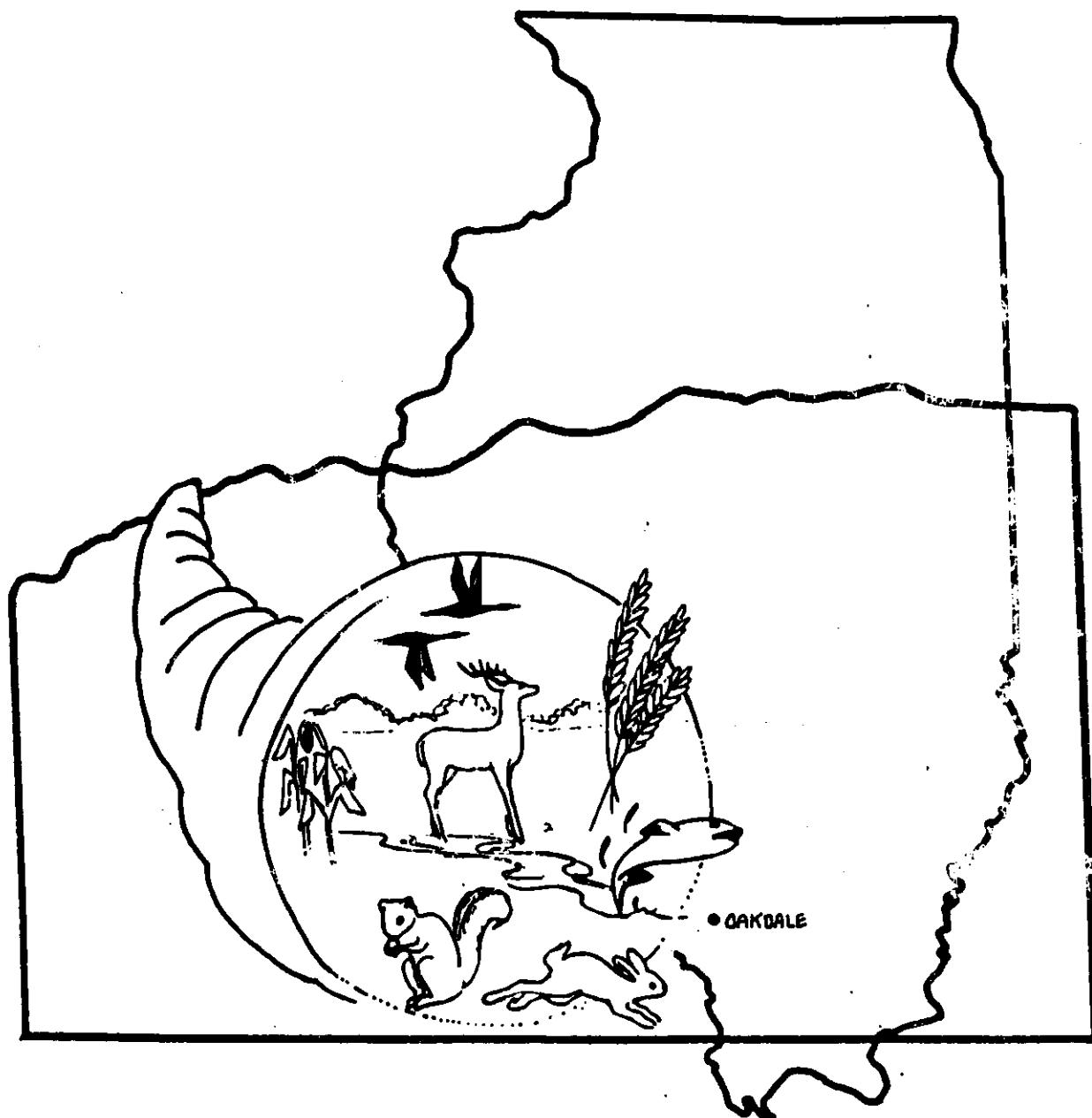


# HISTORY OF OAKDALE TOWNSHIP



Compiled by

Lawrence Hood

Claudine Coulter

Completed in 1969

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INTRODUCTION  
by  
Lawrence R. Hood

Since I had gathered so much more history about Oakdale Township than could be used in the Sesquicentennial book, "THIS IS WASHINGTON COUNTY", we thought it advisable to place it in the Washington County Historical Society Museum Library, where others could have the privilege of reading the research which has been in the making over a period of years.

I especially wish to thank Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick for the information he gave on the early business places of Oakdale Mrs. Mollie Kinyon Rezba for various facts about Elkton, Mrs. Nelda Boyle Robb for helps acquired from her research paper entitled, "Oakdale, Illinois Social and Religious Sketch", Miss Claudine Coulter for further research, typing and assembling also several dozen residents or former residents, who gave information or loaned books, eight of whom have died since providing valuable facts or dates. The latter are: Mrs. Ada Auld Torrens, Walter Snyder, T.E. McLean, George Decker, John Klene, Mrs. Laura Maxwell Osborn, Mrs. Anna McLean Boyd and Miss Irene Piper. Their help has been much appreciated.

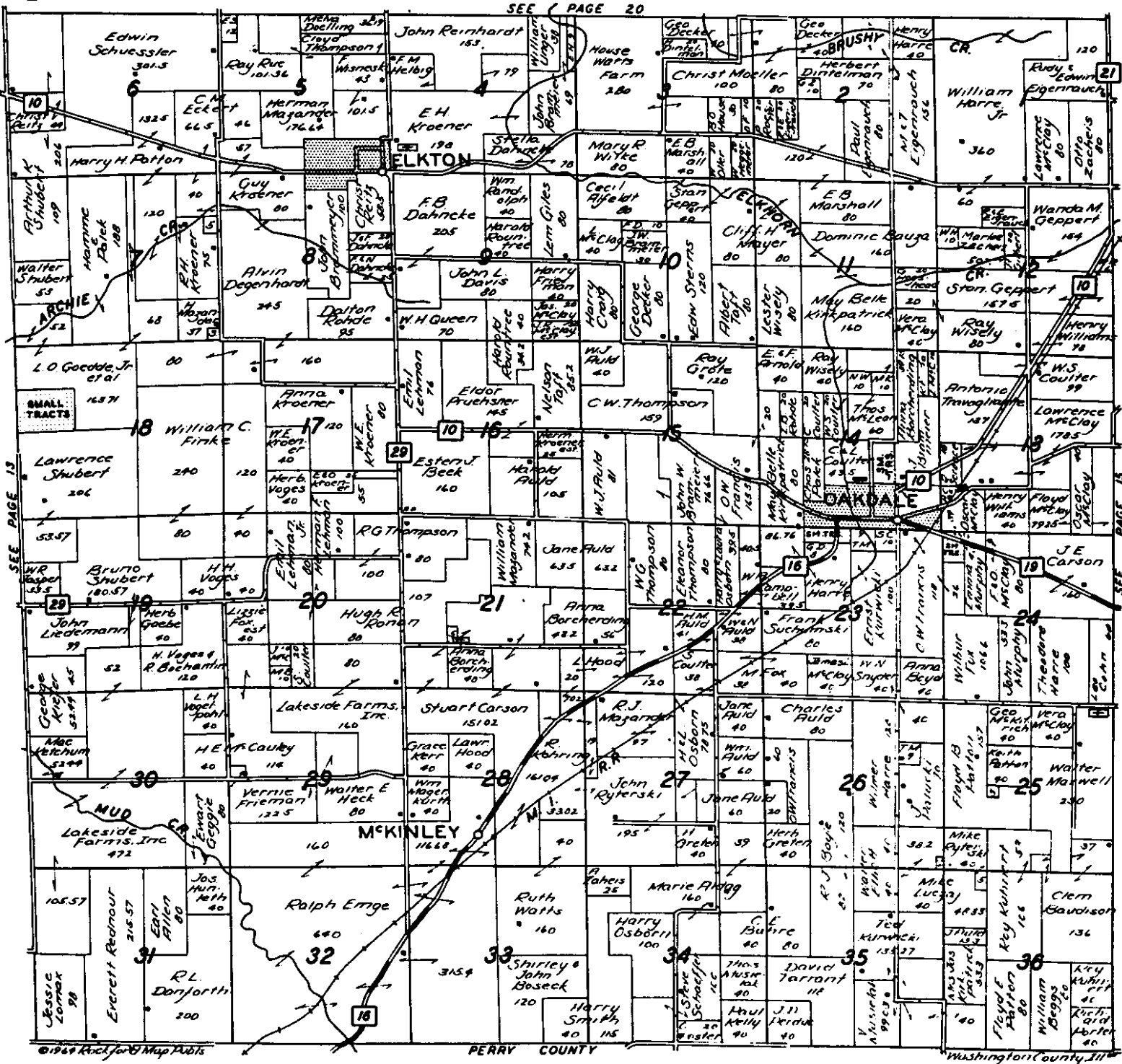
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## ELKHORN PRAIRIE

Elkhorn P rairie was the name given to a very large prairie of unknown extent. It surely was the name given to all the land surrounding the headwaters of the Elkhorn Creek. Elkhorn Creek rises south of Oakdale in Sec.23, flows in a northerly direction where it is joined in Sec. 14 by another branch which arose in Sec. 21. Together they flow northward being joined in Sec. 11 by a branch from the northeast where it began in Sec.32 in Nashville Township. It then continues on in a westerly direction into Sec.4 when it again turns in a northerly direction into Plum Hill Twp. thence onward in a wandering manner until it enters the Kaskaskia River in Sec. 30 in Venedy Township.

Facts gleaned from Brink's History of Washington County and from other records give Elkhorn Prairie as the location of early settlers. William Rountree settled in Elkhorn Prairie, near the present site of Elkton in 1818. John Maney settled on the edge of Elkhorn Prairie in 1822 on what is known as the Thomas Klene farm. The Elkhorn Presbyterian Church (the fore-runner of the Nashville Presbyterian Church) was built on Sawyer's Point in 1822. William Ayers settled on Elkhorn Creek in what is now Oakdale in 1823. The Elkhorn Covenanter Church was built in what is now called the Oakdale Cemetery in 1835. The ground where the Venedy Mine is located was owned in 1833 by Joseph Kinyon and is spoken of as being in Elkhorn Prairie. Land owned by the Kennedy family near Lively Grove was also spoken of as being in Elkhorn Prairie. No doubt the prairie fire which overtook George McNair and Robert Kelso in Nov. 1838 as they returned to their homes between Cordes and Oakdale from Nashville was in the Elkhorn Prairie.

It is claimed that the branches of the Elkhorn Creek remind one of the branches of an elk's antlers, therefore the name Elkhorn Prairie was given to the vast prairie drained by this creek.

## OLD TRAILS AND EARLY SETTLERS

Before Elkhorn Prairie was settled by the white man it was the home of an abundance of buffalo, deer, rabbits, squirrels, possums, quail, prairie chicken, wild turkey and many small animals and birds. Fish were to be had in the streams for the taking.

Large areas of the higher ground, more remote from the creeks were covered with a tall coarse grass which grew wild, as tall as a man's head. Along the creeks and their tributaries on the lower and hillier land grew a heavy stand of oak, hickory, ash, elm, locust, birch, walnut, mulberry, persimmon, wild cherry, cedar trees and many other nut or berry bearing bushes grew in abundance.

Herds of buffalo and deer made trails from feeding area to feeding area, crossing the creeks at easily accessible places which were also close to "salt licks" or places where salt had accumulated in soft sand stone.

Indian tribes roamed over the prairie hunting, but they usually camped on an elevation overlooking a stream. Such places still yield many artifacts, such as various types of arrow heads, skinners, skin scrapers, awls and axes. When the first settlers came

to Elkhorn Prairie, there were not many Indians to be found, a few of the Kaskaskia, Tamaroas and Shawnees who were not warlike and had gotten along well with the French traders at Kaskaskia. However they did not like to see the Scotch Irish come in with the intent to plow up the prairie to farm. We are told in the HISTORY of 1879 that a half dozen Shawnee Indians and David Wells, a Baptist minister helped William Rountree build his first log house near Elkton in 1818, when he was forced by sickness of his family to stop as he was on his way back to Kentucky from Clinton County where he had settled in 1816. Because so many of his family had died and he had lost his cattle with "milk sickness" from eating poisonous weeds, he started back to Kentucky but never went farther than Elkton.

Indian hunters followed the buffalo trails as they hunted or migrated from place to place. Later as scouts came through the Illinois Territory, they too followed these trails on their horses. Before the early settlers came to the prairies, the early French settlers had established trails across the land from one river settlement to another. They followed across the prairies where they could, and cut down trees where the path led through the forest areas. Soon there were trails from Kaskaskia to Vincennes, from Kaskaskia to Detroit, from Kaskaskia to St. Louis and from St. Louis to Shawneetown.

Three of these old French Trails crossed the area which later became Elkhorn Precinct. The Kaskaskia-Detroit Trail passed through Tilden in a northeast direction passing through the Frances Karg farm in Lively Grove Township, passing on in a northeast direction through the John Reinhardt farm in the Elkton area, then on through Danville, Illinois and on to Detroit. The Kaskaskia-Vincennes Trail passed through Sparta, leaving Randolph County just south of Coulterville, crossed the northwest corner of Perry County, crossed Mud Creek almost where the blacktop road crosses today, going on in a northeast direction through the farm of Lawrence Hood, entering the village of Oakdale beside Leo Stearn's home and on down the cut in the hill to the famous "Meadow-in-the-Hole" of French times, up the east side of the former Decker Shop, passed north of Mrs. McLean's barn which contains the old store built by Oakdale's first resident, William Ayers. The trail led on past the old log post office which stood where John Brammeier's red granary and shed now stand, and on northeast, crossing Locust Creek near the Locust Creek Cemetery and on through Nashville.

The Shawneetown-St. Louis Trail has three routes given, one passing through Tilden, Coulterville and Pinckneyville. Another is through Lively Grove, Elkton and coming into Oakdale about where Ray Kirkpatrick's home stands, joining the Kaskaskia-Vincennes Trail just northeast of Leo Stearn's home. It followed the other trail until it passed the old post office, then turned south-east along the old road between the elevator and the railroad station when it was used as a station. It continued eastward over the Pilot Knob Hill just a little south of the blacktop road, then on to Pinckneyville.

When Col. George Rogers Clark was sent to capture Kaskaskia and Vincennes in 1779, he followed this old trail because it followed mostly on high ground and avoided the branches and rivers

where they were deepest and most treacherous.

Archer Hubert, who studied BOWMAN'S JOURNAL concludes that on "eighth day of February 1779 enroute from Kaskaskia to Vincennes, Clark and his men were out of Randolph County, through the north-west corner of Perry County and finally gained the prairie south of Oakdale, Washington County, at which point Elkhorn Creek was crossed at the famous 'Meadow-in-the-Hole' of old French days. This region was also known as Corne-de-Cerf, Elkhorn Prairie, Elkhorn Point, and Ayers Point. Prairie, forest, and bottom land were not far apart here. The 'Meadow-in-the-Hole' was a singular little meadow, fifty or sixty yards wide, located on a dry branch of the Elkhorn and thirty feet lower than the surrounding forests at what is now Oakdale,"<sup>1</sup>

No doubt all the early settlers mentioned later, came along this trail. Since Mr. Ayers was situated on two trails, he carried on a trading post as well as farming. Seemingly he prospered for soon he built for himself a finer house and used the original log-cabin as a trading post where travelers were fed and lodged.

The St. Louis Trail was often used by people hauling produce or provisions to and from St. Louis. Elkton also was well situated for growth in the early days. It lay along the St. Louis-Shawneetown Trail, about half way between two port towns. Farmers who drove their cattle to the St. Louis market, found it necessary to stop over night to feed and rest their cattle. Pens and shelters were built to care for the cattle and the farmers found food and lodging in the hotel kept by Henry Schaefer. I found in an old 'Scrap Book' kept by Mr. John Piper that Mr. Schaefer was the first person to drive across the Fayetteville Bridge when it replaced the Ferry. (This was from a paper issued June 6, 1883.)

The following items taken from various parts of the HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS by Brink, McDonough & Co. 1879. (I find that it depends on which part of the book you read just when things happened.)

As already stated William Rountree, Sr. after losing part of his family and much of his cattle in Clinton County, started back to Kentucky, but because of family sickness was forced to remain in Elkton, settled there in 1818.

"Rev. David Wells and William Rountree were ministers of the Baptist faith and they preached to the settlers previous to 1820. At that time an organization was formed at the Rountree's". p.18

"A post office was established by Thomas Hird in 1850 at Ayers Point, now Oakdale. The first postmaster of Elkhorn Post Office was Isaac Perlie."

1. Archer, Hubert, HISTORIC HIGHWAYS OF AMERICA, VOL. 8 MILITARY ROADS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY, THE CONQUEST OF THE NORTH WEST

"In May 1830, Archibald and John Hood, James and Thomas McClurkin and James Kirkpatrick from South Carolina settled in the precinct. They located in and around Ayers Point. In 1833 they were followed by John and David McClurkin and John Donnelly. They were followed in after years by several families of the same faith."

"The first church built in the precinct was on Sec. 21 in 1835. by the Covenanters, and was the first brick church in the county. Near this church was located the first cemetery, and the first burial in the cemetery was that of a child of A. McClurkin."

A school house was built on the farm of John Hood, Sec. 28, about 1834 or 35. It was a small log building, and J. J. McClurkin was the first teacher.

"The first steam-mill was put up by James and A. McClurkin about the year 1836. It was a flouring and saw-mill. It burned down in 1842, and was not rebuilt. The first plows and iron mold-boards used in the precinct were made of the old boiler and iron from this mill by William Morrison and William Ardrey."

Of Elkton, the history reports:

"The first mill was owned by Greenville Rountree, which was a saw and grist mill combined, and was on the Elkhorn Creek and operated by water power."

"The first blacksmith was Linville Rountree."

"The first school house was located where Elkton now is, about two years before Elkton was laid out, and George Talbot was the first teacher."

"The first store was opened and carried on in the residence of William Rountree by H. H. Talbot in 1835."

"Elkton was laid out by Henry H. Talbot and James Steel, Jr., in 1837 on Sec. 5-Township 3 Range 4 West. There are now three general stores, kept by J. Blum, August Fisher, and Henry Dunkhorst. The latter is also postmaster. There is one harness shop, two blacksmith shops, a hotel kept by Henry Schaefer.

The physicians are Dr. R. E. Vernor and Dr. S. F. Wehr.

There are two churches, the Lutheran and Union Church."

#### "ELKTON LODGE NO. 453 I.O.O.F.

was organized on the 10th day of October 1871. The charter members were: M. Fox, R. B. Klane, H. F. Dahncke, Henry Bollmeier, E. Hulseman, and H. Hahne. The hall was built in 1873, and is owned by the lodge. The present officers are: David Luke, N.G.; John Miller, V.G. 1 George Hendricks, R. Sec.; Aug. Fisher, F. Sec.; Trustees: Dr. S. F. Wehr, L. Hansotte, A. S. Muller, J. T. Laney and William Laney."

About Oakdale, the history said:

"This town is located on Section 14, Twp. 3, Range 4. It was laid out in 1867 by David McClay, James B. McClurkin, John McAfee, and S.D. McClurkin under the name of James McClurkin & Company. The company owned a store and carried on merchandising for one year in the old Ayers building. In the latter part of 1867, Steel and McCleish opened a general store. They were followed in 1868 by Gormley & Co., and a drug store by J.R. Morrison & Co."

(Ray Kirkpatrick tells us that Gormely & Co. bought out the McCleish Store and that Ardrey bought out Gormley some time before 1877 when we find that Mr. R.G. Ardrey owned the store and was operating the post office which had been reopened.)

"There are also two blacksmith and wagon shops, and one shoe maker."

"The physicians are Dr. A.D. Leavens, Dr. J.R. Keady and Dr. Arnett."

"In 1867, James McAfee & Co. built a brick flouring mill, and it is now operated by J. Burns and R. Guthrie. The mill does a large custom business."

"There are two churches in the place. The first was built in 1867 by the Covenanters. The second was built in 1878 by the United Presbyterian Congregation."

With these facts from THE HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, from clippings carefully kept in old "Scrap Books", from family history and traditions as well as articles written by former residents and published in either Nashville or Coulterville papers, from Abstract of Titles, from interviews with present or former residents of the Oakdale Township, we have attempted to assemble a short history of our township.

We have had access to Scrap books kept by Mrs. Rebecca Hood, Mrs. Robert Smith, Mrs. Thomas McLean, Mrs. Anna Boyd, The Murray Family, Mr. John Piper and Book of Genealogical Research kept by members of the Will Auld Family. We have also had access to a Research Paper by Mrs. Nelda Robb. We have been given access to old school records and Washington County Blue Books by Mr. Kenneth Frieman, Co. Supt. of Schools, also by Mr. Thomas Dahncke, Principal of Oakdale School. Mrs. Molly Kinyon Rezba and her husband Charles have been helpful in furnishing early Elkton history as well as information about the cemetery. Stuart Carson also helped us locate the McLean School and gave other information about the cemetery. Mrs. Dalton Rohde, Sr. and her daughter Elizabeth gave us valuable information about the Elkton Churches. Lawrence Hood had a wealth of material which he had been accumulating by research and interviews over the past ten years. Mrs. Harold Auld also furnished information about various organizations in the community.

We wish to give a sampling of life as it was lived, to show some of the hardships, with some of the good times these people had. Assembled and typed by Claudine Coulter.

## POST-RIDERS

From a Research Paper prepared by Mrs. Nelda Robb on the Oakdale Community, we have this information of early days:

"An early development which was established during the period of territorial government in Illinois, dated by Boggess from 1809-1818, was a kind of "pony express" mail system similar in many respects to the celebrated one across the Mississippi in the "Old West". In the beginning the post rider traveled the well known trails and left mail, if there was any, at certain designated spots, such as hollow trees or rocky crevices along the way. In Washington County there were no rocky out-croppings to speak of and hollow trees were not always convenient. Thus, it became the practice of the settlers, possibly on agreement with proper authorities in Kaskaskia, to establish a regular place for such mail deposit. If there was no convenient tree, one was cut and set into the ground as a post, and a hole was hollowed out about the right height for a man on horseback to reach. Into this hollow the "Post rider" as he became known placed an earthen jug or leather pouch containing any mail for any pioneer that lived in the area of the post. The settlers came at their convenience and looked through the mail, seeking any that might be for them. If there was a newspaper of any kind which probably came from the East, at least in the earliest post period, it was read and carefully folded and replaced in the pouch for the next visitor to the post to learn the news.

Mrs. Lavina Anderson Sterrett who writes of the Oakdale of her early life, states: "In southern Washington County, Illinois, there were posts at Lively Grove, Elkton, Ayers Point, Mud Creek, Pilot Knob and Three Mile...early settlers received mail as soon as possible, by these faithful post riders, who braved many hardships in order to fulfill their obligations to their government and to its people."

Mrs. Sterrett also gives some explanation for some of the movement of pioneers into the vicinity of Oakdale.

"Among the earliest settlers in the immediate vicinity of Oakdale were many Scotch Irish who migrated from South Carolina. Probably chief among the reasons for migrating from South Carolina was the increase of slavery, with the resulting change in industrial and social conditions. These changes meant that in order to survive and prosper it was necessary to change from the small family farm to the large plantation type farm and society. People of the stricter Presbyterian faith could not change without the necessity of owning slaves and in 1829 the church demanded of all her members that they free their slaves if they owned any. There was also another motive prompting migration. Not all Scotch Irish had prospered and they felt some disgrace because of their poverty when they compared themselves with their neighbors. Here then was an opportunity for them to sell their holdings to the land hungry planter for a good price and move with others to Illinois where land could be purchased in smaller acreages at a most reasonable price.

The Act (that of April 24, 1820) provided that after July 1, 1820, no credit whatever should be given to the purchasers of public lands; that land might be sold in either sections, half-sections, quarter-sections, or eighth-sections; that the minimum price should be reduced from two dollars to one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; and that reverted lands should be offered at auction before being offered at private sale. 1

In 1817 the Rev. Samuel Wylie, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and of the Philadelphia Seminary and a licensed minister in the Reformed Presbyterian Church came west to investigate the possibility of finding a desirable place for members of his faith to settle in slave free territory. All summer he toured Southern Illinois, on up to St. Louis from Kaskaskia, then through Southern Missouri and back through Southern Illinois in the fall, to Kentucky and Tennessee where there were settlements of Covenanters and thence back to Chester County in South Carolina. He apparently took back a favorable report because shortly after this migration to Illinois through Tennessee increased rapidly and Rev. Wylie was sent to Southern Illinois to minister to his people there.

These people in South Carolina understood that Edward Cole, the second governor of Illinois had put down all forces which had attempted to amend the state's new constitution so that slavery might be legal. Mr. Cole was a well educated man, a Virginian, a former secretary to President Madison and a man who could not respect himself until he had freed his own slaves.

These early settlers migrated from South Carolina in groups of the same family or of friends or relatives. At one time there were two groups of these settlers started to Illinois about the same time. Each wanted to get to Illinois first to get the pick of the land. The wagon train in which two Hood families traveled rested and probably held services among themselves on the Sabbath. The other train traveled every day during the week. It got to be a sort of game. While the Sabbath keeping group camped the other group passed them, but later in the week the train the Hoods traveled with overtook and passed the competing group. This happened week after week but each time the Sabbath keeping group passed the other train earlier in the week until no train passed them on their day of rest and they won by gaining Illinois first.

1. Arthur C. Bogess, THE SETTLEMENT OF ILLINOIS, 1778-1830, Chicago Historical Society's Collection, Vol. V Chicago 1908 p.136

Of these two wagon trains, most families settled around Sparta, Eden, Coulterville or Mariassa. But five families pressed further on. These were Archibald Hood, and his wife and child, his widowed brother John and two children, the James McClurkin family, the Thomas McClurkin family and the James Kirkpatrick family. These people arrived on the west edge of Elkhorn Prairie just a few miles from Ayers Point and made their final camp in May 1830 after six weeks journey from South Carolina. Here they decided to make their new homes close to the Kaskaskia-Vincennes Trail. In 1833 they were followed by the John and David McClurkin and John Donnelly families. As their custom had long been they banded into a praying society which met in their homes as they read their Bibles and sang psalms. The Rev. Samuel Wylie who now lived where Eden is today, found time to go among these people to lead them in their worship and to encourage them.

This migration continued to Illinois and to Washington County particularly around Ayers Point settlement throughout the eighteen thirties and into the forties. These early settlers first built log cabins, quickly constructed from the readily available logs, in which they could also hold worship services until they could build a church, then they soon built a log school house. The first school in the Oakdale area was built on the farm of John Hood in Section 28, about 1834 or 1835.

Lavina Anderson Sterrett contributed the following in the Nashville Journal some years ago concerning Ayers Point.

"Thrifty Germans came filtering from Chicago and St. Louis. East of Ayers Point land was settled by Carsons, McClays, McCloys, Torrens, Bealls, Luneys, Boyds, Baileys and others. Billy Auld chose Pilot Knob for his first location.

Southward were Wylies, McClurkins, Adams, Klenes, Swanwicks and Edgars. Westward were the Kemps, Ramsey, Beattys, Hoods, Hibbards, McAfees, Pipers, etc. James Auld found a hill that suited him where he stayed to raise his family. His brother Billy, left Pilot Knob and moved to join farms with James.

James and John McAfee found the clay made fine brick so they built brick houses for themselves and for the Elkhorn Covenant Church. They also made brick for use in many buildings in the Elkton village."

"After the war some army pals started a store near Ayers Point. They were: David Wylie, Archibald Hood, Thomas P. Anderson and David McClurkin. They nicknamed their place Stag Town. When they went West, Mr. Steele and Mr. McCleish had stores. Later Mr. Steele started a store in Evans, Colorado. James Torrens went thereto clerk for him.

## PRAIRIE FIRES

The following was copied from the HISTORY OF WASHINGTON CO. printed in 1879. Brink, McConough & Co. p.18

"A peculiar characteristic of the early settlers all over Southern Illinois as well as Washington County was to settle in or near timber. One very obvious reason for this was that the country and especially the prairies at that time were so badly infested with the "greenhead fly" that it was impossible for stock at some seasons of the year, to live at any distance from the shade. Instances of the death of horses, from the annoyance of these pest, are by no means rare.

Another consideration, was to get out of reach of the prairie fires, that were of common occurrence in the autumn. The prairies were covered with tall pampas or prairie grass, often of sufficient height to completely hide from view horses and cows. When the grass became dry, in the fall of the year, and by accident got fired, the devouring element swept everything before it. The prairie fire, when the wind is blowing a gale presents a scene peculiarly fascinating, and terrifically sublime.

In the month of November 1838, George McNair and Robert Kelso, two farmers residing about eight miles south-west of Nashville, came to Nashville to the mill in a wagon made of wood alone, drawn by oxen. On their way home that evening they traveled by the Sparta Road, either side of which was skirted by a prairie covered by tall prairie grass, very thick upon the ground. They drove along chatting gaily, totally unconscious of the terrible danger that threatened them, and that was fast closing in upon them. Hearing an unusual noise, they turned in the direction from which it came, and behold what appeared to be a vast ocean of fire, whose red billows, were leaping high in the heavens, sweeping irresistibly onward in its course.

McNair, who was a native of the Emerald Isle, with that poetic nature peculiar to his nationality, stood for a few moments gazing admiringly wrapped with astonishment and awe at the grandeur and sublimity of the scene, but he was soon brought to a consciousness of the danger that threatened him and his companion,. His first impulse was to run to a creek about half a mile distant, whither he started, with a swiftness urged on by the hope of life, or fear of death. He had proceeded but about one hundred yards when the fire overtook him. He had a heavy wool hat and woollen clothing. He pulled the hat over his eyes, and attempted to run through the fire. He said that he did not know where to run to. His hat protected his face and eyes, but his hands were so badly burned that he could not feed himself for several weeks. It left its traces on him by drawing his hands out of shape, leaving ugly scars.

Kelso protected himself by the wagon, and escaped any dangerous injuries."

Note on the above story by Lawrence Hood: George McNair lived about a mile north-east of Oakdale on what was later known as the Coulter farm and Robert Kelso lived on the farm

known as the John Wisely farm beside the railroad lake. Robert Kelso entered the SW NW & NW SW Sec. 7 T. 3 S. - R. 3 W. on Oct. 10, 1837. This land was held in the Kelso family until about 1908. George McNair entered NW NE Sec. 13, T. 3 S. - R. 4 W. on May 16, 1838. In July 4, 1840 he entered NE NE Sec. 13 T. 3 S. - R. 4 W. He sold to his son David in February 1862. It was sold to S. L. Coulter Sept. 6, 1870. It is still held by the Coulter family.

These men are buried in the north-west corner of the Oakdale Cemetery about 20 feet apart. George McNair died July 30, 1862 and Robert Kelso died March 1872 at the age of 72 years.

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY MEN IN THE BLACK-HAWK WAR

The Washington County History by Brink, relates that a group of 50 men from Washington County fought in the Black-Hawk War of 1832. Among these were Lawrence Hood's Great-grand-father, John Hood and John Wood of Oakdale, Lorenzo D. Livesay, Smauel K. Anderson and Robert Burns of Nashville and M. G. Faulkner of Irvington.

They were all mounted, each man furnishing his own horse, gun, ammunition, clothing, etc. and their provisions until they arrived at Beardstown, Ill., the place of rendezvous, where they joined the Brigade commanded by the gallant General Henry.

John D. Wood was elected Orderly Sergeant, subsequently appointed Adjutant and afterwards elected Major of the Regiment.

#### CHOLERA - SPOTTED FEVER

As far as I can find out there was only one death from cholera in the Oakdale community. She was Mrs. Elizabeth McClelland, wife of James McClelland. They had returned from a trip to St. Louis the day before she died, which was on August 28, 1852. She was 41 years old.

Her husband had to bury her himself. Neighbors would bring pots of coffee to the lane but all were afraid of the cholera. Besides her husband she left two daughters, Martha age 11 years and Elizabeth age 9 years. Martha later married Robert Smith, one of the early blacksmiths of Oakdale. Elizabeth married Eugene Wilson, who was killed when the Oakdale Mill blew up on August 21, 1883.

At the time of Mrs. McClelland's death, the family lived on what was later known as the Hy. Lubberstadt farm, located about one half mile southeast of the Oakdale Cemetery. Stuart Carson now owns the farm.

The plague also struck hard in Elkton and was called Spotted Fever. Rhoda Rountree died here on April 8, 1862 leaving a small baby. In later years Phillip Reuter lost five children, two dying in one day. A son, Gustav, survived but was stricken with blindness. The mother was thought to be dead and was being prepared for burial when a faint pulse was noticed. She recovered and lived to care for her blinded baby and four other children were born to this couple, Henry, Walter, Waltena and Edward.

Mrs. Reuter lived about forty years after this sickness, death came in 1915.

## SLAVERY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY L.R.H.

In the census of 1820 of Washington County there were 1,484 inhabitants; 26 of these being slaves. In 1830 there were 1,639 with 13 slaves held by owners.

In 1824 when the national election resulted in the choice of John Quincy Adams as the sixth President of the United States, the thirty counties of Illinois decided against Illinois becoming a slave state.

In the Washington County vote at that time which included what is now Clinton County 285 votes were cast--112 being for slavery and 173 against. This showed that the people were not all of one mind on the slavery question. I don't know what the vote in Oakdale Township was (it was called Elkton Precinct then) but we do know that there were some people in Oakdale Township who favored slavery.

The story is told that there was a small group who lived around Elkton who favored slavery very strongly. Most of the people that lived around Oakdale and the southern part of the township were opposed to slavery. It is said that on several occasions when people of that part of the township went to Elkton to trade, since Elkton was larger than Oakdale or Ayers Point as it was called then, this group was often run out of town and threatened with bodily harm by a few of the pro-slavery people in Elkton.

Sometime before the Civil War, Robert Smith who ran a blacksmith shop in Sec. 28 along the road between Oakdale and Coulterville (on land that is now Ray Kohring farm) was working in his shop one day. He noticed a small group of men on horse back coming from the north, and he thought it might mean trouble. He put the end of an iron rod into the forge and got it red hot. When these men got to the shop and came inside, he knew they were the group that favored slavery. They began to threaten him. When some of them moved in too close to him, he pulled the red hot rod out of the forge and started toward them. They soon got out of the shop and rode away. Robert Smith, who believed in "keeping the Sabbath" as a day of rest often told that the only day he ever worked in his shop on the Sabbath was shoeing horses the day before Rev. Todd and his company left for the war. Later he volunteered as a Union soldier but the war was ended before they got beyond Coulterville.

I do not mean to say that many of the people who lived around Elkton were people of this type. Most of them were good citizens and history shows that some of our early officials of the county came from Elkton and worked hard to make this county a better place to live.

The HISTORY OF 1879 also related that Elkton's first settler, William Rountree, Sr. had freed twenty six slaves in Kentucky before coming to Illinois.

## THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The following is based on an interview with Mrs. Emily Steel McClurkin who died on Jan. 3, 1912. The interview was published in the NASHVILLE JOURNAL, preserved by the Hood family. Another source was GENEALOGIES AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVES OF RANDOLPH AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES by Mrs. Ada Auld Torrens.

The phrase came into existence with the fierce discussion that preceded the Civil War, and passed out of existence with the war.

Slaves, who escaped or were freed, were helped on the way to Canada, as there were none of our states then, to which the "Fugitive Slave Law" would not apply. The slave was not safely free until he stood on British soil. So slaves were aided in the attempt to escape by the "Free Soil" people of the North.

This aid consisted in concealing them during the day, and then taking them to another house, still nearer Canada, during the night. Here they were hidden through another day, and so on, till they were over the border. As this was all done during darkness the process was likened to a railroad, that was underground, and whose "Rolling Stock", freight and passenger list was never seen. Time table was irregular and fluctuating.

Several homes about Oakdale were stations in the underground railroad. The Rev. Todd who resided on the hill west of town where Harold Auld lives, frequently used his home as a hiding place. On one particular occasion he was sheltering slaves in the upstairs room when the southerners hot on the trail stopped to talk with him. Perchance the slaves in their fear and excitement looked down into the yard and were spotted by the southern men. When they started to enter the house to get the slaves, the Rev. Todd quickly produced a pistol and stepped between them and the door saying coldly, something to the effect that if they entered, it would be over his dead body. Since the Rev. Todd's reputation as an abolitionist was well known over the area, the gentlemen left without those slaves.

Several homes throughout Southern Illinois whose residents were of the Reformed or Associate Reformed Presbyterian faith aided in the work of the Underground Railway. There were known stations in the vicinity of Eden, Cutler, and Sparta as well as at Oakdale and Richview.

A Mr. Evans from Sparta seems to have often brought loads of slaves from his house to the house commonly known as the John B. Carson farm, now owned by Ray Francis. The children were used as messengers to carry food to the fugitives which were usually hidden in the barn. If the slave hunters were deemed too close they were secreted into the woods and hidden along the creek. The farm adjoining the home of Rev. Todd, now owned by Mrs. Ward Auld, as well as the old brick home of John Hood, now owned by Ray Kohring were also hiding places.

Cyrus McClurkin and John J. Torrens usually drove the slaves to the next station north. The slaves were hidden in wagons constructed with double beds, the upper one loaded with what appeared to be sacks of wheat.

# COVENANTER SOLDIERS' RECORD OF OAKDALE, ILL.

The following was found in a SCRAP BOOK kept by Mr. John Piper and published in the COVENANTER WITNESS. The list of names which follows the article was compiled by Mr. John Boyd and Mr. Piper in the spring of 1909. The article also states that Elder James Morrison, who had been hovering on the brink of the grave for some weeks, expressed his interest in the Young People of New Concord, Ohio publishing the list of Covenanter veterans. Mr. Morrison died April 24, 1909.

"Covenanters in Southern Illinois felt the heat of the Anti-Slavery conflict more perhaps than in any other section of the Church. Being so near two slave states, Missouri on one side, and Kentucky on the other, many Covenanters became conductors on the Underground Railroad, and their cellars and barns became the depots and waiting rooms for the fugitive slaves from both states. In those days many a Covenanter in the darkness of night started out from the vicinity of our old church on Elkhorn Prairie, with his covered wagon loaded to the guards with fleeing slaves, with the North Star as his guide, he would land his passengers before daylight in the friendly cellar of some other "Black Abolitionist" near Hoyleton or Richview. The first settlers of this part of Illinois were mostly Covenanters, who were driven from the South because of their hatred of slavery; and an opposite element from Kentucky and Tennessee, who, like the "Border Ruffians" of Kansas, were determined to make Illinois a slave state. For many years before the war, there was bitter contention between these two elements, and the Covenanters were subjected to much persecution. Was it strange, then, when the war came, that the sons of liberty loving pioneers felt impelled to enter the army, that they might improve the opportunity to strike down slavery? We believe that no Covenanter congregation can furnish as large a list of soldiers in the Civil War as Oakdale. The pastor, Rev. A.C. Todd, went as captain of a company composed largely of young men of his congregation. They often speak of the scene at the old church, when Captain Todd and his company were leaving for the battlefield. There were few eyes not suffused with tears, as they made the grove resound with the melody of the grand old battle Psalm, sang to the tune of "Cowper;"

Jehovah hear thee in the day  
When trouble He doth send;  
And let the name of Jacob's God  
Thee from all ill defend."

They parted that day from many who never returned alive, but most of their bodies were sent home, and now sleep in the old church yard."

The following is our Roll of Honor:

Rev. A.C.Todd, Captain Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 D.W.McClurkin, Captain Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Alexander Caldwell, M.D., First Sergeant Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Elder Andrew T.Kennedy, Sergeant Co.F., 10th Mo. Wounded and taken p  
 prisoner at Jackson, Miss. May 14, 1864.  
 Elder John Boyd, Sergeant Co.F., 10th Mo. Wounded and taken pris-  
 oner at Jackson, Miss., May 14, 1864.  
 John J.Torrens, Sergeant Co. F., 10th Mo.  
 Archibald Hood, Sergeant Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Thomas Luney, Corporal Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 S.P .Williamson, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Thomas McClurkin, Corporal Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Thomas Meichen, Corporal Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Barney Donohue, Drummer, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Samuel Keady, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Moses Keady, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 John Luney, Co.F., 10th Mo., Wounded at Champion Hills, Miss., 5/23/'63  
 Samuel McCloy, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Rev. D.G.Thompson, Ohio Volunteers  
 C.F.S.McClurkin, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 John McLean, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 William Miller, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 William McCair, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 J.R.McClurkin, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 J.C.McClurkin, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 James Rainey, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 James N.Ramsey, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Alexander H.Sloane, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Captain John C.Kennedy, Co.G., 13th Ill. Cavalry  
 Samuel G.Williamson, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Deacon Robert Luney, Co.G., 13th Ill. Cavalry  
 Deacon James M.Torrens, Co.I., 80th Ill., wounded at Perryville, 10/9/86  
 James H.Hunter, Co.F., 80th Ill.  
 Elder James R.Morrison, Co.F., 80th Ill.  
 Andrew Cook, Co.F., 80th Ill.  
 Elder David Duguid, Co.K., 129th Ind.  
 Charles McElhinney, Co.D., 48th Ill.  
 Thomas G.McLean, Co.I., 30th Ill.  
 Deacon John Piper, Co.B., 111th Ill., wounded at Kenesaw Mt., 6/27/64  
 James H.Sloane, Co.B., 136th Ill. (taken prisoner.)  
 Robert Kelso, Co.I., 80th Ill.  
 James Kelso, Co.G., 13th Ill. Cavalry  
 John Montgomery, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Robert McElhinney, Co.G., 13th Ill. Cavalry  
 James Dermond, Co.G., 13th Ill. Cavalry  
 D.W.Wylie, Ohio Volunteers  
 J.W.Wylie, Ohio Volunteers  
 John Danaldson, Co.F., 10th Mo.  
 Andrew McClurkin, Co.G., 146th Ill.  
 Rev. John Hood, Capt.Co.F., 80th Ill., taken prisoner at Rome, Ga. and  
 confined to Libby until the war elos  
 Kennedy Hood, Capt. of a New York Regiment  
 James E.Sharp, Co.F., 10th Mo.

## A BROTHER'S TRIBUTE

The following is part of a letter written by Gen. John Kennedy of Denver to Editor James Flannigan of Fort Morgan, Colorado, Herald.

The parties are well known in this community having been raised in the vicinity of Elkton and Oakdale. The war record of Andrew Kennedy will be especially interesting to many readers.

"I have returned from Illinois where I attended the funeral of my brother Andrew". He died Dec. 3, 1897.

"As you no doubt remember Andrew was badly wounded at the battle of Jackson, Miss., he was captured in the hospital two days after the battle and taken to Libby Prison where he lay for two months, with the ball still in his foot, he got gangrene in it while in the prison, but was exchanged in a very peculiar way, or through a strange incident; the morning after an artery had broken and left him very weak, he was placed on a cot in the corridor, about that time a quantity of prisoners were forming in line for the purpose of answering to their names and being exchanged, a young boy stood opposite brother Andrew and he noticed him looking at him, finally he reached in his pocket and took out an envelope and across the corner he wrote his name, then he stepped over to the cot and told Andrew, when that name is called you answer "here" he did not say anything more but turned and walked into the ranks and finally into the prison. Brother understood what it meant and when the name was called he summoned all his strength and answered "here" as loud as he could speak it, his comrades at once took up the cot and carried it to the door and then one of them took him on his back and carried him down to the landing, the excitement incident to getting among friends and the sight of the stars and stripes, which he had not seen for months together with his great weakness, caused him to lose the little piece of paper that bore the name of his comrade, who as it appeared afterward gave his life in order that Andrew's might be saved. For many years brother made diligent search for this noble hero, but all to no avail."

"This wound in brother Andrew's foot never healed, more than thirty-five pieces of bone were taken out from time to time, as a consequence he was always thereafter a subject of weakness and attacks of disease."

"We buried him in the old church yard, beside his first wife. There were about five hundred persons at the funeral, many from surrounding towns.... As we went by the place where the little brick school house stood and at the old church yard I could not help remembering the times of our early boyhood when the singing society of Professor Wesley Hunting and the debating society used to meet in the church and the school house, there is much there to recall old times,.... "

## THE UNION LEAGUE OF LOYAL WOMEN OF AMERICA

The Union League of Loyal Women of America was an organization with headquarters in Upper Alton, Illinois. Their purpose was to provide bandages, lint, dried fruits and vegetables, and money for such things as stamps and letter paper to the hospital for use of the sick and wounded soldiers.

Miss Gail Boyle has the Secretary's book of the League. The minutes begin:

"The Rev. Mr. Willoughby with his wife and Miss Kenedy met at Mrs. Thaxton's today (June 14, 1864) to organize a Ladies League -- --- --" The league was known as the Pilot Knob Union Ladies League No. 370.

The names listed as members on the first day were as follows:

President	Jane McClelland	
Vice -Pres.	Sarah E. Smith	
Secretary	Adeline Baggs	
Treasurer	Delilah Thaxton	
Merald	Adah Maxwell	
Chaplain	Jemima Moore	
Members:	Mary McMunn	Mary Kirby
	Sarah Cox	Martha A. Smith
	Elizabeth McClelland	W.G. Marcy

Later members were:

Annie Maxwell	Sarah Guthrie
Rebecca Ewing	Evelyn Rowland
Harriet Perkins	Elizabeth Moore
Caroline Moore	Amanda McKibben

In the book was a letter written by B.H. Mills from Upper Alton, in which he told that they now had 412 sick and wounded soldiers at Camp Butler. His son who was Hospital Steward had written that they were badly in need of vegetables. He requested them to send a few barrels of onions, potatoes, etc.

It seemed that the league met twice a month all summer and fall. They collected dues and fines for failure to attend the meetings regularly.

The last meeting recorded was Nov. 18, 1864. It seemed they were getting ready to have James McClelland deliver some socks, dried apples, potatoes, onions, canned fruit, dried herbs and papers. They had sent \$12.50 to the Christian Commission in St. Louis. They planned not to meet again before spring.

It seemed that Mr. Robert G. Carrick was a patient at the hospital. People had been asking him if the soldiers got things sent for their use. Apparently he was on board a ship being moved to Upper Alton. He tells that while they were at the wharf a Sanitary Commissioner came by, telling them that anyone wishing to write a letter, might go up to his room and write as many letters as they liked. He said that at present there were 20 people there writing letters.

Mr. Carrick was in Co. I 49th Illinois.

FROM "NASHVILLE JOURNAL", May 31, 1867

"Last week a man named J. Meyer in the employ of Robert Hood near Elkton, took wheat to the Fayetteville mill to dispose of it for his employer. He also took with him, for Robert McClurkin, an order to draw money for wheat previously sold. When Meyer got to Fayetteville he got the cash for Hood's wheat and McClurkin's order; \$583.00 in all, left the team at the stopping place and decamped for parts unknown. Meyer is a young man about 5 feet 10 inches high, light hair and whiskers, and has a finger off one of his hands. He bore a good reputation before this and had been in the neighborhood about a year."

Lawrence Hood gives the following note about the above clipping.

In 1964 I went to Nashville to see Walter Snyder about some old Oakdale history. He talked about a hired hand of Robert Hood's taking a load of wheat to Fayetteville. I told him about the clipping from the old Nashville Journal. When I got through he said, "Do you know the rest of it?" I said that I didn't any one now living who knew anything about it.

Walter Snyder grew up in Oakdale, leaving about 1911. He said that he remembered his father, John Snyder, telling him the story several times when he was a boy.

He said that Meyer was known to the people of Fayetteville because he had been there several times with loads of wheat. The last any of them saw of him was that night as he was in a saloon drinking with two other fellows that were not known in Fayetteville. In the morning all three had disappeared.

A few years later a farmer that lived at the edge of Fayetteville decided to clean out his pond and as they were digging the dirt out of the bottom of the pond they uncovered a skeleton. They very carefully uncovered it and found it had large rocks tied to it with wires. It was about 5 feet 10 inches long and had a finger off one hand. They were sure that it was the skeleton of Meyer.

They thought that Myer had drunk too much and had either talked too much or had shown the other two fellows the money he had. They probably decided to murder him and take the money, then weighted the body and threw it into the pond.

Robert Hood was my grandfather and lived at that time where I live now. Walter Snyder died about one year after he told me this story at the age of 80 years.

#### INDIAN MOUND IN OAKDALE TOWNSHIP

The largest Indian mound in Washington County is located on the south end of William Kennedy's farm in Section 30-3-4 Oakdale Township in Mud Creek bottom about 150 yards south of the creek. This mound is about 25 feet high, 135 feet long and 115 feet wide at its base. There are trees growing on top of this mound that are 12 to 18 inches in diameter.

WELLS, FARGO & CO. IN OAKDALE TOWNSHIP  
by L. Hood

The following is taken from THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA:

"Fargo, Wm. Geo. (1818-1881) pioneer American Express owner, born in Pompey, N.Y. After working as a grocery clerk, freight agent, express messenger, and resident agent in Buffalo he became a partner with Henry Wells in Wells and Co. The first express company to operate between Buffalo and western points.

The company merged in 1850 with two others to form the American Express Co. of which Wells was president and Fargo was secretary. In 1852 the two men organized Wells, Fargo & Co. which was later absorbed by the American Express Co. of which Fargo was president from 1868 to 1881."

"Wells, Fargo & Co. was an early American express organization. Henry Wells and William G. Fargo founded the company in 1852. They planned an express service from San Francisco to New York City with the American Express Company serving as an eastern representative.

In 1866 Benjamin Holladay sold his overland mail and stage-coach business to Wells, Fargo & Company which soon became the most powerful firm in the Far West.

Wells, Fargo & Co. carried passengers, freight, mail. It specialized in shipping gold and silver from the western mines. It developed a banking business on the Pacific Coast. The firm lost heavily after the completion of the Central-Union Pacific in 1869. Wells, Fargo & Company merged with the American Railway Express Company in 1918."

Through perseverance and the combined efforts of many people much interesting local history can be discovered. Some years ago, when 'oil men' were interested in abstracts around Oakdale, one of them chanced to tell Herman Freiman, the local garage owner, that Wells-Fargo had once held land near Oakdale and asked if he knew where it lay. When Lawrence heard of this, he began to inquire trying to locate where it lay. One day he happened to ask Walter Elliott if he had ever heard anything about it. Walter had, because a friend of his had recently owned the land and knew from the abstract, where it lay. As soon as Lawrence Hood had located the site, Virgil May became interested too and was able to verify the rumors by a copy of the abstract.

Pertinent parts of the abstract follow:

S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34-3-4-Oakdale Twp. originally	
Book Page	
J 620	John O'Neill, rec'd from Gov't Nov. 27-1854
K 586	John O'Neill & wife to Aaron Long Centralia 3/18/56
O 124	Aaron Long & wife to Charles Wells May 24, 1858
Q 645	Charles & Louisa Wells to (in trust for the American Express Co. Feb. 22-1856

Book P age  
32 373

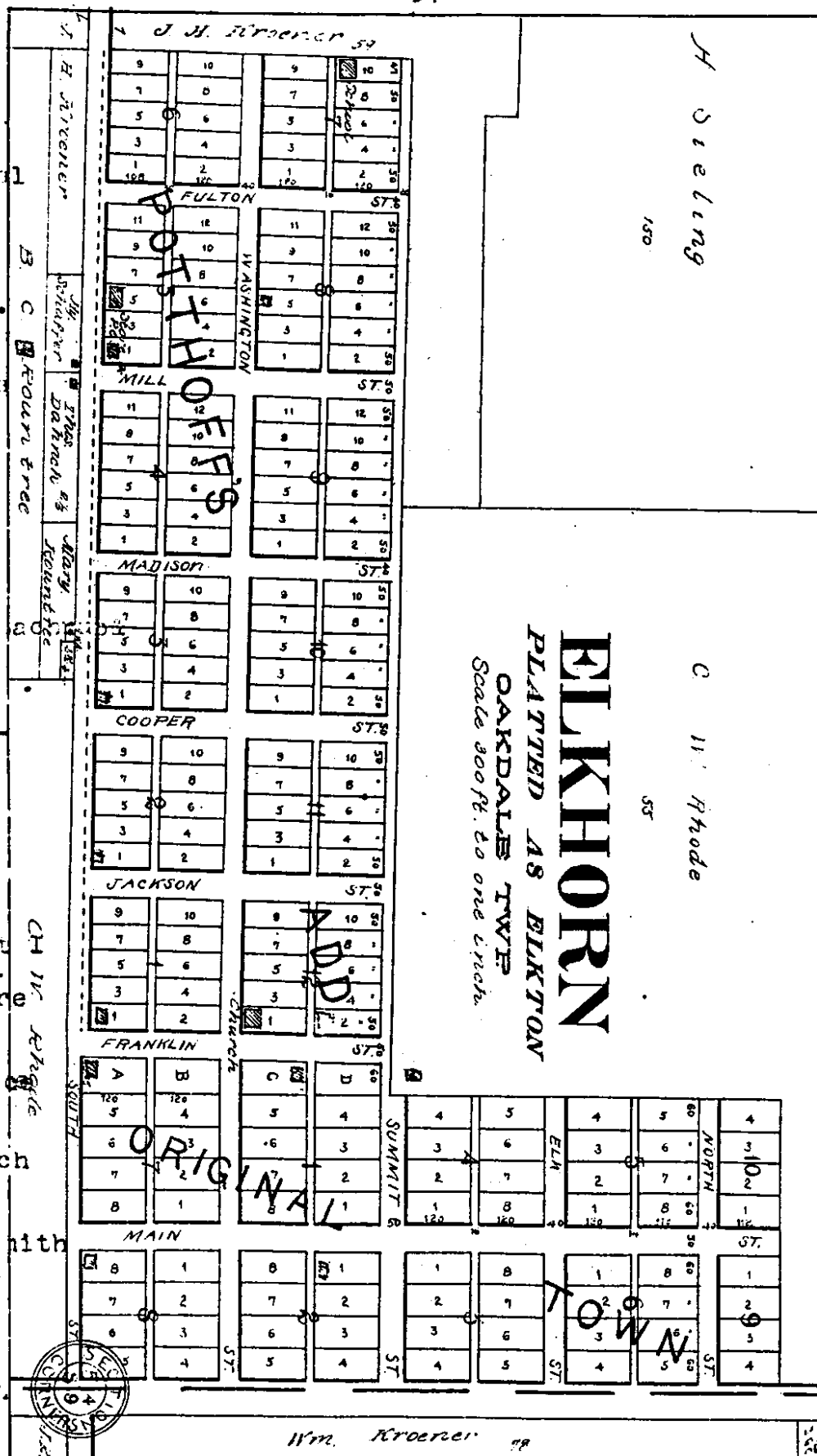
- Charles M. Wells & wife of city of New York, to Henry Wells of N.Y. & John Butterfield of Wica, N.Y. & Alexander Holland, City of New York & James Thompson of Springfield, Mass. & James C. Fargo of City of New York & Edward B. Judson, of Syracuse, N.Y. Deeded this June 5, 1867.
- 46 35 April 13, 1872 Henry Wells of N.Y., William G. Fargo of Buffalo, N.Y., Alexander Holland of N.Y. City, Jas. C. Fargo of N.Y. City and Edward B. Judson of Syracuse, N.Y. to James C. Fargo.
- 46 507 Feb. 19, 1873 James Fargo & wife of N.Y. City and William G. Fargo, President of the American Express Co. a joint stock company party of the second part containing 80 acres, being the same premises described in a deed from Henry Wells and others to the said James C. Fargo, one of the parties of the first part hereto bearing date of the 13th day of April 1872
- 60 216 Quit claim Deed, William R. Neighbors to Rudolph A. Wheatley. Neighbors from Perry Co. and paid \$ 270. for said 80 acres. April 5, 1883
- 67 285 May 3-1879 William G. Fargo, president of the American Express Co. a joint stock association, parties of the 1st part and R. A. Wheatley and W. R. Neighbors of Du Quoin, Ill. parties of the second part. \$ 200. 80 acres.
- 86 150 William Weise, Master in Chancery sold to George F. Benedict (foreclosure on mortgage not paid) March 27, 1918
- 223 391 Many other transactions are recorded until on Feb. 8, 1957 the parcel of land passes into the hands of Paul & Betty Kelly.
- 252 612 Paul & Betty Kelly to C.D. & Della M. Brooks of Bellville, Ill. Dated Jan. 11, 1964 Recorded April 29, 1966

Steve Schaefer tells Lawrence Hood there is still evidence of where the old trail crossed the area.

## PLAT OF ELKTON-ORIGINAL 1837

Kennedy Mill  
(B.C.Rountree)

Schaeffer Hotel

Blum Store  
(Thos. Dancke)I.O.O.F-M.W.A.  
(M.Rountree)Plumhoff Store  
Block 5 Lot 5Harness Shop  
Block 5 Lot 1Hoeffstetter  
Block 3 Lot 1E. Lachrup &  
Maier-Cooper  
Block 1 Lot 1Schoppe, Black-  
smith Block 7  
Lot ACarr Craemery  
Block 8 lot 8Reuter Black-  
smith, Bk 2 LotDunkhorst Store  
Block 1 Lot CDoctor's Office  
Block 8 Lot 5Lutheran Church  
(C.W. Rohde)Ceizet Blacksmith  
Shop-31.2-L 1

## PLACES OF BUSINESS IN ELKTON

In 1837, the original town of Elkton was laid out by Mr. Harry H. Talbott and James Steel, Jr., in the southeast corner of the SE SE of Sec. 5 entered by Albert Jackson in 1836-12-8.

The Washington County History, 1879 says, "The first mill was owned by Greenville Rountree. It was a saw and grist mill combination and was operated by water power." On June 2, 1837, Greenville Rountree entered NE NE and NE NW Sec. 8, 3-4. Archie Creek flows across the corner of this tract, so this could have been the site of his mill.

"The first blacksmith at Elkton was Linville Rountree." I was told by the Misses Luke that his shop was on his farm, a short distance south and east of the brick home formerly occupied by the Rountree and Thomas Dahncke families. He entered the NE SW & NW SE Sec. 9 on June 14, 1833, which corresponds to Miss Luke's description of his location.

The Kennedy Mill is written up elsewhere and is located on the map. Mrs. Rezba tells us that some rocks from the foundation are still visible.

Mr. Henry Schaeffer had a hotel just north of the mill. We are told that the stage coaches made regular stops here. They changed horses and passengers stayed over night in the hotel.

In the early days, Mr. Blum had a store just across the street from the hotel. This store was a general store. Many others kept store here after Mr. Blum left. Among those mentioned were Chas. Strohl, Mr. Thomas Dahncke, Sr., Ira Rountree, Mr. Mitchell, and the last to keep store there was Mr. George Rezba. While there he also kept the switch-board for a time. He lived in the upstairs of this building for many years and still owns it.

The I.O.O.F. Lodge built a Lodge Hall on the Mary Rountree acreage in 1873. When the Atlas was published in 1906, the building was then owned by the M.W.A. Lodge. There was a lodge hall upstairs and several different people have kept store in the down stairs part of the building. Mr. Austin Carr and Clyde Dahncke were two mentioned. Mr. Carr left Elkton in 1903.

The Plumhoff Store was a general store which he kept until about 1911 when he moved away. He also had the Post Office in his store when Elkton was on the Star Route. This route continued until 1905 when the first Rural Route came through Elkton. Mr. Plumhoff also had a long distance phone in his store before phones were in general use in the area. He had the switch-board in his store when local phones were installed about 1902. Miss Nora Carr assisted him many years.

There also was a harness Shop on Block 5 Lot 1, east of the Plumhoff Store.

Mr. Hoeffstetter had a tavern on Block 3 Lot 1.

Mr. Ed Lachrup had a wagon shop and Mr. Michael Maier had a cooper shop in the same building on Block 1 Lot 1.

Mr. Schoppe had a blacksmith shop in Block 7 Lot A. It was probably in use about 85-90 years ago.

Mr. Austin Carr had a creamery west of his home for a time then later on Block 8, Lot 8 in the original part of Elkton.

Mr. Philip Reuter had a blacksmith shop on Block 2 Lot 1 in the original part of town. He died in 1883.

Mr. Dunkhorst had a general store on Block 1 Lot C. He also kept the Post Office in his store for a time. Later a Mr. Lindberg kept store in the same location.

Both Dr. Vernor and Dr. Jack had their office in a building on Block 8 Lot 5.

Miss Carrie Luke told us that Dr. George Thompson was in Elkton before either Dr. Trout or Dr. Vernor. The Washington County History reports "The physicians are Dr. R.E. Vernor and Dr. S.F. Wehr."

### SHORT SKETCHES OF EARLY CITIZENS

From the Brink History of 1879, we learn in addition to what has already been related, that William Rountree, a native of Virginia, removed to Kentucky in the early period of the history of Kentucky. He was one of the adventurous followers of Daniel Boone.

From a Washington County Blue Book, we learn that he was a member of the First Board of Commissioners, being elected in 1819.

Greenville Rountree, a son of William Rountree was born on June 4, 1807 near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Along with his father he settled in Elkton in the early days. From FAMILY HISTORY OF ALEXANDER CHESNEY OF PLUM HILL, ILLINOIS written in 1897, we learn, "Lydia Ann Chesney was married in June 1827 to Greenville Rountree a very prominent and wealthy business man, he running a large farm a flouring mill and saw mill, also a large store in Elkton, Ill. They had born to them four boys and two girls."

Hon. James M. Rountree, third son of Greenville Rountree was born near Elkton on the 12th of October 1833. James learned the blacksmithing trade but the work did not suit his health, then he worked at the carpenter's trade about two years. At the age of 25 years, he made up his mind to study law. In Nashville he engaged in the milling business and merchandising for nine years until 1867 when he was admitted to practice law. He was very successful as a lawyer and in 1876 was elected States Attorney of Washington County and later served as State Representative.

Hon. Charles S. Luke, the son of David Luke of Elkton in the early days was also educated as a lawyer and elected as State Representative.

Mr. Harry Talbott was a name which often appeared in the early days of Elkton. He with James Steele platted Elkton in 1837. He was reported to be the first school teacher in Elkton, he also kept store in the William Rountree house. He was Clerk of the Circuit Court from 1850-1859. He seemed to deal in land in the early days in more than one township.

Dr. James J. Trout was born in Todd Co., Kentucky, Oct. 22, 1844. His family emigrated to Illinois in 1803 and settled on a farm west of Nashville until he was 25 years of age.

He began reading medicine in the office of Dr. Thomas Burgess of Nashville, then entered the Medical Dept. of the University of New York, from which he graduated in 1872. After serving as surgeon on board an emigrant ship for a year, he returned to Illinois. He began practicing medicine in Elkton where he remained for four years. He was active in building the Elkton Union Church. He later practiced in St. Libory about a year before moving to Nashville.

Dr. S.F. Wehr seemed to be the next doctor in Elkton, being mentioned in the History of 1879.

Dr. R.E. Vernor is also mentioned as being in Elkton in 1879. His family was a pioneer family in the Nashville community, having extensive land holdings southwest of town.

Dr. Vernor was a faithful and well loved family physician for many years. He is well remembered by many of the older people who lived in the Elkton area when he served there. He raised a family of professional men and left Elkton, moving to Neashville when his sons were ready for high school.

His oldest son Enloe, was born in Elkton Nov. 24, 1879. After graduating from Nashville High School in 1900, he went on to Washington University School of Law from which he graduated in 1904. The new country of the West seemed to call. He was in South Dakota, when the Rosebud Indian Reservation was opened at Bonesteel.

However he soon left for the South-west, buying a ticket for Galveston with stop over at Muskogee. He stopped at Muskogee, Okla. and never went on. He practiced law and was soon elected to be a County Judge, in which capacity he served for twenty-five years.

His second son, Roscoe was born in Elkton Feb. 24, 1881. He was graduated from the Nashville High School in 1902 and went on to graduate from the St. Louis University of Medicine in 1909. He returned to Nashville and entered the practice of medicine with his father. His practice was interrupted for a time while he served his country in World War. I.

Dr. Vernor's youngest son, Vilas chose the profession of law as a career. Following in the footsteps of his older brother he moved to Muskogee, Okla. after graduation, where he was a successful attorney. He is still living in that city.

Dr. Robert Jack succeeded Dr. Vernor as the family doctor in Elkton, coming about the turn of the century.

## FROM AYERS POINT TO OAKDALE

William Ayers is known to have selected a site for his home on the high east bank of the Elkhorn Creek near where the Kaskaskia-Vincennes Trail crossed the creek. He built a log cabin in 1823 and went about the business of making a living. We also suppose that he must have prospered for in a few years he built a much larger and finer house for his family and turned his first house into a trading post. Mr. Ayers second house was a frame building constructed in the southern style. It was long and had a rambling appearance. It faced toward the road. It was two stories high with a porch on each level extending the length of the house. Mrs. T.E. McLean has a picture of this house which was acquired by their family in 1891. The J. Morrison family had lived in it before this.

We know that many people from South Carolina and other southeastern states settled in the surrounding country. We know that a post office was opened at Ayers Point in 1850, but was lost before 1867. Also a McClurkin family had built a flouring mill that was burned down in 1842 and never rebuilt.

Abstract of Title records show that on April 20, 1826, William Ayers entered W  $\frac{1}{2}$  SE Sec. 14-3-4 from the U.S. Government.

His house, trading post and orchard were on the extreme southern part of this tract of land.

On Feb. 29, 1832, William Ayers & wife Tabitha deeded W  $\frac{1}{2}$  SE Sec. 14-3-4 to Wiley Ayers giving a consideration of \$ 100.00.

On June 13, 1866 Wiley Ayers and wife Sally sold W  $\frac{1}{2}$  SE Sec. 14-3-4 & ol to James B. McClurkin for \$ 5580.00

On Aug. 2, 1866 James B. McClurkin sold  $\frac{3}{4}$  undivided interest in W  $\frac{1}{2}$  SE Sec. 14-3-4 to John McAfee, David McClay and S.D. McClurkin for \$ 2700.00.

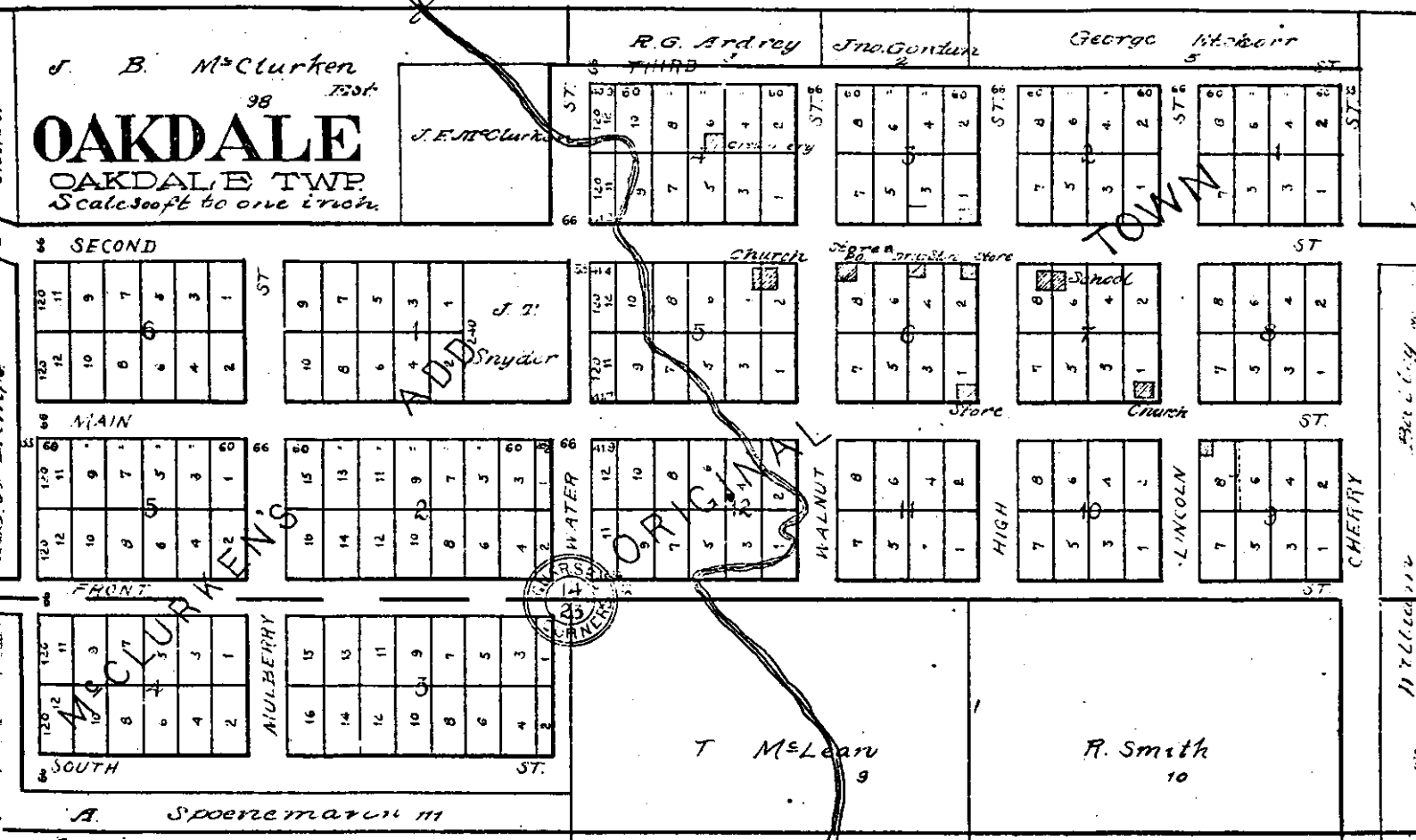
## OAKDALE LAID OUT-NASHVILLE JOURNAL Jan. 24, 1867

"A new town has just been laid out at what was formerly called Ayers Point, about 10 miles southwest of Nashville. It is called Oakdale, a rather pleasant name to the ear, with a touch of romantic. It is laid out in 12 blocks, with 8 lots to each except a tier of 4 blocks with 12 lots each. It extends north and east of the old Ayers house taking in part of the orchard. A new mill costing from \$ 20,000 to \$ 25,000 to be owned by a stock company will be erected the coming summer. A new church building together with a suitable grade school, will also follow soon.

These we trust will form the nucleus for a thriving and enterprising town, affording business and educational facilities of great advantage to those who may desire to make Oakdale their home. Efforts are being made to have the old post office revived so that the new town may have a reasonable mail facility. We wish Oakdale a flourishing future in every respect."

# PLAT OF TOWN OF OAKDALE, ILLINOIS-1867

Diagram of the town of Oakdale situated located & surveyed on the south part of the West half of the SE qr of Section 14 T 3 S, R 4 W, consisting of 6 full streets of 66 feet width each. Three half streets of 33 feet widths each, 12 blocks subdivided into 108 lots, 70 feet by 120 feet each. Except lots 11 & 12 in Block No. IV, No. V & No. XII, which are 40.9 successive to 42.24 feet by 120 feet as stated on the Diagram. Stones have been set at the NE corner of Block No. I, at the NW corner of Block No. IV at the SW corner of Block No. IX & at the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section corner between Sections 14 & 23.



I certify the within diagram of the town of Oakdale to be a true representation of an actual survey of the distances stated therein to be correct.

A. Stande, Surveyor W.C.

(Only the original town appeared in the records)

SOURCE-WASHINGTON CO. ATLAS - 1906

We the undersigned do hereby acknowledge that the within plat of land as herein described is set apart for a town to be known as the town of Oakdale in Washington County, Illinois & that the within plat is a true survey of said town.

David McClay  
James B. McClurkin  
John McAfee  
S.D. McClurkin

To be known as the firm of Jas. B. McClurkin & Co.  
Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of January 1867.

J.P. Hibbard JP (Seal)

STATE OF ILLINOIS

SS

WASHINGTON COUNTY

We David McClay, James B. McClurkin, John McAfee and S.D. McClurkin by the firm name of James B. McClurkin & Co. acknowledge the within town plat as our free act and Deed. And the streets and alleys for the uses and purposes therein set forth and no other.

Acknowledged before me this 18th day of January A.D. 1867

J.P. Hibbard J.P. (Seal)

Recorder Feb. 2, 1867 J.N. Vernor Recorder

Recorded in the Records of Washington County, Illinois in  
Vol. "Z" page 618

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public for the State of Illinois.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness my hand and seal this 18th day of January 1867.

## CHURCHES OF ELKTON

From the HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY by Brink, 1879, I gathered some information not given by local residents, however not all in the History is correct nor do all parts of the history agree with all parts of the same book. Research on a few Abstract of Titles in the Elkton and Lively Grove area would likely clear up a seeming contradiction.

The History stated: "Revs. David Wells and William Rountree were ministers of the Baptist faith and they preached to the settlers prior to 1820. At that time an organization was formed at Rountree's."

"The records of the first organization are not now in the county but a second church of the same name, "Baptist Church of Christ at Elkton," was organized July 3rd, 1842, and the records of this church show that Elder William Rountree, John S. Brown and Nathan Arnett were received into the church by permission of the old Elkton Church. The ministers constituted the organizing council. There were thirty-one constituent members.

Elder Arnett was elected Pastor; William J. Cunningham, Chief Clerk; A.G. Jackson and Joseph Kinyon, Deacons. The last record of this church bears the date June 1st, 1867."

## LIVELY GROVE

"In the fall of 1866, a church was organized at Lively Grove, of which the constituent members, James R. Laney, A.J. Laney, W.R. Land, F.M. Land, Mary A. Laney, Margaret A. Laney, Nancy Laney, Sarah Land, and Susan Land had been members of the Elkton Church. The Council organizing this church consisted of Elders John H. Spaldin, Joseph Gaskill and W.H. Hutchings. They have had as pastor: Elders A.J. Stevenson, David Huggins, W.S. Gee and J.C. Wilson. They erected a church house in the fall of 1873. Present membership 49."

Mrs. Charles Rezba gave this information, "The first Baptist Church of Elkton was west of Lively Grove. It was a brick building. In 1864 the Nine Mile Baptist Association held an Associational Meeting at the Elkton Baptist Church. The Moderator was W.W. Hutchings, the Clerk was A. Rice and the Minister was D. Huggins. There were 767 members of the Association present at this meeting."

Mr. Dalton Rohde, Sr. was clerk when the Missionary Baptist Organization at Elkton was disbanded and the records are in the possession of Mrs. Rohde and Miss Elizabeth who shared this information:

The BOOK OF RECORDS for the LIVELY GROVE CHURCH begins with Dec. 1874 with a membership of 70 members.

With W.S. Gee, Moderator

A. Zwahlen, Church Clerk

It seemed that the congregation met at a stated time on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath each month. After a worship service, a business meeting was held. In March 1876 they voted to call

Elder David Huggins as pastor.

It seemed that many people of the Baptist faith were moving from Lively Grove 1878-1881. The records stop in 1881.

On March 17, 1889, the Elkton Baptist Church was organized. A.J. Laney, Nancy Laney, James Laney, Matilda Laney, Elizabeth Rohde, George Osborne, Nancy Osborne, Libbie Wheelles, Manerva Stann and George Hamilton from the Lively Grove Church were constituent members. At the close of Revival Meetings conducted by Elder B.T. Rodman, a Missionary of the Nine Mile Baptist Association, the following were baptized and became members: Oscar Wheelles, Thomas Dahmcke, August F. Rohde, Charles Rountree, Jona Laney, Mary Laney, Ellen Laney, Kate Rountree and Jane Harland.

They adopted the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith, given by Edward F. Hiscox in Baptist Church Directory commonly known as the New Hampshire Confession of Faith. The Council approved membership in the Nine Mile Association.

Following Elder Rodman, Elder W.H. Carner, Brother Harris, Brother Wise, Alex Rhine, Rev. Hodge, followed; each serving short terms until 1903.

On June 14, 1910 the church was again reorganized and Brother Keene held a Revival. About nineteen were received into the church by baptism and nine by letter.

From time to time revivals were held, always with the addition of many members. Some of the last pastors were Brother Rury, Brother Bullar, Pastor Moehler, Brother Kelly, Brother Wreath and Brother Allen.

In February 1918 a Sabbath School was organized with Miss Clara Fox as Supt., Asst. Supt. Eb Duguid, Cor. Sec. Hetta Henderson and Treas. Gretta Henderson.

The last minutes were recorded in 1935.

Since the reorganization in 1889, the meetings were held in the Elkton Union Church.

Mr. John Reinhardt gave this information about the Elkton Churches:

#### ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first church of Elkton was erected on a tract of land formerly owned by C.W. Rohde, now owned by Arson Fuqua, just one block north of the present church. (Mr. and Mrs. Philip <sup>Seuter</sup> ~~Friedman~~ belonged to this church.) Henry Dunkhorst and Henry Stieg were trustees of this church in 1883 but they had no pastor. The church was disbanded.

#### ELKTON UNION CHURCH

In 1873 a band of Christian people united together for the purpose of erecting a new church.

Miss Rohde has the ORIGINAL CONTRACT or ARTICLES OF SUBSCRIPTION which set forth in detail the purpose and conditions of the contract. She also has a small brown record book in connection with the building of the church.

The purpose was to "organize ourselves into a congregation for the purpose of erecting a church edifice in the Town of Elkton" under certain conditions and "do appoint the following persons, to wit: James J. Trout, Linville R. Kinyon and C.W. Hawkins as a committee to solicit subscriptions for and as a Building Committee to supervise the building of the church edifice in said town of Elkton, said church edifice to be known and called by the name of the Elkton Union Church". These men were to serve as Trustees until an election, to be held on the first Saturday of October 1894.

It further stated that the trustees "shall give preference to the Episcopal Methodist Denomination, permitting all other denominations to hold church therein only when not in use by said Episcopal Methodists."

The Contract or Articles of Subscription was recorded Oct. 5, 1874 in Book 1-p. 235 & 236. 174 subscribers were listed. The records also give the list of workmen who built the church, including the number of days each man worked at \$ 2.50 per day.

At a meeting on Nov. 28, 1873, the trustees "agreed to go on buy lumber and seat the church by Dec. 28, 1873. C.W. Hawkins was to make the seats. Jan. 23rd, 1875 Trustees agreed to have the church dedicated on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath of next month."

The last Trustees in office were Arthur Shubert, Charles Rezba and John Reinhardt.

#### EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In the year 1904, Rev. John Gaebe organized an Evangelical Congregation, to hold their services in the Elkton Union Church. Some of the pastors who served this congregation were Rev. Gaebe, Rev. Brink, Rev. Stotlar, Rev. Westerbeck, Rev. Langerhaus and Rev. Bock. Students Albert Gaebe and Otto Heggemeier also served a short time. These ministers held two charges, serving either the Cordes or Addieville Congregations along with the Elkton Church. The congregation was disbanded in 1921.

After the two denominations had disbanded Rev. C.A. Marquart of Hahlen Lutheran Church conducted services for about two years, twice a month on Sunday evenings.

The Union Sunday School has continued from the beginning of the church through the present time. A Baptist S.S. was in session during the years they were active. They also held B.Y.P.U. Meetings.

Presently 1969 and for several years, John Reinhardt had charge. The doors are always open. Everyone is welcome to come and worship regardless of creed or doctrine. Every Sunday morning S.S. is held at 10:00 A.M. with Worship Service at 10:50 A.M.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bearing his sheaves with him. Ps. 126:5,6

## OAKDALE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our forefathers of Scotch and Irish descent came to America seeking religious liberty and freedom of worship in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Strong settlements were made in Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Having come to America seeking freedom, they abhorred human slavery. In 1829 the church caused all members holding slaves to free them. About this time, the industrial revolution caused the southern planters to change from small family type farms to large plantations. Thus small farms with no slaves were crowded from the agricultural life of South Carolina.

The Land Act of 1820 and Illinois entering the Union in 1818 as a Free State opened up an ideal location for the Covenanters of South Carolina to settle.

After a Sabbath-keeping journey of six weeks about forty persons from the Chester District, South Carolina, arrived in Randolph County in May 1830. They all remained in Randolph County except five families who pushed on into Washington County. The families of Thomas and James McClurkin and John and Archibald Hood and Jas. Kirkpatrick chose home sites on the edge of the Elkhorn Prairie just west of the present village of Oakdale. These were the first Covenanter families in Washington County, however others soon joined them and formed 'praying societies' in their homes which met on the Sabbath and once a month on week days. This small and faithful group were encouraged and ministered to by Rev. Samuel Wylie of the Bethel (Sparta) Congregation which had been organized in 1823.

In the spring of 1834 the Ohio Presbytery sent Rev. David Steel, to visit the societies of the West and do such pastoral and missionary work as he found needful. Mr. Thomas McClurkin, Sr. who had been an elder in South Carolina, Mr. John Donnelly, and Mr. John McClurkin were chosen elders. On July 30, 1834, the session was convened at the home of Mr. Archibald Hood (site of the former T. C. Klene home) and organized a congregation known as the Elkhorn Congregation.

Under the first pastor, Rev. Samuel McKinney (1835-1840) the congregation increased in numbers to one hundred twenty. A common expression of those days when sighting a wagon train approaching was, "There, more 'Old Lights' are coming." additions to the congregation created the necessity of a church home. Mr. John McClurkin and Mr. George McLean aided materially by donating a five acre plot of ground where a brick church was erected of bricks burned near the place of building by the McAfee Brothers. The building was 40 by 60 feet with a self supporting roof. The windows of small panes were in the north and south sides with a large door in the east end. The cemetery was just west of the church in the same yard. In it lie the bodies of many members and one pastor, Rev. William Sloane. This burying ground is still in use today and is known as the Oakdale Cemetery.

(This cemetery was a community cemetery owned by the Covenanter Congregation for many years, however it was later legally incorporated with a Board of Trustees who are representatives of the Community.)

The Rev. William Sloane became the second pastor and served the congregation from 1840 to 1858. The membership increased to one hundred and fifty. After a discussion regarding administration of business affairs the congregation elected a Board of Deacons, March 3, 1841. They were Messrs. John Hughes, James Kennedy, John Hood, and William Morrison. After ordination and installation these men took charge of the finances of the congregation. The membership of the session had been increased by several new members. Rev. Sloane's service may be characterized by faithfulness in maintaining the principles and peace of the church. He was an able and conscientious minister, mighty in the scriptures.

The third pastor, Rev. A.C. Todd was installed July 1, 1859, and served until May 17, 1871. He was a most eloquent speaker, having marvelous power over his audiences. In his pastorate the national unrest was reflected on the congregation. Influenced by the evils of human slavery and the guidance of their pastor, a company of the members volunteered for service in the Civil War with Rev. Todd as captain. This company became Co. F. 10th Mo. Volunteers, as the quota for Illinois had been filled prior to this time. A large national flag, made by the ladies of the congregation, was presented to the company by Miss Jane Forester, as she stood on the stile in the church yard. They marched away July 11, 1861, by all singing a part of the twentieth psalm. Twenty eight men of the congregation joined their pastor in this company.

As many as fifty members of the congregation saw service in different companies and at different times during the Civil War period. In the absence of the pastor, Dr. Wm. L. Roberts served the congregation part time. He was regarded as one of the great preachers of the Covenanter Church and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

A missionary society was organized May 31, 1862, and the Sabbath School organized in 1865. These organizations materially and spiritually aided the work of the congregation. In 1867 the question of a new church house arose and Mr. James B. McClurkin gave a block in Oakdale for a site, which was accepted. The building erected was a two-story brick building, used for school and church purposes and was a blessing to the educational and spiritual uplift of the community. In 1871 Rev. Todd, with a number of members, went to Evans, Colorado, and formed another Covenanter congregation.

The Rev. D.G. Thompson, the next pastor, came August 1, 1872, but was not ordained until October 11, of the same year. The solemn service of signing the Covenant occurred here in August 1872, presided over by Rev. H.P. McClurkin, assisted by Rev. D.S. Faris. One hundred fifty-two members swore allegiance to the Covenant. Rev. Thompson gave us twenty years of active service resigning because of ill health. He went to La Junta, Colorado, where he died and is buried.

The faithful service of the Thompson' has left an indelible imprint on the lives of this community.

In August 1894 Rev. J.C. French became the fifth pastor. He was ordained in October. During this pastorate the congregation's name was changed from Elkhorn to Oakdale. The present place of worship was built and was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1901. The pastor and the members together with their friends, made this building possible. Rev. French was a clear and convincing speaker with the natural powers of an orator. After twelve years of active and faithful service, in which he endeared himself to many, he resigned in August, 1906 to go to Denver, Colorado.

The Rev. M.A. Gault was chosen pastor June 14, 1907. He was ordained the same year in October. He was a distinguished National Reform speaker in the church and community. He resigned in April 1913, after ministering to our spiritual life for six years. His residence was retained here until his death, December 13, 1913. He and his wife are buried in Caledonia cemetery at Sparta, Illinois.

On July 22, 1914, Rev. W.O. Ferguson became our pastor and was released November 23, 1920, to go to Dennison, Kansas. During his six years of service our country was torn by World War I. Those who were in active service, or were awaiting assignment to camp for training when the armistice was signed were: Mattie and Katie Digid, nurses; Roy Carson, Willard Carson, Oscar McClay, Elwyn Carson, Floyd Carson, Floyd McClay, Lawrence McClay, Lloyd Torrens and Kennedy Auld.

Rev. Ferguson and his wife faithfully encouraged and comforted troubled hearts in this trying time. They were congregational and community leaders in war-time activities. In 1853 Rev. Ferguson retired from active preaching and he and Mrs. Ferguson came back to Oakdale to live.

On January 27, 1923, Rev. J.M. Wylie became our eighth pastor. Dr. Wylie was a noted organizer and builder of churches. He was a forceful speaker in the pulpit and on the lecture platform. He was greatly interested in placing the Bible in the public schools. In the last few months of his life he traveled much in the interest of this work, which was a great strain physically. He died very suddenly April 29, 1929. He was buried in Ohio. The congregation owes much to the faithfulness of Dr. and Mrs. Wylie. In this pastorate the congregation added a parsonage to the church holdings.

In 1922 a young woman's missionary society was organized and has become one of the active organizations of the church. Later it was named the "Willing Hands Missionary Society."

In July, 1930, Rev. A.A. Wylie became our ninth pastor, giving the Oakdale congregation and community a life characterized by meekness, kindness, and gentleness of spirit. Many were his talents which he so graciously displayed in the organizing of the Daily Vacation Bible School, the teaching of music in the public schools, and his outstanding work and endeavoring efforts with the young people of the church and community. During his latter years of service our country was engaged in World War II, and during this time Rev. and Mrs. Wylie faithfully encouraged and prayerfully comforted the many troubled hearts of the congregation. With each member that entered active service, they sent their heartfelt prayers.

Death came calmly, but suddenly, on Tuesday, July 13, 1943, climaxing a life here on earth that was so completely dedicated in the service of Christ.

Our tenth pastor was Rev. Harold Foster Thompson, who was ordained and installed as pastor in 1944. He was the grandson of a former pastor, Rev. D.G. Thompson. Soon he made a trip to Greeley, Colorado, and returned with, as his wife, the former Mary Carson of that city.

They were both very much interested in the spiritual and social welfare of the congregation. Rev. Thompson visited the rural schools around Oakdale each year and taught the Bible with acceptance and benefit to the pupils. He resigned in 1948 to accept a call to Southfield, Michigan.

The veterans of World War II were Charles Auld, William Auld, James Henderson, John Henderson, William D. Hunter, Russel McClay, Bruce McLean, Elmer McLean, Thomas McLean, Lawrence Patton, Lloyd Patton, John Piper, Otis Piper, Robert Piper, Glenn Thompson, James Thompson and Finley Torrens. Those who came into our church and served in World War II were Kenneth Dintelman, Dale Musselman, Charles Palek and William Richards. Those who were veterans of the Korean War were Paul Auld, Glenn Brammeier, and Larry McClay. Kenneth Hood served in peace time in Germany.

Rev. D. Ray Wilcox was installed on September 13, 1948, as our eleventh pastor. Rev. and Mrs. Wilcox were faithful servants of the Lord and did much personal work in our church and community, especially among the children and young people. The school children met in their home after school one evening each week. They were a comfort to the parents whose sons were in service.

Rev. Wilcox was a cartoonist and could present a message with the pictures he could draw.

During his pastorate our church was redecorated inside, and the bricks were tuck pointed on the outside. A basement was also added to our church. In August he was called to teach "Bible" in our Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Penn. He preached his last sermon as pastor in Oakdale, August 13, 1950.

Rev. Philip Martin was installed pastor October 23, 1951, and preached his last sermon July 4, 1954.

Rev. and Mrs. Martin used their many talents in the Lord's service helping with the work among the juniors and young people and teaching adult Bible classes. They taught us many of the new tunes in the Psalter. For the children of the community they held Bible classes in their home before and after school and very effectively conducted Vacation Bible School.

Our Synod adopted "The Covenant of 1954" which was signed by Synod and members at Grinnell College, Iowa, during our National Conference. It was a very solemn service. On September 25, 1954, sixty-nine of our members signed the brief covenant of 1954. Rev. Remo I. Robb, National C.Y.P.W. Secretary, was in charge of this service.

Our next pastor, Dr. A.W. Smith, was installed on October 25, 1955. Both Dr. and Mrs. Smith are active workers in the organizations of the church and community. They have been active in temperance work throughout the state. Their musical talents have benefited us in many ways. This year Mrs. Smith was honored by being chosen "Illinois Mother of the Year for 1959."

During the years that Dr. Smith was our minister, their son Kenneth was ordained as a minister and Alvin entered the R.P. Seminary. Both are active ministers in the work of the denomination.

Dr. Smith's parting admonitions were based on Hebrews 13: 1-18 and given on Aug. 5, 1962.

Rev. Charles Sterrett was installed as our fourteenth pastor on July 21, 1963. He and his family have entered heartily into all activities of the Church and of the community.

As a member of the Washington County Ministerial Association he visits the patients of the Nashville Hospital and Nursing Home regularly, as well as calls regularly on all residents of the community who are patients in other hospitals.

Rev. Sterrett's morning sermons are scholarly, true to the reformed faith, with an evangelistic overtone. His evening services have been ably given over to many series of studies based on various books of the Bible.

His ability in music has been most helpful. His work with the young people has been dedicated and rewarding.

It is our hope that he will labor in this community many more years.

#### CHARTER MEMBERS

Thomas McClurkin, Sr.  
Mrs. Elizabeth (Smith) McClurkin  
Miss Nancy McClurkin  
David McClurkin  
Thomas McClurkin, Jr.  
Mrs. Martha (Kirkpatrick) McClurkin  
John McClurkin  
Mrs. Elizabeth (Parks) McClurkin  
James McClurkin  
Mrs. Sara (Rodman) (Hood) McClurkin

John Donnelly  
Mrs. Rebecca (McClurkin) Donnelly  
Archibald Hood  
Mrs. Mary (Kirkpatrick) Hood  
John Hood  
Miss Margaret Hood  
Mrs. Isabelle Kirkpatrick  
James Kirkpatrick  
Mrs. Mary Kirkpatrick  
Miss Isabelle Kirkpatrick  
Miss Jane Kirkpatrick

#### MINISTERS WHO HAVE GONE FROM THE CONGREGATION

J.J. McClurkin	H.P. McClurkin	J.B. Tweed
J.R.W. Sloane	John Hood	C.T. Carson
R.C. Wylie	S.R. McClurkin	R.S. McElhinney
J.G. McElhinney	W.C. McClurkin	Melville K. Carson
R.W. Piper	O.F. Thompson	

#### MISSIONARIES WHO HAVE GONE FROM THE CONGREGATION

Mrs. Annie L. Kennedy Currie	Syria
Miss Irene Piper	Cyprus
Miss Eleanor Auld	Selma, Alabama

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE GIVEN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION

~~George Cherry~~

Thomas McClurkin

## WAR OF 1812

John McClurkin

## BLACK HAWK WAR

John Hood

## CIVIL WAR

Boyd, John	McClurkin, J.C.
Calderwood, Alexander	McClurkin, J.R.
Cook, Andrew	McClurkin, Thomas
Dermond, James	McElhinney, Charles
Donaldson, John	McElhinney, Robert
Donahue, Barney	McLean, John
Duguid, David	McLean, Thomas G.
Hood, Archibald	Meichen, Thomas
Hood, John, Rev.	Miller, William
Hood, Kennedy	Montgonery, John
Hunter, James	Morrison, James R.
Keady, Moses	Piper, John
Keady, Samuel	Rainey, James
Kelso, James	Ramsey, James
Kelso, Robert	Sharp, James
Kennedy, Andrew	Sloane, Alexander
Kennedy, John C.	Sloane, James H.
Luney, John	Thompson, D.G., Rev.
Luney, Robert	Todd, A.C., Rev.
Luney, Thomas	Torrens, James M.
McCair, William	Torrens John J.
McCloy, Samuel	Williamson, Sam.G.
McClurkin, Andrew	Williamson, S.P.
McClurkin, C.F.S.	Wylie, D.W.
McClurkin, D.W.	Wylie, J.W.

## SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

Luther Kemps

## WORLD WAR I

Auld, Kennedy	Duguid, Katherine
Carson, Floyd	Duguid, Mattie
Carson, J. Elwyn	McClay, Floyd
Carson, Roy M.	McClay, Lawrence
Carson, Willard	McClay, Oscar
	Torrens, Lloyd

## WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR , ARMY OF OCCUPATION

Auld, Charles W.	McLean, Thomas G.
Auld, Paul J.	Musselman, Dale
Auld, William R.	Palek, Charles
Brammeier, Glenn	Patton, Lawrence
Dintelman, Kenneth A.	Patton, Lloyd
Henderson, James	Piper, John H.
Henderson, John D.	Piper, Otis
Hood, Kenneth	Piper, Robert
Hunter, William D.	Richards, William
McClay, James L.	Sterrett, Charles, Rev.
McClay, Russell A.	Thompson, James P.
McLean, Bruce	Thompson, R. Glenn
McLean, Elmer	Torrens, J. Finley

# HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE OAKDAKE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH by Mrs. Nelda Robb

On January 15, 1868 the St. Louis Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church of North America met at Sparta, Illinois. During the evening session, which began at 6:30 P.M., the third item of business was that of considering a petition from Elkhorn Prairie which asked that a congregation be organized there. This petition was granted. The Rev. Mr. J.R. Finney and Elders Samuel L. Boyd and Joseph McHenry were appointed to effect such an organization.

On February 19, 1868, at 11:00 A.M., this committee met with interested persons in the old Reformed Presbyterian Church building by the cemetery to hear a sermon from the text, "The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth, I Tim. 3:15." After this service nine persons were received into membership of the new body. Samuel R. Stormont and Thomas G. Gormley were elected ruling elders, with March 7, 1868, set aside for their ordination and installation. The name Elkhorn United Presbyterian Congregation was selected. When the Rev. Mr. Finney met again with this new church group, nine more members were received into the congregation and the elders were installed.

During this same month of March, the General Synod Reformed Presbyterian Church (New School) also started a congregation in Elkhorn Prairie at the same old church building. This body adopted the name New Unity Elkhorn Congregation. From almost the first their membership was approximately thirty members and changed but very little. The two congregations bought the old brick church in partnership for \$ 800.00 from the Covenanter Congregation which had a new house of worship in the village of Oakdale. This structure was built in about 1835 and was sixty by forty feet made of local brick cast by the McAfee brothers.

Each congregation tried to keep preaching one half the time by securing supplies. In those early days church services lasted most of the Sabbath. There was a morning worship service, and at noon each family went to their wagon or buggy for a basket lunch eaten under the trees in the grove during clement weather. Then a long afternoon service followed.

This seems to have been the practice until 1870, for in that year the Western Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (New School) voted to unite with the United Presbyterian Church. Therefore on October 14, 1870, all but two families of the New Unity Elkhorn Congregation joined the United Presbyterians and sold their part of the building. The two groups of Presbyterians became one body. They celebrated the Lord's Supper together on Oct. 28, 1871.

In June, 1872, the Rev. J.M. Henderson was installed as the first pastor. By his faithful service the congregation grew to nearly one hundred members. Because of failing health, the Rev. Henderson resigned in Oct. 1876. While the church was without a pastor, members were lost but not all from a falling away, because this was a period when many Oakdale people sought homes elsewhere, some going west.

Two things happened in the spring of 1878. The congregation called a young minister from the local presbytery, the Rev. Mr. H.M. Pressley, who came in April but was not installed until August. The other important happening was the decision and action to build a new church. Money was subscribed, and lots 1, 3, 5, and 7 in Block 7 in the village of Oakdale were acquired during March and April. A contract for a new church building was let to Seyler and Watson of Nashville, Illinois.

The old brick church was torn down at the cemetery, and some of the material was used in the new building. On March 17, 1878, the first load of rock was hauled for the new building by Mr. L. Snyder. Mr. James Christie laid the foundation. Thirty-one loads of lumber were laid down on the site on April 30. A carpenter, Mr. Clark Gordon, began work. The records seem to indicate that the first service was held in this building on July 7. On July 27 the bell was raised, but the work seems not to have been finished until August first. No record of a dedication service has been found. In December of 1879 the name of the congregation was changed to Oakdale United Presbyterian. The Rev. Mr. Pressley left in January of 1886. During his pastorate the membership was raised again into the nineties.

For several years the church was without a shepherd until the Rev. Mr. Ritchie came in April of 1891. The congregation prospered, and on February 19, 1893, it celebrated a silver anniversary. By the time of Rev. Mr. Ritchie left in January of 1895, the membership was close to the 200 figure. A parsonage had been obtained and was debt free.

In June, 1895, the Rev. Mr. Chambers took up the work. Sad times followed. Mrs. Chambers died from complications in childbirth. A baby girl lived for a few months but died while her father, the Rev. Chambers, was away from Oakdale attending his father-in-law's funeral. The church held its strong membership, and the work of Christ continued in the community. Mr. Chambers was remarried to Miss Margaret Steele of Pennsylvania before he closed his pastorate in December 1900.

The two Rev. Mr. Jacksons next ministered to the congregation. During these years, study groups were active, and evangelistic meetings were held. In 1902 the session granted the young people the right to use an organ in their worship services. Later the same year, through the efforts of the young people, the instrument was used in the regular church services. Mary Ella Gordon was the first appointed organist with Mrs. Jennie Jackson assistant. In 1905 Anna Belle Kirkpatrick (Borcharding) was appointed organist, in which capacity she served for many years. Near the end of the Rev. S.A. Jackson's pastorate, the weekly envelope system was started. The congregation lost in membership somewhat, again because of migrating people.

In April, 1910, the Rev. R.H. Park took up his work as pastor, but he asked to defer installation until Mrs. Park and his daughter Bess joined him. For two years the Park family occupied the manse. During this time the congregation changed to individual communion service. In March 1912, the Park family removed to Morning Sun, Iowa.

In September 1913, the Rev. John J. Gardenier came to preach and was called as regular pastor in November. Again the work prospered. Presbytery met in Oakdale in the fall of 1914. The church was saddened by the war, and special offerings were taken. In 1917 the Gardeniers went out to visit and to attend special meetings. The Rev. Mr. Gardenier became ill on the way home. For three Sabbaths he tried to report on the meetings and preach briefly. On July 17, 1917, he was called to his heavenly home. A saddened congregation mourned his death. So it was that the congregation celebrated their golden anniversary on February 18, 1918, without a minister.

In April 1918, the Rev. W.G. Watson took over the pastorate. Christian people are not always filled with Christian grace, and our church was shamed by much discord. The Rev. Mr. Cassius G. McKnight worked to heal the strife when he came in June 1923. Presbytery met in Oakdale in April 1924. Repair work was done on the church property. Because of the oldest son, Charles' need for a different climate, the McKnight family left in June 1926.

The congregation had many candidates but could decide on none. In the summer of 1928, student Harold R. Karnes of Xenia Seminary was a stated supply. In September the congregation asked Mr. Karnes to continue his work with us during his student days and to come as settled pastor when seminary work was completed. Arrangements were made suitable to both the congregation and Mr. Karnes. In January 1929, a formal call was made to the Rev. Mr. H.R. Karnes. In May 1930, he asked to be released. While pastor, the Rev. Mr. Karnes sponsored a strong and vigorous young people's work in the church. From the local congregation he chose Miss Bessie McClay as his wife.

Several calls were made, but no minister was secured until early in 1931 when the Rev. Mr. Frederick S. Zeller and family accepted work with the Oakdale Congregation. These were the depression years that the Rev. Mr. Zeller worked among us. Money was scarce, and indebtedness was often the problem of the congregation. Some further work was done on the church building. Both the Rev. and Mrs. Zeller worked diligently with the youth of the church. In 1938 this pastorate terminated. The Rev. Mr. Zeller will be remembered especially for the excellent work he did as army chaplain in World War II with his paratroop unit some years after he left our midst.

In 1938 the Rev. Mr. John G. Dick and his sister Miss Margaret came to the manse. Many of the congregation today have fond memories of the ministrations of these servants of God among us. Miss Margaret Dick passed away during her brother's pastorate and is buried in our Oakdale cemetery. Because of failing health, the Rev. John G. Dick resigned in 1944.

The young Rev. Mr. Ralph Donaldson came in 1947 and was with us for two years. During this time much discussion took place concerning our church building. It was decided to raze our second house of worship and replace it with a new structure. During the Rev. Mr. Donaldson's pastorate, the name of the "United Presbyterian Church of Oakdale" was formally adopted.

On Easter, April 9, 1950, the final communion service was held in the old frame United Presbyterian Church. Members of the congregation began dismantling the building on Monday following the session meeting. At the time it was the oldest building of worship in the village. The contract for the new structure was let to Mr. Ray Williams of Harrisburg. On May 14, 1950 the congregation joined in a special Corner Stone Laying Ceremony. Church services that summer were held in the old school building which then stood on the opposite corner of the block. Dedication Services were held November 19, 1950. Dr. George P. Kerr, a son of the congregation and then of the Board of American Missions delivered the dedicatory address. The Rev. Mr. David S. Sharpe was serving as interim pastor.

The Rev. Mr. Meima was the first called pastor to direct worship services in the new church. In February 1956, the Rev. Mr. Walter White was installed as minister. For almost eight years he worked earnestly with the old and young alike and the congregation prospered. During his pastorate the United Presbyterian Church of North America united with the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Northern Body becoming the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. This union effected the local church government in a larger Presbyterial area. When the Rev. Mr. White felt called to return to Pennsylvania, many were reluctant to see his pastorate end but rejoiced that they might be near their respective parents, some of whom were in failing health.

In September 1956, the Rev. Mr. Phillip P. Brunn began his ministration. While he was pastor the congregation joined in the Fifty Million Fund, a money raising project of the national church body. His work terminated on the second Lord's Day of this year, (1968:)

For the third time the congregation celebrates its founding and again there is no shepherd over the flock. Yet with the greatest humility, we thank God for the blessings of the past century, for the witness of this church in the many lives it has served and for its place in the community. Earnestly we ask forgiveness for our many sins and shortcomings as a congregation and as Christian people. In His abundant grace we ask special blessings for a continuation of the work of Christ both here at Oakdale and as our Church ministers throughout the world.

The above historical sketch was read by Mrs. Robb at the Centennial Celebration.

## CHARTER MEMBERS

(Received into membership at the first session meeting constituted Feb. 19, 1868 by the Rev. Mr. J. R. Finney.)

A. B. Shaw	Robert McAuley	Thomas Boyle
William Kilpatrick	Thomas G. Gormley	Thomas Walker
Samuel R. Stormont	Margaret E. Kerr	David W. McClurkin

(Received into membership at the second session meeting constituted Mar. 7, 1868, by the Rev. Mr. J. R. Finney.)

William Bailey	Elizabeth McAuley	Robert Weaver
Margaret Bailey	John P. Brown	George McLain
Margaret Boyle	John Davis	James Edgar

## P ASTORATES

Rev. J. M. Henderson	1872-1876
Rev. H. M. Pressley	1878-1886
Rev. C. M. Ritchie	1891-1895
Rev. W. A. Chambers	1895-1900
Rev. H. T. Jackson	1901-1904
Rev. S. A. Jackson	1904-1909
Rev. R. H. Park	1910-1912
Rev. John J. Gardinier	1913-1917
Rev. W. B. Watson	1918-1920
Rev. Cassius G. McKnight	1923-1926
Rev. Harold R. Karnes	1929-1930
Rev. Frederick S. Zeller	1931-1938
Rev. John G. Dick	1938-1944
Rev. Ralph M. Donaldson	1947-1949
Rev. H. V. Meima	1952-1954
Rev. H. Walter White	1956-1963
Rev. Phillip P. Brunn	1965-1968

MINISTERS WHO HAVE GONE  
FROM THE CONGREGATION

Rev. John G. Klene b. 1862 d. 1937 Rev. George P. Kerr b. 1905

## HOME MISSION WORK

Miss Lottie Edgar, Hill Top, Arkansas

## MINISTERS' WIVES

Miss Bessie McClay (Mrs. Harold Karnes)  
Miss Elma McClurkin (Mrs. Thomas A. Davis)  
Miss Dolores Frieman (Mrs. Michael Hewitt)

## ELKHORN CEMETERY

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rezba furnished the following information about the Elkhorn Cemetery:

Mr. William Rountree, Sr. gave ground for the cemetery to the community with the understanding that anyone in the community could be buried there free of charges for the lot. The cemetery lies about half a mile east of the village. It is on a slightly rolling hillside.

On the north side of the cemetery are the oldest graves, many of which cannot be read. The oldest stone which can be read was that marking the grave of Barbara P ark who died in 1865.

The last Cemetery Trustees were, Arthur Shubert, John Reinhardt, Oliver Fox, Herman Mazander, Edward Kroener and W.G. Patton. In 1944 this cemetery was deeded to the Oakdale Township, conveying to the township the cemetery tract.

This cemetery, along with the Oakdale and Maxwell Cemeteries were deeded to the township in order that a tax might be levied for care of the tracts.

For several years, Mr. and Mrs. Rezba have placed flags on the following veteran's graves on Memorial Day:

### CIVIL WAR

W.M. Fox- Navy	Phillip Reuter, 43rd Reg. Ill. Vol.
Henry Schaeffer, Co. A. Mo. Inf.	Capt. Benjamin H. Klene

### WORLD WAR I

Cecil Dahncke	Otto Kroeher
William Cunningham	Frank Petrashek
Herman Mazander	Earl Dintelman
George Frieman	

### WORLD WAR II

Everett Mayer	William Koenig
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### CAP T. BENJAMIN H. KLENE

Capt. Benjamin H. Klene was born in 1828 and died in 1872. His wife, Mary L. Klene was born November 1, 1837 and died in 1910. Both are buried in the Elkton Cemetery.

Mr. Herman Frieman gave us this information about his grandfather, one of the veterans buried in the Elkhorn Cemetery.

### JOHANN PHILIP REUTER

Johann Philip Reuter was born Dec. 12, 1824 and died Feb. 15, 1883. He was married to Phillipine Zwangel on Aug. 3, 1859.

He was enlisted in the service Sept. 22, 1864 at Alton, Ill. in the 43rd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, to serve one year. He was on the Muster Roll of Co. "G" for Nov. and Dec., 1864. He was transferred to Co. "d" in Jan., 1865. He was mustered out at Little Rock, Arkansas, July 7, 1865. He was a Private. (The war was referred to in the papers as the "War of the Rebellion.")

His first application from him for a pension is dated, January 3, 1878. There is no correspondence whether he received it or not. Later, as of April 19, 1881 he was receiving \$2.00 per month pension, at that time he requested an increase in the pension. The attorney for this request was T. S. LeCompte and the witnesses were Emil Schmidt and William Lane, the Clerk was W. S. Nisey. Later he drew a pension under Pension Certificate # 162749 for \$3.00 per month, from June 9, 1881 to date of death.

His widow applied for a pension May 1, 1883. (Her attorney was Thomas S. LeCompte, the County Clerk was H. F. Reuter, and the witnesses were Henry Dunkhorst and Judge George Vernon.) At the time of her death, Oct. 31, 1915, she was receiving a pension of \$36.00 per month. She showed five dependent children on her first application.

The following is a letter sent with her pension request record:

#### STATE OF ILLINOIS - COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

In the matter of date of children of John Phillip Reuter deceased, personally came before me, Notary Public in and for aforesaid County and State, Henry Dunkhorst and Henry Stieg, Trustees of Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul Church of Elkton, Illinois.

Who being first duly sworn depose and says, that they are trustees of Aforesaid Church, that the congregation is at present without a Pastor.

That the following is a true and correct copy of the Church record regards to the birth of the children of John Phillip and Phillipine Reuter to wit:

Gustave Adam Reuter	Born Feb. 26, 1872
Louis Wilhelm Henry Reuter	Born Feb. 17, 1874
Walter Herman Reuter	Born Sept. 23, 1875
Jane Waltena Reuter	Born Sept. 25, 1877
Edward Ferdinand Reuter	Born April 1, 1880

Further dependants sayeth not

Signed

Henry Dunkhorst and Henry Stieg  
Sworn to and subscriber to this 30th day of April A.D. 1883

J. Wren Kennedy

Notary Public

## OAKDALE COMMUNITY CEMETERY

"On October 13, 1858, John and Elizabeth McClurkin, his wife, deeded a five acre tract of land to the Trustees of the Reformed Presbyterian Church at Elkhorn, Washington County for the use of the Reformed Presbyterian Congregation for church purposes and for a cemetery." Trustees named: John Steel, Joseph Torrens, William Morrison, & John Hood.  
Consideration \$ 6.25 Deed Book Vol.10 p.446

After the church property was sold to the United Presbyterian Congregation, it was considered a joint cemetery, then later as a community cemetery.

On Feb. 10, 1941, the Oakdale Community Association, was incorporated to look after the care of the cemetery.

On April 4, 1944, the Oakdale Community Cemetery Association gave a warranty deed to Oakdale Township, conveying to the township the cemetery tract.

In 1954, Belle Carson gave a strip of land 10 feet wide along the north side of the cemetery to the township of Oakdale. This addition makes it possible to drive up one roadway and cross to the second roadway.

## MAXWELL CEMETERY

In the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25-3-4 on the Walter Maxwell farm is located a Family Cemetery. The oldest grave seems to be that of an infant son of W.F. Maxwell buried in 1852. Another child was buried in 1862 and their father was buried in 1880. The last burial in the cemetery was that of Agnes Maxwell in 1948. About seventeen graves are in the plot.

In 1944 this cemetery was also deeded to the Oakdale Township.

## AYERS CEMETERY

High on a hill in Mrs. T.E. McLean's pasture south of town is a family cemetery fenced out of the pasture. It was reserved by the Ayers Family as a family burying plot. There are about a dozen graves, some marked, some not. Mr. William Ayers was buried there in 1865. There is one grave that has large rocks heaped over it. Several children from the family or from the town are also buried here.

There used to be several stones in the wooded land north of town, near a creek. Most of stones have disappeared but one rock on which the name of Parks was carved by hand is still there. It could have been one of the Ayers or Washburn family as a Mr. John Washburn who died in 1852 had a daughter married to a man by the name of Parks. The story of the honesty and the poverty of these people is revealed in an Abstract of Title in connection with the Ayers original entry.

# DECORATION DAY AT OAKDALE

By L.R.H.

I have been told that decoration of the graves was carried on by a few people to some extent shortly after the Civil War ended but records in an old scrap book claim that the first organized Decoration Day in Oakdale was May 30, 1880.

On that day four persons were honored; Alexander McAllister, who had been wounded at Perryville, Kentucky; Mrs. Rebecca Boyd Hood, who had a brother in the service; and Miss Elizabeth McClurkin who gave a brother to the cause.

The occasion grew each year until it got to be an important event in the community. The first I can recall of Decoration Day as a boy was in the morning about 10:00 o'clock a wagon would go by our home on the way to the cemetery. There would be eight or ten soldiers on this wagon. One had a drum, another a bugle and the big flag was held high above the farm wagon. As they went by each farm house on the way to the cemetery, they would strike up one of the old Civil War songs.

My mother would fill a basket with a picnic dinner and we would get in the old surrey and go over to the cemetery. In the early morning someone, usually Mr. Robert Piper, later Mr. Henry Luebberstedt, would place a flag on the grave of each man who had served as a soldier in any war. When the crowd gathered, the soldiers would line up with a flag bearer and Captain Coulter at the head of the line. Children and others present would follow carrying bouquets of flowers. As they came to a soldier's grave, Captain Coulter called the name of the soldier and gave his company, the flag bearer dipped the flag over the grave, two children stepped forward and placed their bouquets on the grave, Capt. Coulter gave the command to proceed on, the children dropped to the back of the line for more flowers. This ceremony would be repeated at each grave site until all the graves had been decorated. They would return to the entrance of the cemetery where they had placed an imitation monument made of wood would place in the center of the walk. On the sides of this monument were posted the names of the old soldiers of this community who were buried elsewhere. As their names were read flowers were placed at the base of this monument.

Then all would gather in family groups under the trees in the grove just south of the cemetery and eat their dinners which were spread out on a cloth on the ground. For many families this was the only day in the year they all got together.

After dinner they would have a program of speeches and songs. One of the things that I remember being part of the program every year was Alex McAllister singing the song, "The Old Coffee Kettle." After he sang a verse or so he would come down off the speaker's platform and go through the crowd while he was still singing and shake hands with each one of his old comrades as he called them by name. Another part of each program was for Mrs. Carrie McClurkin to sing "When Sherman Marched Down to the Sea".

Decoration Day probably reached its peak attendance about the time of World War I as most everyone had their mind on the

war and the soldiers. At that time it was just held in the afternoon and they would have a stand where they sold ice-cream, soda and pop-corn. We small children would always look forward to this day with a lot of anticipation and thought of it as a picnic but the old soldiers thought of that day in a more serious way. To them it seemed as almost a sacred day. Some of the young men wanted to have a ball game that afternoon in an adjoining pasture, but the older men decided that it would not be appropriate to have a sports event on that day. As a result no ball game was played.

Just after World War I, I heard several of the old Civil War veterans make the statement that they were thinning out but the soldiers of the recent war would be here to carry on this occasion. However in a few years all the Civil War soldiers were gone and it seemed that the young soldiers were not interested. There is no organized gathering now, although most of the families do go over to the cemetery and decorate the graves of their families.

At the present time two grand-daughters of Captain Coulter, Claudine and Lucile Coulter assisted by grand-children and great-grand-children of other soldiers place flags on the soldier's graves early on Memorial Day morning. Flags are placed on the graves of forty-nine soldiers.

#### REVOLUTIONARY WAR

George Cherry- Patriotic Service Thomas McClurkin-Private

#### WAR OF 1812

John McClurkin

#### BLACK HAWK WAR

John Hood

#### CIVIL WAR

Moses Keady, Co.F., 10th Mo.	Robert McConnell, Co.B., 80th Ill.
Christian Borcharding, Co.A., 15th Mo.	Andrew Cook, Co.F., 10th Mo.
Samuel L. Coulter, Co.B., 111th Ill.	James M. Torrens, Co.B., 80th Ill.
Joseph Semple, Co.F., 80th Ill.	John Piper, Co.B., 111th Ill.
J.R. McClurkin, Co.F., 10th Mo.	Robert Carrick, Co.F., 10th Mo.
J.R. McGee, Co.B., 111th Ill.	Cyrus McClurkin, Co.F., 10th Mo.
Henderson Sloane, Co.F., 10th Mo.	Thomas McClurkin, Co.F., 10th Mo.
John McLean, Co.F., 10th Mo.	Andrew T. Kennedy, Co.F., 10th Mo.
Robert Smith Mo. State Militia	R. G. Ardrey, Co. B., 111th Ill.
John Luney, Co.F., 10th Mo.	Sam Williamson, Co.F., 10th Mo.
Louis Snyder, Co.A. 31st Ill.	Henry Hunter, Co.F., 80th Ill.
William Miller, Co.F., 10th Mo.	Jas. R. Sloane, 126th Illinois
John Boyd, Co.F., 10th Mo.	Robert Carrick, Co.I., 49th Ill.
James Kemps, Co.G. 13th Ill.	Andrew Ford, Co.I., 30th Ill.
Thomas G. McLean, Co.I., 30th Ill.	Thomas Michen, Co.F., 10th Mo.
William McConnell, Co.I., 80th Ill.	David Duguid, Co.K., 129th Ind.
J.R. Morrison, Co. ., 80th Ill.	James McConnell, Co.I., 80th Ill.
Robert Luney, Co.G., 13th Ill. Cavalry	

MEXICAN WAR  
James Morton

WORLD WAR I

J.A. Doswald, Pvt., U.S. Army  
Paul Brammeier,  
Herman Kroener

William Elliott  
James Henderson

WORLD WAR II

Curtis Torrens  
Thomas McLean

Howard McClay  
Charles Palek

The following was found in the John Piper Scrap Book

THE OLD COFFEE KETTLE

How dear to our hearts are the days when we soldiered,  
As fond recollection presents them to view--  
The long lines of earth-works, the deep-tangled thickets,  
And every rough spot that our army life knew,  
The long parks of cannon, with harness and saddles,  
The picket roped horses, oft trying to roll;  
The cook-house, the guard tent, the muskets staked high it,  
And the old coffee-kettle that hung on a pole;  
The sheet-iron kettle, the smutty old kettle,  
The old coffee-kettle that hung on the pole.

How dear, to this, are the form and the faces  
Of those who stood by us in these trying times!  
But too many are gone from the ranks and their places  
That it mightily shortens the original lines,  
Hard marching and fighting we all well remember,  
And everything trying to body and soul;  
But one thing we had that was genuine pleasure--  
'Twas the old coffee-kettle that hung on the pole;  
The sheet-iron kettle, the smutty old kettle,  
The old coffee kettle that hung on the pole.

Thirteen dollars a month for standing as targets  
For heaps of cold lead and old iron and steel;  
But Grant says we're better for what we endured then--  
And we can't make a point on the general's deal,  
We ate "salt horse" and hard tack in all kinds of weather;  
But still, my old chums, we all always remember  
The old coffee-kettle, that hung on a pole;  
The sheet-iron kettle, the smutty old kettle,  
The old coffee-kettle that hung on the pole.

This is only part of the song.

## POSTMASTERS AT OAKDALE

The first mail delivered to Oakdale was probably brought by Post Riders and picked up by the settlers from a post. History states that in 1850 Thomas Bird established a post office at Ayers Point. Many people living in Oakdale today remember the log house in which he kept this office.

No one knows how long this office was continued but it seemed to have been discontinued prior to the plotting of Oakdale. Ayers is thought to have kept some kind of post office in his store for a time.

The first post master after service was resumed was Mr. R.G. Ardrey who started the post office in the southeast corner of his store in June 1877. Mr. Ardrey continued as the post master until 1907 when Ray Kirkpatrick was appointed postmaster.

Mr. Kirkpatrick continued to operate the post office in the Ardrey Store building until 1913 when he moved it into a new building which he had built on the west half of Lot 1 Block 3. This building was a very appropriate building for a post office. He continued as post master in this building until 1918.

Following is a list of people who served as post masters and the place where each served:

Agnes Maxwell-in the house which is now Charlie Brammeier's home.

Lester Guthrie- in his drug store, Oct. 1, 1922-Sept. 30, 1927

Madge Guthrie -in the same drug store, Oct. 1, 1927-Aug. 31, 1944.

Agne Maxwell -in front of Borcharding Store, Sept. 1, 1944-2-28-45

Dalton Rohde, Jr.- in the front part of the Borcharding Store  
March 1945- Dec. 1, 1947

Edwin Luczaj - in the Borcharding Store-Dec. 1, 1947- June 1952  
In 1952 he moved the office to the Woodside building where Ed is still (1969) the post master with Wilbur Fox as his assistant.

## POSTMASTERS AT ELKTON

In the HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY by Brink, 1879 there is a report that "In 1850, Thomas Bird established a Post Office at the Point." The Thomas McLean family used to have a letter addressed to Ayers Point. The history also reports that Isaac Pearle was postmaster at Elkhorn.

Residents of Elkton remember when Mr. Dunkhorst had the Post-office in his store. They also remember when Mr. Plumhoff had the Post-office in his store. When the Rural Route #1 was established in 1905, I suppose the Post-Office would be closed as this route served the Elkton community.

"A four-horse coach running from Ashley via Nashville and Oakdale to Coulterville and Sparta carried the mail in 1868,"  
Copied from a published clipping mounted in an old Scrap Book)

## RURAL MAIL CARRIERS

Mr. Roy Carr recalls that Mr. Henry Stark carried pouches of mail from Nashville to Elkton before the railroad was built through Oakdale; but he was uncertain about the mail to Oakdale.

Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick recalls that after the railroad was built, his Uncle Will Kirkpatrick and later Robert Kearns carried mail from Oakdale to Marissa on what was called the "Star Route." Stops were made at Elkton, Lively Grove, Junger's Corner or Susanne Schaeffers, he thought probably at Biddleborn, then on to Marissa. It seemed that mail for these places were put in a pouch, each Post Master along the way took out the mail for his office and put in his out-going mail, then the carrier proceeded along the way. It was up to each individual in the area to go in person to get his mail.

Lon Hunter was the first mail carrier after the R.F.D. was started a short time before 1905.

Ed Reuter started in 1905, when a second route out of Oakdale was started and retired in 1935.

Ray Kirkpatrick was a substitute carrier for both routes.

Dalton Rohde, Sr. carried the mail from January 16, 1915 to August 13, 1947.

Dalton Rohde, Jr. carried from Dec. 1, 1947 to the present time.

### LON HUNTER

Alonzo Hunter was born near Oakdale to James Henry and Margaret Holliday Hunter. He married Della Boyle. They had three sons Ralph, Marshall and Holliday. They built the home now occupied by the Todd Fox family about 1910.

Mr. Hunter was a mail carrier for many years. They moved to California where he died Feb. 1, 1936.

### EDWARD F. REUTER

After many long months of illness resulting from a stroke Edward F. Reuter, a retired rural letter carrier of the Oakdale community died at his home in Nashville on June 7, 1953. He was 73 years old.

He was a native of Elkton, where he was born to Philip and Philipine (Schwengel) Reuter on April 1, 1880. He married Mary C. Buhrman April 6, 1904, and the couple established their home in Oakdale. Mr. Reuter served as a letter carrier until his retirement in 1935 after 30 years of duty.

A central figure in the area covered by his delivery of mail Mr. Reuter's career was a colorful and gratifying one which took him through the era of horseback to horse and buggy days and then to the automobile, as well as from bad roads to good roads. To the people of his route, by virtue of the countless errands of mercy he performed for them, he epitomized and was often termed the 'Good Samaritan'. That he had the interest of his people at heart was evident by a chronological account he kept and cherished of events in his territory. Included were the exact number of births as well as deaths that transpired along the way over his period of work. While the modern times were revelation to him as he

recalled the earlier days, still he thrived on the memories of those other times.

Mr. and Mrs. Reuter were the parents of two sons who remain with the widow to survive his passing. They are Melvin and Zenas of Nashville.

#### DALTON L. ROHDE, SR.

Dalton L. Rohde, Sr. began carrying the mail on Route 1, out of Oakdale on January 15, 1915. Route 1 ran from Oakdale to Elkton, to Lively Grove, and on to Casper's Point (also called Suzanne or Clapboards Town). From there it went north to the crossroads, east to the township line. From there it went north a mile and east to Broadhollow, south to the old Duffy farm, east past the Hibbard School, then south and east past Oakdale Cemetery and on into town.

The winter of 1915 was one of the worst of many bad winters, with axle deep mud a great deal of the time. This often necessitated changing teams twice a day, in order to cover the 28 miles of the route. Mr. Rohde soon ordered one of the first Parcel Post wagons used in the country. These were one size larger than the standard mail wagon. It was needed, since Route 1 was one of the heaviest mail routes in the county. The two teams which he kept were regularly shod at George Decker's Blacksmith Shop.

In 1918 the carriers began to use cars on their routes when the weather and road conditions permitted. In the mail wagon a sheep hide was used as a floor covering, and a lighted lantern to add heat was set under the lap robe for zero weather. There were several occasions when the team ran away, tearing up the wagon and gear when they were frightened by a flapping canvas or some unexpected noise. With the coming of improved roads, the cars were used all the year round, with horses being used only occasionally on part of the route.

In the summer of 1934, the Route 2 carrier, Ed Reuter retired. At this time, Routes 1 and 2 were combined, making 52 miles to cover, only 10 of which were rocky. This left an impossible 42 miles of mud at certain times of the year. The only solution to this was for the carrier to pay a helper out of his own pocket. Two years after the consolidation, an auxiliary assistant was granted for 4 months out of the year, to carry the former Route 2.

Mr. Rohde, who carried mail 32 and one half years, carried mail for the last time on August 23, 1947. He passed away on Aug. 27, '47. His first concern was that every patron should have his mail every day, and spared no expense or effort to achieve this goal.

Albert Dintleman carried the mail from August 23, 1947 to November 30, 1947 as a temporary carrier.

On Dec. 1, 1947, Dalton Rohde, Jr., the Postmaster, was transferred to carrier on Route 1 and still carries this route. (1969) The route today has 73 miles, 176 boxes, and 196 families. The present substitute rural carrier is Kenneth Hood.

For many years Mr. Lester Guthrie hauled the mail between the Post Office and the station until the railroad quit hauling the mail. Now Mr. Patton of Coulterville transfers mail between Coulterville and Oakdale.

## TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Mr. Roy Carr and Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick gave us some information about long distance service which some of the merchants in this part of the county had before phones came into general use. A long distance line from Belleville to southern Illinois crossed the railroad tracks just north of the McKinley Station crossing. Mr. R.G. Ardrey in Oakdale, Mr. Walter Plumhoff in Elkton, Mr. Lichtenfeld in Lively Grove and Mr. Jasper in Stone Church were all known to have long distance phones. They were thought to have been connected to the Bell System in Belleville.

In Elkton, Mr. Walter Plumhoff operated the first switchboard in his store. He made his own switchboard of a cigar box. He drove tacks in the bottom of the box. Fastened moveable arms at the center of the box. By moving these arms so that they touched the tacks which served as posts for the lines he wished to connect he could give service to anyone on the first three lines installed. As more lines were installed, a regular switchboard was installed. In all there were 7 line on the Elkton exchange.

After Mr. Plumhoff, others who operated the switch-board were Mrs. Henry Kroener, Mr. George Rezba, and Miss Elnora Carr.

The first phones in the Oakdale area were installed in 1902. An old newspaper clipping stated in the Oakdale items that the 16th line had just been installed. These lines with 3 or 4 trunk lines served the community for many years.

About 1950, the system was so worn out and neglected that the service was almost impossible. Many patrons dropped off the lines. In order for the Egyptian Telephone Cooperative Association to contract for service in a community, the area had to be without phone service, therefore it was discontinued in 1953. Two or three phones were left for emergency service.

The homes were without any kind of telephone service until October 1955 when the new lines were ready for use and new dial phones were installed on 4 party lines. The minimum monthly rate for this service was \$ 3.50. By 1958 it was raised to \$ 4.50. The service was very good and gave us 24 hour service to any place in the U.S. by paying for long distance calls.

By 1962 we had Direct Distance Dialing. In 1967 the lines were placed underground with service changed to single party lines.

The following were the switch-board operators under the Farmers Cooperative System:

Mr. John McKean	1903-1910	Mrs. Carol Krehr	1947
Mrs. Mary J. Kirkpatrick	1911-1933	Mr. John Brammeier	1948
Mr. Charles Brammeier	1934-1943	Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick	1949-1953
Mr. Albert Ibendahl	1944-1946		

Mr. Kirkpatrick tells us that the old Oakdale switchboard was repaired and used again at either Venedy of Stone Church for a time under the new system.

## STORES AT OAKDALE

William Ayers had the first store in Oakdale. When he came in 1823, he built a log house. Some time later he built a two story frame bouse just west of this log house. he used the old log house as a store and sold supplies to those who lived in the area and also to people who passed through on the old trails which passed his store. This old store is part of Mrs. T.E. McLean's barn.

From Mrs. Thomas McLean's Scrap-book and from her daughter Anna Boyd's Scrap-book, I found this clipping from an old newspaper: "After the war some army pals started a store near Ayers Point. They were David Wylie, Archibald Hood, Thomas P. Anderson, and David McClurkin. They nicknamed their place Stag Town.

When they went West, Mr. Steele and Mr. McLeish had stores. Later Mr. Steele started a store in Evans, Colorado and James Torrens went there to clerk for him."

From a book of records and clippings kept by Miss Ella Auld, now owned by Mrs. Ward Auld, I found these two clippings from old newspapers:

"Notice of the death of Captain Anderson, brother of R.P. Anderson of Coulterville was received here. He was a former resident here. He and David McClurkin and Archie Hood had the first store in Oakdale on the hill now owned by Mrs. Julia Borcharding."

"T.P. Anderson Obituary-Mr. Anderson died in Kansas City, Mo. on February 26, 1915.

"For a time, he with David McClurkin as a partner kept a store at Oakdale, Illinois." (In 1969, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Fulton live in the home once owned by Mrs. Julia Borcharding.)

Messrs. J.R. Morrison and John McKean built a drug store before the town was platted. When the town was surveyed, this store was found to be on ground that was surveyed as part of High Street. Mr. John McKean later built a drug store on Second Street in Block 6, Lot 4.

This small first drug store was later used by the Garnholz Store for many years as a warehouse.

From the WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORY OF 1879, I find that the founders of Oakdale carried on merchandising in the old Ayers log building after it was surveyed in Jan. of 1867. They operated this store for one year. In the latter part of 1867, Steele and McCleish opened a general store. They were followed in 1868 by Gormley & Co. The town now contains two stores, a general store by Ardrey & Bro., and a drug store by J.R. Morrison & Co.

(Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick tells us that Gormley & Co. bought out the McCleish Store and that Mr. Ardrey later bought it from Gormley & Co.)

## ARDREY STORE

On the inside of the cover on the McLean Scrapbook was pasted what appeared to be the picture from a large calendar given in 1907 by the Ardrey Store. Above the picture were the dates 1871 on the left side and 1907 on the right hand side. Between the dates were the words COMPLIMENTS AND BEST WISHES OF R.G. ARDREY AND SON.

No doubt the Ardrey Store was owned by R.G. Ardrey and his brother Thomas who later moved to Missouri. Mr. Ardrey's son, William was born August 16, 1869, hence would not be able to help for many years. The son married in 1896 and went to Colorado soon afterward. Mr. Ardrey did many things besides operate a store. In June 1877 he was postmaster and operated the Post Office in the southeast corner of his store room until 1907 when Ray Kirkpatrick was appointed to be postmaster. The Post Office remained in the store until 1913 when Mr. Kirkpatrick moved into a new building which he had built just west of the old bank building.

Just back of his store, Mr. Ardrey had an ice-house, built with double walls filled with saw dust for insulation. In the winter, he had young men go out to the ponds, saw out blocks of ice and store in the ice-house. Many a good freezer of home-made ice-cream was frozen by this ice. He also had poultry dressed back of the store.

In the early days, a Mr. McAfee was a clerk in this store for many years. George Borchherding began counting eggs for Mr. Ardrey in 1892. He continued to work on in various capacities until 1904 when he entered the Garnholz Store. Mr. John Murphy clerked most of the time between about 1897 and 1908 or whenever the store closed down.

About 1908, Mr. Charles Lancaster, his brother LaMarr and two brothers-in-law came to Oakdale to open a bank. They brought with them the safe which was later enclosed in the green cage used by the Oakdale banks until Dec. 21, 1968. They opened a private bank in the corner of Mr. Ardrey's store. It was just to your right as one entered the front door of the original store. As I recall, there was some kind of an inclosure around their work center. The bank was known as the OAKDALE COMMERCIAL BANK. They gave out small banks in the shape of books as souvenirs. The bank was re-organized shortly with business men and farmers buying stock and a building. The bank was moved from the store and the Lancasters and company left.

In 1905 Mr. Ardrey bought the "mill site" and used the rock from the old basement walls to lay foundations for additions to his store. He probably used some brick in constructing the first addition. His business was expanded after the first addition was built by moving the dry goods section to it. I doubt if he ever used the last addition he built for any of his business.

The Ardrey Store Building was used in various ways after the store was closed out:

Ray Kirkpatrick continued with the post office until 1913.

Cinda Kaufman Brammeier bought cream there for several years.

Dr. Lester Barton had a dental office for a time in one room.

Charles Kaufman had a barber shop there for a time.

Al Guthrie had a hatchery here before moving to the Garnholz-Borchherding Store Building.

The Oakdale High School used the original room for a gym.

A.J. Gambill started a grocery store and meat market in the middle room and remained there until he moved his market to the building which Ray Kirkpatrick had built for a post office on the west half of Lot 1 Block 3. He moved about 1918.

Ray Mazander bought milk there for the Pevely Dairy Co. while they built their new receiving station.

Until the second room was added to the Garnholz-Borchherding Store, they used part of the store for a ware-house.

It may have been used in other ways of which we have not learned. Finally another cream buying place and a small grocery and meat market was opened by a Mr. Smith. On Dec. 9, 1938, a stove he used, exploded and burned the building to the ground. This is the only building in the surveyed town of Oakdale that ever burned down, to the best of our knowledge. At the time the building burned it belonged to Mrs. George Decker, she having inherited it from her father, Henry Grammaman.

The Ardrey Building was located on the corner of Second and Walnut, Block 6, Lot 8.

#### WILLIAM KROENER BLACKSMITH SHOP

Several years after the Ardrey building was burned down, Fred Buhrman bought the site, had a neat filling station built which he leased to a Mr. Garner of Nashville for ten years. Several attempts were made to operate a filling station here. Ed Hudspeth used it for a garage for his school bus several years.

William Kroener had started blacksmithing in the Decker Shop in 1947. When Mr. Decker sold his shop in 1959, William Kroener bought the filling station site. He disposed of the pumps and has been kept busy ever since, especially in the busy farming season. On a summer day the space in front of the shop is lined with machinery waiting for welding or some other repair job.

#### OAKDALE CREAMERY

According to the records, James B. McClurkin, unmarried, deeded to the Directors of the Oakdale Creamery Association and their successors in office on March 29th 1887, Lots 6 & 8 Block 4 town of Oakdale, Illinois." Book 76 page 375

On the south-west corner of Lot 6 a creamery was built on the west slope of a low hill. Farmers delivered their milk on the east side of the building, where it was weighed by Charles McElhenny for several years. The milk was separated and butter was made by John B. Torrens. The farmers drove down the slope on the north side of the building and around to the south side where they could buy skim milk for very little or maybe it was given away to them. Excess skim milk was also sold to people around town who raised pigs. Butter washings were run into a cistern on the west side of the building.

On March 4th 1893 "The Oakdale Creamery Association of Oakdale, Illinois, a corporation of Illinois by J.W. Torrens, President and A.T. Kennedy, Secretary, deeded Lots 6 & 8 Block 4 of Oakdale, Illinois to R.G. Ardrey for \$ 2200.00."

When Mr. Ardrey bought the building from the corporation, he hired James Ranwick Kirkpatrick as butter maker and Andrew Hildebrandt as milk weigher. In 1895, at the age of 15 years, Ray Kirkpatrick worked at the creamery with his father until his father's death in 1899. John Gordon worked at the creamery, probably after Mr. Kirkpatrick's death.

On August 26th 1905, R.G. Ardrey bought Lots 2 & 4 from Moses Keady and wife for \$200.00. "Book 106 page 376"

Sam McConaghie worked at the creamery for several years, it is not known when.

"On Nov. 28th 1908 R.G. Ardrey and wife sold Lots 2-4-6 & 8 Block 4 town of Oakdale to Wm Grafeman of St. Louis, Mo. and to C.F. Finke, Nashville, Ill. for \$2300.00." Book 114 page 354

Later C.F. Finke and wife sold their interest to Grafeman. After Grafeman bought the creamery, the milk was separated by Charlie Hawker. The skim milk was made into casein and shipped to St. Louis in ten gallon cans. The cream was also shipped in the same manner.

Others who worked at the creamery were Lambert Raglan, Elmer Borcharding, Bill Douglas, Ross Guthrie, Conrad Bassler. The old creamery was closed down for some time. At that time John Klene. Husky (Harold) McGill and Ray Mazander hauled milk to Nashville when trucks could get through, otherwise it had to be shipped on the train. The Condensery at Nashville is thought to have been the buyer. George Decker was thought to have had these people hired to haul for him.

In the fall of 1925, the property seemed to have been sold for taxes by H.F. Heckert and it came into the hands of the Pev-ely Dairy Co. of St. Louis. They wrecked the old building and replaced it with the building now used as a barn on the Coulter property. While the building was in construction, Ray Mazander bought for Pevely at the Ardey Store. He and Elwood McClurkin and also Harry Schaeffer worked in the new receiving station. At this time the chilled milk was trucked to Nashville by Husky McGill and others. Gus Luebke had the contract for hauling. It probably did not operate more than five or six years.

After the roads were improved, Roy Carr drove a truck over the country from farm to farm picking up the cans of milk from 1938 to 1947. He delivered to the Addieville Dairy Co.

As laws were changed and electricity came into common use, the dairy business changed. Small herds disappeared, large herds milked by machines, with the milk chilled in electrically refrigerated vats is now picked up at the farm and hauled in vacuum tanks to dairies in Chester or St. Louis. Hands do not touch the milk in the whole process. Barns, machinery etc are inspected regularly.

## THE KENNEDY MILL IN ELKTON

William Kennedy was born in Ireland, August 1, 1809, the son of James and Catherine Cannon Kennedy. He came to America with his parents in 1823, where they first settled in Pennsylvania. On November 17, 1836 he married Eleanor McCall Todd who had been born in Charleston, South Carolina on November 17, 1812. She was the daughter of Dr. Andrew Todd and sister of Rev. A.C. Todd, an early minister in the Elkhorn Covenant Church.

Mr. Kennedy settled on a tract of land in Johannesburg and Plum Hill Townships where he farmed, hauling his farm products to St. Louis by wagon. He was the father of four sons and one daughter: Andrew Todd, James Renwick, William Cannon, John Calvin and Louisa Margaret who grew to adulthood. He gave a home to several homeless men and boys. Two of the sons, Andrew and John served in the Civil War.

When his family was about grown, he moved to Elkton where in 1866, he built a flour mill which he and his four sons operated. They also bought and sold wheat. Brand names of their flour were: "Southern Star", "Kennedy's Choice", "Kennedy's Family", "Sucker Mills", and "Washington Mills". Their products were hauled by wagon to St. Louis and supplies of various nature were brought back. We are told that Mr. Conrad Kaufman, father of Daniel Kaufman and grandfather of Mrs. Cinda Brammeier, also hauled flour to Coulterville. An illustration of the roads in those days; the hills at Mud Creek were steep and when mud was deep and the mules strained to go up hill, the wagon tilted to the back. Mr. Kaufman found that by walking out on the tongue between the mules, the wagon came down and the mules could make it up the hill.

"When Mr. Kennedy built a brick house in Elkton, an entry in his day-book states that he paid on 8-16-1867 \$2,000. He then dug there two cisterns and a well and built a barn."

"Fire destroyed the mill in March 1876. Little was saved, loss was estimated at \$ 12,000 with \$7,300 insurance."

Mr. Kennedy's great-grand-daughter, Mrs. Harold Auld has a tin-type picture of the Kennedy Mill. It looks as if it had been a large two story building with a very tall chimney.

On February 3, 1880 Mr. Kennedy died suddenly while seated in his chair in his home. His widow remained in their home for many years. A grand-daughter, Eleanor Todd Kennedy returned from Pennsylvania and lived with Mrs. Kennedy until she was married. She was married in their home in Elkton on Nov. 13, 1889 to Mr. David Carson of east of Oakdale.

Mrs. Kennedy spent the last years of her life in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Louisa Auld, where she died on July 30, 1900.

After serving as Sergeant in Co. F. 10th Mo., Andrew T. Kennedy returned to Elkton. On May 11, 1865 he was married to Miss Katie J. Wilson, daughter of Prof. James Wilson of Pennsylvania. His wife died on May 29, 1867 leaving a daughter Eleanor, who was cared for by her grandmother and aunt until she went to Pennsylvania where she lived with her aunts and attended school.

On May 1, 1872, Mr. Andrew T. Kennedy married Miss Rebecca Jane McClay, daughter of David and Nancy (Carson) McClay. They lived for a number of years on a farm east of Oakdale where a son Bliss was born on Jan. 23, 1876. He became a doctor and practiced in Maryville, Missouri. Four daughters, Katie Bell, Annie Laurie, Leila Ada, and Emily Rebecca were born to this couple.

On August 18, 1881, James Ranwick Kennedy was married to Emma Maria Beaver, daughter of Ephriam and Rebecca (Little) Beaver. They made their home in St. Louis, Mo.

On December 26, 1879, Louisa Kennedy was married to William R. Auld. They made their home on a farm west of Oakdale for many years. Eleanor, Ada, Kennedy and Ward were born to this couple.

Dr. William Cannon Kennedy born Sept. 2, 1856 was married on May 1, 1879 to Mary Mae Aitken. He practiced medicine most of his life in New York City.

General John C. Kennedy was born Oct. 20, 1843 and married his cousin Catherine Cannon Kennedy on Oct. 30, 1865. They lived in Denver, Colorado most of their lives.

Most of the material in the above article was found in a Genealogical Record Book and Scrap Book kept by the Will Auld Family, especially Eleanor. Some was from an article written by Lavina Anderson Sterrett found in another Scrap-book. Some was gotten through interviews with relatives.

We also found that John Burns, an orphan raised in the home of Thomas Donnelly, was a miller by trade and had worked in both the Elkton and Oakdale Mills. Mr. Burns along with Hugh Calderwood held 1/3 undivided interest in the Oakdale Mill for about a year, 1877-1878.

#### PARTIAL LIST OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR			ASSESSOR		TOWN CLERK	
1883	David Luke	1884	H. Dunkhorst	1884	J. R. Kennedy	
	J. D. Maxwell		S. L. Coulter		C. B. Gudgen	
	Jos. G. Carr		T. C. Klene		G. W. Snyder	
	J. D. Maxwell		Henry Frieman		Chas. Kaufman	
	Ed Kroener		Arthur Schaeffer		Walter Klingenberg	
	A. E. Leish		Stuart Carson		Walter Maxwell	
	Lester Guthrie		Henry Frieman		Ray Kirkpatrick	
			Lonnie Kroener		John Klene	
			Ray Kirkpatrick			
			Stanley Geppert			
TAX COLLECTOR			HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER			
	M. Fox Collected	\$526.29				
1885	E. B. Maxwell	417.38				
1890	Alex B. Kane	1885, H. Seiling	E. Beaver		Thos. Gordon	
189-	W. A. Kane	C. W. Rohde	E. Beaver		Thos. Guthrie	
1895	R. J. Guthrie	1917, Allen Hahne	Nipper Rohde		Wm Douglas	
?	Thomas Klene					
		1929-'38	Ed Kroener			
		1939-'42	Ed Alfeldt			
		1943-'40	Geo. Rezba			
		1947---	Herbert Dintelman			

# THE MILL COMPANY OF OAKDALE, ILLINOIS

We cannot say with certainty when the mill was started at Oakdale, however we do have these records which place the date as being within the first year after the town was platted.

David McClay & wife  
James B. McClurkin  
John McAfee & wife  
S.D. McClurkin & wife

W.D. \$ 100.00  
Dated March 21st 1867  
Filed July 22nd 1867  
Lots 2 & 4 Block 4 town  
of Oakdale  
Book 34 page 103

to  
The Mill Company of Oakdale  
Ill. known as  
A. McClurkin & Co.

S.D. McClurkin & wife Elizabeth  
John W. McAfee & wife Margery  
David McClay & wife Nancy  
to  
James B. McClurkin

Vol. 34 page 343  
Jan. 10-1868  
Jan. 11-1868  
\$ 950.00

W  $\frac{1}{2}$  NW SE 14-3-4 & 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres in NW cor SW SE 14-3-4

Archibald McClurkin & Co,  
James McAfee & John J. Torrens,  
Partners, constituting the Mill  
Company and known as McClurkin &  
to

Vol 46 page 208  
Dec. 14-1872  
January 21-1873  
Co. Warranty Deed  
\$ 5,000.00

James P. Lockhart & David Russell  
Partners of the Firm of Lockhart  
& Russell

Com. at N side of street opposite NE cor. of Lot 6 Block 4  
Oakdale, th N 275 ft., th E 426 ft., th S 275 ft., th W to place  
of beginning including the Mill Site and also NE SW 14-3-4.

The 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres transferred on Jan. 10, 1868 is the mill site.  
We have no record of when it came into the hands of the Mill  
Company, however we do know that Lots 2 & 4 in Block 4 were  
bought the same year as the town was laid out.

The Mill site is now in Lester Guthrie's pasture, the home,  
garden and a little of the pasture north of Claudine & Lucile  
Coulter's home. The mill pond was in Lester's pasture, some of  
the bank is still visible and the mill was located about ten  
feet east of the Coulter house. Lots 2 & 4 are in front of the  
house and the barn is on Lot 6.

The mill was built of brick on a rock foundation. It was built on the slope of a low hill with a rock wall for the basement or lower floor. After the mill was destroyed and Mr. R.G. Ardrey had bought it, he used rocks from the basement wall for the foundation of the two additions he built to his store. He may have used many of the bricks also, in the first addition. When Coulter's bought the site in 1935 they removed rock to build a retaining wall along their drive and to use in other places. When the yard was graded many of the rocks were covered over.

The mill was owned by many people in the few years it was operated. Russell and Lockhart sold to Archibald McClurkin and James McAfee on April 17, 1875. The name of John Burns enters the record as part owner on Dec. 6, 1875. James McClurkin drops out of the firm and Hugh Calderwood enters on Nov. 22nd, 1876.

John Burns & wife and Hugh Calderwood & wife sold to Moses Keady and James Keady on Oct. 4, 1880 for \$ 5400.00. James Keady sold his half interest to H.G. Calderwood on Oct. 17, 1882.

It seemed that the owners seldom operated the mill. The name of Ross Guthrie and also of M.T. Bagely appear as operators at different times.

The following account of the mill explosion was published in a neighboring newspaper, probably the Coulterville Republic.

#### A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION!

#### The Engine at the Oakdale Mill Bursts, Killing Instantly Eugene Wilson

At 11 o'clock yesterday occurred the greatest tragedy that ever shocked our neighboring village of Oakdale. The boiler in the mill at that place exploded and tore the engine room to fragments, instantly killing Mr. Eugene Wilson, who had been employed to run the engine that day for Mr. Badgely, who was sick. Mr. Eugene Wilson had his brains knocked out, and was badly scalded. He leaves a wife and seven children in destitute circumstances. The whole engine room and the engine boiler, were torn to fragments, and the east end of the mill building was badly damaged; but, strange to say, the brick smoke stack was scarcely touched. The village was strewn with fragments, and the mill pond is full of shingles, bricks, etc.

The Oakdale mill was a substantial brick building, and was well fitted up, but it seems that no person was ever successful in running it. Mr. M.T. Bagely and his son were the proprietors at the time of the disaster. They had leased it for two years, but their lease was about to run out when the accident occurred.

The mill blew up on Aug. 21, 1883.

### FOX BUTCHER SHOP

In the early days of Oakdale, Robert Fox and his brother John built a butcher shop on the southwest corner of Lot 3 Block 3 on the north side of Second Street. Mr. Robt. Fox lived in the house on this lot. It is not known how long they operated the shop. There was a barn on the back lot where they butchered. In one end was a log structure in which ice was stored in the winter.

In time Mrs. Mary J. Kirkpatrick bought the property and built the house in which the Lester Guthrie family lives now. During the early 1900's Elihu Logan used the shop for his barber shop and ice-cream parlor. He sold ice-cream, sandwiches and pie as well as good home-made bread made by his wife, the former Alice Gordon.

When Mr. Logan moved to Iowa, Lester Guthrie, who had been licensed to barber Oct. 24, 1913 began operating the shop. Charles Kaufman and Dewey Maxwell both served as apprentices before opening their own shops.

Mr. Guthrie went into other businesses for a time and the shop was used for a time by Charles Kaufman. Later or during this time the back room was used by Lyle McClay for a radio shop, by Dr. Lester Barton for a dental office. Frank Glenn operated a printing press here for several years while teaching in the High School. He did custom printing.

In the late '30's Mr. Guthrie returned to barbering and has continued until the present (1969)

Dr. Gene Stotlar used the back room for his office during the years he came on a part time basis to practice medicine.

### THE DAVID McCLAY BUILDING

In January 1868, David McClay bought Lots 1 & 2 in Block 3 from his partners who laid out the town of Oakdale. Shortly afterward he built the brick store which stood on the east half of Lot 1. It was held by himself, his widow, Nancy McClay or her grand-daughters until the building was sold to the Lancasters in 1910 for use as a bank. All businesses operated in the building were tenants of Mrs. McClay or the Kennedy Sisters.

Morrison & Co. was the first one who ran a general store. We do not know how long he operated this store. He sold his business to Ed Rixman & 'Dick' Garnholz who used the building for a general store for some years. In time they sold their business to William Kleinschmidt. In Dec. 1904 Mr. Kleinschmidt moved his business to the store building which he had bought when T.V. McClurkin moved West.

We know nothing about how the store room was used between 1904 and 1910. It was used as a bank from 1911 to 1968

The upstairs of the building was occupied by the McClay's and the Kennedy Sister for many years. It was rented to Golvin Luney's then by Rev. Ferguson, the Rodman family, Walter Klingenberg family, the Harry Cunningham family, the Lyle Torrens family and the Gordon Davis family, each for a short time. I might have missed some one.

## GARNHOLZ-BORCHERDING STORE

It seems that Mr. J.D. Garnholz entered the store business again built a new frame store building across the street from the McClay Building, opened a store with George Borcharding as his partner in 1904. Edna Smith clerked in the store until about 1906, when she went to St. Louis to attend Brown's Business College. Olive Borcharding clerked until she was stricken with paralysis. About 1908 Anna Belle Kirkpatrick began clerking in the store and was later married to George Borcharding.

The store was a very good typical general store of that day, with crackers, sugar, oat-meal, salt, raisins, etc. all sold in bulk, out of the cracker box or the sugar barrel or the coffee bin. They always carried a nice line of yard goods, shoes, hose etc. I do not believe they ever carried women's hats or coats, but they did carry a large stock of men's work clothes, work shoes as well as dress shoes.

George took many newly married couples to St. Louis to the Lamert Furniture Store and let them select their new furniture. He didn't charge them for the trip and let them have the furniture at the wholesale price. He probably gained by having them as customers in the years ahead.

George was also a great Cardinal fan and went to St. Louis almost every week to buy merchandise for the store. On these trips he often took one or two boys with him and in the afternoon took them to the ball game. Many boys saw their first big league game with him.

The store bought much farm produce in exchange for cash, chips, or merchandise. He bought poultry, eggs, hams, bacon, butter, railroad ties and mine props. Hunters sold hides of coons, possums, skunks, after they had been dried out on a board for quite a while. He also bought rabbits at 25¢ each which were shipped in barrels to the city. In time they only brought 10¢ and finally could not be sold. They also bought raw cow hides.

The store was sold to a Mr. Oates in 1926. He managed it about a year and sold to Joe Maxwell who in turn sold out in about a year. Mr. Maxwell moved to Nashville to practice law and was soon elected to a county office, being both States Attorney and County Judge.

George Borcharding bought the store back in 1928 and Mr. Garnholz retired and soon moved to Nashville where he and Mrs. Garnholz spent the rest of their lives.

Sometime before 1926, a second room was added to the west side of the original store. They handled linoleums, stoves and various household appliances. They also kept men's work clothes and I believe they kept men's coats and suits.

George died suddenly of a heart attack on March 12, 1939 after working in or operating a store for 45 years. Anna Belle and her brother Ray Kirkpatrick operated the store until 1943. Then Anna Belle's son-in-law, James Henley helped her for a time.

After the store was closed by Anna Belle, she sold the building to William Kleinschmidt.

Dalton Rohde and Edwin Luczak both used it for the post office until 1952. It was also used for a school cafeteria and gym. Al Guthrie followed by Norman Friedman conducted a hatchery here.

In 1967 Mr. Pyatt converted it into a modern Funeral Home.

# KLEINSCHMIDT-WOODSIDE STORE

Some time in the early 1890's Dave Smith built an implement shop on the corner of Lot 1, Block 6. He operated it for some time and is thought to have done some blacksmithing in one side.

He sold out to Thomas Valentine McClurkin who with his family ran a general store. He also sold ice-cream and home made bread. A Mr. Logan had a barber shop in the back part of the store.

Mr. McClurkin sold his store to William Kleinschmidt and moved West. Mr. Kleinschmidt moved into the store in Dec. 1904. He also moved into the house just west of the store which seemed to have been occupied by the family who operated the business adjoining.

Mr. Kleinschmidt, assisted by his son John, operated the store as a general country store for many years. He bought the farmer's produce in exchange for merchandise, cash or chips.

For many years Mr. Kleinschmidt made quite a business of shipping poultry to the New York market. He bought up geese and kept them on a little farm north of town about a mile, owned by Barney Vasterhoven, known as Barney's. When it was the right time to reach New York in time for a Jewish holiday in the fall, you could see him and a group of boys driving a great drove of squaking geese in from the farm and up to the station to be loaded into a car for shipment. Sometimes he took part of a car of geese and part chickens. He also would advertise that on a certain day he would have a poultry car on the siding. The farmers would bring their chickens to the car to be weighed and loaded. Often he had a car or two loaded at Oakdale, at Nashville and at Hoyleton on the same day. Then the local freight would pick them up, hooking them all together to make the trip to New York.

Mr. Kleinschmidt would get two or three local boys to go with him to New York to feed and water the chickens on the way. He did not pay these boys but they got a free trip to New York with all expenses paid and a ride back on a passenger train. He could usually find plenty of boys who wanted to take this trip even though they had to work on the way to New York.

Mr. William Kleinschmidt retired and moved to Nashville after his family were grown and his wife had died. John continued to manage the store until he died in 1937. He was assisted by Miss Margaret Patton.

Mr. Clarence W. Woodside bought the Kleinschmidt Store in 1937 and moved his family here from St. Louis. At this time he bought creams, eggs and chickens from the farmers. About this time, the stores and garages were kept open two nights a week, Wednesday and Saturday. Farmers who had cars drove them to town and those who still drove horses hitched them to the rack along the east side of the stores. The stores were kept open until 11:00 o'clock. It was a good time for everyone to do their shopping and catch up on all the news.

Later on they quit buying farmer's produce and began selling appliances. With electricity in all the homes in both town and country there was a big demand for radios, refrigerators, washers, later stoves and T.V.'s.

At first he handled Crosley appliances, the Kelvinator and in 1949 he secured the Frigidare franchise. For lack of room and in order to have a display room, Mr. Woodside built an addition to his store on the west side of it.

Ed Hudson, his son-in-law and his wife have now bought out the Appliance Business and Mr. Woodside continues to handle groceries, meats, staple dry goods, and a great deal of nails and small hardware supplies. He sells bottled gas for stoves and used to sell gasoline until the law was changed which forbids parking on streets to buy gas and till the gravel road to the west was resurfaced and widened. (1969--?)

Mr. Hugh Boyle owned and operated an implement shop in a building just west of the Decker Shop from 1904-1908. He sold out to Mr. James Sloane and Mr. Henry Brammeier who sold machinery there for some time. Mr. Jas. McClay did a great deal of their mechanical repair work. I believe that James Tweedy worked for them for a time before he moved to Florida. Lester Guthrie and Charles Brammeier must have used the same building for their garage.

#### McKEAN DRUG STORE

Mr. John McKean built a drug store on Lot 4, Block 4 in the early days of Oakdale. He had been in a similar but smaller store as a partner of James Morrison, before Oakdale was platted. Since Mr. McKean was not a licensed druggist he could only sell patent medicines. He also sold candy, gum, etc. and school books and supplies. Mr. McKean was School Trustee for 37 years.

When the telephone system was first installed in Oakdale, Mr. McKean kept the first switch board in his store. He operated the switch board from 1902 to 1910. Mr. McKean died in 1915.

Shortly after the death of Mr. McKean, Lester Guthrie bought his store and continued to operate it as a supplier of patent medicines, school books and supplies. He also partitioned off a place in the rear of his store as an ice-cream parlor. He was Post Master, followed by his wife Madge and they kept the post office in the store from Oct. 1, 1922 - Aug. 31, 1944. He then put in a line of groceries and cold meats which he sold for several years. As he returned to full time barbering, he closed out the grocery store.

At the present time, the building is used as a polling place for elections.

#### KIRKPATRICK BUILDING

In 1912, Ray Kirkpatrick built a small building with glass front for use as a post office. It was located on the west half of Lot 1 Block 3. He ran the post office here from 1913 to 1918 when he moved to Kansas, selling his building to Jack Gamble. Mr. Kirkpatrick also built the house on Lot 2 Block 3, which he sold to Mr. D.P. Carson. Now owned by Mr. Ed Sterns.

Jack Gamble moved his business from the Ardrey Building to his new location. Jack did a good business in fresh meat for a small town. He killed and processed the meat himself. He also did custom grinding of sausage for farmers, thereby making the job of sausage making much easier. Mr. Gamble, assisted by his wife Lois, continued with his business until his death from a heart attack in the summer of 1938.

After Jack's death, Mrs. Gamble continued to run the store with the help of a clerk. She bought the meat which she sold from the Bowman Market in Coulterville. When the work seemed too much for Mrs. Gamble, she sold the business and property to Mr. Lyle Torrens.

Lyle continued with the grocery and meat business assisted by his wife Gertrude, until about 1948 when he moved to Nashville to work for the Washington County Service Company.

For several years Ralph Shreeman used the store building as a shop for his plumbing business.

This building was torn down in 1967.

#### OAKDALE STATE BANK

After opening a bank with private capital in the Ardrey Building in 1908 or 1909, Charles Lancaster bought Lots 1 & 2 in Block 3 in Oakdale from the Kennedy Sisters on October 25, 1910. The deed for the property is recorded-Vol. 101, page 542.

In the meantime the bank was reorganized and local business men and farmers from a large area in the community, bought shares of stock, valued at \$ 25.00 per share. The new bank was named the Oakdale Farmers Bank to be the other officers. On May 26, 1911, Chas. Lancaster and wife deeded the above named lots to the Oakdale Farmers Bank. Recorded in Vol. 116, page 252.

On Nov. 8, 1920, the Oakdale Farmers Bank was reorganized in accordance with the Illinois Banking Laws and became the Oakdale State Bank with capital stock of \$ 15,000.00. This meant that in order to meet the law, each stock holder had to invest an additional \$ 75.00 for each share of stock he had, if he wished to continue as a stock holder. However the bank was doing well so increasing the capital was favorably accepted.

During the Depression Days, the bank along with thousands of others closed. Our bank was closed in Dec. 1932. On March 4, 1933 Pres. Roosevelt closed all banks in the nation in a Bank Moratorium. Banks were allowed to reopen as soon as they could meet the requirements of the FDIC. At that time the stock holders were responsible for 200% of the face value of their stock.

Business has continued to grow, capital stock has been increased, some stock has changed hands, and the bank has now been moved to a new building which is modern and is now equipped to render better service, including Safety Boxes, Night Depository and Drive-Up Window.

Mr. J.W. Allen and Dr. T.G. Tibby have been cashiers. At the present time Stanley Coulter is cashier, assisted by his wife, Virginia. They moved into the new bank Dec. 21, 1968.

## SMITH BLACKSMITH & WAGON SHOP

On April 21, 1868, Robert Smith paid \$ 1.70 taxes on S pt W  $\frac{1}{2}$  NE Sec. 28-3-4,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres. On Jan. 14, 1869 he paid \$ 7.60 total tax on the above described  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres, plus 40 acres SE & NE Sec. 29-3-4 and on Lots 4 & 6 in Block 10 in Oakdale. Lots value \$ 10.00 each.

We know that some time in 1868 he bought the Kelsey Forge in Oakdale and moved from his old shop in Sec. 28 along with a house he had there to the Oakdale property. He built the old shop much as it looks today (1969) except for the shed on the west side which was added in 1936. There was a wide porch and ramp on the south side which was used to move finished wagons from the loft to the shed which was on the east side of the shop many years ago. Mr. R. Kirkpatrick tells us that Mr. Smith did most of his wagon work and repair work in this shed after his sons Wes and Dave had learned the blacksmith trade. The loft was used for storage of wagon parts which he hauled out by wagon from St. Louis. They had an old steam engine south of the shop, triggered up to run the trip-hammer, emery-stone, etc. Mr. Kirkpatrick ran the engine one summer.

As children we liked to play in the loft with a big old bellows and other things stored up there. We also like to turn the crank to blow the coals on the forge to a flame and to watch the sparks fly from the big grind-stone.

Mr. Smith carried a little day book in his vest pocket in which he recorded all work he did that was not paid for immediately when the work was finished. Early settlers whose names do not appear either paid when the work was completed or they were not his customers. These are the names recorded in 1874, along with new names added in 1875 and '76.

Benjamin Bush, Henry Carson, John Guy, L. Garlick, J. P. Hibbard, Jas. Chesney, John Carson, Michael Hubler, John Kirkpatrick, Samuel Kemps, James Torrens, John Boyd, John Foust, Richard Boyd, Moses Keady, Sol Maxwell, Mrs. Frances McClay, Wm. McKinstry, Chas. McElhinney, James McClurkin, Joseph Patton, James Piper, George Stephenson, Robert North, Frances Torrens, Robert Eggs, S. B. Owens, John McElroy, Mr. Osborn, James Kemps, Alexander Leslie, Robert McLean, John Luney, Robert McConnell, Robert McAfee, James Manning, Amos Snyder, S. Sample, John Donnelly, Arthur Dempsey, Ross Guthrie, Wm. Bailey, Iverson Jones, Fredrick Wilson, Stephen Muhaffey, James Murphy, Thomas Kerr, Mrs. Carr, John Carmichael, Frances Wilkins, David Dempsey, Thomas McConnell, John McClay, Robert Ramsey, Mr. Murray, John Corpenghing.

The next year these new names appear: Hugh Brownlee, James McCauley, Joseph Temple, Henry Wiens, John Sloane, David Willey, R. Todd, Jas. Christy. James and Adam Boyle appear in 1876.

(This is a lengthy list put in to show the names which have disappeared from the community as well as those who have remained)

As Mr. Smith grew too old to continue working, his shop was rented to Mr. Charles Brammeier who carried on blacksmithing in the shop as well as working on cars for several years.

In 1936, the west shed was built on and Mr. John Brammeier worked as blacksmith and wood worker for about nine years.

Herman Frieman operated a garage in the old shop for twenty-nine years until he retired in 1966.

GEORGE J. DECKER  
L.R.H.

George J. Decker was born in Pilot Knob Township, Sec. 4 on October 20, 1884. He came to Oakdale in 1906 and started blacksmithing in a shop about 24 by 24 feet located in Block 11.

A man by the name of Shubert had blacksmithed in the same shop for some time before and a Mr. Ramsey had blacksmithed in the shop in 1905.

When Mr. Decker started he bought the shop from Mr. J.W. Torrens and Mrs. Ren Edgar. George Decker built a shed on to this building and used it that way until 1919 when he built the present building on the same site. The new building was 30 by 80 feet and was connected to a smaller building to the east making it now 60 by 80 feet under one roof. In building the new shop, Mr. Decker made a basement under part or all of it. Dirt taken from the basement was used to fill the cut in the hillside made by the old Kaskaskia-Vincennes Trail which was at the south end of the building.

In 1916 Mr. Decker got a contract with the McCormick Deering Implement Company to sell their machinery. He sold his first tractor to Gus Leich in 1926 and Ward Auld bought the second one in 1928. J. Ren McClay bought the third one in 1930. They were 10-20's with steel wheels with cleats pulling two 14 inch plows. They were very sturdy tractors and many of these 10-20's lasted for a great number of years.

Mr. Decker kept a helper for many years. Charles Brammeier worked with him as an auto mechanic and learned the blacksmithing trade before he opened his own shop in the Smith Shop. John Brammeier worked with Mr. Decker about seven years before he opened his own blacksmith and wood working shop in a shed built on to the west side of the Smith Shop. Leo Lake worked a short time and Ed Stearns also worked about a year.

In 1946 Mr. Decker quit the blacksmithing business and rented the shop to William Kroener who continued there until the shop was sold in 1959.

Mr. Decker had been in the seed business in a small way before 1946. At this time he devoted all his time to the seed business in the east part of the building. He bought and sold cowpeas, sweet clover, red clover, lespedeza seed, etc. He carried on this work for 13 years or until October 1959. He sold the building to Jack Basten who used all the building for handling seed. Basten sold the building and seed business to Willard Harris of Metropolis, Illinois in 1963.

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John Brammeier started a blacksmith shop in a shed built on to the west side of the old Smith Shop in 1936. He continued to operate this shop until 1946. He started to do part time trucking in 1943. He quit the shop to do full time trucking in 1946 and continued until 1959---hauling coal, farm grain to elevators, making regular trips to the stock yards in East St. Louis and bringing back loads of stock feed.

## OAKDALE GARAGES

Lester Guthrie and Charles Brammeier had the first garage in Oakdale. It was located in a building just west of what known as Decker's shop and was owned by Henry Brammeier and James Sloane. They repaired cars and sold Model T Fords.

The Guthrie and Brammeier Garage was discontinued after about two years. After this Charles worked for George Decker as blacksmith and auto mechanic for a few years, then went into blacksmithing and auto repair business for himself in the Smith Blacksmith Shop building. After several years Charles sold his business to Herman Frieman in October 1934.

### FRIEMAN'S GARAGE - October 29, 1934--October 29, 1966

On October 29, 1934 Herman and Orval Frieman bought the Chas. Brammeier Blacksmith and Garage business and started a garage and service station known as Frieman Bros. Garage.

During the first winter we sold Conoco products and got alcohol in five gallon cans from Mascoutah. The only all weather road was the rock road from Oakdale to Lively Grove, which was built in the summer of 1934. At times business was awfully slow. I remember one day that Jimmie Boyle walked in and bought one gallon of kerosene which sold for 10¢, the only sale of the day. Gasoline at one time as a special sold 7 gallons for \$ 1.00. In the spring of 1935, we changed to D.X. products. Ewald Doelling of Addieville was the distributor.

In February 1937, Norman Frieman bought out Orval and it still remained Frieman Bros. Garage. Orval, better known as "Dude" sold out on the advice of his doctor that he get away from so much gas fumes, so he took a job selling cars at Nashville for the Ford Motor Company which was operated by Mr. Shanks. Jim Caine worked for us the summer of 1939.

In April 1942, Norman sold out to me, Herman, and I became the sole owner of what was then known as Frieman's Garage. Norman went to work as fireman on the Mo. Pacific R.R. Steve Schaefer, Jr. who was then a student at Oakdale High School, worked for me at noon and after school and on Saturdays and during the summer vacation, from April 8, 1942 to July 15, 1943.

From July 15, 1943 to September 1, 1946 I took care of it by myself most of the time with the help of my wife Edna, who sold gas and oil, patched tires, cut the lining from brake shoes and helped clean up parts. She could have been a good mechanic besides a good wife and mother. My Dad, Henry Frieman could not do much mechanical work but it was always a great pleasure just having him around and he helped more than most people think.

Edna helped me off and on as long as I was in business. At times it was necessary to bring Delores and Kathryn down to the garage while I would go out to the country or go after parts. Edna also made many trips after parts. In later years she did all of my book work, including taking care of all the sales tax and income tax.

November 15, 1943 to February 6, 1945 Eddie Musielak worked for for me, part time. On Dec. 15, 1944 to Oct. 1950, Clayton Iben-dahl worked for me, with the exception of six weeks, when he and one of the Campbell boys ran Garner's Service Station located where William Kroener's Blacksmith Shop is operated. (1969) When Clayton left me, and his Uncle Ted took a job managing Burg-hardt's Poultry Farm at Fayetteville, Ill.

Benny Dintleman worked for me from Sept. 1, 1946 until March 15, 1947. Kenny Dintleman worked for me from May 1, 1947 to June 15, 1947. Otis Piper worked for me from Jan. 1, 1948 until Feb. 10, 1948. Otis did me a tremendous favor which I will always be grateful for, as it was during the illness and death of my father, as I was away from the garage most of the time and Clayton needed help. Otis had another job he was supposed to go to but would not leave me until I was free to come back to work regularly.

"Sam" Chalmers Brammeier came to work for me March 1, 1948 and continued with me until Oct. 29, 1966. From the time of our begin ing until 1960, we were open every Wednesday and Saturday night and usually half days on holidays. It was not uncommon on Saturday nights to be there until 12:00 o'clock. I was always very fortunate in having good honest and likeable boys and men to help me. There were also a few others who helped me when I was in a bind, such as Lyle McClay, Daulton Rohde, Earl Hammond and Jim Henley. If I have forgotten to mention anyone, I apopogize.

Sam worked for me the longest, almost nineteen years. I never thought of Sam as working for me, he was a lot closer than that.

Contributed by Herman Frieman

#### BRAMMEIER'S D.X. SERVICE

During the summer of 1966, Chalmers (Sam) Brammeier built a new modern garage of concrete block in the black top road just on the eastern edge of the village. It is well equipped with modern machinery and Sam gives good service on cars, tractors or lawn mowers. He also sells D.X. gasoline and other D.X. products.

Sam is often assisted by his father Charles Brammeier in the summer or by his wife Bettie when he is called out of town.

He opened his shop on October 30, 1966. We wish him well for at least as long as Herman Frieman had his garage.

The Oakdale area was voted into the Coulterville Fire District in April 27, 1968.

#### ELECTRICITY

In the middle 1920's there were Delco Light systems in Bor-cherding and Kleinschmidt's Stores, Guthrie's Drug Store, the R.P. Church and several farm homes. These were 32 volt systems using gasoline generators to charge storage batteries.

Through the work of Lester Guthrie, they were able to persuade the Ill. Power Co. to build a power into Oakdale. Power was turned on in October 1930.

The P.E.A. built power lines into the area in Dec. 1939.

## THE RAILROAD AT OAKDALE

During the spring and summer of 1886, the Centralia and Chester Railroad Company secured the "right-of-way" not to exceed 100 feet for the railroad which the company was about to construct. (We have a right-of-way easement given S.L. Coulter.)

They started to build the railroad line through Oakdale in 1888. The farmers of the community who wished to were hired to use their team and hand scraper to build the roadbed. It was completed and the train started running in 1892. Farmers also used their teams and scrapers to make the railroad lake built on the Kelso farm, located about two miles north of Oakdale, in the fall of 1902.

The trains were pulled by a steam engine. For many years there was a freight train each way per day and a two-car passenger train each way, morning and evening per day. On the passenger train, the front part of the first car was for carrying baggage and mail and the back part of the car was for passengers who wished to smoke. The second car was all for passengers. Some time in the early 1900's the train became known as the Illinois Southern.

To show that the locomotives were not very powerful, they used two engines for a freight of much length. During the winter of 1917 the train could not run for over a week because the snow had drifted so high they would get stuck. Farmers had to dig out the roads where they were drifted shut. Those children who went to high school in Nashville were taken in bob-sled or buggies.

For some reason the railroad was shut down from December 1919 until June 1921. During this time the mail, all freight and people had to depend on a few automobiles but mostly horse-drawn vehicles to go any place.

In June 1937, the Nashville Journal reported, "The Missouri Pacific Railroad Company had installed a diesel engine train on the M.I. Railroad running one train each direction daily between Salem and Chester."

It seemed that the Missouri-Pacific Co. bought the Ill. Southern when it discontinued service and when service was resumed in 1921, it was known as the Mo-Ill. Railroad or M & I. When the train lost the contract for hauling mail, the passenger train was reduced in size to one car nicknamed the "Doodle Bug". The end of passenger service came on March 15, 1954. Many local people rode it on its last run.

Mike Fitzgerald was the senior engineer for many years, mostly on the passenger train until his retirement at the age of 73 years. He died May 1956, his wife was the former Flossie McClay. John Carson of Sparta, who grew up in the Oakdale community, was the engineer on one of the freight trains for many years until his retirement. He still lives in Sparta with his wife, the former Hannah Frieman of near Elkton.

The railroad still does a rather large freight business, though there has not been a station agent for many years. The station building was sold to Williard Harris about 1965. He moved it south of his other buildings and along with additional construction converted it for use in his seed business.

## HISTORY OF THE GRAIN BUSINESS IN OAKDALE L.R.H.

For many years after the mill blew up, Mr. Moses Keady, who owned a half interest in the mill at that time, hauled flour and other mill products from the Addieville Mill and sold it from a shed he had built east of his house which is now owned by Mr. Albert Dintleman. The north blacktop road probably lies across its former location. Mr. Keady hauled this flour and feed in a wagon with side-boards, making the trip frequently. He continued this trade into the early 1900's.

When the Joseph Maxwell's bought the property about 1912, this shed was moved behind the house where it still stands.

A wheat buying station has been in Oakdale from about 1890. It was owned by the Camp Spring Milling Company of Nashville, and for a time E.W. Bailey was the buyer.

Robert Osborn took over the management in 1894. There was nothing but a small building for feed and flour with a very small office in one corner. A small wagon scale had been built along the railroad track, and a freight car would be spotted for the buyer's use so the grain could be weighed and unloaded into the car. If it took several days to load, the railway did not collect a per diem fee. Some years later an addition was added to the original building for the storage of grain, and an elevator was added to load the grain into cars.

Robert Osborn quit the job in 1906 when an interest in the Oakdale location was shown by the Sauers Milling Co. of Evansville, Ill.

In 1907 a small building was constructed near the depot, and wheat was again loaded into railway cars. In the spring of 1907, the farmers purchased a piece of land stretching 200 feet along the track and reaching 120 feet to the east, from C.E. Bailey at a cost of \$ 250.00 for the Sauers Milling Co. to build an elevator upon. The new elevator had a capacity of 15,000 bushels and cost about \$ 3000.00. If I remember correctly, labor cost about \$ 1.25 per day.

James Boyle bought the property of the Camp Spring Milling Co., then owned by H.H. Cordes in the winter of 1908 and later constructed two more buildings on the site. In the 1920's Mr. Boyle bought ground north of this location and constructed two buildings with elevating machinery and a dump scale. He operated this business until 1932. He was very energetic and built up the business, shipping into Oakdale the first carload of commercial feed. Mr. Boyle sold the business to the Huegley Elevator Co. in 1946. Ray Sledge operated it for a time, but they never got to buying grain due to the fact the building was set along a pass track that was built for the railroad's personal use, and nothing would be spotted on this track except for the Carrier's use.

The railroad was shut down from Dec. 1919 until June 1921, and nothing could be shipped from this station. However, the

Sauers Milling Co. hired equipment and operated from Evansville to Coulterville where the I.C. Railway picked up their flour and feeds.

The Sauers Milling Co. built an additional building in 1927 installing a cleaning machine which was popular at that time. This was completed at a cost of \$ 3,000.00. In the meantime an additional house was constructed on the site for feeds by the Sauers Milling Co and one on the location by Robert Osborn, which now has been converted into an office.

Robert Osborne retired in 1939 and Harry Osborn worked for the Sauers Milling Co. until the summer of 1949 when all the properties of the Sauers Milling Co. were sold to the Gilster Milling Co. of Steeleville, Ill. The owners of the Sauers Milling Co. had died in the meantime and poor management had caused a great loss in the business. .

The Gilster Milling Co. operated the business with Harry Osborn as manager for five years. They started to buy soybeans 1951. Soybeans were coming to the front as a major crop in the community.

The Gilster Milling Co. sold to Harry and Laura Osborn in 1953. The Osborn's continued in the business until 1962 when it was sold to Sam Meeks of Brookport, Ill. The new owner made some improvements, putting in a truck scale and began buying without cleaning. He also changed the name to "The Oakdale Grain Co." He had a man to continue operating the business until the summer of 1963 when he sold to Williard Harris of Metropolis, Ill., who continued to operate under the name of "Oakdale Grain Co."

Under Mr. Harris, the place has been improved by acquiring an additional 300 ft. of land along the tracks, adding an additional unloading place, building additional sheds to handle feeds, as well as erecting several large storage bins with driers and shoots for easy handling of grain. He also handles a nitrogen fertilizer business.

The Washington County Service Co. bought the Oakdale Grain Co. from Williard Harris and took over operation on June 1, 1968, with Don Finke as manager, assisted by Carrol Stern. The Service Co. is erecting a large shed to further expand the handling of fertilizers.

Robert Osborn and his son Harry operated the grain buying business at Oakdale continuously from 1894 until 1962 with the exception of one and a half year when the railroad was shut down.

### OAKDALE LUMBER YARD

The D.Rixman Lumber Company was owned and operated by D.Rixman and four of his sons. The Oakdale lumber yard was built by Reinhard Rixman, a son of D.Rizman, in 1909 and operated by him until 1912. Walter Snyder worked for him at Oakdale for some time then was moved to their yard in Irvington in 1911.

The D.Rixman Family owned and operated a chain of seven lumber yards, which were located in Centralia, Doyleton, Irvington, Nashville, Oakdale, Coulterville and Buford.

After Reinhard Rixman left Oakdale in 1912, John Duecker of Nashville became manager and operated the yard assisted by his son William. On John Duecker's retirement, his son William continued as manager until May 1, 1945. At this time John Reinhardt of Elkton became manager.

The lumber yard was sold in November of 1945 to a group of business men of Nashville, Byron House, Lawrence House, Dr. Lester Barton, E.G.Machin, J.W.Huegely, Reuss, etc. John Reinhardt remained on as manager.

The latter part of December 1955, the Addieville Lumber Company bought the yard and still in 1969 they own it and John Reinhardt operates the yard. Mr. Reinhardt is always busy while at the yard. When not waiting on customers, he is busy making gates, wagon beds, truck beds, or any other article which the farmers need which he can make of wood.

### HONEYWELL'S BALLOON LANDS AT OAKDALE

From a clipping kept by Mrs. Rebecca Hood, taken from the Nashville Journal, probably about 1910.

"Two balloons went up Tuesday from the Aero Club Grounds in St. Louis. The balloon, St. Louis No. 3, piloted by S. Louis Von Phul with Miss Eva Tanguay and Horatio Bowman of Alton aboard, landed near Turkey Hill, Ill. twenty-seven miles from St. Louis, at 3 o'clock P. M., three hours from the start.

The new 40,000 cubic foot balloon of H.E. Honeywell, with Wm F. Assman as pilot, and E. Percy Noel, acting secretary of the Aero Club landed at Oakdale, forty-five miles from St. Louis, three hours and fifty minutes after the getaway. The balloon started at 12 o'clock and landed at 4:45 P.M., one mile west of Oakdale at Albert Kemps' place. Ray Kerkpatrick seized the rope which dragged in the road and aided the balloonists in getting down to terra firma. The parties returned to St. Louis by rail via Coulterville.

Mrs. Charles Rohde of Elkton, who with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Wm Rohde of Oakdale, saw the aircraft come down and conversed with the aeronauts. The balloon was taken to Oakdale station and shipped to St. Louis."

## JOHN PIPER - SUCCESSFUL STOCKMAN

An undated article in the John Piper Scrap-book had on the same page an article concerning Rev. Ritchie who served the U.P. Church as pastor 1891-1895. Also an item about the death of Mr. Greenville Rountree, a successful farmer and one of the first settlers in the Elkton area.

"I wish to call your attention to the fact that Washington County is just taking the lead in the Southern part of the state for good stock. And to any doubtful Thomas of the fact, let him cast his eye over the following list of premiums taken by one of our leading stockmen, John Piper. He opened the fall circuit at Belleville, taking in all 13 premiums, 10 blue and 3 red; at Mt. Vernon he took 13 more, 8 blue and 5 red; at Centralia he took 16, 9 blue and 7 red; at Pinckneyville he took 14, 11 blue and 3 red; and at Chester he took 15 more, 9 blue and 6 red. He took in all 71 premiums, 47 first and 24 second. Amount of money, \$ 364.00.--

"Mr. Piper is certainly entitled to great credit for his efforts to improve the stock of our county."

Mr. Piper was born between Elkton and Lively Grove. At the time this article was published, he lived on his farm in Pilot Knob Township. He later moved to Oakdale and continued in the stock breeding business for many years.

Mr. William Douglas was his assistant.

## REUNION OF OAKDALE VETERANS DEC.17,1913

"The annual reunion of the Veterans Association of Oakdale was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Piper in Oakdale in Dec.11th. The soldiers look forward to this reunion with anticipation, as at this time they not only meet their comrades and talk about the old times, but they enjoy the oyster dinner and supper and this day is a great feast day for them. When the soldiers and their wives gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Piper there was every evidence of a good time, and a jolly good time they had.

The dinner which consisted of oysters and other good things was sumptuous. The patriotic speeches made by Messrs. Miller, Luney and others were fine. Revs. Gardenier and Patton also made speeches suitable to the occasion. The patriotic songs thrilled our hearts with patriotism and the songs sung by Alex McAllister made the soldiers think of the days gone by, especially the song of the "Old Coffee Kettle." Late in the afternoon supper was served and after the singing of a few patriotic songs, in which all joined, the festivity closed with the song, "Home, Sweet Home", thanking Mr. and Mrs. Piper for their royal entertainment and expressing the hope that they might all meet again next year.

The soldiers present were :R.G.Ardrey, S.L.Coulter, John Boyd, Wm. Miller, R.Carrick, C. Kingston, J.M.Torrens, R.Luney, T.McLean, J.Sloane, R.McConnell, J.Piper, D.Duguid, A.McAllister, A.Bailey and D.McAuley."

The above was published in the Nashville Journal as dated.

## THE FIRST AIRPLANE TO LAND IN OAKDALE TOWNSHIP by L.R.H.

The headlines in the DAILY ADVOCATE of Belleville on June 14, 1917 read "Aviation Camp Site To Be Near Belleville." Six hundred forty acres in Shiloh Valley Township were selected as the site.

Construction began July 1, 1917. The contract called for 52 buildings including 12 hangars to be completed in 60 days. About 3000 workers were employed at peak construction activity.

The project was accepted from the contractor, Sept. 1, 1917 and Scott Field, as it was called, geared quickly for its World War I role as a primary pilot training base.

The first airplane assembled at Scott Field took to the air Sept. 2, 1917 and 9 days later training began.

In the summer of 1918 they needed a landing place so they could do some cross country flying and Kate Cuhl's pasture, which was located near Tamaroa was chosen.

On June 5, 1918 eleven planes flew from Scott Field to Tamaroa landing and after a short time returned to their home base. That day my father and I were working out along the road when the mail carrier, Dalton Rohde, Sr., came along. He asked us if we had seen the airplanes. My father replied that we had heard a roaring sound but had failed to see anything.

The next morning they started flying over and probably two dozen were sighted by us. Often four or five could be seen at one time. All individuals in the community were very excited about them. At any time a plane was heard they would stop whatever they were doing and scan the skies for a plane. This continued almost daily. Since Oakdale Township is in direct line between Scott Field and Tamaroa many of the planes flew in sight of our home. One of my greatest desires, as a teenager, was to see one on the ground, so I could get a good look at it, but they always kept going until they were out of sight.

However one afternoon in the summer of 1918 I heard one that was making an unusual sound. It would be loud at times, then it could scarcely be heard. Then I saw it flying lower and circling to the southeast of our home. Thinking it was going to land I started running as fast as I could across the field in that direction. Before I had gotten half way there, it landed in the north field of what was then the farm of Mr. Ren Edgar, now Wm. Auld's, which was directly west of where Charles Auld lives now.

I was the first one there. The two fliers were working on the front part of the plane. I walked around it a couple of times gently touching the wings and rudder as I did so, but at the same time eager to climb up and look into the cockpit. I was afraid to do so lest the flyers would run me off.

They soon said they thought they had it in running condition so one of the flyers climbed into the front cockpit. He buckled his helmet and pulled his goggles, while the other fellow went to the front of the plane and turned the propeller a time or two then the pilot yelled, "contact". Hearing this the other flyer gave a mighty pull on the propeller and jumped out of the way. The engine started with a roar.

I was standing forty or fifty feet behind the plane thinking I was in a safe place, but to my surprise the wind came swishing back, blowing my straw hat off and I scurried in another direction as fast as I could.

The other flyer got into the back cockpit and the pilot taxied the airplane up to the south end of the field and turned northward down the field, the plane moving faster and faster, and finally took to the air.

I had been so interested watching the airplane that I hadn't noticed until it was off the ground that people were coming from every direction. I guess a dozen of us stood there watching it disappear into the sky. One car load had come out from Oakdale, the others were mostly neighbors who had come on foot, on horse back or in buggy.

That was one day I will never forget.

#### FIRST CAR IN OAKDALE

Charlie Bailey was first with a Stanley Steamer. Theodore Brown had the second car, a red one. Charlie Houston had the third car. It was an International two cylinder, solid rubber tires, carbide lights, rubber bulb horn, 1905 model.

Conrad Bassler got an International like the Houston car and later sold it to Dave Smith. This was the first car I rode in about 1913.

#### FIRST RADIOS IN OAKDALE

Lawrence Hood had the first radio around Oakdale in 1922. He installed the first radios in Oakdale. He installed a Crosley for George Borcharding. Next he installed an Atwater Kent for John Kleinschmidt when he lived where the Carr's live today. Later he built a radio for Dr. Tibby. The fourth he installed was for Robert Osborne. It was a three tube with a loud speaker.

The W.S. Coulter family got a Crosley-three tube with loud speaker and also car phones for Christmas 1923. The Will Carson family got one about the next year.

#### ALL WEATHER ROADS

The first all weather road out of Oakdale started in front of the United Presbyterian Church and went west out of town to Elkton and on to Lively Grove. This road was made of loose rock and was built in 1934. Few changes were made in the road except that the right of way was widened, the roadbed was also widened. The biggest change is Oakdale was to remove the old iron bridge which spanned the Elkhorn Creek and build a concrete bridge, a large culvert type whose parallel side walls and top were well reinforced with iron rods. The hills on both sides of the creek were cut down and the dirt used to fill in the roadbed over the new bridge to a depth of five or six feet. This almost did away with the Oakdale hills on the roadway.

The old bridge by the former John B. Carson farm west of town was not changed although it was narrow and was set at an awkward angle, but because it was a substantial concrete bridge and had been built about twenty years earlier than the old wooden bridge washed out, it was left. Large tile were used to replace old bridges across small creeks south of Elkton.

The second all weather road started in front of the United Presbyterian Church and with few exceptions followed the old road to the southeast, crossing Route 127 then east, crossing Route 51 and on to Du Bois. The road is a blacktop constructed by the state. The work on the right-of-way began in 1937 and it was completed in 1938.

The right-of-way was widened in compliance with state law. Probably the most change in the location of the roadbed was in the area between where the road left Oakdale at the corner of Main and Third Street and the place about a mile east of town where the new road passed near the foot of the Knob Hill on the north side rather than to cross it about half way up the side of the hill. The old cut is still visible in Theodore Brammeier's field. As the old road left town, it turned the corner to the north and in the middle of the block was met by the road east from the north street; the two roads ran together to the place in front of John Brammeier's shed where the old log post-office had stood, then divided as the old trails had divided. The road to the southeast passed between the old depot and the Osborne Elevator, thence east on the south side of the hedge row that is north of Earl Magnis' home, angling back to the present roadway in front of Oscar McClay's house. The old and new roadbeds ran together until it was necessary to veer northward to avoid crossing the Knob Hill. A few other changes were made mostly to cut off corners. Old wooden bridges were replaced by culverts of various types.

The third all weather road started at the east edge of Oakdale and went north east to the railroad right-of-way which it followed keeping on the west side of the track for a little over a mile, then went straight north to Routes 15 and 460. This road was built by the county in 1940 of loose rock. Several years later three and one half miles were oiled and chipped. The right of way on this road was also widened and modern culverts replaced bridges.

The fourth all weather road left Oakdale on Mulberry Street and went southwest to the Perry County line at Mud Creek. This road was built by the county. It was started in 1953 and completed in 1954. The right-of-way was widened all along the road and many changes were made in the location of the roadbed. It was constructed as a blacktop road. The new road followed the old road with little change to the corner of the Cook home. Instead of running along the north side of the house to the corner of the barn lot, then turn south; the new road cut across the field cutting off a triangular wedge where the house stands. A little further south it cut across a field belonging to Harold Auld rather than to go around the corner. Almost a completely new road-

bed was made from about the railroad crossing at McKinley Station to Mud Creek, in order to avoid hills and to strike Mud Creek at a different place and at a different angle.

Perry County built a blacktop road from the end of this road at Mud Creek to Coulterville. The Perry County end of the road was started in 1957 and completed in May 1958.

After many years of talking, planning and working to secure a changed right-of-way in several places, it was finally arranged for the county, state and federal governments to rebuild the road from Oakdale to Lively Grove. In the fall of 1967, they started to bulldoze out fencerows and trees or whatever could be removed for the new right-of-way. Fences, telephone poles and power line poles were moved back. In the spring of 1968, they began to build a new concrete bridge over the creek by the Ray Francis farm, formerly the J.B. Carson or to some older people it was known as the Kemps farm. The old bridge at Oakdale was also torn out and a much wider and higher one was built. From the northwest corner of Ray Kirkpatrick's home, the new road runs westward so as to remove the bend in the old road around the hill south of the Francis house. The new bridge is south and west of the old one and much higher. There were not many other changes made in the road-bed except to remove corners south of the Dick Lehman farm and at Elkton. The new road will have a wider road bed, the rock will have a depth of seventeen inches with a two inch layer of blacktop when finished. By the end of 1968, they managed to get a thin layer of rock over much of the road between Oakdale and Elkton so that people could get through. We hope that before another winter comes around it will be completed.

People who live along the road could write a book on their troubles in going any place this past fall and early winter.

#### TEMPERANCE SOCIETY OF ELKHORN

On February 28, 1877 a group of citizens of Oakdale and vicinity met in the R.P. Church for the purpose of organizing a Temperance Society. The Preamble to the Constitution which they adopted stated: "The citizens of Oakdale and vicinity recognizing the evil and dangers of intemperance amongst us, do organize ourselves into a society to oppose the evil and save ourselves and neighbors from its dangers. The following officers were elected: Pres. - R.P. Anderson; Vice-pres. R.G. McLean and J.C. Thompson; Sec. Lizzie Henderson; Treas. T.S. Ardrey.

The society seemed to meet once a month. After opening prayer and other organizational matters, a program of declamations, essays, and music was given.

A list of 255 members who had signed the Temperance Pledge was given. The following family names appeared: Adams, Anderson, Ardrey, Auld, Brown, Bailey, Beall, Beattie, Beggs, Boyle, Brannon, Carson, Campbell, Christie, Cooper, Coulter, Dintelman, Davis, Donnelly, Duncan, Eaves, Edgar, Ellis, Fulton, Finney, Glenn, Hagemeister, Harton, Halliday, Hildebrandt, Hibbard, Hood, Hunter, Johnson, Kennedy, Kemps, Kerr, King, Kirkpatrick, Little, Logan, Laney, Matson, Manning, Malott, Maxwell, Millburn, Moore, Murray, Morrison, McKean, McKelvey, McAllister, McCloy, McElhinney, McAuley, McLean, McConnell, McClurkin, McCloy,

Continued on page 78

# DOCTORS IN OAKDALE

Brink's History of Washington County reports that in 1879 Oakdale had the following doctors: Dr. A.D. Leavens, Dr. J.R. Keady, Dr. S.G. Arnett. However Mrs. Frank Torrens reported in one of the Books of Genealogy, Family History and Research in various fields that Dr. Arnett was a Sparta doctor who was often called to this community.

From a newspaper clipping, I was able to secure these facts about Dr. Hugh Lovejoy Gault. He was born on Oct. 29, 1846 to Presley B. and Mary (Thompson) Gault of Eden where his father was a wagon maker. He served his country in Co. G 80th Illinois in the Civil War. On May 27, 1875, he married Elizabeth Caudle of Sparta. In March 1880 he graduated from the St. Louis Medical College and began practice in Oakdale in 1881. He served on the school board most of the time he was in Oakdale. He moved to Sparta in November 1895.

Also from a clipping, I gathered most of these facts, however some local people remember when Dr. Tibby practiced in Oakdale. Dr. T.G. Tibby was here for some time, married Miss Inez Keady, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moses Keady and went to Kansas about 1890. About 1905, Mrs. Tibby died, was brought back for burial and Dr. Tibby with his small daughter Ina Mae made their home in Oakdale in the house just west of Mr. Keady's home. Ina Mae grew up in Oakdale, graduated from Nashville High School and from College. She taught in Belleville and other schools in St. Clair County for many years before her death. Dr. Tibby gave up his practice and served as cashier in the Oakdale State Bank from 1918 or '19 until his death in 1947.

Also from a clipping, I gathered many of these facts about Dr. George R. Hays. He was born near Baldwin Dec. 17, 1870 to George and Margaret (Cathcart) Hays. His maternal grandparents, John and Mary Cathcart came from South Carolina in 1848. Dr. Hays graduated from Beaumont Medical College in St. Louis in 1896 and came to Oakdale where he practiced medicine until 1905. While here he built the house which is now the home of John Brammeier and brought his bride, the former Miss Rosetta McHatton, whom he married on May 19, 1897. He maintained his office in one room of the house. Dr. Hays was a fancier of horses and made many a horse trade while in the community.

Dr. Hays moved to Marissa in 1905 and served there faithfully even beyond the call of duty until his death Dec. 7, 1946. Dr. Hays was a general practitioner, a medical counselor and an understanding adviser who knew his patients as persons. Dr. Hays was the attending physician at the birth of 4700 babies. During the war years, Dr. Hays was the only physician in the Marissa area and even though his two doctor sons had advised him to slow down, he kept on the go. At times he was on the go from 16 to 20 hours a day taking care of the sick and the strain was too much for a man of his advanced age. After making a call on a patient, he entered his car, started the engine and slumped over the wheel. A fellow citizen who happened to be going down the street, noticed him dead at the wheel. It was 10:30 at night. (This information was from the McLean Scrap-book)

Thomas Fulton McConaghie, son of Joseph and Elizabeth McConaghie was born near Oakdale, November 30, 1872. He joined the United Presbyterian Church of Oakdale in his youth and remained a member until his death on Dec. 29, 1939.

He attended the Pleasant Hill rural school and Sparta High School. After attending the Normal University at Carbondale, he entered the medical college of St. Louis University. Interspersed with his schooling, he taught school in the Stone Church area a few years. Upon graduating from medical school in 1904, he started a medical practice at Somanauk, Illinois. The following year he bought the practice of Dr. Hays at Oakdale, and remained there as practicing physician the rest of his life. He was married to Miss Margaret Knapp of Chester on June 12, 1907. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Marjorie (Mrs. Dalton Rohde, Jr.)

Few were the homes of the community where he lived and thereabouts, that the kindly physician had not entered with the ministry of healing. He was always ready to respond to a call at any hour of the day or night during his almost 25 years of practice. He was especially noted for his kindness to the aged and little children.

During most of his life as the doctor of Oakdale, he lived and practiced in the house which Dr. Hays had built. However in 1936 he built a modern home on the lot he owned just north of his old home and fitted up offices in the basement.

After Dr. McConaghie's death, Dr. Edwards of Pinckneyville used the doctor's offices to minister to the sick of the community once a week for a time.

The offices were also used by Dr. Shirley, a young dentist from Nashville as well as by Dr. Longwell of Nashville. The community was thankful to have these fine doctors come into our midst even for a short time.

Dr. Gene Stotlar of Pinckneyville equipped an office in the rear of Lester Guthrie's Barber Shop in 1956, after being released from Service. For several years he skillfully and cheerfully administered relief to the afflicted ones in our midst. He called regularly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for about five years and once a week until he found his Pinckneyville practice too heavy to leave. Many of his local patients regularly visit his office in Pinckneyville, since 1964.

Additional information on Dr. J.R. Keady --- Dr. Keady was listed as Ticket Agent for the Literary Program given at Oakdale in 1876.

Members of Temperance Society, continued:

Porter, Rennie, Ramsey, Semple, Smith, Shinall, Snyder, Tate, Temple, Thompson, Torrens, Walker, Weaver, Williams, Wylie, and Young.

### MR. JOHN THOMAS SNYDER, LOCAL UNDERTAKER

John Thomas Snyder was born in Carrol County, Maryland on May 16, 1850. He came to Illinois with his parents Mr. and Mrs. John W. Snyder after the Civil War. On November 26, 1880 he was married to Miss Lucinda Kaufman. They were the parents of four children, Venton, Louis, Eula and Wyman.

Through Mrs. Cinda Kaufman Brammeier and Mrs. Louis Snyder we learned how Mr. Snyder became an undertaker.

Mr. John Tomas Snyder was a carpenter by trade, as were many others of the Snyders. He worked on the barn on Harold's farm when it was built in 1866. He also worked on the home of Charles Brammeier, putting in the window casings in 1867. A family by the name of Wilson from Elkton had the house built.

During the time when "spotted fever or cholera" was so bad in the Elkton area in the early '60's, he helped out by making boxes to be used for caskets in which to bury the dead. He continued to make caskets, covering them with a black material and lining them as nicely as he could. Later he bought and assembled commercial caskets, which he kept stored in a shed on the back of his yard.

He continued in the carpenter trade, farmed some, raised pigs, chickens and a garden and served as the local undertaker for many years. He drove a matched team of black driving horses to a black funeral coach, which was cut up under the front seat. Fringe showed through the glass panels on the sides and the back doors.

He prepared the body for burial in the home, where it remained until time for the services when it was removed to a church. As the years passed, Mr. Robert Burns of Coulterville assisted Mr. Snyder by preparing the body and drove a motor hearse as long as Mr. Burns practiced as a mortician.

Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are both buried in the Marissa Cemetery.

### PYATT FUNERAL HOME

In August 1959, Mr. Maurice Pyatt of Pinckneyville rented and furnished the former home of Dr. Tibby for use as a funeral home. Ralph Shreeman's mother was the first to lie in state in this home. Mr. Pyatt, assisted by his son Richard, served the community from this home for about eight years.

In 1967, Mr. Pyatt purchased the former Borcharding Store Building and remodeled it extensively, both inside and out so that now he has a very modern and roomy funeral home with a chapel room large enough to accomodate any local funeral, if it is desired. Many visitors speak of it as being nicer than many in larger towns.

The community appreciates the "Urban Renewal" which Mr. Pyatt has made in our town. We also appreciate his efficient service.

## CONVENTIONS-ENTERTAINMENT-RECREATION

From the early days the schools and churches have been the centers of community life. In the HISTORY OF DISTRICT # 4, Mr. Ramsey gives a vivid description of Spelling Bees, Literary Societies and Singing Schools, which were common practice in every school.

In a BROTHER'S TRIBUTE, by Gen. John Kennedy to his brother Andrew, he said, "As we went by the place where the little brick school house stood and at the old church yard, I could not help recalling the times of our early boyhood when the Singing Society of Professor Wesley Hunting and the Debating Society used to meet in the church and the school house."

The Misses Carrie and Eva Luke of Nashville, who like many other residents of Nashville, spent their early years in Elkton, recalled the Spelling Bees, Literary Societies and Singing School which they enjoyed at Elkton. In their Singing School, they used SOUTHERN HARMONY which consisted mostly of hymns. The notes were square in shape rather than the shape used now.

Two books used in the Singing School at Oakdale were written by C.E. Leslie of Chicago. They are entitled THE CROWN OF SONG & THE CYCLONE OF SONG. In one of the books AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SINGING TEACHERS OF AMERICA is included after a few pages of explanation. The music is written in three cleffs: the Soprano and Alto, the Tenor, and the Bass Cleff.

In Mrs. Robert Smith's Scrap-book we found this program which was elaborately printed in a variety of type:

### OAKDALE LITERARY SOCIETY Friday Evening, April 7, 1876

#### PROGRAMME

MUSIC	PRAYER	MUSIC
OPENING ADDRESS, . . . . .		John Kerr
ESSAY - Hope . . . . .		Lizzie Smith
DECLAMATION -The Precious Freight . . . . .		James W. Torrens
	MUSIC	
DIALOGUE -Sense versus Sentiment,		
DEBATE, -Resolved, That the Influence of the United States is favorable to Morality, Affirmative, Chas. McElhanev, Jas. A. Todd		
	Negative-Robt. Kerr, R.G. McLean	
	MUSIC	
DECLAMATION-The Danger of the Spirit of Conquest, James Ramsey		
RECITATION? . . . . .		Lou McClurkin
ESSAY - Transition, . . . . .		L.C. Henderson
	TABLEAU	
ORATION,		
	MUSIC	

DIALOGUE-Starting in Life, . . . . .  
 DECLAMATION- Government Frauds . . . . . D.W.Wylie  
 ESSAY- Sunny Thoughts for Clouded Hours, . . . . M.T.Ramsey  
 RECITATION - How She Saved her Lover, . . . . . Mattie Halloday

## TABLEAU

## MUSIC

DECLAMATION- A Thanksgiving Sermon, . . . . . W.G.Adams  
 DIALOGUE- The Census Taker, . . . . .  
 ORATION- To-day;or the Present, . . . . . R.G.McLean  
 MUSIC CENTENNIAL MEDLEY MUSIC

Organist, Miss Fannie Sprecher of Richview; Door Keepers: John W. Kelso, James Matson; Ushers; R.K.Torrens, George Ramsey; Ticket Agent, Dr. J.R.Keady.

In the Murray Scrap-book, we find the following clipping:  
 Sept. 1, 1894--" A most pleasant and entertaining sociable was held on Thursday evening at the U.P. Church, given in honor at the teachers and students about to depart for their respective fields of labor. . . . .

Teachers-- Anna Boyle, Tillie Boyle, Hessie Boyle, Tillie McCoanghie, Thomas McConaghie, John Miller, Anna McConnell, Jennie McConnell, Lillian East, and Anna Smith.

Students- James McConaghie, Braiden Finney, Frank Maxwell, James McConnell, and Maggie McConnell.

## ENTERTAINMENT AT OAKDALE

June 1st Y.P .C.U. of the United Presbyterian Church in order to develop talent of its young people in the line of public speaking and at the same time provide novel and interesting entertainment, they selected nine members to participate in a declamation contest. Contestants were to be 15-21 years of age. A beautiful mandolin with green plush bag was awarded to the winner.

Speakers: Raymond Kirkpatrick, Joseph Maxwell, May McQuilkin, Thomas Fulton, Richard Maxwell, Mamie Kirkpatrick, Lottie Smith, Lizzie McConaghie, Frank McQuilkin. The winner was May McQuilkin (Mrs. J.R. Hood)

Judges: Rev. J.A. Henderson of Sparta, Prof. Speer of Marissa, and Prof. W.H. McMillan of Sparta.

(Mr. Raymond Kirkpatrick, now (1969) survives, age 88 years.)

## FOURTH OF JULY &amp; MOONLIGHT PICNICS

In the early 1900's the men around town bought fire-crackers, sparklers, rockets, etc. and had a display of fire works down north of the Covenant Church on the Fourth of July, Lon Hunter, the Borcherding boys were some named in connection with this activity.

Another summer entertainment about this time was a moon light picnic in the alley between Ken Auld and Stanley Coulter's homes. Japanese lanterns were strung across the alley, Elihu Logan made and sold ice-cream, there would be music and often it was sort of a political rally.

Mrs. Cinda Brammeier and Mrs. Elizabeth Klene reminded us of these activities.

## A SALOON OF SHORT DURATION

It is reported that William Ayers sold whiskey by the gallon jug when he operated his store. It was used in those days as a medicine. One of the popular remedies for colds then was a mixture of whiskey, rock candy and glycerin.

You may think the "sit down strikes" are modern methods of protest but it was effectively used by some ladies in Oakdale in the late 1860's. Some one opened a saloon in an old house that stood on the site where Steve Musielak's home is located (1969)

Mrs. Beal, Mrs. Auld, Mrs. Ardrey, Mrs. Robert Smith and others took turns at sitting in front of his saloon from morning to night. As they sat, they rocked and knitted. The men were ashamed to pass the women to enter the saloon, so after a few weeks, the would be saloon keeper, closed his shop and moved out.

This was the only effort made to open a saloon in Oakdale. We hope it will never be tried again.

## THE OAKDALE BAND

The following information about the Oakdale Band was furnished by Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick who played in the band. His father, James R. Kirkpatrick was organizer and conductor of the band.

About 1890, Oakdale had a band which continued for about fifteen years. This band was mainly a marching band and had eleven members most of the time. In summers they had concerts on Saturday nights at Oakdale, at the corner of Second and Lincoln Streets on Block 6. It could have been in the alley between the vacant house and the home of Thomas Rall. Different people played in the band through the years. Except in cold weather they practiced in the loft of the Smith Blacksmith Shop.

The names of the members of the earliest band were: Clarence Finney-alto horn; Dave Smith-alto horn; Wes Smith-alto horn; Dave Wylie-bass horn; Arthur McAfee-coronet; Jim McConaghie-coronet; Norman East-clarinet; James R. Kirkpatrick-coronet; Albert Kemps-tenor horn; Ed Bailey, Ed Borchherding and Will Coulter were also members.

The members of the band at a later date were: Ray Kirkpatrick-snare drum; Dick Kirkpatrick-tenor horn; Luther Kemps-bass horn; Will Kemps-tenor horn; Elsey Luney-alto horn; Golvin Luney-bass horn; Volans (Dick) Smith-alto horn; George Borchherding-coronet; Ed Rixman-alto horn; Elmer Brown-tenor horn; Jim McConnell-snare drum.

On special occasions, they would get others to join them, namely: Will McMillan-clarinet from Swanwick; and from Coulterville, George Beaver-coronet; Henry Bouas-bass horn; Jim Sanford-drum; Elihu Crawford-clarinet; and Elmer Beaver-bass horn. This band played at a big celebration in Nashville. On this occasion the Oakdale Band headed a big parade chosen in preference to a larger band from Mt. Vernon.

The Oakdale Band played at the celebrations in many of the surrounding towns and also at political rallies and picnics; such as at Hoyleton, Nashville, Addieville, Plum Hill, Elkton, Lively Grove, Coulterville, Swanwick, Winkle, Rice, Pilot Knob church picnic and for a three-day Old Soldiers' Reunion held at the Sparta Fair Grounds.

## OAKDALE HARVEST HOME PICNIC

The Oakdale picnic started about 1893 and was held annually until 1946 or for about 53 years.

The picnic was held in August in the day time. Large crowds attended the picnics. It was considered as a time to come home for a trip in order to see all the old friends at the picnic.

The afternoon was given over to a program of music, political speeches, a ball game, visiting with old friends for the older people, while the younger generation visited the concessions and enjoyed the ice-cream and lunch stands. Usually some one brought in a load of water melons for sale just north of the stands.

About three years before the electric high-line was brought in, a gasoline powered generator was used to furnish lights in order to continue the picnic into the night. In 1930 power for lights was furnished by the high-line.

For many years the picnic was held in "Carson's Grove" a nice wooded area northwest of the Lumber Yard, west of the railroad tracks. The last few years it was held on the Base-ball Field. After the Oakdale Soft Ball Association was organized, the picnic was dropped.

Dec. 1917

RED CROSS

Clipping from Nashville  
Journal

\$ 1123.75 War Savings Stamps sold during the three weeks by E.F. Reuter of this place. We suggest that you join in the drive and help out.

The wagon with Red Cross members visited Elkton Monday evening. The following is a report: The Red Cross of the Oakdale branch, has secured over a hundred new members in the Christmas campaign. The total enrollemt for Oakdale is now about 350.

Nov. 14, 1918

The Oakdale Red Cross Unit with some 280 members has completed 8 or 10 sweaters, 8 or 10 pairs of wristlets and 8 or 10-16 inch mufflers, with 20 pairs of wristlets, 20 mufflers, and 30 sweaters well along towards completion. So it is easy to see that while getting members, which is always commendable, we have been knitting a good average. We intend to have 500 members by Decoration Day.

## PROGRAM

For the twenty-fifth annual Sabbath School Convention of Washington County, to be held in Oakdale 5th and 6th, 1897

Thursday, August 5, A.M.

Our first need-Nearness to God-Service of Prayer, led by Rev. W.A. Chamebrs

Conference of County and Township Officers, led by District President, E.E. Exter.

(A) Our need in the County Work, 10 min. D.M. Crow, Ashley

(b) Our need in the Township Work, 20 min. John Paul, Nashville  
Miss Ada Geiger, Ashley; and J.E. Haun, Hoyleton.

Open Conference for 15 minutes.

How to meet these needs, District President

Appointment of committees and assignment of delegates.

Afternoon-1:30 o'clock

Devotional-Prayer for S.S. Teachers, Rev. Nisbet, Nashville

The Teacher's Hour:

- (a) Home preparation of the lesson, Rev. Bovard, Nashville
- (b) How to secure class cooperation, J.P. Courtney, Nashville
- (c) Our lesson half-hour in the class, C. Buhrmester, Nashville
- (d) Class visitation, why? When? How? Rev. Adams, Ashley

The Primary Hour,

- (a) Principles and methods of primary teaching, Rev. Cole, Richview
  - (b) How to secure co-operation of mother, Mrs. E.W. Bowles, Nolting
  - (c) Value of individual records, Miss Wheelis, Nashville
- Normal Lesson on S.S. management, State Worker, W.C. Pearce  
Week day's for the S.S., Rev. Johnson, Nashville

Evening -7:30 o'clock

Song Service, led by Rev. J.A. Henderson, Sparta  
The training of children, Rev. Dr. Herdman, Lebanon  
Address by State Worker, W.C. Pearce

Friday Aug. 6th, 9:00 A.M.

Devotional-Prayer for better work in our county, Rev. French  
Report of County Officers, President, Secretary, and Treasurer  
The present need in our work, State Worker  
Normal S.S. Institutes, Why? When? How? E.E. Exter, Belleville  
Election of officers.

Afternoon-1:30 o'clock

Devotional-Prayer for S.S. Officers, A.T. Kennedy, Oakdale  
The Superintendent's Hour,

- (a) S.S. Possibilities, Rev. Rhine, Nashville
  - (b) How to secure efficient teachers, Frank Kelsey, DuBois
- Normal Drills and how to use them, R.A. McAulley, Oakdale  
The Home Department Plan, H. Fox, Elkton

The Loyal Army Pan, E.E. Exter, Belleville  
 Normal Lessons, Rev. W.W. Williams, St. Louis  
 Closing Words from Many Workers.

Lewis Bernreuter, Co. Pres.  
 Eliza McAuley, Co. Sec.

The citizens of Oakdale are making arrangements to entertain all who attend this convention, and everyone interested should attend. The C. & C. will sell tickets at one and one-third fare on the certificate plan. The following are the local committees:

Entertainment--Dr. Hays, chairman; Miss Maggie Smith, James Hood, James McConnell and Miss Tillie Boyle  
 Reception: A.T. Kennedy, chairman; Rev. J.C. French, R.A. McAuley, Miss Lottie Edgar and Miss Lena Coulter

This program was found in the Murray Scrap-book, now owned by Mrs. Harold Auld. Mrs. Auld also furnished the following programs.

#### PROGRAM

#### W.C.T.U. SILVER MEDAL CONTEST in the U.P. CHURCH AT OAKDALE, ILLINOIS

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 22, 1910, 7:45

Prayer			
Song,	.	.	"There Will Dawn a Golden Morrow"
Florence Klene,	.	.	"Mary Elizabeth"
Quartet	.	.	"Ring the Bells"
Lloyd Torrens	.	.	"Christian Leaders"
French McClay,	.	.	"The Coming Temperance Man"
Song	.	.	"Out for Prohibition"
Kenneth Luney	.	.	"In the Kegs"
Charles Smith	.	.	"A Temperance Story"
Merwin Williamson,	.	.	"When I'm a Man"
Duet,	.	.	"Mother's Voice"
Charles Kaufman,	.	.	"Write it Everywhere"
Ralph Hunter	.	.	"He Never Blamed the Booze"
Quartet,	.	.	"The Home that Used to Be"
Grace Torrens,	.	.	"How a Little Girl Emptied a Jug"
Quartet,	.	.	"The Cause Speeds On"
Leola Murphy,	.	.	"The Sisters on a Strike"
Quartet,	.	.	"Battle Song"
Decision of the Judges,			
Quartet,	.	.	"Drink no the Tempting Wine"
ADMISSION	10¢		CHILDREN FREE

WASHINGTON COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
Oakdale High School Saturday, Feb. 25, 1928

PROGRAM

- 9:30 Opening Exercises Direction of Miss Elma McClurkin  
9:50 "The Teaching of Patriotism in the Public Schools" Miss Mary Parlier  
10:10 "Relation of Grade School to the High School" Thomas Boczkiewicz  
10:20 "The Teacher's Relation to the Community"  
    (a) From the Teacher's Viewpoint Stanley Robinson  
    (b) From the Board of Director's Viewpoint Miss Margaret Smith  
    (c) From the Patron's Viewpoint Mrs. Will Carson  
11:30 Some Problems of the County Superintendent T.E. Allen

NOON

- 1:15 Music Miss Elma McClurkin  
1:30 "The School's Work in Making Citizens" C. Crouse  
2:10 "Teaching of Civics" Earl Brake  
2:30 Intermission  
2:40 Singing Direction Miss McClurkin  
2:50 "Spelling in the Rural School" Miss Elizabeth Rohde  
3:10 "Trials and Experiences of a Rural Teacher" Miss Fern Carson  
4:00 Adjournment

As the years passed, times changed and with it community interests changed too. As more and more young people left home for a week or more at a time to attend high school and the young adults went to more distant cities and were gone until Thanksgiving or maybe until Christmas, the Spelling Bees, Literary Societies and Singing Schools disappeared as community activities. However vestiges remained. Spelling Matches or Arithmetic Matches on Friday afternoon became popular in the classroom. THE GOLDEN BOOK OF FAVORITE SONGS became the accepted text for classroom singing in the afternoon.

Schools prepared programs for the parents and community on special days, as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Box suppers with a program became common practice in the early 1900's. Many a young man has had to pay dearly to eat a lunch with his 'best girl' if anyone betrayed the fancy wrapping on her box. Cake-walks and auction sale of cakes or boxes of cookies have replaced the "fancy box lunch". Many badly needed school supplies have been obtained for the schools through the efforts of teacher and pupils.

Shortly after World War I for several years the young people of the community sponsored A Lyceum Course each winter. Very fine talent was brought into the community. Season tickets were sold for five or six entertainments. A Troop of Swedish Bell Ringers gave an outstanding program. Hamlin Garland also gave a lecture

entitled SHAKE THE BARREL. Years later I heard him give the same lecture at the Madison County Teacher's Institute.

#### OAKDALE SOFT BALL PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.

After the Oakdale boys came home from World War II, they organized a softball team and played in the Nashville Softball League for two seasons.

They leased a piece of ground from Mr J. Ren McClay and made a ball diamond with flood lights and started to play on this diamond in July 1947. They bought a public address system in 1948 and the ball games are announced.

In 1950 the Softball Association bought six acres of land where the Ball Park is located today. This was financed by donations from people of the community, a benefit supper held each spring, a chicken and fish fry held at the park each July, and from the sale of soda, candy, and other confections at the games.

The chicken fry has been held annually since 1948. The ball park has always been well supported by the community both financially and in attendance.

Usually there are games at the park five nights a week from the latter part of May until the first part of September. They have a children's night for all of grade school age, a team each for boys and girls; and for several years they have had a slow pitch league with a team from Oakdale and three other surrounding communities.

A soda house was built in 1951 and later two additional shelters and a deep well were made. There was some additional improvement made at the park almost every year since it started.

Many men of the community have cooperated serving faithfully on the five-man board of directors assisted by their wives.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY HOME BUREAU

The Washington County Home Bureau was organized Oct. 1, 1947, at the Nashville Evangelical Parish Hall, in Nashville, Illinois.

The Object of the organization is to promote the development of homemaking to the end that every home may be economically sound, mechanically convenient, physically healthy, morally wholesome, mentally stimulating, artistically satisfying, socially responsible, spiritually inspiring, founded upon mutual affection and respect.

The executive officers and directors were:

President	Mrs. George Dueker
Vice-Pres.	Mrs. Robert Schleifer
Secretary	Mrs. Ann Lyons
Treasurer	Mrs. Arthur Schaeffer
Directors:	Mrs. Charles Hogshead
	Mrs. Rose Mary Morange
	Mrs. Ray Garlich
	Mrs. Oliver Hoffman
	Mrs. Phillip Heggemeier

The Charter Members for the Oakdale Township were:

Mrs. Walter Elliott	Mrs. Clara Wehmeyer
Mrs. Lyle Torrens	Mrs. Arthur Schaeffer
Mrs. Arthur Shubert	Mrs. Arthur K. Shubert
Mrs. Charles Rezba	Mrs. Mildred Reuter
Mrs. D.L. Rohde, Jr.	Mrs. Viola Neill
Mrs. Ruby Markham	Mrs. Herman Mazander
Mrs. T.E. McLean	Mrs. Martha Luczaj
Mrs. Guy Kroener	Mrs. John C. Klene
Mrs. Otto Koch	Mrs. A.J. Gambill
Mrs. Blanche Guthrie	Mrs. Madge Guthrie
Mrs. Norman Frieman	Mrs. Stanley Coulter
Mrs. Isabelle Cunningham	Mrs. Theodore Brown
Mrs. W.K. Auld	Mrs. Harold Auld
Mrs. Jane Auld	Mrs. Jennie Stevenson
Mrs. Pearl Auld	Mrs. Florence Boyle
Miss Elizabeth Rohde	Mrs. Ralph Baker
Mrs. Lora Taft	Miss Belle Carson
Mrs. Mary B. Hoff	Mrs. Floyd Patton

The organization is now known as the WASHINGTON COUNTY HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION PROGRAM. It is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Illinois and the Washington County Cooperation. The Washington County Home Economics Extension Council, a representative body, plans the county activities in cooperation with the Home Adviser for the county.

## ELKTON COMMUNITY CLUB

The Elkton Community Club was organized about the year 1954. A Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were elected by the group. No fee is charged to become a member but at each meeting a small collection is taken.

The club meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the homes of the members. At the beginning of the year the program for the year is arranged, with each member selecting the month she wishes to entertain.

The Chairman calls the meeting to order, followed by Bible reading, prayer and group singing. Roll is called by the Secretary, each member responding according to the plan for the month.

Next a short business session is held in which the secretary's report is read and approved. Any old or new business is put before the group and voted on.

A short recreation period, planned by the hostess follows. Games are played with a prize given to the winners. The hostess also gives a door prize to the person drawing the paper marked "Gift" from a box as it is passed around.

The members each have a Secret Sister for the year. At each meeting the Secret Sister gift box is opened and the gifts, secretly placed in the box before the meeting, are given to those having a birthday or wedding anniversary during the month.

The rest of the afternoon is spent working on the present project. Quilts have been pieced and quilted as gifts to different Nursing Homes. We have also made pillow-cases and knee robes. Some scrap-books and stuffed toys are made for children.

Money is used from the treasury in purchasing needed materials for any of the projects the Club decides to do.

In case of a death in the community, food is prepared and served by the club members to the family. In case of some unexpected disaster befalling some home, whether a member of the Club or not, any assistance the club can render at this time is always taken care of by them.

In the month of August, a family picnic supper takes the place of the regular meeting. This is held on the lawn of the home of some member. After enjoying the delicious food brought in the well filled baskets, games and visiting fill the evening.

During the Christmas holidays, a party is held at the home of a member. The chairman opens this meeting with the Christmas story. Christmas carols are sung and a short program follows. At this time we find out who our Secret Sister has been. Someone, dressed as Santa passes out the gifts from under the tree. At the close of the meeting, names are drawn for next year's Secret Sister.

At the beginning of 1969, the following are members: Mollie Rezba, Leona Shubert, Frances Karg, Kate Shubert, Marjorie Patton, Evelyn Kohring, Dozena Mayer, Barbara Kroener, Meta Mazander, Pauline Schuessler, Eileen Helbig, Delores Karg, Anna Reinhardt and Mary Lou Rezba. Officers for 1969 are:

Chairman- Barbara Kroener	Secretary- Marjorie Patton
Vice-Chairman- Pauline Schuessler	Treasurer- Kate Shubert

## ELKTON AND OAKDALE

L.R.H.

It is often said that Elkton is much older than Oakdale so I have tried to gather some facts about the two towns. Several things I have found do not give dates so this is not so complete as I would like.

Elkton was surveyed in 1837 but Oakdale was not surveyed until 1867. The WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORY states that Wm. Rountree settled in Sec. 16 in 1818 and that Wm. Ayers settled in what is now the surveyed town of Oakdale in 1823. I do not know who settles first in the town of Elkton.

I cannot find the population of either town when surveyed. The Census of 1870 gives the population of Elkton as 160 and Oakdale 116. I do not know the highest population of either town.

The WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORY of 1879 states that Elkton had 3 general stores, a post office, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 hotel, 2 doctors and 2 churches.

In the same year Oakdale had 2 stores, a post office, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 shoe maker, 3 doctors, 1 flour mill and 2 churches.

Some claim that after the railroad was built through Oakdale it began to grow some in the following years while Elkton declined.

— C.C. —

Thus after over a century of living in this small section of this earth, we find two small centers of population which had good locations for growth in the days of stage-coach and trails. As the means of transportation changed and we had nothing to attract industry, our people went where the work and market places were.

Both communities can be justly proud of the many fine citizens who have gone out from our midst and helped in many ways to shape the growth and destiny of our country. I hesitate to try to name them for I know I will miss many who should be named, I can only plead ignorance.

From both communities have gone many teachers, farmers, merchants and people of many walks of life. Many ministers and missionaries have gone out who have been named in the church histories. Rev. Edward Eigenrauch was a minister in the Evangelical Reformed Church. From Elkton has gone Gen. John Kennedy, from Oakdale Maj. Gen. Russell Maxwell and Gen. Norman Ramsey.

From Elkton went State Representatives James Rountree and Charles Luke also Judge Enloe Vernor and Attorney Vilas Vernor. From Elkton went Dr. Roscoe Vernor. From Oakdale went Dr. Walter Spoenneman, a physician and Dr. Carl Spoenneman, a dentist to St. Louis. From Elkton went Dr. William C. Kennedy to practice medicine in New York City. From Oakdale went Dr. Elmoe McClay, Dr. William Robinson and Dr. Stanley Robinson. Dr. Thomas McConnaghie stayed at Oakdale, for which all were thankful. From Oakdale went the Misses Lydia and Mattie Spoenneman who were trained nurses, practicing in St. Louis and elsewhere. Miss Elizabeth McConnaghie was also a trained nurse in St. Louis many years. Dr. LeRoy Kleinschmidt is practicing dentistry in St. Louis County.

## THOSE WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I LIVING IN OAKDALE TOWNSHIP

*Atchison, John C.	Henderson, James
Auld, Kennedy	Kaufman, Danny
Brammeier, Charles	Klingenberg, Emil
Brammeier, John F.	Klingenberg, Theodore
Brammeier, Paul	Kroener, Albert
Carson, J. Elwyn	Kroener, Henry
Carson, Floyd	Kroener, Herman
Carson, Roy M.	Kroener, Otto
Carson, Williard	Lehman, Herman
Cunningham, William	McClay, Floyd
Dahncke, Cecil	McClay, Lawrence
Dintelman, Charles	McClay, Oscar
Dintelman, Earl	Mazander, Herman
Dintelman, John	Petrashak, Frank
Duguid, Ebenezer	Petrashak, William
Duguid, Katherine	Rezba, Charles
Duguid, Mattie (Cherry)	Schaeffer, Arthur
Elliott, William	Schaeffer, Harry
Fox, Blanchard	Shubert, Arthur
Frieman, George	Snyder, Wyman
Mazander, Charles	Torrens, Lloyd
	Mazander, Joseph R.

## THOSE WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I WITH OAKDALE ADDRESSES

Auld, John	Albers, Ardell
Auld, Charles	Auld, William
Brammeier, Chalmers	Brammeier, Donald
Brammeier, Noel	Buess, Lawrence
Brammeyer, Clarence	Brammeyer, Elroy
Bathon, Norbert	Coates, Denton
Coates, Henry	Campbell, Roy
Campbell, Harold	Carr, Raymond
* Craig, Robert	Carrick, Robert
Carle, Roy	Dintelman, Kenneth
Eigenrauch, Melvin	Eigenrauch, Rudolph
Fox, Wilbur	Fox, Harold
Fuqua, Arsen	Fuqua, John
Frieman, Hershel	Greten, Edward
Greten, Anthony	Giles, Kenneth
Hammond, Howard	Hammond, Earl
Hammond, Wallace	Hudspeth, Edward
Huff, Howard	Huff, Elmer
Huff, Robert	Hoff, Clarence
Helbig, Delio	Helbig, Franklin
Ibendahl, Calvin	Kroener, Lee
Kreener, Rolland	Korbel, Joseph, Jr.
Kroener, David	Kirkpatrick, Kemps
Kirkpatrick, Richard	Koenig, Albert
Koenig, William	Klingenberg, Arnold
Klingenberg, Earl	Katchum, Albert
Kreher, Carrol	Ketchum, Albert
Luczaj, Raymond	Luczaj, Edwin
Lake, Alphonse	Lake, Norbert
Luechefeld, Arthur	Lehr, Norbert

Magill, Harold	McLean, Thomas
McLean, Bruce	McLean, Elmer
* McClay, Howard	McClay, Wilmer
McClay, Carl	McClay, Russell
McConnell, Myrl	McConnell, Raymond
McCloy, Martin	Mazander, Chesley
Mazander, Linville	Mazander, Raymond
Musielak, Vincent	Musielak, Leo
Moeller, Alvin	Moeller, Estelle (Piper)
Moeller, Clarence	Moeller, George
Neill, Clemens	Piper, Robert
Piper, Otis	Porter, Robert
Piper, John	Patton, Lawrence
Patton, Lloyd	Rezba, Chester
Rezba, Willis	Rezba, Hazel (Stitety)
Rezba, Lillian (Collier)	Robinson, William
Rezba, Helen (Forshey)	Rohlfing, Charles
Shubert, Oliver	Shubert, Lawrence
* Shubert, Elmer	Shubert, Arthur
Shubert, Wade	Shubert, William
Soeteber, Carl	Soeteber, Lyle
Schaeffer, William	Schaeffer, Steve
Sterns, Albert	Sterns, Carol
Sterns, William	Spence, Milton
Schmersahl, Ramond	Schmersahl, Edmond
Spurgeon, Jake	Spurgeon, John
Schoenherr, Aloysius	Thompson, Glenn
Thompson, James	Taft, Dwight
* Taft, Dale	Tweady, Armen
Taft, Nelson	* Torrens, Curtis
Torrens, Finley	Wienstroer, Jerome
Wienstroer, Joe	Williams, Amos
Wisely, Charles	Wenneman, Herman
Wehmeyer, Edward	Wieneski, Chesley

John C. Acheson was wounded in action in France and spent some time in the hospital. He was sent back to the front and was killed soon afterward. He was Washington County's first casualty. The American Legion Post of Nashville is named in his honor.

William Elliott died with flu in a camp in Mooseheart, Ill.

Pilot Curtis Torrens, United States Army, born April 17, 1916, died over Foster Field, Texas July 20, 1942. He was Washington County's first casualty in World War II.

Elmer Shubert was killed in action on Leyte, November 1944. He was the first county boy killed on Leyte.

Dale Taft was killed July 8, 1944.

S/Sgt. James McClay, born July 19, 1914, died in action in the Battle of the Bulge in Germany December 19, 1944.

Robert Craig was missing in France in February 1945.

# AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF OAKDALE TWP. FOR THE YEAR 1877

Bu. of corn	29,000	gal. of molasses	2432
bu. of wheat	50,851	acres of pasture	886
bu. of oats	25,404	sheep killed by dogs	43
bu. of rye	80	lb. of wool	1385
bu. of Irish potatoes		lb. of butter	5211
	2949	no. of fat cattle sold	30
bu. of sweet potatoes	75	no. of fat hogs sold	97
bu. of apples	3,755	no. of sheep sold	15
bu. of peaches	720	no. of hogs & pigs died of	
lb. of tobacco	45	cholera	898
tons of hay	313		

## ASSESSMENT OF PRINCIPLE ARTICLES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY 1878

article	no.	cash value	article	no.	cash value
horses	290	\$ 10,190	steam engine	6	\$ 730
cattle	451	5,057	Fire and burglar		
mules	191	3185	proof safes	2	4
sheep	437	440	watches & clocks	128	152
hogs	288	292	carriages & wagons	143:2	302
			sewing & knitting		
			machines	79	837
			piano-fortes	1	25
			melodeons & organs	8	250
			merchandise on hand		2,045
			material & mfg. articles		250

## ASSESSMENT OF REAL ESTATE FOR YEAR 1878

Acres of improved land	11,765	Value	\$133,833
Acres of unimproved land	11,717	Value	29,203
Improved town lots	78	Value	12,345
Unimproved town lots	286	Value	2,400

## COMPARISON OF GROWTH

	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960
Oakdale Twp.	820	717	720	563	473
Nashville	2209	2243	2418	2442	2801
Washington Co.	18035	16297	15807	14428	13764

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED

The following is taken from an article written by D.H. Carson and published in the Nashville Journal many years ago.

"Prior to 1856 Illinois did not have free public schools. It was subscription schools before that time and those who could not afford to pay by subscription could not send their children. Many could not afford to send their children and only some communities had school houses and log houses at that, with one log on each side cut out, and the opening filled with panes of glass set end to end which served for windows. Seats made of split logs hewed down to about four inches thick and four auger holes bored in each piece and four wooden pieces driven in the holes and sawed off the proper length formed legs for the seat.

After the free school law went into effect, each township was divided into public school districts (usually four). Directors were elected and authorized to levy taxes and hold elections for making a decision about where to locate the school. Many schools were named for property owners, who lived near them."

Mr. James Ramsey recounts the formation of the four districts in Oakdale in his account of District N. 4.

I have been unable as yet to secure the exact location of District No. 1. Mrs. Fred Klingenberg, the former Lydia Brammeier, recalls that her father, Louis Brammeier once told her that there had once been an old school by a clump of trees along the road which ran by the east side of their home. The location was north-east of the home.

I remember of a Fred Coulter, a cousin of my father, visiting us from Kansas when I was a child. He had been a teacher at this school long before.

Among my Grandfather Coulter's papers we found two old papers which I believe were related to this old school. One was a note dated June 14, 1874 in which he promised to pay District No. 1, forty dollars with ten per cent interest from June 14, 1874. His name was torn off the corner indicating it was paid off.

Another paper was a printed form required by law to be filed with the County Clerk annually before the first of September. It contained a list of taxpayers in the district. A corner below the instructions was cut out, probably was left with the clerk.

The following names were listed: Andrew McClurkin, Aaron Shephard, Benjamin Bush, Behr Zacheis, Charles Young, David McClurkin, David McNair, David McClay, Fred Shumaker, Fanny McClay, George Reichman, Ernest Lachtrup, Deidrick Zacheis, Henry Dintelman, Henry Hillman, Henry Grennerman, James Godard, Herz Osborn, James McClurkin, James Sample, Joseph Torrens, John McAfee, James H. Hunter, J.M. Wylie, John Snider, James Beal, Louis Snider, Mary Washburn, Mary Auld, Martin Tool, Peter Bower, Robert Smith, Rachel Matson, Robert Ardrey, Samuel Coulter, Samuel Kamps, Samuel McLean, Thomas Walker, Thomas Crane, T.D. McClurkin, William Eigenrauch, William Smith, William Bailey, William Ardrey.

Several of these same names appeared on the list of people who had blacksmith work done by my Grandfather Smith in 1874.

## ELKTON SCHOOL

Mrs. Mollie Kinyon Rezba gives this information of the early school:

"The first school house in Elkton was built about two years before the village was laid out, which would make it about 1835. This building could have been of brick as the school building that stood where the present frame building now (1969) stands, consisted of one brick room and one frame room with a long hall between the two rooms. At this time there were several brick kilns nearby." George Talbot is reported to have been the first teacher.

Mrs. Lavina Anderson Sterrett who was reared between Elkton and Oakdale gives this information about the Elkton School in an article published in the NASHVILLE JOURNAL many years ago.

"The school house was and has been a very great asset to the town, and while the first schools were of a more forceful nature, in governing the pupils, the school of later years has been under efficient teachers who have taught the youth to take their place of responsibility in the world. Maggie Auld taught here in 1872-1873. When a second room was added, Mr. Charles Gudgen of Ashley taught the higher grades and Lavina Anderson taught the lower grades. Of later years the older school was replaced by a one room school, and after completing the eight grades the children are taken by bus to near by high schools.

The Misses Carrie and Eva Luke of Nashville recalled early school days in the Elkton School:

"A man was always hired to teach the higher grades. However the older boys did not start to school until the fall work was done up, so the man teacher started school in the fall with all pupils in the frame room. After about two months, when the big boys were ready to start to school, a woman teacher was hired, who took the lower grades to the brick room and the man teacher with the older children stayed in the frame room.

Miss Carrie Luke had started school to Mr. Gudgen and had then gone to Miss Anderson, while Miss Eva started to Miss Anderson. They also named Miss Mattie Carter and Mr. Jim Driskill as teachers who followed Mr. Charles Gudgen."

Mr. Roy and Miss Nora Carr remembered Miss Ethel Miller, Miss Libbie Wheelers, Miss Bessie Sawyer and Miss Forcade.

Mr. John Reinhardt remembered Henry Stroh, Polly Laney, \_\_\_\_\_ Holman, W.F. Hagebush, Melvin Potter, and Luke McDowell as his teachers. He also related that he was on the school board when the new building was built and that Mr. Jimmie McClellan was the first teacher in the new building. This was in 1913-1914.

Mr. Thomas Dahmcke and Mr. Joe Kubik built the school house.

The following information about the Elkton School was taken from the School Registers stored in the office of the Co. Supt. of School, Mr. Kenneth Frieman, who also was a former pupil in the Elkton School.

This listing gives the teachers, when they taught and the family names of the children in the first grade classes between the years 1916 and 1960 when the school was consolidated with the Oakdale Consolidated Grade School # 1.

1916-'18	Clara Fox	Adams, Giacomo, McClay, Shubert
1921-'22	W.C. Harper	Averbeck, Harrington, McKae, Simpson
1922-'23	Floyd Patton	Bennett, Hart, Mazander, Smith
1923-'24	Olive Boyle	Brammeier, Hays, Mitchell, Thomas
1924-'25	Elizabeth Rohde	Campbell, Heggemeier, Patton, Thompson
1925-'30	Florence Schaeffer	Carmen, Helbig, Petrashek, Voss
1930-'31	Gena Torrens	Carr, Hill, Pruitt, Walls
1931-'32	Perry Ward	Collier, Hoepker, Queen, Walta
1932-'34	Norme Eirich	Dahncke, Hylla, Reitz, Ward
1934-'44	Irene Shubert	Dintelman, Juenger, Reuter, Wileman
1944-'46	Evelyn Kroener	Engelman, Kinder, Rezba, Williams
1946-'48	Nelda Kroener	Enleman, Klingenberg, Robinson, Wichenski
1948-'51	Marjorie Patton	Fox, Kroener, Rohde, Winuski
1951-'54	Lorraine Koenig	Frieman, Luncford, Rountree, Yanczak
1954-'55	Gene Graves	
1955-'57	Ida Bell Voss	
1957-'60	Nelda Emert	

#### DISTRICT # 3 or McLEAN SCHOOL

Several people either remember seeing the remains of a little brick school house or have heard their parents tell of attending a little brick school across the road from Stuart Carson's home.

The following was found in the Carson Abstract of Title:

June 11-'56	Filed June 26-'57
Grantor-James McClellan & wife	
Grantee-Directors of Dist. # 3-34 (Inst. WD)	
Consideration \$ 1.00	

Remarks: Beg. at NW cor. SW SE 21-3-4 South  
10 rds. East 8 rds. North 10 rds.  
West 8 rds. to beg.

I have no knowledge of any of the teachers here nor when it was abandoned, however I was told that Herman Lehman started to Mr. Duguid in a room of the Duguid home one year before the Temple School was built. The Temple School replaced this little brick school.

## HISTORY OF DISTRICT NO. FOUR

by James Arthur Ramsey

It is not the history of a country, nor even of a state or county that I wish to preserve in this record.

The district was formed from Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36; nine sections in the southeast corner of Township No. 3, Range no. 4 West, Washington County, Illinois. This township had not been divided into school districts until the year 1856, when it was divided into four districts with equal territory. On January 15, 1856, the Township Board met and proceeded to divide the township as the following taken from the original records will show:

"January 15, 1856, the Board of Trustees for Twp. 3, Range 4 West met: J.P. Hibbard, G. Rountree and Robert Ramsey, who proceeded to divide said township by the following lines: Dividing north and south by the line dividing sections 3 and 4, 9 and 10, 15 and 16, 21 and 22, 27 and 28, 33 and 34; and east and west commencing at the township line on the east and the line dividing Sections 24 and 13, 23 and 14, 22 and 15, 21 and 16, 20 and 17, 19 and 18, so as to quarter the township to form four districts. The northeast division to be District No. 1, the north west division to be District No. 2, the southwest division to be District No. 3, and the southeast division to be District No. 4. The Board of Instruction was organized by appointing J.P. Hibbard, president and L. Rountree, treasurer. Wherefore it was ordered that elections for directors in each district to be held Monday Jan. 28, 1856. Ordered also that the treasurer make ready a bond for approval."

District No. 1 included all the territory around the present town of Oakdale, extending north to the township line; District No. 2, all the territory around Elkton, mostly south of town; District No. 3, all the territory around the Brick Church and the little brick school, known as the McLean School, or the Temple School, after a new school was built to the southwest.

Of late years the name of the District No. 4 has been changed to 73 and the school is known by the name of "Pleasant Hill."

The election for directors provided for by the Township Board to be held on Monday, January 28, 1856 was held at the house of "Hill Thomas" McClurkin and resulted in the choice of the following persons: Clark Gordon, John McClay, and Thomas McClurkin.

Linville Rountree, who was on the day of organization appointed township treasurer, continued in that office until J.P. Hibbard was appointed and he continued in that office until 1881, when John S. McKean was appointed and he served for 37 years.

The first school taught within the boundaries of the district was in a log school house one-fourth mile north and one-fourth mile east of the present site. It was a subscription school taught in the summer of 1855, closing late in the fall of that year. Mary McAfee Ramsey, wife of Robert Ramsey, and the mother of the writer was the teacher and the pupils were the older children of the early pioneer settlers in the district.

The first school house was built on the present site during the summer of 1856 by a man named John Robinson and it was completed that year. This building served the district as a school house until 1875 when Amos Snyder was given the contract to build an addition to the west end, thus increasing the capacity about one-third.

This building was frame and set upon wooden blocks about a foot above the prairie. It was weather-boarded on the outside and ceiled on the inside with tongue and grooved lumber, the walls served as blackboards for the school. This old building served until some time after 1885, when it was torn down and the present commodious school was built on the same site. Then the name was changed from District No. 4 to "Pleasant Hill."

But I have been writing too much about the buildings and territory as these do not form the essential part of District No. 4. It was the early pioneers who settled in the territory that gave character to the district and make its history interesting and important. The history of the district will be best written in the doings of these early settlers.

Nearly all of the early settlers of the district chose to locate their homes near the edge of the timber which skirted the small prairie on a hill on which they located their school house.

Possibly the earliest home established was that of Archibald Hood in the extreme southwest part of the district. A little later John Steele established his home on a hill in the prairie in the northeast part of the district. Southeast of his home in the edge of the timber came Frank Maxwell with a rather large family of boys. Possibly about 1840, came the large settlement in the southeast part of the district, consisting of the families of Clark Gordon, William Adams, William Piper, Gilbert Kenzie, James and John Kirkpatrick with large families, and a little farther east were the homes of the McClurken brothers with their father "Hill Thomas" McClurken, who had come from South Carolina on account of their hatred of slavery.

Nearly all of these early settlers in the district were Covenanters who were intensely loyal to the government and opposed to slavery. One of the ancestors of the McClurkens, Archibald McClurken, a young man, on home on furlough because of a fever was taken from his sick bed by General Tarleton and hung in his own yard as Tarleton was on his way to fight the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina where he was defeated two days later.

Later came James Edgar and James Christy, with large families and established their homes away up on the virgin prairie. The Harton Brothers, Joseph and Samuel settled in the timber in the southwest part of the district at a much later day.

All of these early pioneers were well-to-do, thrifty and provident people. They provided well for the comfort and well being of their families. However they failed to plant any trees on the acre of land on which the school was located. Another thing these early pioneers neglected was the digging of a well or cistern to furnish water for the school. It was the custom for two of the older scholars to ask for the privilege of bringing a bucket of water from the Archy McClurkin's, now Ray Boyle's, nearly a half mile distant. The water boys often "killed time" on the way, then

the little ones would have to "pass the water" when it came.

Possibly the largest and most compact settlement in the district was made during the war when John Thomas and Adam Boyle and Richard Semple located on the road leading east from the site of the old "Log School."

The school house in District No.4 has always been a great social center. I can remember when the dim lights in its windows were as beacons guiding the whole population of the district to the entertainments held there. The principal entertainments were the spelling-matches where the pupils of other districts were invited to contest with the local district. The textbook was always the old "Blue Backed Spelling -Book", and many a pupil in the old school could spell every word in it and tell right where the word was on the page. In the earlier days Wannie J. Ramsey and later Tom Chestnutt were considered the champion spellers.

At these matches the spellers were chosen by two captains who were in opposite corners of the room, and the spellers arranged themselves along the walls facing one another. Then the battle of words would begin and the spellers would go down one by one until perhaps only two on opposite sides would remain to spell all the words shot at them by the man or woman in the center of the room with a tallow candle in one hand and the "Blue Back" in the other. Then when one missed and the other spelled the word, pandemonium would break loose to be stilled by the announcement of the date and place of the next match.

The the Literary Society with its debates had its place as a social function and often have I seen in that old school-room people from Lively-Grove, Elkton, Pilot Knob taking the part of debaters and elocutionists. Previous to the debate we little folks spoke our pieces and sang our songs, and the literary paper with the jokes and the news of the district was read. The debates were on slavery, etc., and often became very warm and interesting, but the debaters never came to blows, for the debaters were gentlemen and neighbors and friends. The champion debaters as I remember them were "Billy" Miller and Knox Finney, and either of them could defend his side of the question and, incidentally, "kill time" to lengthen out the program. The "anonymous box" was always kept to the last to hold the crowds and in it were anonymous shots at various persons in the neighborhood who needed a "taking down" as some thought.

Then there were the singing-schools where more select crowds paid the teacher, admitting no outsiders, and the outsiders never disturbed the school either, for these early pioneers would not have allowed it. And these early pioneers and their children were singers and could carry all the parts and read the notes to any selection. The singing school was not any play party, and the singing teacher was very exacting and rigid as to his instruction and discipline.

The game that came the earliest and stayed the longest at the old school was "anty-over". In this game the sides were chosen and took their positions on either side of the house and a ball was thrown over the school house which seemed to be better adapted to anty-over than it was for a school building. If those on the opposite side caught the ball they would run around to the other side and hit some one there, winning them to their side until one of the sides was broken up, I have often heard the scholars shout-

and yelling as they played anty-over at the old school when I was distant over a mile.

Another winter game when the large boys were in school was "Town Ball" the forerunner of the more modern baseball. Sides were chosen and there was a catcher and pitcher as in baseball, but there were more bases and the player was either caught-out or crossed-out by throwing the ball between him and the next base while he was running around the large circle. The paddle used was a board about six inches wide whittled down to a handle, and it was almost impossible to miss the ball.

A good running game was "stink base" in which sides were chosen and the principal bases were placed about fifty yards apart, and off to the side about forty feet was placed the two stink bases and the persons caught were placed on the stink bases until touched or rescued by some good runner on his side. It was counted a great disgrace to let your best girl stay on the stink base very long, and it was mortifying to have your rival take her off.

Then there was the "roly-hole" in which game holes in a row were cut in the solid play-ground, each boy choosing a hole, and a ball was rolled over the holes, and if stopped in yours you were to grab the ball and paste some other boy, and if he was hit he must take his place at the home and hit some other boy.

Then there was "bull pen" where four boys on the corners of a square would throw at the group of boys in the center, and when a boy was hit he had to take his place on the corner of the square. It gave a fine chance for you to "sock" a boy in the center you didn't like and get away with it as only play.

A favorite winter sport with the boys was building monuments of snow when the snow would pack. As a winter sport of course we had skating and shinny and sledding on the ice on Morrison's or James Boyle's ponds, but they were quite a distance away, and we had to promise to be back when the bell rung, which we did not always do, and were punished by forbidding us to skate there.

Almost all of the time in summer was spent by the girls in playing house in the fence corners and under the shade of the immense hedges on both sides of the school. There with broken dishes and discarded china were from the home, and pieces of old furniture they made home quite respectable. It was a favorite sport of the boys to ask to "go out", and they would "wreck these homes" or fill them up with debris and trash from the roads and hedges. Of course they were caught at times by the girls who kept tab on the boys who went out during school.

I remember some teachers better than others; one, my first teacher was Lizzie Hair who I thought was a most beautiful woman. Another, Andrew Kennedy, who tried to keep my older sister in after school, but I cried so long and howled so loudly that he let her go. Another I remember was Dick Todd with the wooden leg who rode to school on a yellow mare. Another I remember was Blanchard Kennedy, who had been employed by the school board to "straighten out" the school along in the seventies when some new families had moved in and demoralized the school. He played ball with the boys at noon, but when the bell rang he came into the school room and woe to the boy, large or small who violated the rules there.

I have searched the records until a complete list from 1856 to 1914 follows in about the order in which they were employed:

Mary McAfee, 1855; Elizabeth Auld, 1857; Eliza McKean, James J. Stevenson, Jane McAfee Faris, Lizzie Hair, Andrew Kennedy, Mary J. Sterrett, Mary Ann Pierson, Richard Rodd, William J. Love, Libbie Beall Rennie, 1866; Mary Mathews, Rosana Miller, Nannie J. Ramsey. S.R. McClurkin, Maggie T. Ramsey, Joseph Wylie, Robert McLean, Ellen Marshall, Blanchard Kennedy, Sarah Russell, Lizzie Morrison, Renwick Keady, Nannie McClay, Lizzie Henderson, John C. Kerr, Maggie Boyle, Joseph Strahan, Lean Speer, Lottie Edgar, James C. Thompson, David Duguid, John P. McClurkin, Lottie Edgar, James A. Ramsey, 1884; John G. Klene, Nellie Neill, Anna Anderson, Anna Boyle, Sadie Beggs, Effie Edgar, Dan Vernor, Frank Maxwell, John Murphy, Anna Smith Coulter, Eva Murray, Lena McCormick, Tillie Boyle, Nannie Piper, Ada Auld, Williard Boyle, Laura Maxwell, Gertrude Boyle, Melissa Boyle, 1914.

(Mr. Ramsey gave a list of all pupils who had attended the school from 1856 to 1914, but since there were as many as twenty-eight children bearing the same family name, I have included only the family name of former scholars. I thought it more interesting historically to note the families who have come and gone as well as the families who have stayed in the community.)

Adams, Anderson, Andrews, Auld, Avery, Bailey, Beall, Beggs, Boyle, Brown, Caruth, Chestnut, Christy, Combs, Cook, Dale, Donahue, Donnelly, Dougherty, Edgar, Elliott, Evans, Ewing, Fox, Freeman, Fulton, Gordon, Harton, Hemphill, Hood, Hunter, Huff, Kelly, Kidney, Kirkpatrick, Klene, LaWall, Livesay, Logan, Love, McAuley, McClay, McClurkin, McConaghie, McCormick, Watson, Maxwell, Moore, Morrison, Ottweaky, O'Neil, Owens, Piper, Ramsey, Rennie, Rodgers, Rohde, Semple, Sloane, Smith, Strong, Torrens, Weaver, Wessel, White, Wylie.

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Mr. James A. Ramsey was born near Oakdale, Illinois on Jan. 16, 1856 and was married to Miss Harriet McClurkin on May 10, 1881. He was a school teacher in Illinois and went to Kansas where he was again a teacher for many years also served as County Supt. of Schools in Anderson Co., Kansas. For twenty years he was Reader of the Kansas State Senate, retiring from that position, served as Chief Sanitary Officer and was employed by the city of Topeka when the State Birth Registration Law took effect. He was survived by his widow and two sons, Major Norman Ramsey of Washington, D.C. and Lester Ramsey of York, Penn. and a daughter Mrs. O.E. Frisble of Powell, Wyoming when he died in 1934.

His son, Norman was promoted to the rank of General before World War II.

## KERR SCHOOL # 56

Kerr School District is located in Pilot Knob Township, but is included, since it is now part of the Consolidated District. Its first Deed was recorded in Bk. M-p. 41 June 16, 1856. No. #56 Districts were numbered in the county in the order in which they were formed, or in the order in which deeds were recorded for new locations or when names were changed.

I happen to know that prior to 1900, Al Torrens, W.S. Coulter, and Lena Coulter taught in this school and that between then and 1939 when the records in the Co. Supt. Office begin, Miss Nannie Piper, Melissa Boyle, Olive Boyle, Williard Carson, Willard Torrens, and Venice Brink taught in the school.

*THIS IS IN ERROR, I DID NOT TEACH AT KERR, Venice Brink*

1939-'41	Lyle Soeteber	McRae, Frieman, Wiese
1941-'46	Eileen Carson	Reidelberger, Zacheis, Eigenrauch
1946-'47	Joan Carson	Williams, Brammeier, Hogshead
1947-'48	Eileen Fox	Zurwicks

## LUNEY SCHOOL #57

Luney School, also located in Pilot Knob Township has a Deed recorded in Book P -p. 393 . No. # 57

From old School Registers stored in the Oakdale School, I found this information:

1909-'10	Fannie McConnell	J. Brammeier, H. Schaeffer, H. Guenter
1910-'11	Etta McClay	R. Torrens, Esther Schaeffer
1915-'16	Roy Carson	Boyd, Brammeier, Campbell
1916-'17	Constance Potter	Car, Carle, Carrick
1917-'18	Charlotte Edgar	Corpening, Fox, Glenn
1918-'21	Nell Todd	Grote, Harland, Ibendahl
1921-'41	Charles Roling	Klingenberg, Ladendecker, McConnell
1941-'42	Margaret Heggemeier	Maxwell, Roling, Schaeffer
1942-'44	Helen Woodrome	Scholar, Stern. Todd
1944-'45	Dorothy McClay	Torrens
1945-'47	Viva Dempsey	
1947-'48	Joan Carson	

## BLACK JACK SCHOOL # 69

Black Jack School is located in Plum Hill Township.  
Deed recorded Book 40 p. 577 May 12 1871 ; Book 49-p. 498 3-19-1877  
Book 83-p. 466 Oct. 17, 1891

1939-'41	Hazel Patton	Schaeffer, Daniels, Schuessler
1941-'43	Eleanor Thompson	Prater, Wulf, Walts
1943-'44	Marcella McClay	Kolweier
1944-'50	Elizabeth Hille	
1950-'51	Juanita McClay	
1951-'52	Joyce Robinson	
1952-'53	J.H. Hillyard	

## OAKDALE SCHOOL #70

We have record of the Grade school being established in Oakdale in 1875, but the Deed was Recorded Book 49-p.603 Sept. 1877. We do not know who the teacher was in 1875, but we do know that Mr. J.C. Thompson was the teacher in 1877. Fifty pupils enrolled.

The school seemed to have grown for in 1882 Mr. W.R. Maxwell and Miss Lizzie Ramsey were the teachers.

Mr. David Duguid was an early teacher also.

Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick gave us this information:

## Oakdale School 1896-1897

## Teachers

Frank Maxwell	-	Upper Grades
Sadie Smith	-	Intermediate Grades
Lottie Edgar	-	Primary Grades

## Pupils

Kate Kennedy	Frank McQuilkin	Allie Guthrie	Bertha McClurkin
Lottie Smith	*Raymond Kirk	Edna Smith	Joe Maxwell
Anna McLean	Ella Thompson	Edith Guthrie	May Belle Kemps
Eleanor Auld	Lizzie Coulter	Inez Keady	Mollie Borcharding
Willie Kemps	James Boyle	Sam McConaghie	Thomas Fulton
Waldo Thompson	Bert Piper	Ethel Kemps	*Walter McClurkin
*Ethel McKean	Pearl Murphy	*Anna Bell Kirk	Annie Laura Kennedy*
Willie Kennedy	Luther Wylie	Venton Snyder	Myrtle McClurkin
Richie Kirk			

\* Those known to be living in 1969.

Miss Lottie Edgar may have taught the lower grades before 1896, but she taught there continuously until 1911 when the third room was closed. That year she taught the upper room. John Miller taught the upper room some time before 1904 and Lena Coulter taught the middle room in that time span also.

In 1904, H.H. House taught the upper grades, Margaret Smith, the middle grades.

Some of those who taught the upper grades between 1904 and 1948, were Mr. Rayburn, Mr. Edwin Carson, Miss Tillie Boyle, Miss Mary Parlier, Mr. J.W. Washburn, Miss Mary Griese, Miss Beth Carson, Miss Ella Carson, Mr. Willard Torrens, Miss Thalia Patton, Miss Elizabeth Rohde, Mr. Kenneth Frieman, Stanley Coulter, and Mr. Bruce McLean.

Some of those who taught the middle room between 1904 and 1911 when it was closed, were Miss Ada Auld and Miss Eva Murray.

Some who taught the lower grades after 1911 were: Miss Eva Murray, Miss Claudine Coulter, Miss Lucile Coulter, Miss Gladys Carson, Miss Fern Carson, Miss Gena Torrens and Miss Viva Dempsey.

\* Miss Margaret Smith was given a Vanity Case in 1905-'06 by her class in the intermediate grades. The following names are signed:

Eyelle Brown	* Florence Smith	Esther Borcharding
Fordie Torrens	Louise Jackson	* Grace Torrens
Madge Kirk	Wm. Middleton	Dan Kaufman
Oscar McClay	Floyd McClay	* Leola Murphy
Lester Guthrie	Ella Mae Beattie	

A picture taken down in the woods northwest of town on the last day of school in 1908 shows \* Miss Lottie Edgar, the teacher. Children in the picture are :

Carl Martin	Kenneth Luney	* Charlie Kaufman
* Willie Kleinschmidt	Charlie Smith	Ralph Hunter
French McClay	Merwin Williamson	Henry York
Sinda Patton	Patton	Edgar Donnelly
Patton	Louis Beggs	Gail Boyle
Dorothy Winters	Fern Boyle	Calvin Donnelly
Lizzie York	Florence White	Gertie Kleinschmidt
* Ella May Williamson, Claudine Coulter	Wilson Miller	
* Deceased		

A picture taken the same day as the one mentioned above shows Miss Ada Auld as the teacher and the children in the picture were in the middle grades.

Cinda Kaufman	John Beggs	Loyd Torrens
Lee Winters	Renzo McClay	Harry Logan
Floyd McClay	Gladys Carson	Cautius Choate
Nannie Patton	Ward Auld	Anna Bulan
Florence Smith	Libbie Beggs	Louise Jackson
Helen Griesse	Jessie Borcharding	Lawrence McClay

Five of the children and the teacher are dead as of 1969. Mrs. Ada Torrens, the teacher; Loyd Torrens, Gladys Carson Sommers, Ward Auld, Florence Smith Hoffman, Helen Griesse.

A picture taken during the year 1920-'21 shows Miss Beth Carson and Miss Claudine Coulter, teachers. The children were part of each room.

The children included Zenas Reuter, Joe Bulan, Henry Iben-dahl, Rolland McClay, Paul Adams, Dalton Rohde, Marjorie Auld, Beth McConaghie, Louise Torrens, Genevieve McClay, Elvira Decker, Florence Carson, Melba Guthrie, Mildred McClay, and Leontine Decker.

Families having children in the first grades in the Oakdale School between 1939-1948 were:

Huff,	Schaefer	Shubert	Buettner
Markham	Mayer	McClay	Richmond
Ward	Glenn	Alfeldt	Frieman
McIlrath	Wisely	Rohde	Woodside
Grote			

## OAKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

In 1922, a two year high school was opened at Oakdale. The two front rooms were used for the grades, a large new room was built on just west of the old primary room and the high school classes were taught in those rooms.

Miss Thelma Eubanks was the first teacher.

Mr. Fredricks was the second teacher. The next year an additional teacher was employed, a Mr. Ashbrook. The following year Kenneth Luney took his place.

Other teachers were Mr. C.A. Reeded, Mr. Boczkiewicz, Mr. Fred Chapman, Mr. Frank Glenn, Mr. Clarence Stevenson, Mr. Oliver McIlrath, Mr. Archie Woodrome, Miss Irene Piper and Miss Eleanor Thompson.

Miss Thompson taught typing the year she was there. Three of her pupils spent their time in the Service typing Discharge Papers for service men: Elmer McLean, Noel Brammeier and Larry McClay.

When the second teacher was employed, the school was changed to a three year school. Upon graduation from the Oakdale High School, most of the students went on to Nashville High School to graduate.

The school was discontinued in 1944. All small high schools were closed out about that time.

## TEMPLE SCHOOL #72

I do not know when the Temple School was built, however the Oakdale School District was # 70 and built in 1875, Temple School District was # 72. Pleasant Hill had a new school built in about 1885 according to Mr. Ramsey's recollections.

From the teacher's annual reports on file in Mr. Frieman's Office, I gathered this information: giving the teacher for the years that records were on file and the families having pupils in the first grade class:

1940-'41	Oliver McIlrath	Dintelman, Huff, McCray
1941-'43	Betty Fox	Mazender, Shubert, Ahlers
1943-'45	Gladys Sommers	
1945-'48	Ida Bell Voss	

## PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL # 73

Mr. Ramsey has given the names of all teachers up until 1914 and also he gave the full names of all pupils but I only included the family names for brevity.

1939-'40	Anna Mae Todd	Darlesh, Frye, McClay
1940-'41	Charles Hunt	Luczaj, Morris, Torrens
1941-'44	Evelyn Kroener	Davis, Reuter
1944-'45	Margaret Auld	
1945-'46	Darleen Wisely	
1946-'48	Margaret Auld	

## FROM AN OLD SCHOOL STORY

Written by

MRS. LAVINA ANDERSON STERRETT

Copied and published by Mrs. Frank Torrens  
In NARRATIVES OF SPARTA & RANDOLPH CO. GENEALOGY

## HIBBARD SCHOOL-- 1872

"Old Hibbard School as I recall it, was situated in the country west of Oakdale, Illinois and south of the town of Elkton in Washington County. The first building was a rude log affair furnished with slab benches as seats, was cold and gloomy. The fiery red-haired Scotchman, John McGuire, was the last teacher in this building, and was the first teacher in the new white frame school house.

The hedge fence by the roadside provided material for switches and John McGuire kept himself well provided with dethorned rods standing up in the corner handy. I remember one boy called him "Red-headed-devil". But this school was, I guess, enough to try any man's temper.

Each pupil had his own text books or looked on with his neighbor. The books were MCGUFFY'S READERS, RAY'S ARITHMETIC, MITCHELL'S GEOGRAPHY and WEBSTER'S BLUE BACKED SPELLER.

My memory of the school has some thrills as I recall the fat black and yellow lizards that scampered up the wall and disappeared into a crevice. One day at recess the boys came from the woods and asked us girls to come out and see what they had found. So, we full of curiosity hurried to the door. Janie Patton, smarter than the rest of us, got there first. On the doorstep she planted her bare foot on a big blacksnake. How she screamed and did the boys laugh?

At this school house there was a long privy built at the back of the school yard. There was a door at its each end, one for the boys and one for the girls. Oh, we were fast becoming civilized.

On going to and from school, through brush and timber, occasionally we would see a gallon jug of whiskey hid behind a tree stump. We girls had pretty playhouses along our way to and from school, the boys helping to carry rocks and sticks to make them.

What a bevy of children answered the hand-bell call in the fall of 1873. The families of Patton, Hibbard, Crow, Kane, Stark and many others had moved into the neighborhood and most all had large families. The Patton family moved soon to Randolph County, Illinois. Their children were Mattie, Janie, David and Annie.

The story of the Hibbard family was that the Hibbards were struggling farmers in Vermont, with a large family. Then their son Josiah Porter Hibbard was two years old, he was sent to live with his maternal frand-parents, the Hazens, who lived near Battleboro, Vermont. When he became a man he went to Michigan and found employment in a wholesale house. He joined the army when the U.S. was at war with the Mexicans before Texas became part of the U.S. He was a quartermaster and often carried \$ 1,000.00 in his belt to keep it from being stolen.

Josiah Porter Hibbard married Miss McAfee, who died at the birth of their first child. He married as his second wife Alvina Ford who was born in New Hampshire, one of nine children. Her

father, James Ford, brought his family west in a covered wagon, to Olean, N.Y. where they tarried for a time. From there they traveled to Illinois, sailing on a raft down the Ohio and up the Mississippi River to Chester, Illinois and from there to Eden, near Sparta. Here Mrs. James Ford died in 1844 and James Ford died in 1847 at Eden also (buried in Caledonia Cemetery) Sparta.

Josiah Porter Hibbard and wife Alvina located in Washington County west of Oakdale and it was near their home that this second school house was located that was called the "Hibbard School".

When Josiah met Alvina she was teaching in a log school in Washington County, on a knoll across the road from "Biscuit Jim" J.H. McClurkin's house. Alvina was taking care of May Cleveland, her sister Susan and Henry Cleveland's orphan child, whose parents had died of Cholera. Henry Cleveland was a teacher also and during the scourge of cholera bravely took care of some of those afflicted. He visited his motherless babe a few days before his fatal attack. When neighbors found him dead, he was wrapped in a blanket on his bed and placed in a coffin, which was not thereafter opened.

An incident in Alvina's teaching life is recorded as troubles of a pioneer teacher, when one evening after school a white bull got into the school-house and tore up her Bible and cut up other unsavory capers.

Josiah Porter Hibbard and Alvina Ford were married November 20, 1850. Their first and second babies died in infancy. The other six all lived to maturity. They were Addie, Sadie, Henry, Orvis, and Minnie Roena. These all saw the light first in the brick house in the apple orchard a mile south of Elkton and some three miles west of Oakdale. Josiah bought another farm adjoining this in 1866 and the family moved to it. On this farm of 774 acres "Squire Hibbard", as we knew him lived for thirty some years. He was Justice of the Peace and often married couples. He also gave work to many men as he raised corn, fruit and vegetables. He had a molasses mill and sold good fresh sorghum molasses for 25¢ a gallon.

His large two-story white house with green blinds had a friendly look to passers-by and the school children often stopped for a drink or a lick of syrup from the sugar mill. His children started to school in the log house, previously mentioned, with the long benches where half a dozen children sat in one seat. In 1873 "Papa Hibbard" as we children sometimes called him, gave an acre of land on the road, for a new school-house. It was built of wood and had an entrance way to hang up our coats and lunch buckets. This entrance way provided a temptation to a hungry boy or girl to slip a sandwich out of another's bucket.

The red deer were in the woods across from the school house and we have seen them jump the high rail fence into the pasture. The desks in the school house had many notches in them and the new teachers tried to keep the new ones, given later, smooth but many initials would mysteriously appear on them.

Alvina Ford's brothers, James, Roscoe and Andrew Jackson, together with Andrew Ramsey, Henry Moore and others went in covered wagons drawn by oxen to California in 1849. For fuel on the way they often used dried "Buffalo Chips."

Josiah Hibbard moved to Longview, Texas in 1887 but contracted swamp fever and died Dec. 31, 1887. Alvina died in Kansas in 1913.

Sadie married William Donnelly who was killed in an auto accident at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Henry married Elizabeth McCloy and Orvis married her cousin, Mary Bell McCloy and all went to California. Minnie Roena married Earl Hyatt and had three sons who lived in or near Topeka, Kansas. Minnie died in 1936.

In 1873 Mrs. Hibbard's sister, Mrs. Crow, with her husband and children moved into the old Morrison house, east of the school house. Their children were Etta, Charles, Lillie and Ida.

From the Beattie home came Robert, John, Mary, and Willie Lincoln. The latter became proprietor of the large Auditorium Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

Will Kane thought himself too old to go to school but his six sisters were there promptly. Mary later married James Boyle; Mattie married Sam Patton, Maggie married John Kirkpatrick, Isabella Adeline (Bell) married Tom McClurkin. Nettie married Anthony Carr, Lizzie married James Graham. Nannie died in young womanhood.

The Shubert family had classical names: as Caesar, Bruno, Dozena, Amos, Ganius and Hugo. The Dorsal family had rather Biblical names Abraham, Samuel, Daniel and Janet. It was told that the Dorsals were related to royalty in France, but in Illinois they were merely among the struggling foreigners who failed to make a strong foothold and the father of the family finally hung himself in his own well. Think of what the wife and mother must have endured.

The Stark family were purely German: Louise, Henry, Fritz and Wilhelm. We girls learned many words and songs from Louise. Henry married Annie Carr who was for years a farmer near Nashville, Ill.

The Kaufman family were Joseph, Lucinda, Dannie and Anna. One evening Dannie was carrying a gallon bucket of molasses from the Hibbard mill. On the way home was a pond of ice at the Moore farm. Naturally we must needs slide across the ice rather than keep the path. Awkwardly (Lavina Sterrett) slid against Dannie, who fell with the bucket of molasses. The lid rolled off. We all scooped molasses with our hands or whatever we could find, ate some, and then we saw the pail was far from full. Later after plenty of scolding and shifting, we promised to bring a quarter of a dollar next day to get another gallon of molasses. Quarters were scarce in those days, too.

The McAfee's were Maggie, Emma, John, Robert and Frank. The Auld's were Will, John and Oliver. Oliver died before he was 18 years old. Will married Lou Kennedy and John married Bell Hood and both families lived on farms west of Oakdale.

Mary Mitchell, a scholar I remember, wore long black curls which the boys pulled to torment her. My brother Hamilton Anderson and I trudged the mile and a half over field and through mud interested in everything that went on.

The teacher in 1874 at Hibbard, was a dark haired fleshy Robert C. McLean. I do not remember that he whipped anybody; but he would bring his heavy home made quirt down on the desk with such power that we small fry shuddered. He taught us to sing the song naming the capitals. It was a relaxation for us to join his deep resonant voice singing, "State of Maine, Augusta on the Kennebec River. Vermont, Montpelier on the Winooski River", and so on through all the states.

Being ten years old the fall of 1875, I was a happy girl, to go to school and see a new type of tutor-- a real lady, Miss Mary Myers, of Nashville. How we girls studied her from the toe of her

tiny shoe to the top of her wavy hair. her nieces and nephew Laura, Etta and Jasper Rountree, came with her and raised the social status of the school.

Willie McLean and my sister Anna Anderson were of school age now, and trudged along as fast as their legs would go. I remember Etta Rountree fell on the ice and hurt her head dreadfully. Jasper Rountree married Ada McClurkin, a daughter of J.H. McClurkin.

Each Friday afternoon a young man with a dandy team, came and took Miss Myers away. We found out that his name was Sawyer and his home was in Nashville. We were anxious lest he might capture our beautiful teacher, and sure enough, something happened that she did not come back as teacher next year. Instead our teacher was Mattie Beggs.

New families were drifting into the district and we find new scholars, Mary, Annie, Barbara, Katie and Josie Prebel. Mrs. Prebel was sick and the girls had a hard time doing the work and getting to school. The Kaufman family moved away, and the Sam Brown family came. Their boys were Charlie, Frank, Dave and Sam. There was talk then of women in Ohio going into saloons and getting them to quit selling liquor. Sam Brown said, "If my wife goes out and does that I'll quit her." She was a lonely woman and some thought she would be better off without him. The Brown family moved away later.

The Griffith children did not come to school very long. They were Charles, Diana, Phoebe and Ewing. James and Robert Bruce came too.

The William Rountree family was an interesting one. They were Ann, Alice, Charlie, James, Kate and Maude.

David Duguid taught one or two years; he was quite well educated.

In 1879 Mattie Holliday was the teacher. She had a rolling soprano voice and taught us many songs and an alphabet of Scripture verses, as well as Arithmetic and other things.

The Petrashek family had now moved in and Mrs. Petrashek's sister Anna and Barbara Hobada were keen lassies. Orville and Greenville Moore came a term or two and were followed by their brother, Asbury Moore, who came as our next teacher, and proved an efficient one. He had received training from Carbondale State Normal.

Ann Rountree had attended Sunday School in Elkton and liked to sing hymns. I often think of her when I hear the hymn,

"I think when I read that sweet story of old,  
When Jesus was here among men,  
When He called little children as lambs to His fold,  
I should like to have been with him then,"

In 1934 I visited the Hibbard School with Mrs. A.A. Wyllie and Miss Eleanor Auld. There were improvements; a well with pump, a wash basin and towels, a row of windows to let in ample light. As time makes changes, so schools will change even more.

## HIBBARD SCHOOL # 74

The Hibbard School is located in Oakdale Township 3-4

Deed Recorded Book 76-p.24 July 1, 1878

Book 90-p.334 Oct. 10, 1893

Mrs. Lavina Anderson has given the names and a good deal of the history of each family which attended the Hibbard School in days long gone by.

1939-'44 Maude Lee

Costes, Mazander, Udarholt  
Stern

Hibbard School was annexed to the Elkton School on April 5, 1948 by petition to township trustees.

## HOEPKER SCHOOL # 87

The Hoepker School was located in Oakdale 3-4

Deed Recorded Book 102-p.178 Aug. 20, 1902 Sec. 2

Deed Recorded Book 114-p.369 Dec. 26, 1908 Sec. 35

Plum Hill Township

The Hoepker School was opened in September 1902 with Messrs. Christ Moeller, Louis Klingenberg and Louis Zacheis as the Directors of District # 7. On Oct. 25, 1902 they met and decided to build a coal house size 8 X 10 feet and 10 feet high with a plank roof. There was also a decision to dig a cistern 6 feet wide and 10 feet deep.

The tax levy of \$200.00 on taxable property was to be levied for this purpose.

The following were teachers from 1902 -1940:

1902-'05	Pearl McConnell	1921-'22	Helen Griese
1905-'07	Nettie Rountree	1922-'23	Olive Boyle
1907-'08	Nellie Smith	1923-'25	Ina M. Rohde
1908-'10	Nettie Rountree	1925-'26	Elma McClurkin
1910-'12	Ella Duguid	1926-'28	Mary P. arlier
1912-'14	Stella Kroener	1928-'31	Jessamine Dintelman
1914-'17	Bertha Moeller	1931-'35	Stanley Oexeman
1917-'18	Beth Carson	1935-'37	Thalia Patton
1918-'19	Claudine Coulter	1937-'38	Helen Piper
1919-'21	Edna Adams	1938-'40	Alma Dodds

1940-'41	Martha Stieg
1941-'42	Stella Havens
1942-'43	Paul Duncan
1943-'44	Elma Davis
1944-'46	Marcella McClay
1946-'48	W.L. Lowe
1948-'49	Herbert Dintelman
1949-'50	Rebecca Tucker
1950-'51	Madeline Brehm
1951-'52	Juanita McClay

1952-'53 Joyce Wisely  
Family names of first grade pupils-  
Voss, Klingenberg, Geppert, Kroener  
Dintelman, Blumhorst, Fuqua, Zacheis  
Reidelberger, Morgenthal, Hagebush  
Oexman, Eigenrauch, Hoelscher, Bovay  
Moeller, Wendell, Pruechsner,  
Maschoff, Wilke, Ohlmeier, Maier,

## OAKDALE CONSOLIDATED GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT # I

During the early 1940's there was a general movement in Illinois to consolidate the rural schools into central units. Legislation favorable to this was enacted. The purpose being to provide an enriched program of education in modern facilities, giving all children the benefit of hot lunches.

After study and discussion among themselves, the Pleasant Hill, Kerr and Oakdale School Districts voted to consolidate. The election was held on April 24, 1948. On May 8, 1948, the following were elected to serve on the first five member Board of Education in the Oakdale Community School District: Ray Wisely, Pres.; William Brammeier, Clerk; Ward Auld, Lawrence Eigenrauch, and Lawrence Hood, Members.

On May 22, 1948, the Directors of the Luney, Temple and Oakdale Schools met and voted to hold an election on June 5, 1948 to consolidate these districts. The election carried.

When school opened in September 1948, the children from the Pleasant Hill, Kerr, Temple, Luney Schools and those in the Oakdale School District living beyond a distance fixed by law, were transported to the old Oakdale School House by Mr. Ed Hudspeth on his new school bus.

The teachers in the newly consolidated school were: 1948-'49 Mrs. Eileen Taft, Mrs. Rena Mangis, Mr. Thomas Dahncke. Mr. Dahncke was appointed to serve as principal and has supervised the activities of the school since the consolidation.

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Shirley McClay	Joyce Filter	Leah McCray	Dolores Frieman
Cecil Alfeldt	Robert Word	Lyndon Zacheis	Marcia Cunningham
Jack Carrick	Norman Roesner	Kathleen Frieman	Carol Sue Markham

1949-'50 Teachers: Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Mangis Mr. Dahncke

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Marcia Rohde	Irene Woodside	Gary Torrens	Grace Brammeier
Kenneth Hood	Gerald Zacheis	Gladys Fox	Calvin Ethington
Verdell Alfeldt			

1950-'51 Teachers: Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Kohring, Mr. Dahncke

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Alice Zacheis	Eileen Porter	Dennis Fields	Kathlyn Frieman
Harold Alfelt	Leo Sterns	Billy Ahlers	Leslie Brammeier
Richard Ethington			

1951-'52 Teacher: Mrs. Taft Mrs. Kohring Mr. Dahncke

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Kay Coulter	Patty Pitman	Orville Davis	Phyllis Fr'
Leslie Rohlfing	Gale Zacheis	Lloyd Zacheis	Maurice D

1952-'53 Teachers: Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, Miss Elizabeth Rohde

Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Ruth Martin	Lois Zacheis	Faye Mazander	Wallace Williams
Mary Ibendahl	Joan Word	David Shubert	David Hogshead
Alice Williams	Nora Dell	Eigenrauch	

1953-'54 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Miss Rohde, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Thomas D. Dahncke Leona Carle Harlen Ferguson Janet Sue Word  
Waldo Klingenberg

On Oct. 5, 1953 part of the Black Jack School was annexed to the Elkton School District. The Hoepker District was annexed to the Consolidated School District by petition to the Co. Bd. of School Trustees. The district was renamed The Consolidated Grade School District # 1 and the school board was increased to seven members.

1954-'55 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Miss Rohde, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Sarah Pruitt	Nadene Wisely	Betty Ibendahl	Carol Sue Ahlers
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1955-'56 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Miss Rohde, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Myrene Carson	Laverna Sterns	Leroy Rohfing	Terry Heggemeier
Jerry Wilson			

1956-'57 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Honghland, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Helen Kurwicki	Sharon Coulter	Alice Dahncke	Doris Jean Brammeier
Dennis Frieman	Earl Zacheis	Madonna Shreeman	

1957-'58 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mangis, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Donna Ahlers	Betty Hood	Billy Hudspeth	Danny Heggemeier
Dottie Kelly	Dennis Lawlers	Kenny Hogshead	Cathie Torrens
Donnie Jo Wisely			

1958-'59 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mangis, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Edith Carson	Marlene Taft	Barbara Zacheis	Jerry Ahlers
Jerry Shubert	Jackie Shreeman		

1959-'60 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mr. Ralph McTalls, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Joy Torrens	Judy Sterns	Betty Chandler	Donna McConnell
Robert Self	Sammy Pruitt	Marvin Coulter	Betty Ruth Brammeier

On Jan. 4, 1960 the Elkton School petitioned the County Board of School Trustees to be annexed to the consolidated district.

1960-'61 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Nelda Emert, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Rosalee Auld	Elliot Collier	Archie Fuqua	Earle Jean Auld
Whitsell Ahlers	Carolyn Rohde	Launa Zacheis	Thomas J. Dahncke
Sharon Helbig	J.D. Helbig	Larry Musielek	Randolph Shubert

Preceding the opening of school for the 1961-'62 school year, the school board purchased a tract of land just east of the village of about 10-12 acres in size. After carefully planning, they contracted the building of a modern school building. The building contains an office and four classrooms separated from an all-purpose room and kitchen by a wide corridor. There is a large entrance at the west end of the building which serves as a cloak hall for visiting audiences at community gatherings, while on bad days it provides an excellent area for playing ping-pong. The all-purpose room has bleachers along one side, on the south end is a stage with showers and dressing rooms on either side. Roll-a-way folding tables provide a cafeteria area at noon, then when the tables are rolled away, the basket ball court is occupied. Toilet facilities and custodian storage is also provided. The building is gas heated and lighted by electricity, supplemented by an excellent group of sky lights in each room and also the corridor. These sky lights not only conserve electricity but more importantly, they give an excellent diffused light in all parts of the building.

1961-'62 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Emert, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Carolyn Kreher	Ruth Auld	Sandra Wilson	Robert Gordon Davis
Terry Fox	Kenneth Taft	Connie Patton	

1962-'63 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Betty Brammeier, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Linda Auld	Harold Cook	Sandra Helbig	Kathy Sue Heggemeier
Sandra Vosges	Linda McConnell	Jeanne Groenwald	

1963-'64 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Nelda Emert, Mr. Dahncke

1963-'64 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Elma Mercer, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Judy Dahncke	Judy Fuqua	Andrea Shubert	Mary Beth Sterrett
Marilyn Beek	Roger Allen	Charles Kreher	Bill Rohlfing
Eulyne Powers	Robert Wood	Jonathon Carrick	

1964-'65 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Patty Taft	Debra Taft	Florence Wood	Sharon Eigenrauch
Karla Queen	Loretta Davis	Wayne Auld	Marcia Kennedy
Phil Carson	Larry Helbig	Dale McConnell	Johnny Grenwald
Dennis Huff	Eugene Kreher	Joseph Degenhardt	

1965-'66 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Ronald Auld	Darrell Taft	Paul Wisely	Pamela Musielak
Ray E. Kohring	John H. Carle	Lorraine Kennedy	James P. Ronan

1966-'67 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Oesch, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Becky Carson	Jack Fox	Ricky Patton	Barbara Degenhardt
Bobby Ronan			

1967-'68 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Pamela Auld	Lana Carrick	Kathleen Carle	Randy Brammeier
Pamela Kennedy	Sara Kohring	Sherry Kroener	Charles Degenhardt
Marlene Voszes	Effie Sue Fuqua	Robin Richardson	
Margaret Montaine			Samuel Sterrett

1968-'69 Teachers: Mrs. Betty Renkin, Mrs. Fox, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Jamie Kennedy	Polly Taft	Kathleen Ronan	Cinda Brammeier
Evet Bell	William Cook	Allan Dahncke	Russell Broadwater
Michael McClay			

Mr. Todd Fox was custodian in 1948-'49. Since 1949, Mr. Charles Brammeier assisted by members of his family has been custodian all the rest of the time since consolidation. They have been very efficient in keeping both yard and building in nice condition.

The following ladies have managed the cafeteria: Mrs. Waltens Wisely, Mrs. Irene Alfeldt, Mrs. Arnold Wilson and Mrs. Dorothy Brammeier, Mrs. Evelyn Kreher, and Mrs. Rena Rohlfing.

## PROGRESS IN CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT

Since consolidation, a very definite program has been carried out to gradually improve the curriculum and provide modern visual aid equipment. This includes a film strip and slide projector, a good film strip library, an overhead projector, a 'Ditto' liquid process duplicator, typewriter, maps, and reference books. Library books and magazines are added each term.

The last two years, we have certain 'special' education classes, remedial reading and arithmetic classes, and the services of a school nurse. Most of these have been on a cooperative basis with the Nashville Grade School and the Kaskaskia Special Education District, which is made up of Washington, Marion, and Clinton Counties. During the summer of 1966 the 'Head Start' program was conducted at Nashville. Then during 1967 and 1968 the children of the Oakdale District were eligible to attend both the 'Head Start' and 'Summer School' classes.

Numerous efforts to secure music instructors have been tried. Mrs. L.C. Haege began during the early years of consolidation. She gave both class and private lessons one day a week. Then LeMasters of Carbondale sent band instrument instructors for about a year. This wasn't too successful because of too many different instructors. During the 1967-'68 term three pupils from Oakdale took part in the band program offered by the Nashville School. They all had first place ratings in the music contest at New Baden in the Spring. This evidently led to more interest for during the 1968-'69 term, none more joined the first three. This enabled us to have Mr. Carl Webster of the Nashville Grade School to come to the Oakdale School one day per week for an hour or more instruction, usually on Wednesday afternoon from 3:45 to 4:45. Much progress was made for in the contest just completed at Mascoutah on Saturday March 8th, eleven of the twelve competed and received seven first place ratings and four second place ratings. Two are now eligible to go to the State Contest, namely: Kathy Ronan and Mike McClay.

The pupils of the seventh and eighth grades have taken part in the Poster and Essay Contests sponsored by the W.C.T.U. Oakdale has had four winners in the State Contest, namely: Edith Carson, first place poster; Linda Auld, first place essay; Phil Carson, second place essay; and Mike McClay, first place essay. Many pupils were winners in County Fair Exhibits, Conservation Books, Arithmetic, Spelling, Dictionary, and 'Better Breakfast' poster contests. Oakdale has always had its share of graduates who have gone on to distinguish themselves in 'higher education' in High School and College. It would be a surprise to many to be able to list all those who have gone on to college for his or her Bachelor's Master's and even Doctor's Degree. It is doubtful whether there is as small a community anywhere that supplies as many teachers as Oakdale has, and we hope will continue to in the future.

## SPORTS

'Sports' have not been neglected, and Oakdale has had its share of winners in tournaments as the numerous trophies, including at least two first place trophies in Basket Ball will indicate. The two main sports are soft ball and basket ball, although volley ball occupies most of the month of March.

The school is the social center for many community meetings. The 'Pep Club' and 'Basket Ball Boys' with lots of help from their mothers have sponsored suppers for different organizations to provide a new score-board clock and new stage curtains.

Although we have been in our new building for seven and one-half years, many still refer to it as our 'new school'. It should be a source of pride for every citizen of our community.

We appreciate Mr. Dahneke giving this excellent summary of their accomplishments.

We are quite certain there is much more history that could and should be preserved. This much we were able to gather.

We would be glad to add anything that you would like to contribute as a Supplement in the copy that will be placed in the Washington County Historical Museum. C.C.

LAND ENTRIES AS RECORDED IN WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
Each square represents 40 acres.

OAKDALE

T.3'S.-R.4 W.

Sec.2

Sec. 1

John Hughes 1839-6-6	Noah Washburn 1852-8-21	John W. Rountree 1852-11-22	John Walker 1836-4-12	John Walker 1836-4-12	Robert Walker 1836-9-8	Robert Walker 1837-9-8	Andrew Todd 1839-9-4
John Hughes 1839-6-6	Noah Washburn 1851-9-23	Francis Stamps 1852-11-20	William Matson 1850-7-1	James Bigham 1839-12-14	John Williams 1836-8-26	Margaret Todd 1839-9-24	Andrew Todd 1839-9-4
Cornelius Peery 1853-2-2	Edward Billashall 1854-2-6	Robert Kelso 1839-12-5	William Matson 1848-10-25	Cornelius Peery 1840-4-16	Cornelius Peery 1839-8-20	James Bigham 1839-6-12	John McCloy 1838-10-1
Edward Billashall 1854-2-6	Edward Billashall 1854-2-6	Robert Kelso 1839-12-5	William Matson 1852-8-21	Cornelius Peery 1840-4-16	Cornelius Peery 1837-8-26	James Bigham 1839-6-12	James Bigham 1839-6-12
Wiley Ayers 1839-10-17	William Matson 1852-11-23	Edward Billashall 1854-2-6	Fielding Perry 1853-12-1	Hiram Wells 1829-11-14	Hiram Wells 1829-11-14	David Wells 1828-9-29	Mary Smith 1839-8-30
Wiley Ayers 1839-10-17	William Matson 1852-11-23		Fielding Perry 1852-11-17	Hiram Wells 1829-11-14	Hiram Wells 1829-11-14	David Wells 1828-9-29	Mary Smith 1839-8-30
Perry Roberts 1854-2-13	Wiley Ayers 1839-10-14	Wiley Ayers 1853-7-19	Thomas Bird 1853-12-1	Francis Torrens 1839-8-7	Joseph Torrens 1838-6-20	Joseph Torrens 1838-6-20	Francis Torrens 1839-8-7
Perry Roberts 1854-2-13	Wiley Ayers 1839-10-4	Wiley Ayers 1853-7-19	John McClay 1853-12-1	James Bigham 1839-8-8	James Bigham 1839-8-8	James Bigham 1839-8-13	James Bigham 1839-8-13

Sec.11

Sec.12

## OAKDALE

T.3 S -R.4 W.

## Sec.4

## Sec.3

John Robinson 1853-9-9	Greenville Rountree 1854-1-10	Greenville Rountree 1854-1-16	Samuel McKinney 1834-4-29	Abraham Zwahlen 1854-11-25	Abraham Zwahlen 1854-11-25	Neadham Mecoy 1852-8-24	Neadham Mecoy 1852-8-24
Jane Kingston 1852-11-3	William Hoots 1854-1-16	Barshalme Malone 1854-12-14	Samuel McKinney 1834-4-29	Hezekiah Wheelles 1854-2-14	John Ring 1854-2-24	John S. Greenville Collins 1852-10-21	Rountree 1846-8-1
Harry H. Talbott 1836-12-8			Andrew Todd 1836-12-2	Andrew Todd 1836-12-2	Robert Fillmore 1853-10-24	John S. Collins 1852-10-21	Rhoda Peery 1840-4-16
Harry H. Talbott 1836-12-8			Andrew Todd 1836-12-2	Andrew Todd 1836-12-2	Edward Billashall 1854-2-6	Edward Marshall 1854-2-6	William Watson 1852-11-2
George McAfee 1838-5-30	Matthew Forrest 1838-5-9	Matthew Forrest 1852-8-24	Thomas Johnson 1854-1-18	Rollin S. Fillmore 1853-8-29	W.R. Rountree 1853-3-28	John Bobbit 1853-3-29	Perry Roberts 1854-2-1
James Steele 1836-6-14	Allen B. Rountree 1839-6-11	James H. Morrison 1858-1-14	William Auld 1854-11-28	William Auld 1854-11-28	W.R. Rountree 1853-3-28	John Jirles 1854-9-18	John Jirles 1854-9-1
James Steele 1836-4-12	Lynville Rountree 1833-6-14	Lynville Rountree 1851-3-18	Susan Rountree 1836-6-9	William Auld 1854-3-9	John Jirles 1854-11-28	John Jirles 1854-9-18	John Jirles 1854-9-1
James Steele 1836-4-12	Lynville Rountree 1836-6-14	Samuel McKinney 1835-6-25	Samuel McKinney 1836-4-16	Alexander Hay 1853-3-9	John Jirles 1854-11-28	John Jirles 1854-9-18	John Jirles 1854-9-1

## Sec.9

## Sec.10

## OAKDALE

T.3 S.-R.4 W.

## Sec.6

## Sec. 5

Abner Reid 1852-11-21	James Hemphill 1843-7-3	H. Wheelless 1837-;12-26	H. Wheelless 1832-7-30	John Kinyon 1834-1-14	Helen Kinyon 1837-12-22	William H. Keys 1837-12-20	John Spaulding 1853-5-1
John Jeffries 1845-6-27	James Hemphill 1843-2-6	H. Wheelless 1837-12-26	A.B.R. Wheelless 1837-12-26	John Kinyon 1834-1-14	John Kinyon 1834-1-14	William H. Keys 1838-3-24	Albert Jackson 1838-1-3
Samuel Knox 1839-10-29	Samuel Knox 1839-10-29	John Kinyon 1835-8-6	H. Wheelless 1832-7-30	H. Wheelless 1836-1-9	William Rountree 1830-9-11	William Rountree 1836-4-27	Rhoda Jackson 1837-6-2
Samuel Knox 1839-10-29	Allen Kinyon 1839-1-21	John Kinyon 1835-8-6	Nancy Wheelless 1835-1-8	H. Wheelless 1836-1-9	William Rountree 1830-9-11		Albert Jackson 1836-12-9
Robert Piper 1838-11-27	John Kane 1836-11-13	Archibald McClurkin 1836-2-13	Robert Kane 1837-11-14	George McAffee 1838-5-30	Greenville Rountree 1837-6-2	Greenville Rountree 1837-6-2	James Steele 1836-4-12
Robert Piper 1838-11-27	John Kane 1836-11-13	Archibald McClurkin 1836-2-13	John Kane 1838-7-11	Martin Spiller 1836-4-27	Josiah Little 1838-4-18	Allen B. Rountree 1836-4-9	James Steele 1836-4-12
Nancy Patton 1844-4-27	John Kane 1844-2-27	Archibald McClurkin 1836-2-13	Robert Kane 1853-1-11	Archibald McKean 1838-6-13	Josiah Little 1837-6-2	Hardy Meccy 1836-6-3	James Steele 1836-4-12
John Gibson 1834-3-26	Archibald McClurkin 1836-2-13	John Kane 1849-12-28	Archibald McKean 1853-10-12	Elizabeth McKean 1840-8-28	James McAffee 1839-2-6	Hardy Meccy 1836-6-8	Hardy Meccy 1838-12-

## Sec.7

## Sec.8

## OAKDALE

T.3 S.-R.4 W.

## Sec.14

## Sec.13

Oliver North 1853-10-11	John McClurkin 1839-8-31	Thomas Bird 1853-12-5	David McClay 1839-8-20	James Bigham 1839-8-8	James Bigham 1839-3-8	George McNair 1838-5-16	George McNair 1840-7--
William Rountree 1853-1-24	John McClurkin 1839-8-31	Frederick Helterhand 1853-11-21	David McClay 1839-8-20	James Bigham 1839-8-8	James Bigham 1839-3-8	James McClay 1839-8-20	John Kerr 1850-10-2
James McClurkin 1831-9-27	William Ayers 1839-10-4	William Ayers 1826-4-20	Obediah Ayers 1837-2-7	Wiley Ayers 1838-3-24	Wiley Ayers 1838-3-24	James McClay 1838-12-26	David McClay 1847-6-9
James McClurkin 1831-9-27	Wiley Ayers 1840-12-19	William Ayers 1826-4-20	Obediah Ayers 1837-2-7	Wiley Ayers 1839-8-20	John McClay 1839-8-5	John McClay 1839-8-5	David McClay 1847-6-9
William Ayers 1839-8-20	Wiley Ayers 1839-5-14	William Ayers 1831-8-29	Wiley Ayers 1837-6-26	James Bigham 1839-8-8	John McClay 1839-8-5	William Sloane 1841-6-21	William Sloane 1840-12-1
Thomas McClurkin 1837-5-29	Wiley Ayers 1839-5-14	William Ayers 1831-8-29	Wiley Ayers 1837-6-26	James Bigham 1839-8-8	John McClay 1839-8-5	William Sloane 1841-6-21	William Sloane 1840-12-1
Thomas McClurkin 1837-5-29	Samuel Nimock 1840-8-27	Wiley Ayers 1851-9-19	Sally Ayers 1839-8-20	Andrew Kennedy 1839-8-5	John Steele 1837-5-2	John Steele 1837-5-29	John Steele 1852-12-2
Robert Ramsey 1853-1-13	Samuel Nimock 1840-8-27	William Morrison 1849-9-31	Thomas Maxwell 1849-6-15	Andrew Kennedy 1839-8-5	John Steele 1837-5-2	John Steele 1837-5-29	John Steele 1852-12-2

## Sec.23

## Sec.24

## OAKDALE

T.3 S.-R.4 W.

## Sec.16

## Sec.15

Lot 4 John D. Wood 1836-12-3	Lot 3 Linville Rountree 1836-6-6	Lot 2 S. McKinney 1836-6-6	Lot 1 John D. Wood 1836-6-6	James McClurkin 1852-8-30	Wiley Ayers 1831-5-30	Hiram Griffith 1853-11-3	Hiram Griffith 1854-1-
Lot 5 John D. Wood 1836-12-3	Lot 6 S. McKinney 1836-6-6	Lot 7 S. McKinney 1836-6-6	Lot 8 John D. Wood 1836-12-3	Thomas McClurkin 1836-9-7	Wiley Ayers 1831-5-30	David McClurkin 1839-9-10	David McClurkin 1839-9-
Lot 12 J. McAfee 1836-6-6	Lot 11 Andrew Todd, Assignee 1836-6-6	Lot 10 Andrew Todd, Assignee 1836-6-6	Lot 9 Andrew Todd, Assignee 1836-6-6	Thomas McClurkin 1834-11-19	James McClurkin 1839-9-7	James McClurkin 1839-9-7	James McClurkin 1839-9-
Lot 13 I. McAfee 1836-6-6	Lot 14 Greenville Rountree 1836-6-6	Lot 15 J. McClurkin 1836-6-6	Lot 16 H.H. Talbott 1836-6-6	Thomas McClurkin 1834-11-19	Sarah McClurkin 1837-5-5	Sarah McClurkin 1837-5-5	James McClurkin 1832-2-
John Hood 1831-5-26	John McClurkin 1839-8-31	John McClurkin 1839-8-31	John McClurkin 1836-8-10	John McClurkin 1835-5-26	James McClurkin 1836-6-20	James McClurkin 1836-6-20	Thomas McClurkin 1837-5-
John Hood 1831-5-26	Elizabeth McClurkin 1836-8-10	Elizabeth McClurkin 1836-8-10	John McClurkin 1836-8-10	John McClurkin 1835-5-26	James McClurkin 1836-6-20	James McClurkin 1836-6-20	Thomas McClurkin 1837-5-
George McLane 1850-11-5	John McClurkin 1835-5-26	John McClurkin 1835-5-26	Elizabeth McClurkin 1836-8-10	John McClurkin 1837-5-29	John Hood 1836-9-8	John Hood 1837-9-20	Robert Ramsey 1853-1-
George McLane 1854-1-3	William McClurkin 1853-12-30	Peter Wisely 1839-7-26	John Hood 1833-12-27	John Hood 1833-12-29	John Hood 1836-9-8	John Hood 1837-9-20	James Cook 1840-8-

## Sec.21

## Sec.22

## OAKDALE

T.3 S.-R.4 W.

Sec.18

Sec.17

William Kingston 1853-1-11	Ezekiel Steel 1850	John Duressell 1854-12-11	James McAfee 1854-4-8	Samuel Montgomery 1845-7-26	James McAfee 1840-8-26	Allen B. Rountree 1839-6-11	William McBride 1838-2-
John Johnson 1855-3-1	Matthew Forrest 1854-1-3	Ezekiel Steel 1850-7-5	James Hawthorne 1853-12-15	Josiah Hillard 1850-12-14	Archibald McKean 1853-10-12	William Morrison 1839-6-19	William Morrison 1838-8-
John Johnson 1855-3-1	George W. Hawkins 1853-11-3	Josiah P. Hibbard 1854-11-23	Josiah P. Hibbard 1853-12-14	Josiah P. Hibbard 1853-12-14	William Morrison 1851-1-17	William Morrison 1854-1-3	George McAfee 1835-6-
George W. Hawkins 1854-1-10	George W. Hawkins 1853-11-3	Josiah Hibbard 1854-11-23	Josiah Hibbard 1854-1-3	James McAfee 1853-12-21	Robert McAfee 1853-12-21	John Gormley 1853-12-21	George McAfee 1835-6-
Ruth Larama 1854-3-2	Samuel Scott 1854-12-7	Josiah P. Hibbard 1854-11-02	Josiah P. Hibbard 1854-11-23	James Fullerton 1854-11-28		John Gormley 1840-6-29	John Donnell 1837-5-
William Given 1853-3-17		Margaret Miller 1854-1-21	James Fullerton 1854-11-28	James Fullerton 1854-11-28	John Gormley 1854-11-28	John Donnelly 1842-2-7	John Donnell 1842-2-
William Wiley 1842-3-16	Isaac P. Nelson 1854-11-20	Isaac P. Nelson 1854-11-29	Alfred Faye 1854-2-10	John McAfee 1851-1-17	John Gormley 1854-12-7	George McLane 1853-12-1	George McLean 1852-13
William L. Wiley 1842-8-16	John Fullerton 1854-11-28	Isaac Nelson 1854-11-29	Isaac Nelson 1854-11-29	Daniel McAfee 1851-2-6			George McLean 1854-1

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Sec. 20

## OAKDALE

T.3 S.-R.4 W.

Sec.26

Sec.25

Archibald Hood 1839-1-17	Archibald Hood 1839-1-17	James Kirkpatrick 1839-1-24	James Kirkpatrick 1839-8-8	John King 1838-4-23	James H. Maxwell 1838-3-24	James H. Maxwell 1838-5-24	Daniel Maxwell 1840-4-3
Martha McClurkin 1836-9-7	Martha McClurkin 1837-5-15	James Kirkpatrick 1839-1-24	James Kirkpatrick 1839-8-8	John King 1838-4-23	James H. Maxwell 1838-3-24	J. H. McElhanon 1838-4-30	Daniel Maxwell 1840-4-3
Thomas McClurkin 1836-9-7	Archibald Hood 1836-9-20	James Kirkpatrick 1836-3-23	James Kirkpatrick 1836-3-23	James Rodgers 1838-4-30	Thomas S. Maxwell 1838-5-14	James Rodgers 1838-3-20	James Rodgers 1853-1-2
John Hood 1837-5-12	Archibald Hood 1836-9-20	James Kirkpatrick 1836-3-23	James Kirkpatrick 1836-3-23	James Kirkpatrick 1838-1-25	Clark Gordon 1851-9-6	James Rodgers 1852-8-23	James Rodgers 1854-9-1
Archibald Hood 1837-5-29	Solomon Maxwell 1838-2-1	Alexander Hodge 1837-6-24	John Kirkpatrick 1841-6-5	James Kirkpatrick 1854-1-30	Clark Gordon 1852-8-20	Clark Gordon 1854-9-19	Clark Gordon 1854-9-1
Archibald Hood 1837-5-29	George Stevenson 1840-8-27	Alexander Hodge 1837-6-24	Robert Bates 1851-1-24	John Steel 1854-3-15	Thomas Rogers 1853-12-10		Thomas Rodgers 1853-12-
Thomas McClurkin 1831-5-30	John Steel 1853-3-15	William Stevenson 1854-2-22	John Kirkpatrick 1854-3-1	William Morrison 1853-6-15	William Adams 1854-11-22	Mary M. Jones 1838-5-14	Thomas Maxwell 1854-9-1
Thomas McClurkin 1831-5-30	John Steel 1853-3-15	William Stevenson 1854-2-22	Robert Ramsey 1854-11-29	William Sloane 1853-8-3	Alexander Hodge 1837-6-24	Mary M. Jones 1838-5-14	Solomon Maxwell 1838-5-1

Sec.35

Sec.36

## OAKDALE

T.3 S.-R.4 W.

Sec. 28

Sec. 27

George McClane 1854-12-7	James McClelland 1853-12-12	James McClelland 1853-6-1	William Raney 1831-5-30	Archibald Hood 1835-5-26	Archibald Hood 1835-5-26	Archibald Hood 1836-3-23	Archibald Hood 1836-3-
John Hood 1852-12-11	John Hood 1853-5-30	James McClelland 1853-3-12	William Raney 1831-5-30	Archibald Hood 1835-5-26	Archibald Hood 1835-5-26	Archibald Hood 1836-3-23	Archibald Hood 1836-3-
George McLane 1853-12-11	James Glenn 1853-12-1	John Hood 1853-12-1	Archibald Hood 1853-12-1	Archibald Hood 1831-5-30	Archibald Hood 1838-3-30	Archibald Hood 1831-10-12	Thomas McClurkin 1834-2-
Matthew Forrest 1854-1-3	James Glenn 1853-12-1	John Hood 1853-12-1	Archibald Hood 1853-12-1	Archibald Hood 1831-5-30	Archibald Hood 1838-3-30	Archibald Hood 1831-10-12	Archibald Hood 1839-1-
Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Alexander McCrery 1854-11-22	Archibald Hood 1854-1-30	Edward Pensonian 1854-11-27	Edward Pensonian 1854-11-27	James McClurkin 1831-5-30	James McClurkin 1831-5-
Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Alexander McCrery 1854-11-22	Alexander McCrery 1854-11-22	Edward Pensonian 1854-11-27	Edward Pensonian 1854-11-27	James McClurkin 1831-5-30	James McClurkin 1831-5-
Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Alexander McCrery 1854-11-22	Alexander McCrery 1854-11-22	Edward Pensonian 1854-11-27	Thomas McClurkin 1854-6-10	Thomas McClurkin 1854-1-10	John O'Neil 1854-11-
Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Jackson Dunlap 1854-11-22	Alexander McCrery 1854-11-22	Elizabeth Leonard 1850-11-4	Elizabeth Leonard 1850-11-4	Thomas McClurkin 1854-6-10	Thomas McClurkin 1854-1-10	John O'Neil 1854-11-

Sec. 33

Sec. 34

OAKDALE

T.3 S.-R.4.W.

Sec.30

Sec.29

John Hood 1837-5-12	John Fullerton	Archibald Hood 1839-3-12	John McClurkin 1837-5-3	John McClurkin 1837-5-3			George McLane 1854-1-3
John Hood 1837-5-12	Thomas Brown 1854-9-18	Archibald Hood 1839-3-12	John McClurkin 1837-5-3	John McClurkin 1837-5-3	Matthew Locier 1854-12-9	Matthew Locier 1854-12-9	Matthew Locier 1854-12-9
Hugh Kirkpatrick 1836-10-31	Archibald Hood 1837-9-8	Archibald Hood 1837-9-8	Thomas Brown 1835-3-12	John Hood 1836-9-8	James McAfee 1853-12-21	William Morrison 1853-12-21	George McLane 1853-12-21
Isaac Nelson 1836-10-31	Isaac Nelson 1836-10-3	Isaac Nelson 1854-9-18	Thomas Brown 1835-3-12	John Hood 1836-9-8	James McClurkin 1836-10-10	Frances Locier 1854-12-9	Frances Locier 1854-12-9
Maurice Shuster 1854-11-27	Daniel Robinson 1854-11-27	Daniel Robinson 1854-11-27	Daniel Robinson 1854-11-27	James Coulter 1837-11-31	Frances Locier 1854-12-9	Frances Locier 1854-12-9	David McGibb 1854-11-27
Maurice Schuster 1854-11-27	Daniel Robinson 1854-11-27	Daniel Robinson 1854-11-27	Ebenezer Alexander 1854-12-7	James Coulter 1837-11-31	James Carlisle 1857-1-23	Alexander White 1839-1-25	David McGibb 1854-11-27
Charles Robinson 1854-11-28	Charles Robinson 1854-11-28	Ebenezer Alexander 1854-12-7	Ebenezer Alexander 1854-12-7	George Cherry 1854-11-23	George Cherry 1837-12-8	William Boyd 1839-1-22	David McGibb 1854-11-28
Charles Robinson 1854-11-28	Charles Robinson 1854-11-28	Charles Robinson 1851-3-29	William 1839-8-13	George Cherry 1854-11-23	George Cherry 1837-12-8	John Boyd 1838-9-17	David McGibb 1854-11-28

Sec.31

Sec.32

MY PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS WERE  
SHERLOCK FILLMORE (1794-1862) JR.

Lois (Slosson) Fillmore (1798-1844). My maternal grandparents were Wiley Boyakin of North Carolina (1787-1847) and Malissa Boyakin of North Carolina (1788-1848). My father, Rollin Slosson Fillmore, was born June 29, 1819, and reared at Clarence, New York. He taught school several years in New York, Mississippi and Louisiana. In 1847 he attended Medical School at Tulane University, New Orleans, and in 1848 graduated from Geneva Medical College in New York. In 1849 he located, for the practice of medicine, at Elkton, Illinois. In 1850 President Fillmore appointed him Post Master at the town where he was located. In 1851 he married Emily Louisa Rider (nee Boyakin) of Belleville, Ills. My sister Emily Eupheme was born in 1852 and the writer Dec. 22, 1854.

My sister was reared at Belleville, Ills., where she taught in public schools for fifty-two years and died there January 9, 1931. In 1856 we moved to St. Cloud, Minn., where father practiced medicine till his death on March 4, 1859, of pneumonia. My mother was born in Tennessee. Her family moved to the state of Mississippi but her par-

ents not believing that human beings should be bought and sold as slaves, emigrated to Belleville, Ills., in 1846. Within a few weeks after the death of father, his brother from Ortonville, Mich., came and took us to his home for two months, at the end of which time we went to my grandfather Fillmore's at Clarence, New York. Here we remained till November, 1859, when we went to make our home with an aunt, Mrs. Catherine Merrills, at Belleville, Ills. In the summer of 1861 my mother married James Steele, when we went to his farm near Nashville, Ills. My half sister, Emily, was born Oct. 24, 1862. On Sept. 8, 1863, my mother died of Erysipelas. In those days it was not the custom to embalm and on account of the condition of the corpse and extremely hot weather, she was buried the same day between sunset and dark in the little Covenantanter churchyard about ten miles southwest of Nashville, Ills. I was a little boy of eight years of age at this time. I have experienced some lonely periods in my life but I shall never forget my loneliness the morning after we buried my mother. I felt like I had lost my best

3 - 3 - 3  
lived with my parents from  
1935 until her death at 89 in  
1952.

Anyway to set the Fullmore  
story for you.

Sherlock Fullmore (1794-1862)  
of Clarence N.Y. and Millard  
Fullmore 1800-1870 were cousins.  
(Locke N.Y. (13th Pres)  
of U.S.

Rollin Slosson Fullmore was  
born, 29 June 1819, the son of  
Sherlock Fullmore.

After graduation from Geneva  
Med College in New York he  
located at Elletts, Illinois for  
practice of medicine for the  
years of 1849-1856.

Millard Fullmore in the  
meantime had somehow been

4-4-4  
elected to the Vice Presidency  
in 1848 under President Taylor.  
When President Taylor died  
in 1850 he was president  
for 1850-1852. As everything  
was under the political spoils  
system in those days he  
appointed his cousin Leay  
Rollin S Fillmore, postmaster  
for 1850-1852 at Elkhart.

In the meantime, James Steele  
Jr was probably noticing that  
(a farmer and teacher) the doctor  
at Elkhart  
had a nice looking wife.

After Mr Fillmore died  
in 1859 of pneumonia, she  
married James Steele Jr in

1861.

5-5-5

My grandmother Emily Louise Steele was born in 1862 and her mother died in 1863.

Mr James Steele Jr then married a widow Carolina Corpening who had four children and they further had two children. So my

grandmother had a half brother and half sister on the Fallmae side, 4 step sisters and brothers on the Corpening side and a half brother and sister on the Steele-Corpening Union.

A descendant of the Corpenings in Creeley gave me an album with pictures of some early Corpenings. Is there any of them left in

6-6-6  
Your Area that could  
identify them. I would  
say they are of the 1865-1880  
~~era~~ era.

(4) I wonder if the following should  
be added to the <sup>names</sup> Spanish -  
American War role or roster.

ALPHENUS Zwingie McCloy  
10 JUNE 1862 — 1949

The above was the third  
child of Isabella Carson and  
JOHN THOMAS McCLOY. He  
was a double cousin of my  
father whose parents were Jane  
Carson and Samuel McCloy.

The above was born at  
Oakdale. His father left Oakdale  
about 1877 and moved to  
Evans, Colorado. Alphenus left

come after "his" father remarried  
and served in the Spanish American  
War with a Minnesota regiment.  
I can furnish the regiment if needed.  
He later went to Nevada as a  
miner and died in 1949.

5. In checking through my  
grandfather's records in the Civil  
war I find several letters from  
Rev A. C. Todd, one from Mr  
Morrison in 1894 who had a  
store in Oakdale at one time  
around 1890 but moved to  
Compton California, five or 6 pictures  
of Oakdale soldiers who arent  
familiar to me.

6. I am attaching the copies  
of the Fillmore Genealogy in  
case you are interested. As  
soon as Owen McClay finishes

## PRESIDENT FILLMORE APPOINTS ELKTON POST MASTER IN 1850

Rollin Slosson Fillmore, a son of Sherlock Fillmore, was born June 29, 1819 at Clarence, New York. As a young man he taught school in New York, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In 1847 he attended the Medical School at Tulane University in New Orleans, La. In 1848 he graduated from Geneva Medical College in New York. In 1849 he located for the practice of medicine, at Elkton, Illinois.

In 1850, President Fillmore appointed Dr. Fillmore to serve as Post Master in Elkton from 1850-1852. (President Fillmore was a first cousin of the doctor's father) In 1851 Dr. Fillmore married Emily Louisa Rider (nee Boyakin) of Belleville, Illinois. In 1856 they moved to St. Cloud, Minnesota where he practiced medicine till his death from pneumonia on March 4, 1859.

In the summer of 1861, James Steele, a farmer south of Elkton married Dr. Fillmore's widow. To this union was born Emily Louisa Steele, who was the grandmother of Martin McCloy of Brighton, Colo.

James Steele and Harry H. Talbot laid out the town of Elkton in 1837.

Mr. Martin McCloy furnished this information, taken from a printed copy of Fillmore Genealogy.

Oct 14, 1969

Miss Claudine Coulter  
Washington Co. Historical Museum  
Nashville, Illinois 67263

Dear Miss Coulter:

I am not quite sure how to write this, but I have some information on George Cherry which I believe should be brought to your attention.

I am not ready, as yet, to give a complete history on this family as it is not complete, but would be glad to contribute one, when it is finished, if you would like.

I am enclosing sheets which prove that the George Cherry buried in the Oakdale cemetery was not in the Revolutionary War. I have this family traced back to where they came to America and there is no evidence of military service by him at any time. There was a George Cherry in South Carolina who was connected with the R.W. but it was not this one.

I have included the census from 1840, 1850, and 1860 for Perry County, where he made his home. As you can see, these all support the fact he was born ca 1800. I also, include a copy of his will, complete with misspellings. I have the photocopy of the original, which is in the Perry County Courthouse. There is also a marriage certificate for him and Mrs Isabella (Wood) McClary (widow of Hugh M. Leary). They were married 10 May 1860. His first wife died ca 1849.

All this, I believe, proves that even the dates on the tombstone are all wrong.

There are also other records in Perry Co. which are in the 1860's.

Someone may have gotten the information for his death

from McDonough's "Combined History of Randolph, Monroe, and Perry Counties 1682-1883" and there is a discrepancy there, too. Page 85 says he died March, 1857 and Page 429 says March, 1867.

Further I have received a letter from a great-grandson in California and have just yesterday talked to another great-grandson (age 86) and they both say the same thing, Our George Cherry, buried at "Country" Cemetery in Oakdale was born in Ireland ca 1800. He married Margaret Kirkpatrick ca 1818 in Ireland. They came over in the Spring of 1819 and the first child Sarah (later Neil) was born on board ship. Therefore, her birthplace is also given as Ireland.

I hope this letter is clear and understandable. I did believe, however, this matter should be straightened out, as other people may come to you or to the Cemetery in search of information and find the wrong facts. I also intend to notify the Spauld County Library of my findings, as a lot of people go there for facts, too.

I hope this will cause no trouble, but merely set the facts straight.

I have not yet received conclusive proof from Ireland, but am sure in time I shall.

Sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Zachus

I would like to say, I read the history of  
Oakdale Township and enjoyed it very much. I have  
only two complaints (small ones).

On pages 42 and 48 my great grandmother's maiden name  
is spelled Zwengel and Schwengel, it is indeed ZWENGEL.

I am having this family searched now in Germany and  
have hopes of getting it back to close to 1600. I now have  
some slight information to the late 1700's.

"I, George Cherry, in the County of Perry and State of Illinois, do hereby make and Declare this my Last will and Testament in manner and form following to wit: First, it is my will that my funeral Expenses and all my just debts be fully paid.

Second, after the payment of such funeral Expenses and debts, I give, devise, and bequeath, unto my Daughter Sarah Cherry, otherwise Dunlop, the Sum of Five Dollars to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Third, I give, devise, and bequeath unto the three heirs of my Deceased Daughter Rebeca Jeane, who was intermarried with David Willson, the sum of five Dollars (\$5.00) cash each, making in all fifteen Dollars and their heirs and assigns forever.

Third, I give and Devise unto my Daughter Mary McClurkin, formerly Cherry the sum of four Hundred Dollars to her and her heirs and assigns forever. Also my horse and waggon.

Fourth, I give and devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Martha Ann, Adams, wife of Samuel H. Adams the sum of Three Hundred Dollars to her and her heirs and assigns forever. Also, a certain Tract of Land No. as follows: The North West part forty Acres of the South West quarter of Section No. 32 Township Three South of Range four West laying and being in Washington County and State of Illinois to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Fifth, I give and devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Ellen McMillan, Wife of James W. McMillan the Sum of Five Dollars to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Sixth, I give and devise and bequeath unto my Son, James A. Cherry, all the Ballance, Residue, and Remainder of my property both Real and personal to him and to his heirs and assigns forever.

Ninth, all the Just Debts and Leggiteas all heir must be paid up.

And lastly, Thereby Constitute and appoint Samuel H. Adams and James A. Cherry of Perry County, Executors of this my last will and Testament, Revoking and

page 2 - Will of Geo. Cherry

annulling all former Wills made by me and Ratting and Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament, in Wittness, Whereof, I the said George Cherry have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 25th day of February 1867 in the year of our lord one thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Seven.


George Cherry  
signature



Signed Sealed and published and Declared by the said George Cherry as and for his last Will and Testament in presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of Each other and at his request have Subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto

David Brown ----- (can't read)  
signed

Seal

George J. W. Smith 

Seal

#### PROOF OF WILL

State of Illinois

ss

Perry County

In the County Court of said county, In Probate April Term A.D. 1867 Personally appeared in open court - David Brown and George J. W. Smith Subscribing witnesses to the annexed instrument.

1840 CENSUS - Perry County, Illinois

Cherry, George age 40-50 yrs.  
    , Margaret " "  
    , 1 male " 5-10 yrs.  
    , 1 male " 15-20 yrs.  
    , 2 female " 0-5 yrs  
    , 2 female " 5-10 yrs.  
    , 3 female " 10-15 yrs.

1850 CENSUS - District #7 - Perry County, Illinois - Sept. 11th, 1850

Cherry, George	50 yrs.	Born in Ireland
, Margt.	20 yrs.	Illinois (later Mrs. Wm. McElhicken)
, James	15 yrs.	Illinois
, Martha A.	13 yrs.	Illinois (Mrs. Samuel Hugh Adams)
, Elanor	11 yrs. (Eliza)	Illinois (Mrs. James McMillan)

Neil, Matthew	36 yrs.	Born in Ireland
, Sarah (Cherry)	30 yrs.	Ireland
, <del>children</del> Eliza J.	10 yrs.	Illinois
, James R.	9 yrs.	Illinois
, Robert A.S.	7 yrs.	Illinois
, John C.	5 yrs.	Illinois
, Margaret A.	3 yrs.	Illinois
, Samuel R.	4 months	Illinois
, George C.	4 months	Illinois

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Cherry, George	61 yrs.	Born in Ireland
, Isabella	47 yrs. (2nd wife)	Ireland
, children		
Dunlap, Jackson (2nd marriage)	43 yrs.	Born in Ireland
, Sarah (Cherry) (Neill)	40 yrs.	Ireland
, children		

Some additional Teachers serving KERR School

from 1915 on : -

Frank Stewart  
Eleanor Auld  
Lois McClay  
Robert Kerr  
Elsie Gilbert  
Lester Gilbert  
Velma Piper

Some additional info. on Elkton:

(My Grandparents) Fred(H.F.W.)Dunnermann and his wife Mary (Heggemeier) lived in Elkton from the time of their marriage in 1865 - to 1878. They lived in the small tan brick vander covered house on the north side of the raad near the church. Mr. Dunnermann was a blacksmith, they also maintained a large truck garden and small orchard. Had a Negree couple as one of their neighbors, whom they regarded very highly. They sometimes borrowed Mr. D's horse and wagon to go and visit other negree families living out of walking distance in Washington County. On these rare occassions they were finely dressed in black silk and black wool broadcloth with considerable gold jewelry and the traditional red bandana the lady usually wore did not appear. I've been told that a Stove foundry was in operation in Elkton during those years.  
Gertie Hogshead