

History

of

Auburn



Presented by: The Auburn Historical Society

DEDICATION

We respectfully dedicate this history to the service men and women from our community who fought and died so that this great nation might remain the free land our ancestors sought.

GOLD STAR SERVICE RECORD

1. Louis Favre
2. Raymond Tobacchi
3. Delmar Gardner
4. Joe Frank Smith
5. David Pompei
6. Charles Schneider, Jr.
7. James Pakes
8. William Rogers
9. Joseph Peters
10. Joseph Walker
11. Fred Lach
12. Joseph Regan
13. Richard Enrietto
14. John Money
15. John Kerska
16. Charles Mernick
17. James Harms
18. James Logue

THE DESERTED VILLAGE

Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of the plain;
Where health and plenty cheered the labouring swain,
Where smiling spring its earliest visit paid,
And parting summer's lingering blooms delayed;
Dear lovely bowers of innocence and ease,
Seats of youth, when every sport could please,
How often have I loitered o'er thy green,
Where humble happiness endeared each scene!

How often have I paused on every charm,
The sheltered cot, the cultivated farm,
The never-failing brook, the busy mill,
The decent church that topt the neighbouring hill,
The hawthorn bush with seats beneath the shade
For talking age and whispering lovers made!
How often have I blest the coming day,
When toil remitting lent its turn to play,
And all the village train, from labour free,
Led up their sports beneath the spreading tree,
While many a pastime circled in the shade,
The young contending as the old surveyed;
And many a gambol frolicked o'er the ground,
And sleights of art and feats of strength went round,

And still as each repeated pleasure tired,
Succeeding sports the mirthful band inspired;
The dancing pair that simply sought renown
By holding out to tire each other down;
The swain mistrustless of his smutted face,
While secret laughter tittered round the place;
The bashful virgin's side-long looks of love,
The matron's glance that would those looks reprove;
These were thy charms, sweet village! sports like these,
With sweet succession, taught even toil to please
These round thy bowers their cheerful influence;
These were thy charms - but all these charms are fled.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH

THE GARDEN SPOT OF AMERICA

That it was a beautiful country is the testimony of everyone who visited it at an early day. In proof of this a local paper on one occasion inserted the following.

"Some sixty years ago, before the first mile of railroad was made, while the Indian still lingered in Central Illinois, when the turnpike road from Baltimore and Washington, over the mountains to the Ohio River, was the great national highway from the Eastern to the infant Western States, and when four-horse stage-coaches for carrying the United States mails and passengers were the best facilities afforded for travel, was the time the facts we record occurred."

"Mercantile agents, or drummers, at that early day were unknown. Twice a year Western merchants went East to replenish their stock of goods. The stage-coaches were run night and day, traveling about one hundred miles in twenty-four hours. About the time we speak of, one of these elegant stages left Baltimore crowded with Western passengers, mostly merchants. Having traveled one day and night, they were crossing the mountains slowly, tired and sleepy. Discussions on various topics were often encouraged to enliven the otherwise tedious hours. On this occasion three of the passengers were discussing the claims of several of the states to the "Garden Spot of America," while others listened or slept."

"One of the three presented the claim of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in its then highly cultivated condition, its rich limestone soil, its beautiful rolling surface, its never failing harvests, etc."

"The second, in elegant terms, portrayed the region round about Frankfort, Kentucky, for beauty and climate, and for fertility of soil, and elegant improvements, as the "Garden Spot."

"And the third gentleman presented and urged the claim of the Shenandoah Valley, of Virginia, surrounded by the mountains and watered by ten thousand never failing springs gushing from the mountains, its golden harvests of grains and luscious fruits."

"This interesting discussion was suddenly stopped by a roughly dressed passenger, in a fringed jeans hunting suit, who had been sleeping for an hour or more. With an expression of terror in his face, he declared that something serious was going to happen to the stage. I've had a remarkable dream, and with a serious earnestness, commenced telling his dream to the anxious passengers."

"I dreamed that the horses became unmanageable and plunged over one of these mountain precipices and we fell and rolled several hundred feet. I found myself struggling in a very cold stream of water, but reached the opposite shore. I looked, and behold, I seemed to be in a paradise, the trees and flowers and birds were exceedingly beautiful and at a little distance there was a high wall, as if built of precious stones or rocks, and a golden door in the wall. The knob of the door seemed to be a large diamond, glittering as a star. I concluded I was in the spirit world, and that the golden door was the entrance to Heaven. While thus bewildered, this gentleman (pointing to one of the trio disputants) appeared and walked to the golden door. He knocked. The door opened, and a glorious personage appeared, whom I was impressed to think was St. Peter. 'Whence comest thou' he said to this gentleman and you answered 'from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania,' and he said 'enter'. Then came this other gentleman and knocked, St. Peter opened and inquired from whence he came'. He replied, 'from Frankfort, Kentucky'. He was invited to enter. And after a long while, this gentleman (pointing to the third of the trio) hastened to the door and rapped. The door was opened again and St. Peter appeared for the third time, and inquired from what part of the earth he came. He said 'from the Valley of Virginia'. And he was permitted to enter.' ,

"The more I looked about me the more I became enchanted. I heard the sweetest music that ever fell on mortal ears, sounding as if from over the wall. I passed on to the door and rapped with a small silver mallet that seemed there for the purpose. St. Peter appeared. When he saw me he said, 'Whence comest thou?' I said 'from the Sangamo County, Illinois'. St. Peter said, 'My friend, I advise you to go back, as there is no such beautiful land in Heaven as the valley drained by the Sangamo River. By nature it is the "Garden Spot of America" and by the art of man is destined to become the Paradise of the new world, a land of corn and wine and though the first several generations of settlers may have to toil, yet before the tenth generation shall appear, this wilderness will be made to blossom as the rose'."

The early settlers of the Sangamo were so ingenious in presenting the claim of Illinois as containing the "Garden Spot" that it was unanimously awarded to it.

IN THE BEGINNING

So to the "Garden Spot of America" where the prairies were a trackless waste and the redman's camp-fire threw its ruddy glare over the trunks of the forest monarch, in the fall of 1816, Robert Pulliam erected the first cabin in the San-gam-ma country as the early settlers called it.

An Act, creating the county of Sangamon was approved January 30, 1821. In the early years between 1821 and 1834 several families settled in the beautiful country that was to become Auburn Township. Among them were Jacob Ellis, Andrew Orr, Henry Gatlin, James Black, Samuel Black, John Wallace, Thomas Black,* and Joseph Thomas, John Durley, Robert Orr, Benjamin Kessler, Daniel Kessler and Samuel McElvain, Micajah Organ, James and George Wallace, Robert Crow, John Roach, Alvin Cross, James Nuckolls, James Patton, Joseph Poley, and Johan Jacob Rauch.

Mr. Rauch, typical of many early settlers was born July 25, 1796 in Stutgardt, Wirtemberg, Germany. He came to America in 1818, and was eleven weeks on the passage from Amsterdam, arriving at Philadelphia in September.

He entered into an agreement, before starting, with a man who came on the same vessel, by which that gentleman was to pay his passage across the ocean in exchange for labor Mr. Rauch was to perform. He had fulfilled part of the agreement before starting, and acted as servant to the gentleman and his wife on board the vessel. On arriving at Philadelphia, he found that the money had not been paid. Seventy dollars was the amount demanded by the owners of the vessel, and he (Mr. Rauch) was put up at auction to raise the money. The lowest bid was to pay the money on consideration of his serving three years at hard labor.

This Indenture Witnesseth: That Johan Jacob Rauch, of his own free will, to go to Alabama Territory, hath bound himself servant to Francis C. Clapper, a Philadelphia merchant, for the consideration of \$70.00 paid to Lewis Haven and Co., for his passage from Amsterdam; as, also, for other good causes, he, the said Johan Jacob Rauch, hath bound and put himself, and by these present doth bind and put himself, servant to the said Francis C. Clapper, to serve him, his executors, administrators, and assigns, from the day of the date hereof, for and during the full term of three years, from thence next ensuing. During all which term the said servant, his said master, his executors, administrators, and assigns, faithfully shall serve and that honestly and obediently in all things, as good and faithful servant ought to do. And the said Francis C. Clapper, his executors, administrators, and assigns, during the said term, shall find and provide for the said servant, sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing and lodging, and to give him, at the end of the term, two complete suits of clothes, one thereof to be new. And for the true performance hereof both the said parties bind themselves firmly unto each other by these presents. In witness whereof they have interchangeably set their hands and seals. Dated the second day of October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

F. C. CLAPPER

Bound before Conrad Wile, Register

Mr. Rauch was sent to Alabama and labored faithfully for two and a half years, and must have earned many times the value of the money paid out for him. His food and clothing during the whole of that time was of the very worst description, in addition to which, he was treated to all manner of indignities, on account of his lack of knowledge of our language. Six months before the expiration of his time, his hardship became intolerable. He left Alabama, made his way to Kentucky, arriving in 1821. He found work and began to save money. As Mr. Rauch learned more of the influence of slavery, he resolved

to seek a free country in which to bring up his family. In October, 1829, with his wife and two children, he arrived in Auburn Township and bought 3/4 of section 33 which is between the towns of Auburn and Virden. Sugar Creek ran through his land and he built a saw and grist mill and for many years was known far and near. Many weary emigrants found rest under his roof. He died November 23, 1843, where he settled in 1829.

In the later years of his life, when pondering on the hardship and indignities he had endured, he wrote in German on the margin of the contract, "Jacob Rauch says this indenture was not good." It was not binding because he had not signed it himself. The back of the indenture bears an inscription also in German. Apparently an expression of sentiment rather than an address to one of his children. "Dear Child, you had better remain in a low station in life; the higher you stand, the more you may be humbled, and the Lord will love you better, for He is the Most High, and does great things by means of the lowly. Jacob Rauch."

* In 1827 Mr. Black built the covered bridge 5 miles northeast of Auburn, believed to be the oldest covered bridge in Illinois.

OLD AUBURN

The original Auburn, of which the present town is a namesake, occupied some 40 or 50 acres of the east half of section three. It was laid out by Asa and George Eastman, in 1835. This land was named "Auburn" by Miss Hannah Easton sister of the proprietors. The place was very pleasantly located, the square comprising quite an elevation, that commanded a fine view.

In 1840 Auburn contained but 5 or 6 dwellings. A 2 story tavern, built by the Eastmans, stood on the west side of, and facing the square. This was occupied by William S. Swaney, an Ohio man, with a large family, a blacksmith by trade, who kept a man working, in the shop, and devoted the greater part of his own time to trips abroad in his buggy, being absent, frequently, weeks at a time. It was accepted as general rumor that he handled cards very successfully, and that was the secret of his mysterious journeys. There came a time when he failed to return. Weeks rolled into months, and finally the papers reported the finding of a body of a man who had evidently been murdered. The widow visited the place and fully identified the clothing. The body had been dead sometime and was already buried. It was supposed that some gambling comrade whom Swaney had fleeced, had taken this means to obtain revenge and re-secure his wealth, for no money was found upon his body.

On the north side of the square, and fronting it, stood a story and half house, occupied by Asa Eastman and family, consisting of himself and wife, and little boy, his sisters, Miss Ann H. and Hannah M., and brother George; Wm. B. Foundly, was a boarder there. Rev. Wm. C. Greenleaf and lady, lived in a small house just north of the latter. Mr. G. had a small nursery on his premises from which fruit trees were dispensed to the farmers of the neighborhood, and the good man delivered excellent practical discourses to the people on the Lord's day. Just west of Mr. Eastman dwelt Platt S. Carter and wife. North of this house stood a log house, occupied by Evan John, his wife and children, Marth, George and Edith. With these, boarded Elwood Ewing, a fellow countryman of Mr. J. He was a cabinetmaker, and had a shop in the rear of the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniels lived temporarily in the school house, (there being no school that year.) This was the only building east of the public square. A substantial two-story had been commenced the previous summer, on the south side of the square, for Mrs. Susan Eastman, step-mother of the Eastmans above-mentioned, and was occupied during the following winter by two families; Mrs. Eastman, her son S. F. and step-daughter and Daniel Wadsworth, and family, four in number. Mr. David Eastman and family, wife and sons, August F. and Charles H. and George L. lived just southeast, but out of the town limits.

The two-story house above alluded to was finally purchased by Peter S. Freeman, a blacksmith of Chatham, who moved it to Elm Grove, a job taking all summer. The labor was finally accomplished by thirty yoke of oxen.

It seemed a pity that so pretty a site as that of the old town should be abandoned for so unpromising a one as north-east quarter of section 10 then appeared much of it a mere swamp – but railroad corporations possess no bowels of compassion, the practical more than the beautiful being their object.

A vigorous and persistent effort was made by the residents of the old town to get the Alton and Sangamon Railroad Company (the original name of this road) to locate a water tank and station directly east of the town, expecting that in the event the intervening land would be eventually converted into lots and connect with the old town, Messis Roach and Organ (William Roach and George L. Organ) erected, in 1852 or 1853, what was then considered a substantial store building on the west side of the track on the above named site, hoping that this would be a material inducement to the company to locate the new station there. Mr. Phillip Wineman, meanwhile, was offering the company more valuable temptations to locate the town farther south. The struggle between the two factions was long and fierce, but Mr. Wineman finally prevailed. Roach and Organ found their cause hopeless and moved it to the new town, on a lot, later occupied by F. M. Nicols' carpenter shop, from whence it was afterward removed to the east side of the square, in a building later occupied by P. W. Jones as a grocery store.

The residents of the old town remained and nursed their disappointment as long as they could, and finally yielded to the pressure, and several of them transported their houses, small one-story buildings to the rival town. Some of these buildings are still extant, along the railroad in the east part of town. As to the remaining ones, one took fire and burned down, and the others were eventually torn down and hauled off, not a building being left except Mr. D Wadsworth's house (this building still stands at the north end of seventh street). Mr. Asa Eastman, of Springfield, who had become proprietor of the unsold lots, brought out the claims from the various lot owners, petitioned the State Legislature for a vacation of the town, and Mr. Eastman sold the land to Madison Curvey; it was converted into a cornfield, and thus fades old Auburn, as a town, from the public view.

VILLAGE OF AUBURN

On the 24th day of February, 1853, Phillip Wineman had platted and recorded a new village comprising the north part of the east half of the northeast quarter of section ten, township 13, range 6, west, under the name of Wineman. This village was located about one mile south of the old village of Auburn and on the line of the Chicago and Alton Railroad. Mr. Wineman subsequently made two additions to the original plat, one on the north end and the other on the south. In 1854, John Buck laid out some land adjoining on the west, and in 1858, made an addition on the north and west of the latter. These with "Wineman", and additions, were incorporated by the legislature at its session of 1864-65 under the name of Auburn, the old village bearing this name having ceased to exist. The first election under this charter was held in the spring of 1865. The records of the village being lost or misplaced, only the officers of the present year are given as follows; D. Mason, S.F. Goodwin, J.A. Able, Fred Faust, B.F. Hutton, and J.R. Harris; William Harris, Village Constable; A.S. Davenport, Police Magistrate; W.H. Givvins, Clerk. One hundred and fifty-six votes were cast at this election.

--Miss Johanna Lanham

FIRST INHABITANTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

INDIANS OF ILLINOIS

For historic tribes of the state other than the Illini little is known of their archaeology. Culturally it is almost a certainty that all were, soon after contact, largely disorganized due to partial economic dependence, European diseases and the alcohol trade, to diminishing game, loss of other resources, and to military pressures from white governments and contiguous Indian groups.

Only the broad outlines of the movements of the historic tribes that lived, hunted, or made forays in Illinois need to be noted here. The Iroquois, Winnebago, and Chickasaw made no attempts to permanently occupy Illinois territory as of their raids.

The Illini came under French influence after 1673 and leaned heavily on their military support. At times the Illini warriors fought bravely alongside the French but generally had little stomach for fighting even in their own defense. They shifted their settlements frequently after the Iroquois attack of 1680, and later under pressure by the Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Potawatomi, who invaded and occupied the northern part of Illini Territory.

Due to their dwindling courage and lack of incentive, more perhaps than to their losses in enemy raids, the Illini tribes decreased rapidly in numbers and importance. When they were removed to the west of the Mississippi in 1832, the population of the once great Illini Confederacy totaled little more than one hundred persons.

Even before this, the Miami had been pushed out of Illinois due to inroads of the Kickapoo and Potawatomi. The Shawnee too, probably abandoned their permanent settlements in southern Illinois early in the contact period though these lower counties may have still been considered their territory. Other groups did not settle or hunt there and the Shawnee did establish some villages there (e.g. Shawneetown) briefly in the eighteenth century. Bands of Shawnee continued to hunt in this region until 1828 or later.

The Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo, and Potawatomi did not long enjoy the territory they had wrested from the Illini and Miami. Immediately after the Black Hawk War in 1812, steps were taken to move all Indians from the state. By the Treaty of Chicago, the Indians gave up all their lands in Illinois, and in 1837 the last bands crossed to the western banks of the Mississippi.

No land is reserved to day in this state for Indians. Its former resident tribes now live in reservations in Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and in the state of Coahuila in Mexico.

In all the Indian Chiefs that have been in Illinois none is better known than Chief Makataimeshekiak (Black Hawk). His wife's name was Asskewequa or Singing Bird. I do not know of any Indian settlement around Auburn. If there was one, I believe it would have been along Sugar Creek south of where Route 4 now crosses Sugar Creek.

FIRST THINGS

The first marriage in the township was that of Gideon Vancill and Phoebe Wilson, in March, 1820. The ceremony was performed by Rev. James Sims, local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was for many years supposed this was the first couple married in the county.

A daughter was born to the foregoing couple in 1821, and supposed to be the first birth in the township.

The first death was that of Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, daughter of Samual Vancill, who died in the fall of 1819, and was buried in what is now called the "Wimmer burying ground". An incident occurred at the time of this death that exhibits one of the dangers that beset the early settlers. While the friends were gathered around the dying bed, it was discovered that a prairie fire was rapidly approaching, propelled by a strong westerly wind. The grass, seven or eight feet in height, was as dry as powder. By the most vigorous exertions in keeping the end of the cabin near the fire wet, the house was saved, but all the hay stocked for winter feeding was destroyed. In the midst of the excitement, the sick woman breathed her last.

The first tan-yard was established in 1826, by James Patton.

The first orchards were planted by Robert Crow and Phillip Wineman in 1825, and the first cider was made by the latter a few years later.

The first grist mill in Auburn township was built by James Sims, and stood on the north part of the Wineman farms, east of the present village of Auburn.

The first water mill was only for sawing lumber, and was built in 1825-6 by Robert Crow, on Sugar Creek, about a mile northeast of the present village of Auburn. The mill was subsequently rebuilt by E. and W. D. Crow, sons of Robert, and a pair of burrs attached.

The first steam mill was built in 1838, by A. and G. Eastman, on the branch, about a quarter of a mile north of the present village of Auburn. This was also a grist-mill. The engine and machinery were afterwards removed and taken to Springfield.

In 1856-7 Bond and Ely erected an extensive steam flouring mill in the village, at a cost of \$15,000, which finally ruined the projectors, and it afterwards fell into the hands of J.D. Grove, who in 1864, used the engine, boiler, and machinery in the outfit of a new mill in Carlinville.

The first telephone system was established in Auburn in 1899.

The first streets were paved in 1928.

The first water works system was put into operation in 1934.

The first Home Coming was held in 1948.

The first school was a cabin built in 1828 on Col. Patton's premises.

The first church services were held by a class of Methodists in 1841 in old Auburn. Meetings were held in homes of the members and the school house.

The first merchandise was sold in Wineman by Ham and Poley in 1853.

The first post office was established in the early part of 1839.

The first bank was organized in April of 1872.

The first newspaper was printed in 1873 and was called "The Auburn Herald". It was printed at the plant of the Virden News.

The first commencement exercise of the Auburn High School was held in 1889.

The first R. F. D. in Illinois was established at Auburn in 1896.

The first electric service was available in the 90's.

December 5, 1964, Auburn took part in the first Christmas Parade held in Auburn. Santa Clause arrived in town in his own sleigh constructed and decorated for this special occasion. Homer Padgett cut out and sanded the sleigh and reindeer. Mrs. Anne Wilson and Mrs. Evelyn Frantz spent over 30 hours hand painting and decorating the sleigh which was very beautiful with a white, green, and gold design on a bright red background. Walter Edwards painted and decorated the reindeer which wore huge red satin bows and were driven by Santa with wide red satin reins.

A contest was held and Miss Brenda Mullen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mullen was crowned Miss Merry Christmas by Walter Edwards, Vice President of the Auburn Association of Commerce. A Prince Tiny Tim, Mark Charles, and a Princess Snowflake, Mary Catherine Pierce, was also selected.

Miss Merry Christmas' Court consisted of Joyce Gerhardt, Miss Noel; Linda Williamson, Miss Joy; Janet Miller, Miss Carol; and Joyce Dolence, Miss Holly.

The day of Santa's arrival was cold, clear, and sunny and the children were on hand to keep appointments with Santa in his house after the parade. Requests for gifts from Santa ranged from dolls to a bottle of wine for grandma.

The parade was sponsored by the Auburn Association of Commerce. The Association plans to make this an annual event.

The first meeting of the Auburn Historical Society was held at the City Hall Tuesday, April 16. Dues of \$1 per year for adults and 25¢ for students were accepted in order to exercise electing privileges. Appropriate recorded music lent to the atmosphere.

Mrs. Desire Pignon, who acted as temporary chairman and stated the purpose of the society, explained that the spark behind this movement was the history of Auburn by Mrs. Johanna Lanham. Interviews with more than 20 residents to illustrate the Auburn History Literary Map, and the response to the History Display last fall gave reason to feel that a local society was needed and would contribute an important role in the further development and growth of Auburn.

A motion was entertained to accept the slate of officers as presented. The meeting was turned over to President-Elect Orin Jenkins, and each officer was introduced: Vice-president, Mrs. Bertha Penn; Secretary, Mrs. Phillip Snell; Treasurer, Mrs. August Dufour and Mrs. Pignon, promotion chairman.

Mrs. Snell announced an Auburn Heritage Literary Contest for high school students. It will be supervised by Mrs. Pignon. Entry blanks will be available about May 1 and the Contest will be closed about October 1.

Jenkins introduced the program chairman, Mrs. Bess Dodds, who presented costumed actors from the high school play "Pride and Prejudice." They gave a review and enacted one scene from the play. They were Carol Hill, Diane Decatoire, Sandra Farris, and Linda Smith.

Then a very pleasant time was enjoyed when those present revealed some colorful incidents of the past.

Mrs. William Hummel displayed two copies of McGuffey's readers, 1873 and 1874.

Mrs. Pignon called attention to a copy of Illinois Private Laws of 1865 establishing a centennial date. Whether Auburn has a centennial observance will be decided by an advisory board and announced at the next meeting. The advisory board is incomplete at this time.

CHURCHES

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Advent Christian Church was organized in 1869 through the efforts of Elder Caulkins from Carlinville. He held a number of meetings in Auburn prior to the establishment of the church and served as its first pastor. The early church met in the Masonic Lodge building for a while. The first church was built in 1870. This building is still used today, having been remodeled around the year 1916.

The Advent Christian Church was not accepted at first by the other churches in Auburn due to the revolutionary beliefs upon which its faith is based. The main one of which was the Second Coming of Christ. However, its members were steadfast and firm in their beliefs and it soon became one of the strongest and largest churches in Auburn. As the years have passed the older members passed away and their families moved to larger cities for their education and employment. The denomination being small over the country as a whole, few new people who came to Auburn had even heard of it and they were members of other churches. Thus the membership decreased rapidly and at the present time is quite small but those who remain are faithful to their church. The present pastor is Rev. Bert M. Harrison.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Special meetings were held in a barn belonging to Mr. L.B. Richardson led to the organization of the Sugar Creek Baptist Church on March 21, 1843.

The first house of Worship was erected in 1851, in the eastern edge of Sugar Creek timber, one-half mile west of the Patton school. This is about two miles southeast of Auburn. The congregation furnished the heavy timbers and shingles. Mr. C. Ewing furnished the balance of the materials and built the Church for \$300.00. In April, 1853, a Church Covenant and rules of decorum were adopted.

In 1867, the Methodist Church building in the east part of Auburn was bought. This became the new home of the Sugar Creek Baptist Church. The old Church building was sold for \$50.00, and was used as a dwelling for a few years. It was later destroyed by fire.

In 1871, the building in the east part of Auburn was sold to the Catholic church and the present building was erected and dedicated in the spring of 1872. The bell was purchased November 24, 1871 from the Buckeye Bell Foundry at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Sunday School was organized in 1858. The name was changed from Sugar Creek Baptist Church to the Auburn Baptist Church in March 22, 1884.

The pipe organ was installed in 1907 and added much to the beauty of Worship services. When first installed, the organ was hand pumped by a young boy of the congregation; he was paid \$1.50 a month for this service. The pipe organ has been replaced with an Allen electronic organ, that continues to add to the services.

The Church minutes of November 3, 1909 record that the Church trustees were instructed to provide hitch racks in front of the Church.

In 1914 the Church was remodeled, providing more space. In 1921 a steam heating plant was installed.

March 1943 the Church celebrated one hundred years of service to the Cause of Christ in this community. An all day service was held, with a pageant depicting the organizing of the Church. Several of the people in the pageant were descendents of the founders of the Church, and played the parts of their ancestors.

November 1, 1948 the Advent Christian Church and the Baptist Church decided to meet as one congregation and Sunday school as a trial arrangement. This continued until August 24, 1953.

A parsonage was purchased in August 1953. During the same year the Church was redecorated.

During all its history, the Church has contributed to the various missionary projects, and has been a vital influence in the community.

The Church is associated with the American Baptist Convention, and the Illinois Baptist State Convention.

ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

The records of St. Benedict church in Auburn go back to December 24, 1871. There was no resident pastor here for the first seven years. The pastors of St. Catherine Church in Virden, Father Timothy Hickey and Father Lawrence Ryan, attended to the spiritual needs of Catholics in Auburn and the surrounding country. The first resident pastor, D. J. Ryan, came to Auburn in December of 1878 and remained here until the end of 1881. Since then eighteen other priests have served successively as resident pastors of St. Benedict's. Some of them are remembered to this day. Father Dennis J. Ryan (1904 - 1913), Father Dan J. Quinn, who was here for twenty-five (1909 - 1934), the first four years as assistant to Father Ryan and then twenty-one years as pastor, Father Francis J. Hogan (1938 - 1947) and Father Jerome Jacek (1947 - 1954). The present pastor, Msgr. Casimir Toliusis, was assigned to St. Benedict's in August of 1965.

It is of more than a passing interest to recall that the first edifice used by Catholics as the house of worship (1871 - 1903) had been purchased by them from the Baptist congregation. It was a small wooden structure, the oldest building in Auburn at that time, having been erected by the Methodists in 1856. It was replaced by a larger church in 1903, while Father Joseph O'Connor was the pastor. This also was a frame building and was destroyed by fire in February of 1914. Inspired by the courage and zeal of their pastor, Father Dan J. Quinn, the people immediately began rebuilding, on the same location, and nine months later they were worshipping God in their own and beautiful church, this time built of brick, which stands here to this day.

When St. Benedict parish was first established in 1871, the congregation numbered about two-hundred people who had come to these parts when the land was opened for settlers. It grew considerably between 1905 and 1925, or at the time when the coal mining industry flourished here and attracted labor from Europe. In 1915, according to records, it counted 90 families or about 450 individuals. Presently St.

Benedict's serves 130 families, totaling approximately 600 people, including 140 children enrolled in Auburn grade school and 70 in high school

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church in Auburn was organized in 1868, with A. G. Harney and A. M. Black as elders, and John Piper and M. S. Wadsworth as deacons. There had previously for years been occasional preaching, but no regular organization. A house of worship was commenced in the spring of 1869, thirty-two by fifty feet. The membership was small and financially weak. With only \$600 on the subscription list, a part of which was to be paid in work, and a part in materials and a good part of it contributed by persons outside of the church, the work was commenced by two of the members, who were carpenters. The money was used up, and the two brethren started out on foot, visiting congregations in this and other counties to solicit money to carry on the work. As fast as means could be procured, it was worked up. No debts were incurred, and the house was not completed until 1876, although it was used for a long time in an unfinished state.

The congregation has never added much to its membership, and has not been able to keep up regular services but a part of the time. The following have been employed as pastors at different times: Elder John L. Wilson, P. D. Vermilion, A. P. Sears, Jos. B. Allen, and Dr. J. U. Smith, though many others have held protracted meetings.

METHODIST CHURCH

In 1841 a class of Methodist, organized as early as 1830 in a nearby township, began to meet in Old Auburn which lay to the north of the present city limits. Meetings were held in the homes of the members and the school house. In 1855, a church building was erected in the Town of Wineman on the site at Washington and Auburn street, presently occupied by St. Benedict's Catholic Church. This house of worship was used as headquarters for the Christian Sanitary Commission, women of Auburn who sewed for the Union Soldiers.

A lot was secured from the Buck Family and a new structure, known as Asbury Chapel, was erected on the present site at Sixth and Adams streets in 1869. S.F. Goodwin, R. McCoy, J.N. Williams, four generations of the Foster Family, were names closely associated with the early history along with Pastor John Everly.

The simple frame structure was extensively remodeled twice. At the turn of the century, Mrs. C. E. Goodwin donated a house and lots just north of the church for a parsonage. In 1915 the present parsonage was built.

Fire destroyed the church in 1925. Almost immediately the members and friends of the church began rebuilding. In 1926, with Rev. Sidney E. Stringham as pastor, this present structure of brick and steel was dedicated.

Dr. and Mrs. Hugh S. Magill and 78 other members and families donated a Hammond Organ to the church in 1949. At that time Mr. Lincoln Magill presented the church with the chimes for the belfry.

The present membership of the Auburn Methodist Church is nearly 400 with enrollment in the Church School well over 250. Our pastor is Rev. James W. Canny.

CHURCH OF NAZARENE

The Church was organized February 12, 1906 by Rev. L.B. Kent, District Supt. of the Chicago Central District. Rev. George C. Walker was elected pastor but four months later he became the District superintendent of the Chicago Central District and Rev. Moore completed the year.

Brother Patterson built a very commodious church building with a comfortable parsonage. He gave it to the church of the Nazarene. Rev. O.W. Rose served the church for two years and Rev. Ferguson for one year. Auburn church is still functioning and from their midst have gone out several pastors and missionaries. Different pastors have come and gone and the church continues to be a blessing to many.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 3, 1854 Cumberland Church was organized in a Baptist Church on Sugar Creek by Rev. W.C. Bell, as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The following persons were charter members: John Wallace, Alex A. Orr, James Kessler, B.L. Kessler, Mary Kessler, Elizabeth Organ, Catherine Kessler, Sarah Gates, B.C. Viney, Thomas Black, Evaline Wallace, George Wallace, John Hart, Phoebe Hart, J. Johnson, W. Johnson, Rebedda Drennan, M.A. Steria, Levi Johnson, Henderson Seales, Harriet Kessler, D.F. Kessler, J.T. Kenney, Rebecca Kenney, Maciah Johnson

The first church building was erected in 1863 where the Auburn Cemetery is now located. This frame building was 30 by 40 feet. In 1875 a new building was erected on site of present building. In 1906 the church was remodeled into the present (1965) form and was re-dedicated November 17, 1907. Dedication sermon preached by Rev. Walter Spoontz, Evangelist.

Pastors serving the church: Revs. W.C. Bell, D.R. Bell, W.S. Baite, F.P. Weatherspoon, W.J. McDavid, Wm. Howe, C.P. Cooley, Thomas Potter, W. Marr, W.S. Neely, E.M. Steen, J. W. Mays, O.B. Lee, G.A. Swanson, B.F. Lawrence, K.L. Coleman, C.W. King, W.S. Neely, Roger Cressey, H.H. Hugo, R.W. Hartness, and G. C. Cross.

In May 1906 this Cumberland Presbyterian Church united with the U.S.A. Presbyterian Church. Elders and Trustees serving this church since 1863: A. Orr, G.S. Wallace, C.C. Shumway, D.F. Kessler, W.B. Goodpasture, J. Butler, M.L. Mason, B.L. Kessler, J.M. Hart, J.P. Brassfield, W.P. Bradley, E.A. Bigler, H.M. Barr, A.C. Kinney, W. Taylor, A. Taylor, G.T. Lloyd, Wm. Higgins, Seth Beasley, B.F. Hart, J.M. Tucker, Chas. Bramlett, D. T. Queen, Chas. White, M. Kessler, A.L. Fletcher, James Canham, Franklin Canham, F.D. Powers, Arthur Brackebush, Alex White, J. C. Quisenberry, Wilbur Landers, Ross Easley, Jake Hauversburk, Gerald MacMurdo, Wm. Hutton, J. W. Hederick, Frank Hutton, Wm. Hutton, Bill Herron, James Stockdale, Orville Blakey, Homer Padgett, Orin Jenkins, George Taylor, Richard Bast, August Dufour, Harvey Gheen, M. L. Spindel, Faye Quisenberry, Berle Beatty, Hilda Blakey, Betty Brackebusch, Ethel Campbell, Rubey Thorton, Zelma Cubell, Russell Price, Chas. Beatty, J. A. Beatty, John Rigg, Jr., Sherwood Helms.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, Illinois, had its beginning in 1911 when Pastor Brandt and Teacher Robert Shoknick began to hold services in the Thayer area. The services in the first years were held in the Will Ladage home. Later they were moved to the public school in Thayer and were held there regularly until the summer of 1953. The group there was always small, numbering about 25 members. Thayer became affiliated with the Chatham parish during Pastor Wegehaupt's pastorate. Pastor George Klein continued to hold services there and to instruct the children during his entire pastorate of over 20 years.

In 1952 Candidate R. A. Haak was called to the Chatham-Thayer parish and continued the services at Thayer. In the summer of 1953, the group conducted a Vacation Bible School in Auburn, renting the facilities of the Advent Christian Church. With the success of this endeavor, the congregation also moved its church services and Sunday School to Auburn. The first service was held in Auburn on July 19, 1953. Since this move was made, the congregation has grown steadily, numbering about 200 communicants and 293 souls to date in 1965. The congregation was formally organized Thanksgiving Day in 1953 and was received into membership in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in August of 1954.

A tract of land containing 2.9 acres was purchased from Mr. W. H. Hummel late in 1954. The congregation began building plans early in 1955. An architect and building contractor were engaged for the construction of the church. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on September 4, 1955. Cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held on February 19, 1956. Dedication services were held on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 1956.

In 1959, Candidate James Meichsner was called as pastor. The parsonage located west of the church was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1961.

Candidate R. Dean Mues, present pastor of the congregation was called in 1962. On Transfiguration Sunday, January 19, 1964, the congregation dedicated the Educational Unit addition to the church.

Trinity Congregation has pledged its faithfulness to the Triune God and his Word as revealed in the Holy Bible, and that Word alone is the source and norm of Christian faith and life. May that God continue to bless Trinity Congregation.

SCHOOLS

The first school built in Auburn Township was a log cabin built in 1828 on land owned by Mr. Patton. This was southwest of the town and the school was still there until just a few years ago when the schools were consolidated and the "Little Red School House" ceased to exist. There were undoubtedly schools maintained since the beginning of the Old Auburn, but the first building we found a record of was a two story building built in 1866 which stood on the southeast corner of the present school grounds. A Mr. Sholes was the first teacher. In an article written around 1900, a description of the school activities said that public exercises were held twice a month. These included vocal music, spelling, and literary contests and usually ended with gymnastics. The people of the town and countryside heartily supported these exercises.

A two-room building was built to supplement this older building.

The first Board of Education was elected in April, 1890, and at this time it was stated that the old four room building and the small building with two rooms were adequate as to room but were in bad need of repair. The first principal selected by this board was paid the sum of \$90.00 per month and his five assistants \$45.00 per month. In 1894, the school district was bonded for \$7000.00 and the white frame building in which so many of the "oldsters" recall starting school, was built. This building housed both Grade and High Schools and the first High School graduating class was in 1889. Mr. Charles Landon of this class is still living at the present time.

The present brick building which houses the Grade School was probably built around 1914 or 1915. This building was built in two parts. The south half at this time and the north half a few years later. During the nineteen twenties, at the time the mines were operating at peak capacity, the schools were quite crowded. Miss Esther White recalls that one year she had forty-nine pupils in her sixth grade class.

The present high school building was completed in 1916 and the first class to graduate from the new school was in 1917. Three years previous to this, our high school students journeyed to Pawnee due to lack of room for the high school classes. In later years, the addition to the Grade School has been added and also a new addition to the high school.

The first high school was known as the Auburn Township High School but is now the Auburn Consolidated High School.

The Auburn schools have always been tops scholastically and are at present accredited with the Northwestern Association. Music contests, literary contests, and athletics have always been strong points in our school life and Auburn has had her full share of winners in these events.

We have always been proud of our schools and we are certain that in the future we shall keep pace with the best.

BUSINESS OF AUBURN

The first merchandise sold in Auburn was In 1853, by Ham & Poley. In the quarter of a century that has passed, many others have engaged In business here, some of whom have met with success; others have had reverses.

To give the reader of this volume in the future, an idea of the business of the place in 1881, the following directory is appended, as compiled in October of that year:

DRY GOODS --- Hutton & Wallace, Smith & Hamlin
GROCERIES --- Cassity & Nicoles, L. B. McCarton, Gordon & Harvey, Patton & Stone
DRUGS, PAINTS --- Patton & Stone, C.H. Wineman
HARDWARE --- Geo. Sinniger, Patton & Stone
RESTAURANTS --- Simpson & Epling, Yoakley & Burnett, Harris & Corzin
SALOONS --- P.W. Jones, W.H. Wineman, Titus Jones
STATIONERY --- Geo. W. Hutton, Patton & Stone,
MILLINERIES --- Mrs. M.S. Hart
HARNESS AND SADDLES --- C. L. Bridges
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS --- R. E. Morse, D. D. Martin
GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING HOUSE --- Etrick & Lemkey
FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING --- H.M. Hart
BOOT AND SHOE MAKING --- J.P. & W.H. Norcross, G.W. Giley
BLACKSMITHS --- R.E. Morse, Tinkle & Gray, J.W. Hederick
AUBURN BANK --- Thos. S. Parks, President; J. W. Lowdermilk, Cashier
WAGON MAKING --- R E. Morse, R. Drury
RESIDENT CLERGYMEN --- D. R. Mansfield, Advent-Christian; A. Sloan, Methodist;
D.J. Ryan, Catholic; Allen, Baptist
PHYSICIANS --- J.R. Trott, M.S. Wheeler, L.P. Taylor
COAL SHAFT, TILE AND BRICK FACTORY --- Dawson, Poley & Co.
LUMBER, LIME --- W.H. Hummel
GRAIN ELEVATOR --- P.S. Bronaugh & Co.
FLOUR MILL AND GRAIN --- Morris, Harris & Co.
AUBURN CITIZEN --- M.G. Wadsworth
MEAT SHOP --- P. Faust
LIVERY STABLE --- Wm. Harris
BARBERS --- O.M. Cheney, Chapman & Wizard

THE AUBURN FIRE DEPARTMENT

The fire department of Auburn was always, as it is still today, a volunteer group. The first so-called fire engines were manual affairs, drawn and pumped by the men of the town who went to every fire. Six men on each side of the "engine" pumped alternately, much the same as children on a teeter toUer. Then came the engines drawn by horses. Among the first horses used was a team of gray horses owned by the Wunderlick's. Anytime, day or night, when the alarm was given, these horses went to the fire. The alarm was, in those days, the bell of the Advent Christian Church and these horses were ready and eager when it rang. "I wonder what they thought on Sunday morning when the bell rang and they were ignored?" Morris Kessler built the first motorized engine, using an auto as the truck and mounting the equipment on it.

As it has been stated before, the fire fighters were volunteers and in 1937 the finest display of community effort ever shown was on behalf of the fire department. The Auburn Community Fire Association was formed for the purpose of buying a new fire engine, the city being unable to afford it. Everyone in town helped in some way or another. Many benefits were held, including a carnival, a chicken dinner in the park, bingo every Saturday night, home talent plays, and even a car raffle. The car raffled off was a Ford furnished to the Association at cost by the Redford Motor Sales. Not only the residents of the city helped in this effort but the farmers got in the act also and without their help, it would have taken a lot longer to complete this task successfully. A few years later, due to the fact that the fire department now made rural calls, a second engine was a necessity. This engine was financed by donations both from the townsmen and the rural residents. Later, a unit fire district was established and is operating the fire department at the present time.

Henry Wunderlich, F.O. Lorton, Harry Hummel, and our present chief, Vernon MacMillan, have served their community well and with the full cooperation of the volunteers, have done a fine job of fire protection. The names of the fire chiefs preceding those mentioned were unavailable. One of the oldest and most faithful of the volunteers was Monroe Conlee (known by all as Friday). Mr. Conlee is still living in Auburn.

It has just been in the last few years that the firemen have received any pay. They are paid according to the size of the hose which they have to use and considering the danger that these men are in many times, it is small recompense indeed.

AUBURN BANK

This bank was organized in April, 1872, by H. Stevens and Samuel Lewis as the Exchange Bank of Auburn, with the former as President, and the latter as Cashier. It was conducted by them until May, 1874, when G.W. Hutton, I.J. and B.F. Poley, and J.M. and Samuel Lewis became the proprietors, I.J. Poley succeeding H. Stevens as President. In 1875, I.J. Poley and G.W Hutton purchased the interest of J.M. and S. Lewis, Mr. Hutton becoming Cashier.

In January, 1877, T.S. Parks, Esq., purchased I.J. Poley's interest, and in the succeeding April that of G. W. Hutton becoming sole proprietor. As President and proprietor, Mr. Parks has managed the business since that time. The present officers are: T. S. Parks, President, and J. W. Lowdermilk, Cashier. When Mr. Parks first took charge of the bank it was doing a limited business, but by close attention to its affairs and indefatigable energy, he has succeeded in placing it on a solid basis, and the bank is at this time in an excellent financial condition with a constantly increasing deposit.

Mr. Parks was in charge until his death. The shares were sold and the bank was owned by Stockholder until the depression, when it closed its doors to business in 1933.

The State Bank of Auburn was opened for business on November 22, 1941 with L. T. Graham of Pittsfield as president, S. J. Snell, Vice president, K. Layne as Cashier and Mary Hauversburk as Asst. Cashier, and at the end of the year the total assets were up to \$118,000.00. The growth of the bank has been steady over the years and recently the total assets went over five million. Stephen Narmont was elected president in 1963 after the death of K. Layne, having served for many years as director and vice president. Ralph Wempen, Exec. Vice president, has been with the bank for seventeen years, coming to the bank in 1948 as assistant cashier.

The original Board of Directors was S.J. Snell, Stephen Narmont, K. Layne, A.J. Rutkoski, Dr. K.J. Malmberg, L. T. Graham, B.M. Graham, R.O. Graham and S.B. Hicks.

POST OFFICE

The Auburn post office was established in the early part of 1839, in the old town, David Eastman, postmaster. Previous to this date there had been no office nearer than the Sugar Creek post office, kept at John L. Drennan's stage stand, five miles northeast. Mr. Eastman was postmaster until 1842, when Daniel Wadsworth was appointed under Tyler. He retained the office until 1852, when the railroad (now C. & A.) drew the business to the new town. From that time until the present, the office has been filled by the following in their regular rotation: H. Tibbatt, Benjamin Kessler, John Bond, W.P. Brooks, R.N. Han, A.M. Black, A.S. Davenport, J.W. Ayers, W.W. Lowdermilk, and George W. Hutton, the present appointee. Up to Mr. Lowdermilk's incumbency, the office has been kept in the east part of the town. Mr. Lowdermilk removed it to the public square, where it has since remained.

This is a third-class office, with a salary of \$1,000. Fifteen years ago, the delivering capacity amounted to fifty boxes, all told. Now the office has upwards of three hundred and fifty. The revenue for the year ending September 30, 1881, was \$2,332.99. The number of pieces of mail matter during the first week of December, 1880 (the only time during the year that any record was kept.) was one thousand six hundred and twenty-one pieces. The following letter explains itself:

PUBLISHER SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORY --

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request, to furnish you a statement of the amount of business at this office, In the money order department, during the first fiscal year and the last, I submit to you the following:

The first order was applied for July 22, 1872, by William W. Lowdermilk, then postmaster, payable to Herman Redlick, Springfield, Illinois, for \$14.

There were issued during the fiscal year's business, four hundred and one orders, amounting to \$5,377.55; and for the last fiscal year, ending July 22, 1881, there were issued one thousand one hundred and ninety-one orders, amounting to \$12,122.45.

I will add that at the time the money order office was established, in July 22, 1872, there was no bank here, and the greater part of the business of the village of Auburn and vicinity, was done through the money order office, while at the present time the heavier part of the business is done through the Auburn Bank.

Yours truly,

G.W. Hutton, P.M.

MILLS

The early settler had great difficulty in securing mill privileges, and the building of a mill in any neighborhood was hailed as a joyful event.

The first grist mill in Auburn township was built by James Sims, and stood on the north part of the Wineman farms, east of the present village of Auburn.

The first water mill was only for sawing lumber, and was built in 1825-6 by Robert Crow, on Sugar Creek, about a mile northeast of the present village of Auburn. The mill was subsequently rebuilt by E. and W. O. Crow, sons of Robert, and a pair of burrs attached.

The second water mill, which was both a saw and grist-mill, was built by Jacob Rauch, some six miles above Crow's some years later. Not long after James Wallace erected a saw-mill on the creek, between the two. Nearly all traces of these mills are now obliterated.

The first steam mill was built in 1838, by A. & G. Eastman, on the branch, about a quarter of a mile north of the present village of Auburn. This was also a grist-mill. The engine and machinery were afterwards removed and taken to Springfield.

In 1856-7, Bond and Ely erected an extensive steam flouring mill in the village, at a cost of \$15,000. which finally ruined the projectors, and it afterwards fell into the hands of J. U. Grove, who in 1864, used the engine, boiler, and machinery, in the outfit of a new mill in Carlinville.

There are now two grist-mills in the township, one owned by Morris, Harris and Co., in the village, and the other situated South of Auburn, and owned by Joseph Poley, Jr.

THE BUTLER POULTRY BUSINESS

(told by Charles A. White)

Mr. Robert Butler owned and operated a business in which he bought and sold chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and eggs. It was located on the north side of Washington Street just west of what was then the C. and A. Railroad.

He had three wagons with stationery decks built on the wagon. These would hold 300-400 chickens each wagon. The doors of the coops faced out. These wagons were pulled by horses. The men and boys who drove them traveled to all of the farms in the area surrounding Auburn to purchase the poultry and eggs. Some times the trips were made at night to catch turkeys that roosted in trees. On one occasion two wagon loads of turkeys were caught at a Workman farm near Loami. Eggs were purchased for twelve to fifteen cents per dozen.

Young roosters were among the best sellers. Each autumn farm women kept your pullets for egg production the next season. The old hens were culled out and sold, also. There were almost no hatcheries from which women could purchase chickens. They must be hatched at the farm.

Mr. Bulter had a large room with decks where the poultry was kept until it was dressed. This must be very carefully done because broken skin would leave a discolored spot that would detract from the appearance to customers.

After being dressed the poultry was stored in another room on large shelves until it cooled but it must not be frozen nor even frosted. Lacking thermostats, a few crates of live chickens were placed' in the cooling room if there was danger of too low temperature.

Mr. Butler made boxes of various sizes for shipping the dressed poultry. These boxes were used in cold weather. In summer large barrels were used. A layer of ice would be put in the bottom of the barrel, then the chickens or other fowls placed in the barrel, heads down, another layer of fowls, another layer of ice until about 12 or 15 inches from the top of the barrel. A large piece of ice was cut that would just fit into the remaining space. Then several layers of burlap were put over the top of the barrel and were held in place by a barrel hoop.

Mr. Butler had an arrangement with the station master of the C. and A. by which he would notify Mr. Butler when the freight train from the south left Virden. The day's shipment of poultry was then rushed to the platform at the station to be put into the refrigerator car. Much of this poultry went to Boston, Massachusetts.

The busy season for this business was from the middle of September until the first of January. Of course the egg buying was over a greater part of the year and there were always some chickens to buy.

This business was started about 1885 and continued.

FAUST MEAT MARKET

(by Earl Faust)

Faust Meat Market was started in 1873. Philip Faust came to the United States in 1871. He had served in the German Army and saw service in the France-Prussian War. He was in the heavy artillery and took part in the bombing of Paris, which lasted for three months before the city surrendered.

Philip Faust was taught the meat trade in Germany. If you were taught a trade in Germany you had to pay for the teaching by apprenticeship. You would work for four years and receive room and board. When you finished your apprenticeship you received a certificate. A man named Hunter taught Philip and gave him his certificate.

Having heard of the United States and that the draft was not used except in time of war, Philip decided to come to the United States. He had younger brothers and did not want them to go through what he had endured. So he came and arrived in Chicago on the next day after the Great Chicago Fire. There he met a sausage maker who had learned the trade from the same Mr. Hunter who had taught Philip Faust. After seeing Philip's certificate, the sausage maker hired him. Philip sent for his brother, Fred, the next year, and Fred was employed at a slaughter house in Bloomington.

On a visit to see Fred in Bloomington, Philip met a salesman who told him that a man in Auburn wanted a butcher. Philip wanted to be where he would have more opportunity to learn to speak English, so he took the job in Auburn. In 1873 he bought the business from the man who hired him. It was then located on the north side of the square about where Courty's Store is now. In 1880 his brother Fred joined Philip and they remained in business together until Fred's death in 1914. Philip bought and sold livestock until 1918. In the meantime the business was moved to the south side of the square where it continues today.

Earl Faust, Philip's oldest son, bought his uncle Fred's interest in the business, when Fred died in 1914.

Earl had worked there since 1900 and had been taught to kill and butcher by his father. After he finished eighth grade he would butcher at night during his four years of High School and go to school by day and never missed school.

Earl stated that it did not take much capital to operate a meat market then. The meat block was a trunk of a sycamore tree, the ice box was homemade. They used hard wood for the hollow walls of the ice box in which sawdust was tamped to keep the ice from melting. A homemade counter, like a table, a saw, knife, and a cleaver and you were in business. In those days people often came three times a day to the meat market because there was no refrigeration in the homes. Earl said he often waited on sixty-five or more people before early breakfast.

Faust put in the first mechanical refrigeration in Auburn in 1916.

Until 1918 Faust handled only meat.

Mr. Philip Faust died in 1928 and his daughter Bertha bought his interest and each day she is still on the job now in 1965. In 1962 Earl had to retire because of his vision and Evelyn Snow and Sherwood Helms took over Earl's interest. They had worked for Faust and Company for quite a while.

DRAYING

(told by Floyd L. and Joe and Alma Williamson. Credit to Miss Esther White)

Mr. Erastors (Boy) Williamson moved from the farm into Auburn about 1890. He had a draying business built a hotel where the Commercial Hotel is now, and was part owner of a livery stable to the south of the hotel.

His dray was two-wheeled with skids to form a ramp by which barrels and large boxes-could be loaded on the dray. Then the dray would tip down in front until it was level. It was pulled by one horse but in a fire at the livery stable the horse was burned to death. Then a blind mule was purchased. The mule was very gentle and the young boys enjoyed riding with Mr. Williamson and driving the mule. Mr. Williamson must have enjoyed having the boys with him because he was never impatient with them.

Mr. A.P. Lorton also had a dray of the same kind. The harness had a heavy pad which rested on the back of the horse to support the shaft from the dray. Most of the Lorton draying business was carried on by the son, Floyd.

A Passenger train on the steam railroad, Chicago and Alton, went north and south twice a day and carried express as well as passengers. A freight train went south about 9:00 A.M. and back north about noon.

Both Williamson and Lorton had their regular customers among the merchants for whom they carried express and freight. Each train was met because that was the only way merchandise was brought into the town. There was little protection against heat or cold.

The streets, even around the square, were often deep with mud so it was difficult to pull the dray. There was a fence made of posts and planks around the city park and horses were hitched to this fence. In the summer the dust was inches deep.

Mr. Williamson carried on the draying for about 25 years.

Mr. Lorton, had started his draying about 1898 and had continued for about 15 years but when son Floyd went into carpenter work the draying was discontinued.

Mr. Lorton and Mr. Williamson were brothers-in-law. Mrs. Lorton was a sister of Mr. Williamson.

ICE FOR AUBURN

(by Ada Bradley)

Around 1900 ice was cut from ponds and creeks by Faust and Riehle and also by Wunderlich. It was stored in ice houses built with double walls, and the space between the walls was filled with well packed saw dust.

Later as the ice demand increased, a manufactured ice was shipped in. Wunderlicks at first stored this ice in their Bottling Works building, but later moved the ice house to the west side of the C. and A. station. At that time the railroad kept a switch engine here all day and when the ice came the switch engine always set the car of ice right at the door of the ice house. Ice was in one hundred and two hundred pound blocks.

Ice was delivered over the town by the ice man, who changed from time to time. Then as mechanical refrigeration replaced ice boxes, ice was not needed so much.

AUBURN BOTTLING WORKS

(by Ada Bradley)

When John Wunderlich came home from the Spanish-American War, he and his father, George Wunderlich started making soft drinks in 1911. The business was located at the south edge of Auburn (Caldwell and 3rd Street) on the Cemetery Road. They made soda pop in lemon, strawberry, orange, grape, lime and cream flavors and also ginger ale.

CITY LIBRARY

(Compiled by the Literature and Library Service Department of The Auburn Woman's Club)

The year is 1965. Auburn is observing its Centennial, and the many changes which have taken place in our city during these 100 years are being recorded. Did Auburn always have a library for instance?

Have you ever wondered how the Library came into being. Was it always here? It was started in the fall of 1932. The Rev. Andrew C. DeSmidt came to Auburn in September of that year as pastor of the Nazarene Church and when he learned that the town was without a library, proceeded to do something about it.

When we started collecting material for this history, we wrote to Mr. DeSmidt and the following are some excerpts from a letter received from him in November 1964:

"One evening when making a call I noticed a high school girl (Eskie Psaute) doing home work. I asked her whether she could get much help in research in the library. She said there wasn't any library. I said there should be one. This was the beginning.

"The first task was to get some interest. I presented the matter to the Ministerial Association, the Woman's Club and the American Legion. The visible response was \$2.65 in cash. This I used to buy 1 x 6 lumber from which I made book shelves.

"A vacant store building just off the square on the west side of the street was used at times by some woman's organization, and free use of this building was available for the new venture.

"Then people were asked to loan or donate books for the library. The first Saturday boys and girls and others came bringing books in wagons, on bicycles and otherwise. A table and chair were provided and a volunteer librarian set down and the library was a reality.

"When I accepted a call to another church in Wisconsin some one said the library would close, but the Library Board was ~~-presented in the Ministerial Association, the Woman's Club and the American Legion and carried on. As far as I know the library has continued to serve except for a short interval.

"It was my privilege to visit it some years later in a fine building with new books."

Can you visualize bound copies of *The Auburn Citizen* spread out on a large table and two people poring over them hunting for items about that newly formed library? There was the first announcement in the issue of September 24, 1932, telling of the opening of the library in the old post office building just off the southwest corner of the square, with 500 or 600 books on the shelves and 20 different magazines, which had been donated by interested citizens. The hours were 4 to 5 o'clock Mondays and Wednesdays, and Saturday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone willing to loan books to the library was urged to notify Mrs. C. A. Seales or the Rev. A. C. DeSmidt. Joe Szerknis remembers using his small truck as he and Mr. DeSmidt collected books. The building had been fitted with books shelves, magazine and reading tables. A fee of 10 cents for a period of three months was charged for a membership card.

The Library Board was made up of representatives from the Community Club, the Woman's Club, the American Legion and the Ministerial Association. The first board was composed of Mr. DeSmidt, Mr. John Michaels, Mrs. Harry Hummel, Mrs. H. M. Hill, Mrs. Ada Campbellk Miss Grace Clark and Dr. Roger House.

The *Auburn Citizen* for October 28, 1932, stated that another 100 books had been added to the library but citizens were urged to search through their books and contribute those that "would be profitable reading for others, and donate them to the library--a good library is an asset to a community." Mary Elizabeth Brenner volunteered to act as librarian and 'will keep a complete check on the whereabouts of each book loaned so as to prevent the loss of any of the volumes." Eulah Greenwood and Ekie Psaute assisted as librarians and the key to the library was kept at the restaurant where it could be readily located.

In January, 1933 holders of library cards were to pay a fee of 10 cents for a two-month period instead of three. The July issues of 1933 told of a Tag Day, or Tag Night, at 10 cents per tag, for the benefit of the library, with the Girl Scouts assisting in the drive. The sum of \$16.30 was realized to be used to buy some new books and defray other necessary expenses. The Book Committee at that time was composed of Mrs. Ada Campbell, Mrs. Sybil Clark, Mrs. Gus Epley, Mrs. Melvin Grider, Mrs. Gleeson, Mrs. H. M. Hill, Mrs. Harry Hummel, Mrs. Lesly Fahs, Georgia Kincaid, Susanne Garber and Grace Clark.

Another money-making project which excited the whole community was a baseball game held on October 15, 1933 between the merchants and farmers at the local diamond for the benefit of the Auburn Community Library. Dr. S. P. Hart was manager of the Merchants' team, with Gus Epley as captain, "Dr. Hart predicted an easy victory for his squad." The manager of the Farmers' team was Chuck Echerd, and Simon Herron the captain. Admission to the game was 10 cents. The Merchants won 13 to 12.

In the *Auburn Citizen* of October 27 the Board of the Auburn Community Library thanked the citizens of Auburn and community for their generous support of the baseball game. Twenty-six dollars

was realized which would be used to pay rent, light, and coal bills for the next two months, and any remainder to buy necessary library supplies. Thanks were expressed also to the farmers and merchants who participated in the game, and to the crowd who attended.

Chili suppers and plays were staged by various organizations for the benefit of the library. But these were the days of the Depression-banks had gone under, and times were very hard indeed. The use of the library decreased, and there was a deficit in funds.

After the Reverend Andrew DeSmidt's departure from Auburn, interest in the library waned, then was rekindled in a see-saw sort of movement, and the library traveled from one location to another. It was moved from its first location to a building across the street just off the southeast corner of the square. Later, to the south side off the square on Monroe, just off 4th Street, where the Auburn Clinic is now located. Several persons who were interviewed remembered the library being on the west side of the square over Shutt's Jewelry Store, or on the north side of the square in a building now occupied by the A & P store. But it also had other locations.

These were depression years and there were no funds available to purchase books or pay rent, much less pay a librarian. In 1938 the National Youth Administration of the WPA assisted with books, and librarians received small remuneration. Phyllis Coton (now Mrs. Steve Magyar) and Stella Migalich acted as librarians when the library was located upstairs over what is now Edwards Department Store on the northwest corner of the square. This building was condemned, and the library was again moved, this time a few doors south where Mrs. Ora Dusen now has her store. From there it was transferred to a small frame building between 5th and 6th Streets on Jefferson Street.

In 1941, Mrs. Virgil McCready, (now deceased) was WPA librarian for a short time. She was succeeded by Miss Esther Queen, who was paid a salary of \$10.00 per month, and a representative of the WPA from Springfield came down to show her the duties of a librarian. By that time the library was housed in the old Grade School, in the rear of the present Community Grade School, but this building was to be tom down to make room for the new school, and the American Legion offered the upstairs of their building on Fifth and Adams Street if the Board members would make the necessary repairs. The walls needed papering, but when the paper was tom off, the plastering came with it' Mrs. Carl Schuster, Mrs. Homer Padgett and Mrs. Hilma Harris (now Mrs. Clarence Kenney) volunteered to do the plastering, since there was no money available. It must have been quite a chore, and they were much relieved when Mr. Ed Hoard sent his wife to do the papering. Fern Michelich (Mrs. John) assisted Hilma with the painting, and again the library had another location. The room was heated by a stove the two days a week the library was open, and Miss Queen brought kindling from her home to start the fires. In February of 1943, the WPA went out of existence, but Miss Queen continued as librarian at the same salary of \$10.00 per month.

Because of the extreme cold, another location was sought, and when Mr. John Lanham offered his building on the west side of Fifth Street, between Adams and Jefferson, for a rental of \$10.00 per month, it was eagerly accepted. The move was made one evening in a truck furnished by Chet Pennington, all the Board members assisting, namely: Mrs. Carl Schuster, Mrs. Chet Pennington, Mrs. Henry Merriam, Mrs. Hilma Kenney, Mrs. Homer Padgett, and Mr. Ed Hoard, who was the representative from the City Council, together with all the husbands who could be mustered up to help. This move was made in 1943.

Church groups, social groups, the Auburn Woman's Club, and other organizations made contributions to help defray the necessary expenses of the library during these years, in addition to the small membership fee charged. Other financial benefits were a Play on July 6, 1943, and serving at the Lewis Sale Barn on April 5, 1944, where church organizations, and others, took turns serving on Wednesdays when sales were held. Books continued to be furnished by interested friends. Mr. Wendell Goodpasture of Bretanos in Chicago sent two large boxes of new books as a gift to the library. Mrs.

Robie, who had a book store in Springfield, was greatly interested in the library and sold books from her rental shelf to the Board at a considerable discount.

It had been learned that under the statutes of the State of Illinois a city tax could be levied for the support of a library not to exceed two mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of taxable property in a city. Some time prior to 1943, Mrs. H. M Hill and Mrs. Lillian Flood, representing the Auburn Woman's Club, had attempted to get a city tax levied for the support of the library, but their endeavors were in vain.

In the Spring of 1943, Mrs. Hilma Harris Kenney, Mrs. Carl Schuster and Mrs. Homer Padgett, Board members, appeared before the Auburn City Council requesting that a tax be levied in accordance with this statute of the State of Illinois. On May 3, 1943, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 426 establishing a Free Public Library and Reading Room, to be supported by a city tax, the rate to be determined by the City Council, but which "shall not exceed one and two-tenths mills on the dollar of the assessed value of taxable property in the City. "

Enthusiasm ran high, and early in 1944 representatives of 30 organizations met in the home of Homer Padgett to devise ways and means to improve the library. A Book Review Club was formed with memberships of \$1.00 per year, and weekly book reviews were held; during cold weather many of them being in the chapel at the Willis Funeral Home. Local reviewers gave willingly of their time and talents, among them being: Mrs. Lelia Winans, Miss Esther White, Mrs. Carl Schuster, Miss Charlotte Reimer, Mrs. Frank R. Wheeler, Miss Beulah Close, Mrs. Catherine Hart Dash, and Mrs. Robie of Springfield, and many others. For several years these books reviews were held every Tuesday evening, sometimes being preceded by a potluck supper.

As time went on it was found that the tax at the rate of one and two-tenths mills on the dollar of assessed taxable property in the City was not sufficient to maintain the needs of the library, and a special election was called by the City Council and held on June 25, 1946 to increase the rate of tax "not to exceed two mills on a dollar," for the support of the Auburn Public Library and Reading Room. This was voted favorably by the people of Auburn, and the City Council passed an ordinance providing the tax at the increased figure, which is still in effect.

Thus we find that the Auburn Community Library had now become the Auburn Public Library and Reading Room, due in large part to the willing and loyal citizens who had kept up their interest through many troublous years.

The Auburn Library remained in the Lanham building until a permanent home was provided through the generosity of Hugh S. Magill, who had returned to make his home in Auburn. He was elected a member of the Library Board in 1945. When he found that the building south of the library (the one just north of the present bank building) was for sale he offered to purchase it and deed it to the Board of Trustees for the permanent home of the library on two conditions: (1) That the City Council of Auburn would continue to levy each year a tax sufficient for the library's needs, in accordance with the financial requirements' statement submitted by the Board of Trustees, as provided by law for the support of free public libraries and reading rooms; and (2) That the citizens of Auburn would raise \$800.00 to be used in putting the building in first class condition as the permanent home of the Auburn Public Library.

The City Council approved the proposition on the second day of April, 1945 and the citizens of Auburn generously oversubscribed the \$800.00 specified. On June 5, 1945, a warranty deed signed by Hugh S. Magill and Amina Foster Magill donating and conveying "Lot (4) in Block (6) in Buck's addition to the Town, now City, of Auburn situated in the City of Auburn, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois," was presented to the Board of Trustees for the Auburn Public Library as a gift to the people of Auburn. Thus the Auburn Public Library was assured a permanent home, and its moving days were almost over.

Extensive repairs to the roof, walls, ceiling, floor, etc. were made, and new shelving for the books was built and painted, asphalt tile floor was laid, and plumbing was installed. Personal donations continued to come in as the expense of conditioning the building mounted.

Members of the Library Board helped choose the necessary furniture, much of which was given by Mr. Magill and other interested friends. Lincoln Magill, of Oregon, who was visiting his brother, presented three sets of tables and chairs for children, and also gave a library table with matching chairs to be known as the "Farmers' Table" for special bulletins and printed matter of interest to farmers. The rocking chair, which is still being used and enjoyed, was another of his gifts. The librarian's desk was presented by Theodore Dirksen of Springfield. A group of 30 women made a present of the table and one of the chairs in the community room.

Finally, the opening day arrived, and on September 1, 1945, Open House was held, and everyone was delighted to see the home of the library which now belonged to the citizens of Auburn and the surrounding community. A silver tea was held on October 4, 1945, by the Woman's Club for the benefit of the library and a goodly sum realized for further improvements.

The community room is a convenient place for committee meetings of various organization; the library serves as the polling place for national, county, township and city elections (all elections except school); church groups and others hold bazaars and food sales, so that the library serves the people as a community center in addition to its library functions.

In 1959, when arrangements for swimming classes for school children were changed, the Auburn Swimming Fund presented its balance of \$342.02 to the Library Board to be used "especially for the benefit of children" and a children's alcove with shelves of accessible height was built in the main section of the reading room, the remainder of the fund being invested in a wide selection of children's books.

For several years the Art Association, founded by Mrs. A. O. Merriam and others, held regular meetings at the library and many amateur artists from Auburn and nearby towns had their pictures on display. Mrs. Merriam also brought exhibits from the State Library and gave interesting interpretations of the pictures and facts about the artists. When the Art Association disbanded in 1960, the balance of their treasury amounting to \$50.50 was given to the library for the purchase of books.

Another sum of \$82.20 which came to the library when an organization went out of existence was from "Project Alert" and part of this money was used to purchase books dealing with Americanism as opposed to Communism.

The Auburn Woman's Club has always been a consistent supporter of the library, and many of the departments have donated gifts of books and money, as has also the Junior Woman's Club. The Literature and Library Service Department, because of its specific interest in libraries, has made many contributions through subscriptions to magazines, books in the Landmark series for children, the complete set of "Through Golden Windows" an anthology of the best in children's literature and other books on varied subjects. A significant addition was the hand-written "History of Auburn" by Mrs. Johnanna Lanham, the pages having been laminated and bound into a volume, which was presented to the library at a tea given by the Department in memory of Mrs. Lanham.

Among reference books always available for use are the Encyclopedia Britannica and the World Book, both kept up to date by purchase of the annual supplements, Compton Books (juvenile), the monthly issues of the National Geographic Magazine, the Commercial and Library Atlas, the Reader's Digest Atlas, biographical books, and books of poetry, in addition to current issues of many magazines, in the magazine rack in the community room.

There are special shelves with many books and publications giving a wealth of information about Abraham Lincoln; books of special interest to parents and members of the PTA; a shelf for Girl Scouts, and one for Boy Scouts; and the Memorial shelf where books are placed which have been given in memory of friends or members of one's family. The Bible on the desk in the community room is a gift from the Ministerial Association.

The Auburn Public Library is a member of the State Library Association and an annual report is made in triplicate of the number of books circulated, cash receipts and expenditures, and other required information, one copy being filed with the State Library, one with the City Council, and one kept in the files of the library. To supplement the collection of children's books belonging to the library, the State Library furnishes on loan additional books for children.

The present Library Board is composed of Mrs. Harry Willis, President; Mrs. George LeConte, vice president; Mrs. Frank Wheeler, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Homer Padgett, Mrs. Chester Pennington, Mrs. Carl Schuster, Fred Crumbaugh, Walter Edwards and Ted Evoy. The following have also served as members of the Board: Rev. R. M. Bezanson, Miss Grace Bird, James McGaha, Hugh S. Magill, A. O. Merriam, Henry Rucker, Alexander White and Miss Lucy Wright. Miss Esther Queen has served as librarian from the time of the WPA library in 1941 to the present.

The citizens of Auburn should be grateful to the members of the Library Board for their continuing interest and support of the library during its 33 years of existence.

MINING

Coal mining was Auburn's largest industry in its history. At one time, there were four mines in the immediate vicinity operating at one time. The oldest mine was known as the Peanut Mine and was probably sunk about 1880. Operated by the Union Fuel Co. with Bill Starnes as the manager, it hoisted approximately one thousand tons of coal on a good day. The men dug and loaded the coal by hand and it was drawn to the hoist by mules and raised to the top by steam hoists.

The Lefton Mine was sunk about 1890 by the Chicago and Virden Coal Co. A Mr. Lucans was one of the early presidents of this mine.

The South Mine was sunk in 1904 by the Solomon Bros., and later sold to the Springfield District Coal Co., probably for the Peabody Coal Co.

These three mines operated in approximately the same way and probably hoisted about the same amount of coal. The men worked for about \$1.25 a day in the early years. After the large strike in 1897 which lasted about a year the United Mine Workers' Union was established and the men received the huge sum of forty-five cents a ton for the coal they loaded. At this time coal sold for \$1.25 to \$1.50 per ton.

The three mines together probably employed about 610 men at their peak.

The newest mine known as Panther Creek was sunk about 1914 or 1915. Of course this was a much more modern mine and the Solomon Brothers operated it very efficiently. This mine remained in operation long after the other mines were shut down and at the time that it was closed it employed between seven and eight hundred men.

The mines meant a great deal to the prosperity of Auburn. There were few families in Auburn that did not have some one connected with the mines in some capacity or other. When all of the mines finally closed, it was a blow to the economy of the whole community.

EARLY TELEPHONE SERVICE IN AUBURN

The first telephone exchange in Auburn was ready for use February 25, 1899, by the owner, Mr. W.H.

Ramsey and his helper, Charles Sinniger. It was located upstairs over the old Bank Building. All of the telephones were rung by hand by the operator. The first operators of the switchboard were men. At first there were ninety-five numbers on the switchboard. In a few years another switchboard was added and later a much larger board, as well as one for long distance calls. They were now six operators with three on each shift. They received a dollar a day. The "day service" was from 7:30 A.M. till 6 P.M. After 10 P.M. there weren't supposed to be any calls except those classed as an "emergency".

In the early days of the telephone, a death was announced by the ringing of a church bell. The funeral directors usually called the operator first so he could have time to get extra help because as soon as they heard the bell so many people would be calling in to find out who had passed away.

Some of the people who have helped with establishing a successful telephone system in our community are: Miss Margaret Ramsey and Mrs. Charles White-sisters of Mr. Ramsey; Gertrude Murray Gleason, Carmen White, Lucy Hare, Ora Craddock, Irene Hare, Isabel Price, Gertrude Wright, Anna Battan, Jennie Fee Harms, Lucy Hall, Pearl McKinney, Ethel Jones Shutt, Ethel Barding, Margaret Christensen, Daisy Bell Lewis, Bertha Enterkin, Lilly Gruber, Grace Battan, Ida Ramsey, Minnie Pierce, and Emma Pierce.

Mr. Ramsey died February 20, 1916. The company was sold at his death. There were now 540 telephones in the community.

FIRST RURAL MAIL SERVICE

On December 10, 1896, the first rural mail delivery in the state of Illinois was inaugurated at Auburn, Illinois. This was a part of the program started by the National Government as a test to ascertain if Rural Free Delivery was justifiable. There were 40 test routes throughout the United States and the three out of Auburn were the only ones in Illinois. Bids were called for and the Government made it known that no bid which was over \$300.00 would be accepted. Samuel Lewis of Auburn was the only one who turned in a bid for this amount and Auburn almost lost the opportunity to be the test territory. However W.P. Brooks who was Postmaster at the time put the issue before his townsmen and as a result W.P. Lorton and Allen Hatcher entered bids for the same amount of \$300.00. Thus was started the first Rural Free Delivery.

These three men, on foot, on horseback, and in carts carried the mail to the people living in the rural area surrounding Auburn. Often in the winter when the mud or snow was deep, it took them two days to cover their routes of approximately forty-five miles.

Samuel Lewis was born October 6, 1840, in the state of Kentucky. When six years old, he migrated to Sangamon County, Illinois with his father. He served in the Civil War and was 56 years old when he started his mail route. He died in 1910 having carried the mail for approximately fourteen years.

Floyd Lorton was only 18 years old at the time he started carrying the mail and after almost a year of service, turned to something more lucrative. He is still living at the present time.

Mr. Hatcher died in 1901.

ELECTRICITY FOR AUBURN

ITEMS FROM EARLY EDITIONS OF THE AUBURN CITIZEN:

September 5, 1895 - Our village board at its meeting on Monday night declined to entertain Mr. Hockersmith's proposition in regard to electric lights and waterworks.

March 1, 1897 - The village board tries to appropriate money for sewers and electric lights. A levy would be required.

May 27, 1897 - Our village solons have been inspecting the varied electric light systems hereabouts, with the view of informing themselves as to which is the best before placing their order for lights.

June 17, 1897 - City Ordinance No. 42: Item No.5: For lighting the streets and alleys by electricity, Six hundred dollars to be known as the "Electric Light Fund".

September 5, 1897 - The Citizen might have told its readers two weeks ago that wires have been introduced into Dr. J.A. Wheeler's office, Charles Landon's Hardware Store, and C.H. Wineman's new drug store for the oncoming electric lights.

September 16, 1897 - Poles for conducting the electric fluid have been planted about the town this week.

Exactly when we may expect to be lighted up we are not able to say.

September 30, 1897 - Our eight arc lights have been assigned as follows: one each at the northwest and southeast corners of the public square; one at the W.H. Hummel residence (7th & Adams) just west of the M.E. Church; one at Dr.S.C. Ham's residence (4th & Adams) just west of the Baptist Church; one at the corner of the Catholic Church parsonage lot; one at the corner of Slegemilk's residence (1st & Monroe); one just north of the Presbyterian Church.

October 14, 1897 - No. 45, An Ordinance in Relation to Electric Lights; A contract to Thomas H. Graham and heirs to furnish electric lights, poles, wires, etc. for twenty years; to have it done in ninety (90) days after the passage of this ordinance. Lights are to burn from dusk until midnight except when the moon makes artificial lighting unnecessary. \$75 per annum for each light furnished to the village shall be paid. If more lights are needed, they shall be put in proper place by Graham et al at the same rate. If the village decides to burn lights regardless of moonlight, the price shall be \$10 more per light per annum.

Graham et al shall furnish for private use to each one alike without delay or hindrance, electric lights upon equal terms.

December 23, 1897 - Some business houses have electric lights.

March 31, 1898 - All stores on the south side of the square have electric lights.

May 11, 1899 - The Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Advent Christian Church have electric lights.

Later, Auburn had its own electric power plant located at the corner of 5th and Route 104. Mr. Walter Gruber was in charge and, Mr. Charles Landers was some sort of helper.

The C.I.P.S. Company took over the plant from the city and at the present time is still supplying electricity to the citizens of Auburn.

HISTORY OF THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL

(by Marie Reihle)

Many stories and historical events concerning Auburn are being written in this Centennial year. I have been asked to contribute a history of the Commercial Hotel and tell what I remember about the great fire in 1910 which destroyed the hotel and most of the entire east side of the square.

The fire is very vivid still in my memory though I was only 10 years old. The details of the destruction were recorded in the March 18, 1910 issue of the Auburn Citizen which follows:

AUBURN HAS COSTLY FIRE

At about three o'clock Wednesday morning the sleeping inhabitants of Auburn were awakened by the clanging of the fire bell, firing of revolvers and various other alarms, signifying that a fire of unusual magnitude was in progress. Soon after the first alarm was sounded most of the city was illuminated by the burning buildings on the east side of the square. Starting in the rear of the Nackros grocery store, the fire spread rapidly to the surrounding buildings and soon the whole east side was a mass of flames.

It was soon apparent that our equipment for fighting fire was inadequate even for the protection of the surrounding buildings, and help was summoned from Virden and Springfield but long before help arrived, the fire was beyond any possibility of being controlled. Everything along the east side was consumed except the two story brick building on the northeast corner, owned by Reisch Bros. Brewing Company, which was of solid brick walls with no windows and soon nothing was left but fragments of the tottering walls. All other buildings in the path of the flames were wooden and veneered structures and offered little or no opposition to the progress of the fire.

The following buildings were totally destroyed with their contents: two story building owned by W.H. Hummel, occupied by the George Nackros grocery and meat market, two story building owned by Schlitz Brewing Company. Unoccupied; two story building owned by Mrs. Henry Riehle, Armstrong pool room below, Miners Hall above, two story Commercial Hotel, owned and occupied by Mrs. Henry Riehle; one story building owned by Mrs. Henry Riehle, occupied by meat market; two story building owned by J. Dabaugh, Dabaugh shoe shop below unoccupied above; two story building owned by Reisch Bros. unoccupied; two story building owned by J.W. Wineman, occupied by Jos. F. Smith, farming machinery; two small buildings owned by A.E. Irwin, unoccupied; three small buildings owned by T.J. Nuckolls. The total loss amounts to almost \$50,000, most of which was fairly well insured.

This is one of the most disastrous fires in the history of Auburn. No definite reason can be assigned for the origin of the fire.

It will require only two or three such fires as this to fully pay for a good system of waterworks that would be of inestimable value to our city, would increase the value of its property, invite to our city various industries and furnish protection against fires.

And so there is the story. Many memories were revived for me in reading the account. After the fire, we moved into a two story frame house, which my mother owned in the east part of town. My parents planned to rebuild the Hotel which is the present one and it was built and ready for business exactly two years from the date of the fire, March 1912. It was a glad occasion when we moved back. Prior to the fire and afterwards my mother operated a dining room in connection with the hotel.

At that time Auburn was a thrifty and good business center. Trains were our way of travel. The old C. & A. had a couple of stops daily, morning and evening, and then there was the Pawnee train from Auburn to Taylorville. We had four wonderful coal mines that employed hundreds, so the town was sure a boomer and days of prosperity. I can recall the happy, busy times, plenty to eat, skating rinks, the old Bijou theatre operated by Mrs. Amanda Faust on the south side of the square; and there were dances at the old Wineman Opera House located over (Cecil Herron) restaurant. There were picnics and dancing at Irwin's Park and we always looked forward to the big annual fish fry on the public square with contests and amusements for old and young. And there were band concerts in the old band stand, people walking around the square keep in g time with the band and eating popcorn sold by Charlie White, a friend to all. Happy memories.

Now for the history of this place I have called home almost all my life. The hotel which burned was purchased by my parents in late 1900 from Erastus and Margaret E. Williamson and the transaction was recorded January 2, 1901. In going through the abstract deed the first owner of the property was Mathew Newkirk in 1835, John Buck purchased it in 1835, Other owners included Thomas Mather, Issac Bostwich, Noah Matheny, Jonas U. Grove, all transactions properly recorded and filed and one wonders at the interesting stories that could be told of that era. Then in 1882 the land was sold at public auction and was purchased by Elizabeth France of Philadelphia, Pa. The property was then willed to her son, Jesse G. France and he subsequently sold it to Erastus Williamson in 1892. The first mention of the structure Commercial Hotel was noted in a lease between Mr. Williamson and Joseph Weisse in August, 1900, the same year my parents purchased it. The hotel has remained in our family. The Lawrence Comerfords leased it for five years after my mother died in 1926. My brother, Louis and his wife operated it for a few years and since then I have been Auburn's innkeeper.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

No history of a town would be complete without mention of the social and fraternal organizations of the city. After all, these people did not work all the time. Auburn had its fair share of clubs and lodges and they were not all social gatherings.

Among the fraternal organizations were the Oddfellows established in 1874 with 137 members; the Rebeccas with 116 members; the Modern Woodsmen established in 1885 with 17 members; the Redmen; the Masonic Lodge established in 1860 and the Eastern Star established in 1897. There were probably others also, which we could find- no record of. Of these mentioned, the Ark & Anchor Lodge No. 354 A.F. &A.M. is still active and also the Eastern Star. The present Masonic Temple was built in 1913 and dedicated on January 30, 1914. This was the second building built by them, the first having stood on the southwest corner of the square and now tom down.

The Auburn woman's Club was first known as the Domestic Science Club and joined the Federated Women's Clubs in 1923 with Mrs. Pearl Foreman as the first President. The Women's Club has always been active in civic affairs and has contributed both time ,and money in furthering the health and welfare of the citizens of Auburn. The Junior Woman's Club followed the Senior club with its aims and purposes the same as that of the older club. The Juene Femme Circle, a much newer club in the town, has, in the few years of its existence, established itself firmly as an asset to community growth and welfare.

The Auburn Rotary Club was organized in 1937. The purpose of Rotary Clubs everywhere is service and the Auburn Club is no exception. Their greatest contribution to the welfare of the city is the youth program which they have maintained throughout the years of their existence.

BRICK AND TILE

(Editor's Note: This story was written by Henry Riehle at the request of Miss Esther White of the Auburn Historical Society.)

When I was about three years old, we lived in Springfield, **III**. At that time, Dad had a job in the Gas Works. I recollect getting lost in Springfield and being brought home by a big policeman, but I cannot recall any of the details about our moving to Auburn. The brick and tile yard was evidently started immediately after we moved from Springfield, but I did not pay much attention to it until when I was ten years of age Dad gave me the job of water boy the day school was out, and the salary was 25¢ per day. The hours were from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., no Saturday afternoons off, and the only day we could celebrate was the Fourth of July. Business was very good at that time, and I would estimate there were approximately 15 employees-including Dad and me. As I grew older, and-stronger, Dad transferred me to heavier jobs, and I was a very proud young man, when I was 18 years old and could do as much work as Dad or any of his men. By that time, the pay was \$1.50 per day.

I do not know why I was never curious enough to ask questions as to how the company was formed. All I knew was that Phil Faust had a financial interest in the yard, and at one time my Uncle Henry-Marie Riehle's father, had an interest, but for a short time only. Mr. Henry Dawson, the banker, had no financial interest, but he was of valuable assistance to them in handling their finance, etc., and I know of several occasions when Mr. Dawson leaned over backwards to extend more credit than he should have permitted. Mr. Dawson never charged anything for his advice, and I know that every cent he ever loaned to Dad was repaid, with full interest.

As you know, Mr. Faust and his brother-Fred, were primarily interested in buying and selling stock, running a butcher shop and meat market. Mr. Faust seldom visited the tile factory, and always seemed pleased with my Dad's management. Every so often, when there was a little surplus in the treasury, Mr. Faust and Dad would cut a melon. **In** addition, Dad received the magnificent salary of \$45.00 per month, and it was always a mystery to me how mother managed to raise six husky kids on that kind of income. Earl Faust never worked at the tile yard, as he was more interested in the meat business. However, his brother-Fred, spent many vacations there.

I do not know how my father raised the money to build long sheds, install railroad tracks, boiler room, steam engine, buy two expensive brick and tile machines, etc., to say nothing of meeting the payroll each week for all this labor. It was also necessary to erect at least three kilns. Dad could not read a blueprint, but he installed a boiler, a steam engine, a brick or tile machine, etc., without a drawing of any kind .. There were two kinds of brick kilns-round and rectangular. The rectangular kilns were approximately 60' long and 20' wide. A brick arch covered the side walls to hold in the heat, and furnaces were built in for supplying the heat. It was also necessary to install a metal smokestack for each kiln about 2' in diameter and 40' high, and I still wonder to this day how my Dad managed to raise those heavy smokestacks without ever studying the principles of the block and tackle. I often wonder what kind of an engineer my Dad would have made if he had been given the opportunity to receive a technical education.

The soil around Auburn is not very good for pottery manufacture. **In** the first place, about two feet of black dirt has to be removed. This is good for raising corn, but no good for tile or brick. Then there is a layer of crumbly yellow clay, then a layer of very fine yellow clay, and after two layers of a gray tough clay, you hit water. Even after mixing these clays very thoroughly, they did not produce a good tile or brick, and it was necessary to mix a certain percentage of shale with the clay.

The coal seams around Auburn are at a depth of approximately 300', but there is a seven foot strata of shale at a depth of 180 feet. By using the escape shaft of the old mine in Auburn next to the tile yard, Dad and his men dug shale during the winter months and placed it in large mounds above ground where the rain, sun, etc., caused it to shatter very rapidly. Later on, the shale was run through a pair of heavy

crushers, turned into a dust, and mixed with the clay. Many of our hills around Cincinnati are pure shale, but producing shale in Auburn was a rather expensive operation.

After the clay and shale were thoroughly mixed, and enough water added to make semi-plastic, the mixture was run through a large pug mill. This is a machine similar to a small sausage grinder. After the clay mixture is properly mixed, it is forced through a die either in the form of brick or dies of various sizes to manufacture tile. The brick or tile were loaded on small cars and stored on wide slats in a well ventilated shed for drying purposes. After being thoroughly air-dried, the brick or tile were set up in one of the large kilns. A low fire was applied for 24 hours to drive out the remaining moisture, and then extreme heat was applied for approximately 96 hours. This is a very touchy procedure, as too much heat would turn the brick or tile into a molten mass and too little heat would cause the brick or tile to be brittle. This is a very complicated procedure, and I have seen my Dad work 18 hours per day for three days straight rather than take a chance on an inexperienced man. And he would not receive Time and One-Half Pay.

I left home in 1904, Dad insisted on moving the entire factory north of the old coal mine. This was an expensive operation, and there wasn't enough business to justify it. My brother Ed in St. Louis worked at this new plant two years after he graduated from High School.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

BART LEWIS

Born 1875 - died 1947; resident of Auburn the greater part of his life. He was a famous amateur and professional trapshooting expert and holder of national and world records as a marksman both as an amateur and a professional, In 1919, he made a perfect score of 200-200 targets adding this to a carry-over of the previous year which him an unfinished run of 321 straight. This was an unbeatable perfect record, Mr. Lewis was also an artist and penman of great skill, samples of which appeared on display at Illinois College some years ago. The Sportman's Review Magazine in 1947, stated that "the world has lost a man who, as an expert at the trap, in the field and on the marsh had but few equals if any."

JOHN FRANCIS SMITH

Born 1841, Grand Duchey, DeLuxembourg of French parents. Left there at the age of 17 to come to America and later becoming a citizen of this country. In 1888 Mr. Smith established his famed Percheron Farm south of Auburn from original stock brought to this country from France by his younger brother. During this period, he became president of the Auburn State Bank but continued with the Percheron business with the help of his son, Theo. At his death, Theo M. Smith continued the business while at the same time working on the Stallion Registration Board at the State House in Springfield. These horses won many blue ribbons during the years of management by Mr. Smith and his son.

WILLIAM P. BROOKS

Auburn, February 20, 1929 - Auburn man, 100 years old today, receives messages from governor and friends. His desire to live to be 100 years old realized today, William P. Brooks was in high spirits as he greeted relatives and friends here and perused a shower of congratulatory messages.

Among the messages is a letter, received Tuesday afternoon, from Governor L.L. Emmerson.

The governor's letter is as follows:

Dear Mr. Brooks:

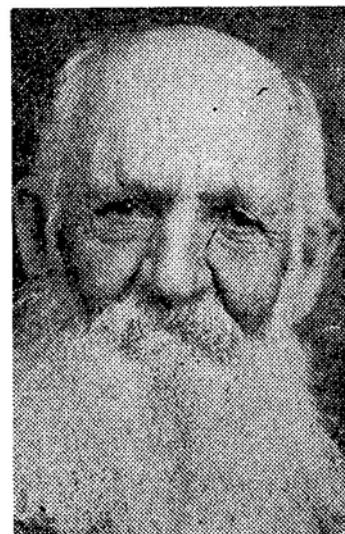
Through a mutual friend, I learned that on February 20 you will celebrate the 100th anniversary of your birthday and I am writing to express to you my congratulations and sincere good wishes.

It is a great thing to have reached that age and to have lived for a century in this progressive age.

I hope that you are in good health and that you will enjoy many blessings in the years to come. Again extending my sincere good wishes, I am.

Very truly yours,

L.L. Emmerson



Mr. Brooks lived to be 102 years of age.

EMIL "DUTCH" LEONARD

Born in Auburn, Illinois, March 25, 1909.

Former major league pitcher, spent more than 20 years with major league baseball clubs. He pitched for the Brooklyn Dodgers three years, Washington Senators nine years, Philadelphia Phillies two years, and the Chicago Cubs for five years. He retired from professional baseball at the conclusion of the 1953 season with the Cubs where he then coached for three years.

Leonard began his career in Central Illinois playing in 'his home town of Auburn, Illinois in semi-pro competition. He started professional ball in 1930 and went to the majors in 1933.

"Dutch" was selected on five All-Star teams - four in the American League and one in the National. He was winning pitcher of the 1943 All-Star game and was one of two players up to 1961 to be selected on both the American and National League All-Star teams.

Although never with a pennant winning club, he ran up a total of 193 victories against 187 defeats and has one of the best earned run averages for a career at 3.25.

"Dutch" resides at Auburn with his wife and children. He is now on the staff of the Illinois Youth Commission, Division of Community Services, as a Recreation Consultant. Mr. Leonard's son, Danny, who is following in his father's foot steps, is a pitcher on a Pony League Baseball team.

HUGH STEWART MAGILL

Hugh Stewart Magill was born December 5, 1868, on the Magill farm four miles from Auburn, Illinois, son of Hugh Stewart Magill, Sr. and Charlotte Richmond Magill, who were pioneer Sangamon County residents; received his A.B. from Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, in 1894, and LL.D. in 1913. He married Amina Foster, whose parents were also pioneers of Sangamon County, on July 24, 1894. They had one son, Roswell Foster Magill.

Mr. Magill began teaching in a country school near Auburn at the age of 19; was principle of Auburn High School for four years; then served the school in Springfield, as principal of the Con verse School, assistant principal of the high school and later as superintendent of schools. He was also principal of the Princeton Township High School for eight years.

Mr. Magill was a member of the 47th and 48th General Assemblies of Illinois and the author of many educational and welfare measures, among them the Illinois woman's suffrage law, and was cited by the Legislative Voters' League as the most valuable member of the legislature. He served as president of the Illinois Education Association and was author of the bill which provided for teachers' pensions and secured its passage through the legislature.

Mr. Magill was secretary of the State Art Commission for four years; was appointed by former Governor Frank O. Lowden as director general of the Illinois Centennial Commission from 1917 to 1919. The centennial flag, designed and adopted for this occasion, and which is preserved in the State Museum in Springfield, was made by Mrs. Magill. From 1919 to 1922, Dr. Magill was field secretary of the National Education Association with headquarters in Washington, D.C. and was active in increasing its services to teachers throughout the nation.

In 1922 Dr. Magill became the first general secretary of the International Council of Religious Education.

He was recording secretary for the World Council of Christian Education for six years. He managed the Hall of Religion at the Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago. He helped organize the American Standard Bible Committee, which brought out the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, and served as

its secretary for many years. He was a member of the National Board of Education of the Methodist Church for several years. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Illinois Wesleyan University for many years and Magill Hall, one of the men's dormitories, was named for him.

In 1951, Dr. Magill was awarded the Russell Colgate Distinguished Service Citation for his outstanding contribution of Christian Education in North America, conferred on him by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches.

Upon retirement in 1943, Dr. Magill returned to Auburn to make his home and became active in church and community affairs. He donated a library building to the city, which he and his brother, Lincoln Magill, furnished. Dr. and Mrs. Magill celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in 1954. Mrs. Magill died on April 22, 1955, and Dr. Magill died October 2, 1958, not long before his 90th birthday.

ROSWELL MAGILL

Roswell Magill was born in Auburn, Illinois, November 20, 1895, son of Hugh Stewart Magill and Amina Foster Magill; received his A.B. from Dartmouth College in 1916, and LL.D. in 1949, his J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1920. He married Katherine Biggens September 7, 1819; their children, Catherine and Hugh Stewart, III. He served as Captain, Infantry, U.S. Army 1917-1919.

While practicing law in Chicago, Roswell Magill was an instructor in law at the University of Chicago, and later was professor of law at Columbia University in New York City for 28 years. From 1923-1925 he was chief attorney in the U.S. Treasury Department, and in 1937-1938 served as Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Magill gave one of the first courses in federal taxation in this country at Columbia Law School in 1924.

Among his students were Thomas E. Dewey and Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court. He was recognized as an outstanding authority on income tax law, and was the author of books on taxation which are used as text-books in law schools throughout the country. His best-known book is "Taxable Income" published in 1945. He was also the author of many articles in Law Reviews.

At the time of his death on December 17, 1963, Mr. Magill was a senior partner in the law firm of Cravath, Swaine, and Moore in New York City, in charge of their tax division. He had served as advisor to the tax commission of Puerto Rico on two occasions; had made a study of the fiscal policies of Cuba in 1938-39; and for many years was advisor to the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate, and the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives when tax measures were under consideration. He was a founder and president of the non-profit Tax Foundation, which gives advice on tax matters to anyone who requests it; was Chairman of the Connecticut Tax Survey Commission; public governor of the New York Stock Exchange; and was trustee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, of the Macy Foundation, and of the Guggenheim Foundation.

EXCERPTS FROM DIARY WRITTEN IN 1864

BY SAMUEL GOODWIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1864

Fair and a little warmer. I started from Springfield to walk to Auburn. But heard R.R. whistle, returned and took freight train down. Got home at 12Y2 M. The mail train is 20 hrs. behind now, Grove went to Carlinville this afternoon.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1864

Fair and warm. I took the cars at Chicago last eve and arrived home this morning. I have been in the mill and store today. Trade has been fair. Loaded 100 barrels of flour in car yesterday.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1864

Fair and warm. I have been in the mill most of the day. Trade has been fair. I have taken in a lot of wheat. I have sold out my goods in the store to Kessler and Spencer for \$4,700.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1864

Sunshine and clouds. I was up most of the night. I called Doctor Wheeler about 12 O'clock and Mrs. Goodwin was delivered of a son at 20 minutes of four o'clock in the morning. Matilda Foster was here. Aunts Wadsworth and Foster here today.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1864

Fair and warmer. I have been at the mill all day. Trade light, we lost our little boy this forenoon. He died quite sudden. Mr. Wadsworth made the coffin. We have run the mill all day and have shut down for good.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1864

Sunshine and clouds. I went to the grave yard and buried my little boy this forenoon. Benj and Glinam Foster and M.G. Wadsworth went and dug the grave. We run this afternoon and made 9 barrels of flour.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1864

Fair and warm. I have hauled up a load of stuff from the mill today, and hauled up 7 bushels of potatoes from Johns. The cars do not run regular on the C. Alton and St. Louis Rail Road. The Engineers are on a strike.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1864

Fair and very pleasant at Mr. Colmans today. Walked to Beliot yesterday afternoon. Took car back We started for Chicago about 11 O'clock this eve and expect to be home in about 20 hours.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1864

Fair and warm. Went to the depot this morning and met two nephews of ours just from the army, 32nd Ill. Reg. I went with them to Aunt Fosters and stopped there to dinner. One of our nephews (Prosper M. Johnson) took tea with us.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1864

Fair and warm. attended church this forenoon. Mr. Clark from Virden preached. We had no callers but M.G. Wadsworth.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1864

Sunshine and clouds. M. G. Wadsworth and myself have worked on Mr. Bridgman's house today. Got out trimming for outside. Jamb casing for windows. The sill too. Read a letter from Chicago stating my flour will bring \$8.50 a barrel.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1864

Fair and warm. I went out on the prairie to drive in my cow and calf but could not do it. Got out stuff for two doors. Paid Patterson \$5 and settled with Clapp and paid him up.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1864

Warm middle of the day, cool nights. I have been home most of the day, have been hoeing in the garden. Mr. Lincoln has been re-nominated by the Union Convention at Baltimore for president of the U.S.A. Andy Johnson, Tenn., V. President.

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1864

Fair and very warm. Primed wagon body over this morn. I have been hoeing in the garden. Charles Gilman settled with me and paid me up. I went to the depot and saw the R. R. hands digging a well. They hoist out the dirt and water by steam power.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1864

The free masons held a picknick in Wineman's grove to-day. There was quite a crowd gathered. We took our dinner with us. Charles M. Brown came home this morning from Atlanta, Georgia. He has been in the Army 3~ years and will soon be mustered out of the service.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1864

Showers last night. Hot sun, cool wind. Rich went to Springfield this forenoon. I went to depot, saw Mr. Brooks about buying my wheat bags but he did not have time to look at them. Rich returned from Springfield this eve with Mr. Vanhote. Gen. Sherman has taken Atlanta.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1864

Fair and cool. I have hung and trimmed 13 windows blinds and they are ready to paint. Some of the boys in the one hundred days service came home last night.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1864

Cloudy and cool. Worked for R.R. Company. Put a door frame together and made a double door for tank house, bought 3Y2 bu. potatoes \$1.25 cts per bushel. Albert went to Springfield for boots, books.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1864

Rainy and warm. State and Presidential Election took place today. The McClland men carried the township by sixty majority. About a dozen of us took cars at Auburn for Springfield and got there in the rain, but had a first rate time.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1864

Cloudy and warm. I have been at home most of the day. Mr. Folsom and I took a walk out west on the prairie. Went to the depot this eve and Mr. Folsom got a paper. Some news from Sherman. He is marching through Georgia.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1864

Warm with slight rain. I have been at home to-day. Will Antisdell cut up two hogs for me last eve and it was 12 O'clock when I went to bed.

OUR CITIZENS REMINISCE

TRUMAN LOWERY

Truman Lowery, now deceased, once wrote: "Your article appearing in your last issue of the Citizen regarding the cutting down of the old land mark, the cottonwood tree, which stood on Mr. Fah's property, effected me considerably. Not given to living too much in the past, that tree to me was a living thing and has been since childhood. When I was about seven or eight years of age, my father bought the old Daniel Wadsworth place, and we moved there. Why he ever bought it I never knew for certain, whether he wanted to get his children away from the wiles of the city or whether he thought it a good buy.

Anyway we found the place more than dilapidated, overgrown with weeds, everything a mess. Being quite young, I do remember my father setting to work to put the place in order. In a few years, things began to take on a new look. Being a boy I soon learned to climb and that old cottonwood afforded such sport. As I grew older many of my old boy friends began coming out to see me and that old tree was a part of our diversion, besides hunting, fishing and swimming out at old Panther Creek. These facts I am relating can or could be verified by some of my old pals although some have passed away like the old cottonwood. If you could ask Henry Dawson, Will Hederick, Howard Battan, I know they would never forget the times we had around the old place, especially the cottonwood.

As you may not know, but Daniel Wadsworth and his wife were my great grandfather and grandmother, and speaking about the old house, and it was really old and everything about the place smelled old and musty when we first took over. Yes, a part of the house was once the old post office. I wish to quote a few lines from the book I have, given to me by Mary Wadsworth Jones who compiled all the facts relating to the Wadsworths to form a Family Tree and bound in book form. She says concerning the old house. "The house which Daniel Wadsworth built for his family was the work of his own hands. It was constructed entirely of hardwood. The trees were cut from the Sugar Creek timber. The frame was hewn oak, put together with wooden pins; the flooring and the weather boarding were of walnut, every board of which was sawed with a rip-saw by Daniel himself.

Since all things play their part, they eventually pass out of the picture. So it is with all of us and also the old tree. I will try to reconcile myself to the fact but in conclusion I only want to say Thank you old Cottonwood, you certainly played your part for me."

WILLIAM BROWNELL

Mr. Brownell, now deceased, said a man by the name of Welch was relating how, at the time of the sudden change, that he had chickens which were on a fence at the time the cold wave struck them, were blown off into the slush, and as soon as they struck the ground would freeze in their tracks; when a Dutchman who heard him tell it, said that at the time, his wife was making a kettle of hominy over the fire-place, and the top of it was frozen over about two inches, he took a hatchet, chopped into it, and found it boiling furiously in the center. Mr. Brownell had a cousin driving a stage from Springfield to Mechanicsburg, and at the time of the sudden change, was passing Clear Lake, and had driven into the lake when the blast struck him, and before he could get his team out, the wagon had frozen in, and in order to extract his team, he had to cut his harness and leave the wagon, and jump on his team with his mail bag and make for Mechanicsburg, which he reached in a frozen condition. On the following day he returned to the lake, cut out the wagon and took it to town.

FLOYD LORTON

The Post Office was located where Mau's Hardware Store is now. The carriers would have to be there early enough to have their mail in their bags ready to start their route at 8:00 a.m. The average route

was about 44 miles. In summer, the carriers traveled in a two-wheeled cart and in winter they went by horseback. When the weather was bad, the carriers had to wear felt boots, which came to their knees, and rubber overshoes. Sometimes it was necessary to walk one-half the route one day and the other half the next day. This same route can now be covered in about four and a half hours.

The people were very nice to the carriers. Often they would ask them to stay for dinner or the carrier would find apples or other treats in the mailboxes. Each family had to put up a mailbox which was on a fence post. Sometimes it was necessary for the carriers to drive up a long lane where the people lived back from the road.

It cost two cents an ounce to send mail: The newspapers came twice a week. On days when a family didn't receive any mail or paper, the carrier didn't have to go to that house.

ANNA OLTMAN TAYLOR

When my son, Richard W. Taylor, was very small, the old Cottonwood tree still stood in our yard. The trunk had started decaying and there was an opening possibly two and one-half feet wide. Richard and his buddies spent many happy hours playing "hide and seek" in the tree trunk. Although the Cottonwood tree is no longer there, many wonderful memories will remain forever.

BESS DODD

I remember the "Mere Twelve", a social club that met once each month. The original twelve members were Bess Dodd, Mary White, Mrs. Van Horn, Lela Winans, Essie Rentschler, Florence Gheen, Bess Pierce, Pearl Foreman, Lela Harwood, Freda Hill, Emma Hoke, and Maude Black. It was organized about 1925. Some of the ladies took their knitting or mending to the meetings and everyone had a good time.

ORIN JENKINS

Back in 1908, I started a mule business with farming as a side line. I bought mules and resold them to people in the vicinity as well as those who came from hundreds of miles away. Many mules were bought in Southern Illinois and driven overland to my mule sheds.

Many times whole carloads of mules were shipped to Memphis, Tenn. and once I sold some two year olds to a man from Spain who then shipped them to his native country.

MRS. AUGUST DUFOUR

My Great Grandfather, Benjamin Kessler and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1880.

One of the gifts they received was a gold headed cane engraved with his name and date of marriage. My father, Morris Kessler, and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 25, 1958 and one thing, that he showed everyone there was this same cane. We still have it as a prized family heirloom. The cane is 85 years old.

MRS. BERTHA PENN

When the Williamsons ran the hotel, (it is now the Commercial Hotel) their youngest daughter, Alma, was married in the hotel parlor. She is now Mrs. Alma Armstrong. She was a very lovely, petite bride and is still pretty today. I played the wedding march on the piano.

LOU DELABY

I can remember Jack Pierce telling me about a man in competition with Bart Lewis in a shooting match, complaining because his marksmanship was bad. He thought his gun was not shooting straight.

Mr. Lewis asked for the man's gun and shot a couple of rounds, and replied, "I believe you're right." Then he put the barrel of gun between the spokes of a wagon wheel and pushed down on the stock. He then handed the gun back to the gentleman and told him to 'try it now', which he did immediately, and was very surprised to find the gun once again shot straight.

MISS ADA RONK

My father and mother, Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel K. Ronk, came to Auburn Community shortly after their marriage in 1883. My father engaged in farming and worked at the State Game Farm south of Auburn. I can remember when he used to sit around the fire with the "boys" at Charlie White's and Mr. Epling's restaurant.

MRS. PEARL FOREMAN

My first school teacher was Amy Caldwell. I was in that class just one week and then was transferred to Johanna Lanham's room. I whispered to Frank Paxton so had to sit with him and let him kiss me. Oh, I was so ashamed, so much so, I never forgot it. I must have been a naughty pupil, for I was either sitting on teacher's platform or poking my nose in a corner.

REMEMBER WHEN

- Remember when the stables were on the corner where the old American Theatre building stands? You could rent a saddle horse or a horse and buggy, and the young boys could even get a hair cut with a pair of old time horse shears, the ones operated by turning a crank. And when finished, the boys' heads were as bare as a cue ball. They say those were the good old days.
- Remember when a bowling alley stood just south of the Commercial Hotel? The year was around 1900 and and it burned in the big fire of 1910 and was never rebuilt.
- Remember when Bill Ginney operated a restaurant across from the elevator mill? This was at the turn of the century, it even had sawdust on the floor.
- Remember around 1900, when the second floor of the building on the northeast corner of the square (now Nicholls' Hardware) once housed a vaudeville theatre and the price of admission was ten cents.
- Remember when the Wineman Opera House was on the west side of the square over what is now Dusen Dept. Store, and Evoy's Barber Shop? Traveling Companys came to Auburn and put on shows. Some were Shakespearian drama and some light comedy.
- Remember when Dr. Fred Wheeler managed the State Game Farm located south of Auburn?
- Remember one Halloween many years ago when a group of children went into Mr. Dodds' barn, took his ambulance to the school house? When teachers arrived the next morning, it was chained to the front door.
- Remember when the boys pushed over a privy and Bert Finney was inside? He yelled so hard the boys turned it back to let him out.

- Remember when all the kids went to the old coal shaft to get ammunition to tamp into tin cans, put in a fuse, and light it? The cans blew sky high with a loud noise. This was the way we celebrated July 4th.
- Remember the old gray donkey called Joe Groggins mule? Every kid in town owned him at one time or another. It took a lot of grass to feed him.
- Remember when the P.T.A. and Women's Club joined hands to color eggs, hide them on the school grounds for an Easter egg hunt? They served graham crackers and milk. Each child received an empty colored egg shell filled with grass and a tiny cotton chicken perched in the center.
- Remember the two day fish fries held in the park shortly before and after the turn of the century? These were huge affairs with bands playing, children laughing, and everyone having a wonderful time. People came from near and far to hear the music, visit with old friends and eat those delicious hot fish sandwiches that seemed to have added flavor after being cooked over an open fire.

ALL BIOGRAPHIES ARE AS OF 1881

BENJAMIN F. HUTTON

(Grand Uncle of Mrs. Wayne Brooks and Mrs. Lucille MacMurdo Great Grandfather of Mrs. Lucille Riciratelli)

Benjamin F. Hutton, deceased, Auburn, Illinois was born near Nashville, Tennessee, on the 11th day of October, 1815, son of Samuel and Mary (Levi) Hutton, native of South Carolina. They were married in 1835. In 1823, Mr. Benjamin F. Hutton emigrated to Sangamon county, and located on Sugar Creek, in Auburn township, where he became acquainted with Miss Lucinda Mason, a daughter of Noah and Lucinda (Stilson) Mason, who emigrated to the county in 1824. Soon after marrying, they left for Henry county, Iowa. At that time the Indians were very troublesome. But with a strong heart he made a claim on which he built a log cabin sixteen by six-teen, living on a dirt floor, their chimney being made out of clay and sticks, and their furniture was of the rudest kind. Thus Mrs. Hutton, who is still living, says she started out from Sangamon county with an ox-team, that being her wedding trip. Few at the present time would hardly think of taking their wedding trip with an ox-team and lumber wagon. They remained in Iowa until 1845, when he sold out and returned to Sangamon county, Spring creek, where he lived until 1850, when he came to Chatham township, where he purchased a large tract of land, some five hundred acres, and remained there until his death, which occurred on July 19, 1877, leaving a widow and seven children, some of whom have died since. The children are as follows: Noah M., Mary A., Benjamin F., George W., and John. In 1861, he enlisted in the Tenth Illinois Cavalry, Company B. and his son Noah, enlisting in the same regiment; was a member of the Advent Church, and one of the principal movers in building the church. Mr. H. came to the county in limited circumstances, and by good judgment accumulated a fine property. Mrs. Hutton is at present making her home with her son, George W., who was born on Spring creek, Illinois, August 8, 1847; was reared on a farm, and received a business education. In 1874, embarked in the grain business as Poley, Hutton & Company. Two years later he was made Cashier of the Auburn Bank. He was afterwards appointed postmaster of Auburn by President Hayes, and is at present engaged in the mercantile business as the firm of Hutton & Wallace; February 4, 1879, married Miss Maggie Harris. She was born in Auburn, August 27, 1858. There is one child, Ursula H. She was born July 31, 1881.

CHARLES BROWN

(Father of Misses Mary and Ella Brown)

Charles N. Brown, farmer, Auburn, Illinois, was born in Kennebec, Maine, On the 14th day of November, 1840; son of William and Sarah (Smily,) Brown; father a native of New Hampshire, and mother of Maine. His father was twice married; his first wife was Maria Howard, by whom he had five children, one of whom has lived to man hood, Ambrose H., who was a soldier in the Third Maine Infantry, and was captured in the first battle of Bull Run, and was taken prisoner and incarcerated in Libby Prison, where he starved to death. The second family consisted of seven children, five of whom are living, Mary, Charles, Henry W., Mariah S., and Warren F. Henry was a soldier in the late war and was taken prisoner at Spotsylvania Court House, taken to Andersonville Prison, where he was kept for eight months. Charles N. came to Sangamon county in 1860, where he became acquainted with Miss Matilda E. Foster and was married in December 1864. Mr. Brown enlisted in 1861 in the Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, three months' service, being one of the first to enlist in the regiment, and remained until the expiration of his term, when re-enlisted in the Ninth Volunteer Infantry, Company K. He participated in several hot engagements, among them were Fort Donalson, Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, and others; was wounded at the battled of Fort Donalson in the arm and leg, where he carries the ball at the present time. In politics he is a Republican.

JOHN M. LOCKRIDGE

(Grandfather of Mrs. Daisy Lewis)

John M. Lockridge, farmer and stock raiser, post office, Auburn, Illinois, was born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, on the 18th day of January, 1814; son of John and Margie (Killough) Lockridge, who were natives of Kentucky, of Scotch and Irish descent. They were married in Montgomery county. There was a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters, eight of whom lived to manhood and womanhood. In 1816, his parents emigrated to Owen county, Indiana, where he purchased a farm and remained until 1838, when he came to Sangamon county. Previous to bringing his family, he and the subject of the sketch came out, purchased three hundred acres of land, and built a log cabin on Lick creek, where he remained until the year 1850. Meeting with some financial embarrassments, he concluded to go to California to retrieve his losses, but while on the way, died, and never arrived at his destination. His mother died in 1866, a sincere Christian, and was loved and respected by all who knew her. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, and received a common school education. In 1840, he married Miss Jane Nuckolls, a daughter of James and Jane Nuckolls, who were early settlers of the county; she was born in Madison county, Illinois, in October, 1819. By this marriage there were seven children, five of whom are living, John W., James M., Andrew H., Robert H., and Charles; two daughters, Martha J. and Margaret, died in childhood. In 1854, he commenced on this present home, with no capital but good strong arms and a strong will, and by good management and hard work, has accumulated a fine property and home, and is one of the large and well to do farmers of the county. He owns four hundred and forty-five acres of land, valued at \$85 per acre, all of which is under a high state of cultivation, and the premium farm of the township. He raised one hundred and fifty acres of corn, which will average forty bushels per acre; ninety acres of wheat, fifteen bushels per acre, owns seventy five head of hogs and one hundred head of steers. Mr. L has held the office of supervisor of the township for several years, and also held other local offices of trust. In politics, he was an old line Whig until the time of the organization of the Republican party, joining that, and has officiated with it since. Mr. Lockridge has been identified with the county over forty years, and has lived to see the wild prairies of Illinois, from their virgin soil to one of the best cultivated and richest counties in the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Lockridge are members of the Presbyterian Church.

BENJAMIN KESSLER

(Great Grandfather of Mrs. Jane Dufour)

Benjamin Kessler, Auburn, Illinois, was born in Beloit county, Virginia, December 28, 1803, son of Benjamin and Margaret (Clare) Kessler, father of German descent, and born in Maryland, and mother of Virginia; were married in Virginia where they reside; family of twelve children, eleven of whom loved to be men and women; father was a farmer, lived and died in Virginia, and mother died in Virginia. In 1827, left his native State for the Sangamon country, having heard much of its broad prairies; also having an uncle who was living here by the name of David Kessler, who died while they were on the road to the States. After arriving, he hired out by the month for \$10, and worked one year for that wages. In September, 1830, married Miss Mary Ann Wallace, nee Duil, who came from South Carolina in 1822, and located in Auburn township, one mile south of where Auburn now stands. She was born in Nova Scotia, October 18, 1812. In September, 1880, they had their golden wedding. having lived together half a century. There was a large concourse of people and they were recipients of some valuable presents, among which were a gold-headed cane, and an easy chair. Their family consisted of seven children, all of which are living, Margaret J., James H., Harriet E., David F., Mary A. and Benjamin L. Soon after coming to the State, purchased sixty acres of land, where Mr. Charles Rauch now lives. He afterwards sold and purchased other lands, and at one time had between seven hundred and eight hundred acres. Mr. K. is one of the pioneers of the county, and has lived to see it pass from a wild, uncultivated wilderness to a thickly and densely populated county.

DANIEL WADSWORTH

Daniel Wadsworth was born of a Quaker family in Winthrop, Kennebec County, Maine, May 15, 1799; married in December, 1823, Margaret F. Goodwin, a native of Freeport, Maine, and settled in Hallowell, in the same State. They have raised one son and three daughters, all of whom are yet living. Several children died in infancy. Mrs. Wadsworth spent the winter of 1839-40 in Mobile, Alabama, working at this trade of carpenter, and in the following spring he came up the river to Sangamon County, Illinois, stopping at Auburn, where the family of an old Maine friend, David Eastman, lived. He bought a small piece of land, worked through the summer, returned home in the fall, sold his Maine property, packed up, and started in October for the far West, as Illinois was then called. The goods were sent by ship around to New Orleans, and thence to Alton. The family were a little over three weeks en route, much of the journey (through the middle States) having to be made by canal.

Mr. Wadsworth built him a home on South street, Auburn (old town) into which he moved in 1.843, and still resides there- the only building left within the limits of the town. The venerable pair, one eighty-two and the other eighty, with an unmarried daughter, constitute the household.

Mr. Wadsworth is one of the oldest Masons in Illinois, having taken the Chapter degrees about sixty-years ago. He had been a very active and zealous member of this Order, and generally an officer. From his early manhood, he has been a faithful and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was postmaster at Auburn for ten years; has repeatedly held school offices, and has been Notary Public for several years.

M.S. WHEELER, M.D.

(Grandfather of Frank R. Wheeler)

M.S. Wheeler, M.D., Auburn, Illinois was born in Belfontaine, Ohio. on the 29th day of September, 1838; son of John and Margaret (Donald) Wheeler; father of English descent and mother of American; father by trade was a ship-builder, which he followed for many years; afterwards embarked

in merchandising, and owned and controlled a line of stages running from Cinco to Sandusky City. In 1852, came to Illinois, and located at Greenville, Illinois, where he purchased a farm, where M.S., received a liberal education. At the age of twenty-two commenced the reading of medicine with Dr. Wm. P. Brown at Greenville, Illinois, where he remained three years in the time attended lectures at the Rush Medical College, Chicago. In the spring of 1864, commenced the practice of his profession at Trenton, Clinton county, Illinois, where he remained until the fall of 1866, when he came to Auburn, and after practicing one year, when he attended Rush Medical College and graduated with honors, since which time he has prosecuted his profession here. By close attention to his business, has secured a large and lucrative practice and is the oldest resident physician in the village. In 1869, married Miss Kate B. Harney, a daughter of Alfred Harney, an early settler of Auburn township; she was born in Morgan county. There are three children - John A., Thornton R., and Frank, members of the Masonic Lodge, No. 354, of Auburn.

GEORGE SENNIGER

George Senniger, hardware merchant, Auburn, Illinois. Among the principal business interests of Auburn we are pleased to mention Mr. George Senniger, who embarked in business in 1874, as the firm of Buck and Senniger. The following year, Captain W. H. Hummel bought the interest of Mr. Buck and continued in business up to 1878, when he bought his interest, and is at present sole proprietor. He carries a full line of shelf goods, stoves and everything else that is usually kept in a first class store. He manufactures all his tin-ware, roofing, and spouting. Mr. S. is located on the northwest corner of the square, in a large and commodious building twenty by sixty, two-story frame building, and carries a stock of \$3,000. Mr. Senniger was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1837. When seventeen years old he was apprenticed, where he remained four years. In 1862, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, nine months men, and participated in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chandlerville. Previous to entering the army in 1861, he married Miss Mary DeBaugh. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1841. The fruits of this marriage was nine children, eight of whom are living, Mary F., George J., David V., Allie, Julia, John, Louis, and Charles. Mr. S. is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Masonic Order, Ark and Anchor Lodge No. 354, Auburn, Chapter and Commandery.

L.C. TAYLOR, M.D.

L.C. Taylor, M.D., Auburn, Illinois, was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, on the 9th day of April, 1854.

Son of Ninian R. and Catharine (Halbut) Taylor. Mother, a native of Virginia, and father a native of Illinois, who came to the county in an early day and located on a farm, which he followed for a number of years. Is at present engaged in the hardware and grocery business, at Williamsville. The Doctor received a good business education. In 1872, commenced reading medicine, with Dr. J. M. West, of Springfield, where he remained about four years; in the meantime, attended lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago. In 1874 and 1875, attended Bellevue Medical College, where he graduated. He then returned to Springfield, where he entered into company with Dr. West, and remained one year, when he came to Auburn, where he has followed his profession since. The Doctor is a member of the District Medical Society; also of the I.O.O.F., and Masonic Lodge, No. 354.

FATHER D. J. RYAN

Father D. J. Ryan, Illinois, was born in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, on the 3rd day of August, 1852.

Son of William and Margaret (Keller) Ryan, natives of Ireland; father emigrating in 1847, and mother in 1850, and were married in 1851. There was born to them a family of eight children, seven sons and one daughter, all of whom are living. His father died June 9, 1880, at the age of sixty-four. When the subject of this sketch was two years old, his parents moved to Marshall county, where he remained on a farm until he was thirteen years of age, when he went to LaSalle, where he commenced his preparatory studies, and remained there about a year and a half. Thence went to Niagara Falls, New York where he finished his classical and divinity studies. In 1876, he commenced his first mission, at Grafton, Illinois, where he remained one year, and in the fall of 1876, came to Auburn, Illinois, where he has the charge of Auburn, Sugar Creek and Christian county congregations.

SAMUEL F. GOODWIN

Samuel F. Goodwin, retired, Auburn, Illinois, was born in Kennebec county, Maine July 23, 1809, son of Daniel and Sarah (Haskell) Goodwin. His father's family consisted of seven children, five sons and two daughters, all of whom lived to be men and women. His father was a natural mechanic and his boys took to the trade and became thorough workmen. Mr. Goodwin learned the trade of carpenter and joiner of Daniel Wadsworth and remained with him until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1832, went to Boston where he followed his trade until 1839, when he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, when he became acquainted with Miss Caroline E. Welch, his present wife, remaining there three years. In 1842, returned to Boston and remained there until the summer of 1843, when he returned to Cincinnati, Ohio, and while on the way to Boston was married in Providence, Rhode Island. Arriving in Boston, they started out in their new life, he prosecuting his trade until 1852, when he was employed by E. & G. G. Hook, organ factory, where his time was occupied for five years. Hearing much of the west, he concluded to come to Illinois, where he located in Auburn, boarding for a few months, until he had time to erect a dwelling, being the first of any size, on the west side of the railroad. Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin have met with sad bereavements, having a family of three sons and three daughters, all of which have passed away. Mr. G. has property in Auburn valued at \$10,000.

HENRY HART

Henry M. Hart, furniture dealer, Auburn, Illinois, was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, on the 13th day of February, 1850. The subject of this sketch, when fifteen years old, was apprenticed with D. O. Martin to the carpenter trade, where he remained one year. He was afterwards employed by McCoy & Stearns for five years. He then embarked in business on his own hook, contracting and building, which he followed about two years, when he formed a partnership with a man by the name of Nichols, and prosecuted the same business about a year and a half, when he purchased his present business, which he has followed since. In 1872, married Miss Mary A. Wrightsman. She was born in Sangamon county, September 7th, 1854. There are three children, Grace T., Bertha A. and Paul W. Mr. Hart is a member of the A.O.U.W., Auburn, Lodge No. 49. Also a member of the Sugar Creek Baptist Church.

WILLIAM A. McELVAIN

William A. McElvain, farmer, section sixteen, Auburn township, was born in Adair county, Kentucky, December 1, 1822; son of Samuel and Pennelope (Abell) McElvain, natives of Virginia, son of Irish descent. They were married January 4, 1816, in Adair county, Kentucky. The fruits of this marriage were six children, three sons and three daughters, five of whom lived to be men and women, viz: Harriet

N., Margaret J., William A., James E., Theresa M., Jeremiah A. died in infancy. In 1828, they emigrated to Sangamon county, and located in Auburn township, where he took up government land and made a farm from the wild prairie. He left Kentucky, with a four horse team, coming overland, camping out. They moved into a log cabin, sixteen by sixteen feet, with a dirt chimney, and their furniture was of the plainest kind. They were a little crowded, there being a family of nine who remained there through the winter. At that time, Springfield was their nearest trading post, and for their milling, they went to Mr. Thomas Black's who had a mill which was run by a horse, where they ground corn. Mr. McElvain says he has pounded and grated corn all day long for the use of the family; has hauled corn to Springfield and sold it for six and one-fourth cents per bushel and also has hauled wheat with ox-teams to St. Louis, taking from seven to nine days to make the trip, and sell his load for thirty-five cents per bushel, pork selling then at \$1.25, net. At the time they came here there were but few schools and churches, Mr. McElvain being a member of the Presbyterian Church. In connection with Jeremiah Abell, a Presbyterian minister, organized the first Sabbath school in the township. His house was a home for all preachers who traveled through this vicinity, and many a time Elder Cartwright has stayed at his father's house. His father participated in the war of 1812, and was at the battle of New Orleans, and at the close of the war walked from New Orleans to Kentucky, and was so thin and spare when he arrived there that he could span himself with his hands. He died April 1, 1848. Mother died September 29, 1855. They were both members of the Presbyterian Church, and died in the faith. The subject of this sketch came to the county when he was six years of age and remained at home until his father's death, when he took charge of his father's affairs. After his father's death, his own and mother's health failed, and they traveled extensively through the northern part of Maine and the Red River country, being for days and weeks among the Indians. Mr. McElvain has traveled through fourteen different States and Territories. After spending one summer they returned, with their health greatly improved.

November 1, 1853, married Miss Angeline Lowell; born in Sangamon county, August 29, 1832. There was a family of eight children, six of whom are living. Howard A., Samuel S., James W., Nellie J., Margaret A., Elizabeth G. Mr. McElvain has a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is under good cultivation, and valued at \$75 an acre.

Mr. McElvain has been identified with the county nearly all his life, and has seen it developed from the broad, wide prairies, to a beautiful cultivated country.

ROBERT E. MORSE

Robert E. Morse, manufacturer and dealer in wagons, buggies and agricultural implements, Auburn, Illinois, was born in Sidney, Maine, August 22nd, 1833. Son of Samuel and Sarah (Taylor) Morse. Father now living in Maine at the advanced age of 90. There were a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters. The subject of this sketch was the ninth child. Left home when a mere boy. At the age of ten years went to work for a Quaker by the name of Captain Sherman, on a farm, summers, and receiving three to four weeks of schooling winters. There being a shop on the place he soon became acquainted with their use. After leaving Captain Sherman he engaged with a man by the name of Alonzo Davis, where he remained two years, getting for his first year's work \$15, as an apprentice, but most of his time was spent on the farm. He then went to Bangor with the idea of finishing his trade, where he became acquainted with B. H. Thorns, who manufactured and repaired Concord Coaches, and remained one year. Thence to Boston by steamer, and a greener boy, as he says, never struck the Hub. From Boston went to Dedham, where he was employed in a wheel factory, at \$35 per month, where his part of the work was driving spokes. Not fancying the work, he went to Worcester, but remained a short-time, when he left there and went to Concord, where he was employed by E. R. Thayer, and remained three years. When he got the Western fever in his head from what he had heard from a man by the name of E.G. Loring, who had located in Winona, Minnesota, and had returned to Concord for his family. Taking his advice he came

West, and located in Winona, at that time a small town. Nothing but small shanties, and the chilling winds, and drinking the Mississippi water, made him sick, and was also sick of town, concluded he would leave. Took a boat and came down as far as Davenport, and from there went to Iowa City, where he made the acquaintance of a young man and he not being satisfied started out for Omaha, Nebraska. Being desirous of obtaining land, they proceeded beyond the Pawnee village, where they found land and pitched their tents, having taken provisions along with them. They remained until they had eaten up their provisions, then returned to Omaha, where he left his friend, embarked on a steamer, which he will always remember by the class of men it had on board. By the description given by Mr. Morse they were the border ruffians. Long hair, slouched hats, with a bowie knife and a revolver in their belts, and were looking for a ~ Abolitionist. Came down to St. Joe, where he remained over one night, took the first boat for St. Louis. From there came to Girard, Illinois, where he stopped over night, but not liking the appearance of the town went to Springfield, but not finding work engaged to a man in the country by the name of William Search. He became acquainted with a man by the name of Babcock, who persuaded him to come to Auburn, where he purchased a small shop of James Babcock, eighteen by twenty-four, which he paid for by finishing and making eighteen wagons.

GEORGE WIMMER

Seven generations ago, in the year 1796, at Hagerstown, Maryland, in Chesapeake Bay, Abraham and Hannah Wimmer had oyster beds. February 22nd of that same year, Mrs. Wimmer gave birth to a son. The couple were a little slow in naming the baby. A few days later, President George Washington was riding near there on his way to New York. He stopped at the oyster beds and upon learning that the boy was still unnamed, asked permission to give him a name. The parents agreed so the stately President took the infant from his bed, held him close and said, "Since this child and I share the same birthday, we shall have the same name." He named him George Washington Wimmer.*

About 1829 George Wimmer, wife and children moved by covered wagon to what was later Auburn Township.

The ground he settled on was issued to him as a land grant by President Andrew Jackson.

George Wimmer and his family endured all the hardships of the early settlers, including the Big Snow which was so deep it covered all the log cabins.**

A few years later the Wimmer family moved into a log cabin in Auburn. Mr. Wimmer operated a general store for a while. In 1863, he bought a house where a service station now stands at Fifth and Jackson. This property remained in the family for about 70 years.

George Wimmer's first wife, Sarah, died of burns received while making a kettle of lye soap. He later married a widow from Waverly. Mr. Wimmer died in 1888. He is buried in Wimmer Cemetery.

* This fact is on file at the Archives in Washington, D. C.

** In 1931, Whittier wrote "Snow Bound" about this big snow.

W. D. PATTON

W. D. Patton, Auburn, Illinois, was born in this township on the 23rd day of January, 1845; son of Mathew and Margaret (McElvain) Patton, natives of Kentucky. His grandfather Patton emigrated to Sangamon county. In 1820, and located about two and half miles southeast of Auburn. The family consisted of three sons and two daughters. When his father came to the county was a small boy; was reared on a farm to manhood, married and settled in the township, and raised a family of six grown children, two daughters and four sons. He remained on a farm until a few years previous to his death

when he moved to Auburn, where he died September 16, 1879; mother died June 2, 1865. On January 23rd, 1867, married Sarah J. Mackey, who still lives. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and received a liberal education. In 1873, went to Pawnee township, where he engaged in farming for several years, when he embarked in merchandising, where he remained two years, and in the spring of 1875 came to Auburn where he engaged in the drug business the following November, and in 1880 the firm of Patton & Stout, was formed. In August, 18651 married Miss Addie M. Black, daughter of John Black. She was born May 25, 1847. There was one child, Minnie F., born December 24, 1867. His wife, Addie, died January 26, 1875, loved and respected by all who knew her. For his second wife he married Miss Caroline A. Jones, daughter of M.A. Jones of Ball township, born in Christian county, March 7, 1849. The fruits of this union was one child, Mabel Jones Patton; she was born in Auburn, Illinois on the 7th day of November, 1879. Mr. Patton is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, Ark and Anchor Lodge, No. 354, and of Auburn Chapter, No. 92. Mr. Patton is a man with good business abilities, and has been identified with the county all his life, and has seen it change from its broad wild prairies, to one of the best cultivated counties in the State. At this writing the firm of Patton & Stout are doing an extensive business in the line of drugs, medicines, and druggists' sundries, wall paper, books and stationery, pocket and table cutlery, jewelry and hardware; also a complete line of groceries, handled in connection with country produce.

W. W. LOWDERMILK

W. W. Lowdermilk, Auburn, Illinois, was born in North Carolina on the 10th day of August, 1843; is the son of William and Lorinda (Laws) Lowdermilk, father of German descent and mother of Scotch. They emigrated from North Carolina to East Tennessee, when the subject of this sketch was a child and remained there on a farm until he was thirteen years old, when they moved to Macoupin county, in 1858. He remained on a farm with his parents until he was sixteen, when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Regiment Illinois Volunteers, Co. B., under Captain Furguson, mustered in at Springfield, August 6th, 1862. He participated in several engagements, the first being at Holly Springs, also Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Siege and capture of Vicksburg, and battles of Jackson, Miss. In June following, went on expedition against General Forrest and at an engagement at Guntown was wounded in the left arm, which caused the loss of that member. He was a prisoner in Macon and Andersonville for about ten months, where he suffered all the privations of those horrid pens. After being exchanged at Vicksburg came home and attended school, and in the Fall of 1865, married Miss Elizabeth Roberts, by the marriage there are two children, Rattie and Arthur. In 1866, was appointed deputy postmaster, and in March, 1867, received the appointment under Johnson's administration, and held that office continually up to and including six months of Hayes' administration. During this time he established the Auburn Herald, the first newspaper published in Auburn, which he edited and published for about six months, at which time the paper passed into the hands of Mr. Wadsworth, the present owner and editor. Retiring from the post office, Mr. Lowdermilk concluded to go West and settle, but not liking the out look returned to Springfield. In 1881, Mr. L. received the appointment of Assistant Private Secretary to Governor Cullom, which office he now fills.

REV. WILEY KNOWLES, B. S.

Rev. Wiley Knowles, B. S., Auburn, Illinois, was born in Gibson county, Indiana, August 17, 1835. The sixth year of his life found him in a little log school house, puncheon floor and slab seats. In the fall of '48 his parents moved to Menard county, Illinois; from this time forward his opportunities for school were limited. He professed religion in 1850, and being impressed with the duty of preaching, presented himself to Sangamon Presbytery. Being licensed by said Presbytery, was assigned the Apple Creek Circuit, and proved himself an efficient worker in his Master's cause. Many amusing incidents attended these labors. On his first visit to the several congregations, many would keep looking for the preacher, not

expecting the strange, awkward-looking boy, to be the man. In the autumn of 1860, entered the High School at Owensville. November 12, 1861, was mustered into the United States Army - Fifty-eighth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. Was at the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Stone River and others. At the terrible battle of Stone River, he was wounded in both hands, while nobly defending the cause of freedom. April 22, 1863, was honorably discharged, and entered again upon ministerial labor. December 1, 1864, was joined in marriage to Miss Anna Ripson. Was ordained and continued three years, when he found his health failing. Retiring for a time, concluded to enter Lincoln University, the winter term of 1868. He continued an earnest and successful student, graduating with a class of 1872. He grasped readily the truths of science, and made, practically, a fund of knowledge. He was a leader in the Athenian Society, and was often assigned parts of honor and trust. Since graduation, he has been actively engaged in the interest of souls. Mr. Knowles is a pleasant and logical speaker, and truly zealous in his Master's cause and great good will attend his labors.

SYLVANUS J. WINEMAN

Sylvanus J. Wineman was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, March 23, 1823. Son of Philip and Jane Wineman, of this county, where he was reared on a farm and received a common school education; June 11, 1862 married Mrs. Margaret Kessler, widow of George Kessler, who died August 12, 1859, leaving a family of two children, John Wand, Florence Bell. Mrs. Wineman was the daughter of Eddin and Wenfield Lewis, who died January 29, 1859. Mr. Lewis was very successful and at his death owned 1,000 acres of land.

Mr. Wineman was father of two children. He died July 23, 1875. At his death he left a property of 320 acres, since which time Mrs. Wineman has added eighty, making a farm of 400 acres, and valued at 70 per acre.

She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, having been connected with that church since she was 16 years of age.

JOHN BUCK

John Buck was born in Lanesborough, Mass., January 3, 1797. Son of Ebenezer and Ann Falcott, natives of Connecticut, where they were married and raised a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, all of which lived to be adults.

Mr. John Buck was married in Lanesborough, Massachusetts, to Cynthia Brown, by whom there were three children, viz., Edwin, Franklin and Mary N. Mrs. Buck died in Lewis county, New York, November 27, 1836, when he became acquainted with Miss Avis Rich, whom he married. By this union there was one child, Mary L.

In 1853 Mr. Buck, with his family left New York and came to Sangamon county, and bought a large tract of land near Auburn. In 1854-55 laid out what was known as Bucks addition to the Village of Auburn. Being a liberal man, donated several lots besides donating the ground for a public square, Masonic Hall and Methodist Church. Through his influence, succeeded in building up a flourishing little village.

Mr. Buck died August 23, 1880, leaving a large number of friends to mourn his loss. Mr. Buck in politics was a Republican; held several local offices of trust, representing his township as supervisor.

TRANSFER NO.3

INCORPORATION PROCEEDINGS

ENTRY NO. 96658
Filed July 18, 1905.
Rec. Vol. 197 page 30.

CITY OF AUBURN.

Auburn, Illinois. March 6, 1905.

A Petition was presented to incorporate the Village of Auburn, into a City with at least one eighth of the legal voters names attached. Motion made by Brittin seconded by Evans that the prayer of the petition be granted and have same placed on ballots to be voted on at the annual election to be held the 18th day of April, 1905, all members voting aye.

March 16, 1905

An Ordinance was presented by the Street and Alley Committee for submitting to the electors of the Village of Auburn the right to vote for and against organizing the Village of Auburn as a City. The ayes and naves were called for, all members voting aye.

April 20, 1905

The Village Board proceeded to canvass the vote of the annual election held April 18, 1905, and showed the following vote cast for and against City organization under general law:

For City organization under general law received 221 votes.

Against City organization under general law received 162 votes.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
SANGAMON COUNTY)

I, Joseph Able, City Clerk of Auburn in the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the President and Board of Trustees acting as Mayor and City Council of Auburn, as appears from the records in my office.

Given under my hand and seal of said City, this 17th day of July, 1905.

(Corporate Seal Village of Auburn)

Joseph Able, City Clerk.

AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The purpose of the Auburn Historical Society is to bring together those people interested in history, especially in the history of our community.

We realize that the brick, stone, and lumber that are built into this community are but a small part of it. All over the United States there are communities with as much or more brick and lumber than Auburn has in it, but they are not nearly as good as ours.

The pioneers who built here on the raw prairie labored long, gave freely and with great faith so that we may now enjoy what we have here, reaping from what we, ourselves, have not sown. We wish to perpetuate their pioneer spirit.

We have a debt which we can only pay by still pursuing, still achieving.

This society shall seek to dramatize this heritage. We will seek to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of this particular community.

In this beginning, we have no permanent storehouse, no means to preserve printed matter and museum materials. However, we intend to work this end. We shall endeavor to preserve and communicate our history and heritage in a satisfactory manner. We shall exhibit relics, not to revitalize a dead past, but to display growth and vitality of our community.

Another achievement will be to act as a coordinator of a united community effort in the remarkable mile-stone of a centennial observance.

We, the members of the Auburn Historical Society, who were appointed as a committee to compile this history, realize there are many items of interest that should have been included. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been unable to do so.

We have tried, with all sincerity, to present an authentic history of our city. We hope it meets with your approval.

Evelyn A. Frantz, Editor

Bertha Mason Penn

Hilma C. Kenney

If you want to live in the kind of a town,
Like the kind of a town you like,
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip
And start on a long, long hike.
You'd only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing that's really new.
It's a knock at yourself, when you knock at your town.
It isn't your town - It's you.

Real towns are not made by men afraid
Lest somebody else get ahead;
When everyone works and nobody shirks
You can raise a town from the dead.
And if while you make your personal stake,
Your neighbors can make one, too,
Your town will be what you want to see.
It isn't your town, it's you.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

PICTORIAL ALBUM



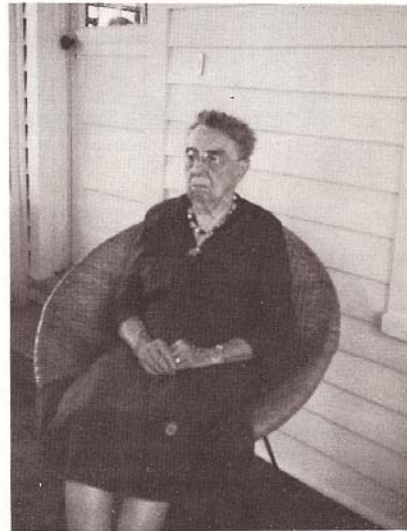
John Buck



Phillip Wineman



Bertha Mason Penn



Miss Eva Hederick



Samuel Lewis

First Illinois Rural Mail Carriers



F. O. Lorton

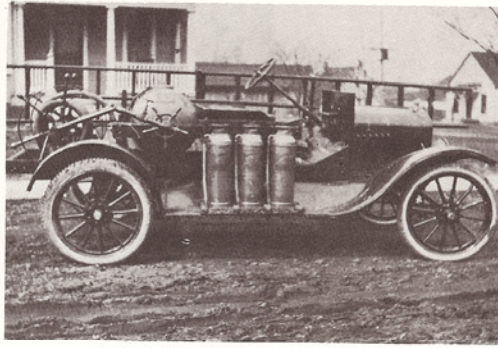


Grade Schools





*Mrs. Anna Taylors
Family in front of old Cottonwood Tree*



*Auburn's first mechanized fire engine built
by Morris Kessler - 1921.*



*Santa Claus First Christmas Parade
(Tom Willis)*



The old Auburn Rolling Mill after the explosion



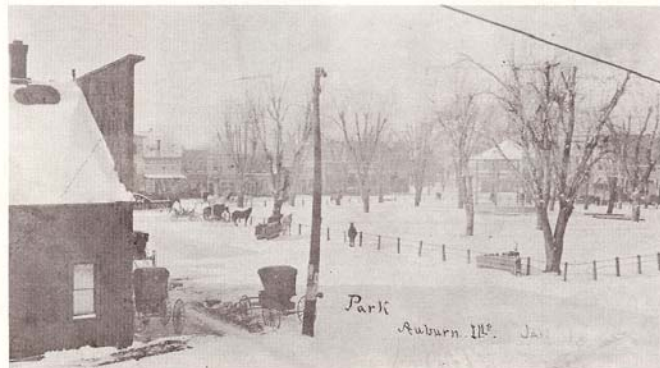
*Miss Merrie Christmas
Prince Tiny Tim
Princess Snow Flake*

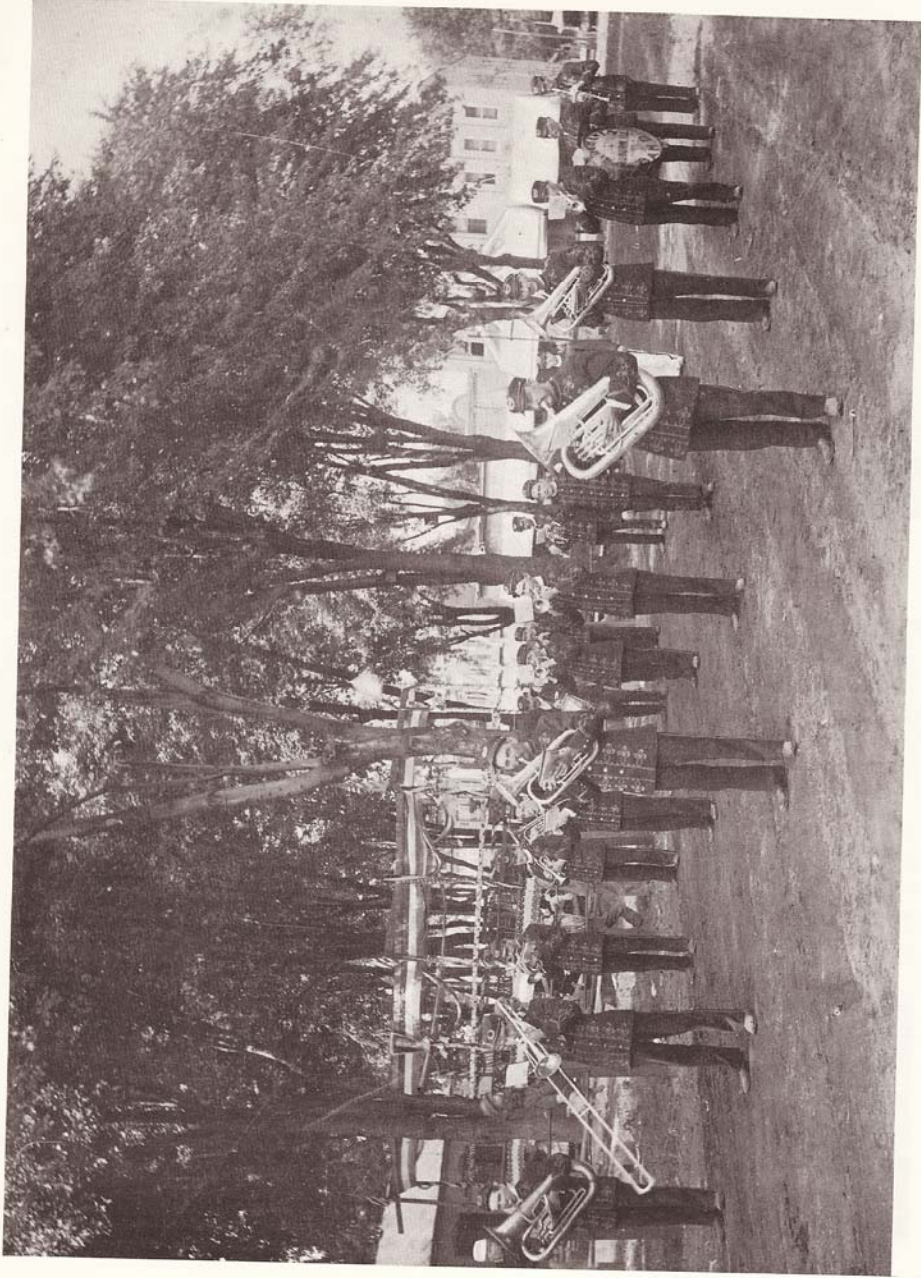
Henry Harris Dry Goods
and Furniture - 1908.



Auburn Square about 1908.

Early picture of Park.





Merchants Band at two day Fish Fry about 1896.

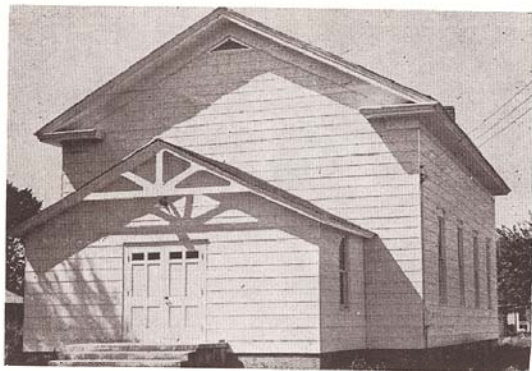


Auburn State Bank - 1896.



Taylor Grocery Store

CHURCHES OF AUBURN



Christian Church



Methodist Church – (then)



Methodist Church – (now)



Advent Christian – (then)



B. L. Kessler driver of the horse drawn hearse.