at that period, who studied and prepared his sermons on a God-fearing basis. Sometimes, he, too, was quite evangelical. It was he who conducted a revival meeting at Mt. Moriah in 1885 which resulted in more than one hundred baptisms on February 14th of that year.

John A. Williams of Salem was a large, dignified, serious man, with the then "regulation" Prince Albert coat and top hat used by professional men -- a fine gentleman who served the church for many years. Elder Williams joined the church here and began to preach as early as 1846. He was ordained at Mt. Moriah in 1850.

Perhaps the best educated of them all was a man noted for his good conversations. His name was John G. Brinkerhoff. He was

college bred, and held a degree in medicine and one in law, and was then licensed for the ministry. For many years he was principal of the Salem schools. He was neither narrow nor bigoted, very interesting as well as quite amusing. He would give and take in repartee.

Another was J. Carroll Stark, who lived near Jacksonville, on a sort of farm and horse ranch. He drove down and spent his weekends once each month for a number of years. He was of the greatest repute as a speaker. A curious thing happened that almost cost him this particular charge for a time, but it "blew over." He had attended the same college and was a former roommate of James A. Garfield, who was also a preacher of the same faith. Stark was preaching at Mt. Moriah when Garfield was elected President of the United States. Garfield, as we all know, was brought down by an assassin's bullet the summer he took office. That event happened but a few days before Stark came to spend the weekend and preach. He was terribly shocked, and when he started his sermon on that Sunday, he told the congregation what his friends already knew -- of his education, close previous association and constant friendship, and of the moral character, religious principles and great ability of Garfield. He used Garfield's life as a model for his sermon as applied to the text he used. It was really able and touching, but Stark was a Republican and most of the congregation were Democrats. A whispering campaign was started and gained large proportions in the membership against Stark for that sermon, but wiser and broader persons were able to overcome it before serious consequences resulted. But it shows they took their politics as seriously in those days as some of us do today. Mr. Stark won the everlasting gratitude from the boys of Silas Mercer, with whom he spent many of his weekend visits, by always refusing to allow them to put up his horses when he came to the house, but, instead, he cared for them himself.

Other ministers, as shown by the record, were William Chaffin, the former Baptist minister, Samuel Shook, Charles Drennan, David

R. Chance, Mr. White, Mr. Nace, Milton Childers, William T. Birge, W. T. Williams, Abraham Morrell, B. F. Jayne, S. W. Leonard, Henry van Dousen, J. D. McBrian and Joseph Morgan, the last two having been ordained in this church.

Another minister was the Rev. "Billy" Simer, who served this church in the late nineties for three years, never missing an appointment during that time in spite of traveling conditions of those days and the almost impassable roads much of the time.

Some of the more recent ministers were: the Rev. W. C. Hill, George Foley, Charles Arthur Burton, F. M. Warren, B. W. Tate, R. M. Phillips, Edward Price, J. D. Bruce, William T. Williams, H. B. Solomon, R. Leland Brown, E. S. Thompson, William Mesnard, S. E. Fugate, Hattress Schick, Oscar Hawkins, Orville Hawkins, J. G. Parsons, W. H. Waggoner, Paul Marteeny, Lloyd Lovell, B. F. Mahon, J. J. Hudson, Jesse Stony, W. S. Farlow, Berle Melton, John Garst, Clyde McKee, and our present minister, Inl Sidwell.

One of the most successful revivals was conducted by the Rev. Charles Wood in 1902, when there were more than seventy additions to the church.

The customary pay to ministers in the early days was from fifty cents to \$3.50 for each trip, although a dollar was the usual amount paid. Expense items listed include an occasional fifty cents for candles and the same sum now and then for communion wine.

In May, 1853, we have our first record of a "church trial" when a charge was brought against one of the members for drunkenness and he was excluded from the church. From that time until about 1890, church trials were frequent when members were charged with misdemeanors such as card playing, swearing, participating in worldly amusements -- whatever that might have been -- and the use of intoxicating liquor to excess.

The records show that Albert J. Luttrell succeeded James Pitts as Clerk on June 23, 1888. We all know that Albert Luttrell and his twin brother, Alvin, both of whom joined the church when

boys, were two of the most faithful members in the history of the church, always working for its advancement and good. Albert Luttrell died in 1939, his brother Alvin passed away June 8, 1961. Mr. Alvin Luttrell was one of Mt. Moriah's first Sunday School superintendents, having been first elected at the age of eighteen. He was for seventy-six years a member of Mt. Moriah.

In connection with the cemetery, on the west side of the road is what we believe to be the oldest cemetery in Marion County. This ground had been used for burial purposes by the Indians before the arrival of the white settlers. Tradition has it that the first grave dug by the pioneers was for an Indian child who was drowned in Martin's Branch. The story goes that a group of Indian boys, after watching baptismal services of the white settlers at the creek one day, decided to do some baptizing of their own. They seemed to lack the proper technique, however, because one boy was held under the water so long he was drowned, and it is he who is supposed to have been buried by the white settlers.

In 1934, a cemetery association was formed to care for our graveyards. At that time it was discovered that a number of the graves were unmarked and in many instances the identity of the occupants was unknown. The church has been given a book in which is recorded all of the known graves, with as many names and dates as possible, as well as such information as was available concerning the persons buried here.

#### SALEM OIL FIELD

In the 1930's it appeared to the inhabitants of Salem that the measures taken to overcome the effect of the "Great Depression" would be an uphill climb. All this was noticeably changed when oil came to Southern Illinois. With it came prosperity for a small but industrious community which had experienced the deprivations felt throughout the nation. Salem was fortunate in being the "melting pot" for the activity that was to greatly improve the way of life for its citizens as well as those in outlying communities.

When oil was discovered on the E, Tate lease in the Lake Centralia - Salem field on June 21, 1938, it literally "blew the top off" of oil circles throughout the nation. To Salem flocked the big men of Texas, Oklahoma, and states where oil is a by-word to join the so-called natives in their quest for "black gold."

The E, Tate well was a test well located seven and a half miles southwest of Salem, and initial production was 530 barrels in twelve hours with no water. This well was drilled by the Texas Company. Later, Magnolia started production, along with others. The Texas Company people established a gasoline plant and produced liquified oil products of many descriptions.

Almost overnight, Salem became a "boom town." To some not associated with the industry, it may have been a time of inconvenience, but to the majority who reveled at the changes, it was an exciting new way of life. As new wells were drilled, the smell of gas and oil filled the air, flares lit up the sky for miles, business zoomed, and new industries began to take shape.

The lake field, the home of the discovery well, is not large from the standpoint of production area. It comprises only fifteen square miles and roughly 10,000 acres. However, by early April, 1940, the oval-shaped Salem Pool was the largest in the United States in daily production, outranking even the great East Texas Field.

Salem Field's peak production was 259,000 barrels daily in March, 1940, then dropped to 13,000 barrels daily in 1948. In 1948 the Texas Company cooperated with a number of oil companies in arranging to water flood these fields. Utilization in 1950 gave the field a new name and new possibilities for oil potential. It is now known as the Salem Unit with Texaco, Inc., as operator and is believed to be the world's largest water flood project.

Today, the 20,000 barrels of oil taken daily from this oil-rich tract of land is the principle contributing factor to the financial and cultural aspects of Salem and surrounding communities. Land that once stood dense and bare is now used for

homes and schooling, and many families gain their livelihood from it.

The oil people of Salem do not cease their activities when the day's work is done. They are to be found helping out with fraternal, civic and church activities, and are a mainstay of the city in every way. Their special knowledge of economics, their patriotic efforts for the city, state and nation are very commendable; their generous endeavors for the churches and charitable drives of the community, and their earnest efforts toward the advancement of the City of Salem are such as to arouse great admiration on the part of all who notice their endeavors.

#### THE JUKA STATE BANK

Tradition has it that a bank was originally started in Juka by a Mr. George Daniels who operated a general store.

After Mr. Daniels passed away, Mr. D. W. Holstlaw, in the year 1905, established a private bank, later to be incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. Until the time the present bank building was erected, banking business was conducted in the Holstlaw Store. The Holstlaw Bank was chartered as the Juka State Bank on December 10, 1910. The following men served as managers for a period of one year: J. J. Bell, A. H. Bachman, C. N. Neff, C. E. Hull, M. Hinderer, R. Robinson, J. C. Martin, D. W. Holstlaw, and W. Lewis Finn. D. W. Holstlaw was elected president of the board.

For a number of years the bank was operated by Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Holstlaw, assisted by Mildred Kelley Smith. After Mrs. Lois Holstlaw passed away, other assistance was secured. Through the years we remember Mr. Ernest Robinson, Mrs. Altris Phillips, Mr. Asselmeir, Mr. Charles Pike, Mrs. Ella Quandt, Mrs. Fawn Golden, and Mr. Guy Featherly.

After the death of Mr. Herschel D. Holstlaw, Mr. Ernest Robinson became president.

In 1954 shares were offered to individuals, and after a meeting of the stockholders a board of directors was elected as follows: Clarence T. Smith, Ernest Robinson, F. A. Dietrich, Harold Fear, John Koehnke, Sr., Eugene Irwin, and Raymond Clifton.

The board of directors will always hold in grateful remembrance the good qualities of their late fellow members Ernest Robinson, Raymond Clifton and Eugene Irwin. Serving in their capacity are Erwin Wiehle, Merle Walkington and F. H. Chance.

The present officers are: President, Clarence T. Smith; First Vice President, F. A. Dietrich; Second Vice President, Harold Fear; Cashier, F. H. Chance; Assistant Cashier, Roger Bartley; Teller, Sue Eddings.

In our journey as patrons and friends of The Juka State Bank, we have arrived at a hilltop -- fifty miles from the beginning, pausing to look back gratefully and forward hopefully.

--Mrs. Mathilda Koehnke

#### SALEM TIMES-COMMONER

The Times-Commoner, Salem's newspaper, has had a long career, though it has carried its present name only since 1955.

The history of the predecessors of the Times-Commoner may go back as far as 1860, but this cannot be definitely established. In the past century, many newspapers were started, issued a few numbers and then suspended or merged with another. Those were the days when a printer could start a paper with no more than the proverbial "shirrtail full of type." Some of these ventures prospered, but more of them foundered after a brief period. Salem, like most towns, has had many newspapers at one time or another.

The modern history of Salem's present and only newspaper can probably be fixed in 1916, when it was taken over by Charles W. Vursell. Mr. Vursell had served as Marion County Sheriff and then served as State Representative before buying the newspaper that year from Frank Hickman. Mr. Vursell called the paper "The Republican," and it grew into a profitable business and became

an important influence in the community. In 1939 the Republican, up to that time a weekly, began publishing twice a week.

In 1946 Mr. Vursell was elected to Congress and two years later he sold his interest to Adolph Dietrick, who had joined the business in 1918 and in 1920 had become a partner.

In 1954 the Republican was moved to the present location of the Times-Commoner, at the corner of South Broadway and East McMakin. For thirty-nine years previously it had been at 209 East Main, now the location of the Salem Bakery.

In 1955 the Republican purchased the sixty-six year old weekly, the Marion County Democrat, and shortly thereafter the name was changed to Times-Commoner. The "Commoner" of its title honors the memory of William Jennings Bryan, "The Great Commoner."

The semi-weekly Times-Commoner is owned by Adolph Dietrick, who serves as manager; His brother, William C. Dietrick, is assistant manager; G. E. Buhner is advertising manager. Sherman Doolen is editor and Don Russell is local advertising manager. The newspaper employs fifteen persons in its editorial, advertising, business and printing departments.

In perusing the pages of the Times-Commoner, it becomes quickly obvious that this is a newspaper of quality. Its editorials are conscientiously written, its news is carefully and impartially published, and its pages show good workmanship throughout. Salem has every right to be proud of its fine newspaper.

### FRAKES HOME

One of the oldest homes in Salem was built on acreage acquired by Mark Tully in 1831, which contained eighty acres.

The early American style home is located at 321 South Franklin Avenue and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William P. Frakes.

It is not known when the house was built, but during the pre-Civil War days, it was an inn where Abraham Lincoln usually

made his stopovers enroute to and from Springfield. It was told by a Civil War widow that "Abe" Lincoln would sit on the front porch to watch the militia drill in the area east of the home toward the main business section. He slept downstairs in the south room, and the wash stand he once used is now in the possession of Charles Wibel of Centralia, whose parents were former owners of the home.

Mrs. Frakes' father, Julius Mertin, a Salem merchant and farmer, acquired the property in 1915, and Mr. and Mrs. Frakes took over the home in 1947.

The present owners found a newspaper under one of the floors -- the Missouri Democrat -- that had been sent to the Lener heirs (who had owned the home), giving an account of the plot for assassination of Abraham Lincoln near Baltimore on his way to Washington during the Civil War. Of course, they have kept the paper. The paper was published in August, 1862.

#### SALEM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Due to the illness of the pastor, it was difficult to obtain historical material in regard to this fine church.

It was originally located on the south end of Washington. The building is still standing but has been used by the Farm Bureau for some time. It was built about 1875 and was used as a church until the new one was built.

Some of the older members were: The Schwartz family, Britian family, Jeffers family, O'Conner and Guth family.

The new church and school are institutions of which the congregation can be justly proud.

#### REVOLUTIONARY WAR HEROES BURIED IN MARION COUNTY

THOMAS ASHE was from North Carolina, where he served in the War. He came to Marion County, Illinois, before 1825, and in 1833 applied for a pension. His place of burial is not known.

SAMUEL EBLIN was born in 1755 in Virginia. He enlisted in Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1777 under Captain John Henry. At Burgoyne's defeat, the company marched to Knowland's Ferry on the Potomac River to receive prisoners who were escorted to Albemarle Barracks. After serving three months, Eblin was discharged and lived in Loudoun County until 1781, when he enlisted under Captain Thomas Cowan and Major Jeremiah Risley, Virginia Militia. He marched through Virginia in pursuit of Cornwallis and encamped at Williamsburg. He applied for pension on March 24, 1834, at the age of seventy-nine from Marion County, Illinois. On the application he had Lewis Johnson and David Chance as character witnesses. Joel Manning, Justice of the Peace of Jackson County, Illinois, certified that Ebenezer Pyatt testified that he and Samuel Eblin served together in the Revolutionary War, and that Pyatt was a credible person. The pension was granted effective March 4, 1837 at the rate of Twenty Dollars per annum. Samuel Eblin applied for a new certificate, as his first one was lost during a severe illness while being moved from Illinois to Indiana near the state line. His wife was with him, and he was paid to September 4, 1837. He moved to Marion County, Illinois, and died there.

PETER FINN was born July 2, 1751, in Baltimore County, Maryland. He enlisted in 1778 for nine months under Captain John Murray and Colonel Archibald Thompson, Maryland troops. He again enlisted in North Carolina in 1779 with Captain Valentine Sevier, Colonel Benjamin Carter and Colonel Charles Robertson. He again served as Sergeant in 1780 for three months with Captain Valentine Sevier and Colonel John Sevier, North Carolina troops. He removed to Kentucky, and from there he applied for a pension. He came to Marion County, Illinois, in 1837 and died there. He was pensioned. He lies buried at McClelland-Deadmond Cemetery.

WILLIAM GASTON was born in South Carolina, and served in the Revolution from that state. He enlisted five times. First, in 1775 for two months, again in 1776 for one year and four months, and again he served for two months in 1777. He again

served in 1780 for one year, and in 1781 for one year with Captains Thomas Marshall, John McClure and John Steele. He was in several battles, notably King's Mountain, Hooks Defeat and Hanging Rock. He early came to Illinois, settling at Devil's Bake Oven in 1814. He is said to have been a great singer. He died in Marion County and is buried in Old Covenanter Cemetery, a country cemetery near the church of the same name located east of Walnut Hill. On his monument is inscribed, "Served under Washington." He was pensioned. (EDITORIAL NOTE: See other notes on William Gaston elsewhere in this book.)

MICHAEL LUTTRELL was born in Virginia in October, 1751, in Fauquier County. He served in 1781 under Captain George Shelton and Colonel William Churchill; again the same year with Captain Thomas Helm and Major John Chun in the Virginia troops. He removed to Illinois, settling in Marion County, near Salem. He died December 19, 1844, and was buried at Haddon Cemetery, Omega Township, near Juka. He was pensioned.

JOSEPH MORRISON was born November 30, 1759, in Martinsburg, Berkley County, Virginia. He was drafted and served nine months in 1776 under Captains John Lyle, Anthony Odel and Jacob Linder, with Colonels John Morrow and William Morrow. He aided in erecting Fort McIntosh, and was at the surrender of Yonktown. He came to Marion County, Illinois, and died there August 23, 1835. He was pensioned, and his widow, Elizabeth, drew a pension after his death. He is buried at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Raccoon Township.

GEORGE ROPER was from North Carolina and served in the Revolution from that state under Captain Anthony Sharp, in the Tenth Regiment, and was discharged April 15, 1782. He removed to Illinois, residing in Clinton County, later in Jefferson County, but was in Marion County at the time he died on February 28, 1845 at the age of ninety-three. He was buried in Old Walnut Hill Cemetery northwest of Walnut Hill, Illinois, where many believe that Marion County's first school and first church were located. He was pensioned.

SAMUEL YOUNG was born May 7, 1762, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted May 7, 1778 for three months with Captain Samuel Young and Colonel Dougherty in the Pennsylvania troops. He enlisted again in 1781 for three months with Captain James Montgomery and Colonel William Campbell in the Virginia troops, and again in 1782 for three months with the same officers. After the war he removed to Rowan County, North Carolina; then to Rutherford County, then to Spartanburg County, South Carolina; then to Franklin County, Georgia; then to Sumner County, Tennessee; then to Logan County, Kentucky, then to Indiana; to Gallatin County, Illinois, and later to Marion County. He was the first settler in Marion County, Illinois, settling in August, 1813, on Vermillion Creek, west of Salem. Later in life he was called Captain. He was pensioned. He died in 1846 and was buried in the Young Cemetery. (EDITORIAL NOTE: See a more extended biography of Samuel Young elsewhere in this book.)

*ALMA*

*Alma is a lively little town located on State Highway 37 and the Illinois Central Railroad. The village is on the north-west corner of the township.*

*The village was first laid out by John S. Martin in 1854, and the Martin, French and Tilden additions were platted about the same time. It was first named Rantoul, after an officer of the railroad, but another town in the state had appropriated that name and it was changed to Grand Mound City; in 1855 the name was changed to Alma.*

*Doctor Hutton built the first stone house in 1853, and was the first postmaster of the village. Smith and Hawkins conducted the first blacksmith shop, and John Ross had the first grist and saw mill. Rev. Jefferson was the first Christian preacher. Rev. Ross was instrumental in building the first church, in which he preached for several years. The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1871.*

*The first school house was burned and the second was built in 1866 and 1867. It was a two-room building. Some of the members of the Christian Church conceived the thought of a Christian College at Alma. The Rosses and others gave land and money, and a good two-story structure was built and a college opened. After a few years the property was sold to the district for public school purposes.*

*On December 28, 1908, fire broke out in a hay barn and destroyed the entire business part of Alma. Several stores, warehouses, shops and restaurants were burned, and as all were of frame construction, the loss was total. Before the ashes were really cold, the debris was cleared away and preparations for substantial brick buildings were under way.*

*The Ross name has been associated with Alma history since shortly after the founding of the village. The family of W. S. Ross, father of J. J. Ross, came to Alma from the northern part of Illinois in 1866. In 1871 the Ross family moved westward, eventually settling in Texas where they remained until 1885 when they returned to Alma.*

In 1881 the netted Gem Melon was first introduced to the public. This variety was destined to revolutionize the melon industry of America. It was tested for a few years, and in 1885 was grown for market in a small way by W. S. Ross at Alma and by J. W. Eastwood of Rocky Ford, California.

Having more melons than his local market could consume, Mr. Ross shipped two barrels of them to Chicago in August, 1885. These were the first melons of this type ever seen on the Chicago market and they were the occasion of considerable amusement on South Water Street when the barrels were opened. The melons seemed ridiculously small as compared with the Hackensack and other melons then on the market. However, after the flavor had been tasted, the melons were readily sold and an order for all that could be furnished for the next year was speeded to Mr. Ross.

The next year, Mr. Ross planted twenty acres and a few years later ninety acres of these melons. Soon a number of his neighbors began planting them, and the industry grew at Alma until the shipments reached from ten to fifteen carloads a day. In 1900, 253 carloads of "Alma Gems" were shipped. In the meantime the industry had spread to other points in Illinois, including Anna and Balcom in the southern part of the state.

As the growing of Gem Melons spread to other sections of the state and the markets became supplied with melons from those sections, the people of Alma and vicinity turned to growing other fruits, principally pears, apples and peaches.

The Alma area also raises the jonquil. These flowers are shipped to a Chicago market. About a hundred acres is in jonquils, and the acreage was increasing until a few years ago.

Many of the peach and pear trees have been pulled and today Alma is a grain and cattle raising area.

The school of Alma is in a unit system and is consolidated with Kirmundy as the Kirmundy-Alma Unit. The attendance center of Alma includes six grades. Junior High and High School are located at Kirmundy.

-- Mrs. Earl Jackson

*SILAS L. BRYAN*

*Like many of her other families, this citizen of Salem descended from a family from an eastern state. Silas L. Bryan was a native of Culpepper County, Virginia, and was born there on November 4, 1822. His parents were John and Nancy Lillard Bryan. John Bryan's ancestors came from Ireland, and Nancy Lillard Bryan's forebears were of English nationality.*

*Silas Bryan had the honor of being a native of the state that saw the first white settlement in the New World. There were many Bryans and Lillards in the eastern part of Virginia in the early part of the Nineteenth Century. In religious and political life these families were believers in the Baptist faith and catered to the Democratic Party.*

*Judge Bryan (as Silas was known in later life) had the misfortune of losing both of his parents long before he had reached a state of maturity. His mother passed away first, when he was nine years of age. He had hardly become adjusted to living the life of a motherless boy when his father passed away during his twelfth year. Silas continued to live in his native state for another six years following his father's death. In the year of 1840, Silas decided to "go west" and his westward journey took him to a brother of his who lived near Troy, Missouri, in Lincoln County, Missouri.*

*Silas Bryan was possessed with a desire for culture and was keenly interested in education. He remained with his brother for eighteen months, and while here was a student at an academy that was located in that area.*

*Silas had a sister whose married name was Nancy Baltzell who was residing in Marion County, Illinois. In 1841, he decided to leave the home of his brother in Missouri and to establish residence with his sister Nancy. The father of the "Great Commoner" lived with his sister and her family for approximately four years. While living in her home he continued his studies in local schools and worked part time on a farm until he felt that he was sufficiently trained to teach in local schools.*

In 1845, near the time that the War with Mexico began, as Silas had a desire for still higher education, he enrolled in the well-known Methodist school known as McKendree College at Lebanon Illinois, and graduated from college in 1849.

Silas had a desire for both the teaching and the legal professions. He taught for some years, studying law during his spare time. In 1851, he was admitted to practice law in Illinois. The year before he was admitted to the bar he was elected Superintendent of Schools of Marion, County, Illinois. This was for a two-year term instead of a four-year term as is the case at the present.

One place where Silas Bryan was employed as a teacher of the school was at Walnut Hill, Illinois, which is one of, if not the, oldest villages in Marion County. One historian reports that one of his students who was twelve years his junior later became Mrs. Silas Bryan. Her maiden name was Mariah Elizabeth Jennings. If early reports are correct, Elizabeth (as she was usually called) was born May 24, 1834, near Walnut Hill. She was of English descent.

Some time after the arrival of the Jennings family in the New World, they moved from Maryland to Kentucky, and like many other families, they decided to move to the Illinois Country. The family started with their heavy crude wagon and the small amount of furniture that they could take along, going in a northwesterly direction. As was the custom, the men were wearing homespun clothing on their journey. After crossing the Ohio River (which some people regarded as the dividing line between the North and "Dixieland"), they continued overland until they reached the historic and frontier village of Walnut Hill. The Jennings family decided to make this community their permanent home.

As mentioned above, the acquaintance between teacher and student later turned to romance. It will be interesting to know the marriage of Silas Bryan and Elizabeth Jennings was solemnized the day that Silas was thirty years of age... November 4, 1852. Early history does not record whether the wedding date was planned to occur on the bridegroom's birthday or whether it

just happened that way.

The village of Walnut Hill had its beginning well over a century ago. It was one of the first settlements of Marion County, being located a few miles southeast of Centralia, and is rich with early history of Marion County. Near the middle of the Nineteenth Century the residents of this quiet community that depended largely on agriculture for its economic well being could not foresee that a daughter of their community would later give birth to a son whose name would be written on the halls of fame and who would go down in history as one of the nation's strongest defenders of democracy and the well being of his fellow men. Silas and Elizabeth Bryan when they took the solemn marriage vows at a quiet and simple home wedding could not know that they would have the honor and personal pride of being the parents of William, who would arise from a quiet life in Salem, Illinois, to the point where he would later in life be highly rated as the silver-tongued orator of his day, and be rated as one of the greatest statesmen who ever hailed from the Western Hemisphere.

Silas and Elizabeth were the parents of nine children. One of their sons, Charles, became governor of Nebraska and was the Democratic nominee for Vice President in 1924. His running mate was Governor Cox from Ohio. This was the year that Calvin Coolidge was elected for a full term, with Charles G. Dawes being elected as Vice President.

Silas Bryan catered to political science as well as to law and the teaching profession. Two years after he was elected County Superintendent of Schools, he was elected to the State Senate, and he was re-elected in 1856. Young Professor Bryan aspired to a judge-ship, and he was elected Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial District of Illinois in 1861. He began his duties as a jurist the year that the Civil War started. Judge Bryan succeeded himself on the circuit bench in 1867. His second election to the bench occurred the year that Cwing College, the well-known Baptist school in Franklin County, Illinois, was organized.

In 1869, Silas Bryan was chosen as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of Illinois. It is reported that he showed active participation in the parliamentary proceedings of this august body.

Judge Bryan was a firm believer in the Supreme Being, and it is reported that at one time during his career he was stricken gravely ill, and indications were that it might be fatal. He resolved to God that if he was permitted to survive his illness that he would pray to him each day for the remainder of his life, and he kept his vow, we are told.

#### WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

March 19, 1860, was a date that was to become important in the field of American history. The county seat of Marion County, Illinois, could not have even a faint idea this day one year and one month prior to the beginning of the Civil War that their community would one be known in later years as the birthplace of this one who was destined for fame. The personality to whom we refer bore the immortal name of William Jennings Bryan. After he arose to nation-wide fame, his fellow men across the nation hailed him as "The Great Commoner." He was the son of Silas L. and Mariah Elizabeth (Jennings) Bryan of whom we have just read.

The youthful days of W. J. Bryan were spent in the small community (as it was at that time) of his birthplace, Salem, Illinois. He had the opportunity of growing up in a clean environment in more ways than one. He was a member of a family that believed in good citizenship, good morals, honesty and fair dealing with one's fellow men, obedience to law and order, and faithful attendance of worship services of the church of their faith. In addition to this, it was his privilege to be brought up in a clean community. The place of his birth was and is one of the cleanest and healthiest communities in "Little Egypt." The city and rural community surrounding it leads a clean and prosperous type of life. The town had no slum areas and no

undesirable neighborhoods. This kind of environment helped to make and mold the mind of the boy who would later cause his home town to be known from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Some historians contend that "Billy" Bryan was an average student in the elementary schools. Be that as it may, and we have no comment to offer in this regard, after reaching adulthood his participation in public life proved that he was one of America's most brilliant students of political science, as well as one of her most fluent and dynamic speakers.

It is evident that William Bryan at an early age had aspirations for the kind of vocation that he followed after reaching manhood. Whether any of this is due to heredity is a matter of conjecture. As stated elsewhere in this volume, his father, Silas Bryan, catered to the teaching and legal professions. Legal science was the principal choice as a vocation for Silas Bryan.

While William J. Bryan was growing up in his early home in Salem, he like other boys of his age was accustomed to athletics and the many games that boys have always liked to play. One of his favorite sports was baseball, which he played a great deal. He also enjoyed jumping contests, and took a great deal of interest in this sport. During his early life there were times when he jumped farther than any other boy in the neighborhood.

Judge and Mrs. Bryan established a farm home of five hundred acres northwest of Salem and moved there when William was six years of age. They had constructed a beautiful brick home on this estate, and Billy had the privilege of handing bricks to the brickmasons, which made him feel that he had assisted in building the new family home. Most, if not all, of the land that formerly was the Bryan farm is now a part of the City of Salem. A portion of it is referred to as "Deer Park". It is reported that the family kept some deer on their farm, hence the name "Deer Park."

When the new farm home was completed, the family moved from the two-story frame building in Salem to their beautiful new home "out in the country", as it was at that time. Some earlier writers say that William J. Bryan helped "do the chores" such as carrying in wood to keep plenty of fire in the wood burning

stoves, milking the cows and feeding the livestock that was kept on the farm.

William's desire in early life was different to that of many boys of his age. Many boys between the ages of ten and twenty have desires for the lighter things in life. Some become engaged in factory work in early manhood, some are employed in coal mines, some seek employment with railroads, others cater to agriculture, while others seek various other vocations and employment to earn a livelihood. At the age of fifteen, William was ready for entrance in preparatory school. After leaving Salem, he was first enrolled in Whipple Academy, which was the preparatory department of Illinois College at Jacksonville, Illinois. When he made this departure from his home town, a new part of his life was beginning for him. Whether he knew it or not, he was now launching out into a career that would carry him to the highest rung on the ladder of fame.

His desire for oratory and public debate was shown at an early age in life. When debates were to be held in school, or speeches were to be given by students, in nearly all contests William would enter the contest and was considered a difficult opponent by other members of the class. He was not able to win first place in some of the first debates that he engaged in as a student; but the disappointment of not winning first prize in a contest of this kind did not lower his morale or cause him to lose a desire for the art of oratory.

"Billy's" first experience in the field of American politics on a national level occurred in the year of 1876, when he was sixteen years of age. This was the centennial year of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. A centennial celebration was being held in historic Philadelphia, the city that carried the name "Cradle of Liberty", and this observance was being held simultaneously with the Democratic National Convention that was in session in St. Louis. Young William Bryan was very anxious to see and hear at least a part of a conclave of this kind, as he had never yet had a chance to attend a national convention. He

journeyed to the city that is situated on the banks of the "Father of Waters" and succeeded in obtaining admission to the convention hall. He observed very closely the proceedings of the convention and listened to the political fireworks from the orators of the day; and he found it to be a thrilling event that filled him with enthusiasm.

There are strong indications that this convention inspired "Billy" to the point that he had a burning desire at this early age to become an orator. The political orators at this presidential convention, while they were expounding their philosophies of "government of the people, by the people and for the people", could not know that a sixteen-year-old boy was sitting in the audience who would in a score of years be delivering speeches before large audiences that would cause the convention speakers to be forgotten.

This political event took place eleven years after the Civil War came to an end. To a certain extent the Southland was still in a state of reconstruction and still suffering unhealed wounds, and both the North and the South were trying to heal their physical and mental suffering from the great conflict that had come to a close so recently. This first great political assembly that young Bryan witnessed brought about the nomination of Tilden as the Democratic candidate for the presidency. In a few short months Bryan's interest in the political arena was stirred to a higher degree. The presidential election that was held on November 7th of that year is the only disputed election for the presidency that the United States has ever experienced.

The first returns that were flashed over the telegraph wires reported that Mr. Tilden was elected. The following day, later returns showed that his opponent, Rutherford B. Hayes, was the victor, by an extremely close margin, many votes being contested. The electoral commission was appointed on January 30, 1877, to decide the issue. On March 7th Mr. Hayes departed from his home for the White House, though he was not yet declared elected. The following day Hayes was officially declared the victor, and two days later he was inaugurated. This stirring

series of events must have had a great bearing on the young mind that would within a score of years become a presidential aspirant. It is believed that the excitement across the nation over the results of this election must have influenced the thinking and helped to mold the mind of the boy from Salem who had such great aspirations to climb the ladder of fame.

William J. Bryan learned early in life that study and practice were necessary to achieve the goal of becoming the "silver-tongued" orator in later life. While a student at Illinois College he entered an oratorical contest that was held in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1880 and was given second place with a prize of fifty dollars. General John C. Black, who was recognized as a great orator himself, was one of the judges; General Black marked him one hundred on delivery. William's school record shows that he made steady improvement in the field of oratory while in college. In 1881 he had made such rapid progress that he stood at the head of his class and delivered the valedictory.

As young Bryan had decided on a legal career and had some years before given up the idea of becoming a clergyman, he was now ready to enter a law school. Shortly after his graduation from Illinois College he enrolled in the Union Law College at Chicago. While a student at Union, he also studied in the law office of Lyman Trumbull. By pursuing a course of this kind he was getting both resident training and a study of the statutes as well as learning how to proceed with cases in court.

In the short space of two years after entering the law college, William Jennings Bryan was ready to begin the practice of his chosen profession. After being admitted to the bar, he returned to his native city and won his fee in the county court of Marion County. His stay in Salem was of short duration, as he soon went to Jacksonville, Illinois. Strangely, he began his practice, on Independence Day, 1883. When the young lawyer began his practice, he shared office space with the firm of Brown and Kirby of Jacksonville.

The young attorney, who was now twenty-three years of age, was faced with a situation that many young professional men have experienced when they began the practice of their chosen profession. Faced with competition of older lawyers who had their practice established, the problem was to build up a clientele to earn a livelihood. The latter months of 1883 were trying times for William J. Bryan, and it has been reported that he was forced to draw advances from his father's estate to pay his current expenses. Being unable to get enough clients the first few months of his practice to care for current expenses, his discouragement became so intense that he gave serious consideration of giving up the legal profession and seeking some other pursuit in life.

The early part of 1884 saw a change in young Bryan's life. His prospective clients were beginning to realize the ability of the young attorney who hailed from Salem, Illinois. As a result of this, the new year began to bring business to the office of W. J. Bryan, attorney-at-law. The discouragement that he had experienced a few months earlier was now vanishing away, and new encouragement took its place. He gave up the idea of discontinuing the legal profession and decided to stay in Jacksonville.

As the outlook on life was brighter and he felt that he could see a successful career ahead, William decided that the time had come when he should consider having the "holy bonds of wedlock" woven into his life. October 1, 1884, saw the wedding of Miss Mary Baird of Perry, Illinois, and William Jennings Bryan. William and Mary (as far as we have been able to determine) made their new home in Jacksonville for about three years.

In the year of 1887, William was called on business to a western state, and while on this trip he met an old classmate, A. R. Talbott, and spent one Sunday with him. Talbott was located in Lincoln, Nebraska. The capital of this state was growing rapidly and Bryan was greatly impressed with what he learned about Lincoln and its possibilities for a young attorney.

When Bryan returned to his home in Jacksonville, he was very eager to move to Lincoln and begin practice in that city. He and Mrs. Bryan began to make preparations to move to Nebraska. After they were located in their new home, a partnership was formed between Talbott and Bryan. The law firm engaged in a healthy practice for the three years following.

It is common knowledge that William J. Bryan had a love for political science equally as strong as his love for the legal profession. The desire for participation in the American political system followed him throughout his life. This was soon evidenced after he was settled in his new home in Lincoln. His fellow townsmen soon learned that he was active in the Democratic Party. He made his first political speech in Seward, Nebraska, in the early part of 1888. The influential Democrats in that area decided that the newcomer would be of good use to their party. In a short time after he delivered his arousing speech at Seward, he was chosen as a delegate to the Nebraska State Democratic Convention. During the canvass of the First Congressional District of that State, Bryan delivered a series of speeches in favor of J. Sterling Morton. Bryan spoke in thirty-four counties for the Democratic ticket of Nebraska.

The people of the state where he was to make his future home began quickly to realize that the man that Salem, Illinois, had produced twenty-eight years prior had the ability and willingness to be very active in the affairs of the Democratic organization in Nebraska. He did not have to be a resident of Nebraska for ten to fifteen years, as is the case with some people, in order to gain statewide influence. In 1890 he had become so well known over Nebraska that the people decided to send him to Congress. His plurality over his opponent, J. J. Connell, was 6,713. Next term, Bryan was elected to succeed himself. The Republican state ticket carried the district by a plurality of 6,500; but in spite of this, William Jennings Bryan carried his district as a candidate for Congress by a majority of one hundred forty votes. Mr. Bryan seemed to enjoy the four years that he

spent in Congress. He was very active in debate on many issues and delivered many speeches on the floor of the House. Next election time, Bryan declined to be a candidate again for Congress, but later permitted the Democratic leaders to place him in the senatorial race. He was defeated for this office by Mr. Thurston, who was the Republican nominee.

Four years prior to the turn of the century, Salem's native son sprang into the political limelight on a national level. The Democratic National Convention of 1896 was held at Chicago. The convention opened on Independence Day. One of the most discussed issues, and the one that caused the most heated debate, was the discussion of the monetary plank that was to go in their platform. Some of the so-called "bigwigs" favored free coinage of silver, but many of the other delegates opposed it. Some very strong speeches were delivered both for and against the issue by some of the master minds of the Democratic organization. The Committee favored the free coinage of silver. Thus, debating of the issue grew intense and controversial. It fell the lot of William J. Bryan to close the debate.

Perhaps it was a surprise to many at the convention as to millions across the nation, what the conclusion of that conclave would be. On this occasion, Bryan was at his best. He delivered some of the greatest oratory of his life. His strong, convincing arguments favoring the free coinage of silver, delivered so eloquently and with such dynamic force, caused the delegates to be carried away. His audience became captivated as the result of the great oratorical power that the speaker was demonstrating. This masterpiece of oratory swayed the convention to such an extent that the result on July 10th, six days after this historic convention assembled, was that Mr. Bryan was nominated for the presidency on the fifth ballot. From this time on, as long as he stayed on earth, he was recognized as one of the nation's most influential students and active participants of political science.

"The Great Commoner" conducted a colorful campaign, but

he was defeated by William McKinley. His defeat at the polls lost him no confidence at all on his ability in the conduct of public affairs.

We have seen the "Great Commoner" as a lawyer, a politician and an exponent of the better things of life. Now we see him in a military capacity. The United States was now becoming engaged in a conflict where it would enforce the Monroe Doctrine. We were now becoming involved in a war with Spain. Under cover of darkness on the night of February 15, 1898, the Battleship *MAIN* which was in the Havana harbor, was blown up. The explosion was the signal announcing to the people of America that we were on the brink of war.

Bryan had a question to decide as he debated with himself. Would he join the armed forces, or should he stay at home? After some deliberation, he decided to offer his services in the Army. He sent a telegram to President McKinley on April 25, 1898, offering his services to the flag. Soon after, Governor Lon V. Stephens of Missouri sent a wire to Bryan and offered him a colonel's commission and the command of a volunteer regiment. Mr. Bryan declined this offer, and in a very short time Governor Holcomb of Nebraska appointed him commander of a regiment from that state with the rank of colonel. Colonel Bryan was so popular that thirty organizations made application for a place in his regiment. He selected twelve, two from each congressional district of his state, and the newly appointed commander started toward the war zone.

The press was as eager to follow his military movements as they had been to observe and report his activities in civil life. For some time his movements in the Army were given front page interest. Colonel Bryan mustered into service the Third Nebraska Volunteer Regiment on July 13, 1898, at Fort Omaha. Mrs. Bryan and the children witnessed this event. Colonel Bryan was mounted on his shiny black Kentucky horse named "Governor". He rode out in front of the regiment to take command. This was a strange and very unusual sight for his family to watch. The

sun was shining brightly and his sword was glittering as he rode away. The personnel of the newly organized regiment fell in line, and the sound of feet marching in formation and the flutter of the Stars and Stripes in the breeze was an event that remained in the memory of all who saw it. As this was W. J. Bryan's first experience in military life, it was difficult for his family, as well as for countless thousands of others, fully to realize that the man who was wearing the insignia and uniform of an army colonel was the man who had delivered the "Cross of Gold" speech two years before.

In the Bryan Museum at Salem, Illinois (which is the building where W. J. Bryan was born), among other things there are to be found: a bolt-action rifle furnished him by the Regiment and presented to the museum by Mrs. Bryan; a Spanish War uniform with letters on the collar "U S V 3 11eb", meaning Third Nebraska Regiment. On the uniform is a medal with the inscription, "For Service in the Spanish War." This was presented by his youngest daughter, Grace Bryan Hargraves. Also in this collection is the flag that draped his casket while enroute from Dayton, Tennessee to Arlington National Cemetery.

While Bryan was very popular with people during his stay with the armed forces, including both soldiers and civilians, military life was not the choice of the "Commoner." He said on one occasion, "An army is the personification of force. It does not deliberate, but shoots; it does not reason, it commands."

Regular formality and army discipline did not meet with Bryan's taste, and the famed orator did not find it congenial. Colonel Bryan was in the armed forces for approximately seven months. He sent a telegram to the War Department dated December 12, 1898, stating that "Dispatches from Paris announce the terms of the treaty and that the commissioners will sign. Believing that under present conditions I can be more useful to my country as a civilian than as a soldier, I tender my resignation to take effect immediately upon acceptance."

Immediately after Bryan wired his resignation, the news

spread across the country. His regiment showed more regret of his returning to civilian life than any other group. A scene occurred the morning that Bryan left his regiment that seldom happens in a military organization. Mr. Ben Bride, who witnessed the colonel's departure, reported that the entire regiment assembled the morning that their commander left and said good-bye to them. The troops were nearly all young men who had a warm feeling for their colonel, and their affections were so strong that tears were seen streaming down their cheeks. Bride said that it was one of the saddest departures that he had ever witnessed as Mr. Bryan rushed away to catch the first train to Washington. It was reported the ratification of the treaty was in danger; Mr. Bryan was much concerned about this treaty, and he was very anxious to be in the capital city when debate and discussion were under way.

It is common knowledge that another colonel who later became president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, won the glory and honor of handling the Rough Riders by ignoring his superior officers and charging San Juan Hill. But it is our candid opinion that W. J. Bryan's intellectual powers were more important in Washington regarding ratification of a treaty, for the safety and welfare of the country, than he could use his military authority as a colonel in the army.

Shortly after the immortal "Commoner" removed his colonel's uniform, he again plunged into the field of political science. Some writers would say that the most important epoch of Bryan's life was shortly after he became a civilian, when he began to give his views on imperialism. Many times imperialism is grossly misunderstood. There are many that advocate imperialism on the ground that "might makes right." Bryan and Lincoln differed on partisan affairs, but both clung to the belief that "Right makes might." Salem's famous son held a firm belief that the majority of the people, regardless of race, creed or color should be the deciding factor when it came to deciding major questions. Throughout his life he held a strong conviction that the principles of democracy should be the basis of government. By that we mean

that all people should have a voice in the function of their governmental units from a precinct level to the Congress of the United States.

The "Commoner" could not be led to believe that one nation has a just right to seize, conquer and control another nation merely because it might be militarily strong enough to do so. This would usually lead to the establishment of a dictatorship and cause the enslavement of the inhabitants of the conquered nation. The firm belief that people all over the earth should have the right to establish their own government and maintain it as they chose; that they should have access to the world's goods through the channels of commerce; that no foreign invader should enter their borders without their consent; that the peoples everywhere should have a chance to exchange their products with other nations of the things they need and want; that they should have the right to promote the cause of education for the benefit of their children; that they should have the opportunity of improving their health standards by the eradication of common diseases; that their rights to improve their culture should be protected; their advancement of civilization should not be hindered; and they should have the right at all times to worship their creator in whatever way that their consciences directed them: this was the philosophy that the "Great Commoner" maintained throughout his existence on earth.

At the turn of the century, the country saw two national conventions assembled in 1900. In the Democratic organization the name of William J. Bryan was still paramount. His defeat four years earlier seemed to have increased his popularity with many Democratic voters across the country. Apparently, he was greater in defeat than many men are in success. His influence and popularity were so strong among those that follow the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson that he was nominated for the presidency the second consecutive time. Bryan lost this race, as McKinley was the Republican nominee and was reelected to the presidency.

In 1904 the Democratic National Convention nominated Alton B. Parker from New York State. The Democratic leaders learned they had gained almost nothing as a result of this convention. The party suffered a crushing blow in that they experienced the worst defeat since the period of John Quincy Adams.

When the next national convention convened in 1908, the delegates decided that they wanted Bryan to head their party and he was nominated for the third time. His opponent was William Howard Taft. The results of this election was that Bryan again was defeated in the race. It will be interesting, we believe, to the reader to know that Taft is as far as we can learn the only person who has held the two highest offices in the nation--he had the honor of being President of the United States and at a later period was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Man's highest achievement in life is not necessarily a home in the White House for a few years. While William J. Bryan never occupied the famous building at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D. C., he made certain achievements during his stay on earth that were never accomplished by any president of the United States.

One of the things that caused his name to be written in the halls of fame was his desire to protect the rights of the so-called common man. Regardless of whether a man is possessed with culture or wealth or both, or whether he is a victim of ignorance or poverty or both, he still holds as stated in the Declaration of Independence certain inalienable rights. This knowledge of the rights of the human being, and the conviction that his rights should always be recognized, was a principle that Mr. Bryan nurtured throughout his life.

Another attribute that the "Great Commoner" possessed that caused untold millions to respect and admire him was his love and devotion to his Christian faith. He was never fearful of publicly expressing his views on Christianity and its value to humanity. He delivered many lectures pointing out his firm belief in a life after death and the immortality of the human soul.

*It is an interesting fact that the house where William J. Bryan was born is still standing in Salem and is in a good state of preservation. The building was erected in 1852 and has stood the storms and the weather for over a century. The house is located on South Broadway about midway between the public square and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. From the time that this railroad was built until 1872 it was known as the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad.*

*This historic landmark was built the year that Silas L. Bryan and Mariah Elizabeth Jennings, his parents, were married. We do not know whether or not the building was ready for occupancy prior to their marriage. As stated elsewhere in this volume, Silas and Elizabeth were married on November 4, 1852. William stated in the latter years of his life that his father, who was a young lawyer at the time of his marriage, assisted in hewing logs that were to be used in the construction of the house.*

*The Bryan birthplace is now a museum and is visited by many people every year. It is easily reached, being located on Illinois Route 37, which runs in a north-south direction past it. The museum was originally located a few feet north of its present location, where the Bryan-Bennett Library is now located at the intersection of Elm Street and South Broadway in Salem. Then the present library was built in 1908, it was decided to move the dwelling where Mr. Bryan was born a few feet south and to construct the library on the ground where the house was originally located. The museum contains many historic items of importance that may be seen the year round by the interested visitor.*

*The Great Commoner was doubly attached to the building where he first saw light of the world, and some time after he had reached manhood he purchased the building and gave it to the City of Salem. It was reported by a former custodian that the Commoner was born in the northwest room on the first floor of the building.*

*The museum is maintained by the City of Salem with assistance by the local chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The*

present custodians are Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Knight.

While residing at this famous historic landmark as a small child, the boy who possessed oratorical inclinations had some sterling thoughts injected into his mind. At an early age his devout parents taught him the supreme value of christianity and the importance of using it as a guide throughout his entire life. They also molded into his mind the fact that justice, equality and the rights of his fellowmen should always be preserved.

If only this museum could speak audibly, it could look back more than a century and could relate its being occupied in the middle of the nineteenth century by a young attorney and his wife who were setting up a household for themselves and who would rear a family that would make its mark in the world. This house could remember seeing a great division arise between the northern and southern sections of the country. It could inform the pilgrim of this century of the men that left Marion County for service in the Union Army during the Civil War.

It could also relate of seeing the great transition of a village changing with the times and growing into one of Southern Illinois' most respectable communities.

This early-day residence could also tell of a baby boy born under her roof and growing from a state of infancy up through childhood and later into renowned adulthood. Though he left the house at an early age, his doings were well known to all Salem. This building could also inform the visitor of hearing of this young man arising to national prominence, and in the golden years of his life being nationally acclaimed the silver-tongued speaker of the land that lies between the two oceans. This structure while reminiscing could recall hearing of her famous son being so highly acclaimed by the partisan organization of his choice that he was thrice nominated for the presidency of the United States. In calling back over the decades and scores of years, this landmark could distinctly remember hearing of her former resident delivering the masterpiece of oratory in 1876 that was known as "The Cross of Gold Speech."

Also, if this century-old structure could speak with an audible voice, it could say that it knew of its native son as a colonel with the Third Regiment of Nebraska Volunteers during the Spanish-American War. This nineteenth century building could tell the traveller who stops to visit the museum that her former occupant who came into the world at this place went on finally to become Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson during the First World War.

In addition, the home that furnished shelter and comfort for her son whose name was written on the halls of fame could proudly tell the world that in the closing years of his life he stoutly defended and publicly proclaimed the great lesson that was taught him under the roof of this building, that christianity is priceless in its value to humanity and that it must forever be expounded as long as man shall remain on earth.

The Great Commoner had many experiences during his life. Nearly all of his adult life was spent in the public arena. Many events in which he participated helped to make Mr. Bryan the noted personality that he became. Some of the things that caused him to win nation wide fame were: his ability as an orator; his being a delegate to several Democratic National Conventions; his service in Congress; his ability as an attorney; the handling of cases for his clients in a courtroom; his being the only candidate of the party of his choice who was three times nominated for the presidency of the United States; his service as Secretary of State, making him a member of the president's cabinet during World War One; and he was considered by many as being one of the nation's most capable Sunday School class teachers.

What was Mr. Bryan's greatest achievement: Some may contend one thing, while others may hold some other accomplishment as greater.

It is our candid opinion that one of the greatest of all in which William J. Bryan participated was in the closing weeks

of his life. This event was the famous Tennessee trial that was later called "The Trial that Rocked the Nation."

Strange as it may seem, the defendant, John Thomas Scopes, had been a member of the Salem, Illinois, high school graduating class in 1919, and William J. Bryan had delivered the commencement address. Six years later, after Scopes had become a faculty member in the school system at Dayton, Tennessee, the man who had given his commencement address was called upon to assist the State of Tennessee in his prosecution.

Scopes was charged with violating a Tennessee statute that prohibits the teaching of evolution. The thing about this legal battle was the fact that the trial within itself was of such little significance. In addition to that, the penalty that the legislature provided was mild: if found guilty, the court could assess a fine, but it could not be a large one and no imprisonment could result.

Even though the charge itself was not serious as looked at from a legal point of view, it aroused the interest of newsmen who seized upon it as an opportunity for selling news.

The chief defense counsel, Clarence Darrow, and his assistants were not only attempting to have their client acquitted but seemed to be trying to prove to the jury and spectators as well as the reading public that the human race was not the purposeful work of a supreme being, but that the slow, purposeless, ineffectual process somehow through accident developed through stages accidentally into the shape of man.

The famous son of Salem, Illinois, William J. Bryan, acting as chief prosecutor for Tennessee, had more than a legal stake and interest in the matter.

The trial was considered something new in legal history. At one point during the trial, Darrow put the chief prosecutor on the stand. The questions from Darrow and the answers from Bryan dealt with the ideas as to whether a God in the heavens was the creating source of man as well as of everything else that exists. Strange as it would seem, the presiding judge permitted

this round of questioning to continue. What purpose it served, nobody knows. It could have made no difference as to the laws of Tennessee.

This historic and very unusual legal clash in this Tennessee community was watched from every section of the nation. The interest in this trial became intense and was read daily in the newspapers. The contest evolved into a case of christianity versus evolution, and the oral battle was fought by two of America's most capable attorneys.

At times the defense counsel would become enraged with anger if the reaction of the spectators was not to his liking (and very often it was not). This did not seem to cause any alarm on the part of William J. Bryan. Despite the fact that he was being opposed by one of the most brilliant personalities on the subject that could be found in America, Bryan seemed to take the case calmly. He did not feel there was any conflict between true science and true christianity.

In view of the fact that weather conditions were uncomfortable, battling this case in July weather in a small crowded courtroom, the desire of the American press to follow the daily proceedings was so urgent and the reporters and photographers were so numerous that it began to seem that they would soon equal the town's regular population.

We have not heard of another case in the civil courts that was conducted like this one. This was unprecedented in the American court system, and the eyes of the nation were centered on this small city in southeastern Tennessee. As air conditioning was not, of course, yet available, thus making conditions in the courtroom so hot and humid as to be almost unbearable, and as the newsmen and spectators were so numerous, Judge Raulston issued an order that the latter part of the trial to be held on the lawn of the courtyard.

As pointed out before, the interest in this event was unparalleled in the field. Many thousands across the country went to the newstands every morning to get a paper to read the proceedings

of what had happened the preceding day in Dayton, Tennessee. The believers in christianity and those that clung to the theory of evolution were keenly watching the principles of the two great issues being publicly exposed. Naturally, there was much debate between those who knew little about either subject, and whose minds were so prejudiced that they could not or would not see what many men of science are not admitting -- that the Bible, though by no means a scientific book, urges an open mind and a search for truth, along with an attitude of moral rectitude and toleration of the other fellow.

Indications are that the jury had reached a decision before they went into seclusion for their deliberations. According to Scopes, the jury deliberated only nine minutes before they returned the verdict of "guilty." Thus ended the great legal battle that made Dayton, Tennessee, known all over America. It will be interesting to know that William J. Bryan was prevented from presenting his closing argument to the jury. The plan was for one of the attorneys for the state to present the first portion of the closing arguments, then Darrow to present the closing argument for the defense, and the concluding argument was scheduled to be presented by Mr. Bryan. To the surprise of many, when the hour arrived for the defense to present their closing argument, Clarence Darrow informed the court that the defense would waive their right to address the jury. This prevented Bryan from making his final argument for the state.

It must have been a severe disappointment to the "Commoner" as he had worked diligently to prepare what was to be the final argument of this famous trial. He was very anxious that the American public have a chance to learn what he had intended to state to that jury. As he had been prevented from exposing his views to the jury, Bryan decided to release his speech to the press. He had secured the service of another man from Chattanooga to assist him in the final preparation of his speech before releasing it to the newsmen, and was working on it when he received his last roll call.

Mrs. Bryan, who was a wheelchair patient at the time of the trial, attended the sessions that took place in the courtroom. Her interest in the case was equally as strong as her husband's.

The Bryans remained in Dayton for several days following the close of the trial. On Saturday, July 25, 1925, Mr. Bryan underwent a physical examination, and the doctor stated that he found the blood pressure, heart and general physical condition to be normal for a man his age. The following day, Sunday, July 26, 1925, Mr. Bryan attended a worship service at one of the local churches in Dayton, and the minister requested the distinguished visitor to deliver the benediction, which he did.

The Bryan's had lunch that day at the home of a family by the name of Rogers. After eating a bountiful meal, Mr. Bryan told his wife, "Mamma, I have some long distance phone calls to make and then I will lie down and sleep a while; then, I'll do some more work on my speech." After completing his phone call, "Will", as Mrs. Bryan often called him, went into another room to rest; but before he rested he signed some autographs in a book and left the book open for the ink to dry.

Later in the afternoon the family chauffeur, Mr. McCartney, was requested to awaken Mr. Bryan, only to learn that he had made his final departure. It was believed that he died in his sleep. Needless to say, the news of his death shocked the entire nation. Editors in some parts of the country had been resorting to ridicule of the Great Commoner, but as soon as they learned of his passing the ridicule ceased.

It might appear that the participation that William J. Bryan had in this famous legal battle was intended to be the closing chapter of his stay on earth. The citizens of Salem, Illinois, can turn back the pages of history and can be proud that their community had its share of molding this great life.

**FRANK G. BROWN**

Frank G. Brown was born October 16, 1892, in Effingham County near Shumway, Illinois.

On April 18, 1915, he was married to Bessie Ann Bivins, and on May 1, 1915, he started to work at the Salem, Illinois, Post Office as a substitute clerk. On February 16, 1916, he was promoted to regular clerk with the Post Office.

Frank and Bessie Ann Brown were the parents of two children: Maxine, born November 30, 1917, who married Herman Branson; and J. D., born July 10, 1925, who married Stella Mae Sinclair.

On August 1, 1928, Frank Brown became Assistant Postmaster of the Salem Post Office.

He has served the Baptist Church of Salem in a number of capacities, including: Deacon, Trustee, Sunday School Superintendent, Teacher, Treasurer. He served as President of the Baptist Brotherhood of the State of Illinois in 1951 and 1952.

On August 4, 1955, Mr. Brown was appointed Postmaster of the Salem Post Office, and held that position until his retirement on December 1, 1960.

Mr. Brown has also served with the Salem Rotary Club.

Though this modest man is reluctant to talk about himself, it is obvious that he has served his community well during a long period of time.

**BRUBAKER FAMILY**

ELI BRUBAKER and his two brothers, Jacob and Noah, came to Illinois from Pennsylvania in the early 1800's. They all settled in Stevenson Township east of Salem, Illinois, their farms all joining each other.

Eli Brubaker had five sons: Ike, Will, Logan, Edgar and Edward (Edgar and Edward were twins) and two daughters, Ann and Sis. Ike, Will, Edgar and Logan were all farmers and lived their entire lives in Marion County, Illinois. Edward went to Pennsylvania where he married and lived till his death at the

age of ninety-six, the last of his generation.

Eli Brubaker owned several hundred acres of land. When each son and daughter married, he deeded each of them a hundred acres of land.

JOE BRUBAKER, Eli's oldest son, lived near Iuka. He had one son, MARVIN, now living in Iuka. Forrest Barksdale now owns and lives on the farm.

The WILL BRUBAKER farm is about two and a half miles east of Salem, where Claude Barksdale now lives.

The LOGAN BRUBAKER farm was due south of the New Bethel Presbyterian Church, five and a half miles east of Salem on Route 50. He bought other land and owned 237 acres. This farm joined his father Eli's farm, which was on the west of Logan's farm. The west edge of Eli's farm went to Barrister Road; the two-story brick house can be seen from east of Barrister Road about three-fourths of a mile down the B & O RR, which runs through both Eli's and Logan's land.

The EDGAR BRUBAKER farm was north of Salem and East of Route 37 about three and a half miles. The C & E I RR went through his farm, and when it was built, Edgar started a general store on his farm and several houses. The community was named Brubaker. It is on the Brubaker Road off Route 37 North just before crossing the Illinois Central Overhead. The community named Brubaker is small but still active. The store building is now occupied by Duke's Grocery.

Edgar and Logan Brubaker married sisters, Marietta and Rachel Kagy. The father of the Kagy girls was a lawyer, who had a large family; others were: Emma Feltman, Flora Merz, Jessie Lovell, Kate Kagy, Dan Kagy, Ed Kagy, and Ben Kagy.

Logan E. Brubaker and Rachel Ann Kagy were married February 22, 1888. They had two children, a daughter, Emma Marguerite, and a son, Benjamin Edwin.

Emma Marguerite Brubaker was born in October, 1890. She married Otto Kell of Salem. They had three sons: Darwin, Gene and Omar. Emma Marguerite Kell now lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Benjamin Edwin Brubaker, son of Logan and Rachel Ann Brubaker, was born April 27, 1904 in Stevenson Township, Marion County, Salem, Illinois, on the farm due south of the New Bethel Presbyterian Church five miles east of Salem on Route 50. He attended grade school at Brubaker School (which stood by the above mentioned church), Salem High School and Watchmaking School of Bradley in Peoria, Illinois.

He was married to Dorothy E. Horn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Horn of Centralia on April 12, 1925. They now live at 1115 North College Street, Salem, Illinois. They have two children: A son, Edward Frederick Brubaker, and a daughter, Nancy Louise.

Edward F. Brubaker was born July 12, 1929. He is married to the former Frances Hargis of Salem. He is employed by the New York Life Insurance Company. They live at 1110 North Franklin Street, Salem, with their two sons, Edward Frederick, Jr., and David Michael.

Nancy Louise Brubaker was born March 11, 1941, and is currently a student at Milliken University, Decatur, Illinois.

B. E.'s entire family is affiliated with First Presbyterian Church of Salem, of which B. E. is a deacon.

B. E. Brubaker (on "Bru" as he is called about town) has been active in the retail jewelry business in Salem since 1928, located at 117 South Broadway. He is a charter member of the Salem Lions Club, chartered February 19, 1936, and was president of the Lions 1938-1939, receiving the 25-year pin in 1961. He was one of three to help organize Salem Elks Lodge No. 1678 in 1945 and 1946, of which he holds Membership Card No. 2. He served the Elks as Chairman of Trustees for twelve years and served on the building committee for the new lodge house. He is a member of Marion Lodge No. 130 A.F. & A.M., Salem, Illinois, Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of Salem Industrial Committee, Salem Retail Association, and is on the Board of Directors of Salem Building and Loan Association.

## JOHN D. CHASSELS

John D. Chassels was born on June 2, 1884, at Tilden, Illinois (Tilden-Randolph County).

His father, John M. Chassels, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and wore kilts until he came to America with his parents when he was about twelve years of age. John M. Chassels brought his family, consisting of his daughter Lillie (who later was Lillie Tate), and two sons William and John D., from Tilden to a farm north of Xenia, Illinois, when John D. was just a young boy.

At the age of fifteen, John D. Chassels learned to use the telegraph at the B & O Station at Xenia. Before he took a regular job with the railroad, he learned the barber trade and worked for a short time at the Brown Shoe Factory in St. Louis. With the exception of one year in the C & E I Dispatcher's Office, he spent fifty years in the service of the B & O Railroad. While employed at the C & E I Dispatcher's Office, he worked with the late George Miller and Walter Donahue, who were his good friends all through the years.

He was married to Julia Ray Somerville on December 15, 1909, and they became the parents of two children: Viola Jean, born November 28, 1913, who married Russel Frank David and who lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and John L., born September 3, 1924, who now lives in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Chassels' principal occupation with the B & O Railroad was that of agent-operator. He served one term as tax collector. In Salem he was city treasurer for twelve or more years. He was on the city council under the late Dr. Kelly, serving with Estel Martin, Joe Schwartz, and Herman Austin. He was a member of the Grace Methodist Church of Salem, and a member of the Methodist Men's Organization. He also served with the I. O. O. F. of Salem and the O. R. T.

John D. Chassels was a tall, slight man, gentle, quiet and always courteous. It has been truly said that he never was heard to raise his voice in anger or argument in all the years he served the public, both in his work with the Baltimore and

Ohio Railroad and in his work in his civic capacity. During his service as city treasurer under Joe Schwartz the city park and swimming pool were instituted.

In March, 1911, the Chassels bought the present home on West Main Street, and since his passing on February 16, 1953, his widow has maintained and occupied the home. John Chassels will long be remembered as one of Salem's outstanding citizens because of his cheerful service to others.

—Mrs. John D. Chassels

### COPE FAMILY

The first Cope ancestor in America came from Wbury, England. He was Oliver Cope, who bought two hundred fifty acres of land from William Penn, September 3, 1681, in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Oliver Cope's grandson, John Cope, fought in the Revolutionary War in the First Battalion, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Militia.

### ALLEN COPE

Allen Cope was born near New Waterford, Ohio, on August 4, 1827, where he lived until he was eighteen years of age. He then worked in Salem, Ohio, for nine years.

In 1854, he came to Fairfield, Illinois, where two of his brothers were living. Here he studied law with Judge Charles Beecher. He received his license from the State of Illinois as an attorney and counsellor-at-law on September 5, 1855.

During his early days at Fairfield, Allen Cope would also help his brother drive cattle through to St. Louis, Missouri. It was on one of these trips that they "bedded down" the cattle on the Jesse Ray farm on the bank of Davidson Creek not far from Salem, Illinois. In the Ray home he met Jesse Ray's daughter, Sarah Ann. They fell in love and were married April 16, 1856.

Allen Cope took his bride with him to Fairfield, where they lived four years. His health failed and he had to give up the practice of law. They lived in Clay City one year, and here he injured his back while logging.

Allen and Sarah Ann Cope came back to Tonti Township in 1861, having bought 120 acres of the Ray farm from the other heirs after Jesse Ray's death in 1857. (HISTORICAL NOTE: Jesse Ray's biography appears elsewhere in this volume.) Jesse Ray had purchased this land from the United States, the southwest forty acres on June 11, 1839, and the eighty acres lying east on November 14, 1840.

When their home was to be built, the carpenter asked which way they wanted the house to face, and Allen Cope said, "Why, face the railroad!" So, the first of the three houses on this farm faced east.

At the time the Allen Cope house was built, the dirt roads led the shortest way through the prairies, and except for those which grew along the creeks, there was only one tree between the Cope farm and Salem. The Allen Cope home was built in 1861, and Copes still live on this land. At present, Leila and Howard, daughter and son of Walter Cope, live there.

Allen Cope lived until October 24, 1907, and his wife, Sarah, survived him, passing from this earth on February 22, 1924.

#### WALTER LINCOLN COPE

Walter Lincoln Cope was born on May 27, 1864, in Tonti Township, Marion County, Illinois, the son of Allen and Sarah Ann (Ray) Cope.

Walter Lincoln Cope was a premature twin, the other boy, William Abraham, dying soon after birth. Walter's tiny head would go into a teacup. His father, Allen, sent for his brother, called "Uncle Doctor", who came up from Fairfield and stayed three months. He managed to save little Walter, whom he did not dress, but oiled and nestled him in cotton in a little woven basket until he grew into a normal, healthy baby.

Walter as a child attended Woodard District School, as had his mother before him, and as Walter's children and some of his grandchildren did after him. He went to Central School in Salem in 1880 and later to the University of Illinois for three years.

He was a close boyhood friend of Charles Bryan, who later became governor of the State of Nebraska.

On June 6, 1888, Walter married Annie Vaughan (born July 3, 1867), daughter of Judge John G. and Isabel Peters Vaughan. To this union were born: Walter Allen, born April 16, 1889, who married Nellie Hissett on May 30, 1915; Anna Bessie, born November 2, 1890, who married Omar J. McClarkin on April 14, 1920 (they were divorced in December, 1948); Lonin Vaughan, born November 14, 1892, who married Pauline Bachmann on January 30, 1921; Leila Ray, born March 7, 1895, who never married; Howard Lewis, born April 12, 1898, who never married; Raymond, who was born February 14, 1904 and died in infancy; and Margaret, born May 2, 1906, who married Clyde J. Smith on December 26, 1933.

Two of Walter and Annie's children served their country during World War One.

Lonin V. Cope enlisted at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, on August 27, 1917. He became a first lieutenant, infantry, November 27, 1917. He embarked at Hoboken, New Jersey, on September 3, 1918, with the Eighty-fourth Division of the Three Hundred Thirty-sixth Infantry. He served in France and Belgium with the U. S. A. 91st Division of the Three Hundred Sixty-second Infantry from October 5, 1918, and it was from this Regiment that he served throughout the rest of his term of service. He was in the Lys and Scheldt Offensives, and received the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star with the following citation (Army Corps):

"Near Steenburgre, Belgium, on the 31st of October (1918), he bravely exposed himself to heavy machine gun fire in order to organize successfully an effective fire. In the night from the 1st to the 2nd of November, near Fontegny, he established his command post in position subject to heavy bombardment. He accomplished his mission with remarkable calmness and bravery.

"At General Headquarters, April 2, 1919. The Marshal of France Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies in the Field - Petain."

Lonin was returned to St. Nazaire on April 3, 1919, and was discharged at Camp Grant on May 16, 1919.

Howard Lewis Cope enlisted on October 21, 1918, at Urbana, Illinois, as a Private, Company 10, S. I. T. C., University of Illinois, and received his honorable discharge on December 21, 1918, at Urbana, Illinois.

Walter Cope was a fruit grower on a considerable scale. He always enjoyed goose and duck hunting and later took up the sport of golf.

He was very active in public life. For eleven years he was Township School Treasurer. He was a charter member and helped organize the Marion County Farm Bureau. He was also a charter member of the Illinois Fruit Growers Exchange and served as its second president. For ten years he was the director for the Twenty-third District of the board of the Illinois Agricultural Association. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge, receiving a Fifty Year Pin in 1950. His wife, Annie, received a U. C. S. Fifty Year Pin in 1953.

Walter L. Cope died May 11, 1923, and his wife, Annie, lived until April 23, 1957.

--Leila Cope

## DONOHO PRAIRIE

## MRS. E. F. (VORA) HAWKINS REPORTING

I want to write a little sketch about Donoho Prairie and the "hills and hollers round about" as it was when I came to this part of the country in 1912.

The "Prairie" was actually about two miles square, but the neighborhood known as Donoho Prairie was much larger. Most of the people that I will mention have passed on, but the memory of them lingers on.

It was in November, 1912, that my father, James E. Leasure, a prominent brick mason of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, traded our town property to Henry Van Hill for his hundred-acre farm located on the Marion-Jefferson County line, a half mile east of Horse Creek Bridge in Haines Township, about three-fourths of a mile west of the real prairie land.

Of course it was a thrill for myself, my three sisters and a brother to be out where we could have freedom. We had always lived in town.

The school was one and a half miles away and was a good one-room country school. It was called the Byars School; perhaps a Byars at one time owned the land. My oldest sister, Frances, and I had already completed school in Mt. Vernon.

The Donoho Prairie Christian Church was one and a half miles east, and we always attended Sunday School there and once a month we had preaching. The first church building had been erected about 1890 on the south side of the road; and in 1921 it was moved across the road and remodeled, putting a furnace in the basement; but for several years we did not have electric lights. In 1958 the building was torn down and a much larger structure erected, putting in automatic oil heat.

We have had many good ministers. Among them were Marion Bales, Lew D. Hill, Charles Wood, Charles Stevenson, Guy Parsons, Charles Cooper, and many more. At present, Burdette Wantland has been with us for five years, and the church has made a

wonderful growth. We have about 140 present each Lord's Day for Bible School.

There have been a good many young folks from this congregation who have gone to Bible College and who are preaching now. We have also been fortunate to have a lot of musical talent.

There was also a Baptist Church here in the community. It was at one time a strong church, but as the members moved away or departed this life, it became necessary to close the doors. After some years, the building was sold and torn down.

We have the Donoho Prairie Cemetery, located across the road from the Donoho Prairie Christian Church, which is more than twice as large as it was when we came here in 1912. It was first called Stonecipher Cemetery. The name came from Joe Stonecipher, who was one of the first of the Prairie's settlers and owned land adjoining; perhaps the cemetery was off of his land.

The "Old Donoho Graveyard" is about a half mile south on Donoho land.

The "Old Byars Graveyard" is about one and a half mile west on land now owned by Archie Soger.

The school in the community where we now live, in Romine Township, was called Donoho Prairie School after it was located in the Prairie. I have been told that the first school of the community was back in the field about a mile northwest and that it was a log building and had log benches for seats. The teachers were hired by three directors, elected one each year for a three-year term by a vote of the people in the district, which was a two-mile square. The school house was as near the center of the district as possible.

Donoho's were some of the first settlers and land owners, is how the Prairie got its name.

Isaac Hill, Chessie Donoho, Davis Kell, Dave Green, Myrtle Blankenship Haney, were some of the teachers that taught at Donoho Prairie School in the early 1900's.

Speaking of schools in the early days reminds me of box suppers and pie suppers which were big events. Some energetic

teachers would hold one of each in the year. They definitely were fund raising affairs. Shortly after dark on the night named, people would begin to gather for the occasion with kerosene lamps borrowed from neighboring housewives. Careful teachers saw to it that the schoolroom looked as attractive as possible. The girls from six to sixty brought a box or pie to be sold; on each was placed a number that corresponded to the number placed with the girl's name on the register. Most of the time the identity of the pie owner was kept a secret. Some one would bring a cake to be sold to select the prettiest girl. A jar of pickles went to the most lovesick couple.

The teacher would then explain the purpose of the sale was to raise money to buy books, maps, or whatever was needed, and all was ready to start.

The "auctioneer" often was a school director or a local man. The opening bids were sometimes ten, fifteen or twenty-five cents, and if it was known that the girl who brought the pie or box was popular or had a boy friend present, sometimes the boys would run the pie or box up to a dollar or more, just for fun.

The "prettiest girl sale" was by votes of one cent each. The score was kept on the blackboard, so every one could see how it was going. Sometimes the cake for this sale would bring several dollars. When the winning girl got the cake, she would treat all who voted for her. The pickles for the most lovesick couple were sold the same way but didn't sell so high.

Then, too, we remember the ciphering matches and spelling bees for young and old. In those days we didn't have very good roads, but we managed to get there if we had to walk. School and church activities and an occasional party were about all there was for us to go to.

A nice horse and buggy were the pride and joy of every boy old enough to think about the girls.

The roads were narrow and every bridge had a chug hole on each side and sometimes low places would be impassable in wet weather.

With the coming of cars and trucks came better roads. By 1917 there were a few cars in the country, but I don't believe there were any trucks or tractors yet in our area.

Our grain was threshed with a machine pulled by a steam engine. Ed Dickey and Johnny Firebaugh were two that owned such rigs, and there were several more whose names I cannot now recall. I remember that Ed Dickey's son, Robert, was driving their steam engine across Horse Creek one time and the bridge broke down and he barely escaped death.

We have had several sawmills in this part of the country. I must say that in 1915 I married Farris Hawkins and he owned a sawmill which was run by a steam engine. I not only watched him saw lumber, but I learned to fire the engine and really enjoyed doing it. We used the slab wood for fuel. He finally sold the steam engine and used a tractor for power. He still owns the mill, though he doesn't operate it any more. Guss Soger bought a mill and his boys still operate it, powered by a tractor.

We had country telephones, and Barker Donoho, En Nicholson, Newton Wooley and Hathan Fields were some of the early switchboard operators. Now we have the Bell system, which is a wonderful improvement.

We got our meal for cornbread ground at the grist mill operated by Bill Ex Wilkins until my husband bought the mill and ground meal for several years.

In the early 1900's the mail was brought (sometimes by rig and sometimes horseback) to our post office, which was a corner in the store or the house of the one appointed postmaster, and each family had to go get his mail. Johnny Rollinson was one of the first to run a store and post office in this community. Some time before 1912 we got free delivery and the mail was carried on the Kell route by Davis Kell for years; Jesse Blankenship has also been the carrier for many years. Giles Rogers was the first carrier on the Iuka route that I remember and held the job as long as he was able to make the trips. Syra Spangler carried from Texico until his retirement a year or so ago. The routes all met at the Archie Soger corner.

In those days we had no way to keep meat through the summer after the salt pork cured in the winter was gone, so we had a beef club in our neighborhood. It consisted of twelve or more parties. Each one of the twelve parties furnished a beef to kill, one each week for three months in the summer. A butcher was hired to do the killing and cutting of the beef which was done at the local store each Saturday. I remember Arthur Webb, Elmer Riley, and Jim Beck were some who did that kind of work. The beef was cut into twelve parts from the neck down, which was twelve shares. If you couldn't use a whole share, you got some one to help you furnish the beef and you divided the share each week. During the three months each shareholder had used a whole beef. Every one had beef for Sunday dinner and didn't have to care for a lot at a time. The animals were all to weigh about the same so it was fair for all concerned.

There were several apple orchards in the neighborhood, and we had two evaporators that took care of a lot of the apples, also employed several people. They were owned by Emory Daniels, Sam Green and Clark Byars. They paid ten to fifteen cents a bushel for the apples. Wages were not much those days. A man thought a dollar a day was good pay; but we could buy a twenty-five pound sack of flour for fifty cents.

We had several little stores that carried the necessary items. Bill Tyler, Dave Green, Sanford Hill, Dave Hall, Charles Shafer and Jim Blankenship were some of the merchants in the Prairie.

We had several notary publics. Isaac Hill and Sanford, his brother, were the older ones I recall. Merrit Donoho served a little later and now we have two brothers, Gale and Stanley Spangler, who are grandnephews of Isaac and Sanford Hill.

We have had several wells drilled for oil that were dry holes, but in 1950 there were several producers, some pretty good and some fair. There are still some producing.

I want to give the names of some of the families that lived here when we came here in 1912. Nearly all have passed on, but many relatives by the same name remain. There were: Soger,

Shafer, Byars, Russell, Hill, Meador, Green, Halfacre, Simmons, Blankenship, Spangler, Donoho, Derring, Gordon, Firebaugh, Dobbs, Leasure, Hawkins, Webb, Williams, Sollis, Baker, Hanes, Beck, Sawyer, Brown, Stirewalt, Taylor, Burge, Howard, Reed, Cooper, McConnaughay, Eblin, Roberts, McMeers, Darnell, Louny, Stuber, Phelps, Wetzel, Stanford, Burke, Clifton, Fields, Henson, Hazlip, Dial, Geibe, Meems, Hinderer, Schibley, Eller, Tate, Burns, Daniels, Hood, Lagow, Tucker, Branson, Hall, Dickey, Floyd, Finn, Holt, Clark, Turner, Merideth, Wilkins, Beasley, Ayers, Brewer, McClaslin, Tyler, Stearns, Stonecipher. These folks didn't all live in the Prairie, but were close enough to be friends and neighbors. Our community also produced some good doctors, all of whom have passed on. They were: Dr. Arthur and Dr. John Simmons (brothers), Dr. Franklin Simmons, Dr. Ed Alvis, Dr. Holt, and Dr. Lewis Finn.

*WALTER LOUIS FINN, M. D.*

Walter L. Finn was a native and lifelong resident of Marion County, having descended from a family that migrated from Maryland in the nineteenth century. He was born and brought up on a farm a few miles from Salem. Dr. Finn was born April 15, 1875, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Finn.

Dr. Finn's father, Alfred Finn, was a well known farmer who lived a few miles southeast of Salem, owning one of the largest brick homes in that area. Alfred Finn was also widely known as a dealer in horses and mules over a large area in Southern Illinois.

Dr. Finn had the distinction of being a direct descendent of one of the men who served in the War for Independence. His great grandfather, Peter Finn, served with troops from Maryland and North Carolina during the Revolution.

Instead of following in the footsteps of his immediate ancestors, who had participated in agriculture as a vocation, Walter Finn decided early in life that the medical profession was the calling for his life's work. He began at an early age to prepare himself for the vocation that he was to follow. He took his preparatory work at a school in Valparaiso, Indiana, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. He later entered what at that time was known as St. Louis Medical School, where he graduated in a course in medicine. Upon graduation, he began the practice of medicine in his home county.

He opened an office in the village of Tuka in the early part of the twentieth century. He served as a general practitioner in that area for about thirty-two years. During that period, Dr. Finn is reported to have delivered approximately two thousand babies. He was widely known in the counties of Southern Illinois. He later had an office in Salem for a number of years prior to his death.

Dr. Finn was married December 31, 1912, to Kate M. Ward. One child was born to this union, Louise Gooch.

In addition to rendering medical service to the people in his area, Dr. Finn became interested in political science. While

residing in Iuka, his fellow towns-people decided to elevate him to the office of mayor. In that capacity he served to the best of his ability for the interest of the people. In 1928 he was elected State Senator from his district and was reelected in 1932. He served two consecutive terms in the State Senate and was elected for a third term four days prior to his death.

Senator Finn had resided most of his life in and around rural communities and realized the need for all-weather roads. He perhaps sensed the need of this situation quicker than those other members of the Legislature who had always resided in municipalities and were not aware of the needs of people who lived in the rural areas. He was fortunate in being appointed Chairman of the Committee of Roads in the State Senate. As a result of this appointment, he was in a position to sponsor and take a leading role in the enactment of legislation that brought about all-weather roads in Illinois. This road improvement program was heralded by farmers in all parts of the state. While Dr. Finn took an active interest in legislation of many kinds, it is believed that his sponsoring and assistance in the all-weather road program was one of his greatest services to his constituents.

In World War I, Dr. Finn was one of those who left his work in the community and entered the armed forces. He served with the rank of Captain in the Medical Corps.

At one time during his career, he was a part owner in what was known as Kelly's Stone in Iuka. He later sold his interest to A. E. Kelly.

Dr. Finn purchased a tract of land in the north edge of Salem that is now the Bryan Memorial Park. He later sold that acreage to the City of Salem.

It can be truthfully said that Walter Louis Finn played a role in the development of his community that helped to improve the standards of life for those who were to follow after him.

## ALFRED COWEN FINN

Alfred Cowen Finn, son of John and Nancy (Cowen) Finn, and grandson of Peter Finn, a Revolutionary War veteran, was born near Centralia, Illinois, on April 4, 1835. Alfred had five sisters: Caroline Holt, Sarah Clark, Harriett Purdue, Lucinda Stonecipher, and Nancy Casley Bilyer Pratt; and one brother, John Finn.

When Alfred was quite young, his parents moved to Haines Township about a half mile north of Haines Townhouse, to the farm now owned by Mrs. Louise Finn Gooch.

Alfred was a very ambitious young man, and purchased a large acreage in the vicinity of Panhandle School.

He first married Betsy Stonecipher, daughter of Joshua and Nancy A. Hall, a sister of Mrs. Han Ham, Mrs. Young Alvis and Hiram Stonecipher. Betsy died in childbirth, and the baby, a son, also died.

Mrs. Finn later married Artemissa Mercer, daughter of Wiley Mercer. They first lived in a log cabin, but in a few years built a new home, a large brick house with ten rooms and two rooms in the smokehouse. The bricks for this house were burned on their farm about a half mile south of the house. This house is on Route 161 Extension, and is now owned by James H. Finn, a grandson.

Alfred and Artemissa Finn had the following children: Lill Finn, who married Mattie Lester, their children being Grace, Gladys, and Edwin; Sam H. Finn, who married Luna Hays, their children being Roscoe and Hazel (Sam Finn was States Attorney and County Judge of Union County for several years); Dr. J. L. Finn, who married Kate Land, their child being Louise (NOTED IN BT: A biography of Dr. J. L. Finn appears on preceding pages of this volume.); Ida Finn, who married Dick Purdue, their children being Maule, Ethel, Carl and Alfred; Kellie Finn, who married Jessie Billings, their children being Florence, Albert, George, Mary, Ida, Louis and James (Mary died in 1944, and Louis was killed in Burma in the same year).

Alfred Finn was a stock trader and breeder. He owned more than a thousand acres of land. His son, Kellie H. Finn, lived with him, and they worked together as stock breeders. Kellie's daughter, Florence, can remember when they had as many as twenty jacks and twenty or more jennets at a time. They seldom ate a meal without at least one guest. Every one was invited to eat and spend the night if he wanted to, and the Finn family was so hospitable and congenial that they seemed always to want to stay.

Alfred Finn spent a long and useful life, and lived until 1923. His son, Kellie, passed away in 1924, approximately eighteen months after the death of his father.

--Florence Wyatt

#### ROY FOUTS

Roy Fouts was born November 11, 1892, at Salem, Illinois, the son of S. S. and Elizabeth (Ulrey) Fouts. His ancestry is principally Pennsylvania Dutch.

Roy is a direct descendant of Rhinehart Replogle, Sr., who served with the Bedford County, Pennsylvania, Militia in the Revolutionary War. Roy is a great-great-great grandson of the above Rhinehart Replogle, Sr. The Fouts (or Pfautz) ancestors came to America from Switzerland in 1621. Tradition tells us that there were two brothers of that name, Pfautz, (later simplified to Fouts) who came over to America and settled in the vicinity of what is now South Carolina, or one of them may have gone to Virginia.

Roy Fouts was raised on a farm near Salem, Illinois.

He is a veteran of World War One, entering the service of his country on June 14, 1918, and serving until September 13, 1919, when he was honorably discharged with the rank of corporal. He served overseas in France for eleven months with Motor Truck Company Five Hundred Thirty-three.

On June 23, 1924, Roy married Miss Mary Wrigley, of Musdogee, Oklahoma. Their only child, Dorothy June, was born on September 7, 1928. Dorothy June married Walter Donald (Don) Plowman.

For forty-two years, Roy served as Locomotive Fireman and Engineer for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. During all these years, he served without any serious accident. He has travelled in many foreign countries, and speaks Pennsylvania Dutch, German, Spanish, some French and a smattering of Italian and Norwegian. He has a large and most interesting collection of 35 mm. color slides gathered from several different countries.

His church affiliation is Methodist, his membership being in Salem, Illinois. He has served with several organizations, among them being: K. of P. (Past Chancellor Commander), B. of L. F. & E. (Past President), A. F. & A. M., A. A. S. R. and Shrine, and Salem Post Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 1233 (Charter Member).

*WILLIAM GASTON*

Marion County, Illinois, has the honor of having eight men buried within its borders who participated in the War for Independence. William Gaston, the ancestor of all known Gaston people of this area and of many that live elsewhere, was one of those who assisted in the struggle to sever the bonds between Great Britain and the "New World."

William Gaston was a native of South Carolina. He was born in Lancaster County of that southern colony on July 10, 1755 (some records say 1757). He was the son of Robert Gaston and Mary Lemon Gaston, who migrated to America from Ireland. The family was originally French Huguenots. Like many other families of that period, they left their original locality in order to gain religious freedom. It is stated that the ancestors of William Gaston settled for a while in Pennsylvania, later moving to South Carolina. It is not known how long Robert and Mary Gaston had been living in South Carolina when William was born.

William Gaston's first enlistment in the colonial armed forces was in 1775, the year the conflict began. He had a total of five enlistments.

One of the most stirring and sad events that William and the others in his home community experienced was the cold-blooded murder of four hundred militiamen at "The Waxham's" under command of Colonel Buford. "The Waxham's" was a church in that community. The Americans had been overtaken by Colonel Tarelton's troops and begged to surrender, but Tarelton refused their request and in a ruthless manner had his men to cut the four hundred American militiamen to pieces while they pled for mercy. The father of Andrew Jackson was among those who were killed. Those who survived were carried to Waxham's Church and Ester Gaston, along with her sister-in-law, left for the church at once to help care for the wounded. The news of this horrible slaughter was made known at the home of Justice Gaston, an older relative of William,

where a number of the neighbors had assembled to discuss current events and what might be done about them. Upon learning of the terrible massacre of four hundred of their comrades, a number of the men who were at Justice Gaston's home joined hands and took a solemn oath that they would never lay down their arms until the enemy troops were driven out of their land. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterian faith had taught them to make covenants with the Lord. This now was in the summer of 1780, that the vow was made.

A large number of William Gaston's relatives served in this conflict. It will be interesting to know that the Gaston people played a very active part in the South Carolina area during the Revolution. William is the only one that we have record of that served in the conflict who later came to Illinois. Of the five enlistments in which he served the record shows, as stated above, that his first enlistment was in 1775 and his last enlistment was in 1781. He participated in the following engagements: Hanging Rock, Rocky Mount, Huck's Defeat, and the famous Battle of King's Mountain.

According to reports, William Gaston continued to live in South Carolina until about 1827. His wife had passed away some time prior to this date. His oldest daughter, Margaret, and her husband, Thomas Kell, had come to Marion County, Illinois, and settled not far from the present village of Kell in 1822. As William was a widower and his children were grown, he decided to come to the Illinois country and spend the remainder of his life in the vicinity where Thomas and Margaret had settled. He came to Marion County in the seventy-third year of his life.

William Gaston was one of the early members of the Covenanters Church that is located a few miles west of Kell. He followed the religious teachings of his childhood until his death. He was granted a pension for his military service in 1832, his application being dated September 24th of that year. He passed away on January 12, 1838, and is buried in the Covenanters Cemetery.

(The following Gaston family information was submitted by Gail Boynton, R. R. #4, Iuka.)

John Gaston, who lived in France about 1600, was an ancestor of William Gaston who married Mary Lemon. The Gastons were originally French Huguenots driven from France to seek religious freedom. William and Mary were born in Cloughwater, Ireland. We do not know when they came to America, but at the time of the Revolution we find that they were in South Carolina in a neighborhood composed of Scotch Presbyterians. Many of these Scotchmen had left Scotland for Ireland, searching for religious freedom. Not being satisfied in Ireland, they came in colonies or groups to America.

The children of William Gaston and Mary Lemon were John Gaston, Justice of Fishing Creek Settlement, Chester County, South Carolina; Mrs. Strong, also of Fishing Creek at the time of the Revolution; Robert, who was the father of William Gaston (our Marion County Revolutionary War Veteran); and Mary Gaston McClure (her husband was thought to have been William McClure.)

Mary Gaston McClure lived near Waxhaven, South Carolina. Her children were as follows: Wm. McClure, Surgeon in the Continental Army, held prisoner by the British following surrender of Charleston; Captain John McClure, one of the most intrepid of the leaders in General Sumter's Brigade. (William Gaston served in Captain McClure's company from 1780 until the death of Captain McClure from battle wounds. Captain McClure had been promoted to Colonel); James McClure, soldier under Captain John McClure; Hugh McClure; Mrs. Edward Martin; and Mary McClure, who married William Gaston in 1781.

John Gaston, a man of eighty during the Revolution, was one of the most influential patriots in his community. He had nine sons in the Continental Army and many nephews, including William Gaston. He was also an uncle of the McClure children. Apparently William Gaston and Mary McClure were cousins. Mary McClure

Gaston carried a message to General Sumter telling the whereabouts of the British marauder, Captain Huck, that enabled her brother Captain McClure to surprise and defeat Captain Huck next morning after an all-night march. Again after Tarleton had surprised and defeated General Sumter at Fishing Creek, she went next day to the battlefield to care for the dead and wounded.

#### WILLIAM GASTON

William Gaston, born in Lancaster County, South Carolina, July 10, 1757, enlisted in 1775 and served two months under Captain Marshall. In 1778 he served three and a half months under Captain Marshall. In 1780 he served under Captain McClure, and in 1781 under Captain Steele. He enlisted in the Second North Carolina Regiment, commanded by Colonel John Pallin, with rank as sergeant in Captain Hall's company in January or February, 1778 and served throughout the War as did his brothers.

William Gaston engaged in the following battles: Hanging Rock, Rocky Mount, Hook's Defeat (probably means Huck), and King's Mountain. He came to Illinois about 1829 after the death of his wife. He was granted a pension on application, dated September 24, 1832, for services in the Revolution. He is buried at the Old Covenant Church near Walnut Hill. He died January 12, 1838.

From a study of the descendents and their marriages as recorded, it is possible readily to see how many of the early settlers in Haines, Stevenson, and Raccoon Townships are related and trace to their common ancestor. The children of William and Mary McClure Gaston were: Margaret Ann, who married Thomas Kell; Samuel, who married Esther Gaston, a cousin; William, who married Jane McMillan; John, who married Elizabeth Couch; Robert, who married Elizabeth Carsons; Sarah, who married Matthew Cunningham; Betsy, who married Andrew Couch; Ann, who married Matthew Rainey; and Mary, who married Hugh White.

## SAMUEL GASTON

Samuel Gaston, son of William and Mary McClure Gaston, was born in October, 1788 and died March 7, 1826. His death was due to exposure resulting in pneumonia. He came from South Carolina and was married to Esther Gaston, a cousin.

The children of Samuel and Esther Gaston included: Louisa, who married Richard Breeze; Jane, who married Nelson Andrews; Elizabeth (Betsy), who married Joel Buffington; Lucinda, who married Logan Shelton; Martha, who married William Bingamon; Margaret (Peggy), who married Josua P. Huff; William, who married Rachel Huff; two children, John and Emily, died in infancy.

## WILLIAM GASTON

The above William Gaston, the grandson of the Revolutionary War William, is the one who became sheriff of Marion County and later State Senator. A commission dated August 17, 1836, at Vandalia, and signed by Joseph Duncan, governor of Illinois, is in the family possession commissioning him as sheriff of the county. Later, we understand, when he became senator, he served in the same State Assembly as Abraham Lincoln, both of whom took a pack of hounds with which to hunt while serving. Gaston rode horseback to Vandalia from his home in Marion County.

Senator William Gaston married Rachel Huff. Their children were: Caroline, who married Silas Mercer; Amelia, who married Riley Simer; Louisa, who married James McD. Hill; Samuel, who first married Emily Hays and later married Mary Ann Ray; Margaret, who married Elbert Crane; Sarah, who married John Kell; Thomas Benton, who married Lucy Shelton; and John C., who married Mary Jane Casley.

Among living descendents in Marion County (as this book is written) of Senator William Gaston are: Lucian Gaston, Clarence Gaston, Carl Gaston, and Gail Boynton, granddaughter of John C. Gaston.

## GASL BOYNTON REPORTING

JOHN C. GASTON, son of William and Rachel (Huff) Gaston, was born in 1843 in Stevenson Township, Marion County, Illinois.

He was a farmer and fruit grower by occupation, and held public office as tax collector, school board member, and a church officer. He was a member of the Gaston Grove Church located, I understand, on the farm where he was born.

When he collected taxes, he must have ridden through the county and collected as he rode, because I recall often hearing him tell of being followed, and how he rode armed and brought the money home and put it up in the attic. Then, he slept below with a gun for protection.

The children of John C. Gaston were: Jessie A., born in 1870, who married Elmer E. Boynton; and Bennie, born in 1866, who died in his early twenties.

Following are a few stories I remember my grandfather tell. If they are not entirely as he told them, it is probably the fault of my memory, as that was a good many years ago that I heard them:

"My father was away from home much of the time. He was a great hunter. He served as senator in the Illinois State Assembly with Abraham Lincoln, he was sheriff of Marion County, and in his later years he went west with the Gold Rush to California, a place from which he did not return. During one of these times when he was gone and Mother was alone with us children, six Indian braves forced their way into the cabin one cold winter night. They made motions to indicate they were peaceful, stacked their guns in the corner, stretched out before the fireplace on the floor and slept. They left peacefully the next morning. Needless to say, my mother didn't sleep much."

(As I, the granddaughter, set down these stories, it has occurred to me that I did not hear tales of horror and bloodshed such as often were told as characterized the relationships of Indians and whites. The stories I heard are characterized by tolerance and understanding on both sides — often by humor such as the following one about some ancestor, just which one I have forgotten.)

"This relative was a great runner. No Indian could beat him. This, to the Indians, was a defeat in their own private domain. They promoted a great contest, made a gala day, and imported an Indian from afar. He won the race, much to their delight."

"An old Indian trail, which was clearly visible years ago, crossed the country on what is now the Grace Sloan farm two and three-fourths miles east of Cartter." (The rocks in the creek bed are still in place, and the topography clearly indicates that this is about the only place in that area where a trail could have passed with ease. There used to be a beautiful carving of a deer on the rocks near this trail. I looked for it about 1955, however, and was unable to find it. I saw it as late as 1920.)

"On Sundays, I walked about twelve miles each way to the Old Covenanter Church, which was the nearest church."

"Much of the land in Haines Township was cleared and settled early. The pioneers often did not trust prairie land because they thought that if land would not grow trees, it might not produce crops. Then, too, it was easier to hunt in timberland along streams. It was the custom to clear about ten acres, fence it with rails, farm it until completely worn out, then clear another farming area and move the rails to the new location. (The rails were moved on some of this land more than a hundred years ago.) A lot of the scrub timber and cut-over land in the township is the result of this method of farming. Scrub oak, persimmon, thorn and sassafras grew as the land was deserted."

"Many people in Southern Illinois came from the Carolinas, Kentucky, and Tennessee. During the Civil War they did not wish to go to war against their friends and relatives of the South; hence, they worked to get the government to buy the slaves and set them free rather than fight the Civil War. When war came, it was possible in this area to hire a substitute for a hundred dollars. (Positive proof, I should say, of the value of the old-time dollar.)"

"Foxville in the 1875's was the chief village and trading center of this area. After the C & E I Railroad went through Haines Township, Foxville was moved to the present site of Cartter. Foxville was located on what is now the Carl Purdue farm on Route 161, about three and a half miles east of the "Y".

"Young boys often walked as much as ten, and sometimes more, miles from their homes to see the trains go by on the B & O Railroad. The early engineers accommodated by letting off steam, which frightened the crowd and made them run as fast as they could for home."

## HOOTS CHAPEL COMMUNITY

This community, located five miles northwest of Salem, was first called Jack District. This was about 1882. There was a log school house used before the school building was erected on the Jack property, but no one now remembers what it was called.

Occupations in the early days here were mostly farming, but also the people had the advantage of a sawmill and a grist mill. Then there were several apple and pear orchards scattered about the community.

The sawmill and grist mill was operated by the Almon Loomis family. Another project of that family was the sale of water from a spring on their farm. This spring water was thought to have medicinal value. People came from miles around to buy it. There is still an old register in the Loomis family which has been signed by people from Chicago, St. Louis, and as far away as New York City, as well as by people from nearby communities.

Another neighborhood industry was the growing of broom corn by the Waters family, and the manufacture and sales of brooms.

Apples and pears were sold to buyers and shipped from Odin.

Since the consolidation of schools, the community has been called Hoots Chapel, after the church, which was erected on land owned by a man named Hoots.

Among those serving in the Civil War from this community were John McMurray and Ed Loomis.

-- Mrs. Earl Loomis

## THOMAS KELL

One of the first pioneers of Marion County and one who helped to develop the area was Thomas Kell, who came to this area one year before the county was organized. Thomas Kell and his wife, the former Margaret Gaston, came to the Prairie State in 1822. (A relative of theirs who was born near the middle of the 19th century always understood that they came in 1834, so the exact date is somewhat in dispute but favoring 1822.) Thomas and Margaret were the parents of twelve children, all of whom were born in South Carolina except the youngest.

Thomas was born in Rocky Creek District, Chester County, South Carolina in 1774, the year before the war for independence started. This was two years after his parents had emigrated to America. Margaret was nine years his junior. She was born in 1783, the year that Great Britain officially recognized the independence of the United States.

It is not known what year Thomas Kell and Margaret Gaston were married, but it is believed to be prior to 1800. She was the eldest child of William Gaston, whose biography is elsewhere in this volume. Both Thomas and Margaret were descendents of families that were devout in their religious faith. The parents of both of them were members of the Covenanter Presbyterian faith, and Thomas and Margaret Kell followed this faith throughout their lives.

The three eldest children of Thomas and Margaret Kell were grown when they migrated to Illinois. It is not known to the writer how many of their children came with them to the new state. Thomas established his new home not far from where the village of Kell is now located. When the C & E I Railroad was constructed in the 1890's, it was decided to put a station at this place, and the station got its name from the family of Thomas Kell. Thomas is credited with being the ancestor of the people who bear the name of Kell who have lived in the Marion County and surrounding area.

As Thomas and Margaret were firm believers in the Covenanter Presbyterian faith, it was only natural that they would desire to be associated with a church of that faith in the community where they had settled. As there was no church of that denomination in their locality, it was decided to organize a church of their faith and order. As a result of this desire, the Covenanter Church was organized in 1830. A building was not erected until 1840. The first building for their place of worship was a log structure and was twenty-five by forty feet in dimension. The second building of this congregation was erected in 1850. The dimensions of the second building are unknown to us.

The first pastor of Thomas Kell's new church home in Illinois was Rev. John McMaster, and the supply pastor was John Kell. It is understood that this John Kell was the third child of Thomas and Margaret.

Thomas Kell was a farmer by occupation and assisted in developing the culture and civilization of the area. He was one of those strong believers that every one should have his rights regardless of race, color or creed. Some years after he had established his new home in the Kell community, his home as well as several Telford families became stations of the "Underground Railway" that aided fugitive slaves who were fleeing northward. It can be said that Thomas Kell strictly adhered to the principle that independence and religious liberty were divine gifts to which all people were entitled.

Thomas Kell saw the great transition from pioneer life in his new locality. He and his family witnessed the undeveloped region of a new frontier that was possessed of wild animals, moving bands of Indians, a virgin soil that had never been plowed, countless areas of timber that had to be cleared before cultivation could be started, and a community that was thinly inhabited by the white race. During the remainder of his stay on this earth he assisted in bringing about the transformation of a rugged and undeveloped locality to the point where it would have a revolutionary change in its culture and would later become one of the

leading and most progressive areas of Illinois. The principles that he taught and practiced in regard to religious worship have been carried down to generations of the twentieth century. A large number of Marion County residents of the present day still carry out the Presbyterian faith.

Thomas and Margaret Kell were fortunate in that all of their twelve children lived to reach adulthood. They are as follows: William, born in 1800; Jane (born March 27, 1802, died June 17, 1873), who married James Telford (born February 2, 1800, died March 23, 1857); John G. (born March 22, 1804, died 1853); Samuel G. (born June 1, 1806, died 1864); Martha A. (born May 9, 1808, died December 30, 1867); Alexander (born May 19, 1810, died December 12, 1895); Margaret (born March 19, 1812, died September 30, 1873); Thomas, Jr. (born October 6, 1814, died July 26, 1892); James (born January 30, 1817, died September 30, 1873); Eliza (born April 23, 1819, died November 12, 1842); Rieley (born July 16, 1821, died December 11, 1884); and Matthew C. (born April 17, 1825, died January 12, 1885).

Margaret Kell was the first member of the Covenanters Church located a few miles southwest of Kell to pass to the Great Beyond. Her death occurred August 18, 1831, at the age of forty-eight years and three months. A Mrs. Smith of Walnut Hill died the same day, and her burial was the first interment at the Covenanter Cemetery, and Margaret Kell was the second person to be buried here. Thomas Kell outlived Margaret by approximately thirteen years, passing from this life on March 21, 1844 at the age of sixty-nine years, four months and five days.

#### JAMES KNIGHT

James Knight was born March 30, 1837, in Macoupin County, Illinois. By occupation he was a farmer, as so many of our ancestors were.

He was married to Miss Lucy Jones, and to this union were born the following children: Martha, Louisa, Joseph, and Delsie.

Mr. Knight enlisted at Tonti, Illinois, in 1862, with the One Hundred Eleventh Illinois Infantry Regiment, Company D. (EDITORIAL NOTE: There is a history of this Regiment elsewhere in this volume.) He served three years, going through many hardships, though he was lucky never to have been taken prisoner. He was always proud that he could be of service in keeping his country united and often spoke of the "March to the Sea" in which he was so actively engaged.

Something of great note in the Knight family was involved during the Civil War. Four of James Knight's brothers also served in the Civil War on the side of the Union: Will Knight, John Knight, Joe Knight and Hewitt Knight. All five of the brothers survived the war and were able to live out the rest of their lives at home in peace.

James Knight lived to the age of eighty-seven before he departed this life.

--Mrs. Delsie Ford,  
Alma, Illinois

### WARREN EMMETT McHACKIN

Warren E. McHackin was born in Morganfield (some say Morgantown), Butler County, Kentucky, in 1817.

He served in the Mexican War from 1846 to 1847, serving in Captain Campbell's Company F of the Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battles of Metamorix and Cerro Gordo, Mexico; he was enlisted as a private and discharged with the rank of sergeant.

In 1848 he was married to Delilia Jane Cruise, and to this union were born the following children: May, Emma, Charles (born in 1860, who married Eugenia Aline Drake), Fred, Edward, John and William.

Warren McHackin was a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, serving as a circuit rider from Fairfield to Salem, Illinois. He was minister of the Salem Presbyterian Church when he moved from Fairfield, Illinois, to Salem. He served this church as minister from 1850 to 1860.

In 1854 he was Justice of the Peace, Marion County.

W. E. McHackin founded the firm of G. L. McHackin and Son, a firm which was a furniture store and funeral home, sometime between 1860 and 1865.

He served during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. He served in the Twenty-first Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers was the regiment organized in Springfield, Illinois, by the then Captain Ulysses S. Grant, who became its colonel and later became General of the Armies of the United States. At the time Grant was in command of the Twenty-first, W. E. McHackin was the Major of the Regiment. Later, McHackin became the Commanding Officer of the Twenty-first, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

During his career with the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers, Mr. McHackin participated in many thrilling experiences. He was in the expedition to Ironton, Missouri; was in the Battles of Corinth, Iuka, Perryville, Stones River and Chicamauga. There were countless skirmishes along the long lines of march

in which he was engaged. At one time he marched with the Regiment from Iuka, Mississippi, to Perryville, Kentucky, over six hundred miles, in less than thirty days, fighting most of the way and engaging in the Battle of Perryville which stopped the Confederate Buell on his attempted march to Cincinnati.

After coming home from service, Colonel McVackin served as the first mayor of Salem, his term beginning in 1865. He also served as postmaster of Salem and as Civil War Pension Disbursement Officer.

As we have said before, he had founded his furniture store and funeral home prior to his service in the Civil War. The official organization date, however, was not until he handed the store over to his son, C. L. McVackin, Sr., in 1870. This store was the forerunner of both the McVackin Furniture Store and the McVackin Funeral Home, which have remained in the family to this date.

Colonel McVackin died in Salem in 1884 as a result of the wounds he received in action at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863. He lies buried in East Lawn Cemetery, directly across the road from the place where lies buried the remains of Judge Silas Bryan, father of William Jennings Bryan.

#### CHARLES L. McVACKIN JR

Charles L. McVackin Jr was born on February 10, 1912, in Salem, Illinois.

He entered Western Military Academy, Alton, Illinois, as a cadet in 1926 and graduated as Cadet Band Lieutenant. He organized the Western Military Academy Drum and Bugle Corps.

He entered the Salem, Illinois, Fire Department in February, 1926, and served in its ranks as Captain, as Fire Marshal, and as Assistant Fire Chief.

On April 29, 1935, he was married to Flora Jane Gibson, and to this union were born: Merry Gay (June 16, 1942), Ellen Aline (October 3, 1946), and Mary Belle (February 24, 1948).

Mr. McVackin entered the Illinois National Guard, One Hundred

Thirtieth Infantry Regiment, on June 10, 1933, and served them as Bugler, Corporal, Sergeant and First Sergeant of Company J. On October 23, 1940, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant in Company L, One Hundred Thirtieth Regiment. In June, 1941, he was promoted to First Lieutenant at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, becoming Commanding Officer of Company L in December, 1941, when World War Two started.

He served in World War Two with the One Hundred Thirtieth Regiment of Infantry, with the Three Hundred Thirty-ninth Infantry, and with the Four Hundred Eleventh Infantry Regiment, serving as a company commander, battalion and regimental adjutant, battalion executive officer, and battalion commander. He commanded the First Battalion, Four Hundred Eleventh Infantry in the Rhineland and Ardennes Campaign of Northern France, being awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star with V and three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart Medal and French Croix de Guerre. He also served as Director and Commanding Officer of the U. S. Riviera Military District, Nice, France; as Commanding Officer of the Illinois Recruiting District; Military Government Officer of the Straubing Military District of Bavaria, Germany; as Assistant Commandant of Cadets, Western Military Academy; as Fire Chief of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fire Chief of Dhahran Airfield, Saudi Arabia; Fire Chief, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri; and Fire Protection and Aircraft Crash Rescue Advisor to the City of St. Louis, Missouri. He also served in Italy.

He became a first lieutenant in the Regular Army retroactive to February 10, 1940; was promoted to temporary captain of Infantry in May, 1942; temporary major on December 26, 1942; temporary lieutenant colonel on January 11, 1944; permanent captain in July, 1946; major in 1947; lieutenant colonel in 1949. He was retired from the Regular Army in 1950 for wounds received in action during the war.

Since retirement from the Army, Mr. McMackin lives with his family at 119 South Washington, Salem, Illinois, and is associated with his aunt, Miss Helen McMackin, in the McMackin Furniture

*Stone, Salem.*

*Mr. McClachin is and has been associated with the following organizations: Presbyterian Church, Alton, Illinois; American Legion; 40 / 8; Honorary Captain, Salem Fire Department; The Polar Bears of '11 Two (339th Infantry Regiment Veterans). He is an original member of the City of Salem Color Sergeants who founded the actions that have brought about the two beautiful flag poles in front of the Marion County Court House, where the national and Illinois state flags have been raised and lowered daily since 1928 under the jurisdiction of the Mayor of the City of Salem. He holds License #2003, Registered Funeral Director, State of Illinois.*

*Charles McClachin is understandably proud of the fact that the Salem Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps was organized in 1930 under his direction. It was disbanded by mutual consent of all members in 1936. The Corps entered twenty-seven contests during the years of its existence and won first prize at every one of the contests. From its original sixty members, there were twenty-eight commissioned officers in the armed forces of the United States during World War Two and the Korean Conflict, several state and city officials, and from its ranks came Norman Hanes, Jr., the present director of Salem's outstanding prize winning Salem Community High School Band. Mr. McClachin and Mr. Hanes now serve the Salem American Legion Post as its chairman and vice chairman of parades.*

*Mr. McClachin's wife, Flora Jane, is Past State President of the Amvets Auxiliary and Past National Vice President of the Amvets Auxiliary.*

*JOHN S. MARTIN*

*John S. Martin, the son of Lillian Martin, was clerk of the county court of Scott County, Virginia, for four years and also clerk of the circuit court and master in chancery of that county for twenty years.*

John S. Martin was married three times. He and his first wife, Malinda Kirkpatrick Morrison, were married in 1824. They had three children. One died in infancy and one at the age of fourteen, after the move to Illinois; the third was James Stewart (later General James S.) Martin; Malinda Martin died in 1828, shortly after childbirth.

In 1830, John S. Martin married Nancy Brownlow, whose brother, William Gannaway Brownlow, was a noted politician and author, the editor and publisher of a Whig newspaper and later Governor of Tennessee. William G. Brownlow was known as "The Fighting Parson" because of his stand against slavery. John and Nancy Martin's children were: Adam Clark, who died two days after birth; Eliza Frances Wilson (who later lived in Salem), Sarah Emily (who died in Virginia), Nancy Rogers Bradford (who lived in Greenville, Illinois), Robert (who lived in Salem), Katherine Bennett (who lived in Greenville), Thompson George (who lived in Salem), Emma (who died at eighteen) and Benjamin Estill (whose biography appears later in this volume).

In 1846, John S. Martin moved to Illinois, and they settled on eighteen hundred acres of farm land nine miles north of Salem in Marion County. This land was purchased from the Federal Government at the rate of \$1.25 per acre. There he founded a town called Rantoul, later changing the name to Alma. He opened a country store here, but later moved to Salem to educate his children.

After his second wife, Nancy, died, John S. Martin married Jane See of Alma, and they had one child, Mathilda Jane. Mathilda Jane married John Gibson, and they had three children: John, Jr.; Joseph, and Jane, who married Frank Phillips of Creston, Iowa, founder of the Phillips Petroleum Company. Mathilda Jane died of the cholera in the Philippines, and her husband later married Bertha L. Martin, daughter of Benjamin Estill Martin, Sr., Mathilda Jane's half brother. Bertha and John Gibson had no children.

#### BENJAMIN ESTILL MARTIN, SR.

Benjamin Estill Martin was born at Estillville (now Gate City, Virginia, on February 27, 1845, the youngest of nine children

of John Simonton Martin and his second wife, Nancy Brownlow Martin, both natives of Virginia.

He was reared in Alma, Illinois, and attended the local schools until the Civil War began in 1861. Only sixteen years of age, he and his brother, Thompson G., then eighteen, ran away in response to President Lincoln's call for 300,000 volunteers. Benjamin stuffed his boots with paper to make himself appear taller; he was at first refused acceptance, but then Captain Jacob Moore, Company K, Fortieth Regiment, Illinois, Volunteer Infantry, took him with him as a drummer boy. (Thompson G. served with Company H, Fortieth Illinois, for four years, was in twenty-one battles and was mustered out on July 24, 1865.)

Benjamin endured the privations of war for eighteen months, participating in the bloody Battle of Shiloh (where his regiment lost 247 men in two days) and other encounters until serious illness brought him an honorable discharge from the service at Paducah, Kentucky, where his father went to return him home.

Other brothers of Benjamin S. Martin also serving in the war were Captain Robert Martin and Colonel (later General) James S. Martin, both of whom served with the famous One Hundred Eleventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. None of the brothers was injured, and all four of them returned to their homes at the close of the war.

After the war, Benjamin went into the drug business at Greenville, Illinois, where some of his sisters resided; and then he lived in Olathe, Kansas, a short while, returning to Illinois in 1869 to enter the drug business at Salem. A lumber and agricultural implement business with his brother was started, and in 1877 he established a wholesale seed business, in time becoming one of the country's largest wholesale and retail dealers of Red Top Seed. In connection with his seed business, he operated the Martin Store, selling groceries, hardware, buggies and implements.

On November 27, 1866, he was married to Florida Ann Cunningham, the daughter of John Cunningham, a Salem merchant. Eight children were born to them: Mary (Mrs. Charles T. Austin),

Bertha L. (Mrs. John Gibson), Benjamin Estill, Jr., Nancy Brownlow, John Cunningham, Edith (Mrs. C. P. Ratzburg), an infant boy who died at birth, and Gena (Mrs. R. A. Warner).

Benjamin Estill Martin was a substantial citizen of Salem, active in many business and civic affairs. He was a stockholder and director of the Salem National Bank, which he served as president for several years prior to his death in 1923. His son, John C., was president of the bank from 1933 until his death in 1952, at which time another son, Benjamin E., Jr., was named president, serving until his death in 1961. He served as supervisor of the Salem Township and was a director of the Marion County Building and Loan Association. A friend of William Jennings Bryan and active in endorsing him in his campaign for the presidency, Mr. Martin was keenly interested in Democratic politics.

He belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic. His fraternal memberships were with the Masons and Woodmen. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Benjamin E. Martin's widow died in 1928 and the last of their children, Mary, died in June, 1961.

#### OMAR JAMES McMACKIN

Omar J. McMackin was born in Salem, Illinois, March 18, 1888, the son of Charles L. McMackin and Eugenia Drake McMackin. He attended school in Salem, and at the age of eighteen joined his father in the firm of C. L. McMackin & Son Furniture and Funeral Directors.

At the outbreak of World War One, O. J. McMackin entered the Army, where he served for the duration.

In 1921, on the reorganization of the National Guard, Omar McMackin organized Company J, One Hundred Thirtieth Infantry, Thirty-Third Division, and became its first Captain and Company Commander, in Salem. (EDITORIAL NOTE: A brief history of this Company appears elsewhere in this volume) This company of National Guard is still a part of the Salem scene, having been in continuous

organization since it was established by Omar McMackin, who also commanded the Second and Third Battalions of the One Hundred Thirtieth Infantry and is now a retired lieutenant colonel of the Illinois National Guard.

Omar McMackin served the City of Salem as Commissioner for four terms and is the only person to date who has held the office of Mayor for three terms. His father, C. L. McMackin, and his grandfather, Colonel Warren E. McMackin, have preceded him in this high position of honor in Salem. His grandfather, Colonel McMackin, was the first Mayor of Salem.

Veterans affairs have always been a part of the life of Mr. Mackin, who has served the American Legion as Commander of Salem American Legion Post 128, Twenty-third District Legion Commander, Fifth Division Commander, Vice Commander of Illinois, and State Commander of the American Legion Department of Illinois. His wife, Ruth McMackin, is Past State President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois. They are the only husband and wife in Illinois to have both headed their respective American Legion organizations. When the first meeting on the establishment of the G. I. Bill of Rights was held in Salem, Mr. McMackin was one of the leaders in this movement that later became a law of our land and enabled so many thousands of veterans to obtain an education and other benefits after their military service.

During the strife-torn days of Southern Illinois in the 1920's and early 30's, when the Illinois National Guard was constantly on duty, Major Omar J. McMackin was Commander of Troops under the direction of the State Adjutant General for many many months. Countless riots and endless weeks of bloodshed were diverted by the firm hand and careful planning of Major McMackin. His contributions to the peaceful and final settlement of the complicated problems of Little Egypt during the prohibition era and mine disturbances of the "Roaring Twenties" will always be a monument to his wise military judgment and decisions.

Omar J. McClackin is the owner and operator of McClackin Funeral Home, Salem, Illinois, and is at present National Executive Committeeman of Illinois for the American Legion and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Salem National Bank, President of the Salem Memorial Hospital Board, a fifty-year member of the Masonic Lodge, Shriners, Elks, and President of the Salem Industrial Improvement Board, as well as the Salem Chamber of Commerce.

Always a stalwart supporter of the needs of Salem and a slasher of red tape, as Mayor of Salem, Mr. McClackin built the Kaskaskia River Water Line to Salem, insuring forever against any threat of drouth to the Salem community; his administrations paved streets against all odds, maintained the Municipal Electric Light Plant, keeping the City of Salem for many years the only city in Illinois owning, operating and prospering from the earnings of its four utilities: water, light, sewer and gas.

Omar J. McClackin has two sons and one daughter: Lieutenant Colonel Charles L. McClackin, USA Retired, of Salem, Lorin Cope McClackin, Assistant Professor of Music at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, and Mrs. Jack Scherertz (Martha Eugenia) of Columbus, Ohio. One son, Matthew Wells McClackin, is deceased. His sister, Miss Helen McClackin of Salem, owns and operates the McClackin Furniture Store.

#### THE MERRITT FAMILY

No history or biographical record of Salem and the surrounding area would be complete without the mention of one of the city's pioneer families -- the Merritt's.

Earlier histories reveal that during the dark days of the Revolution, the Colonies had no defender more loyal than EBENEZER MERRITT, who served with valor until, captured by the British, he was placed in an old hulk of a British ship in New York Harbor which served as his prison until the end of the war.

Actuated by the spirit of emigration and a parental regard for a growing family, JOHN J. MERRITT, who was born in the City

of New York on July 4, 1806, and died in Salem, Illinois, on November 16, 1878, was the son of the Revolutionary hero Ebenezer Merritt. He left his native state in 1847, and settled on a farm near Lebanon, St. Clair County, Illinois. Although educated in law, he turned his attention to journalism at an early age. He soon moved to the City of Belleville, where he became the editor and proprietor of the "Belleville Advocate" from 1848 to 1851. In the year 1851 he moved to Salem, Illinois, and established the "Salem Advocate." The "Advocate" became the first prominent newspaper of the County. The Honorable John W. Merritt was in 1862 selected as Assistant Secretary of the Constitutional Convention. In 1863 he was elected a member of the State Legislature. On January 7, 1865, John W. Merritt, supported by his son Edward L. took over the editorship of the "Springfield State Register" from which he retired from active duty in 1873.

John W. Merritt was married in August, 1827, in Rochester, New York, to Miss Julia De Forrest. To this marriage were born seven sons and two daughters: Julia C., Thomas Addis Emmet, General Wesley, Edward L., Joseph D., William W., Lieutenant Charles W., Emily O., and John H.

JULIA C. MERRITT married W. G. McCarty of Jefferson City, Missouri.

THOMAS ADDIS EMMET MERRITT, who was born in New York City, came to Illinois with his father at a very early age. He was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1862. Always a staunch Democrat, reared in the faith of that party, he early became an active worker in their ranks. In 1868 he was elected to the Illinois State Legislature and was a member of that body for fourteen years. On November 19, 1878, he was elected to the Illinois State Senate and served as State Senator for eight years. In 1875 he secured the passage of the first coal mine bill through the Legislature, which was the first act ever passed in the State in the interest of the coal mines. He helped pass the bill assessing capitol stock corporations. In 1871 he secured the passage of the bill compelling railroads to pay for burning along their right of ways. He was one of the commissioners to locate

the Institute for the Feeble Minded at Quincy, Illinois (now at Lincoln), also the Assylum for the Incurable Criminal Insane at Chester. For ten successive years he served as Alderman of Salem. On February 3, 1862, he was united in marriage with Miss Alice McKinney. Four daughters and three sons blessed this union: Addis D., Frank F., Clara, Harriett, Lottie, Edith and Harold.

MAJOR-GENERAL WESLEY MERRITT, a distinguished and honored military man, who served his country with courage and valor as an Indian fighter and cavalry officer and who was sent to the relief of General George A. Custer in 1876 at the massacre of the Little Big Horn, served as a Colonel of the Fifth Cavalry. After this battle he was made Superintendent of West Point Military Academy, in which position he served for eight years. He was one of General Sheridan's General Officers, serving on his staff during the Civil War and was appointed and served as the first Military Governor of the Phillipine Islands.

EDWARD L. MERRITT was one of the early proprietors of the "Springfield Register Newspaper," Springfield, Illinois, and was known as one of the most outstanding journalists of his time.

JOSEPH D. MERRITT, an early co-owner of the "Springfield Register Newspaper" also served as Clerk of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary Commission, residing at Chester, Illinois.

WILLIAM W. MERRITT served as a conductor on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, now known as the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and had three daughters, namely, Emily D., Rena and Pauline.

CHARLES W. MERRITT saw duty as a second lieutenant in Company "G" of the Ninth U. S. Cavalry, spending the majority of his life in the military service of his country.

EMILY O. MERRITT, also known as EMMA MERRITT, married Jacob O. Chance of Salem, who was elected and served as Clerk of the Supreme Court of Southern Illinois.

JOHN HENRY MERRITT, the youngest son of John W. Merritt, was one of the editors and proprietors of the "WARREN COUNTY HERALD NEWSPAPER" published in Salem. He is the great great

grandfather of the present generation of Merritts in Salem. He had three sons and two daughters, namely: Willis, Charles, Fred L., Maude and Margaret. CHARLES MERRITT was the former owner, editor and publisher of the Salem Harold Advocate, later the Marion County Democrat Newspaper. He had two sons and two daughters: Dean and Hall, Faye and Margaret. None of them now live in Salem.

FRED L. MERRITT, born in Salem on November 14, 1865, was united in marriage to Ida Belle Allmon who was born in Salem on March 22, 1868. Fred L. served the people of Salem practically his entire lifetime, being the first lamp lighter for the first street lamps in Salem, and at the time of his death on November 25, 1958, he was serving his fifth term as Salem Township Clerk. He also worked for many years in the machine shop of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad in the roundhouse at Salem. He and Ida Belle were the parents of three children, all of whom now live in Salem: Lena Louise, Earl W. and Lyle L.

LENA LOUISE MERRITT was united in marriage to Homer T. Keeler. She served for many years as organist for the Presbyterian Church; at present, besides being the organist for the Christian Science Church, she is the organist for many of the city's organizations. She has spent her entire lifetime teaching piano to the children of Salem.

EARL W. MERRITT was united in marriage to Dorothy Holt, the daughter of Judge Charles H. Holt and the sister of Circuit Judge Ward P. Holt. Earl, too, spent his lifetime in the service of the people of his community and state. In his youth with his brother Lyle, he played on the stage in the Dan Allmon Minstrel Show, opening the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1904. Earl served eight years as the Chief Clerk of the Automobile Department of the State of Illinois under Secretary of State Edward J. Barrett and was a member of the National Democratic Committee. In 1944 he was defeated by the smallest majority of record for the office of Illinois State Treasurer. He was a veteran of World War One, a Past Commander of the Salem

American Legion Post and served ten years as State Treasurer of the American Legion. He was General Chairman of the Marion County Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion for twenty-five years and was one of the founders of the now famous "G. I. Bill of Rights." He served as Salem's first City Manager under Mayor Omer J. McMackin when the water pipeline was built from the Kaskaskia River to Salem Reservoir. He was at the time of his death the owner of the Commercial Loan Company in Salem and was serving in his first term of six years as a member of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission. He passed away on August 1, 1961.

LYLE L. MERRITT was born in Salem on August 28, 1888. He was united in marriage on February 4, 1916, to Stella Nancy Honey, who passed away on January 26, 1952. Lyle, having spent much of his early life with his brother Earl in the entertainment world, still draws a crowd around him when he sits down to the piano to play. He worked for many years with the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad in Salem, was the owner-manager of a grocery store and tavern, was at one time District Manager of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and at the present time holds a real estate broker's license. He is a member of the Elks, Masons and Shrine and is at the present the Watchman of Shepherds of the White Shrine. Of his marriage one son was born, Frederick E. Merritt, on June 28, 1917, in Salem.

FREDERICK E. MERRITT graduated from the Salem High School and entered Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, in the fall of 1935. Here he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree and his Law Degree before entering the Army in World War Two on November 11, 1942. While in the Army he served in the Criminal Investigation Division in the China - Burma - India Theater of War for about three years where he met his wife, Doreen Ann Dunn. They were married in Salem on December 25, 1946, and have one daughter, Deborah Anne Merritt, born on November 16, 1951. Frederick also has one step-son, Peter M. Dunn, whose father lost his life at sea by a torpedo in World War Two as a British Merchant Naval Officer. Peter is now a naturalized American citizen,

as is his mother, Doneen, and is serving as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Mr. Merritt, or "Bud," as he is more familiarly known around Salem, is licensed to practice law in both Missouri and Illinois and in the Federal Courts. He presently has his law office in Salem directly across the street from the Salem Post Office and, was the first law office in Salem to be located on the ground floor. Mr. Merritt like his ancestors has always been a staunch, outspoken Democrat. He has always been ready, willing and able to serve his community, state and nation whenever the opportunity afforded. He is at the present time serving his seventh year as Salem's city attorney. He is a Past Commander of the Salem American Legion Post, is serving his tenth year as Judge Advocate of both the 23rd District and 5th Division of the American Legion and is also Assistant Judge Advocate of the Department of Illinois of the State American Legion. He has served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois, and as Special Agent in Charge of Enforcement for the Office of Price Stabilization of the United States Government for the State. He has served as Master in Chancery of the Circuit Court; Public Defender of Marion County; served four years as President of the Marion County Bar Association; was one of the organizers and is now serving as Attorney for the Salem Fire Protection District. For the past six years he has been General Chairman of the Marion County Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion. From 1956 to 1960 he served as State Chairman of the Veterans Advisory Committee of the Democratic National Committee and in 1960 was appointed Illinois State Chairman of the "Veterans for Kennedy" Committee in the campaign of John F. Kennedy for the presidency. It was through Mr. Merritt's efforts that the bronze statue of William Jennings Bryan, Salem's most outstanding son, which stood in the Capitol Park in Washington, D. C., was brought to Salem and erected in Bryan Memorial Park. Mr. Merritt himself went to Washington in a truck on May 21, 1961, and brought the statue to Salem. For many years Mr. Merritt advocated permanent

seats in Bryan Memorial Park in front of the stage and band stand to be available for use at any time by the people of his community; but it was not until June, 1961, under his chairmanship that the project was finally started, sponsored by the Salem American Legion Post. In addition to the American Legion, Mr. Merritt is an active member of the Rotary, Elks, Amvets, VFW and Red Cross and takes a very active part in the Community Development Program of the City of Salem.

**MOSS HELEN M. McMAKIN**

Helen M. McMakin was born in Salem, Illinois, the daughter of Charles L. and Eugenia (Drake) McMakin. Her mother's people came from New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Virginia and were pioneer settlers in Illinois. Her Father's family came to Illinois from Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky in 1828.

A graduate of Bishop Robertson Hall in St. Louis, Miss McMakin later attended Washington University before returning to Salem. She is a member of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and has made Salem her home all her life.

She became a member of the Isaac Hull Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in 1920 and attended her first State Conference of the D.A.R. in 1921. A woman of rare personality and executive ability, she has held such important offices as National Chairman of D.A.R. Manual for Citizenship and has served on their Resolutions Committee. Her ability has been recognized by her election to the office of State Regent, Treasurer, Librarian and President of the State Officers Club of the D.A.R. Other leaders of the D.A.R. have recognized Miss McMakin's willingness to devote her time and energy to the principles for which they stand by naming her Division Director, State Vice Chairman of Constitution Hall Finance, State Chairman of Transportation, as well as naming her Children of the American Revolution Promoter. Under Miss McMakin's direction and guidance, the following D.A.R. projects reached successful conclusions: The Tamassée Boys' Dormitory was completed and furnished; \$4,000.00 Reforestation

Project was dedicated; a case was presented to the Textile Study Room in Memorial Continental Hall; generous contributions were made to the Archives Room and the Endowment Fund of the National Society. These praiseworthy attainments were in addition to substantial donations to the regular and special projects of the National Society. During her administration as State Treasurer, all bills were paid in full, and the state finance was left in excellent condition.

During Miss McKackin's services with the Illinois D.A.R., the Golden Jubilee Membership Committee was added to the list of State Committees. This committee and the Organization of Chapters' Committee succeeded in increasing the membership and number of chapters.

Program Chairman of the 1946 Continental Congress of the D.A.R., a position which Miss McKackin held again in 1947, and a three-year term as Vice President General are significant achievements in her years of devoted and active service to the lofty ideals of the National Society.

From 1947 to 1950, she served as Librarian General of the National Society of the D.A.R. During her period of service, the D.A.R. Library was moved to Continental Hall and complete renovation was made and the most modern equipment installed. At the same time the new office building was constructed and the administration building and the Constitution Hall were repaired and modern improvements added.

Since 1950, Miss McKackin has had the following accomplishments for the D.A.R. to her credit: She has served as Vice Chairman of Hospitality, served as a member of the Resolutions Committee and other committees of the National Society. In 1957, the Illinois D.A.R. News was published. This D.A.R. state news pamphlet had been a long-time ambition of Miss McKackin, who paid for the first issue. The venture was a success, and now a per capita tax and paid subscriptions have brought the circulation to over two thousand copies mailed four times a year to officers and members. In 1960, Miss McKackin received the highest vote at

D.A.R. Continental Congress for one of the thirteen Honorary Vice Presidents General for Life. This is an office which is accorded for continued and faithful service in the National Society. In addition to this office, Miss McMackin is currently serving as Senior National Chairman for C.A.R. Magazine, visits chapters and is a promoter of the many projects of the National Society. She is also a member of the N.S.D.A.R. Pensions Committee.

Not only in the activities of D.A.R. is Miss McMackin recognized as a woman possessing professional experience and executive ability, but also in other fields where she has served. She has been president of the Illinois Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, Vice President of the Salem Women's Club, and completed a term as State Chairman for National Defense of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois.

Her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary permits her to wear the 25-year pin. She was a charter member in her unit and is a member of the Marion-Clinton 8 & 40 Salon. She is a Past President Club member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Further experience qualified her for membership in the Salem Library Board, for which she acted as Treasurer.

Miss McMackin has served two terms as Treasurer of the National Society Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company: from 1944 to 1947 and from 1950 to 1953. In 1959 she was National Chairman of the Schools Committee of this organization, and is at present their State Treasurer of Illinois.

Her activities include membership and offices in such other patriotic and fraternal organizations as: Daughters of American Colonists, of which she served as National Chairman of Patriotic Education; United States Daughters of 1812; Daughters of Colonial Wars; Magna Charta Dames; Chicago Colony of New England Women; Barons of Runnemedede; Colonial Dames of America; Order of Eastern Star and P.E.O.; and Honorary Member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; Armonial Society; Rebekah; Pythian Sisters, General Federation

of Women's Clubs; Chamber of Commerce of Salem; member of the Salvation Army Board; White Shrine. She belongs to the following clubs: Salem Country Club; Capital Hill Club, Washington, D.C.; The Arts Club of Chicago; Lake Shore Club of Chicago.

Miss McMackin has served as Vice Chairman of the State Convention in Springfield of P.E.O., and has been a delegate to Supreme in Detroit. Her keen executive accumen and patriotic endeavors resulted in presentation of an award and citation by the U. S. Treasury Department to her for assistance in the sale of War Bonds during World War Two.

In December, 1946, Governon Dwight H. Green of Illinois appointed Miss McMackin to serve as one of the members of the Board of Advisors of State Reformatory for Women in the Department of Public Welfare.

Miss McMackin is the owner and operator of the McMackin Furniture Store of Salem.

#### MIDDLETON FAMILY

Marion County, Illinois, can proudly boast of the fact that it has a connection with the famous document that gave the nation its birth -- the Declaration of Independence. A number of the relatives of the man whose name has gone down in history are survivors at the time this is being written.

During the reign of King George III of England, three brothers, Sir Arthur, William and Watson Middleton, sailed from Wales to the New World, arriving in the Virginia Colony in the middle 1760's. Some time after their arrival on the western shores, William and Sir Arthur decided to move to South Carolina.

A number of the Middleton people during the Eighteenth Century had aspirations for public affairs. Another Arthur Middleton of an earlier period was Governor of the Virginia Colony and was active in public affairs. The elder Arthur was born in 1681 and died in 1737. It is not known what relation, if any, he was to the younger Arthur and his brother.

Sir Arthur Middleton was born in 1742 and died in 1787. He was a member of the Second Continental Congress and on the immortal date of July 4, 1776, he penned his signature to the famous Declaration of Independence.

Sir Arthur's brother William moved to Warren County, Tennessee about 1807. So far as is known, he remained in the southern state for the remainder of his life. William, Jr., his son, decided to come to the Illinois country, leaving his Tennessee home April 12, 1831, and arriving in Marion County in the latter part of April on the early part of May. William, Jr., who came to Marion County, was a nephew of the signer of the historic document.

After William Middleton, Jr., arrived at the place that was to be his future home, he acquired a large tract of land in the area of the present Juka, Illinois. The land grant was signed by the President of the United States. His home was a short distance south of the village of Juka, but his real estate holdings included the west part of what is now Juka. For many years the village was known as Middleton, Illinois. The name was changed in 1867, at the request of some of the veterans of the Civil War who had served in and around Juka, Mississippi, and who liked the appearance of the southern town.

The Middleton people who reside in Marion County, as well as many others who live elsewhere, are relatives of the signer of the Declaration of Independence. The family has played a large part in the settling and developing of this county and in making it one of the outstanding counties of the Prairie State. The name of Middleton will no doubt be long remembered in the annals of the history of this area.

### PLEASANT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

(Most of the following history of Pleasant Grove was given to us by the late Mrs. Sadie Wilson Purcell.)

The first record of religious services being held in Pleasant Grove community was in 1841. In that year John Wilson of Ohio came to Illinois with his sons, Richard Tilton and John Conwin Wilson, also Wilson White, a grandson. This family, along with the other scattered families in the community, had been having school in an old abandoned house; but during the same year a log school house 24 by 18 feet with a weight pole roof was built near where Pleasant Grove now stands on ground given by the Wilson's. Thomas Miller was the first teacher. Once a year Bishop Roberts preached in this house. Rev. Joseph Helms and Rev. T. L. Middleton were among the first ministers.

In the early days Pleasant Grove was on the Salem Circuit (1870-1873) and on the Kirmundy Circuit from 1873 to 1890. In 1890, Alma was made the head of the circuit containing the four charges as it now is -- Pleasant Grove, Cabbage Chapel, Zion and Alma.

The deed to the church property states that on November 4, 1857 it was deeded by William Hutts to John C. Wilson, Thomas A. White, Samuel Phillips, Thomas Phillips and R. L. Wilson, trustees. This deed was recorded November 10, 1857.

Just what year the church was built we are not certain; however, we do have evidence that Joseph Henry Shaffer helped haul logs to be used in the construction of this church and at the time of his death was collecting funds to be used for repairs.

Henry Shaffer joined the Union Army on August 4, 1861, being in Company B, Fortieth Illinois, under Captain Sprouse and Colonel Hicks, continued in the service until mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky on August 5, 1865. He later moved to this community. At the present time his grand daughter, Mrs. Ray Vandeveer and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Anna Shaffer, are active members of the church.

We have been unable to find the names of more than a few early worshippers. Besides those mentioned, the names of Browns

and Vallows were given.

Pleasant Grove at this time is an active church, with Sunday School every Sunday, Prayer Meeting every Tuesday night, preaching services twice a month, M. Y. F. every Sunday evening. There is an active W. S. C. S., and six Sunday School classes are taught by competent teachers.

Extensive remodeling has been done, with the interior completely done over, new pews and pulpit furniture, and a basement under the entire building. May this church always be a lighthouse for spreading the Gospel and an inspiration to worship and serve God, to the future generations as it has been in the past.

-- Mrs. Bessie Lynch Hiestand and

Mrs. Ruby Leckrone

Hiestand

## JESSE RAY

Jesse Ray was born August 7, 1808. He was of English descent, his parents being natives of North Carolina who later settled in Madison County, Ohio.

Jesse Ray was married in Dayton, Ohio, on September 16, 1830, to Hiland (Helen) Mary Janner, who had been born in Montgomery County, Ohio, on February 7, 1806. She was the daughter of Henry and Sallie Kerby Janner. The Janner's were of Scotch-Irish descent. Helen's great grandfather, Joseph, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, emigrated to America and lived to the age of 103. His son, Joseph Janner, Jr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, receiving a three to four-inch bayonet wound on the skull at the Battle of Germantown. Joseph Janner, Jr., was born in 1740 near Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. He went to Virginia in Fairfax County, where his farm joined that of General George Washington on the west. Joseph Janner, Jr., at the age of 101 rode horseback from London, Ohio, to North Webster, Indiana. He died about a year later in Cherry Point, Marshall County, Illinois, on September 5, 1842, where he lies buried.

Jesse and Helen Ray moved not long after their marriage to Vansaw, Indiana, and stayed there two years. On June 11, 1839, he secured from the Federal Government land near Salem, Illinois, and moved there by covered wagon. He entered several hundred acres in Tonti Township (the Cope farm is a portion of the November 14, 1840, government grant.)

Jesse and Helen were the parents of the following children: Lucinda, born July 11, 1831, who married Orlando I. Baker on May 24, 1860. Lucinda lived until 1893. Henry I., born December 24, 1832, who married Nellie Robb on April 2, 1862. Henry lived until April 14, 1920. Sarah Ann, born June 30, 1834, who married Allen Cope on April 16, 1856. Sarah Ann lived until February 22, 1924. Thomas I. born March 15, 1836, who married Sarah Loomis on October 5, 1865. Thomas died on December 21, 1915. Rosa, born May 8, 1838, who married William H. Porter on October 20, 1864. Rosa lived until December 25, 1919. Maria (Rhea), born May 24, 1840, who married on her birthday in 1860 Thomas Lowrey (was this

a double wedding with her sister Lucinda?). Rhea lived until July 28, 1927. Uriah, Maria's twin, born May 24, 1840, died as a baby in 1841.

Jesse Ray was a veteran of the Mexican War, a private in Company C, Sixth Regiment, Illinois. The requisition for raising a company of infantry was received at Salem on May 2, 1847, and in four days' time the company was organized and reporting for duty. On May 17th the company marched from Salem, arriving in Alton, Illinois, on the 19th, and was mustered into the service of the United States on May 21st. They left Alton on June 17, 1847, arrived at Fort Leavenworth on June 29th, and were equipped with arms the next day.

The First Division of the Illinois Sixth Regiment was composed of Companies B, C and E under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Boykin. He had enlisted as a private in Company C, and was elected from the ranks in Alton. These three companies left Fort Leavenworth on July 9, 1847, with a wagon train composed of thirty-three wagons, thirty others having been sent on before towards Santa Fe, New Mexico. The route led across what was then known as "The Great American Desert." They were often without water, most food had to be found by their hunters, and their only fire possible was made from dried "buffalo chips."

Jesse Ray took scurvy and was mustered out of service at Las Vegas, New Mexico, on January 9, 1848. Then able, he found his own way home. He was gone from home about fourteen months.

As compensation for his military service, he received a government warrant for 160 acres of land, dated May 28, 1849, at Vandalia, Illinois. He took this land up adjoining his previous holdings. It was patented to "Jesse Ray of Marion County, March 7, 1851" (here we quote records). This land includes the farms now owned and occupied by two of his great grandchildren, Loren V. Cope and Margaret C. and her husband, Clyde Smith.

Soon the Ray home became well known as a place of hospitality and many cattle men rode late to stay with them overnight. In 1851 when the surveyors were "running the line" for the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central Railroad, the Ray home was made

their headquarters and their tents were pitched in the yard. The surveyors asked "Uncle Jesse" what he thought of where the survey was being made. He told them he wished it wasn't so close to the house and asked the engineers to favor him as much as possible. They re-surveyed, and a curve was made in the line between Tonti and Odin. The curve remains, a silent reminder of the potency of good will.

Jesse Ray's son Thomas served during the Civil War with the One Hundred Eleventh Infantry Regiment of Illinois (COTTON MATS: A history of this regiment appears elsewhere in this volume), being mustered into service of the United States on September 10, 1862, and serving with Company A of the Regiment until mustered out on June 6, 1865. He died on December 27, 1915, at Webster, South Dakota.

Jesse and Helen Ray moved to Salem for a few years in order to give their children a better education. He owned a hotel called the Ray House, where the Park Hotel is now located. One evening Stephen Douglas came to town and stayed at the Ray House. Later the same evening, Abraham Lincoln arrived in town and went to the Spencer House, which used to be where the Benke Studio is now. Mr. Ray was a great admirer of Lincoln and visited with him in the northwest bedroom upstairs. He often told of how Lincoln was resting on the bed, with his feet extending over the foot.

It was in the Ray House that Sarah Ann Ray married Allen Cope on April 16, 1855. The family soon thereafter moved back to the farm.

Jesse Ray died on August 27, 1859, and his wife Helen was living with her daughter, Lucinda R. Baker, at the time of her death on February 7, 1876.

—Margaret Cope Smith and  
Leila Cope

### FELIX GRUNDY ROSS

Felix G. Ross was born in 1832 in Jefferson County, Ohio.

He was married on April 8, 1860, to Lavina Johnson, and to this union were born: George Ross, who married Ida Harrowsmith; Isaac John Ross, who married Emma Shanafelt; and Minnie Ross, who married Charles McKown. All his children are deceased, but two granddaughters and five grandsons survive. The granddaughters are: Mrs. Claude Daniels who now lives in Oklahoma and Mrs. Earl Jackson of Alma, Illinois. The grandsons are: David McKown of Oklahoma, George McKown of Oklahoma, Isaac F. Ross of Sandoval, Illinois, Edwin Ross of Sandoval, Illinois, and Bernard Ross of Robinson, Illinois.

Felix G. Ross was a carpenter by trade and belonged to the Methodist Church of Central City, Illinois.

He was a sergeant in Company K of the Fortieth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. A diary of his life in the army is in the possession of his grandson, Isaac Felix Ross of Sandoval, Illinois, and contains these facts:

Felix G. Ross left home on the 5th day of July, 1861. He went to Springfield, Illinois, and on July 6, 1861, was sworn into the army. On July 10th, he passed his physical examination.

He then went to Jefferson Barracks, where he remained until August 29, 1861, when he was sent to Bird's Point.

Later in September he was sent to Paducah, Kentucky. Most of the following months, from September, 1861, through March, 1862, were spent in the vicinity of Paducah.

On April 29, 1862, the company in which Felix Ross was serving moved to Shiloh, Tennessee. In his diary he tells of the Battle of Shiloh. The battle lasted through two days, and he mentions the men killed and injured. Several skirmishes are mentioned.

He tells of their pushing on to reach Corinth, Mississippi. Here are some thoughts taken from the diary the week before the Battle of Corinth:

"Many brave hearts will cease to throb ere the present week closes. Oh, how terrible is the scourge of Civil War, but

our country must be sustained and the rebellion must be crushed out. Lord, speed the closing scene."

The diary, day by day, tells of the task of pushing the Rebels back and gaining a foothold. He tells of the rations and also mentions that letters were not received for two or three months and how homesick they became.

By the middle of July, 1862, he begins to tell of being ill. The rest of the time, he does not mend but seems to lose strength and weight. He mentions the ague and that quinine was used to do away with it. His health continues to fail, but he tells of marching on despite his illness.

After pushing the Rebels southward into Memphis, they are sent to Macon, Tennessee, then back to Memphis.

At Memphis, he entered the hospital. The company doctor and also another doctor recommend a discharge. Felix J. Ross says in his diary, "If I cannot be a well soldier, then I will agree to the discharge."

His discharge states that on the 13th of November, 1862, at Memphis, Tennessee, by reason of a "Surgeon Certificate of Disability, Chronical Diarrhaea", contracted since enlistment, he was given his discharge paper, signed by Jacob S. Moore, Captain Company 78, Fortieth Illinois Regiment.

Felix J. Ross reached home on the 26th day of November, 1862. Due to exposure and continued illness, he never fully recovered from his Civil War experiences. He is buried in the Underick Cemetery in Marion County, about four miles south of Sandoval, Illinois.

Mrs. Carl Jackson, granddaughter of Felix Ross, states, "In our possession we have the diary, the paper making him 4th sergeant, special order paper written by command of Major General U. S. Grant and countersigned by Major General Sherman, and his discharge paper."

--Mrs. Carl Jackson

## CHARLES MICHAEL SEE

Charles M. See was born February 4, 1847, at Point Pleasant, Virginia. He moved to Marion County, Illinois, in 1848.

Among the many reminiscences of a long and fruitful life, Mr. See delighted to refer often to the time he had the privilege to hear one of the famous debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. Mr. See always stood firmly for honest and conscientious discharge of all public affairs.

Mr. See served his country during the Civil War, entering service in 1861 and being discharged with the rank of sergeant on July 24, 1864. He was a member of Company B of the Fortieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under the command of Colonel S. G. Hicks. He acted as sergeant to Captain J. T. Sprouse, and during these years he saw much exposure, hardship, and much active service. He participated in Sherman's famous "March to the Sea" and was at one time wounded in the left leg by the bursting of a shell.

On March 14, 1867, Charles M. See was married to Ann Maria Hatton (born June 18, 1848, in Purdy, Tennessee, the daughter of Perry Hatton, who built the first stone house in Alma, Illinois, in 1853 and who was Alma's first postmaster). To this union were born the following children: Marietta, who married William A. Crooker of Mt. Vernon, Illinois; Frances A., who married Dr. J. B. Holson of Farina, Illinois; H. Isabel, who married Edwin Nelson of Centralia, Illinois; Ruby M. of Alma, Illinois; C. Louise, who married Dr. H. E. Nilson of Alma, Illinois; Roy A., who married Cora Wernner of Riverdale, Illinois; and Lois O'Bryant of Alma, Illinois. All of Charles and Ann Maria See's children are now deceased except Ruby and Roy.

Mr. See was agent of the Illinois Central Railroad at Alma, Illinois, for forty years. In due time, he was honorably retired with a pension. He was very active in community projects. Alma was a fruit center at one time, and Mr. See grew peaches, pears and strawberries. He was also postmaster at one time. He was a member of the Missionary Harmony Baptist Church of Alma. He died on January 17, 1925.

—Mrs. Charles See  
Handwritten

## TENNESSEE PRAIRIE

"Tennessee Prairie" begins and ends in Raccoon Township. It is joined by a narrow strip of land in Sections 14 and 15 to Romine Prairie. Tennessee Prairie is drained by Raccoon Creek and Martin's Branch.

The early settlers of the area came from Tennessee—hence, the name. James Alfred Ray, Sr., at the age of twenty-one built the first log cabin in Tennessee Prairie in 1820. Most of the settlers built their homes along the edge of the timberland, in order to secure the logs more easily. They didn't have plows strong enough to plow the tough prairie grass and sod; but in 1823 the Richardson brothers, Rev. James J. Richardson and Thomas Richardson, whose land joined James Alfred Ray, Sr.'s land, secured stronger plows and plowed the first ground in the area.

In 1832 the first school house was built of logs on what is now known as the "Brian Patch Oil Lease." Rev. James J. Richardson was the first teacher. He also held religious services in the school house. Antioch Methodist Church was organized in this building. The name "Antioch" was selected from the Bible.

The first post office was built in 1839 on the William England farm. Mr. England was postmaster, and he also opened the first store in the same building.

The early settlers built a camp meeting ground on the farm of William England. It covered two acres of ground. It had frame tents erected in a square form, with the ministers' stand in the center. Rev. James J. Richardson, Rev. William England, Rev. Thomas Casey and Rev. E. Huckleberry were some of the early ministers. These camp meetings lasted from Thursday till Monday, but were discontinued when the log churches were built.

In 1842 the Methodist people decided to build a church on land that was donated by Thomas Richardson. Mart Adams, the Richardson brothers and others started the church. It wasn't completed until 1844-45. In the year 1883 this log church was torn down and a frame church was built. This church was destroyed by a cyclone in 1922, rebuilt in 1923, remodeled in 1944 and again in 1952.

In 1846 the first coal shaft was sunk on the Rev. James J. Richardson's farm. The settlers used this coal to burn in their fireplaces for heating purposes.

The settlers met about this time and elected "Justice of the Peace" officers, who were: Josiah Fyke, Sr., Millington Counce, James Alfred Ray, Sr., and Hamilton Farthing.

A cemetery plot was donated to the Antioch Society by Rev. James J. Richardson. The first burial dates back to about 1823. Some of the early graves are lost due to the markers being blown down or destroyed. A number of Civil War veterans are buried there.

An Indian Trail from present-day St. Louis, Missouri, to Vincennes, Indiana, known as the "Middlin' Trail", passed through Tennessee Prairie from the southwest corner to the northeast corner. Indian relics and mounds have been found along this trail, as this seemed to be a favorite camping place for a number of Indian tribes.

The Richardson brothers each sent a son to fight in the Civil War: James Richardson, Jr., son of Rev. James J. Richardson, and J. Daily Richardson, son of Thomas Richardson.

In 1938, oil was discovered in Tennessee Prairie and in surrounding territories. The Texas Company drilled a large number of oil wells. This industry brought vast wealth to the land owners.

Tennessee Prairie is now grown up in trees and shrubs, till not much prairie land is left. However, the land is rich in fertile soil. Corn, wheat, oats, soybeans, and all kinds of hay and garden produce are grown here.

C. E. Richardson, son of the late Nathen Richardson, and Raymond Richardson, son of the late A. H. Richardson (descendents of the early settlers, Rev. James J. Richardson and Thomas Richardson) still live in Tennessee Prairie near the location where their ancestors settled.

In 1970, Centralia dammed up Martin's Branch and built Lake Centralia in Tennessee Prairie; it covers 186 acres of land.

(This was compiled by Goldie M. Johnson, great grand daughter of Rev. James J. Richardson; also great grand daughter of James Alfred Ray, Sr.)

### CHARLES W. VURSELL

Charles W. Vursell, son of Henry and Nancy Vursell, from one of the early families of the Salem area, was born and reared in Stephens Township, and for a few years engaged in the teaching profession.

He was later married to Bessie Brasel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Brasel of the same community, moving to Salem where he entered the hardware business.

Their two children, Charles E. and Harold D. Vursell, were graduated from the Salem High School, and were later graduated from the University of Illinois. The older son, Charles E., has been an insurance executive in Chicago and Detroit for many years. Harold D., after completing his education at Sorbonne University, Paris, and later at Columbia University, New York, entered the book publishing business and is now Vice-President of Farrar-Straus and Cudahy, Fifth Avenue, New York. Both sons saw active service in World War Two.

In 1910, Mr. Vursell was elected Sheriff of Marion County, served four years and was then elected Representative to the Illinois State Legislature. Finding the salary inadequate to support a growing family, he refused to become a candidate for reelection, and entered the newspaper business by purchasing the Salem Republican in 1916.

Entering into this new venture with energy and initiative, within two years Mr. Vursell more than doubled the business of the Republican, added new machinery and moved to larger quarters on East Main Street. Soon thereafter, Adolph Dietrick came to Salem, became an employee and later became a partner in the business, which continued to grow and expand. After thirty-two years of this partnership Mr. Vursell, due to his congressional work which consumed all of his time, sold his interest to Mr. Dietrick in 1948, who later changed the name to The Salem Times-Commoner.

Since he was always interested in government and widely known politically in Illinois, his friends persuaded Mr. Vursell to become a candidate for Congress from the Twenty-third District

of Illinois in 1942. This district was so heavily Democratic that only two Republicans in the prior fifty years had been elected: General Frank S. Dickson of Ramsey, Illinois, and Edward Brooks of Newton, Illinois. Congressman Dickson served one term and Congressman Brooks served two terms.

Undaunted by the heavy Democrat majority, Mr. Vursell made a hard campaign on a sound platform of facts that so appealed to the people that they swept him to victory over his well-entrenched incumbent, Laurance Arnold of Newton, by a majority of 4877 votes, carrying eight of the ten counties in the district.

It may be of historical interest to the people of the Salem area to note that Mr. Vursell was the first Republican from Marion County in the District to be elected to Congress since James S. Martin, president of the Salem National Bank, was elected to Congress in 1872, defeating Judge Silas Bryan, father of the later famous William Jennings Bryan, who later served in Congress from Nebraska and was three times nominated as the Democratic candidate for President.

An advocate of conservative policies, against waste and unnecessary spending, against socialistic panaceas, insisting that government expenses be kept within its income and disregarding all pressure groups, Mr. Vursell soon became one of the respected leaders of sound, economical, free-enterprise government in the House of Representatives.

From every point of view, he served his district with great distinction for sixteen years -- a record in length of service not matched by any other congressman from this district in either party since Illinois was admitted to the Union in 1818.

During his first session in Congress, due to his prior Illinois State Legislative experience and his knowledge of Federal government, he took the leadership in writing and passing the very controversial "Soldier Vote Bill" which gave our servicemen all over the world in World War Two an opportunity to vote an "absentee" ballot. The legislation was so sound that it still remains the law today.

Also in his early service, Mr. Vursell helped to write and pass the "G. I. Bill of Rights", the most comprehensive and beneficial legislation ever enacted in the interest of our servicemen and veterans.

He became the active leader on the Republican side of the Congress in the support of the oil industry of Southern Illinois and the nation, helping to enact legislation necessary to its continued development and opposing every attempt of those who would hobble the oil industry with socialistic legislation.

His most important service was doubtless rendered as a member of the Appropriations Committee, where for years in every session he fought successfully to cut many billions of dollars from the various budgets of reckless, unnecessary spending.

While a member of the Public Works Committee, as one of a committee of three, he conferred with President Truman and federal architects to determine the necessity of building a new White House. After a close inspection, his committee reported that the condition of the old historic building was so bad that a new one should be built at the earliest possible date. His committee drafted the legislation and helped to pass it in the Congress, resulting in the beautiful White House of today.

In 1947, Mr. Vursell was appointed a member of the Herter Committee, representing the Congress and the President in making an economic study of England and the nations of Western and Southern Europe. The work of this committee was applauded by the press of the nation and the Congress. Two of the members were Christian Herter, the chairman, and Richard Nixon, who went on to greater honors in the public service of our country. Mr. Herter was later made U. S. Secretary of State, and Mr. Nixon twice was elected, serving eight years as Vice President of our nation.

Coming closer to home in his service, Mr. Vursell became the father of the Carlyle Lake and Kaskaskia Project, nurturing it through its legislative course in the House of Representatives, which will mean so much to this section of Southern Illinois.

A tireless worker and one of the most diligent congressmen in the nation's capital, his name and his personal services to

thousands of his constituents, regardless of their political affiliation, will long be remembered by his legion of friends in both parties for his unfailing work and effective action when called upon.

A short time after Mr. Vursell had become a member of Congress he demonstrated his fearless courage in a speech that he delivered before the House of Representatives, of which we quote an excerpt taken from the Congressional Record:

"Mr. Speaker, my purpose today is to bring to the attention of this body some thoughts that have been on my mind for many months. In calling them to your attention, I am not unmindful of the old adage that 'fools rush in where angels fear to tread.' I know it is a question which might be regarded as dangerous to one's prestige and political future; however, I prefer to follow my conscience and let the future take care of itself. I do not deem it of much importance whether a particular Member is returned to the House, only insofar as his services are important to the nation and the public welfare. How well he serves his country in these trying times while he is here is what is really worth while."

In the year of 1947, Charles W. Vursell was requested to join the "Herter Committee" on a trip to Europe that was in the interest of the American Government. This request came unsolicited to Mr. Vursell and took him by complete surprise. Richard Nixon, later Vice President of the United States for eight years, was one of those who were asked to go on this tour. This committee was headed by the Honorable Christian Herter, who later became Secretary of State during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

We quote some excerpts from an editorial that appeared in the Salem Republican in 1954 in which they frankly expressed their opinion of the service that Mr. Vursell was rendering his constituents:

"A fundamental belief in the supremacy of the people with respect to government has dominated the action of Congressman Vursell of Salem, who is now serving his twelfth year in the Congress of the United States.

"During his years in Washington, Congressman Vursell has waged an unceasing battle for economy in government, winning membership to the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which has cut billions from the government's budget and which expects to cut further billions in the next fiscal year.

"A tireless worker and one of the most diligent Congressmen in the nation's capital, Mr. Vursell has performed countless services for the citizens of the Twenty-third District, regardless of party affiliation. He is considered sound in all respects by members of both political parties, and his statesmanship is such as to reflect great credit upon his home community, Salem, Illinois."

#### JOHN GREENE VAUGHAN

John Greene Vaughan was born January 21, 1827, at Paddy's Run, Butler County, Ohio, and died October 5, 1903, in Carrigan Township, Marion County, Illinois. He lived in Ohio until he was thirty years old.

On February 2, 1856, he married Ann Davis, who lived only a few months after the marriage.

Mr. Vaughan bought 520 acres of land in Marion County, north of Odin, Illinois, and moved there in 1857. He cleared this land and did general farming and stock raising.

On January 3, 1859, he married Isabel Oliver Peters, a native of Ripley, Ohio, whom he met when she was visiting her sister, a Mrs. Parker, who lived east of Salem, Illinois. Isabel Oliver Peters was born August 30, 1837, the daughter of Frazier and Elizabeth Courtney Peters. She died in Salem on January 11, 1925.

Following are the names of the children of John and Isabel Vaughan: Evan, born February 8, 1860, who died April 4, 1860; Mary, born January 14, 1862, who was first married to George Wilde and second to Henry Siegel, and who died on July 5, 1938; William, born July 26, 1863, who died December 22, 1877; Alice, born July 4, 1865, who never married and who died on March 19, 1954; Annie, born July 8, 1867, who married Walter L. Cope and who died on April 23, 1957; John Greene, Jr., born November 22, 1868, who married Leila Bundy, and who died November 26, 1939; Robert Courtney, born August 29, 1871, who married Minnie Harvey, and who died in September, 1940; Abner Francis, born November 12, 1873, who married Grace Dickerson, and who died July 18, 1953;

Bessie Belle, born August 27, 1876, who married Edgar Harvey and who died September 2, 1957; and Edward Bebb, born March 11, 1877, who never married and who died in December, 1922.

John Greene Vaughan was elected County Judge of Marion County in 1877, and he served for years as Supervisor of Carrigan Township. He was a member of the Farmers' Club which was organized in 1874, and one time was President of the County Horticultural Society; when he became a fruit grower later in life. A Presbyterian, he attended church in Odin. He was named "John" after his grandfather Vaughan, and "Greene" was the maiden name of his great grandmother Roberts on his mother's side of the family.

When John G. Vaughan came to Illinois, he brought with him the family cello, which he loved to play. Later it belonged to his son Robert, and now it is owned by his great grandson, Lonin C. Mackin, who teaches at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. Lonin plays it in the University Symphony Orchestra.

Also handed down through the family is an old clock which John Vaughan received after his mother's death and which he kept until he died. Following is the

#### HISTORY OF THE CLOCK

In 1795 a party of emigrants started from Llanbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, North Wales. Among them, sailing on the brig "Maria" August 6, 1795, were George Roberts and his wife and Edward Bebb who was engaged to George's sister. The Roberts settled at Chensburg, Pennsylvania. Bebb went on west to Cincinnati, Ohio, found that west of the Great Miami River a part of the Northwest Territory was not surveyed yet. He had to wait until 1801 before he could buy a half section on the Dry Fork of the Mitlewater in Butler County. He built a cabin at Paddy's Run and then started the long journey back to Wales.

In the meantime, no letter, as far as we know, had been received from America and it may have been thought that young Bebb was dead. Anyway, the Roberts family thought it unseemly for their daughter to wait any longer and persuaded their Margaret to marry a Rev. Mr. Owers. Her older sister Grace and Grace's husband and two children

were emigrating to America, and the young Owens couple decided to accompany them. Her parents gave her a present of the brass works of a clock.

They started in 1801. The passage was long and tempestuous. Both husbands and Grace's two children died and were buried at sea. In unloading the ship the box containing the clock was dropped in the Delaware River, but it was rescued.

The two sisters made their way to the home of their brother, George Roberts, at Cbersburg, Pennsylvania. By a strange coincidence, two days later Edward Bebb walked in from his farm in Ohio. They were married February 12, 1802, and returned to his cabin, the first actual settlers there. The home still stands, the original logs now covered by clapboards. Paddy's Run is now named Shandon, Ohio.

In 1804 Stephen Hayden, a pioneer cabinetmaker, made the clock case of cherry slabs, dressed as best he could with a whipsaw. It stands seven feet five inches tall and nineteen inches wide. For over 157 years it has been the cosy home of the brass works that Mrs. Bebb brought from Wales 160 years ago. The face is beautifully painted with the maker's name, Hugh Jones Machynleth. Though only 12 by 12 inches, there was not glass large enough to cover its face, but the glass had to be pieced, the smaller piece being about two inches wide. It has one weight and is wound each day with a chain.

It was a great curiosity to the Indians who visited the cabin. They were afraid when it struck, and always insisted on the cabin door being open so they might run.

After Margaret Bebb's death in 1851, the clock was moved to her daughter Mary's home. Mary was the wife of William Vaughan whose father John had come from Wales in 1801. He was in the War of 1812. He built a brick home in 1816, and his Welsh initials, J. V., are in the east end. When William and Mary Vaughan moved into their new home, a special place for the clock was cut in the walnut wainscoting next to the west fireplace.

After Mary Vaughan's death in 1883, the clock came to her son, John Greene Vaughan's home north of Odin, Illinois. His home burned at night in April, 1891. He carried the clock (one of the few things saved) to what he thought was a safe distance and laid it on the ground under a white pine tree. In the excitement, some one stepped on the face, breaking the two-piece glass.

In 1909, after John Vaughan's death in 1903, the clock was moved to the home of his daughter, Annie V. Cope, wife of

Walter L. Cope, in Tonti Township, Marion County, Illinois.  
It is today in good running condition.

Mrs. and Mrs. Cope died in 1953 and 1957. Their daughter  
Leila and son Howard run it occasionally in 1967.

A paper glued inside the case of the clock reads:

"This clock was brought  
by my mother to this country  
from Wales in the year 1801  
and to the Miami Country  
(then included in the North  
West Territory) in the year  
1802 and has been running  
ever since. I believe it to be  
the first clock that ever crossed  
the Miami River.  
Feb. 13th 1860  
Mary Vaughan"

--Bessie Cope McHackin  
--Leila Cope

### ELDER JOHN A. WILLIAMS

John A. Williams was born in Shelby County, Indiana, July 31, 1818. He came to Marion County, Illinois, at the age of sixteen. The family settled near Walnut Hill and carved a farm out of the timberland about a half mile east of the village.

John Williams became a Christian at Mount Moriah Church in 1842 and began to preach as early as 1846. Records indicate that he did some occasional preaching at the age of nineteen. He was ordained as a minister in 1850 and began immediately to preach regularly. He traveled on horseback to all parts of Southern Illinois, from Shelbyville to Cairo, from the Mississippi to the Wabash, for more than sixty years preaching constantly.

Elder Williams was married twice. His first wife, Miss Hannah Breeze of Jefferson County, Illinois, lived a few short years and left her almost heartbroken young husband to struggle on alone with three small children. His last wife, Miss Susannah Cameron of Jefferson County lived and worked side by side with her husband from the struggles of pioneer days until 1903. They also had three daughters, one of whom was Anna, who was blind and died as a child.

During his long ministry, he led in establishing many churches, among which were the churches at Sailer Springs, Mulberry Grove, Centralia, and Salem, Illinois. He ministered regularly at the Salem Christian Church from its founding in 1866 until 1888. He preached at almost every Christian Church in Southern Illinois and in Southern Indiana during the sixty years of his ministry. All through life Elder Williams was gifted with superb physical strength and mental ability far beyond the average. His sermons were clear, logical and convincing; his manners were winning, and his knowledge of the Bible was profound.

He was a Mason, and at one time was a member of Marion Lodge No. 130, A. F. & A. M. and the Salem Chapter, having demitted from the above lodge on December 10, 1878.

The Williams' home in Salem was located approximately where the home of Kenneth Fry was later built.

Probably his last sermon was preached at the Sailer Springs

Christian Church on July 30, 1907, where he was living with his daughter. His subject was "Charity on Divine Love and Compassion." At the close of the service he requested all present who could say in their hearts that they hoped to meet him in heaven to join hands and sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

On the morning of November 4, 1907, John A. Williams, aged 89 years, 3 months, and 4 days, died in Saylor Springs, Illinois. His body was removed to Salem where funeral services were held in the new Christian Church, whose dedication he had attended some two months previously; the church had been organized in his parlor in 1866. Two daughters preceded him in death, one the child Anna, the other the mother of a well-known Christian evangelist, W. E. Harlow of Springfield, Missouri. Another preacher grandson was John Irvin.

#### MRS. JOHN DARRRELL WOOLLEY

Marietta M. (Vawter) Woolley is one of two surviving daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Vawter, who were prominent native citizens of Salem. Mrs. Woolley was born on May 8, 1893, at Salem, Illinois.

Her father, John Henry Vawter, was born October 7, 1860, the son of Reuben T. and Eleanor (Kimball) Vawter. The American representatives of the Vawter and Kimball families came from England and settled in Virginia and Kentucky.

Mrs. Vawter, nee Margaret T. Ganner, was the daughter of Albert and Leticia (Pace) Ganner. Her great grandfather, Joel Pace, Sr., served his country in the Revolutionary War, and the Mount Vernon, Illinois, chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named after him.

Mr. Vawter was mayor of Salem for two years, was a director of the Salem National Bank for many years, director of the Illinois Bond and Investment Company, and engaged in the manufacture of insecticides as the J. H. Vawter Manufacturing Company.

Four daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Vawter: Lillian (Mrs. Henri Kaufman), deceased; Hattie (Mrs. J. M. Humphrey),

deceased; Marietta (our subject); and Irene (Mrs. Lonie Story). Both Mrs. Woolley and Mrs. Story are widows. Mrs. Humphrey was the mother of two children: Florene (Mrs. Charles Heststone) and John Vawter Humphrey, both of whom reside in Lawrenceville, Illinois.

Mrs. Woolley's children are: Margaret (Mrs. Frank H. Baker) of Salem; Hal R. Woolley, Daytona Beach, Florida, who married the former Claira Smith; and Dr. John J. Woolley, of Benton, Illinois, who married the former Barbara Sienkrecht.

Mrs. Woolley has six grandchildren: Mary Elizabeth Baker and Marilyn Brown (Baker) Haught (Mrs. Roy D. Haught), children of Margaret Baker; Steven Ross Woolley and Jean Ellen Woolley, children of Hal R. Woolley; and Sharon Sue and Karen Ann Woolley, children of Dr. John J. Woolley.

Mrs. Woolley is a devoted Salenite, a devout Presbyterian (she is one the Board of Deaconesses), a staunch Democrat, loving mother, doting grandmother, and a loyal friend.

—Mrs. Frank H. Baker

#### HELEN NELTON NELSON

Helen Nelson Wilson, voice and piano teacher, was born in Centralia, Illinois, the daughter of Edwin L. and Isabel See Nelson. Edwin L. Nelson was postmaster of Centralia, Illinois, for twelve years.

Mrs. Wilson graduated from Centralia Township High School, attended Oxford College for Women at Oxford, Ohio. She attended Southern Illinois Normal University at Carbondale, Illinois, where she graduated from the teacher's course. She graduated from Bush Conservatory, Chicago, B.Mus. in 1926, graduate work in 1927. In 1933 she was given two diplomas at the Conservatoire American, Fontainebleau, France, by the French Republic, in performing and teaching voice. She attended Juilliard School of Music in New York one season, studied voice and piano in St. Louis for two years, and is a member of the National Association Teachers of Singing.

MRS. WILSON has made Salem her home since 1917. She taught in Salem as the first Music Supervisor in the schools. She taught voice in Centralia Conservatory for ten years, and taught for a short time at Bush Conservatory in Chicago when finishing her degree requirements. She has served for many years as organist and choir director of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Salem. She was choir director of First Methodist Church in Centralia for five years and directed the Methodist Choral Club for twelve years.

Many of her pupils have won contests: four times for appearance as soloist for the Festival Under the Stars, S. J. U. In 1960 five of her students were singing professionally in Chicago, New York, Dallas and Germany.

Her other activities include: Salem Woman's Club, P.E.O., Bryan Bennett Library Board (elected to fill vacancy of Mr. Ralph Wilson, her husband who had served for many years) and D.A.R. Mrs. Wilson served as Regent of Isaac Hull Chapter of D.A.R. the same years her mother, Mrs. E. L. Welton, was Regent of Prairie State Chapter in Centralia. She has served as Division Director and on the State D.A.R. and C.A.R. Music Committees. In 1961 Mrs. Wilson conducted the State D.A.R. Chorus at the State Conference in Chicago. At the present time, she is beginning her fifth year as State Editor of the Illinois D.A.R. News. She is a charter member and sponson of Alpha Iota Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, from 1935 to 1961.

Her husband, Ralph R. Wilson, civil engineer, was a warden of St. Thomas Episcopal Church for eighteen years, and President of Bryan Bennett Libaray Board.

Mrs. Wilson has two sisters living in California: Mrs. Robert E. Harris and Mrs. Wayne Slibe.

### SAMUEL YOUNG, THE PIONEER OF MARION COUNTY

The first white man that we have record of to "blaze the trail" and settle in Marion County was Samuel Young. He was born May 7, 1762, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Names of his parents and the country of their origin are not available.

Samuel was thirteen years of age when the War for Independence began. After reaching young manhood, he decided to join the colonial armed forces. For some reason (it is not known whether he planned it that way), he enlisted in the colonial armed forces on his eighteenth birthday, which was May 7, 1778. His first enlistment was for a three-month period with a unit of troops from his home state. Captain Samuel Young and a Colonel Dougherty were commanders of this organization. It is believed that Captain Young was commanding a company and Dougherty was a regimental commander. It is unknown as to whether his company commander was related to our Samuel Young; they both held the same names and lived in the same locality.

At the expiration of this first enlistment, Samuel Young returned to civilian life for approximately three years. This practice was not uncommon during the Revolution. He enlisted again in 1781 a few months prior to the end of the war, and this enlistment was with Virginia troops. Captain James Montgomery was his company commander and Colonel William Campbell was commanding the regiment. Samuel served a third enlistment with the "rebel" troops. His last period of service was for another three-month period in 1782 with these same officers. The war closed October 19, 1781, with the surrender of the British at Yorktown, but some skirmishing was continuing in some sectors for several months following the Yorktown surrender.

For several years after he had left the army, Mr. Young could not decide where he wished to make his permanent home. He removed to Rowan County, North Carolina; from there he moved to Rutherford County, then later moved to Spartanburg County, South Carolina; from there he moved to Franklin County, Georgia. After residing in Georgia for a while, he decided to start

northward and moved to Sumner County, Tennessee. After making his home in Tennessee for some time, he decided to come farther northwest, and moved his family to the border state of Kentucky. His residence in this state was in Logan County. Samuel decided that Kentucky was not the state that he wanted, and he started farther north. He crossed the Ohio River into Indiana and lived in the Hoosier State for some time, then later decided that he would try Illinois.

His next move was to Gallatin County, Illinois, locating in or near Shawneetown. Mr. and Mrs. Young had several children by the time they arrived in Gallatin. Most of the children were grown and some of them were married. Their arrival in Shawneetown, at that time the metropolis of Illinois, was about 1803; and they remained there until Mrs. Young's death, which occurred about 1810. Their older children were still living in Tennessee.

As Samuel was now a widower, he and his youngest son Matthew were lonely in their Gallatin County home. They decided to cross the "Father of Waters" and find a location in Missouri to settle. Samuel and Matthew were several months on their journey, as travel was very slow. They finally arrived at New Madrid, Missouri, and proceeded to build a cabin for their new home. They remained at this location for some time and apparently intended to make it their permanent home until the historic earthquake struck there on the night of November 16, 1811, causing so much fear to the inhabitants and so much damage to their property that many people thought the world was coming to an end.

Mr. Young and his son decided that they did not want to make their permanent home in the New Madrid area. Shortly after the shocking incident, Samuel and Matthew packed up their personal belongings and started northeast for a new location. This journey took them back into the Prairie State, but not in the Shawneetown area. They were traveling in the direction of Vincennes, but it is not known whether or not they had planned this point as their destination. Samuel and Matthew arrived at

what is now known as Vermillion Creek a few miles southwest of the present city of Salem, Illinois. Their arrival at this point was in December, 1811. The ground was heavily covered with snow and it appeared to the Young's that to try to journey any farther in the severe weather would be useless.

They began at once to erect a log cabin where they could remain until spring. Their new home consisted of some logs hastily put together and open on the south side. It was necessary to keep their fireplace burning fiercely day and night in order barely to be comfortable in their heaviest clothing. A band of Indians were living close to the Young cabin, but they were of a friendly nature and showed no signs of hostility.

The year following their arrival at Vermillion Creek was the beginning of the second conflict with Great Britain. "Sam" was now fifty years of age and Matthew was only eleven years old; father was too old and son was too young for military service.

After the snows had melted in the spring of 1812 and the countryside was looking green and beautiful, the elder Young decided that he had at last found the locality that was to be his permanent home; he would return to Tennessee and bring his other children to the Illinois country. His entire family, including some sons-in-law, came to and settled in what is now Marion County, Illinois. None of the family returned to the southern state, so far as we have any record. The Young family brought with them all of their personal property that they could possibly use in earning a livelihood in the new home.

An early report states that when Captain Samuel Young settled at his permanent residence the country was full of wild beasts and that several bands of roving Indians were traversing Southern Illinois, making it rather unsafe for the white settlers. In addition to being on constant guard against troublesome savages, the numerous wild beasts that were roaming the countryside were constantly killing the livestock.

The few settlers of what was later to become Marion County had a little protection from the Federal Government by the

establishment of the Rangers. A fort had been erected on the west bank of the Kaskaskia River where the city of Carlyle is now located for the purpose of the Rangers to have a headquarters from which to operate. The work of the Ranger unit was to subdue the roving savages from perilous acts. However, the country was so thinly settled and the families in this area were so far apart that the Rangers could not offer very much assistance when a family was attacked by malicious savages.

It was August, 1813, when Samuel Young and his children arrived from Tennessee to make their home in the "Land of Lincoln." This was five years before Illinois became a state and ten years before Marion County was organized. The Young family seemed to like the Illinois country well, as they remained here for the remainder of their lives.

The people of Marion County, Illinois, can be justly proud of the fact that their first white settler was one of the men who assisted in bringing about the freedom that the American people have, for as pointed out above, he rendered service in the War for Independence.

Samuel Young died in 1864; his son Matthew lived until February 4, 1888.

#### WILLIAM JASPER YOUNG

William Jasper Young was born in Marion County, Illinois, on June 21, 1826. He lived in this county during his entire lifetime excepting a short time when as a boy he lived in Alton, Illinois, and also excepting his service during the Civil War.

He was married to Sarah Jane Songer on April 13, 1847. To this union were born eleven children, three of whom died in infancy. Following are the remaining eight with address at the time of death: Mrs. Alice Cox, Tuka, Illinois; Lafayette, Tuka, Illinois; Douglas, Xenia, Illinois; Paul, Salem, Illinois; Fred, Salem, Illinois; Mrs. Emma Robinson, Tuka, Illinois; Mrs. Jennie,

Bumgarner, San Dimas, California; and Mrs. Mary E. Cox, Salem, Illinois.

William J. Young was made a Mason at Fort Heinman, Kentucky, in 1862, and at the close of the War became a member of J. D. Moody Masonic Lodge No. 510, Juka, Illinois.

In August, 1862, at the call of President Lincoln, he answered as a volunteer and became a second lieutenant in Company E, One Hundred Eleventh Regiment Illinois Volunteers which was organized by Colonel James S. Martin. (EDITORIAL NOTE: A history of the One Hundred Eleventh Regiment appears elsewhere in this volume.)

Lieutenant Young, with the other boys, was in the following battles: Resaca, Dallas, Keresaw, and Atlanta, besides many skirmishes. He was captured at the Battle of Atlanta, and was a prisoner of war for over seven months. He served his country until granted an honorable discharge.

He and Mrs. Young lived near Young's Chapel Methodist Church (he helped to organize this church) east of Juka for over sixty-one years until his death November 15, 1913. His body lies buried in Xenia Oddfellows Cemetery, Xenia, Illinois.

## ZION

On a Saturday afternoon, August 11, 1867, a small group of men gathered under a tree at a crossroad about three and a half miles northeast of Salem to discuss a very important subject -- the building of a church where they could worship God.

At that time Sunday School was being held in the schoolhouse which a half mile north of the present church building, and later moved to the present location of the Union School District No. 80. Occasionally they would be able to get a local minister to come and preach. The people of the neighborhood thought they should have a place where the children could be in Sunday School and worship regularly.

On this afternoon, a group of men composed of Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists met under the tree at the present site of the church and made their plans. One man, William McKibben, who owned the ground, said that he would donate one acre of land to be used for the church. Mr. McKibben was the maternal grandfather of William M. Lechrone of Salem and the great grandfather of Rev. Eugene Lechrone of Belleville. A subscription paper was passed, three of the men present subscribing a hundred dollars each that day, and amounts from that on down were collected.

In the following Monday morning, logs were cut to build the church. Work progressed as the farmers labored between periods of working on their farms.

On Thanksgiving Day of the same year, the first service in the new building was held. A large group of thankful people met in the evening with well filled baskets for a Thanksgiving Supper. The church was dedicated the next June, 1868, the beginning of a new conference year.

The church was built by interdenominational people; but the majority being Methodists, that was decided to be the church denomination. A name had to be chosen. One family who had moved into the community from Ohio had attended a "Mt. Zion Church" there, which was located on a small mountain peak. He suggested that as the new church was on the prairie, the "Mt." be omitted from the name and it be called "Zion Methodist Church." This was

agreeable and accepted by all.

The first minister was Thomas Johnson. The first board of trustees was composed of Enoch Trigley, Joseph Crist, John Whitlow, Matthias Lechrone and his son, William Lechrone (father of William M. Lechrone).

The first wedding in the church was that of Miss Miranda Van Gilder and Lee Brubaker.

The present membership of the church is 105. Rev. Mervin E. Chadbourne is the minister. The Board of Trustees now consists of Martin Walsh, William J. Walsh, Arlie Meador, Howard Lynch, Francis Lechrone and B. E. Haxey.

This little white church on the crossroads has been a beacon light and a refuge for many a weary sinner. Extensive remodeling has been done and a wing added to the building because of the increase of attendance. The increase of membership shows prospects for a growing generation of Christianity.

-- Mrs. Arlie Meador

