

## 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, Hoyleton, 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 ear 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, Luney, Masteon, Manning, Malett, Maxwell, Millburn, Moore, Murray, Morrison, McKeen, McKelvey, McAllister, McCloy, McElhinney, McAuley, McLean, McConnell, McClurkin, McCloy,

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## 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.