

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

Henry Schaeffer, Co. A. Mo. Inf.

Phillip Reuter, 43rd Reg. Ill. Vol.
Capt. Benjamin H. Klene

WORLD WAR I

Cecil Dahncke
William Cunningham
Herman Mazander
George Frieman

Otto Kroeher
Frank Petrashek
Earl Dintelman

WORLD WAR II

Everett Mayer

William Koenig

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.")

The 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. Mizey. Later he drew a pension under Pension Certificate # 162749 for \$ 8.00 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

Sworn to and subscriber to this 30th day of April A.D. 1883
 Henry Dunkhorst and Henry Stieg
 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 1855. 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 soldiers 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 Philippine (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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 Dacker'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 line.

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	1949-1951
Mr. Albert Ibendahl	1944-1946		

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