

1980

- S-1 Lucille Sampson
- S-2 Earl Sanders
- S-3 Mary Arnold Sanders
- S-4 Rachelle Schopp
- S-5 Sally Schroeder
- S-6 Dorothy Stimpson
- S-7 Julia Settles
- S-8 Robert Settles
- S-9 Bailey Allen Settles
- S-10 Carol Vee Spence
- S-11 Patricia Bueth Stetson
- ~~S-12~~
- ~~S-13~~
- ~~S-14~~
- ~~S-15~~
- S-12 Barbara Scott
- S-13 Geraldine Sisson
- S-14 Lucille Schlosser
- S-15 Wilma Smith
- S-16 Frances Stange
- S-17 Foy Iva Smith
- S-18 Cliverx Smith
- S-19 Dennis Strieder
- S-20 Edwin Schenk
- S-21 Ann Schenk
- S-22 Edna Spies
- S-23 Mary Ida Stone
- S-24 John Spies
- S-25 James Harold Schlegel
- S-26 Mary P. Scott
- S-27 Ruth Stewart
- S-28 Gale Lynne Staubach
Marjorie Smith
Mrs. Frederick Steiner
Louis Spaeth
Eileen Spaeth
- S-29 Judy Ann Staubach
- S-30 Anna Nedra Spencer
- S-31 Floyd Henry Spencer
- S-32 ~~Kiax~~ Sam Sharer
- S-33 Ted Sloane
- S-34 Alice Sloane
- S-35 Rev. Robert Striegall
- S-36 Charlotte Sharer
- S-37 Mary Ann Schreyer
- S-38 Patricia Stuart
- S-39 Bernise Shager
- S-40 Darwin Schreyer
- S-41 Virginia Ness Swartz
- S-42 Robert Gillett Scott
- S-43 James R. Sampson
- S-44 Roy Staggs
- S-45 Viola Bishop Sneed
- S-46 Vada May Smith Seyler
- S-47 Weldon Harry Scholey
- S-48 Mrs. Thomas E. Snell

- T-1 Harriet J. Tindall
- T-2 Warren S. Tindall
- T-3 Gladys Treadway
- T-4 Lucille Tenpound
- T-5 Earl Tenpound
- T-6 Ruth Ellen Thom
- T-7 Clarence Thomas
- T-8 Dr. Frank Tynatishon
- T-9 Charlott Tilton
- V-1 Rosa M. Vande Voort
- V-2 Ida Ruth Victor
- W-1 Cynthia Winterhalter
- W-2 Gerald Wood
- W-3 Pearl Wood
- W-4 Blanche Conover Williams
- W-5 John H. Williams
- W-6 Calvin Whitmore
- W-7 Dorothea West
- W-8 Miriam Weeks
- W-9 Dorothy Williams
- W-10 Jeanne Walsh
- W-11 Dr. Richard C. Williams
- W-12 Mildred Walters
- W-13 Betty Westensee
- W-14 Floyd Arthur Wagner
- W-15 Kathleen Wheelock
- Patricia Ann Welch deceased
- Mildred M Wiggers
- Flora D. Wilson
- Gerald Walker
- Linda Walker
- Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Whiteside
- W-16 Emil Westensee
- W-17 Phyllis Rasmussen Winthrust
- Y-1 Sylvia Young
- Y-2 Virginia Young
- Z-1 J. Robert Ziegler
- Z-2 Winifred W. Ziegler
- Z-3 Steven Ziegler
- Z-4 David Robert Ziegler

Tempo in the Times

QUAD-CITY TIMES Sunday, Oct. 7, 1979



Mr. Ottery Jr. and his wife look over a newspaper after their return to the Quad-City area in the early 1800s. (Ottery photo)



Elizabeth Koertl, the first Christianized Indian in New England.

MOCCASIN TRACKS

Bettendorf genealogist stalks husband's Indian ancestors across the centuries



By Julie Janssen
of the Times

Paul, on back, paid ten back, waning back! These words may be a familiar football cheer, but they're also a call to genealogical research for a Bettendorf woman who has traced her husband's roots to Temoquaquid, an American Indian who lived in the early 1400s, many generations before Thomas, the Indian immortalized by James Fenimore Cooper.

Mrs. Wilis Deer Ottery, Jr., whose maiden name was Edith Bernice Dyball, had her own Norwegian lineage until it faded when she began to research her husband's family tree in 1978.

Nearly a decade later, she is ready to publish a family history of all the Indian lines in Wilis Ottery's family, and she has written a book, which she calls "In the Footsteps of the Moccasin Descendants."

Wilis Ottery's number, Frank Simpson, told the Ottery children "wonderful stories," according to their mother. "But we thought she made them up." Later on, her research verified them as true.

Mrs. Ottery, whose friends call her Bial, started with aunts, uncles, great aunts and old people who had known the family. One of her best sources of information was Ed Stagg, the oldest resident of Burlington, Wis., who was in her late 80s, but her mind was clear as a bell. I typed interviews with her and was able to verify what she told me as 100 percent correct.

"JOHN STACK lived with her father until he died, and I think they spent their evenings talking about the past. She knew things that I wouldn't have stumbled on if my eyes weren't here."

Mrs. Ottery believed that a book about her husband's great-grandfather existed, but she couldn't find it in any library until it occurred to her that the first and last names might be reversed. She looked for Edward Stagg and to her great, big old find Samuel Ottery.

"That was it! My aunt," she says, frowning how she im-

traced Simpson Ottery's lineage back to Tom, a gambler, the only American Indian whose name and relationship can be traced to the 13th century.

Simpson Ottery was the most famous Christianized Indian of New England, born in 1724. He attended in the elite charity school under Dr. Eleazar Wheelock, learned six languages, and became a teacher. Ottery may have been the first to use field cards — words written on pieces of birch bark.

Becoming an ordained minister in 1787, Ottery preached to the Oneida Indians, and in 1792, he was sent to England to raise funds for the Indian charity school. The English opened their hearts and their purses to Ottery, also offering him Episcopal ordination in London and a doctor of divinity degree in Edinburgh, both of which he declined.

WHEN OCCOM came home with the largest offering ever collected for missions in England, his white brethren decided that the sum was too large to "squander on Indian education" and used it instead to erect the first building of Dartmouth College at Hanover, N.H.

Mrs. Ottery's book is progress details the many hardships she endured upon the New England Indians by the whites, and Simpson Ottery saw a bleak future for the Indians if they remained in that area.

Granted land by the Oneida Indians of New York state, Ottery formed a common tribe, Brothertown, who were the first tribe of self-governing Indians. Mrs. Ottery calls him "an Indian Moses."

After Ottery's death in 1792, the Brothertown Indians were torn and divided by "hordes of missionaries descending on them with conflicting doctrines," and in the early 1800s, the town that drove them from New England cropped up in New York.

The tribe bought land in Chatham County, Wisconsin, in 1808. Mrs. Ottery says "The early Indians had the belief that their spirits moved westward as they moved to the progress of God."

BUT EVEN Wisconsin was not far enough west.

and in the late 18th century, many of the Brothertownians moved on to preserve their Indian identity.

The first pure Indian in Wilis Ottery's line was Clark Simpson, his great-grandfather, whose second wife was Elizabeth Koertl, the daughter of a English geologist. Clark Simpson's son James married an Indian woman, and this union produced Wilis Ottery's mother, Irene Simpson.

Tracing the relationships of nearly five centuries has taken Bial Ottery to Indian reservations, libraries and museums in New England, New York and Wisconsin. She has a network of assistants in those places to dig up information for her as well.

Her research has been so complete that the Mormons have asked to reproduce it, and she frequently receives requests to verify Indian ancestry for those who need the information for a scholarship, for instance. A student trunk of unanswered mail awaits her attention, while she writes letters of her own to solicit information on any Brothertown Indian or a long list of family names.

SHE KNOWS the early history of the Indian art, lozels, and her book will deal with Thomas, King Phillip and Queen Esther, to name a few.

Worked with open arms on the Indian reservations, she has nonetheless had some severe stretching experiences during the long search for information.

Once she went to a reservation to talk with an older Indian woman, meaning to stay just a few hours in the afternoon. The information offered was so fascinating that she hours stretched to 11 p.m., and she drove through the wilderness in a wild storm, expecting death at any moment.

She didn't worry about an Indian uprising, however, because, she says, "When you drive on a reservation, everyone knows you're there and why you are."

The attraction of travel by the Indians has drawn her during a life. "When I go to New England, the Indians often become the English history lessons from their last English school, the names of an English family.



Clark Simpson and his wife, Elizabeth Koertl — Simpson was the first pure Indian in the Ottery's line.

They worked for or of someone who had done them a kindness.

"OTHERS FORBIDDEN" her relationships with just a few relatives from their Indian realm, and their nation could be anything now.

Family names Mrs. Ottery is tracing include: Abner, Adams, Anthony, Charles, David, Dick, Barry, Isaac, Matthew, Paul, Peter, Richard, Robert, Robert Simpson or Simpson, Simon or Simon.

She also looked for American and English names of her present undertakings: Fowler, Davis, Johnson, Koshon, Hunter, Bart, Hildon, Mathers, Niles, Wadsworth, Fisher, Peiler, Soble, Wiggins, and Wyatt.

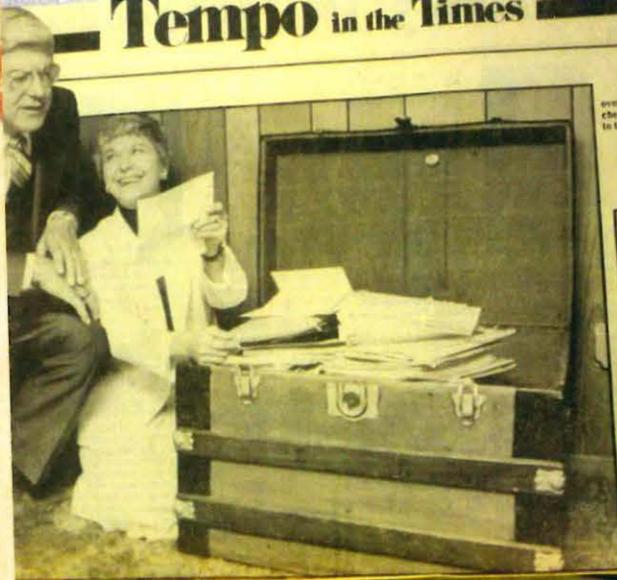
Other names Mrs. Ottery says require are: Bristol, Coplet or Coplet, Cockart, Cook, Camp, Cook, Coyles, Clark, Clegg, Corbett, Dick, Preston, Messick, Gordon, Partridge, Parnell, Piquantilly, Scripps, Sevier, Smecker, Tross, Tross, Toronto, Tross, Warrup, Warty, Wagon, and Wadwell.

Bial Ottery has been a successful marriage business clerk, a bookkeeper and secretary for artists and technicians for the FBI, gaining a variety of experiences useful to her present undertaking.

Wilis Ottery is marketing through her Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, and has been active in community projects. The Episcopal church and its work.

The Ottery's recently moved to the Quad-City from New York state, and they have the children, Paul, who will earn both doctorate and master's degrees next year. Noah, who has a master's in Albany, N.Y., Theresa, who has just received her bachelor's for her school, and Will III, who is a student at the University of Wisconsin.

Continued on page 2



Willis Ottery Jr. and his wife look over some of the many clues she checked out in tracing his roots back to the early 1800s. (Times photo)



MOCCASIN TRACKS



Bettendorf genealogist stalks husband's Indian ancestors across the centuries



By Julie Jensen
of the Times

"Push 'em back, push 'em back, waanay back! These words may be a familiar football cheer, but they're also a call to genealogical research for a Bettendorf woman who has traced her husband's roots to Tomoquashad, an American Indian who lived in the early 1400s, many generations before Uncas, the Indian immortalized by James Fenimore Cooper.

Mrs. Willis Dew Ottery Jr., whose maiden name was Ru Ellen Kerane Hjella, had her own Norwegian lineage well in hand when she began to research her husband's family tree in 1973.

Nearly a decade later, she is ready to publish a family history of all the Indian lines in Willis Ottery's family, and she searched so much along the way that she means to write a second book, which she calls "an Indian version of the Mayflower Descendants."

Willis Ottery's mother, Irene Sampson, told the Ottery children "wonderful stories," according to their mother, "but we thought she made them up. Later on, my research verified them as true."

Mrs. Ottery, whose friends call her Ruth, started with aunts, uncles, great aunts and old people who had known the family. One of her best sources of information was Lois Stage, the oldest resident of Bettendorf, Wis., who was in her late 90s, but her mind was clear as a bell. I taped interviews with her and was able to verify what she told me as 100 percent correct.

"LOIS STAGE lived with her father until he died, and I think they spent their evenings talking about the past. She knew things that I wouldn't have started on for years without her."

Mrs. Ottery learned that a book about her husband's great grandfather existed, but she couldn't find it in any library and it occurred to her that the first and last names might be reversed. She looked for Occom's name in the usual way, but she did find Samson Occom.

"That was a big start," she says, telling how she un-

raveled Samson Occom's lineage back to Tomoquashad, the only American Indian whose name and relationship can be traced to the 13th century.

Samson Occom was the most famous Christianized Indian of New England, born in 1723. He attended an Indian charity school under Dr. Eleazar Wheelock, learned six languages, and became a teacher. Occom may have been the first to use flash cards — words written on pieces of birch bark.

Becoming an ordained minister in 1757, Occom preached to the Oneida Indians, and in 1765, he was sent to England to raise funds for the Indian charity school. The English opened their hearts and their purses to Occom, also offering him Episcopal ordination in London and a doctor of divinity degree in Edinburgh, both of which he declined.

WHEN OCCOM came home with the largest offering ever collected for missions in England, his white brothers decided that the sum was too large to "squander on Indian education" and used it instead to erect the first buildings of Dartmouth College at Hanover, N.H.

Mrs. Ottery's book in progress details the many cruelties visited upon the New England Indians by the whites, and Samson Occom saw a bleak future for the Indians if they remained in that area.

Granted land by the Oneida Indians of New York state, Occom formed a common tribe, Brothertowns, who were the first tribe of self-governing Indians. Mrs. Ottery calls him "an Indian Moses."

After Occom's death in 1792, the Brothertown Indians were torn and confused by "hordes of missionaries descending on them with conflicting doctrines," and in the early 1800s, the forces that drove them from New England crumpled up in New York.

The tribe bought land in Calumet County, Wisconsin, in 1838. Mrs. Ottery says, "The early Indians had the belief that their spirits moved westward as they moved to the presence of God."

BUT EVEN Wisconsin was not far enough west,

and in the late 19th century, many of the Brothertowns moved on to preserve their Indian identity.

The last pure Indian in Willis Ottery's line was Clark Samson, his great grandfather, whose second wife was Elizabeth Keevil, the daughter of an English clergyman. Clark Samson's son James married an Indian woman, and this union produced Willis Ottery's mother, Irene Samson.

Tracing the relationships of nearly five centuries has taken Rudi Ottery to Indian reservations, libraries and museums in New England, New York and Wisconsin. She has a network of assistants in these places to dig up information for her as well.

Her research has been so complete that the Mormons have asked to reproduce it, and she frequently receives requests to verify Indian ancestry for those who need the information for a scholarship, for instance.

A steamer trunk of unanswered mail awaits her attention while she writes letters of her own to solicit information on any Brothertown Indian or a long list of family names.

SHE KNOWS the early history of the Indian aristocrats, and her book will deal with Uncas, King Phillip and Queen Esther, to name a few.

Welcomed with open arms on the Indian reservations, she has nonetheless had some nerve-wracking experiences during the long search for information.

Once she went to a reservation to talk with an older Indian woman, meaning to stay just a few hours in the afternoon. The information offered was so fascinating that the hours stretched to 11 p.m., and she drove through the wilderness in a wild storm, expecting deer to dart in front of the car any minute.

She didn't worry about an Indian uprising, however, because, she says, "When you drive on a reservation, everyone knows you're there and who you are."

The alteration of names by the Indians has slowed her down a bit. "When they left New England, the Indians often forced their English family names from their first names. Some took the name of an English family

they worked for or of someone who had done them a kindness.

"OTHERS FORMED their English names with just a few syllables from their Indian names, and their names could be anything new."

Family names Mrs. Ottery is tracing include: Abner, Adams, Anthony, Charles, David, Dick, Harry, Isaac, Matthew, Paul, Peter, Richards, Robbin, Robert, Sampson or Samson, Simon or Symon.

She's also looking for families named Crosby, Fowler, Davies, Johnson, Kinship, Jammer, Hart, Hutton, Mathers, Niles, Nelson, Palmer, Potter, Shelley, Wiggins, and Wyatt.

Other names Mrs. Ottery wants to explore are: Brushel, Ceipet or Seapet, Cochen, Cocheban, Cum-muck, Coybis, Cuski, Cuyes, Curriep, Cusk, Deshon, Mossack, Occom, Patchander, Phosch, Popquintup, Scipion, Secetur, Skeesuck, Tocus, Juuce, Tuscoat, Tutse, Wampy, Wauby, Wauces, and Waukeet.

Rudi Ottery has been a journalist, a marriage license clerk, a bookkeeper and secretary for a fur and hides company, an antique dealer and a fingerprint technician for the FBI, gaining a variety of experience useful to her present undertaking.

Willis Ottery is marketing manager for International Harvester Co. and has been active in community projects, the Episcopal church and the arts.

The Ottery's recently moved to the Quad-Cities from New York state, and they have four children: Faith, who will earn both doctorate and master's degrees next year; Noel, who has a music studio in Albany, N.Y.; Theresa, who has just received full scholarship for law school; and Will III, who is active in sports at the University of Wisconsin.

Genealogy can become expensive and many of the institutions where Rudi Ottery has done research have sent her grant applications to help finance her efforts, but she considers the undertaking to be worth the cost.

"It's really a full-time job," she says, but she still has time to direct the activities of the Refugee Re-location Committee at Trinity Catholic in Davenport.

History on file in corps archives

By TOM SMALEC
(Argus staff writer)

The Corps of Engineers, like most governmental entities, never throws anything out.

As a result, in a vault on the second floor of the Clock Tower Building, history is filed away.

Ethel Miller keeps the engineering files for the corps, and in among plans for jetties and small boat harbors are maps, drawings and schematics that are a century old or more.

Mrs. Miller has been keeping the corps files for two years and in the process became deeply interested in the history of the Mississippi and Midwest.

She notes the birthday of the first man to survey the Rock Island Rapids, Lt. (later Maj. Gen.) Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, passed on Jan. 13.

The first man to make a detailed survey of this area, Lt. (later Confederate Gen.) Robert E. Lee will have his 173rd birthday on Jan. 19, and Miller has hung a sign on her vault door to celebrate the event.

Buford made his survey of this area in the winter of 1829, with ice and snow covering the river. Though she doesn't have his original map — it was once stored at the Clock Tower but later placed in the National Archives in Washington — she has a negative of it and dozens of other early maps from which reprints can be made in an antique brown color.



Tom Smalec

IN OTHER FILES, however, are some originals of maps and engineering diagrams of river craft.

One is of a snagboat, used to pull fallen logs and trees from the river, called the "Irene," dating from 1878 and another of a device called "Col. Long's Scraper," designed in 1867.

She speaks lovingly of the detail with which the drawings were made — the roof of the Irene is lined with carved spear-points, and each of several dozen is drawn on the design drawing, each drawn free-hand. Round items are represented with fine-lined shading on the diagrams.

Most amazingly, the color of the inks used in the illustrations and maps remains to this day.

"I showed this to two men here, and asked them how the color could have remained. They're engineers, and they didn't have the slightest idea," she said.

The old maps are drawn on a fine linen paper, which is still not crumbling.

One, of what was to become the Illinois Quad-Cities, shows Rock Island reaching only about 8th Avenue and vast empty areas where Moline, East Moline and Silvis now stand.

The map shows four buildings in Carbon Cliff, a town called "Stephensonville" at what is now about 9th Street and 31st Avenue in Rock Island and dozens of coal mines.

There are several other maps, apparently of the Mississippi River, in one file drawer, but Mrs. Miller hasn't been

(History — Page Three)

R. E. Lee 20 Jan. 1980

History on file—

(Continued from Page One)

able to figure out by whom or when they were made. They cover the Mississippi north of Keokuk.

An 1843 map of the upper Mississippi valley identifies a town called "Rockport" on the river below Rock Island. Modern Quad-Citians know the town as Andalusia. The name was changed when Lt. Buford bought the town, as an investment, for his wife. The Bufords are now buried in Chipplanock Cemetery.

"These were all just wadded up on top of a filing cabinet," Mrs. Miller said. "When I found them I went running down the hall showing them to everybody."

MRS. MILLER has negatives of two other documents — the originals were removed to the National Archives — from past ages.

One is a recruiting poster for the Continental Army, promising the Young & Able Men who joined George Washington's force during the Revolution they would return home with "pockets full of gold and head covered with laurels."

The other is Abraham Lincoln's autobiography, handwritten on four small sheets of paper.

"When I came of age, I did not know much," she said, quoting Lincoln's writing. "Now, who would say that? Today they're writing things that are so long and they don't say as much as he did in two columns."

Mrs. Miller's maps show a moving Milan.

A ROBERT E. LEE map in the 1830's shows a "Town of Milan" on the Illinois side of the Mississippi where Dam 14 is today. Today there is no town there, but Lee's map shows a rather substantial settlement.

That Milan never shows up again after Lee saw it. The modern Milan was called Camden, and Camden is shown on some later maps.

Mrs. Miller would like to have some of her maps and drawings up on display when the Lock & Dam 15 visitors' center opens in April.

"Now if the National Archives knows they are here, they'll probably come and get them," she said.

She says her vault is a popular stop for people who visit the Clock Tower Building when it is open to the public every year on Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday in May.

"We have such interesting history around here," she said.



DIAGRAM FROM 1846 — Ethel Miller, Moline, displays an engineering diagram of the snagboat "Hercules," dated from 1846. This diagram is one of many original drawings in the vault of the Clock

Tower Building. Mrs. Miller is in charge of keeping the engineering files for the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers. (Argus Photo by Pat McLaughlin)

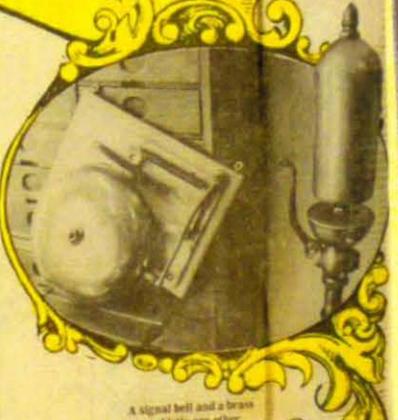
Tempo in the Times

MISSISSIPPI MEMORIES



A large brass bell pull once used for signaling on a steamboat lies atop a boatyard blueprint, along with other river memorabilia. The ornate pull bears the initials "R.C."

LeClaire collector has so much river memorabilia he will open his own museum



A signal bell and a brass steam whistle are other items in the extensive collection of river lore that Pele plans to exhibit in a LeClaire museum.

This poster in Pele's collection advertised moonlight excursions on the Strockfus steamer, "J.S." such river trips were very popular in their day.

Greg Pele, LeClaire, prizes his large collection of boat builders' blueprints. He is constantly seeking artifacts connected with the Mississippi River. (Times photos by Harry Bell)

By Jim Arpy
of the Times

Greg Pelo, LeClaire Hooper, has enough river boat memorabilia to open a museum — and that's just what he intends to do.

He has purchased the former Green Tree tavern in downtown LeClaire and when he completes restoration sometime in the future will open it as a museum totally dedicated to river lore.

Pelo, 38, who has been collecting artifacts linked to the river since he was 18, has hundreds of boat parts, photographs, boatyard blueprints, log books and assorted gear associated with boating on the Mississippi River.

Born in Davenport, Pelo grew up in LeClaire, home of an enormous number of steamboat and rafting pilots and other rivermen, but his real interest was whetted during the summer he spent as a youngster with his grandfather, Charles Bagley, who retired after 30 years with the Rock Island District Army Corps of Engineers.

BAGLEY spent 13 years with the Corps' so-called "floating plant," its barges, dredges and other water-borne gear, and the last 26 working on locks and dams.

But it was while he was foreman of a Keokuk, Iowa, boatyard that Pelo spent summers with him, living on the locks and spending an occasional day riding boats whose captains were his grandfather's cronies.

He had dreams then of becoming a riverman, but they never materialized. Instead, he has vigorously collected everything he can find pertaining to commerce on the big river.

"My grandfather had quite a collection of photographs of boats and river scenes and I got that. I decided that if I were going to have a real good collection, I'd have to pick just one field and stick to that. I have good collections of Civil War material and Indian artifacts, but I let them go to concentrate on river artifacts," Pelo explains.

His collection includes a tremendous amount of paper — weigh bills, steamboat passes, logbooks, posters, and original blueprints of many early boats.

Stacked in "buildings all over

town" are shipbuilding tools, anchors, chains and pieces of architecture like the great wooden ball that once graced the top of the steamer Quinlan's pilot house. The Quinlan ended its days in drydock at the Kahike Boatyards, Rock Island, where it was destroyed by fire several years ago.

"I HAVE FRIENDS everywhere who are always on the lookout for any river materials for me. When some river facility is being torn out or abandoned, I'm often given permission to take anything that might enhance my collection," Pelo says.

Many items in his collection pertain to the Old Lock 14 at LeClaire, the last of the so-called "canal locks." Others were at Keokuk and Moline. The LeClaire lock has undergone remodeling.

He estimates that his is the largest river lore collection in the Quad-Cities, but says such items as he collects are getting extremely hard to find. Even so, he says that hardly a week goes by that he doesn't add something to his store of artifacts.

Pelo has called in experts to advise him on the best methods of displaying his collection in a museum. He insists that it would not merely show artifacts for an age passed but that there must be a storyline that will make the memorabilia meaningful to children.

It would start with the first Indian canoes used commercially, and progress to rafts, keelboats, flatboats, steamboats, and on up to modern towboats. This would allow kids to see where their heritage comes from, what preceded the modern towboats. I have been told that I certainly have enough things to properly stock a museum."

THE FACT that the Buffalo Bill Museum already exists in LeClaire, and that it contains some river artifacts, doesn't disturb Pelo, who reasons that two museums, like two or three or more antique shops, will only draw more interested people.

"I'm working now on the old building that will be the museum, but I want to do it right, restoring and not just remodeling it, so I don't know just how long it will take or when I will be ready to open," he explains.

In his real estate office are some

indications of his hobby — a brass bell from an unidentified steamboat, a glass topped map box that was once standard equipment in the pilot house. By turning knobs that moved rollers, the pilot caused the mapped section of river he was traveling to appear before his eyes.

Another whistle once tooted aboard the Minnie Snyder, a Clinton-based sand and gravel boat. The collection includes a large number of tools that would perplex a modern craftsman.

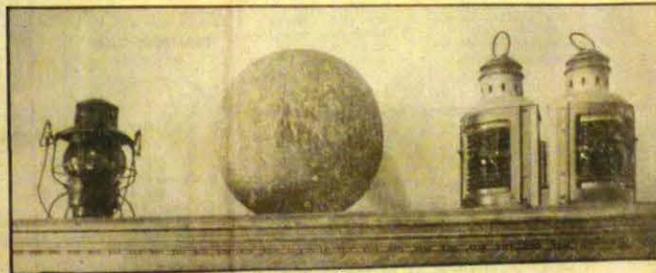
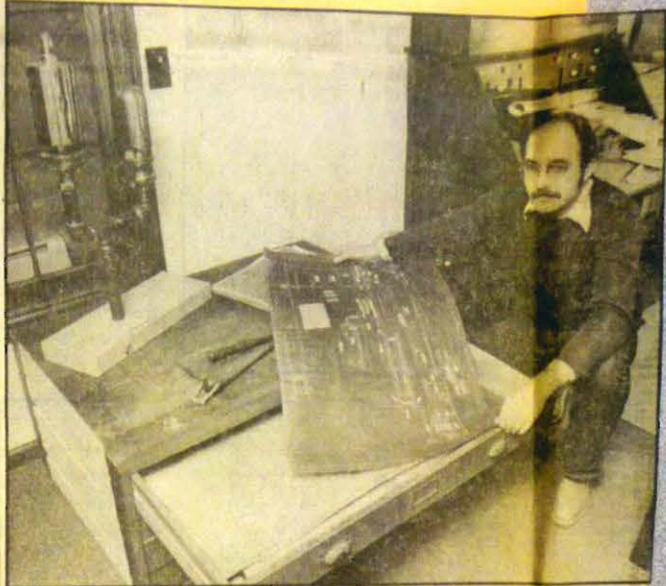
There are large clamps of various sizes. They were used to hold together the hulls of steamboats while they were being built. Peaveys and cant hooks speak mutely of logging days on the Mississippi. Colorful posters herald the arrivals of famed riverboats like the J.S. and the Capitol.

PELO DISPLAYS the drills and augers of the shipbuilders, each designed for a specific purpose, an unopened bale of oakum, used as caulking, and the caulking tools and mallets, too.

"I've specialized more in the rafting era, rather than packets, because rafting was really the life of LeClaire," he explains.

He shows long, oaken, pole-like affairs known as "steamboat bumpers." These were used on the sides of steamboats, as rubber tires are today.

— COLLECTION
Please turn to page 2D



Surrounded by boat lanterns and signal lights is another rarity in Pelo's collection, a wooden ball that once graced the top of the ferry Quinlan's pilot house.

Photo by
Ted Holt
not inc
and to

Old Viola Town Hall to be sold

By SHARON ESSLINGER
(Argus Correspondent)

VIOLA — After a year and a half, the saga of the old Viola town hall was solved Tuesday night when four members of the Viola Masonic Lodge met with the Green Township Board. All three parties, the township, the village and the lodge, have finally agreed to sell the old structure at public auction and split the proceeds in three equal portions.

Earlier this year both the village and township decided to sell the building, as neither of them were utilizing the facility but were stumped as to the formula to be used in dividing the proceeds.

THE OLD LANDMARK, located just one block south of the village square, was erected in 1893. At an annual meeting of the town on April 15, 1892, it was determined that a new village hall should be erected with the township and village to act in conjunction. The building was to measure not less than 24 by 40 feet and not to exceed \$1,400 in cost. A building committee was appointed.

Records further show that on May 1, 1893, Ann E. and H. R. Peters donated the land on which the old structure now sits to the village and the township for a consideration of \$150, and was to be "for use of people in Viola." Later the Masonic Lodge joined forces in the project and the building's measurement increased to 60 feet with the

cost totaling \$2,465.

Over the years, the lodge occupied the second story of the building. The library occupied the rear half of the ground floor and the village and township occupied the front half.

In 1971, a new village hall was constructed. The library then expanded to the entire first floor. Upon completion of the new structure, an agreement was signed between the village and the township stating that the township would assume full responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the structure.

ALTHOUGH THE DEED does not reflect ownership, records substantiate that the lodge holds a legal interest in the building. Ken McKittrich, a lodge member, related Tuesday night that the lodge feels justified to receive one-half of the sale price since they occupy and maintain the upper half of the building.

The village on the other hand, earlier went on record that they felt each of the parties should equally receive one-third. The township felt that each should receive one-third of the building and the township and the village should split the proceeds of the land in half, since it was only to these two entities that the land was donated to in 1892.

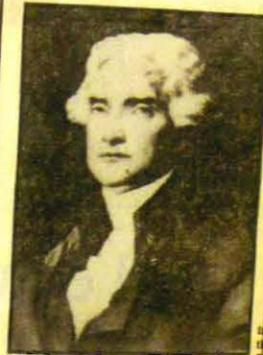
The controversy is now settled and the next step will be to arrange for a public auction.

of history

QUAD-CITY TIMES Thursday, May 8, 1980



Raymond Jefferson has a tangible link to his ancestor, Thomas Jefferson, with the copy of the Bible printed in 1648. (Times photos by Jessie Ewing)



Thomas Jefferson's signature still shows up clearly on the tattered page of the Bible.

Bible provides link to Thomas Jefferson

By Jim Renkes
of the Times

Only one tangible link to Raymond "Red" Jefferson's family heritage remains. The rest are only time-worn remembrances.

He gingerly pulled the tattered, yellow-paged family Bible out of its plastic covering and turned to the first page. There's no doubt about the hand writing at the bottom. It's the same flowing penmanship that authored and signed the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson — 1824.
Printed in 1648, the Bible traveled across the ocean to the Virginia Colonies and through the hands of several

generations before ending up at 2403 Fairhaven Road, Davenport.

Before that it belonged to Red's father Thomas George Washington William Henry Harrison Napoleon Bonaparte Buck Jefferson IV.

THE ONLY other links to the past are stories passed down from generation to generation.

Jefferson remembers how he used to sit on his grandmother's porch in Neola, Wis. He remembers her smoking a pipe, petting the old tom cat that ate fried eggs and telling him stories. Stories he used to laugh off as the wild imaginations of an old woman.

Stories about how she came from Virginia to Donner's Grove, Ill., when

she was 15 years old.

About when she lived there and a skinny young lawyer named Abe Lincoln would come riding through on a mule, his feet dragging the ground, half asleep as he rode.

Stories about other members of the family, like Joseph Jefferson, an accomplished 19th century actor. About three other members who settled in Massachusetts after being released from prison and others who came from England and worked as indentured servants.

He also remembers the story of how his most illustrious relative passed on his name despite the fact that he had only daughters.

The illegitimate son of President Jefferson may have been happy just to have a name.

By the time he was old enough to realize how important those stories were, it was too late. His mother, father and grandmother died when he was young.

JEFFERSON remembers a chest filled with family heirlooms. The

saber that belonged to the president and a quilt made by the First Lady, Martha Wales Jefferson.

The Bible itself could have been a stronger link had it not been for a family feud.

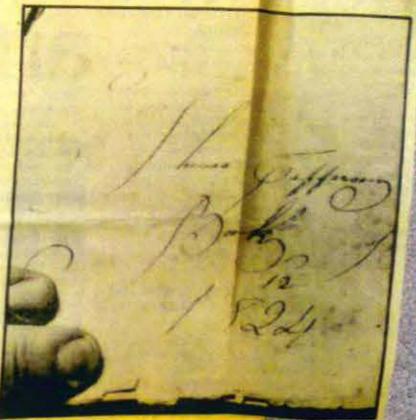
Jefferson's father used his savings and some land he inherited in Wisconsin to fulfill his dream of raising Belgian show horses. The horses got loose one day and died when they got stuck in quick sand.

HIS BROTHER refused his plea for financial help and in the ensuing argument the family tree that was once a part of the Bible was ripped out.

Since retiring from the Rock Island Arsenal, Red has been working to reconstruct that page of history.

"The Bible would have gone to my brother, but he died when he was 17. We named our son Thomas Jefferson VI to carry on the name," Jefferson said.

"Someday I'll pass the Bible on to him, and I'm hoping he has a son so he can pass it on too."

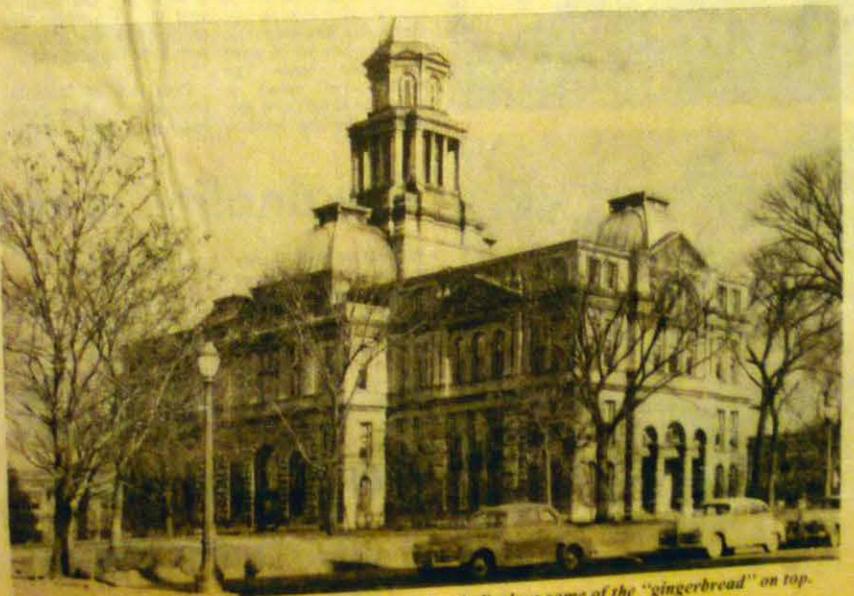




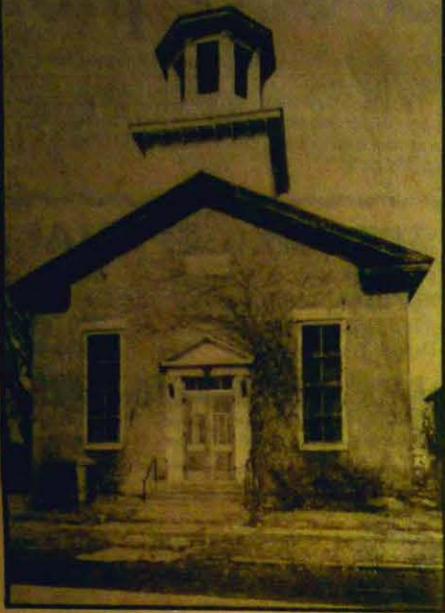
The old Central Fire Station at 5th Avenue and 17th Street. . .

Sept. 16 August 1930

Third Avenue looking west shows. . .



The courthouse from the west side a few years back displays some of the "gingerbread" on top.



The former Presbyterian Church in Keithsburg, Ill., is being considered for listing as a historic site.

Keithsburg church may join historic list

KEITHSBURG, Ill. — The Illinois Historic Sites advisory council is considering the nomination of the old Presbyterian Church here to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Keithsburg Civic Club, owner of the church for 43 years, was notified Tuesday that the advisory council will be meeting Friday in Vandalia, Ill., to consider the church as a historic site.

If the church is listed on the national register, the civic club could qualify for federal funding for its restoration.

Construction on the church began in 1854 and was completed in 1857, making it one of the oldest buildings in this Mercer County town.

The church closed in 1908 because of a lack of funds, but reopened in 1914 after a physician willed his farm and house to the church.

Services were discontinued in the mid-1930s. The civic club has used the church as a meeting place and community center since 1937 when church officials deeded the building to the club.

A few years ago, a library was established at the church, located at the northeast corner of Main and Eighth streets.

Since then, several attempts have been made to raise money to restore the building.

In 1966, the church was treated for termites, a new roof was put on and a new furnace installed with funds raised through donations, bake and rummage sales, and luncheons.

The civic club again in 1975 attempted to raise funds to repair and lower the ceiling and decorate and paint the brick building, but was only partially successful, a club member said.

If the civic club does not qualify for federal funding to restore the church, it may have to be torn down, she added.

Davenport Times 8 May 1980 Sterling home to be museum

STERLING, Ill. — The 123-year-old home of a Sterling industrialist will be turned into a museum this

fall, the Sterling park district, which recently received ownership of the home and property, has announced.

The home of Paul W. Dillon, a pioneer in the steel industry and chairman of the board of Northwestern Steel and Wire Co., was recently given to the park board by the Dillon family.

Dillon, who lived his entire life in the house, died Feb. 25 at the age of 96.

The home has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The park district also is considering the renovation of the brick barn on the property for use as a Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society Museum.

ancestors

Homework is essential for research in England

By DAMON VEACH

Before leaving for Great Britain, there are certain things that should be learned about research procedures. Countless people take these trips and find they have spent a lot of time and money and received very little to show for their efforts.

Assembling all the known information about an immigrant ancestor from records in family files and in the local and national archives systems is most important. Details of the approximate dates of birth, occupation, religion, marriage and birth records of children born in this country and, above all else, clues to his place of origin in Great Britain should be gathered and organized properly. Every attempt should be made to obtain this place of birth. Success or failure in the archives of Great Britain may depend on this.

If material relating to interested families is already in print, reference to the work in which it appears will be found in either "The Genealogist's Guide" by G.W. Marshall, or in "A Genealogical Guide" by J.B. Whitmore. For manuscript material, inquiries should be made at the Society of Genealogists, the Scots Ancestry Research Society and the College of Arms. These bodies will advise on the vast amount of genealogical material which exists in the British Library and other important libraries. Using that information may save on lengthy searches in original records. The more uncommon the surname, the easier searches will be. An idea of the number of people bearing a certain surname and their distribution can be obtained by looking at current British telephone directories (found at any local post office or telephone booth). The phone books also are useful for discovering relatives now living in Great Britain.

WHERE THE ORIGIN of the ancestor is unknown, common surnames will pose the biggest problem. However, if they

but they are needed.

In order to get to the PRO, one needs to take the subway to Temple on Chancery Lane stations. This is an old building with a small museum at the front gate that has among its exhibits the Domesday Book (a general survey of England in 1085) and Shakespear's last will and testament.

THE COLONIAL Office records, which have the American Colonies records, are at Kew, about 20 miles away which involves three underground changes (Central, Piccadilly and District lines) and a cost of 60 pence (\$1.25).

The PRO reading rooms are open from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Requisitions for documents are not accepted after 3:30.

Sharp was in Great Britain researching the material for the early British settlers of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, and was particularly interested in land grants. He says it took him a couple of days just to learn the system of locating, checking out and getting copies made at the PRO at Kew and also on Chancery Lane. Meeting the officials at these two offices was also important because this allowed him to go back into the records behind the counter and to get better acquainted with the PRO.

Tony Farrington is the high official of the Indies Office on Blackfriars Road. He is in charge of the interesting and ancient documents of the Indies Company. David Thomas is in charge of the "seals" — Great Seals, Colonial Seals, Historic Seals, etc. — of ancient English documents. He can make a duplicate of any seals found in the PRO records. For instance, Sharp obtained copies of the great seals of Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas exactly as they were attached to the East and West Florida land grants.

FARRINGTON IS also helpful in pointing out book stores and map stores where Sharp obtained many old maps of Louisiana and West Florida.

or telephone booth). The phone books also are useful for discovering relatives now living in Great Britain.

WHERE THE ORIGIN of the ancestor is unknown, common surnames will pose the biggest problem. However, if they fall into the general, common or regional categorizations, H.B. Guppy's "Homes of Family Names in Great Britain" will be invaluable.

The printed indexes to the "Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills" offer a similar source guide for the 17th century and the "Apprenticeship Index (1710-1774)" covers the 18th century and is found at the Society of Genealogists.

Much work has been done on the origins of the 17th century settlers in the United States and works such as "A Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists, 1538-1825" by A.H. Lancour, and "Topographical Dictionary of 2,885 English Emigrants to New Zealand, 1620-1650" by C.E. Banks and E.E. Brownell should be consulted before leaving as many of the lists and works cited are not readily available in Great Britain. Contrary to general belief, there is no regular series of passenger lists of ships leaving Great Britain until the last years of the last century although a series from 1820 exists in the National Library of Congress. These, however, do not give the place of origin.

IF EMIGRATION took place after 1837, and a known birth, marriage or death in the emigrant's family can be located in the records of General Registration at St. Catherine's House, London, then the searcher's task will be much easier. If emigration took place before that date and the emigrant was married in this country, his marriage might be located in "Boyd's Marriage Index" at the Society of Genealogists. If he died leaving property here, his will would have been proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury or York.

Sources of information in Britain are best divided into those for England and Wales, those for Scotland and those for Northern Ireland.

Donald J. Sharp, 3513 Edenborn St., Metairie, La. 70002 has several suggestions to offer when visiting the Public Record Office. Following his advice may save a lot of time, and it may enable the researcher to be prepared to do what he or she has gone to Great Britain to accomplish.

First, a reader's permit is necessary. It only takes a few minutes to obtain one,

Sharp obtained copies of the great seals of Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas exactly as they were attached to the East and West Florida land grants.

FARRINGTON IS also helpful in pointing out book stores and map stores where Sharp obtained many old maps of Louisiana and West Florida.

Many other sources of West Florida records are deposited in various places. Included in this group would be the British Museum. A different reader's permit is needed here.

Starting out at the research facility at Kew, one must sign in and leave all cameras and other packages at the reception counter on the ground floor. Next comes the distribution counter on the next level. It is most important to get a seat number assigned. The reading rooms hold about 300 people. A beeper is assigned to each researcher, and orders for materials are done by computers located in the reference rooms. The sooner you order, the sooner you receive the material and work can begin. This usually takes about four hours, but it could take up to 14. Just to order on the computer takes practice. (This is too detailed to go into at this time.)

Again, knowing what you want can be most important.

If research is spread out over several days, two things can assist in the task — after the first three items arrive at the research desk (all researchers are limited to three items at a time), pick these up and immediately order three more by computer. Work can be progressing while the other three books are pulled from the stacks.

When going through the books and documents and a copy is needed, take a long strip of white (blank) paper and write R/S (for right side) and L/S (for left side) with the number of copies desired. Then take these to the Photoordering Room. The price is 40 cents per copy, but this is a small cost if the material is of any importance at all. Photos are higher.

IT IS ALSO important to put the words "begin" and "end" on the strips of paper requesting the copies.

Copies of maps and large documents are obtained from the next level, and one must wait until his turn is beeped.

Census returns are at the PRO. The place and approximate date of birth of any person whose existence and address has been obtained from the records of civil registration in the period 1841-1871 may be found in the Census Returns for England and Wales at the Census Room of the Public Record Office.

Argus metro



COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET — Nancy Garner, publicity coordinator for the Two Rivers History Theatre, looks at the cover of a commemorative booklet on the area's history which the group will sell beginning Monday. Two Rivers will be presenting a play production at the Summer Festival (July 17-19) about the first 200 years of life in Rock Island. The booklet is available at the Rock Island Chamber of Commerce, or through the mail, and will be available at the festival. (Argus Photo)

Festival booklet gives first 200 years of city's history

At the Rock Island Summer Festival, Quad-Citians will be able to relive the first 200 years of Rock Island's history when the Two Rivers History Theatre presents its three-day historical pageant.

And beginning Monday, area residents will be able to remember those early days of the city with a commemorative booklet, published by the theatre group.

The booklet not only traces the history of the area from the time of the French explorers to the coming of the railroads, but also presents an outline of the pageant which will be presented at 7 p.m. each night of the Summer Festival, July 17-19.

THE BOOKLET is available for \$2 at the Rock Island Chamber of Commerce and from 2 to 6 p.m. at the festival. For \$3, persons can receive the booklet through the mail, with the cost including postage and handling.

The booklet includes photographs of the pageant's cast, as well as pictures, maps and history of life in

the early Quad-Cities. Included in the booklet are the lives of Colonel Davenport and Chief Black Hawk, a section on the amusement park at Black Hawk State Park, and the history of the railroad.

Nancy Garner, publicity coordinator for Two Rivers History Theatre, assembled the booklet. She will be a senior at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, and is also a public relations intern in an experimental summer program with the Rock Island Chamber of Commerce.

The history theatre script was authored by Gloria Handley. She is currently writing and producing a play called "Fire and Ice" for the Cultural Awareness Council.

More than 50 Quad-City area residents make up the cast for the festival production. The plays will be performed on flatbed trucks in the parking lot of First National Bank in downtown Rock Island. Spectators are urged to bring lawn chairs to watch the performances.

Kevin Renken, director of

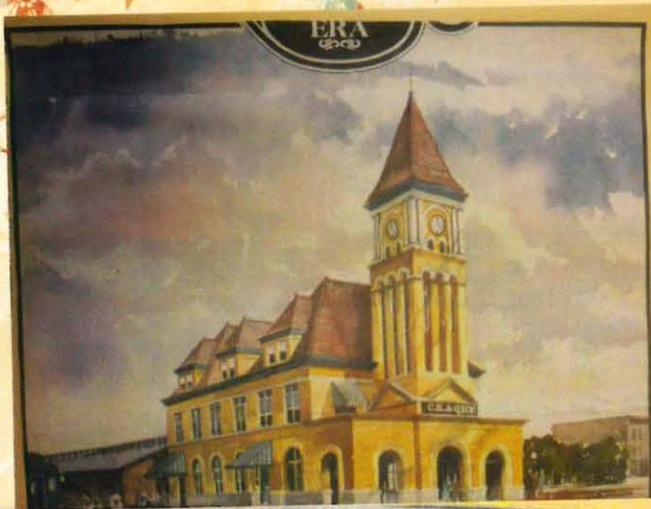
the theatre group, says that thousands of manhours have gone into the planning and rehearsals of the play presentation. Renken was named the play's director and producer May 18 and he will even play the role of Adrian Davenport in the theatre production.

The technical advisor for the play is Tom Harksen and the choreographer is Gerie Wilson. In charge of set designs is Sally Edens and the head of costumes is Sharon Viernow.

THE PRODUCTION is funded in part by a \$1,500 grant from the Illinois Arts Council. Additional funding, to reach a \$2,000 fundraising goal, is being sought from individual contributions by the Two Rivers History Theatre Corp., a not-for-profit group. Persons interested in making donations can call either Renden or Beekie Bowles, festival coordinator, at 788-6311.

Directors of the theatre are hoping to make the productions an annual event, to continue the story of Rock Island and "the land between two rivers." Possible videotaping of this year's pageant and those in years to come is being investigated.

Extensive research for both the pageant and the commemorative booklet was done in connection with various community groups, including the Indian Intertribal League and the Rock Island Historical Society.



The C.B.&Q. Station

Since its inception in 1849, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad had done nothing in a small way. Its growth was made possible through the merger of no less than two hundred companies. It was the first to bridge the Missouri River at Kansas City. The first to offer Chicago to Denver service under one name.

In its future lay several other "firsts", including the first road to operate a diesel streamliner and the first to run a thousand miles non-stop.

Going "second class" was something the Burlington Route left to the other railroads. So when the Burlington opened its new Rock Island Depot at 20th Street and 2nd Avenue on February 20, 1901, it was the lavish affair everyone expected.

Over one hundred dignitaries dined at the Harper House on Blue Point oysters, Filet of Sole, Anglaise potatoes, sweetbreads and several varieties of wine.

Dinner was followed by a flow of oratory that lasted until 2:00 a.m. Among the testimonials was the prediction that before the middle of the twentieth century, "within a radius of 10 miles of the flag staff on Rock Island Arsenal there will be gathered one of the greatest manufacturing centers to be found within the limits of the nation."

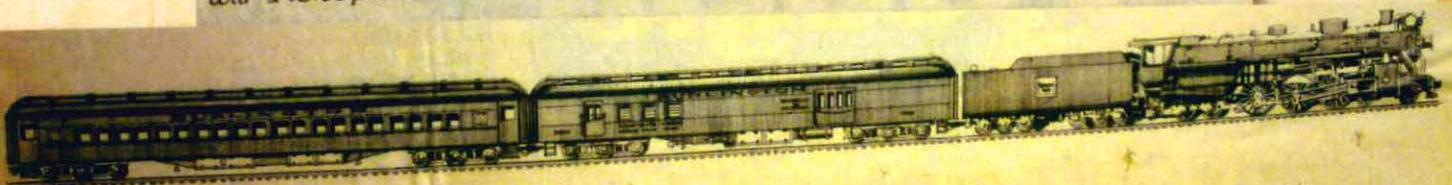
It was a golden era for railroads. A golden era for the Quad Cities.

To celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Eagle Discount Supermarket at 2100 East Kimberly Road, Davenport, Eagle has commissioned famed Quad Cities artist Paul Norton to commemorate the Golden Era of Railroads in a series of four watercolors depicting area depots.

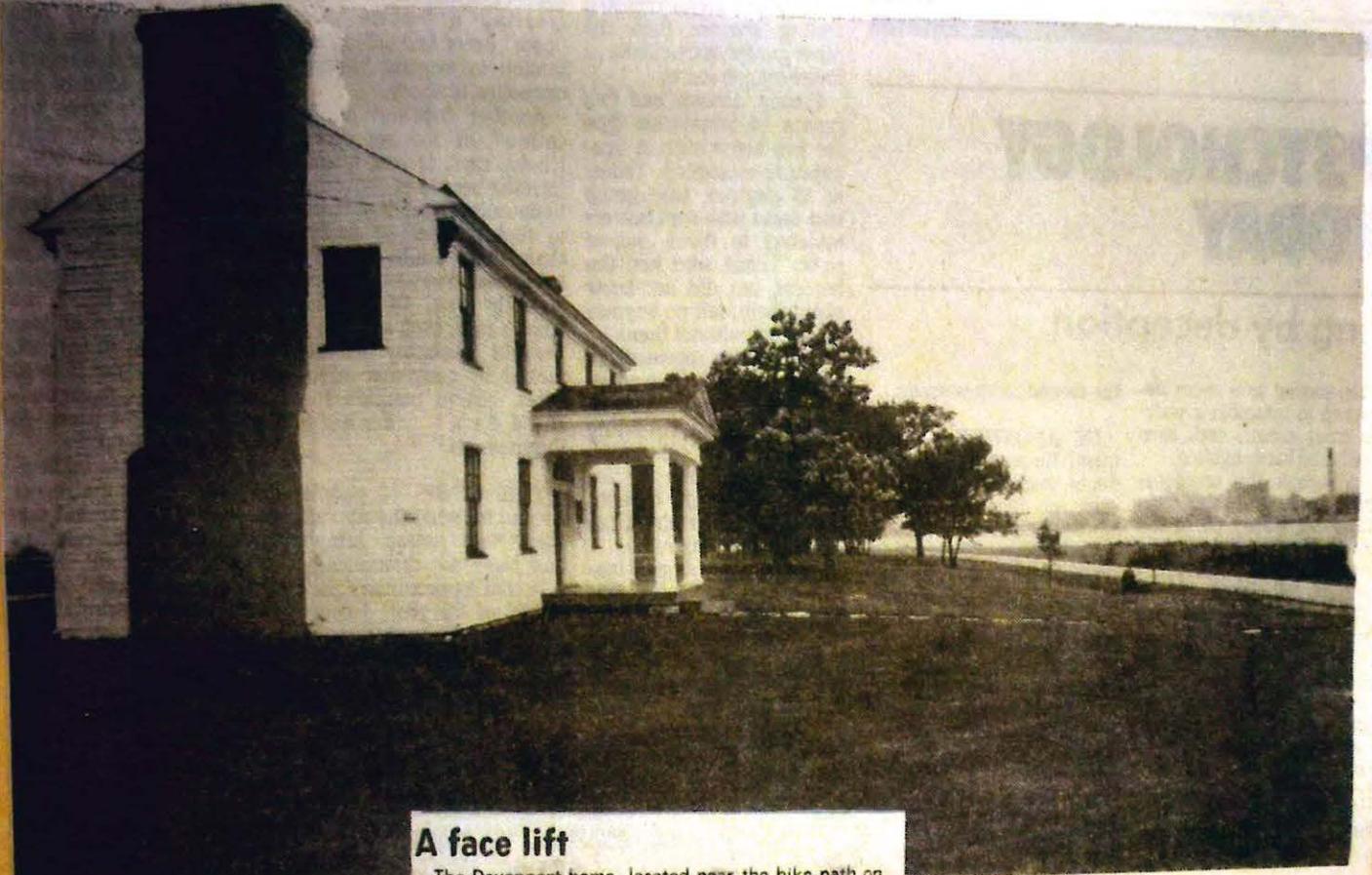
A reproduction of the second in the series, the Rock Island C.B.&Q. Station, is yours free this week at each Quad Cities area Eagle.



Railroads: The Golden Era, a series of watercolors by Paul Norton/available free, with a \$5.00 purchase, exclusively at all Eagle Discount Supermarkets in the Quad Cities area.

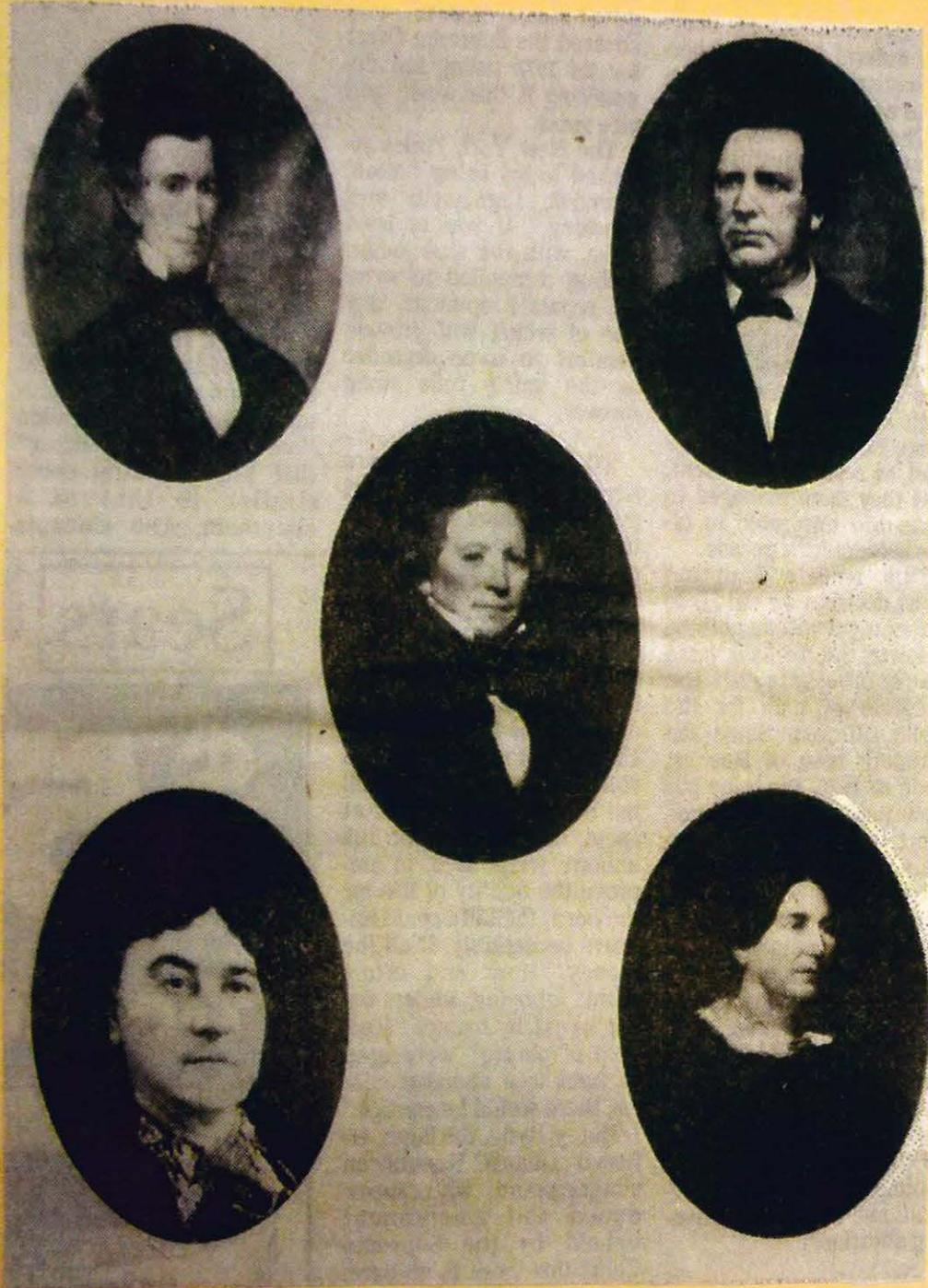


THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Sunday, July 6, 1980



A face lift

The Davenport home, located near the bike path on Arsenal Island, faces the city named after its builder. The house was painted this year with paint and labor donated by the Quad-Cities Painting and Decorating Contractors.

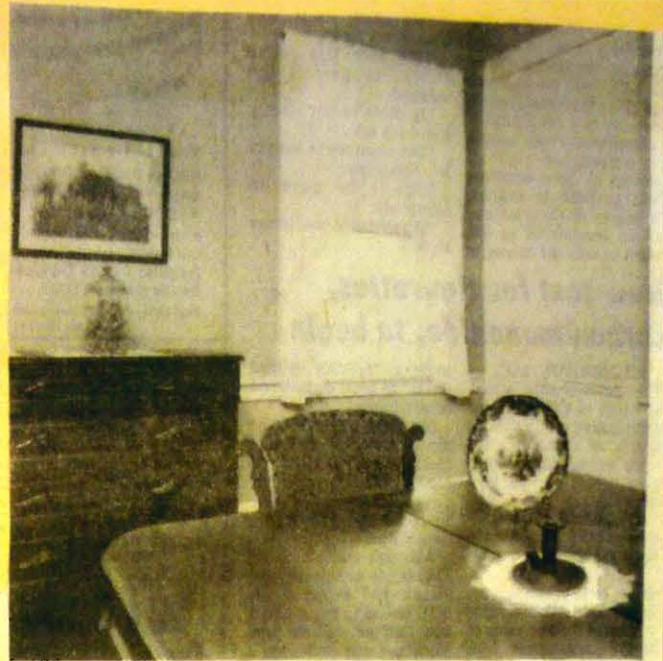


First settlers

Members of the Col. George Davenport family, who were the first permanent settlers in the historic home built in 1833, are pictured at the home. They are son, George L'oste, top left; son, Bailey, top right; Col. Davenport, center; the wife of George L'oste, Sarah Grace Clarke Davenport, lower left, and stepdaughter, Susan Lewis Goldsmith. Not pictured is Davenport's wife, Margaret Bowling Lewis Davenport. In the photo below, Flow-Blue plates donated by the Illowa Chapter of Questers, Inc., are displayed on a split pedestal table donated by Wilma Smith of Davenport. The furniture in the dining room is from the 1800s. (Argus photo)

New furnishings

Among new furniture purchased with proceeds from an antique seminar held by Questers, Inc., are a mahogany table, four gondola chairs, a sofa and a chest, all from the period when the Davenport family lived in the home. A mannequin is dressed in a costume of the period. (Argus photo)



Davenport's legend lives on

By **JULIE GOSMA**
(Argus staff writer)

On the bank of the Mississippi, across from the site where a new city was being built bearing his name, Colonel George Davenport established the first permanent dwelling in the area in 1833.



Julie Gosma

The trader had come to the area now called Arsenal Island in 1816 after an exciting life as a river pilot, soldier and Indian fighter.

In 1845 the Rock Island Lines was founded in the house, and Antoine LeClaire used his friend Davenport's home to map the organization of the city of Davenport.

It was also where the founders of Rock Island planned the expansion of their city.

Davenport came to the area when he was contracted by the U.S. Government to feed the soldiers of the 8th U.S. Infantry Regiment.

He was renowned for his fair dealings with many Indians, including the unapproachable tribes such as the Winnebagoes. He was known as Saganosh by his Indian friends, which means Englishman.

Being the first white family to settle in the area, Davenport's children had many Indian playmates and learned many dialects from their Indian friends.

Among many area firsts, the home held the first church services in the area, he was the first postmaster for the area, was one of three commissioners in Rock Island County and the first to pilot the Virginia steamboat through the rapids between Rock Island and Port Byron.

The title of colonel was an honorary one, given to Davenport after the Black Hawk War by the Governor of Illinois in recognition of his efforts to avoid the war.

A year before the home was built, Davenport proudly showed the site to a young captain in the Black Hawk War, Abraham Lincoln.

Tragedy struck the Davenport home on July 4, 1845. Davenport was home alone, his wife, Margaret, two sons, a step-daughter and his daughter-in-law were in town for the Fourth of July festivities.

Bandits entered the home expecting to find a lot of money. When they could only find \$600 or \$700 they began to torture Davenport, beating him as they dragged him around the house demanding more money. They shot him in the thigh, and fractured his skull.

Boaters were attracted by his moans, but they could not save him. He died that night.

The story behind the killers of Davenport are a little sketchy, but until two years ago, the skeleton of John Long was still in the Hauberg Museum at Black Hawk State Park. In 1978 the remains were burned and buried in Pioneer Cemetery near Black Hawk Park.

The Davenport family remained in the house until 1863. It was then used as the headquarters of the first commander of the Rock Island Arsenal.

Col. Davenport's body was moved in 1864 from a grave site at the home to the Chippianock Cemetery in Rock Island.

Through the years the mansion grew to disrepair until 1906 when the Pioneer and Old Settlers' Association of Rock Island County began to restore the building.

Interest was low and though much was done, funds ran out and the proposed museum sight was abandoned.

For the past three years the home has been open for tours by the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation. Until this season there was not much to look at in the home in the way of historical furnishings.

But thanks to the hard work of 50 members of the foundation, donations from area businesses and individuals, and Questers, Inc., of the Quad Cities, a national antique study group, two rooms are now furnished with pieces from the era when the Davenport family lived in the home.

It was Questers who gave the first \$500 grant for the foundation to be formed three years ago. Since, the Illowa Chapter has donated blue antique Flow-Blue plates for the dining room, and the Duck Creek Chapter has made curtains for the home.

The foundation has purchased furniture from proceeds of a Questers antique seminar including an Empire table, circa 1830; four gondola chairs of the late federal period, circa 1825, a sofa and a chest of the same period, all of mahogany wood.

A mannequin costumed in a dress of the period greets visitors in the parlor. Several mannequins were donated by Scharffs and Petersen's department stores of Davenport. The dress was researched by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and donated by Barbara Maple, chairman of publicity for the foundation.

An early Victorian split pedestal dining table was donated by Wilma Smith of Davenport.

The Sutlery Gift Shop at the home is named after the sutlers — civilians who traveled with the military and provided them with provisions and food, as Davenport did.

Antiques, handmade articles, including shirts worn by sutlers, books on area history and Paul Norton paintings are among the many items for sale. A giant painting done by Dorothy Pate, an Arsenal employee, hangs in the shop. It depicts Davenport's trading post and activities going on around the settlement, including animals of the area.

A ramp for the handicapped has been donated and installed by the Quad-Cities Construction Industry Advancement Trust, and the outside of the house was given a fresh coat of paint by the Quad-Cities Painting and Decorating Contractors, who donated the paint and labor.

Recently the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation set up a membership organization to produce revenue for the care and maintenance of the building, to make secure the future of the foundation in the interest of the history surrounding George Davenport and early settlements of the area and to provide a permanent museum and library where history of the area can be displayed.

The home is listed in the National Register of Historic Sites.

Located along the bike path on Arsenal Island the historic home is open every Sunday from May 1 through October from 1 to 3 p.m., with guides in attendance to tell the Davenport story.

For special group tours on other days, call Jane Malone at 794-0676, and for a slide program on the history of Col. Davenport, call Barbara Maple at 359-1724.

To become a member of the Col. Davenport Historical Foundation call Barbara Hanson at 391-6795.



Posters for sale

Barbara Maple, left, chairman of publicity for the Col. Davenport Historical Foundation, and Barbara Hanson, secretary, look at a poster sold in the gift shop offering a reward for the killers of Davenport. The painting was done by Dorothy Pate, an Arsenal employee. (Argus photo)



Arretta Wetzel, first president of Black Hawk Post Card Collector Club

Argus photo by Phil Collins

Post card collectors form club

Post card collecting is "educational, historical, fun and affordable," said George Miller, secretary-treasurer of the Black Hawk Post Card Collectors Club.

Cards represent world events, politics, humor, human behavior, sentiments, social, moral and economic conditions of the time. The best and worst conditions exist on these graphic representations. Postal cards originated in Vienna, Austria in 1869. Postal cards were issued by the U.S. post office in 1873. Those of the Golden Age (1901-1916) were mainly printed in Germany for sale in the U.S. because of the perfection of printing and color process.

The Pioneer Era has been recorded as the period between 1893 and 1898. The first official picture post card, the Columbian Exposition, was issued May 1893 by the post office. Privately-printed cards, such as souvenir and mail cards, also were issued during this era.

Private mailing card era (1898-1901), was a period when the U.S. government granted private printers permission to sell postal cards, effective May 19, 1898. There was no writing allowed on the addressed side of cards. The undivided back era was between 1901 and 1907.

The right to use the words "post card" on privately printed cards was granted by the government Dec. 24, 1901. The

divided back era (1907-1915) permitted writing to the left of the address. The white border era has been designated as the period between 1916 and 1930.

Because of World War I, the quality and color of post cards was not perfected on printed cards in the U.S. New processes enabled printers to print on high rag-content stock during the Linen Era, (1930-1945).

From 1939 to the present has been termed the Modern Chromes because of the high glossy finish and three dimension and holograph effects.

Post card collecting is known as "deltiology." It derives from delti-meaning small tablet or picture and ology-meaning showing knowledge of.

The Quad-City area deltiology club, the Black Hawk Post Card Collectors Club, has been in operation since September.

The club was formed when collectors in the area met to see if there was enough interest. The charter membership includes 33, and it will be open for charter membership until Nov. 20.

Arretta Wetzel, president, has been collecting for nearly nine years. She is a member of six other clubs, including South Jersey of Newark, N.J. and Twin-Cities Club of St. Paul Minn.

A native of Rock Island County, she began her collection when cards of her mother, Clara Gelhard, and other relatives came into her possession.

"It served as a nucleus of my prized collection of about 35,000" she said.

Through encouragement of out-of-town friends who were collectors, she attended her first collector's club meeting in 1974. This inspired her to come home and organize the cards she already had.

Her greatest source of cards come through correspondence, flea markets, antique shows and from other collectors. Her correspondence extends from Maine to California, Alaska to New Zealand and Hawaii.

"I consider myself a general collector, although I do specialize in Santa Claus, leap year, large year dates and cards from the Quad-City area," she said.

Mrs. Wetzel recently returned from a show in the Chicago area where she won four second place prizes out of six entries. In the past four years she has entered 28 post card exhibits in competition and has won 24 ribbons. The earliest cards in her collection date from the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

George Miller said his main interest is in railroads, depots, and geographical post cards. He has been collecting for

about five years and has about 1,000 post cards in his collection. His collection is centered around cards printed in the United States and date back to the early 1900s.

Greeting post cards show different holidays, such as Christmas, Halloween and Easter. View post cards represent the different areas in the country of particular interest, such as horse and buggies and early dress. Comic cards made statements of social problems and women's suffrage.

The most sought after cards by European collectors are those representing the art nouveau posters of the 1920s.

The most recent project of the Black Hawk Post Card Collectors Club is tracing the history of the Rock Island Post Card Company, which existed from 1906 until 1926.

Other officers for the club include Malinda McConnell, vice-president; Phil Hutchinson, research coordinator, and Jack Ingles, librarian.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the hobby or interested in learning more about post cards.

"It is a fascinating hobby, healthfully addictive and highly recommended," said Mrs. Wetzel.

—Sharren Williams



Early postal cards from the collections of Arratte Wetzel and George Miller include such examples as, top, left to right, a 1910 lady golfer, a Happy New Year 1904 greeting and a 1910 Christmas greeting; second row, a 1908 Thanksgiving message and a 1911 Halloween card; third row, scenes from Rock Island, a 1910



Harper House, Rock Island, Ill.



View of Third City Square, Rock Island, Ill.



MAIN ENTRANCE, ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

view of Spencer Square (now Rock Island Post Office), Rock Island County Court House in the early 1900s and Black Hawk State Park Watch Tower in 1908; fourth row, the Harper House, entrance to Rock Island Arsenal and Geneseo Collegiate Institute, and bottom row, north side of Geneseo business district and the old Geneseo House, (the Cellar restaurant is now located in the basement).



Geneseo Collegiate Institute, Geneseo, Ill.



Rock Island Library to be computerized

By MARK STEGMAIER
(Argus Staff Writer)

The Rock Island Library will become computerized.

And when it does in late 1980 or early 1981, it will greatly reduce the workload, provide a connection to 11 libraries, and provide an instantaneous method to survey popularity of library materials.

LATER THIS MONTH, computer equipment will be installed at the River Bend Library System, Coal Valley, and by January, cathode ray terminals will be placed in the public libraries of Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, Silvis West Township, Orion and the River Bend Library. They also will be placed in college libraries, including Augustana, Black Hawk, Marycrest and St. Ambrose. The John Deere Administration Center's private library also will have a terminal.

Cross-referenced according to title and author, and with a future capability of being indexed according to subject, the terminals will initially be used only by library staff.

Barcode labels will be placed on all loanable library items and the items will be checked out by using a light pen that will "read" labels.

PATRONS WILL be able to find out instantaneously if a book in the Rock Island main or branch libraries is checked out and if it is available through inter-library loan. The system will greatly speed up the process and satisfy patrons who before had to fill out forms and wait. Charles Perdue said Rock Island Library director.

And the new computer will facilitate a better record keeping system for each library. An important outgrowth of the system will be the ability to identify what readers are borrow-

ing, a project that the Rock Island Library had never done because of the high cost of a manual survey, Perdue said.

What is the public reading these days? In Rock Island, according to Perdue and Paula Simpson, adult services librarian, there is a big interest in alternative methods of heating, alternative ways to provide power, and different ways of constructing houses.

Locally and nationally, there is an increase in the reading of self-help books in all phases of life.

\$1.2 million federal grant to help Iowa buy historic site in Dubuque

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP) — The federal government will help the state of Iowa save the historic Mines of Spain site, where the first white settlers set foot in Iowa.

David Oman, press secretary to Gov. Robert Ray, said the federal government will provide \$1.2 million to enable the state to acquire the 1,800-acre site, which overlooks the Mississippi River just south of downtown Dubuque.

OMAN SAID the grant from the Interior Department will be combined with another \$700,000 in federal funds and \$500,000 in state money, which will give the state enough to buy the site.

The site is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Lott, who have agreed to sell it for \$2.4 million. Oman said the land is valued at \$3.4 million.

Oman said the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, a private group formed by the governor in 1979 to acquire historic natural lands, was instrumental in arranging the purchase.

THE FOUNDATION is expected to buy an option on the land from the Lotts in the next few days and acquire the title to the area later, Oman said. After that, the land will be deeded to the state, which will be responsible for maintaining it.

The Mines of Spain site includes early Indian and white settler villages, burial mounds dating to 5000 B.C., the first permanent white settlement in Iowa and lead mines dating to before 1850.

Among the endangered species of wildlife found in the area are bald eagles, river otters, red-shouldered hawks, glandular wood ferns and jeweled shooting stars.

Congregation observes 125th anniversary

By Duaine D. Carlson

The bridalwreath still blooms in the spring. The trees that once shaded summer ice cream socials and church picnics have fallen victim to storm and lightning. Grasses and sweet clover have reclaimed the plot of ground where the church once stood.

Last Sunday the scattered congregation of the former Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church observed the 125th anniversary of the church's founding. They came from close-by and they came from great distances to honor and to share memories of what once was.

Located at the crossroad of Ridgewood Road and Ill. Highway 192, seven miles southwest of Milan, the Pleasant Ridge Church was closed in 1968 because of declining membership.

A few years later, the building, vandalized and desecrated, was razed. The small plot of land, originally donated by John Morris, is still owned by the Great River Presbytery. Across the road still stands the one-room schoolhouse, now remodeled into a residence, where the church was organized on Oct. 2, 1855.

Prior to that date, the fledgling congregation had met irregularly, holding prayer meetings and Sunday afternoon services wherever possible, until the Rock River Presbytery was petitioned for the establishment of a formal church.

The Presbytery assigned the church's organization to the Revs. Samuel Cleland and S. T. Wilson, of Rock Island, and Elder William Dickson, Milan's founder and who, a decade earlier, had established Milan's first Presbyterian church.

At the organizational meeting, fourteen members were received as charter members of the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church. The church was named after the Bowling Township community in which it was located.

Thomas W. Vincent and Samuel Warnock were ordained and installed as elders. Elected as deacons and assigned to the church's financial obligations were James McBirney and William P. Wallace.

For the next five years, meetings, held in homes of members and friends, were still irregular. In 1860, a building was erected on a small parcel of land donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Morris.

Through the years there were several remodeling projects and additions made. Perhaps the most ambitious and extensive undertaking was in 1915 when the entire building was raised six feet for the installation of a concrete block foundation and a cement basement floor.

Everett Coyne, who joined the church as an eleven-year-old, said he remembers his dad using a team of horses and a slip, scooping out the dirt for the basement.

In the beginning, the newly-formed church was served by several stated supply ministers. The first regular pastor, installed July 4, 1864, was Rev. B. S. Sloan.

Until its closing in 1968, Pleasant Ridge was served by approximately 20 ministers, who also served other rural churches in the surrounding area.

Rev. T. R. Johnson held the longest pastorate, serving for 20 years, from 1870 - 1890. At the same time, he was pastor of the Edgington Presbyterian Church. Conducting morning worship at Edgington, Rev. Johnson rode horseback the nine miles to hold afternoon services at Pleasant Ridge.

Not only was the white-frame country church a place to worship God, it was also a community center. In the church's basement, monthly community club meetings were held with games and prizes, and, of course, lunch.

"In the fall," Everett Coyne said, "we had cornhusking bees and the Milan merchants donated prizes."

Almost wistfully, his wife, Mildred, added, "And Mrs.



Members and friends of the former Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church observed the church's 125th anniversary Sunday at the Beulah Presbyterian Church. Shown are Miss Geraldine Matthews, whose great-grandfather, William Dickson, helped organize the church on Oct. 2, 1855; her mother, Mrs. Paul Matthews; and Mrs. Dale (Barbara) Johnston. Mrs. Johnston's great-grandfather, John Morris, donated the land for the church building. Pleasant Ridge church closed in 1968, and, several years later, the building was torn down. Mirror Photo by Carlson

Lou Seitz could really husk corn!"

The Coynes can recall the fall community auctions when hay, corn, furniture - almost anything - was donated and auctioned off to meet operating expenses.

They also remember vividly the chicken dinners and serving lunch stands at farm auction sales.

Mrs. Coyne, who taught Sunday School for many years, said, "We had a lot of good times. There was the Ladies Aid and the Missionary Society."

Many a bride-to-be were feted with bridal showers in the church basement given by the Pleasant Ridge community women.

The church celebrated its centennial on Oct. 1, 1955, unsuspecting that 13 years

later it would be closed. A prayer service was held on Sept. 8, 1968, according to Coyne, after which the people drove to the Beulah Presbyterian Church, where Pleasant Ridge's records and some of its furnishings were taken. Paul Beren was the last pastor.

Now, with the building gone, the parcel of land consecrated to God is devoid of activity. No more rambunctious Sunday School kids, no more Sunday School programs or Bible studies, no more cars parked on Sunday morning.

However, the former church site is still referred to as a landmark when giving directions by Pleasant Ridge community old-time residents. "Go to Pleasant Ridge and make a left" can be confusing to residents new to the area,

but old habits are hard to break.

Sunday, at Beulah Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Ridge was fondly remembered by its congregation. The Rev. Don Wells, Beulah pastor, said, "The pilgrimage that started at Pleasant Ridge has gone out into the community."

The often-debated question of what makes up a church, the building or its congregation, was answered Sunday at Beulah. Church buildings, like empires, can rise and fall, but the congregation, filled with the Word, goes on forever.

Archaeologists begin historical survey at Arsenal

By JULIE GOSMA
(Argus Staff Writer)

A team of eight archaeologists broke ground at the Rock Island Arsenal this week in the second stage of a historical and archaeological survey of the entire island.

For four weeks the crew from Illinois State University at Normal has been at the Arsenal studying the history of its buildings and grounds.

According to Jay Richter, facilities engineer at the Arsenal, the purpose of the survey is two-fold.

"FIRST, THE HISTORICAL significance of existing structures is to be identified and verified. This will greatly streamline procedures which the Arsenal must follow with the Illinois State Historical Preservation office when modifications or repairs are needed on structures. Consequently, non-historic structures can be readily repaired, modified, or demolished, if necessary, with less delay," he said.

"Secondly, the survey will locate and identify significant historic and pre-historic areas. This information will assist long-range planners in locating future projects so these sensitive areas can be preserved," he said.

According to Winifred Creamer, research archaeologist with the group, "The whole island is peppered with remains from before the Arsenal was constructed and before the Civil War. There may be some Indian sites. But we don't have anything that says there is something here."

THE ARSENAL HAS been a Registered National Historic site since 1969. Robert Bouilly of the Arse-

nal's historic office explained why the dig is being made. "Under federal law we are responsible for surveying the property for cultural resources and archaeological and historical significance."

Charles Smith, historical archaeologist at ISU and site supervisor for the project, said although nothing has been found yet, the type of artifacts they are digging for are Indian mounds from the woodland period, 500

B.C. to 500 A.D., shell middens from settlements, civil war remnants and squatters or shanty town remains.

"We've been doing research for four weeks looking at old maps, photographs, architects drawings and Army maps of different stages of construction. There have been no surprises yet," he said.

The decision to start to dig south of Building 208 will allow the team to scan the area before the ground

is covered with the winter coal supply.

The first area is partially undeveloped and is being considered as a possible site for REARM, a proposed reindustrialization project to modernize and consolidate the industrial plant.

ON THE ARCHITECTURAL end, Professor Titus Karłowicz of ISU is studying all buildings 50 years and older. Buildings of much significance are the stone shops, built from 1869 to 1874.

These were the first major buildings on the Arsenal, besides the Clock Tower, Fort Armstrong and the old barracks are two others which will be studied.

Bouilly said the buildings are quite unique in that "they made a lot of the parts here. The type of architecture used was unique in terms of a large planned

industrial development in the post-Civil War period. It has always been the largest arsenal in the United States in terms of industrial productivity."

The results of the survey, which should be completed by the end of November will be compiled into a report and made public in April 1981.

"IT ALL BECOMES a part of the master plan, a reference for us for future use of buildings and lead — like a planning guide. Old buildings may be torn down, but it has to be recorded by the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation in Washington, D.C. We would have to justify why we are tearing it down," Bouilly said.

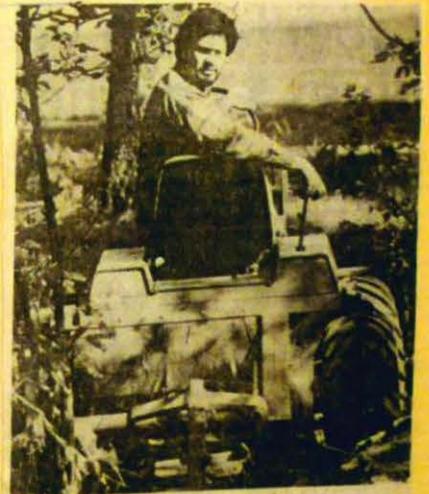
Studying the buildings will be an ongoing effort, which will be kept up over the years as other buildings reach the 50-year mark.

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Thursday, October 9, 1980



Historical interest

Robert Bouilly, right, of the Arsenal's historic office, talks with a member of the ISU archaeological team about possible findings on the Arsenal grounds. (Argus photo by Jim Collins)



Archaeological dig

Charles Smith, historical archaeologist from Illinois State University and site supervisor for the Arsenal project, digs the first test trench in search of historical and cultural significance of Arsenal Island. (Argus photo by Jim Collins)

From Connecticut to Ohio

By JAMES R. CASE, 33°

When Moses Cleaveland, in 1796, selected a mile square site on the banks of the Cuyahoga river, and laid out the streets of a settlement which was to bear his name, he made a daring prediction. In time, he thought, it might grow to the size of Windham, the shire town of his home county in Connecticut, which then had a population of almost 2500 people. It was also the meeting place of the first Masonic lodge to be organized in the county, of which Cleaveland was named charter Master.

Today Windham is no longer the county seat, and its population has barely doubled in number, while Cleveland, after a slow start, has long since outgrown the original square mile, with a population of nearly a million people in the core and as many more in the outskirts. Moriah Lodge has removed from Windham, while the city of Cleveland has 25 or more lodges on a recent list. Westward the course of empire takes its way.

When Connecticut, in 1786, relinquished to the national government its claim under the royal charter of 1662, to a strip of land running across Ohio to the "South Sea" or Pacific Ocean, a portion was retained and came to be known as the Connecticut or Western Reserve.



ILL.: JAMES R. CASE, 33°, is a noted Masonic scholar and has been Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut since 1953. He holds Scottish Rite membership in the Valley of Bridgeport.

Part of the area called the "Fire Lands" was apportioned to those whose homes had been fired by British raiders during the Revolution. The very names of ravaged towns in Connecticut, such as Danbury, Fairfield, New Haven, New London and Norwalk appear on the list of Ohio towns and cities today, the Fire Lands Museum being situated at Norwalk, Ohio.

The greater part of the Reserve was to be sold to a group organized for its purchase and exploitation, the money being set aside to provide a fund for support of common schools in Connecticut and still serving that purpose.

Moses Cleaveland was one of the group of 69 investors who formed the Connecticut Land Company. Many of them had the foresight to accumulate Continental bills of credit, knowing that some day they would be redeemed, at least in part. Samuel Holden Parsons, turning his attention to affairs in Marietta (he was Past Master of American Union Lodge) transferred much of his interest in northeastern Ohio lands to Moses Cleaveland, who became one of the larger shareholders and a member of the board of directors. Cleaveland took over management of the company business. When commissioned as general agent, he became leader of the expedition and surveying party sent out early in 1796 to extinguish Indian claims by negotiation, to plan the layout of the principal town, and to divide the area into townships.

From the journal kept by General Cleaveland we learn that the pioneer party of 60, including two women, set out on a tedious journey which took them across New York state by land and bateaux. At Buffalo there was a conference with chief men of the Six Nations. Then they embarked on Lake Erie for the last leg of their journey, in the course of which they "arrived at the

confines of New Connecticut . . . precisely at 5 P.M. July 4th." This gave double cause for a celebration, it being memorable not only as the birthday of American independence, but also "as the day on which settlement of this new country was commenced." The men ranged themselves on the beach and fired a Federal salute of 15 rounds, and then a 16th in honor of "New Connecticut." After supper, washed down by several pails of grog, the program ended with suitable toasts, a round of spirited cheers, three times three, and at conclusion the party "retired in remarkably good order."

Cleaveland's visit was brief (less than three months). His name was abbreviated in a later newspaper headline, but his name and fame will long endure in Ohio. The surveyors, who christened the future city with the name of their leader, must have met with 47 problems in their work, as one of the principal avenues in the city bears the name of Euclid.

General Cleaveland's energy, decision, and buoyancy of spirit admirably fitted him to command the important enterprise, according to Larned, the historian of Windham County, Conn., and he accomplished the task to the apparent satisfaction of all concerned. He was very popular with the Indians, with whom he negotiated and smoked the peace pipe. In fact, in person he strongly resembled an Indian. His complexion was dark, his figure square and strong, and the hunting dress which he wore upon the expedition so completed the likeness that the Indians were ready to claim him as a brother.

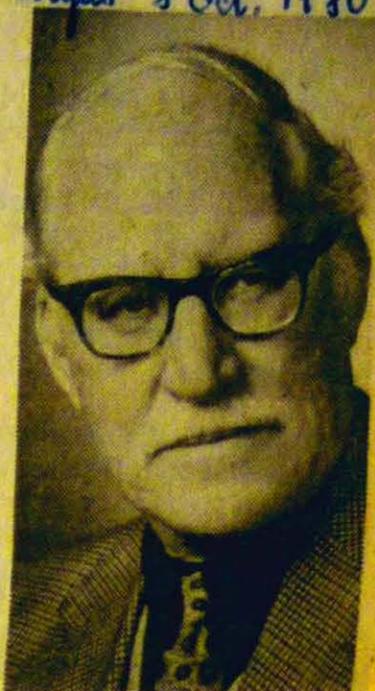
Biographical mention in most encyclopedias lists Cleaveland as a "pioneer," although in Connecticut he was more—much more. Born in 1754 at Canterbury, Moses was a student at Yale when the Lexington alarm reached

Leading English Viking to visit Augustana

Gwyn Jones, leading Viking scholar of Great Britain, will visit the Augustana College campus Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 15-16.

His appearances will include a public lecture at 8 p.m. Thursday in the board room of the College Center. He will discuss "The Viking Migration Westward." Admission is free.

Jones is expected to arrive on the campus on Wednesday and will be honored at a buffet supper at 8 that evening at the House on the Hill. On Thursday, he will participate in literature classes and meet with faculty and students at an informal reception in the afternoon.



GWYN JONES

THE BRITISHER is a former professor at the University College of South Wales, Cardiff. Specializing in medieval Scandinavian literature, Jones has published several translations of Icelandic sagas, as well as folk tale studies and a history of the Vikings.

Jones is a part president

of the Viking Society for Northern Research and a commander of the Order of the British Empire.

He is in the United States to participate in the celebration of the Vikings Year 1980 and the opening of the Viking Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Jones also is lecturing at the University of Massachusetts and at Harvard, Yale and Cornell universities.

His visit to Augustana is sponsored by the American-Scandinavian Foundation of New York City and the Augustana Chapter of the ASF, and is partially funded by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

MOSES CLEVELAND

Continued from page 9

was Moses Cleaveland, now a Brigadier General in the militia of the state, and doubtless appearing in full dress uniform for the occasion.

Soon after his release from military service—terminated in January 1781 when consolidation made him supernumerary—Cleaveland commenced a meteoric rise in civic, legal, and military circles in eastern Connecticut. He represented his town in the General Assembly for 18 sessions. His personal law practice was not extensive, but he maintained an informal “law school” for the young clerks in his office, and fitted many of them for the bar. By inheritance he had acquired and by good management enhanced a considerable estate, but he gave much of his time and talent to public affairs as well.

Cleaveland had ambitious plans for Canterbury as the cross roads of eastern

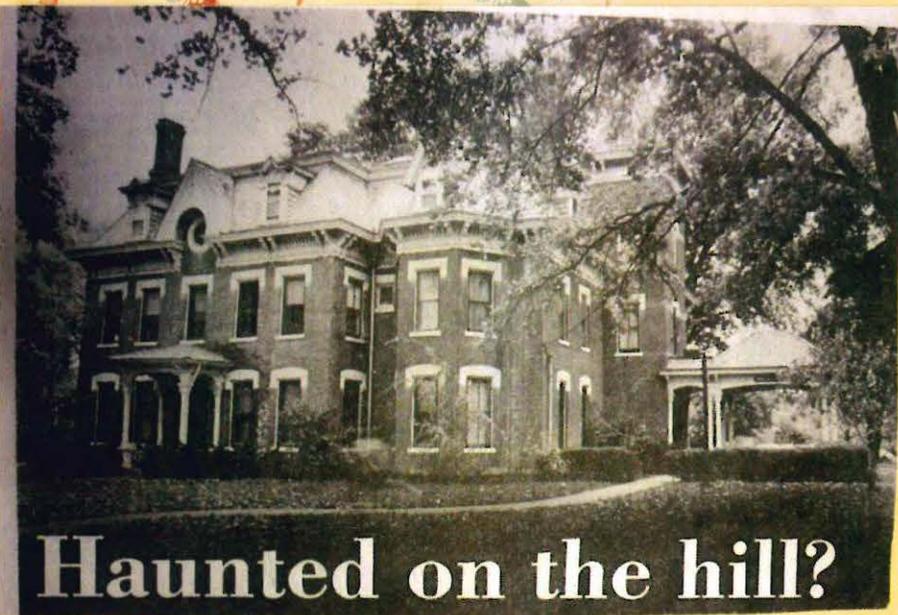
Connecticut’s highway network. He was a prime mover in promotion of a turnpike system which was to extend from east to west (Providence to Hartford) and from north to south (Norwich to Worcester) intersecting not far from the front door of his public house. At the four corners a new church was being built under his support and supervision. Although nominally a Federalist in politics, he was also an advocate of constitutional reform but did not live long enough to see his plans carried to fruition.

Moses had married a daughter of Colonel Henry Champion, State Commissary for the “Provision State” of the Continental Army. A brother-in-law of the same name was an associate in business ventures, and served as Treasurer of the Grand Lodge for an unmatched term of 33 years. Two sons and two daughters blessed the Cleaveland marriage, but only the daughters lived to maturity, and so the name in

that line “daughtered out.” There are descendants living in the city of Cleveland today.

Only 52 years of age when he suddenly died in November 1806, Moses Cleaveland was universally mourned, for a great and good man had fallen before his allotted span was fulfilled. Despite the inclemency of the season and threat of bad weather, a throng turned out for the funeral which was conducted with military pomp and Masonic ritual. The outpouring exceeded anything the countryside had ever seen before or ever will see again.

It remained for the city of Cleveland to honor its “founder” before his native state did so. A bronze statue stands in the Public Square of the namesake city. A bronze plaque has been placed on a boulder in the “Reserve” parklet in front of the old cemetery in Canterbury, Conn., where he and his wife are buried. The present meeting place of Moriah Lodge is not far distant.



Haunted on the hill?

Strange goings-on in a Rock Island mansion

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the season for ghosts and all that spooky stuff, but for residents of a Rock Island mansion, it's Halloween all year long.

By Bill Mariner

It has all the makings of a ghost house — an imposing exterior, large wood-paneled rooms filled with antiques, a backdrop of towering trees — and a history of strange phenomena that on a Halloween night might whet the appetite of the boogie man himself.

The imposing brick mansion at 3032 10th Ave. Rock Island, looks peaceful enough. Built in 1869 by lumber magnate Frederick Weyerhaeuser, it was donated to Augustana College in 1954 by the Weyerhaeuser family.

Now known as House on the Hill, it is used as a women's residence and for receptions and other gatherings.

BUT residents have accumulated a list of strange goings-on.

Like the door mysteriously found ajar after being locked for years.

And a shower that suddenly gushes water in the middle of the night.

And a bathroom that echoes the sound of strangulated breathing.

Then there are the everyday unexplainables — footsteps on the roof, moans from the chimney, creaking wood.

BETSEY Brodahl, associate dean of students at Augustana, believes she has a good explanation for the



Betsey Brodahl

'If that many girls want a house to be haunted, it will be haunted. And if they want sounds in it, there will be sounds in it.'

seemingly supernatural situations.

She has lived in the house for 26 years, sharing it with as many as 19 female residents each year.

"PUT that many imaginations together and you're bound to get something," she said with a smile. "If that many girls want a house to be haunted, it will be haunted. And if they want sounds in it, there will be sounds. But every big house has sounds."

The footsteps on the roof, she said, are acorns falling from the oak trees surrounding the house. Noises in the chimneys and bathrooms are the wind playing tricks. The suddenly unlocked door probably was one of the grounds crew people who was testing some old keys. And the shower could be the result of a few pipes gone haywire.

"Oh, you'd hear the shower gushing, walk in and no one would be there... but we have nine baths and five kitchens in this house. Do you know what that does to

water pressure?" Weyerhaeuser's student residents also can find reasonable explanations for the unreasonable happenings.

CINDY Bell, a senior who has lived there for two years, said she has yet to encounter anything suspicious.

"And I lived in the ghost's room on the third floor last year. There's squirrels that run around on the roof, but that's about it," she said.

Miss Brodahl said she is not troubled by any of the tales floating through the house. In fact, she finds them rather intriguing.

"A lot of people have tried to make up all kinds of stories before we came. Yet I know of nothing in the history of either the family or the house that suggests mystery. I think there's an explanation for everything, but it sure is fun to speculate."

YET, although she offers explanations for the "supernatural mishaps," Miss Brodahl is not immune from them.

Floors were added, wings were attached, and the simple lines of the original house were ornamented with the tower and the mansard roof with dormers.

Weyerhaeuser prospered and the house took on added elegance — a library and spacious dining room. Where the original and added structures join, the two-foot width of exterior walls can be seen in the wide doorways.

The 26 acres upon which the house sits were given to Augustana in 1954 by the then owner, Edwin W. Davis of St. Paul, Minn.

AT ONE time it was an operating farm where corn, wheat, oats, cows, pigs, horses and chickens were raised.

The old house was in excellent order when it was turned over to the college. The family that owned it left nothing to chance. The piano was tuned, a locksmith had provided every lock with a key, and even the mopheads were fresh. The ballroom was filled with furniture stored by members of the family.

No changes have been made in the downstairs, but the upstairs were adapted for student living.

THE TOUCH of the lumber baron can be seen in the interior of the house. Wainscoting in the entrance hall is oak, the two parlors are done in mahogany, the library in walnut and the dining room in cherry.

Weyerhaeuser's son, F. E., has written, "The house was pretty much rebuilt in 1882-83 when the present west en-

trance hall and two rooms, one on each side of it, were added to the main floor with bedrooms above, numerous bathrooms and a third floor added to the entire structure, except over the dining room extension."

The third floor held a large tank to supply water for the house with a "somewhat terrifying" force pump in the basement. In one small corner of the dining room carving, large flowers, 54 small flowers, and some 2,450 leaves were counted in F. E. Weyerhaeuser's day.

He noted, "A great amount of labor was employed on this room, partly to give work to some of father's employes in the sash and door department of the Rock Island Lumber and Manufacturing Co., and the expense was in proportion."

THREE of the Weyerhaeuser children traveled abroad in 1888 and brought back a large Swiss cuckoo clock that was installed in a niche in the dining room.

Had Frederick Weyerhaeuser been successful another spooky element might still startle visitors. He swore that someday he would teach the cuckoo to say, "Here comes the fool that built this room."

After Frederick Weyerhaeuser and his wife moved to St. Paul in 1891 to be closer to logging and lumber operations, their son, John Philip, and his young wife moved into the house.

Later, after three children had been born, they moved to northern Wisconsin and the Weyerhaeuser's daughter, Apollonia and her husband S. S. Davis, and their young son, Edwin, moved into the house.

Miss Brodahl occupies the bedroom where Apollonia spent her last days. She recalls, "I remember walking past her room as a student and seeing a light in her room. The house had an awesome quality — a fence with gates and many shrubs. My awe has disappeared as I have lived in the house and enjoyed it with other people, but sometimes I almost think I am Apollonia."

receptions, anniversaries and birthday parties.

The house is elegant with mellow Oriental rugs, rose damask wall covering in the library, intricately carved furniture, a gigantic Sevres vase, Italian ceramics, and pier mirrors.

Miss Brodahl says one of her favorite spots is the huge, screened-in porch to the east. She says, "There is a rug that fits it, wicker furniture and immense hanging baskets. I lived downstairs for about 14 years and used the porch a great deal."

The original chalky purple of the bricks has been painted, but it still has a mauve tone. The old residence is on the Register of Historic Houses.

If there are ghosts, everyone agrees, they must be happy ones.

Today, the downstairs portion of the house is used for a constant stream of entertainments, working luncheons or dinners, and social events. It has been used, too, for many wedding

Augustana Historical Society turns 50

Dr. Malvin H. Lundeen, nationally known churchman, will speak at the 50th anniversary dinner of the Augustana Historical Society beginning at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 in the Augustana College Center, Rock Island.

Representatives from state and local historical societies in the Midwest will be guests.

Lundeen served as president of the former Augustana Lutheran Church from 1959 to 1962 and as secretary of the Lutheran Church in America during 1962-68.

He also is former president of the Lutheran Council

in the U.S.A. An alumnus of Augustana Theological Seminary, he is retired and living in Sun City, Ariz.

Master of ceremonies for the dinner will be Dr. J. Iverne Dowie, Rock Island, professor emeritus of history at Augustana.

The society's only living charter member is Dr. Fritiof Fryxell, Rock Island, professor emeritus of geology at Augustana, who is expected to attend the celebration.

The society was founded Nov. 13, 1939, on the Augustana campus. The objective of the society has been to preserve the record of Augustana College and the Augustana Lutheran Church, as well as the contributions of Swedish-Americans in the growth of the United States, particularly in the Midwest.

Principal motivation in the founding of the society came from the late Dr. C.W. Foss, professor of history at Augustana for nearly 50 years.

Foss had encouragement from the late Dr. Gustav Andreen, then president of the college, and from succeeding presidents, particularly Dr. Conrad Bergendoff.

The late Dr. O.F. Ander was an active supporter in collecting materials. Ander was the author of the society's first publication, "T.N. Hasselquist," published in 1931.

Through the years, the society has published 28 volumes. Other Augustana faculty members who have contributed to the series of publications are Drs. Albert Schersten, E.W. Olson, I.O. Nothstein, Henriette Naeseth, O.N. Olson, Arthur Wald, Thomas Tredway, Dowie and Bergendoff.

The most prolific contributor has been Dr. Emory Lindquist, retired president of both Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kan., and Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan. Lindquist has written five of the 28 volumes in the series.

Bergendoff authored the latest volume, published in June 1980. Titled "The Augustana Ministerium, 1850-1962," the book is a record of the 2,504 ministers who served the Augustana Lutheran Church.

Not only has the society encouraged historical research, but it has cooperated with the Augustana College Library in the gathering of historical materials. Papers of the presidents of both the church and the college have been preserved and filmed.

Swedish language newspapers, dating from 1855, also have been preserved and filmed. They are available in the college library and in other libraries in the United States and Sweden.

The Argonaut, Moline, Nov. 17, 1980 p. 22 Genealogical dinner to be held

The annual dinner of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island County will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, at the Viking Club, Moline.

The guest speaker will be Mike Zahs, of Ainsworth, Iowa. His presentation will be "So your grandfather walked with a glass cane." It is a description of the Prairie as it was in the 1800's.

Reservations are \$6.50 and can be made with Lucille Sampson, 4014 35th St., Rock Island.

Zahs is a teacher and co-authored "In the Beginning There Was Land" — a history of Washington County in Iowa.

He is also the organizer and president of the Blair House Non-Profit organization which saved and renovated the 1880 mansion in Washington County.

For more information call Jim Lannoo, president of the genealogical society, 755-3137.

Genealogical group sets dinner

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will hold its annual dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 25 at the Viking Club of Moline, 1450 41st St. Mike Zahs, a teacher and author from Ainsworth, Iowa, will speak about the prairies of the 1800s, and officers for 1981 will be elected and installed. Reservations for the \$6.50 dinner may be made with Lucille Sampson, 4014 35th St., Rock Island.

A showplace among churches

Old Trinity plans tour

On Easter Sunday 1869, members of Rock Island's Trinity Episcopal Church held the first services in their new building at 19th Street and 6th Avenue.

During the next century, plus-11 years, many features were added, transforming Old Trinity into a showplace of ecclesiastical history.

To give all an opportunity to see Rock Island's oldest church building still in use by the same congregation, the church's Vestment Guild has scheduled a history tour 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

THE EVENT will include a display of vestments and sacred items.

The tour is free and open to the public.

The building was completed in 1870 at a cost of \$16,000.

The first Episcopal services in the city were in 1853, with the first church completed in June 1857 on 3rd Avenue between 15th and 16th streets.

In the present structure, the memorial windows flanking the nave are nearly a century old.

THE SANCTUARY was enlarged to its present size in 1897 with the carved oak altar and reedos dedicated in May that year.

The ornate carving on the altar front represents the scriptural incident at Cana in which Jesus changed water into wine. The carving was designed and executed by J & R Lamb.

This was donated as a memorial to Judge George A. Castleman by his wife, Lucie Cable Castleman. She

also gave the two stained glass windows above the altar in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P.L. Cable.

The windows were designed by John LaFarge, distinguished American artist.

A **WIDELY** admired Lady Chapel, dedicated in 1912, features several stained glass windows by George Payne Studios of Patterson, N.J., and London, England.

In 1953, the parish hall was built to mark the centennial of the congregation's founding. The rector's and secretary's offices were part of the expansion.

A Moller pipe organ installed in the 1950s was given in memory of Minnie Abbott Potter. Earlier, she had given a carved oak pulpit as a memorial to her husband, John W. Potter.

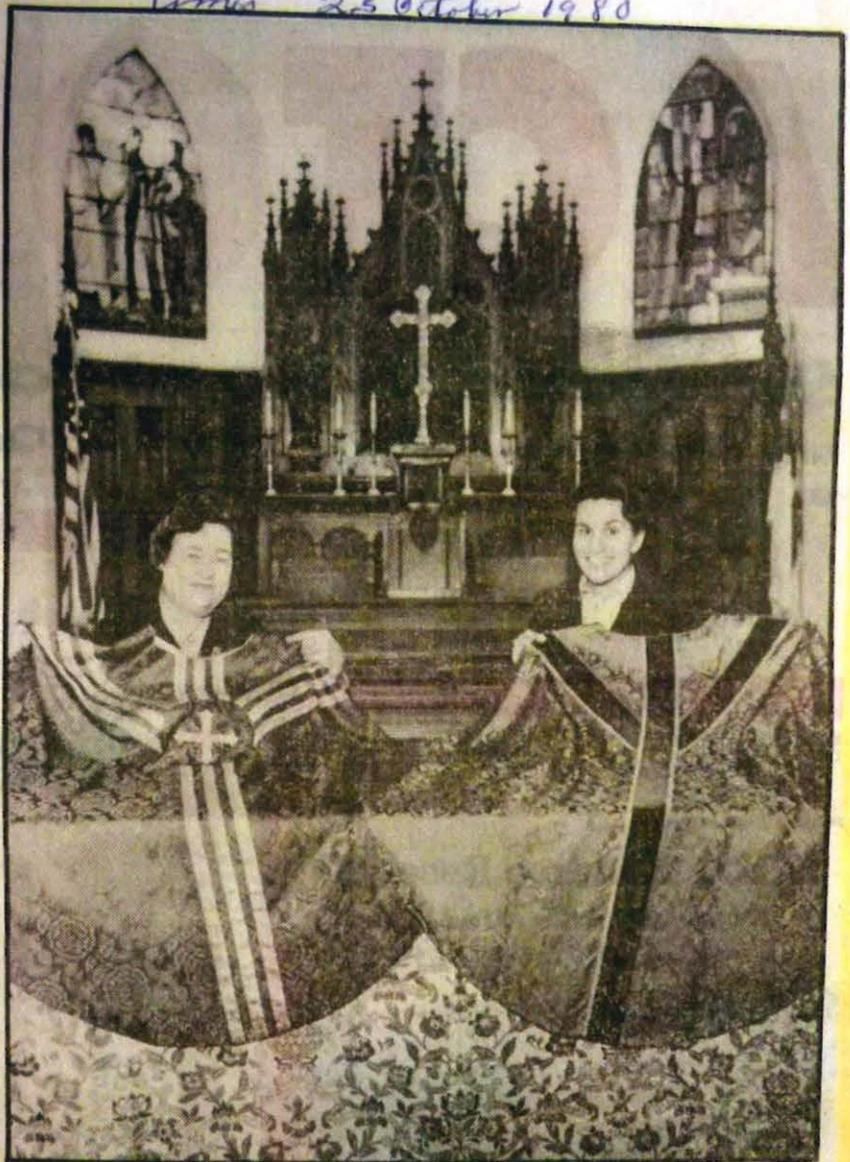
Oak pews in the nave were installed in 1960, with each being either a memorial or thank-offering with inscription plates indicating the donors.

IN OBSERVANCE of the church building's centennial, the nave and sanctuary were renovated in 1969.

Latest addition to the church is a baptismal apse dedicated last December.

Two stained glass windows with baptism as their theme are new, but the baptismal font dates from 1871.

Made from stone quarried near Joliet, Ill., it was designed by Richard Lloyd, a native of England who came to the Quad-City area to draw plans for the Rock Island Arsenal.



Mrs. Richard Jeanes, Vestment Guild president and tour guide, and Mrs. Laurence Larson, hostess, display vestments to be shown during a history tour 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Rock Island's Trinity Episcopal Church. (Times photo)

Tree-tracers 'just can't stop'

By DUVAINE CARLSON
Special to the

It all started by helping her son prepare a family history as a school assignment.

"We didn't know much about our family history," Bernice Mosley of Milan said. "And our interest grew the more we learned about it."

It wasn't long before she was hooked on genealogy. Darlene Paxton, a certified genealogist, agreed. "It's like eating peanuts — once you start, you can't stop."

PAXTON AND Mosley are both members of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society, which was organized in 1972 with 86 members. The total 1980 membership of 147 includes members from 21 states.

Although recent years have brought a big boom in persons tracing their family trees, it's a practice dating back to the earliest days of history.

The Biblical "begats," found in both the Old and New Testaments, were originally genealogies passed down by word of mouth through the generations.

The first written genealogies were those by Irish monks, tracing royal blood lines back to the Bi-

ble's book of Genesis.

Greek genealogists fabricated distinguished family histories for the emperors, kings and nobility, giving them semi-divine ancestry. Julius Caesar, according to his genealogist, was descended from the great-grandfather of the goddess, Venus.

EVEN TODAY, in the Islamic countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, the greatest honor is to be descended from the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam.

Genealogy's modern period began in about the sixteenth century when records were kept of emigrants — mobility and commerce — rising within the kingdom. These records were probably first taxation and military purposes.

Mosley said she finds genealogy work fascinating. "You start with just a name, and the more you work with that name, it becomes a real-life person," she said.

Becoming something of a detective, a genealogist researchers that persons' migrations and activities through dusty records, census figures, faded diaries and journals, wills, deeds and abstracts, and family Bibles. A genealogist will trudge through cemeteries, Irish monks' tracing royal blood lines back to the Bi-

gliberated markings on weather-beaten tombstones.

MOSLEY ADDED that extensive travel and a great deal of correspondence are vital to genealogy.

Unlike the Roman genealogists, today's family trees should have no embellishments, Mosley said. All historical events in a family tree — adoptions, divorces, the family Black sheep — become a part of the final record.

Paxton assists clients on their search for their ancestors, and puts the data into manuscript form for her clients.

"Everything I find goes in to the manuscript. If there's something the client doesn't want that's up to them," she said.

Interested in genealogy for over 30 years, Paxton has taught a class in genealogy for 10 years at Padman Museum, Devonport.

She said when she first started teaching, most of her students were 50-years-old or more. Now, she said, younger people have become interested, and only about one-fourth of the students are over age 50.

THE TWO genealogists believe that the Bicentennial celebrations of 1976 caused a surge in genealogical interest.

"You've got to have an interest in history with a natural curiosity," Paxton said.

Once reserved for the nobility and a mark of prestige, for the folk genealogy has become a hobby, crossing over all social and economic strata, according to Mosley.

She believes the 1977 television miniseries "Roots," also whetted people's interest in their own ancestors — people wanted to find out from where they originated, and what sort of people their ancestors were.

Shortly after its organization, the society reprinted Island County 1877, a 414-page book of Rock Island County history and directory of residents, and directory of additional 121-page index of names and places was added for every reference.

As a Bicentennial project, Rock Island County Law-downer Atlas containing 16 township maps showing landowners, 26 city maps, 614

personal portraits and and Loan, Milan. Members have prepared sketches of our- selves. The original atlas was donated by Phyllis Estlin Wright of Milan.

BOTH REPRINTS are still available by contacting Phyllis Mosley, publisher, Estlin Wright, 220 W. 10 Ave., Milan.

The Genealogical Society meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p. m. at the Union Federal Savings

The installation of 1981 officers was held Tuesday at the Vicksburg, Miss. Among those invited were Phyllis Mosley, president; Esie Roba, 1st vice-president; Joan Loree, recording secretary; Phyllis Cooper, corresponding secretary; John Brodd, treasurer; and Grove Eastland, registrar.



—PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE WATKINS

Lifetime members of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society are, from left, Ver-na N. Mumma and Joe and Phyllis Normoye. Rock Island. The society met last week to install new officers and compare notes about their experiences in tracing their family trees.



The Reminder



New officers of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society installed last week are, from left, registrar Grace Eastland; corresponding secretary Phyllis Cooper; president Esthella Garrett; first vice-

president Esie K. Roba; recording secretary Joane Loree; and treasurer Jon Brodd. At left, society member Bernice Mosley takes a look through some of the data compiled on her family's history.

Continued from Page 1

County Tipperary cemeteries. These showed that Reagan's great-grandfather, Michael O'Regan, left the impoverished village of Doolis between 1845 and 1848 and went to England looking for work.

The family home was a rough, one-story stone cottage. DeBrett's genealogical researcher, Hugh Pesketh, said Michael O'Regan probably was the only member of the family who could read or write.

When he married another Irish refugee, Katherine Mulcahy, in St. George's Cathedral in the London borough of Southwark on Oct. 21, 1852, he signed his name "Reagan," dropping the "O" and inserting an "a."

Michael's brother, a witness, could not write and the priest registered his name with the traditional Irish spelling, Regan.

"Michael named his father, though, and gave his birthplace, which is how we were able to trace him definitely to the O'Regans of Ballyporeen," Pesketh explained. Ballyporeen is near Doolis.

The researchers now are working on an important clue found on a gravestone in the Ballyporeen churchyard. The stone, topped by a Celtic cross, bears the legend: "Pray for the souls of the O'Regan family, Coolprevane, RIP." Coolprevane

is a village near both Doolis and Ballyporeen.

DeBrett's said Reagan's grandfather, John, was born in Peckham, south of London, before the family emigrated to the United States.

Reagan's father, also named John, was born in Illinois in July 1883 and brought up by his English-born Aunt Margaret after his parents died. Although Reagan's parents were married in a Catholic church in Fulton, Ill., in 1904, his mother, a Protestant of Scottish descent, brought him up in her faith.

Reagan is a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) but has attended a Presbyterian

church in California for 16 years.

The Reagan homestead in County Tipperary lies at the end of a mile-long muddy lane. The remains of the building still stand.

Until now, the locals had no idea their great-grandparents rubbed shoulders with

the forebears of the next president of the United States.

"This is great news," retired Ballyporeen schoolmaster Larry O'Connor said. "The only well-known person to come from these parts before was the film star Pat O'Brien."

Reagan's roots

11 Nov. 1980

President-elect's family tree includes Irish villagers, touch of royal blood

LONDON (AP) — Ronald Reagan's election climaxes a rags-to-eminence saga that began when his great-grandfather left a stone shanty in Ireland during the potato famine of the 1840's. British and Irish genealogists said Monday. Further back, they said, there is royal blood.

Reagan is descended from Brian Boru, an 11th century high king of all Ireland and the Emerald Isle's first national hero, according to experts from DeBrett's research organization of London and Hibernian Research based in Dublin.

Boru ironically died at the hour of his greatest triumph, defeating Viking invaders at Clontarf near Dublin in 1014. That victory ended the pillaging



Ronald Reagan
...of County Tipperary

Norsemen's influence in Ireland.

A DeBrett's spokesman said a branch of Reagan's family tree goes

back to a nephew of Boru who belonged to the Regans (the way the name was spelled then) of Munster, one of Ireland's ancient provinces.

"Although that was only an uncle of their ancestors, it does show royal blood," he said.

Harold Brooks-Baker, American managing director of DeBrett's Peerage, the Who's Who of Britain's bluebloods, said the organization plans to give Reagan a parchment scroll delineating his family tree in a few months, possibly in time for his inauguration in January.

The investigators said the Reagan family, or Regan and O'Regan in the traditional Irish spelling, left County Tipperary, where it had existed close

to the poverty line, after the Great Famine of the 1840s.

What the experts have pieced together so far shows that Reagan will be the ninth president of the United States with ancestors from Ireland.

He will be the second of the nine Irish-Roman Catholic presidents to come from Roman Catholic stock. The other was John F. Kennedy.

The others with Irish roots were Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Chester A. Arthur, William McKinley, Richard M. Nixon and Gerald Ford.

The search centered on parish records in Ireland and gravestones in

— REAGAN

Please turn to Page 6

His good ideas not uncommon in kin history

By HELEN GORDON
(Milan City Editor)

Reflecting the ingenuity and foresight of his ancestors, a Milan man is one of the top award winners for suggestions at John Deere.

Jerry Miller of Woodland Mobile Park works at John Deere Plow & Planter Works in Moline as a tape lathe operator in the machining department. He has been employed there for 13 years.

MILLER HAS submitted about 25 different suggestions. Among his award winning ideas are re-routing parts from one machine to another to save on operations; the use of safety pins, safety drums and safety guards; saving on set-up costs; machine guards, and controlling pressure and saving water from shower heads.

Miller is an eighth cousin of George Washington and he has the lineage to prove it.

His relationship to the first president is through his father, Leroy E. Miller of 1841 33rd St., Moline, whose paternal grandmother was Charlotte Lewis Miller Cheston.

THE bloodline stems from her father, the late Thaddeus Merrill Lewis of Fort Lauderdale, whose grandfather, George Harvey Lewis of Cape Girardeau, Mo.,

was second cousin to Washington.

Proof of the ancestry is verified by his tombstone which is inscribed "In memory of our precious father, George H. Lewis, born March 26, 1801, died July 31, 1874. He was a second cousin of the President George Washington. None knew him but to love him. None named him but to praise."

LEROY MILLER has a photograph of the stone which now is broken into two pieces.

Other well-known historical figures who also are in the Lewis family line are Merewether Lewis, the explorer, a descendant of the Lewises of Virginia; Daniel Boone's eldest son who married Sally Lewis; Theodosia Burr, daughter of Aaron Burr, and another distant relative was a member of the Boston Tea Party.

Jerry Miller's wife, Jane, has a lineage that reaches into Russia.

Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rymkiewicz fled to this country from Kovna, Russia, during the Bolshevik Revolution in 1919. They were sponsored in the Quad-Cities by her stepbrother who made it possible for them to settle in Moline.

DURING THE depres-



Related to Washington

14 Nov. 1980 Argus

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Miller of Woodland Mobile Park, Milan, look through a scrapbook of family memories. Miller, who has received a number of awards from John Deere for his suggestions, is a distant relative of President George Washington. Jane Miller's grandparents came to Moline from Russia in 1919. (Argus Photo)

sion, the Rymkiewiczzes took in boarders. He worked at the Williams White Co. in Moline and

then was employed by John Deere for about 40 years. Both now are deceased.

One of their children, Judy, and her husband, Arthur Kelly of Moline are Jane's parents.

GRAVE MARKERS REVEAL THE PAST

Downtown Hartford boasts a bit of both past and present. The spire of Hartford's Central Congregational Church, built in 1807, is reflected in the modern skyscraper. Many of the markers date from the mid-1600's.



Whatever happened to Whistler's father? Who was the Colonial army officer who was buried with his horse? Why does a Hawaiian flag hang in a tiny Connecticut church? And what is the last word on Noah Webster? The answers to these and other provocative questions can be found on a tour of Connecticut's intriguing graveyards.

Connecticut's urban cemeteries, country graveyards and Indian burial grounds are becoming popular attractions with history buffs; collectors of epitaphs; gravestone "rubbers" and ordinary travelers fascinated by the final resting places of the famous, the infamous and the disarmingly eccentric.

We are all familiar, of course, with Whistler's "Mother," that decorous old lady in her lace cap and rocking chair whose portrait by her artist-son is one of the most famous in the world today. But how many know of James McNeil Whistler's male parent? George Washington Whistler lies nearly forgotten in Stonington, Connecticut's Evergreen Cemetery. A towering obelisk marks his grave. The senior Whistler lived in the small Connecticut town from 1837 to 1840 while he was designing the state's first railroad line. His son, whose wit and impressionistic canvases made him the most talked-about painter in Europe, spent his early childhood in the town. Don't expect to find Whistler's mother in Stonington, however. The venerable lady is buried in Hastings, England, where she died in 1881. Historians have made an intriguing speculation on George Washington Whistler's career: if it were not for the Yankee engineer, Leo Tolstoy would have had to devise another

fate for his heroine, Anna Karenina — Whistler also designed the Moscow-St. Petersburg Railroad on whose tracks Tolstoy has the distraught Anna commit suicide in the classic novel.

Andover, Connecticut, must be able to claim one of the most unusual gravesites in the country. The tiny village, located in the north-central part of the state, in the mid-1700's lay along the route from the western frontier to the coast. In 1760, returning from the French and Indian Wars, a certain Captain Simon Smith contracted a mysterious illness during his journey home to New London. He had reached Andover when he fell from his horse and died. Fearing smallpox, the alarmed town fathers immediately ordered not only Captain Smith buried on the spot, but his horse and gear as well. Today, a worn marker on Andover's Gilead Road marks the site of the unique interment. It reads, "loved yet unattended. All alone. Sweetly repose beneath this humble stone ye last remains." It is unclear whether the sentiment refers to Captain Smith or his horse.

Yankees are not the only colorful occupants of Connecticut's graveyards, however. On Route 4 near the village of Cornwall, an inscribed stone marks the grave of Henry Obookiah. Obookiah was a Hawaiian stowaway to the United States. The young man's conversion to Christianity in 1817 inspired Connecticut missionaries to set sail for the Sandwich Islands, as Hawaii was then known, under the leadership of Reverend Hiram Bingham. Bingham was married and ordained in the Congregational Church in

nearby Goshen. Today, a Hawaiian flag flies at the church year-round.

Amid the glittering glass skyscrapers of Hartford, there remains a relic of Connecticut's earliest days. The Ancient Burying Ground, set aside by the city's founders in 1640, contains the headstones of some of the state's earliest leaders. The Reverend Thomas Hooker who led a party overland from Massachusetts to establish the city is buried here. The stones of such important Revolutionary figures as Joseph and Jeremiah Wadsworth are there as well.

Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven claims a veritable "Who's Who" — or "Who Was Who," to be more exact — of American science, industry and literature. Behind the impressive "Egyptian" arch designed by Henry Austin in 1845 as an entryway to the park-like grounds, a grey marble shaft rises over the graves of Noah Webster and a quintet of lesser-known relatives. Nearby the graves of such luminaries as Eli Whitney and Samuel F. B. Morse can be seen.

And what is the final word on Noah Webster? His epitaph, of course; curiously brief for the compiler of "An American Dictionary of the English Language" and "The Blue-Backed Speller." It reads simply, NOAH WEBSTER/88 YEARS/1758-1847.

For information about Connecticut's other attractions, plus a free tourist map of the state, write "Travel," Department of Economic Development, 210 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106, or call toll-free from Maine through Virginia, 800-243-1685; dial (203) 566-3948 from outside that region.

Marie Reno's novel portrays North in Civil War era

By LOIS SCHRAGE
(Argus Women's Editor)

The North won the Civil War, but in examining the amount of fiction written about the conflict — from the classic "Gone With the Wind" to this month's TV "Beulah Land" — one might assume that the South was the victor.

Former Rock Islander Marie Reno, with one published book to her credit, decided to write a novel that would portray the war from a Yankee point of view. Her book, "When the Music Changed," was published last month by New American Library and is an alternate selection of the Doubleday Book Club.

A graduate of Rock Island High School and the University of Illinois, Marie was a staff writer for The Argus before moving to New York City. She's held editorial positions with a newspaper Sunday supplement, the Literary Guild, Mystery Guild and Jove Publications. Her first novel, a murder mystery entitled "Final Proof," was nominated for an "Edgar" award by the Mystery Writers of America.

"WHEN THE MUSIC CHANGED," set primarily in New York City, shows vividly how the Civil War affected this growing metropolis in the 1860s. The title is taken from lines of poetry in Walt Whitman's "Drum Taps," and Marie has dedicated the book to her parents, the late John L. Reno, who retired from the Army Corps of Engineers on Rock Island Arsenal, and Mrs. Marie Reno, who now lives in Greenville, Pa.

The story begins with Abraham Lincoln's speech in February, 1860, at Cooper Institute and ends five years later when his funeral train passes through the city.

Its heroine, Miranda Chase, who loses a brother and a suitor in the war, grows from a spirited 16-year-old to a strong-willed young widow with an infant son. She's the center of a love triangle involving Richard Schuyler, who becomes a Union officer, and Cort Adams, a New York Times reporter.

As Marie pointed out in a recent telephone conversation, "If the right people got married in the first chapter, there wouldn't be a novel." Actually, she calls the interaction between characters "a magical thing." The author "invents them, puts them in complicated situations but isn't sure what will happen — and the characters take over."

RESEARCHING AND WRITING her historical romance took Marie 18 months. Her usual schedule, she said, is to "turn off the 'Today' show at 9 a.m., put the newspapers aside and sit down at the typewriter. Though she admits it sometimes takes a while to "warm up," she types until lunch time, doing corrections in longhand. Many afternoons are devoted to research.



Marie Reno

Interested in the Civil War and in New York, her home for most of her adult years, Marie joined the New York Historical Society, which has an extensive library, and the Museum of the City of New York, which sponsors walking tours. She visited old churches and public buildings and learned about hotels of the past — important in her novel because Miranda's father owned a Broadway hotel.

Marie also traveled to Saratoga, N.Y., where the Schuyler family in the story vacationed; to Salisbury, N.C., the site of the Confederate prison in which Cort Adams was held captive, as well as to Charleston, S.C., and to Savannah, Ga., other locales in her story.

IT'S EVIDENT that Marie has done her research carefully and thoroughly, perusing newspapers and periodicals of that era to weave momentous events into the characters' lives and conversations.

She also re-creates some exciting scenes of life in old New York — like the Prince of Wales Ball in 1860 at the Academy of Music, where a dance floor was laid over the seats to accommodate thousands of guests.

But, alas, "With a reverberating crash, the entire center section of the dance floor gave way, boards breaking, wood splintering, the whole supporting deck shattering. Even the Prince of Wales watched, amazed, as dozens of elegantly clad guests sank thigh-deep through the orchestra seats to the solid floor below. People suffered only wounded dignity and agonizing embarrassment, so 'there was nothing to do but joke about it and call in carpenters to make hasty repairs' and two hours later —

after midnight — 'the Prince was finally able to lead out the governor's wife for the first dance.'"

Though "War fever raged in New York" with City Hall Park "a mass of temporary wooden structures — recruiting offices and barracks," and Miranda did volunteer work with the Women's Central Association of Relief and the Sanitary Commission and at the Colored Orphans Asylum, there was time to attend a benefit theater performance at the Winter Garden, with the three Booth brothers, Edwin, Junius and John Wilkes, appearing together in "Julius Caesar."

Marie's motives in writing a historical novel weren't entirely altruistic, of course. After "Final Proof" was published in 1976, she became editor-in-chief of Jove Publications, where she got to know John Jakes, author of the successful Bicentennial Series. "I had read his first book," she explained, "and saw the sixth volume in manuscript form during the year I was with Jove. Knowing from experience that 'writers of mysteries don't make money,' while some who write historical fiction do, Marie decided 'to figure out how he did it!' — and to follow that lead.

SHE FINISHED "When the Music Changed" in June of '79 and sold it to NAL in September. Then came three weeks of rewriting and, after that was completed, "it takes about a year for publication," Marie said. NAL, part of a conglomerate, re-established its hard-cover division in July, 1979, and brought out its first book in the spring of '80.

Her novel is one of NAL's fall books, which include Erica Jong's "Fanny" and Irving Wallace's "The Second Lady," putting her in rather famous company. On Oct. 22 she's scheduled to appear on "Live at 5," a local NBC-TV show, to publicize her book.

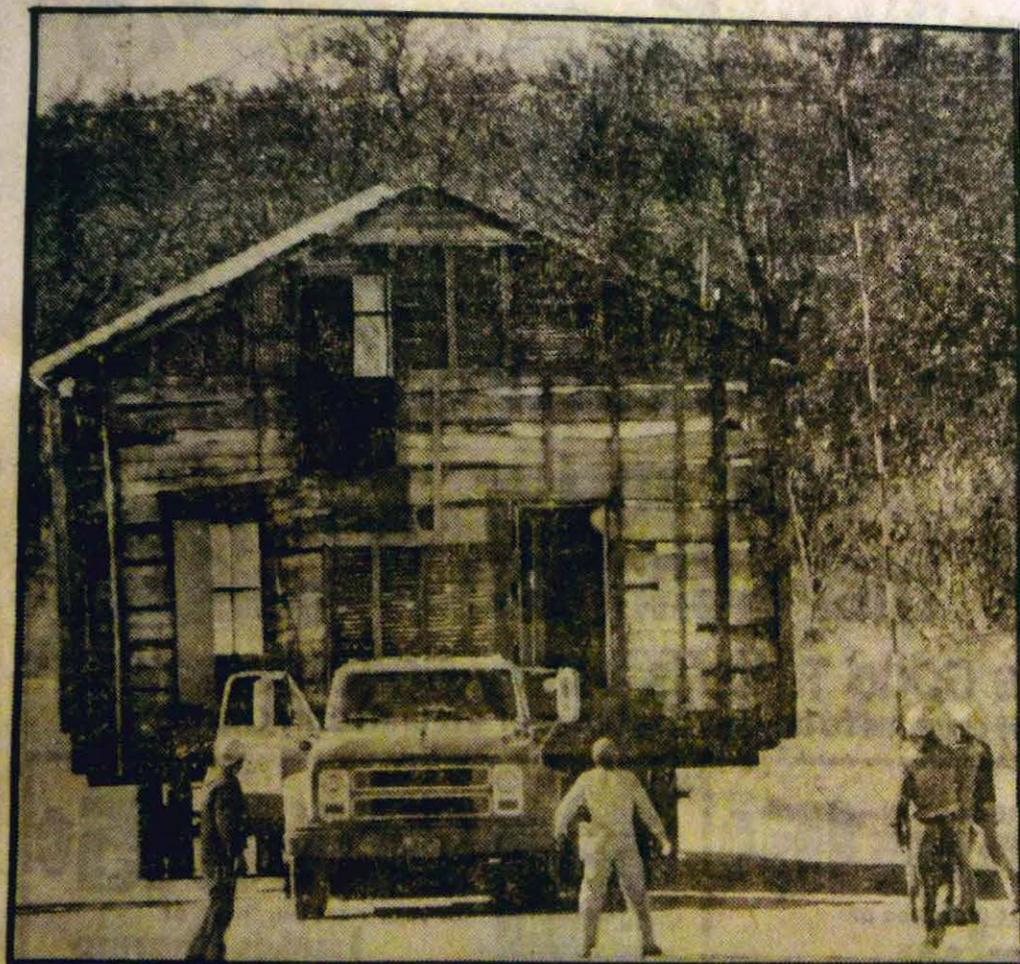
"When the Music Changed" was bought by NAL for both hard-cover and paperback, "a growing trend," according to Marie. In this way, "the author collects all the royalties — except for the agent's 10 percent." When the original publisher sells the paperback rights, 50 percent goes to the house, leaving only 45 percent for the author, the agent getting the remainder.

The English rights to Marie's book also have been sold, with the hard-cover to come out next spring and the paperback in the fall of '81.

Delving into research about the role of women in the mid-19th century, "a subject I knew very little about," Marie is also studying the abolition movement, the underground railway and the education of women — "Oberlin College was the first to admit women." She's traveled to Seneca Falls in upstate New York, the scene of the first women's rights conference, and has taken a trip on the Erie Canal.

So, she's hard at work on a new historical novel and already has sent the first 86 pages to her agent!

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Wednesday, October 15, 1980



Wednesday Nov. 5, 1980

Cabin moved to park home

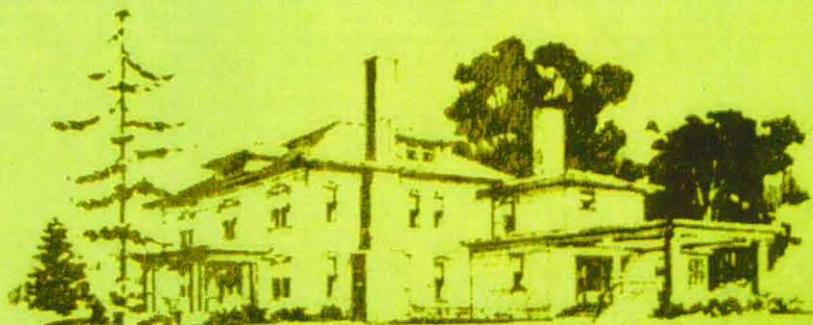
A log cabin built near Dixon in the 1860s was moved along Scott County roads Tuesday to Scott County Park. The cabin was donated to the park's Pioneer Village by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Schaff of Clinton, Iowa. Three sides of the four-room house have been covered with siding, which will be removed to show the authentic oak log structure. Moving expenses were donated by Mississippi Flyway Wildlife Inc. and the county historical society. Tenants lived in the house as late as 1974, officials said. (Times photo by Michael Chritton)

Arsenal sites are studied

Illinois State University is investigating cultural resources of the Rock Island Arsenal under a \$39,984 grant received from a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The survey is intended to identify and verify the historical significance of existing structures and to locate significant non-standing pre-historic and historic sites on the island. Of particular interest are remains from the Civil War period.

THE
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Its Origin and Development

Its Purpose and Objectives

Its Support and Maintenance



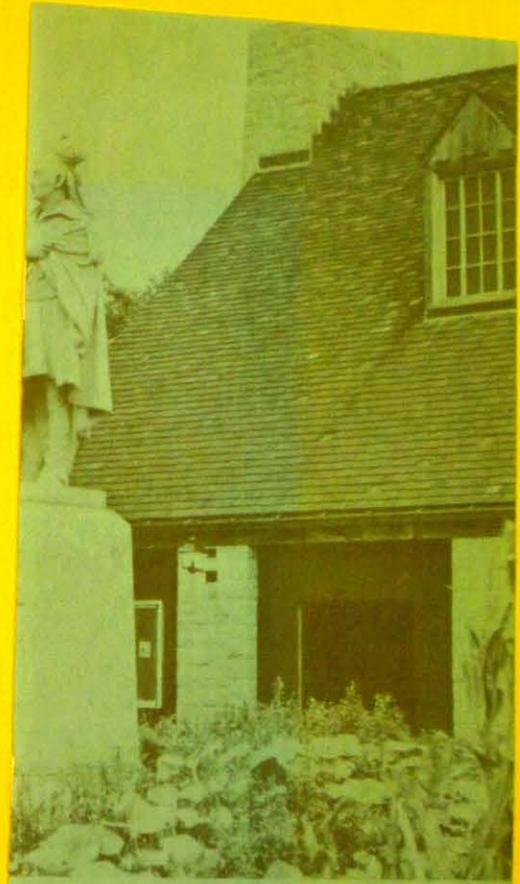
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May thru November

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HISTORIC
ROCK ISLAND
COUNTY

1081

BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 1981

OFFICERS:

President	Eulalia Garrett	(w)752-4762/(h)667-2241
1st Vice President	Elsie Roba	326-1390
2nd Vice President	Ralph Hughes	(w)752-4617/(h)792-0355
Recording Secretary	Joanne Loete	(w)764-9621X3/(h)762-9146
Corresponding Secretary	Phyllis Coopman	762-4381
Treasurer	Jon Brodd	(w)762-5909/(h)764-4630
Registrar	Grace Eastland	786-7023
Historian	Delmar Moore	788-0365
Past President	James Lannoo	755-3137

Note: Work phone numbers are included for special use.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Calling & Hospitality House	Elizabeth Blixt	799-3289
Library	Phyllis Winthurst	762-6316
Printing	Ron & Rosalie Barman	787-7425
Program	Elsie Roba	326-1390
Publications	Ralph Hughes	792-0355
Publicity	Dennis Strieder	786-3715
Quarterly	Phyllis Anderson	372-4662
	Bernice Moseley	787-2434
	Ron Barman	787-7425
	Phyllis Coopman	762-4381

The above officers and standing committee chairmen make up the Board of Directors. Meeting night of the Board of Directors has been changed to 3rd Tuesday of each month with all meetings to be held at Butterworth Center at 7:00 p.m. with the exception of July and August. Meeting place for those two months to be announced.

Society meeting nights are 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) and are held at the Union Federal Building in Milan. The February meeting is to be held at Butterworth Center.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

1981 Conference	Roy Roba	326-1390
Auditing	Al Doyle	788-8738
Budget	Jon Brodd	764-4630
Surname Index	Larry Neuerburg	788-9341
Cemetery	Eva Fuhr	795-1338

* * * * *

Prominent genealogists to speak

Three prominent genealogists will be the featured speakers at the Seventh Annual Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference set for Saturday, May 2, at the Moline Viking Club. They are Dr. Ben Bloxham of Provo, Utah, Carol Schiffman of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Lilly Setterdahl of East Moline. Each is a professional genealogist, librarian or archivist and popular lecturer.

Dr. Bloxham will make two presentations. The first will be on English and Welsh record repositories, archives and libraries; the second will be on research in the British Isles through correspondence.

SCHIFFMAN WILL speak on the LDS world-wide microfilming program and the use of Mormon branch libraries for genealogical research.

She will discuss procedures for

search using Swedish-American church records and newspapers. She also will discuss the expanding repository of Swedish records at Augustana.

Bloxham is the director of Family and Local History Studies at Brigham Young University. He obtained his doctorate in English History from the University of South Hampton in England.

Schiffman is owner of Genealogical Unlimited, Inc. of Buffalo Grove, Ill. She is also an associate librarian at the Mormon Branch Genealogical Library in Wilmette. She began genealogical research in 1963.

SETTERDAHL WAS born in Sweden and immigrated to the United States in 1959. She is an assistant archivist of the Lutheran Church in America in Chicago and specializes in Swedish family research. She was coordinator of the Swedish-Ameri-

can newspaper microfilm project from 1977 to 1980. She also spent a year at the Emigrant Institute at Vaxjo, Sweden, in charge of American correspondence regarding emigrants to America and their ancestors and descendants.

This full-day conference is co-sponsored by the Blackhawk and Scott County Genealogical Societies. The registration fee is \$15 and includes four presentations, morning and afternoon coffee and a buffet luncheon. There also will be several genealogical exhibitors and a drawing for door prizes.

Capacity attendance is anticipated and early registration is encouraged. Send check with name and address to: Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference, P.O. Box 832, Moline, Ill. 61201. For more information call David Zepher at 788-9341 or Elsie Roba at 326-1390.

SURNAME NUMBERS

Victorian's copy
 CM Charter Member
from registrar

A-1 David Mason Adams
 A-2 Phyllis Smith Anderson
 A-3 Barbara M. Appleby
 A-4 Terry A. Anderson
 A-5 Bonnie J. Anderson
 A-6 Anna Albrecht
 A-7 Stewart Adams
 A-8 John G. Sumner Albee
 CM Durwood Allaman

B-1 Scharlott Blevins
 B-2 Tekla Baker CM deceased
 B-3 Elizabeth Blixt
 B-4 J. Kenneth Baker
 B-5 Lorraine Baker
 B-6 Jon Brodd
 B-7 Helen E. Burgess
 B-8 Martha D. Brown
 B-9 Evelyn Bradley
 B10 Hazel Blocklinger
 B-11 Evelyn Benson CM deceased
 B-12 Phyllis Border
 B-13 Jesse Boone
 B-14 Susan Sperber Barcklay
 B-15 William J. Blick
 B-16 Ronald Barman
 B-17 Rosalie Barman
 B-18 Edward M. Blakely
 B-19 Betty Zimmerman Bull
 B-20 Lois Leonard Preston Bulen
 B-21 Royce V. Brown
 B-22 Leslie W. Balk
 B-23 Hazel Burns
 B-24 Robert H. Burns
 B-25 Ethel L. Briggs
 B-26 Mary Ann Daniel Borbeck

Grace Bales
 Gertrude Becker
 Marge Buel
 Mrs. Walter S. Bristow Jr.

C-1 Joyce Cornelius
 C-2 Lawrence Cornelius
 C-3 Phyllis Coopman
 C-4 Maxam Julie Carlson
 C-5 Joyce Carlson
 C-6 Aletha Cosner
 C-7 Byrle Cosner
 C-8 Mary Grantman Clifford
 C-9 Vivian Curtis
 C-10 Bradley Curtis
 C-11 Dr. Lavern Chance
 C-12 Mrs. L. C. Chance
 C-13 Beverly Coder
 C-14 Anna Christina Clark
 C-15 Thelma Carlson

C-16 Paul Carlson
 C-17 Vivian Cathelyn
 C-18 Barbara Clark
 C-19 Florence Wilson Curtis
 C-20 Merriell Curtis Coon
 C-21 Vivienne Murphy Craig

nw. H. Clark

D-1 Lorraines Duncan	H-1 Geraldine Harrison
D-2 <u>Cornelia Darling</u>	H-2 Adele Hackett
D-3 <u>Harriet Darling</u>	H-3 Harold Hale Hall
D-4 <u>Dr. Newell D'Ailey</u>	H-4 <u>Delores Hauger</u>
D-5 Milly Bilske Dan	H-5 <u>Sally Henry</u>
D-6 Ralph A. DePorter deceased	
D-7 Margie Eileen Davis	H-6 Robert Carl Hutten
D-8 Earl Daniels	H-7 <u>Jean Houston</u>
D-9 <u>Vicki Davis</u>	H-8 <u>Margaret Hudson</u>
D-10 Janet Driggs	H-9 <u>L. E. Humberstone</u>
D-11 Al Max Doyle	H-10 <u>Clyde Hilligoss</u>
D-12 Sue Doyle	H-11 <u>Kathryn Hilligoss</u>
D-13 Gene Denhardt	
D-14 Dorothy LaQuatte Demers	H-12 Jessie Howard
D-15 Thomas DeBlieck	H-13 <u>Virginia Hinrichs</u>
D-16 Kathleen Ann DeBlieck	H-14 <u>Bethylene Hakanson</u>
D-17 Nancy Elizabeth Davidson	H-15 <u>Helen Hutchinson</u>
D-18 Marion R. Davis	H-16 Edna K. Hall
D-19 Joann Duckworth	H-17 Ethel D. Haysbrook
D-20 Anita Dolan	H-18 Carl Heald
D-21 Marianne Dinsmore	H-19 Mrs. Warren Harner
Mr. and Mrs. Lee O. Dawson	H-20 Geraldine Hampton
	H-21 Ruth Martin Hicks
E-1 Glenn Jerry Elson	H-22 Ralph Hughes
E-2 Donelle Elston	<u>Mrs. Ruth Herrick</u>
E-3 JoAnn Eckhardt	<u>Mary Lou Hall</u>
E-4 Grace Eastland	Florence Hutchinson
E-5 <u>Madeline Rice Edwards</u>	
E-6 John R. Edwards	I-1 Bernice Irwin
	I-2 Madeline Isaacson-changed to Rice Edwards
F-1 Thomas Michael Freitag	
F-2 <u>Sally Fuhr</u>	J-1 Philip Johnson
F-3 <u>Walter T. Fuhr</u>	J-2 Eva Johnson
F-4 <u>Eva Fuhr</u>	J-3 Harriet Jeanes
F-5 Doris May Free	J-4 Alice Jenks
F-6 Warren J. Fitzgibbons	J-5 Charles Jenks
	J-6 Dorothy May Johnston
G-1 Eulalia Garrett	J-7 Elizabeth Hoyt Johnson
G-2 Esther Gramenz	J-8 <u>Kathryn Jennings</u>
G-3 Leslie Griffin	9 Thomas Jackson
G-4 Kathryn Ann Griffith	J-10 Lois Jackson
Betty K. Gorshe (Mrs. Frank)	J-11 Emilie J. Jackson
	K-5 Jay Kamphuis deceased
K-1 Bessie Kursbein	K-6 Mary Ann Kulow
K-2 <u>Patricia Kinney</u>	K-7 Eileen Kimber
K-3 Elton Kerr	Ina Kuzel
K-4 Ruthmary Kirby	

- L-1 Joan Loete
- L-2 James Lannoo
- L-3 Pamela Lannoo
- L-4 Jane Lundeen
- L-5 Barbara LeQuatte
- L-6 Harry Lyon
- L-7 Raymond Lyal LaBare
- L-8 Floraece Horn LaBare
- L-9 Donald John Lantow
- L-10 Harriet Jane Lantow
- L-11 Sean Lannoo
- L-12 Lillian Livingston
- L-13 Diane Lovell
- L-14 Albert Loete
- L-15 Denny L. Landes
- L-16 Lois Stee Lang

- M-1 Irene Murphy
- M-2 Cheryl McCaw
- M-3 Gloria Matlock
- M-4 Gilman Mitton
- M-5 Helen Mitton
- M-6 Verna Mumma
- M-7 Helene McMurtry
- M-8 Bernice Moseley
- M-9 Dennis Moseley
- M10 Delmar Moore
- M-11 Mrs. Earle McBride
- M-12 Mildred Martin
- M-13 Robert Millett
- M-14 Laura Millett
- M-15 John Steven Morahn
- M-16 Helen Marshall
- M-17 Margaret I Morris
- M-18 Florence Marshall
- M-19 Rosalie Mehall
- M-20 Goldie Myers
- M-21 Lillias Cairns McNeil
- M-22 Eugene McCarley
- M-23 Mildred McCarley
- M-24 Alma Moss
- M-25 Mable Mayhew
- M-26 Audren Fennern Mayhew
- M-27 Mona Lea Kadel Martin
- M-28 Robert Brantzel Martin
- M-29 Mildred Larison Marshall
- M-30 Jonathan C. Marshall
- Maurite Mahlsteadt
- Frances Marie Melroy
- Mary Morrissey
- Robert V. McKinsie
- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Moffit
- Lois Mitchell

- N-1 Joseph Normoyle
- N-2 Phyllis Normoyle
- N-3 Caroline Neumann
- N-4 Larry Neuerburg
- N-5 Harold Dean Newenham
- N-6 Catherine Filbert Nelson

- O-1 Willard O'Neill
- O-2 Frances O'Neill
- O-3 Enid Harris Osterberg

- P-1 Anna May Cooke Petrick
- P-2 Darlene R Paxton
- P-3 Janet Pease
- P-4 Thyra Perry deceased
- P-5 Sallie Phillips
- P-6 Harold Pierce
- P-7 Kitty Pierce
- P-8 Rita Parkinson
- P-9 Mrs. Howard Parkhurst
- P10 Ward A. Peterson
- P-11 Mrs. Ward A. Peterson
- P-12 Grace Price
- P-13 Lynn Lucille Peter
- P-14 Darlene Sitzman Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pittman

- Q-1 Pabricia Quill

- R-1 Mary Louise Rymal
- R-2 Helen Roehs
- R-3 Otto Roehs
- R-4 Ivan Rice
- R-5 Phyllis Rice
- R-6 Edward Delvin Reynolds
- R-7 Barbara Rosser
- R-8 Clarence Ruud
- R-9 Margaret Ruud
- R-10 Doris Ann Rembold
- R-11 Virgel Mae Reed
- R-12 Marylee Rosenberger Renner
- R-13 Elsie Knaack Roba
- R-14 Lee Rogers
- R-15 Patria Rogers

- R-16 Eunice N. Riley
- R-17 Roy C. Roba Roy
- R-18 Hazel B. Rosborough
- R-19 William C. Rosborough
- Orin & Irene Rockhold

'EVERY NAME INDEX' —

New genealogical society plans reprint of early county history

By DEAN COLLINS
(Argus Staff Writer)

What's in a name. . . ?

Interesting stories, good friends, fun and fellowship, and a hobby that can fill as many hours as one wishes to devote at any age of his life — that's the kind of an answer members of a "new" area group, The Blackhawk Genealogical Society, give.

The society, with a membership of 71 persons living in five states, will observe its first birthday next month. However, members won't have time to light the one candle on their cake because they are deeply involved in another major project.

This project, which is sort of a pre-national bicentennial project, is writing an every-name index for a reprint of a 474-page history of Rock Island County published by H. F. Kett, entitled "Past and Present of Rock Island County 1877."

"This book has become rare," according to Mrs. Joseph Normoyle, Rock Island, president and founder of the genealogical society.

A December delivery date for the reprint of this rare Rock Island County history, complete with its new every-name index, has been promised if one places a pre-publication order.

Pre-publication date orders may be given to Mrs. Francis Moseley, Milan, general chairman of the committee to reprint the history. The pre-publication price for the reprinted volume is \$11.

Book orders also may be placed with Mrs. Harold L.

Pierce, Route 1, Milan, publicity chairman for the society. Mrs. Pierce also will answer any questions about the society and membership in it.

Over 10,000 names will be cross-indexed for the every-name index members of the genealogical society are compiling for the reprint of the history. Members have worked for a year on this project. They estimate they have put in more than 500 hours of work.

One of the important reasons for reprinting this history is to preserve it as a genealogical source. It will be an even more important reference work with its new index.

"This book is very rare in its original form," Mrs. Moseley stated. "And in most cases, the few original books in existence are in poor condition, with pages missing. We want to preserve this book and make it available to more residents at a very low price."

Society members point out that a goal for their organization is to preserve and perpetuate the records of ancestors. This history of Rock Island County is certainly a record of early families in the county.

"We want to encourage the study of family history, to preserve and safeguard genealogical and historical materials in this county and in surrounding counties," Mrs. Moseley added.

But in the pursuit of their special projects, like the every-name index, society members encounter many other interesting stories and times.

Like the story Mrs. Pierce told. A common activity for a genealogical enthusiast is "reading a cemetery." Now this means one goes to a cemetery and finds out everyone who is buried in that cemetery by reading the information on the tombstones. Mrs. Pierce told about the man who found this interesting inscription on a tombstone when he was reading a cemetery: "I told them I was sick," someone wryly chose to have engraved on his tombstone.

"You meet such interesting people in this kind of work," Mrs. Normoyle explained. "After a while, you find you start noticing the names that other people are looking for. You really being watching out for

others, copying information for people you know."

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society is affiliated with the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

Where does one start to look when he wants to find out what's in his name?

A person can visit old relatives and listen to them talk about their parents, grandparents, and any other relatives they remember. They should be encouraged to talk about anything they can remember from their past.

"Accurate records should be kept about what the senior members of our families do remember," Mrs. Pierce explained.

Another source for information are old pictures and books.

"A helpful hint to everyone," Mrs. Pierce suggested. "Always write the names of persons on the backs of photos. It's surprising how quickly families forget who the persons pictured are."

Other sources of information for genealogists are family Bibles; old letters, personal journals; old tax bills; census materials; vital statistics, like births, marriages and deaths; histories of countries; biographies; plat maps; deeds; and wills.

"I found a lot of information about a family in a package of old love letters, of all things," one member commented.

Mrs. Pierce told about an interesting item she read in an old will. A man wrote in his will, "I dispose of my wife's clothing to our good neighbor.

"You soon discover that in the 1800's and early 1900's, no one wasted anything," Mrs. Pierce said. "They were careful to make use of everything."

Genealogists just "love" to exchange information, society members agreed.

"You can have letters going all over the world," Mrs. Pierce said.

Sometimes interesting answers come back. For example, the local society received a letter from a Jacksonville woman, who wrote, "I would like to do some research in this area because Black Hawk, the Indian chief from your area,

descended from the same chief of the Mohawks in New York as I did."

The woman then explained that the Mohawk chief was her ninth great-grandfather.

Another project undertaken by members of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society was to assist the Rock Island Arsenal in locating relatives of Gen. Thomas J. Rodman, a past commander of the arsenal, when the government installation dedicated a laboratory in his memory. Gen. Rodman lived 1816-71.

Mrs. Pierce explained, "Arsenal personnel offered us a copy of the Confederate Cemetery roster. In appreciation, our society volunteered to assist them with their Rodman history through courthouse records. This assistance gave the Arsenal personnel the original clue about how to continue their investigation."

Thanks to this project, the Rodman family now has a more complete family tree, Mrs. Pierce explained.

The local society also puts out a quarterly publication "Smoke Signals." The group includes research conducted by its members and information about area families. This publication is sent to all members and to other genealogical societies in the state and nation.

"Did you know that genealogy is one of the fastest growing hobbies in this country?" Mrs. Pierce asked.

The Blackhawk group also has sponsored two workshops.

"Genealogical workshops and classes are quite common in this country now," Mrs. Pierce said.

"You can still be a charter member of your group if you join before the last day of this year," Mrs. Moseley explained.

"Don't forget about our reprint of 'Past and Present of Rock Island County 1877,'" Mrs. Moseley added. "It's more of a biographical directory because most of the residents of the county at that time are listed, plus maps, pictures, and Civil War units. It's a very valuable genealogical source, plus a very good history of early Rock Island County."

Anyone can see there's a lot in the name Blackhawk Genealogical Society.

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Monday, January 26, 1981

Genealogical group to meet

The Black Hawk Genealogical Society will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Union Federal Savings and Loan, Milan.

The speaker will be Giles Weigandt, a Quad-City area handwriting analyst. Persons attending are urged to bring a letter or the signature of an ancestor.

Private rites scheduled for Mary Dingeldein

Private services for Miss Mary Dingeldein, 86, of 2951 9th St., Rock Island, who died Saturday morning at St. Anthony's Continuing Care Center, Rock Island, will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the family home, with the Rev. Kenneth D. Kuenning, pastor of the Church of Peace, United Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be in Chippiannock Cemetery.

There will be no visitation. Wheelan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the Memorial Fund of the Church of Peace, United Church of Christ, or to a favorite charity.

Miss Dingeldein was born May 26, 1894, in Rock Island, the daughter of Philip and Emma Dierolf Dingeldein. She lived in the home where she was born until moving to the care center in 1979. She had been employed in the home office of the Modern Woodmen of America for many years, retiring in 1963. She was a member of the Church of Peace, United Church of Christ.

Survivors include a sister, Miss Emma Dingeldein, at home; and two nieces and two nephews.

Pallbearers will be Ross W. Applegate, John P. Dingeldein, Phillip W. Dingeldein, John D. Poole, Kenneth Richardson and Ralph E. Swanson.

Grave Stone Search

By BRENDA W. ROTZOLL

CONCORD, N.H. (UPI) — The big new vacation lure of New Hampshire is not covered bridges, not lakes and mountains, but cemeteries.

People by the thousands are coming in search of their ancestors, a search intensified by the nation's Bicentennial — just as there was a similar upswing in genealogical interest a century ago at the time of America's Centennial.

The search usually leads to the state's several thousand cemeteries, where tombstones provide an invaluable collection of names and dates.

"What one is usually looking for is the name of the individual, where or when he or she was born, married and died. Sometimes a trek back to the individual's town helps. Perhaps you can track down a date in a cemetery," said Philip Zea, administrative assistant to the director of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

"For details about people's lives, you really need diaries. It's possible one's distant cousins, if one can track them down, have such material," Zea said.

The society is a private, nonprofit organization, always short of funds and seeking new members at \$10 a year. But it never asks for money when helping the people — 6,000 last year — who stream in seeking help to trace their families.

It has catalogued its million pages of manuscript and thousands of family and town histories so that it is fairly easy to walk in with a name in your head and, in minutes, find the books which refer to the family you are looking for.

"Many people have a desire to find their roots. I've established three generations of people from Iowa who traced me to be descendants of a prominent man from Vermont. By chance we had some account books, and he and his



Compiling history

Checking through an 1894 atlas of Rock Island County, Barbara Scott of Milan is collecting data on Milan's history which will be published as a book. A certified genealogist, she is requesting past and present residents to contribute written accounts and pictures. (Argus photo by Tim Howard)

Argus milan

Help needed in compiling Milan history

By **DUAINE D. CARLSON**
(Argus Correspondent)

"It takes quite a bit of time and research," Barbara Scott said of the project that Mayor Joel Brunsvold has requested her to undertake. Mrs. Scott is gathering material on Milan's history and then preparing it into book form for publication.

MRS. SCOTT, the wife of Milan Village Attorney Robert G. Scott, has been working on the project for about eight months. She has set a tentative deadline of March 15 when all material should be collected and she can start editing.

"The March 15 deadline might be extended a little," Mrs. Scott said. "But I hope to have a good deal of information by then so I'll know what I have to work with."

The historian is hoping — to the point of pleading — that Milan residents, past and present, will supply her with family histories, pictures, written accounts of Milan's past or anything else to recall Milan's interesting history.

SHE HAS LOCATED some members of the Vandruff family, residing in Kansas, and has asked them to prepare a Vandruff family history. She also has requested Margaret

Dibbern Lindstrom of Sedalia, Mo., to prepare a Dibbern account, as well as Mrs. Lindstrom's recollections of her Milan childhood.

In addition to family histories, Scott wants information about Milan churches and organizations.

If at all possible, manuscripts should be typed double spaced on standard sized paper. If handwritten, manuscripts should be as legible as possible.

"ALL AUTHORS of written accounts will get a by-line in the book," Mrs. Scott said.

Photographs should be dated, with a written description of the picture. People should be identified from left to right.

"If anyone has questions concerning what I'm looking for, they can call 787-2145," she said.

All of the data should be sent, or left, at the Milan Municipal Building. Scott recommends that it include the donor's name, address and telephone number.

"OF COURSE, preparing something of this scope, we reserve the right to edit all material due to space limitations. Also, some pictures, for example, are not reproducible for print, but we won't know what we can use, or not use, until everything is

turned over to a publisher," she said.

A publication date, at this point, is uncertain, according to Mayor Brunsvold.

MILAN'S HISTORY spans the era when northern Illinois was known as Black Hawk Country; in the 1800's, to the present town of more than 6,000 population.

William Dickson, of Westmoreland County, Pa., laid out the village, calling it Camden, in 1843. Because of another Illinois town with the same name, Dickson changed the name to Camden Mills in 1848.

THE VILLAGE was incorporated in 1863, the year the Civil War ended.

Although he laid out Camden, Dickson did not reside in the village until 1867, preferring to maintain his residence on the north shore of Rock River.

Dickson died in 1869. Regarded as Milan's founding father, Dickson never heard of a village called Milan. Camden Mills was changed to Milan in 1870, a year after his death.

BARBARA SCOTT, collecting, compiling and editing Milan's history, is well-qualified for her assignment. A certified genealogist, she is a member of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society.

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Friday, January 23, 1981

Argus metro

Major gift will establish Swedish archives, research center at Augie

A major archives and research center, devoted to collecting and interpreting the history of Swedish immigrants in North America, will be established soon at Augustana College.

Thomas Tredway, Augustana president, said the center will be located in the Augustana Memorial Library on the Augustana campus and will be supported by funds contributed by the Swensons. The center is scheduled to open in 1982.

Tredway said that interest in the field of Swedish immigration has been growing in recent years. He said considerable progress has been made in Sweden through establishment of the Emigrant Institute in Skage and the Emigrant Register in Karstad.

BUY IN AMERICA, he said, the existing archival facilities remain oriented to separate portions of Swedish immigration such as geographical region, religious denomination or

society. He said the center at Augustana is designed to supplement efforts of already established programs.

"As a national archives and research center, it will provide research opportunities regarding the total impact of Sweden on American life and culture," the president said.

Augustana is a natural location for such a center, being situated in the heart of the Midwest, readily accessible to areas with large populations of Swedish descent," he said.

It is also the oldest college in America founded by Swedish immigrants and has long been a leader in preserving the Swedish identity in America.

These efforts began 120 years ago when an early Augustana president, Dr. Y. N. Hasselquist, started collecting all Swedish language newspapers printed in America as well as other publications of fellow countrymen. This practice has been continued to the present, and the collections have been maintained at the Augustana Library.

Augustana's Swedish language newspaper collection, largest in the world, has been microfilmed. Other private collections of books

and manuscripts have been added through the years.

THE COLLECTIONS will now be transferred to the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center. It is expected that the center will serve as an archival depository for appropriate materials of many Swedish-American organizations, institutions and individuals.

Tredway said that expansion of programming in other areas of Swedish-American studies is under consideration at the college.

The center will begin operation using a large portion of the upper floor of the library building. Included will be book stack space and microfilm storage facilities, an office area and work rooms. Opportunity will be provided for professional researchers and historians to use the records.

Efforts are now being made to hire a qualified archivist to direct the research center. Tredway said the archivist also may teach history or language courses at Augustana on a part-time basis.

The Swensons, whose gift is making the research center possible, are both of Swedish descent. Swenson is an immigrant from Sweden, and his wife, the

former Lyl Westerlund, is a second generation American whose grandparents were born in Sweden.

SWENSON CAME to this country at the age of 18, graduated from Augustana College and devoted his career to the publishing field, retiring in 1963.

He said he has never worked for a large salary, nor has he inherited any money.

"I have, however, met with some success in investments," he said. "Augustana College made it possible for me to obtain an education, and I am forever grateful. Lyl and I want to do something to promote a program in which we are very interested."

Swenson served as the last general manager of the Augustana Book Concern, publishing house of the Augustana Lutheran Church, before merger of that organization into a larger publishing firm. For nearly a century the Augustana Book Concern was a leading publisher of Swedish language material in America.

In 1979 Swenson completed writing his own autobiography, a book entitled "My Story," published by the Augustana Historical Society.



Research center site

The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center to be opened later this year will be housed on the third floor of the Denmark Memorial Library on the campus of Augustana College. The center, which will contain records of

Swedish immigration to the U.S., is being established through a \$500,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. Birger Swenson, Rock Island, Augustana is the oldest college in America founded by Swedish immigrants. (Argus photo)



PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

What's not in a name

By the Editors of Psychology Today
If you are named after your Aunt Sophronia, are a "boy named Sue," or have a Roman numeral after your name, you may think your parents cursed you for life.

Indeed, various studies have shown that most people dislike unusual names, and that people with unusual names are more likely than conventionally named people to be unpopular, flunk out of Harvard, or show signs of psychosis.

But hold! A new study shows that unusually named people seem to reveal the same kinds of personalities as people with garden-variety names, at least on written personality tests.

The researcher has a fairly unusual name himself, Richard L. Zweigenhaft. He

is a psychologist at Guilford College in North Carolina. He and two colleagues obtained a test group of people with unusual first names by picking out all the names that appeared only once on a computer listing of the 2,319 men and 284 women who entered Wesleyan University between 1966 and 1973. All "foreign" names and any familiar ones that happened by chance to turn up only once, such as Jason or Lorraine, were weeded out by a panel of 20 Guilford College undergraduates.

THAT LEFT 82 males with first names like Wales and Elbridge, and 34 females with names like Eugenie and Linette.

The researchers randomly selected a control group

of students with more common names from the same enrollment list, and compared the scores the two groups achieved on the California Psychological Inventory (CPI), a standard measure of personality characteristics which all the Wesleyan students had taken.

The scores of unusually named males did not differ significantly from those of their commonly named peers. The unusually named women scored slightly higher than the control group on six of the CPI's 18 traits, including "sociability," "social presence" or poise and self-confidence, "achievement via conformance" or the ability to take directions when it is positive to do so, and "psychological mindedness," or sensitivity to and interest in other people's needs.

Turning to sexually misleading names, such as that of a male named Lynn, and sexually ambiguous names such as Jean and Ronnie, the researchers once again set up two comparison groups from the Wesleyan lists. Again, the men and women with the sexually confusing names scored no differently on the CPI than their commonly named counterparts.

AT WESLEYAN, at least, Zweigenhaft and his colleagues conclude, "neither men nor women appear to be at a disadvantage as a result of having an unusual or sexually ambiguous first name."

But men with "Jr." attached to their names seem to be an exception. They scored significantly lower than men whose names ended with the Roman numerals III or IV.

Why? The researchers speculate that Oliver Barrett IV's see themselves as valuable links in a long chain of tradition, while males trailing "Jr." have to deal with a particularly insistent reminder of the days when they were not only younger but also smaller and lower in status than the original.



Ever see a one-armed clock? You will—at Bishop Hill.

Early Swedish settlement prospered then dissolved

Bishop Hill Colony was founded in 1846 by a group of Swedish religious dissenters who walked 160 miles from Chicago to get there.

Ninety-six died the first winter. When they were able, they built an unusual combination church-apartment building.

The basement and first floors of the structure housed twenty families. The Sanctuary on the second floor reflects the "Jansonists" belief in simplicity of worship.

The colony prospered, becoming a major center of commerce. There were stores, a hotel, bakery, brewery, a school, two mills, dairy, tannery, and brick kilns. But dissension arose. The colony dissolved in 1862.

Bishop Hill Colony is now a State Memorial. It's located six miles northwest of Galva, Illinois off route 34. Open year round, there's no charge for admission or parking.



Colony Memorial Church is open to visitors daily 9 to 5. Public is invited to a Swedish (Juliett) Service 8 a.m. Christmas morning.

Carter lineage provides insight

By ERNEST B. FURGURSON
WASHINGTON — A year ago the question, "Jimmy who?" was just being bandied around. That was the week when the President-elect was winning the Iowa caucuses and striking the first glimmer of attention with the public at large.

Now the question appears to have been answered, to the superficial satisfaction of at least a plurality of American voters, and beginning Thursday we can start finding out "Jimmy what?" That is of course a more fundamental question, from the point of view of people whose taxes and blood pressures will fluctuate at the whim of the erstwhile upstart from Sumter County.

But in fact the earlier matter of just who this Jimmy Carter is, as asked by his many potential biographers — and by the surviving Southern traditionalists who describe any conversational subject in terms of its genealogical lineage on both sides — remains a mystery to most Americans.

Touching on this, Atlanta Magazine had some fun the other month with an imaginary family tree that started back with Jimmy's great-grandfather and Anglo-Saxon king of the ninth century, A.D., and led to James Earl Carter Jr., the next leader of the free world.

Genuine research done on that subject by Kenneth H. Thomas Jr., a historian with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, has been published in the winter issue of Georgia Life Magazine.

It discloses that the Carters of Plains, Ga., and the Gordys with whom they married have roots that follow the well-worn trail from the Upper South to the new lands of the Deep South, and the generations before the Civil war.

Running for governor,

Jimmy made dexterous use of the "redneck" label, and it was worth some rural votes. But by common usage, a redneck is somebody ignorant, who neither knows nor cares much about who he is and where he came from. These Carters, by contrast, go back to the famous Virginia family that came from England to the colony along the James River in 1637.

Five generations later Jimmy's Great-great-great-great-grandfather Kindred Carter moved from North Carolina to Georgia. Through the years his male descendants married strong women like Nellie Duckworth, Ann Ansley, Mary Ann Diligent Seals and Nina Pratt before James Earl Carter Sr. took Miss Lillian Gordy as his bride in 1923. By now we all know her.

Along the way, there was a Littleberry Walker Carter, born in 1852, who signed up in America in 1862 to go to war with Capt. Cutts' company of the Sumpter Flying Artillery. His brothers Wiley and Jesse were in the same outfit, which fought up and down through Virginia until the second week in April of 1865.

In World War I, James Earl Carter Sr. went off to serve in the Army. It was no great surprise that with that background, his son was eager to become a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in the next war.

On the other side, Miss Lillian's great-great-grandfather Peter Gordy came from Maryland to Georgia sometime before 1803. His sons and grandsons married Rebecca Scott, Harriett Helms and Mary Ida Nicholson. His grandson, James Thomas Gordy was a wagonmaster with the Sixth Georgia Militia in the last year of the Civil War. And his great-grandson was James Jackson "Jim Jack" Gordy, Miss Lillian's father.

Jim Jack was postmaster of the town of Richland, just down U.S. 280 from Plains, and later third congressional district campaign manager for that flamboyant radical Populist, Tom Watson.

Watson, before he became better known for his triscible bigotry, started as an eloquent champion of the working man, the farmer, the South against the monied interests of the East.

BLUE BLOOD, GRAY LINES



In the Civil War, Stan Schirmacher's grandfather marched as a drummer boy with Union general William Tecumseh Sherman, while his wife's grandfather was a surgeon in the Confederate cavalry. (Their union has nonetheless endured — for 46 years this week.) Schirmacher, 72, specializes in helping people trace their ancestors' Civil War roots, which are available through various state and Federal sources. For addresses and order forms, send two stamps to: Sons of Sherman's March to the Sea, 1725 Farmer Ave., Box FW, Tempe, Ariz. 85281.

PLACES TO VISIT

1415 15th Street, Phoenix

ANY OTHER BACK FROM

A Child Is a Blend of 64 Families in Only 5 Generations

In just five generations, a child is a mixture of 64 families. In 10 generations, he or she embodies the histories and characteristics of 1,024 families, says Dr. Murray Bowen of Georgetown University Hospital.

Came across this newspaper item, but found in double checking that the headline should read 62 instead of 64!

for 1 st generation	=	2
2 nd "	=	4
3 rd "	=	8
4 th "	=	16
5 th "	=	32
		<hr/>
total	=	62

Delmer Moore

THE DAILY DISPATCH, Mo



New officers

New officers of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society, installed recently, are, from left, registrar Grace Eastland; corresponding secretary Phyllis

Coopman; president Eulalia Garret; first vice president Elsie K. Robs; recording secretary Joane Loete, and treasurer Jon Brodd.



Birthday flag

Rock Island County board chairman Paul Mulcahey, D-East Moline, left, and former chairman Richard Aubry, D-Rock Island, display the county's new flag, which commemorates the county's 150th birthday. (Argus photo by Pat McLaughlin)

Officials gather to celebrate 150th birthday of RI county

There was no birthday cake, but nevertheless elected officials from Rock Island County hosted a celebration today of the county's 150th birthday, its "Sesquicentennial" for those who want the technical name.

Bidding a happy 150th to the county were officials from township, city, county and state government, including a letter from Illinois Gov. James Thompson.

During an informal session in the county board room, board chairman Paul Mulcahey, D-East Moline, unveiled a flag commemorating the birthday.

Twelve copies of the flag will fly at various locations owned by the county, such as golf courses and forest preserves during the government's 150th year.

Mulcahey told the group residents of the county could be proud of its heritage, which dates back to 1831 when the 7th General Assembly recognized the county.

It took until 1833 for residents to elect county officials because Indian natives were fighting further civilization of the area.

But, Mulcahey said, in 1933 John W. Spencer and George W. Harlan were elected as county commissioners, forerunners of today's county board.

State Rep. Ben Polk, R-Moline, presented a copy of a state House resolution he introduced last week congratulating the county on its 150th year.

Polk said the county had a lot to be proud of in its standing as the center of the world's farm implement manufacturing industry, its importance in the Civil War and its historical value of being the home of Chief Blackhawk.

Mulcahey said the challenge is to look ahead and make future generations "as proud of what the county is now as we are of what the county has been."

Fort Armstrong DAR Chapter told about genealogy

"Perpetuating the Memory and Spirit of Our Ancestors" was the title of the talk on genealogy given by Mrs. Walter Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, recently for Fort Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at Hauberg Civic Center, Rock Island.

Mrs. Fuhr, chapter registrar, has researched and given five volumes of cemetery records to libraries. She told how to research early records and where the best sources of information to prove ancestry can be found.

Mrs. George Griffin gave devotions and read The American's Creed and a poem, "Heritage of America." Mrs. Charles Hardin read the president general's message and Mrs. Kenneth Stimpson the national defense article, which stressed the promotion of positive attributes of America.

Mrs. Fuhr announced that papers for five new members have been sent to national headquarters.

Mrs. Robert Singer, regent, reported the board recommendation that \$300 be sent to DAR children's schools, Tamassée and Kate Duncan Smith. Dividends of \$600 from an estate will be placed in a Historic Fund.

Mrs. John R. Edwards was named chairman of the nominating committee. Hostesses were Mesdames Richard Hainline and J. Lewis Fowler.



On Finding Your Ancestors

By Donald E. Webb

Before resuming our discussion on heraldry we would like to mention a letter received recently from a reader in Sioux Falls, S. D., who is asking several questions about genealogy. She states:

"Dear Mr. Webb: I would like to know the cost of your book, 'Instructions For Beginner Genealogists.' Also to whom should I write to secure information on a family in Pennsylvania 1828 or before? Is there a form for U. S. Census Bureau? Respectfully, Mrs. C. A. Ness."

Thank you, Mrs. Ness. Descriptive literature and price of my book have been forwarded to you. It will be told step by step how to trace your family history back to Revolutionary War times. (Note: The period before that will be covered in Part Two to be published in the future.)

Your question about securing information on a family living in Pennsylvania in 1828 involves so many phases of genealogical research that it would be impossible to give specific instructions in a single letter consisting of several typed pages. One does not write to one source only for information on a family, unless the family history has been researched by a genealogist and all data collected and correlated. Therefore research would have to be done in the various sources where information would be found.

Fortunately all states do have records going far back into their colonial and territorial histories, and in the case of Pennsylvania, records were kept for over 100 years before the founding of the Republic.

In regard to your question about forms to be used in getting information from the U. S. Census Bureau records: As far as I know, there are no such forms, as National Archives has no facilities for searching and transcribing these records. These records are open to the public and you could go there and copy them, or have some searcher in Washington do it for you. However, all census records have been microfilmed, and the negatives kept at National Archives and positive copies made for orders received from people who want them. Although few individuals and libraries have a complete library of all the microfilms, many do have them for certain areas.

One library I know of does have a complete library of all these microfilms, that is, for every census year from 1790 to 1890. That is the Ft. Wayne and Allen County Public Library of Ft. Wayne, Ind. Searchers who live in Ft. Wayne and surrounding areas come in and search these records.

If you would like to have research done there, address a letter, enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Director of the Genealogical Section, Ft. Wayne and Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Ind. Ask her to give you the names of researchers. I personally know the director as well as some of the researchers.

Or, on the other hand, if any library in Sioux Falls has a microfilm machine, and I presume there are such, judging from the size of the city, you can order the microfilm you would need from National Archives and do your own reading and transcribing. These films are rather inexpensive.

For a copy of a catalogue which describes these microfilms, just address a letter to: General Services Administration National Archives and Records Services, Washington, D. C. 20540 and ask for a copy of "Federal Population Census 1790-1890," (N.A.P. No. 71-2). There might be a charge for the catalogue, although one was sent me gratis when I wrote about it. No price is indicated on the book.

Now back to the subject of heraldry. Why am I devoting so much space to the subject of heraldry? It seems that Americans in general have suddenly become very "family crest" conscious. That is, people in growing numbers want those beautiful artistic paintings of their "family crest" hanging over the mantelpiece. This practice is so confused in the minds of the average person as is the term "family crest."

As has been pointed out in this column before, a coat of arms is not a family crest, and the term family crest should never be used when referring to a coat of arms.

It seems that when the founding fathers of this Republic began formulating laws and regulations for the new nation they were anxious to stay as far as possible from anything that would smack of a monarchy, particularly that of granting of special favors by a king. Therefore, they did not hint at anything pertaining to the bestowing of titles, a custom prevalent in England (an example, knighthood in the "Order of the Garter"). Some few years before his death, Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth and he became a knight in the "Order of the Garter," with the title of "Sir Winston."

In England there were many ranks of hereditary titles, all emanating from the crown (and some not hereditary) from that of a duke (next in order after a prince) down to the plain old country squire, (addressed as Esquire — a man merely possessing a coat of arms).

In reading a coat of arms, the rank or title of the possessor can be determined by the helmet, such as: facing, profile, open and closed visor.

It would seem that many of the democratically-minded of them perhaps thought that such a practice as the granting of coats of arms by the new government was not necessary as many continued to display their arms granted to their ancestors by the English government.

Then, why display a coat of arms in America? The answer is, the only sensible reason would be, that if a person is reasonably certain that an ancestor in the direct male line had been granted arms, the displaying of these arms would be one indication of a favorable family background.

In our next column we will discuss how you can have your own personal coat of arms granted by the College of Heralds in London if you can meet the requirements, or one you could have painted and protected by the U. S. Government. Very interesting, I am sure.

Write me about your experiences in your genealogical research. I would like your story. Address: Donald E. Webb, Mid-City Station, Box 374, Dayton, Ohio 45402. If a reply is requested, enclose SASE.

Ancester Hunting: You May Wish You Were Afraid to Ask

By Ronald Yates

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH — For years relatives told John Moore that his ancestors were English royalty, even insisting their most illustrious progenitor was none other than King Edward III (1312-1377).

Unconvinced, Moore laughed off the stories as family fables. Then Moore, a New York banker, retired, found himself with a lot of free time and decided to check out his relatives' yarns. Moore is still laughing.

Five Years

"What I found was that one ancestor may have been a bastard son of one of King Edward's bastard sons," the 70-year-old Moore chortles. "When I told my relatives, I thought some of them would crack. When you get back that far, you find most everybody was illegitimate and that there were so many royal bastards they were falling over each other."

It has been five years since Moore embarked on that first ancestor hunt. Now he is hooked, a man whose waking hours are spent tracking forebears in the dusty hunting grounds of the past — court-houses, libraries, cemeteries and archives.

Moore is just one of an estimated half-million amateur genealogists who have joined in the great American ancestor hunt — and a highly organized safari into the past with the participants belonging to more than 700 genealogical societies and clubs coast to coast.

The work is time-consuming, often frustrating, and sometimes expensive, depending upon the travel involved. (Alex Haley, author of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," estimates he spent \$7,000 on the seven-year search for his origins, which he traced to a tiny African village on the Gambia River.)

Digging into the past also can be a mathematical nightmare. For example, John Stewart, president of the 5,000-member Genealogy Club of America, based in Logan, Utah, says that with each generation your number of direct ancestors doubles.

"You have four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, 16 great-great-grandparents and so on," Stewart says. "In just the twentieth generation back — approximately the year 1200 A.D. — you theoretically had more than a million grandparents."

Genealogy is a highly personal pursuit, too, and for that reason quite possibly boring to friends. But for the ancestor hunter the search is remarkably satisfying and exciting, the genealogists say.

The great ancestor hunt also has been satisfying to professional genealogists. Indeed, the amount spent last year by American families on professional genealogical research ranged from \$100 to \$1,000, and the average professional can ascend several family trees at the same time, usually charging anywhere from \$3 to \$10 an hour.

But most people choose the do-it-yourself route, a path which in the last 10 years has rocketed genealogy in the nation's third largest hobby. Ancestor collecting now ranks only behind coin and stamp collecting in popularity, according to one national survey.

"Perhaps it's a sort of security blanket that people today look to in the face of all the

frustration of modern life," Stewart says. "But there may also be deeper reasons."

"When many people get in their 60s and 70s, they begin to anticipate their own death and they want to leave some kind of ancestral record for their children and grandchildren," says James Walker, genealogical specialist for the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Lowell Volkel, assistant Illinois state archivist and a founder of the 1,200-member Illinois Genealogical Society in 1948, says genealogy is addictive because it satisfies "a basic curiosity about where we came from — and everybody, not just old folks, has that curiosity."

While genealogical curiosity may not kill the cat, it has a way of wounding the vanity if one is not prepared for what might be lurking in the past.

For example, many amateur genealogists who have managed to trace their families back to Sixteenth Century and Seventeenth Century Europe have been shocked to find that their relatives were buried as witches. Others are mortified to learn that a tenth great-grandfather was hanged as a thief or that an eighth great-grandmother was a harlot.

One proper Georgia woman who commissioned a professional genealogist to write her family's genealogy almost succumbed when she was told that one of her grandfathers had been electrocuted in New York's Sing Sing prison.

"Applied Electricity" According to Ralph McGill, late editor of the Atlanta Constitution, the woman pleaded with the genealogist to somehow gloss over the facts.

He dutifully wrote, "One of her grandfathers occupied the chair of applied electricity of one of America's best known institutions. He was very much attached to his position and literally died in the harness."

Once a person gets hooked on the ancestral hunt, a trip to Salt Lake City — a mecca for genealogists — cannot be far off.

Here, occupying one-fourth of the Mormon Church's new 23-story office building, is the world's largest collection of genealogical records.

Amassed by the church-operated Genealogical Society Library, the records are gathered from almost every country in the world by church-trained volunteers and then microfilmed by 30 globe-trotting camera crews.

Joseph Smith The Mormon church's keen interest in genealogy began with the church's founder, Joseph Smith. In the 1830s, he told his following they should keep genealogical records to perform proxy "temple work" for ancestors so the dead could receive the benefits of the Mormon religion in the hereafter.

The church has followed Smith's directives to the letter. So far, says Theodore Burton, president of the Genealogical Society, it has spent more than

\$100 million gathering genealogical data since the society was formed in 1848.

Just how serious the Mormon Church takes its role as the world's most voracious collector of genealogical records is manifested 20 miles southeast of here in the Wasatch Range of the Rockies.

There, in Little Cottonwood Canyon, stands Granite Mountain — a tribute to modern engineering if not a shrine to the millennium. From 1960 to 1960, workers chiseled six huge rooms out of the mountain's heart.

The rooms, virtually impregnable, are shielded from above by 700 feet of solid granite and from without by three specially designed bank vault doors — all capable of withstanding a nuclear blast at the mouth of the canyon and all equipped with special blast locks that will slam shut in case of atomic attack, sealing off all dust and fallout.

Inside these climate-controlled rooms, 30 highly skilled workers go about preserving microfilm negatives of all that film and those books housed in the society's Salt Lake City library.

While the proximity of man's Armageddon is still in doubt there is no doubt about the number of amateur genealogists like John Moore who flock to the church's nonsectarian library.

They come from all over the world at the rate of 1,500 a day and that's not counting the thousands who use the society's 145 branch libraries in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Just how big back in time these genealogists can go is limited only by the existence and availability of records.

Although white Americans with their roots in Europe run into trouble after 300 years, black Americans are lucky if they can go back more than 100 years, says Walker, an authority on minority genealogy for the National Archives.

For blacks, the method of genealogical research is about the same as for whites until they get back to about 1870, he says. "From 1790 to 1870, only freedmen were listed in the federal census, which means a black person will have to check property records in the South for his ancestors because at that time they were considered chattels."

"Blacks do have one advantage, though. They don't have to worry about a search for European royalty."

Liked sound of 'Dad'

A tombstone in a Middlesex, Ga., cemetery reads: "Here lies the father of 24. He would have lived more but he didn't have time."

A disease without a cure

By CHARLES O. AUSTIN JR.

(Excerpted from a paper delivered to the Quad-Cities Contemporary Club earlier this year) Alex Haley in a Reader's Digest article, "What Roots Means to Me," states, "In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage — to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness." Later his book and the television series, "Roots," rekindled in many the quest to learn more about their forebearers and where they came from.

My interest in family history has been that of a lifetime, and my quest for information has been going on for the past thirty years. Genealogy is like an incurable disease. Once you have been infected, there is no cure.

IF YOU are interested in learning more about your forebears, the time to start is now and with yourself. In fairness to your great-grandchildren, you should leave them a record that you would have liked to have had about your great-grandparents. In compiling this information, you will find that birth, marriage, and death certificates are important. Perhaps someone has a family Bible in which the entries have been made. Visits to cemeteries will give you other important dates and in most instances will help you learn where people lived. Other records which can be helpful are county histories from the area where your forebearers settled.

Important records that are available are pictures, letters and newspaper obituaries. All pictures should be identified and labeled. I am sure we have all had the frustrating experience of looking through old pictures and wondering who those people were.

It is often helpful and time-saving to seek out other persons who are interested in the same family lines you are and may have done research that they will share with you.

When you have exhausted all your personal sources of information, it is time to go public. My first discovery was in the Illinois State Library in Springfield, where I found a forty page book, "A History of Rev. William Austin and His Wife, Elizabeth," published in Wilmington, Ohio, in 1940. Skimming this book I found the name of William Austin, born Jan. 1, 1780, one of three sons of Samuel Austin Jr., who had moved to Sumner County, Tennessee in 1812.

On December 24, 1799, at Charlottesville, Virginia, William was married to an Edith Dickinson. "We have nothing to prove that this William who married Edith Dickinson was the brother who went with Thomas and Henry to Tennessee. Nothing further is known of Elizabeth Austin's brothers," the author wrote. However, my family records went back to William Austin and Edith Dickinson.

I wrote to Marsha Austin, the author, in care of the publishing company. Within a week I received a reply from an eighty-one year old cousin, a copy of the book and an invitation to visit. We did visit in 1962, and found that she was just as happy to find me as I was to find her and to learn what had happened to her great-grandmother's youngest brother.

OUR TWO VISITS to the Mormon Genealogical Library have proven it to be invaluable. Its records are the most complete in the world. Its family histories are easy to research and I have found information about many family branches because of the research church members have done.

The Mormons are continuing their research throughout the world. They are about three years behind in bringing their files up-to-date. In addition to family records, they have many county and state histories and other records on microfilm. By using their family histories we have been able to find names and dates which we have later had confirmed.

It may not be possible for you to go to Salt Lake City, but for a fee of fifty cents, the Mormon Library will check a name for you and let you know if that family is on record in the library. They also have regional libraries which will obtain materials on loan.

THERE ARE many other sources, starting with local libraries. In the reference sections there you will find books with family names listed and their origins. The census of 1850, for the first time, listed not only heads of families but listed all members of the family by age, occupation and place of birth. These may be obtained on loan through your library and you may use the microfilm reader in the library. These are by township, county, and state.

This was helpful to me in one instance in obtaining a birth date of a great, great-grandmother. Previously, all I had was her name but I now know that she was born in Kentucky in 1797 and was still living in Grant County, Wisconsin, in 1860 at the age of sixty-three. I know that her husband and one of their daughters homesteaded in South Dakota in 1864. So far, I do not know where she died. Some day I will.

IMAGINE my surprise to find on the shelves of the Rock Island Public Library the "Dictionary of National Biography," published in London by Smith, Elder, and Co., in 1886. Looking through one of the thirty slightly dusty volumes, I found the story of John Brown of Priesthill, Ayrshire, Scotland, born 1626, martyred May 1, 1685 by British soldiers of James II. I am a tenth generation descendant of this Covenanter who refused to take an oath of allegiance to the king, and in whose house was found "treasonable papers and matches which were forbidden." He was shot in front of his wife and one-year-old son.

Previously I noted taking the Austins back to 1685. I am a ninth generation descendant of

"It's really finding out who you are. Family genealogy can never be really complete. A new clue may come at any time. . ."

Henry Austin, who was involved in the Monmouth Rebellion which took place around Bristol in June of 1685. This, too, was a part of the opposition to James II, as the Duke of Monmouth thought the British people would support him for the throne. The rebellion was unsuccessful. The Duke was beheaded. Three hundred of the leaders were drawn and quartered and three thousand were transported to the East Indies, including Henry Austin. By 1687 he was in Calvert County, Maryland. These two lines opposing the Stuarts and the established government of England did not come together until my father and mother married in Ashmore, Illinois, in 1903.

It is also possible to write for records, as I did in 1950, starting a search of my wife, Mary's, background. A letter addressed to the Town Clerk, Darmstadt, Germany, gave all the information I had and asked that it be passed on to a genealogist. For \$27 this gentleman researched all the church records where these people had attended. We were back to the 1600s.

THIS ALL MAY sound like a great deal of work, but it has been spread over a thirty-year period. It has been the background for vacations to Tennessee to do research in the courthouse in Gallatin to locate the farm where William Austin had lived from 1812 to 1828 before coming to Coles County, Illinois; to Wilmington, Ohio, to visit the grave of Samuel Austin Sr., great-great-grandfather, the cemetery now being part of Cowan State Park; to Flemingsburg, Kentucky, where eight families of forebears were born, married or died; to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where the widow and son of the John Brown of Priesthill, Scotland

Thoughts at large

... periodic observations from thoughtful Quad-Cities area residents invited to express themselves to Argus readers. The topics are unlimited. The views are theirs.



Charles O. Austin Jr. has lived in Rock Island since 1921 and has served the community in a multitude of capacities, including stints as principal of Rock Island High School and district superintendent. The University of Iowa honors him as semi-retired, working part-time as vice-president, marketing, for the American Bank of Rock Island.

are buried in the churchyard of the second oldest Presbyterian Church in continuous use in the United States; to Sunderland, Maryland, to visit All Saints Episcopal Church where Elizabeth Marshall Austin held a pew in the church in 1777, when it was founded.

In 1972, our quest took us to Glenbuck, Scotland, and a two-and-a-half mile walk over the moors to the site of John Brown's grave and the home where he had lived over three hundred years ago. In 1977, we traveled to Asbach, Klein Beiberau, and Herschenrode, West Germany, to visit the homes, indeed, the same houses, that Mary's great-great- and great-grandparents left in 1853 and '54 to emigrate to Ohio, and then to Iowa in 1856. Last July, our cousins from Asbach returned this visit.

NOW THAT YOU have all this information, what are you going to do with it? It must be organized in the most usable way so that it may be passed on to others in a printed or mimeographed form. If you gather enough material, you may wish to put it in a book. However, may I stress that accuracy is a prime concern. Court records are the best and most reliable confirmation. Land grants and transfers are excellent proofs.

The more you know, the more you can find out about your family. It's really finding out who you are. Family genealogy can never be really complete. A new tidbit or clue may come at any time, often from an unexpected source. In the past year, I have acquired knowledge of over twenty more forebearers. Thirty years ago, I was in contact with a lot of older ladies. Now I find that a lot of younger women are writing to me for information. In the past few months, I have heard from two ladies who are working on related lines, and I have been able to send them copies of materials I have been collecting. In each case a very enthusiastic and appreciative response was received. It gave me as much pleasure to be able to help them as I have received over the years from other sources.

ALEX HALEY HAS been responsible for renewed interest in genealogy, but I am concerned that we are fast losing this sense of belonging to a succession of generations, originating in the past and stretching into the future. I can remember one great-grandmother, and now I have two grandchildren. This makes my lifetime stretch over six generations, going back to 1839. I have corresponded with a lady who was a descendant of my great-great-grandfather, which gives me contact back to 1794. I have pictures of all of my great-grandparents, and four of my great-great-grandparents. All of this I want to pass on to my great-grandchildren with the hope they will carry it on to their great-grandchildren.

The list of common surnames in the United States counts 401,400 Nelsons; 148,550 Meyers; 118,300 Grants and 103,000 Austins. For those of you with less common names, your quest should be much easier.

ON DREAMS AND DREAMING: AN AFTERNOON WITH BIRGER AND LYAL



Birger and Lyal Swenson have donated half a million dollars for the establishment of a Swedish immigration research center at Augustana.

On a first meeting, Birger Swenson doesn't appear to be the "dreamy" type. There's nothing vague or insubstantial about his greeting—the deep voice is hearty, the handclasp strong, the blue eyes keen and twinkling.

And yet, before he's talked very long, he makes it clear that he has lived his life on dreams. One of the most important—"to give something to Augustana"—is being fulfilled.

Birger and his wife, the former Lyal Westerlund, have donated \$500,000 to the college. The money will establish the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, in which documents recording the Swedish immigration to North America will be housed. Swenson views the gift as an expression of thanks: "Augustana made it possible for me to obtain an education, and I am forever grateful."

"All you need is dreams," the 1924 Augustana alum believes. His own life illustrates this maxim—provided you define "dreams" as vision plus hard work.

The hard work began early, back in the first decade of the century on a farm in Värmland province, Sweden, where Birger Swenson was born. As one of nine children, he had little time for spinning fantasies. He recalls rising at 4:30 a.m. to walk to jobs in a brickyard and later in a sawmill, putting in 10-hour days, and earning as little as 40 cents for each of those days, the wage for young boys 11 to 13 years old. When he was 16, "America fever" hit, and with his brother Ragnar he set off for the dream of his life, arriving in the U.S. just three weeks before the *Titanic* disaster. The American dream quickly resolved itself into more work: at a Vermont marble cutting and

refinishing plant and at a Chicago packing company (where the young immigrant with the imperfect English was told to supervise fellow workers "by showing them what hard work looks like, not by talking"). Eventually, in selling subscriptions for a Swedish language newspaper, he glimpsed another dream: a dream of learning.

"If you want to stay in this country, you need more schooling," his clients told him. Several recommended their own alma mater, Augustana College.

He took their advice. He didn't know Rock Island and he didn't know anyone at the college, but he doggedly climbed aboard the train from Chicago one day in 1916, and presently found himself looking at the dome of Old Main in evening light.

Friends came soon, however. The very next day, strolling across campus after lunch, he encountered a group of young men relaxing on the lawn. Some were students, but one was a brilliant young professor destined to become president of the college: Conrad Bergendoff. The friendship between the two men has lasted all their lives.

The dream of learning, too, made its demands—both intellectual and financial. Birger Swenson loves remembering his college days; he leans forward in his chair, and anecdotes tumble out and end in deep, hearty laughter. He remembers a student body of 700, and many literary and debating societies. He remembers his own linguistic naiveté: asked in an American history class to define the term "redcoat" (British soldier), he hazarded: "Some sort of bird, I suppose." But he didn't mind such gaffes; he knew he was learning.

He remembers professors who were both demanding and sympathetic: I. M. Anderson, to whose Greek class you never dared go unprepared; C. L. E. Esbjorn, who taught German and cared enough to



Farmers Journal

What Are The Standards?

READ: Demography, History and Economics!

In 1831, Matthew Reaugh, my great-great-grandfather purchased 60 acres a mile and one-half from my present home. He was 50 years old and I am sure must have expected to see changes in the status of the land and farming techniques during his lifetime.

The only land that could be turned by the crude wooden plows was that beneath the spreading black and white oak trees. This area was later to become known as the Blackhawk Woods. The endless changing of the seasons had enriched the floor of the forest with rotting leaves that could be turned by ox-drawn equipment. Grassland, baked by the summer sun and dried by the prairie wind was much too hard to penetrate.

Though communication was slow, Matthew Reaugh, before he was killed by the falling of a tree on March 23, 1834, had doubtless heard of a steel moldboard, fashioned by a man named John Deere, of Grand Detour, Illinois. He probably envisioned an agricultural revolution.

By the time of the Civil War, Reaugh's sons and sons-in-law were an integral part of a settled community and part of the landed gentry.

Improvements came rapidly after Appomattox and horse drawn machines had completely taken over "the man with the hoe." By the turn of the century, two and one-half story farm mansions, with their gingerbread bric-a-brac carving woodwork and cornices, and the wide sweeping stairway, mindful of the anti-bellum mansions of the Old South, after which they were patterned, added to the patrician image of the farming landowner.

The big barn, tall and square, with cupolas and slatted shutters in the gable ends and gangway through the center, were not only a thing of ar-

chitectural beauty but suggestive of storage for the generosity of the land.

It was a time of elegance.

Fast road horses and blooded livestock, bountiful orchards and vineyards, the ever-present water supply furnished from the tall windmill tower with its spinning fan wheel on top, radiated this gracious living with its manifestation of the eternal wealth of the land.

Today this pleasant idyllic vision dwells only in the minds of the old-timers.

Then came wars and Depressions, followed by glutted markets caused largely by machines that could plow and plant and reap an enormous bounty that could be dissipated neither by national consumption, but that plus some grain exportation. Farm prices (and prosperity) imperceptibly dragged down the system to the point where the nation's taxpayers had to pay into the farming industry to keep it going and prevent widespread insolvency.

The plenty and the prices the pioneers prayed for now became a curse to the farmer who acquired bigger and ever bigger machinery and rented or purchased (or both) more and ever more acres.

This was a far cry from 1831.

Today we read in farm periodicals and other communications the price of land can no longer be recovered from the production of its nutrients, and that despite the money depression in which we are now entangled, nothing on the horizon suggests a collapse in the land boom or less expensive machinery. Older farmers see tractors with names like Duetz, Hesston, Kubota, etc., and are told that no tractors less than 50 horsepower are any longer manufactured in the United States.

Where are our agrarian values headed? In fact, just what are they?

Immigration research center begins operations at Augie

A formal opening will be held later in the fall, but in the meantime the newly established Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center has begun operations at Augustana College.

Funded by a \$500,000 gift to the college endowment from Birger and Lylal Swenson of Rock Island, the center is on the third floor of Denkmann Memorial Library at Augie.

DR. THOMAS TREDWAY, Augustana president, announced that the acting director of the center will be Joel W. Lundeen, Chicago. The archivist will be Kermit B. Westerberg, Rock Island, and researcher-secretary will be Mr. Lilly Setterdahl, East Moline.

Lundeen, a former Rock Island resident, will serve the research center.

America. Previously, he was archivist of the former Augustana Lutheran Church.

Westerberg has served nearly four years on the staff of Uppsala University Library in Sweden. His responsibilities at Augustana College will include a faculty position as part-time instructor of Swedish.

MRS. SETTERDAHL has been active in Swedish-American research and has written numerous articles in this field. For over 20 years she has assisted her husband, Lennart, in microfilming Swedish-American newspapers and church records.

Glen Brolander, vice president for financial affairs at Augustana and chairman of the center's advisory committee, said "the resources of the center will be made available to the

center." These include the Linder and Swan collections and the microfilms of Swedish-American newspapers.

Lundeen said the microfilms of the records of Swedish-American Lutheran congregations will be placed in the center's custody by the archives of the Lutheran Church in America.

The center will be a national depository for information pertaining to Swedish immigrants and their descendants.

Members of the advisory committee, in addition to Brolander, are Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, Dr. Erik Fryxell, Dr. Harold W. Sundelius and John Caldwell, all of Rock Island; Dr. Ross Paulson, Moline; Dr. William Olsson, West Park, Ill.

For more information about the center are 394-7204 and 394-7211.

They search for their family 'roots'

By MARY DeCOSTER
Dispatch writer

Members of the Blackhawk Chapter of the Genealogical Society could be called "family sleuths." Their interest lies in knowing their family backgrounds as far back as they can trace them. Sometimes they even uncover "skeletons in the closet," but then, even the best of families have a few of those.

THE SOCIETY was founded Sept. 26, 1972, and boasts a membership of 175 after beginning with 36 persons.

Past presidents include Phyllis Normoyle, Gerald K. Wood, Virginia Ehrlich, J. Kenneth Baker, Joyce Cornelius, Scharlott Blevins, Dennis Strieder and James Lannoo. Eulalia Garrett is the current president.

According to Bernice Moseley, assistant editor of the quarterly published by the society, "we preserve the past for the future generations, and publish and index rare books to make it easier for those interested to trace their family trees."

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER of the Genealogical Society is a chartered organization by the state, and is eligible to receive income tax deductible gifts. It also accepts the loan of diaries and other historical materials for research.

Membership is open to anyone interested in preserving the past. Dues are \$5 yearly and include four issues of the quarterly. Those interested in joining may call 787-2434 for more information.

THE SOCIETY meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p. m. in the Union Federal Building, Milan. The seventh annual Quad-Cities Genealogical conference took place Saturday at the Moline Viking Club. Sponsors were the Blackhawk Chapter and the Scott County chapters of the Genealogical Society. The annual meeting is held in November.

Roy Roba was conference chairman and is in charge of the Scott County chapter.

TO MAKE research easier, Blackhawk Society has in its possession 16 books of newspaper abstracts donated by Janet Pease. The books cover some old Rock Island newspapers and some from McDonough County. Members find their family histories fascinating and will go to extreme lengths to pinpoint the history of their ancestors.

Blackhawk Society, as a Bicentennial project, reprinted a 1906 Rock Island County Landowner Atlas containing 16 township maps listing landowners, 26 city maps, 84 personal portraits and biographical sketches of early settlers. The original atlas was donated to the society by Phyllis Elaine Wright of Milan.

OFFICERS ARE Eulalia Garrett, president, Elsie Roba, first vice president, Joan Loete, recording secretary, Phyllis Coopman, corresponding secretary, John Brodd, treasurer, and Grace Eastland, registrar.



— Dispatch photo by Gary Krambeck

Officers of Blackhawk Chapter of the Genealogical Society are Grace Eastland, Rock Island, registrar, Elsie Roba, Davenport, first

vice president, Eulalia Garrett, New Windsor, president, Ralph Hughes, East Moline, second vice president, and Joan Loete, Moline,

secretary. Not present for the picture are Jan Brodd, Moline, treasurer, and Delmar Moore, Rock Island, historian.

Roba traces family back to year 1000

By TRUDY KING
Iowa News Writer

To trace your genealogy, you have to be a little like a private eye, says Roy Roba.

You have to sift through mounds of evidence that sometimes creates more mysteries than it solves and patiently wait for answers that don't come overnight, he says.

In the meantime, however, you'll meet a lot of people, including relatives you may not have known you had, and eventually get the reward of knowing more about your ancestors, said Roba.

After a quarter-century of genealogical detective work, Roba has traced some of his ancestors back a thousand years, and others several hundred.

In the process, he and his wife, Elsie, have traveled all over the United States, checked masses of family records and pictures, and corresponded extensively with relatives overseas.

One fruit of the Robas' labor is displayed on the wall in their home at 902 W. 10th St., Davenport. It's a chart bearing the names of as many of Roy's ancestors as he could trace. In time, he'll finish a book on his family history. He's written the first 50 pages, and has about 250 to go.

Roba, who is a Deere & Co. retiree, is of English, Swedish, German and French descent. Several factors contributed to his interest in genealogy, he said.

One was finding, after his grandfather died in the 1940s, a German Bible with family names in it. Another was the stories told him by a grandmother who came from Sweden about 1870. Another was correspondence with some English great-uncles about the family background. "It just kind of built from there," he said.

ROBA SAID he has traced his English ancestors back to about the year 1000, the Swedes to 1600, the Germans to 1700 and the French to the American Revolution.

"My ancestors, as well as anybody else's, are mostly all peasants," he said. "They didn't get into trouble much, or get into jail... We don't have any horse thieves that I know of, or any murderers that I know of."

What he has found are a lot of farmers, clergymen, some deeply religious women and a few unusual and outstanding individuals.

Several of his English ancestors were vicars in the Church of England, and some were persecuted because of disagreements with church policies, he said.

Another British forbear was Elder William Brewster, a passenger on the Mayflower, he said.

He discovered that one of his great-grandfathers was the son of an unmarried couple, he said. Both parents went on to marry others, the father was barred from his church and there was a great scandal.

ANOTHER great-grandfather, Charles Wesley Parker, wouldn't let doctors treat him on the battlefield when a minie ball hit his arm during the Civil War Battle of the Wilderness. He knew they'd amputate it, Roba said. So Parker was in and out of hospitals for some time afterward, and had some difficulty using the arm, but he did keep it.

Roba said he often wondered why his paternal grandfather, Henry C. Rabe, changed his name to Roba; now,



News photo by Fred Marshall

Roy and Elsie Roba of Davenport stand beside a chart of Roy's family tree.

through his research, he thinks he's learned the answer. He thinks his grandfather changed his name because of a "black sheep" relative who had the same name.

Roba said jokingly that he spends "10 hours a day, eight days a week" on genealogy. More seriously, he adds, "You just can't get instant genealogy," although not everyone has to become as immersed as he is.

Elsie Roba also is interested in tracing her family's history, but she said she's had some difficulty in locating records because many of her ancestors are from Schleswig-Holstein, a province ruled sometimes by Germany and sometimes by Denmark.

SHE'S researched through three generations, has the names of a fourth and intends to take a more extensive look at her family's background, she said.

"It's just fascinating, is all I can say," she said of

genealogy. "You make a lot of friends, you meet a lot of people."

Roba said once he met 110 relatives for the first time when he attended a Rabe family reunion in West Bend, Iowa. Some of them helped him identify some persons in pictures his father had taken early in this century.

Roba said sources of genealogy evidence include census records, libraries, family photo albums, Bibles and other books, newspapers, church records, legal documents, immigration and naturalization information, letters and surviving family members.

In addition to his own family research, Roba works as a researcher and historian for others seeking to trace their family trees. He and Elsie also belong to "about a dozen" genealogical societies.

LOCALLY, HE IS vice president and program chairman of the Scott County Genealogical Society and southeast Iowa regional representative and a board member of the Iowa Genealogical Society. She is program chairman of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society.



Memories of Moline

This reproduction of a steel etching showing Moline and a power dam in the 1840's is one of the pictures that appear on the cover of the 1982 Calendar of River Valley History.

New calendar packed with local history

The 1982 Calendar of River Valley History is filled with over 240 facts about the history of the Quad-Cities before 1881. Each month has a photo or drawing relating to that time period and almost every day has a sentence or two about something noteworthy that happened in this area on that date.

"I think they're ideal gifts for anyone who has ever lived in this area," said Watts. She pointed out that the information contained in the calendar cannot be found in any other single source.

Months of research went into producing the calendar.

The museum's library, area public libraries and the Rock Island County Historical Society library were all sources for the information.

A number of area residents, under the leadership of Kathleen Seusy, Moline, donated many hours to the creation of the calendar. They include Alice Alex, Gloria Fiedler, Dorothy Lage, Miriam Roddewig and Carme Shorey of Davenport, Paul Boettcher, Roberta Welferman and David Fiegler of Moline, Kathryn Foulkes of Rock Island, and Stoyl Waterman of Bettendorf.

In Print

The following books may be ordered from Blackhawk Genealogical Society, c/o Publications Sales, P.O. Box 912, Rock Island, IL 61201 (Ill. residents add tax).

Past & Present of Rock Island County, 1877, reprint, 474 pp., 10,000 names, indexed, 8 1/2", hard bound, \$23 ppd.

1880 Rock Island County Census, 206 pp., names all persons in each household with age, sex, occupation, place of birth, \$10 ppd.

Genealogical Abstracts From Rock Island Republican, 1851-1855, 96 pp., names in margin for quick reference, \$4 ppd.

Rural Directory of Rock Island County, 1866, 40 pp., alpha list of all residents outside Rock Island and Moline cities, \$4 ppd.

Descendant of Cheshire family proud to call RI home

By Kevin Jeffries
Argus staff writer

The Cheshire family has been in the United States for more than 280 years and one of the descendants of the original Cheshires resides in Rock Island.

William L. Cheshire Jr., 1929 W. 17th St., is a descendant of the original four Cheshire men who came to this country in the late 1600s to escape religious persecution in England and to seek their fortune in a new land.

The Cheshire family had a reunion Sept. 6 in Atlanta, Ga., where William Cheshire was the guest

speaker. Some members of the family met for the first time and others hadn't seen one another since the last reunion in 1915.

There are some 2,320 families in the United States carrying the Cheshire surname, Cheshire said. According to research, all Cheshires in the country are related, even though there are several different spellings of the family name. Such variations as Chesser and Cheshier are erroneous spellings handed down in record books over the years.

WILLIAM CHESHIRE was born and raised in Texas before moving to Joliet, Ill., to work for the Department of the Army. He later moved to New Jersey before finally moving to Rock Island in July 1973. While in Rock Island, Cheshire worked at the Arsenal until 1977, when he retired.

He is now completing 10 years of genealogical research on his family in preparation for a book he is writing, entitled "Chesh-

ire Heritage."

The original four Cheshires, Robert, John, William and Richard, came to the United States between the years 1635 and 1684, when the country was still a cluster of English colonies on the eastern seaboard. Richard was a ship's captain and William Cheshire is his descendant.

Capt. Cheshire is first found in the record books as being a resident of the province of Maryland in 1684. After the Revolutionary War, those who fought received entitlements for land in the newly formed country and the Cheshires were among them.

This started Richard Cheshire's family moving. After the Civil War, his family moved farther up the country and many settled in Louisiana and Texas. William Cheshire was born 59 years ago in Gary, Texas.



WANTED - *Cheshire* *Cheshire* *Cheshire*
The burial site of James Cheshire, who died near here in 1822. Please contact Mrs. Dwight L. Brim, 220 South Ridge Road, Okawville, Iowa, 52533.

Genealogical Society

Blackhawk Genealogical Society will have its annual dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Grand Stop in Moline. The meeting will begin at 5. A program on photography will be presented by James Old. Interested persons are invited.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 is the date for the special annual joint meeting of the Scott County, Iowa Genealogical Society and the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island County, Ill.

June Berekman of Chicago will speak on "Genealogical Research in the Wonderful City of Chicago." The meeting is at 7 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 7th Avenue and 22nd St., Moline, Ill.

Genealogical conference planned

The Blackhawk and Scott County Genealogical Societies will co-sponsor the Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference May 2 at the Viking Club, Moline.

The registration fee is \$15 and includes three featured speakers yet to be announced. There also will be exhibitors of genealogical materials.

Early registration is encouraged. Send a check with name and address to Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference, P.O. Box 932, Moline, 61265. For more information, call 762-5183 or 326-1390.

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Emphasis 11-29-81



—Dispatch photo by Gary Krambeck

Genealogists elect officers

Blackhawk Genealogy Club has elected officers for the coming year. Seated are, from left, first vice president Larry Neuerberg, Rock Island; president Joseph Normoyle, Rock Island; and secretary Joanne Loete, Moline. Standing are treasurer Betty

Westensee, Rock Island; historian Bernice Moseley, Milan; registrar Mildred Sutton, Rock Island; and corresponding secretary Grace Eastland, Rock Island.

1982

Dec. 22, 1981
Moline



MRS. DARLING

Miss Cornelia J. Darling, 81, of 2140 Second St., Moline, died at 10:45 a.m. Monday at Moline Public Hospital.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Knox-Larson Funeral Home, Rock Island. Dr. John W. Collins, pastor of First United Methodist Church, will officiate and burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Moline.

Friends may call from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. The Rock Island Chapter 269, Order of Eastern Star, of which she was a 50-year member, will present the OES service at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Miss Darling was born April 8, 1900, in Rock Island, the daughter of William A. and Maria Simmon

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

1982

Darling.

She took nurses' training at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, and was graduated from the University of Iowa School of Nursing in 1925. She did private duty nursing in El Paso, Texas, for two years, and spent two summers at Cloud Croft, N. M., hospital for children's care. She went to Mexico in 1927 to work at the American Smelting Corporation hospital.

Later she was employed at University Hospitals, Iowa City, in the orthopedic department. She became head nurse at Moline Public Hospital in 1934. During her employment there she was evening supervisor, admitting department nurse and became director of nursing service in 1961, which post she held until her retirement June 30, 1975.

Miss Darling was a member of the University of Iowa School of Nursing Alumni, a member of the American Nurses Association, of the Illinois Nurses Association, the Old Gold Club at the University of Iowa and of the President's Club there. She also was a 50-year member of First United Methodist Church, Rock Island.

Surviving are a sister, Miss Harriet C. Darling, with whom she resided; a brother, Phillip H. of Indianapolis, Ind.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Stella Ehman, last September.



Plan genealogy program

Ruth Griffin, seated, curator of Mercer County Museum, and Chery McCaw, president of the genealogical division and secretary of Mercer County Historical Society, check local records at Mercer County Courthouse, Aledo. The Historical

Society, in conjunction with the Mercer County Homemakers Extension, will sponsor a genealogy program from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday in the downstairs meeting room of the Farm Bureau building. The public is invited. (Argus photo)

Jan. 25, 1982, Argus

Genealogy program set in Mercer

ALEDO — Roy Roba, certified genealogical records researcher and vice president of the Scott County, Iowa, Genealogical Society will present a program entitled, "Hints and suggestions to use in researching your family", 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Farm Bureau building, Aledo.

ROBA WILL speak on migration, libraries, land records, censuses, letters, pictures, gazetteers, old documents and maps.

Roba is retired from John Deere and has researched his own family history for over 25 years.

Those who wish to learn

how to do this research are urged to attend the event which is open to the public at no charge.

THE MERCER County Homemakers Association and the Genealogy Division of the county historical society, directed by Cheryl McCaw, are sponsoring the evening.

March 10, 1982
Rock Island

Mrs. Simmon

Mrs. Carrie E. Simmon, 104, of 2139 30th St., Rock Island, died at 10:35 p.m. Tuesday at Good Samaritan Home, Davenport.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the Knox-Larson Funeral Home, Rock Island. The Rev. Mark Bayert, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Rock Island, will officiate, and burial will be in Chippiannock Cemetery, Rock Island. Friends may call from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Central Presbyterian Church, Rock Island, or to the Endowment Trust Fund of the Order of Eastern Star. The former Carrie Colburn was born Oct. 7, 1877, in Rock Island, the daughter of Jovett E. and Mary Ann Wilson Colburn. She was a life resident of Rock Island.



Mrs. Simmon

She was married to Peter C. Simmon Sept. 30, 1903, in Rock Island. He died Oct. 16, 1958.

As a young woman Mrs. Simmon had worked for the Adams Wallpaper Co., formerly on 20th Street, for many years, where she cleaned and framed pictures. Until recently she had been active and assisted in the care of the home she shared with her daughter and son-in-law.

Mrs. Simmon was a member of South Park Presbyterian Church and formerly taught Sunday School for many years. She also was a former member of Circle 5 of the Women's Association. She was a member of Fort Armstrong Chapter, DAR; a 50-year member and past worthy matron of Rock Island Chapter No. 269, OES, a former member and treasurer of Vashti White Shrine of Jerusalem; and a former member of the Woman's Club of Rock Island.

Jan. 29, 1982

Francis Moseleys to be honored for 40th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Moseley of Milan will be honored at open house on Sunday in observance of their 40th wedding anniversary. All relatives and friends are invited to call from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Union Federal Savings and Loan Association, Milan.

CHARTER MEMBER - PRESENT LIBRARIAN

The former Bernice Normoyle and Mr. Moseley, both of Rock Island, were married Jan. 29, 1942, in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Peoria. They have resided most of the time since in Milan.

The couple have four sons, Michael of Moline, Alan and Dennis, both of Rock Island, and Timothy, Milan, and a daughter, Mrs. Dennis (Marilyn) Bergstrand of Rock Island. There are 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Moseley was self employed at Moseleys Building Lumber Supplies, Milan, for 30 years. Later he was employed by Rock Island County for 10 years, retiring in 1981.

The Moseleys are members of St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church in Milan.

Genealogical society to meet

The Black Hawk Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the community room of the Union Federal Savings & Loan Association in Milan.

Gerri Crain of Western Illinois University will speak on "Methods of Writing Personal Biographies" and tell how to enter the writing contest sponsored by the university.

The public is invited. For further information call 787-1069.

Jan 29, 1982 Argus

Genealogy is topic of senior writing contest

By Duaine D. Carlson
Argus staff writer

People are born and people die and in between are the sights and sounds, the colors and smells of daily living. Jerrilee Cain informed the Blackhawk Genealogical Society in a recent workshop in Milan on how to write interesting genealogies.

Cain is the director of a creative writing contest, Tales From Two Rivers III -1982, which is sponsored by Western Illinois University at Macomb. The contest is open to all native Illinoisians between the ages of 60 and 106.

This year's entries should be postmarked no later than Feb. 28 and contest winners will be announced in May.

MANUSCRIPT LENGTH is 500 to 1,500 words and should be original and unpublished personal reminiscences of the history of an Illinois family, community or county. There are two categories, including places that are gone or changed and events associated with those places. The second category is of people who have influenced the writer's life or community.

There will be two \$50 first prizes; two \$40 second prizes; two \$25 third prizes; ten \$4 fourth prizes and 20 honorable mention certificates.

CAIN SAID IF A WRITER is describing grandparents, or any person, the color and type of clothing that person always wore should be included. Her own grandfather, a pipe smoker, smelled of his own home-grown tobacco which he carried in a pouch in the pocket of his bib overalls.

Writing about the sounds of long-forgotten cars and farm machinery, Cain said don't just write "the Model T sounded like a Model T." Remember, she said, the

present generation doesn't know how a Model T sounded, nor will it have the opportunity to hear a Model T, so that sound must be described.

She said when people relate stories orally, they usually speak more colorful because, when written, the author considers certain things unimportant and leaves them out. In those instances, Cain said, the flavor of the story is lost.

For example, in a recent workshop an elderly lady reminisced about her horse and buggy childhood days living in an Irish neighborhood of Chicago where the streets were made of logs.

In the hot, humid Chicago summers, the neighborhood reeked of "what the horses were to do", which had soaked into the logs, saturating the wooden street over the years. The odor was especially overcoming after a summer rain.

IN TIME, the street was replaced and the residents tore up the logs to use them as fuel in their cook stoves.

The odor from the burning logs permeated the houses. Cain told the elderly storyteller it was a fantastic story with lots of color, sound, and smells, urging her to put it on paper.

The lady did, however, she didn't include the horses' contribution to the story, leaving out the cause of the neighborhood's well-remembered odors. Consequently, in the story's written version, Cain said, the gist of the story was lost.

"Smell is the greatest memory we have," she said. "Include it in your stories, as well as the sounds of your past, like train and factory whistles."

Contest entries should be mailed to: Tales From Two Rivers III, Jerrilee Cain, Director, 204 Sallee Hall, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois, 61455.



Contest director

Jerrilee Cain, director of Tales From Two Rivers III, a contest open to native Illinoisians between the ages of 60 and 106, recently gave a workshop on writing interesting genealogies for the Blackhawk Genealogical Society at the Union Federal Building, Milan. The personal reminiscent contest is sponsored by Two Rivers Arts Council of Western Illinois University at Macomb. (Argus photo by Duaine Carlson)

May 12, 1982

Attitude is the key

By Robert E. Millett
McCabe's
Member, R.I. Chamber of Commerce

What does it mean to be a Rock Islander?

Sometimes you wonder, especially when the media get to picking about all the bad things in Rock Island. Yes, our city is not perfect but I haven't found a perfect one yet; however I like living in



Rock Island where I earn my living. I have always found "be people friendly and cooperative and responsive.

In genealogy we have a story which really illustrates how important attitude is in determining your outlook.

In the 1870s, a couple and their family were moving west and they came to an old man sitting beside the road. They asked him "What kind of people live around here?"

He said, "What were they like where you came from?"

THE COUPLE'S ANSWER was, "We left there because the people were selfish, mean, uncooperative and unneighborly."

The old man said, "You better keep moving as you'll find the same type of people here."

Later another wagon came along with a young family. They stopped to talk to the old man and said, "We are looking for a good place to settle and raise our family and were wondering about whether this community would be good place to live."

The old man asked, "What kind of a community did you leave?"

THE YOUNG LADY answered, "We hated to leave there as the people were neighborly, friendly and cooperative but we needed more land and no more was available."

The old man said, "Look no further, the people here are just like the ones you left behind and I know you'll like living here!"

To sum up, we are the community. We have the will, the energy, the outlook to make it better. Even though at the present it is the best community in the Quad-Cities area, we can never rest on past laurels. As good as Rock Island is, by working together we can make it even a better city to live in and raise our families. I'm happy to be called a Rock Islander!

CHARTER MEMBER

Milan

July 15, 1982
Mrs. Sisson

Mrs. Geraldine Sisson, 52, of 5707 120th Ave. W, Milan, died at her home at noon yesterday, following a lengthy illness.

Visitation will be at the Larson Funeral Home, Milan, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, where an Eastern Star service will be held at 7 p.m., conducted by Milan Chapter No. 126, OES.

The body will be taken to the Schaffer & Son Funeral Home in Kahoka, Mo., where visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday. Funeral services will be held there at 1:30 p.m. Friday. The Rev. Carl Martin will officiate in Kahoka, and burial will be in Kahoka Cemetery.

The former Geraldine M. Morris was born Nov. 23, 1929, in Williamson, Mo., the daughter of Tommy R. and Ella Mae Clifton Morris. She moved to Burlington, Iowa, in

1949, and to Milan 30 years ago. She was educated in rural Williamstown and Kahoka.

She was married to Sidney K. Sisson July 10, 1949, in Luray, Mo.

Mrs. Sisson was employed by the ordnance depot of the Army Ammunition Plant in Burlington from 1950 to 52. She later worked for the former Buddy-L Company in Moline for several years, and the East End Grocery in Milan for many years. For the past four years she owned and operated Gerry's Upholstery Shop in her home.

She was a past worthy matron of Milan Chapter No. 326, OES, and was a charter member of the Blackhawk Genealogy Society, Rock Island.

Surviving are her husband; a son, Phillip of Moline; her parents in Williamstown, Mo.; a sister, Mrs. David Johnson of Sierra Vista, Ariz.; a brother, Richard Morris of Williamstown; and three nieces.

Genealogy seminar set for Oct. 6

Two trained genealogy specialists are in the Quad-Cities and will conduct a seminar on genealogy. Beginning Oct. 6 and continuing for four consecutive Wednesdays, they will talk on different subjects such as: getting started in genealogy, sources for finding genealogy, research process and filing, and writing personal and family histories.

Deep in the Wasatch range of the Rocky Mountains, Mormons preserve a genealogical treasure: the vital records of more than a billion people.

Stored under 700 feet of granite are more than a million rolls of microfilm tracing a historic roster of family names. Research crews on every continent add more rolls at the rate of 5,000 every month. The microfilm is protected from flood, fire and other natural or manwrought disasters.

Duplicates of the films can be found in the Genealogical Society's headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah, and are available to anyone wishing to study and explore their genealogy.

To find out more about the seminars and to reserve a place in class, call 796-1879.

Genealogy group marks 10th year

Nov. 24, 1982

The 10th anniversary of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society was observed with a dinner meeting last night at the First Congregational Church, Moline.

Grace Eastland of Rock Island, was elected the new president. She replaced Joseph Normoyle, of Rock Island, who has been the president of the society for the past year. His wife, Phyllis was the first president of the group 10 years ago.

The society researches family history and plans trips over the trails ancestors took across the frontiers.

Some of the members have even gone to other countries to trace their family trees. In the past 10 years nearly 400 people from 23 states have been listed as members. A quarterly magazine, Smoke Signals, begun by Laura Millett, of Rock Island, is one of the benefits of society membership. The magazine has since been taken over by Joan Loete, of Moline.

The magazine features local history statistics and is an aid to researchers. Several out-of-state libraries subscribe to it.

The society has reprinted several articles dealing with county history.

A cemetery committee, currently headed by Eva Fuhr, of Taylor Ridge, has read and listed almost every gravesite in the county.

The group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month with the exception of December. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Union Federal Savings and Loan building in Milan.

James Sampsons honored at 40th anniversary party

Mr. and Mrs. James Sampson, 4014 35th St., Rock Island, were honored with a surprise party yesterday at The Plantation, Moline, in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary.

The former Lucille Sadoris, Port Byron, and Mr. Sampson, Savanna, were married Nov. 15, 1942, in Port Byron. They previously resided in Savanna and New Lenox and have lived in Rock Island since 1962.

Hostesses for the party were the honoree's daughters, Maryanne Sherman, Ewing Township, N.J.; J.J. Caffery, Moline; Karen L. Sampson, Omaha, Neb.; and Cindy Sampson, Rock

Island. Mr. Sampson retired from the U.S. Army Weapons Command at Rock Island Arsenal in 1973. He and his wife are members of First United Methodist Church, Rock Island, and the Rock Island County Historical Society. She also is active in the Quarters, Blackhawk Genealogical Society and Scott County Genealogical Society.

Nov. 24, 1982

Meeting location changed

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the entry of Bergendoff Hall at Augustana College, 7th Avenue and 35th Street, Rock Island. Doors will be locked at 7:15 p.m. The group will meet on the third floor.

A city directory will explain the Swedish Swedish Genealogy Center Collections. For more information,

Nov. 19, 1982

Article Photo by Jay Bryant

Traditional dress

Bill Lee and his wife, Peggy, of Moline play the bagpipes for the Rev. Robert Ruppert of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Bettendorf. The Lees played during the "Kirklin O' Tartan" ceremony held last weekend at the church. The ceremony of Scottish descent involves puffing pieces of cloth from a particular tartan into a basket. The basket is then blessed by the minister. Each family or clan in Scotland has a clan tartan which they wear.

Nov. 19, 1982

By Judy Pochel
Asbury staff writer

Since the book and the movie, "Roots" came out in the late 1970's there has been a growing urge for people to find out the history of their families. Locally, in the Quad-Cities a group has begun that looks into the ancestry of the Scottish people. The group is called the Scottish American Society of the Quad-Cities.

Last Sunday the group held their annual "Kirklin O' Tartan" at Asbury Methodist Church in Bettendorf. This is the second year the group has held the traditional ceremony and next year they plan to have the ceremony at a church in Illinois. They say they will rotate churches used for the event on a yearly basis.

BRUCE MORRISON, MOLLINE, president of the local group said the ceremony is a yearly event in which the members of the group march into the church in full dress and put pieces of cloth (tartans) into a basket. The basket is then presented to the minister who dedicates the cloth and says a prayer.

The "Kirklin O' Tartan" is only a part of what the group does each year. The organization began was with a Burns Supper held yearly around the 26th of February. That is the birthday of Robert Burns, a great Scottish poet. He is most famous for writing the song heard annually at the first of the year, "Auld Lang Syne."

The local group began in January of 1978 when William Beard, then a caterer at the Fort Armstrong Hotel, held a dinner in honor of Robert Burns. Nearly 300 people showed up at that first dinner and the first organizers were so impressed they began having the dinner as an annual event. The club began shortly afterward.

JACK MACDADE OF DAVENPORT was the first president of the local organization and was at the first dinner. He said there are 100 people in the group but usually over 300 show up for the dinner. Macdahe said the dinner this year will be Feb. 26 at the Blackhawk Hotel in Davenport. He said anyone interested in Scottish history is invited to the dinner and is encouraged to join the club.

The current president of the organization is Bruce Morrison. He and his wife, Sue are quite interested in their heritage and have taken on the task of learning of their heritage as a hobby. They both have had dress tartans and enjoy going to Scottish events together.



The Morrison motto crest is a picture of an arm coming out of a Fort with the words "Dun Elstern," which translates as Fort in Lewis, inscribed above the emblem.

According to Scottish records the Morrison clan descended from a group of people who were shipwrecked on the shores of the island of Lewis and were saved by clinging to driftwood. For that reason the badge of the fort was chosen.

The origin of the name Morrison is "Son of Malarice." The plant badge is driftwood and the war cry, "Dun Uis-dean."

ONE OF THE OTHER important family traditions in Scotland is that of the family tartan. Mrs. Morrison said in 1745 Scotland lost a battle to England called The Battle of Culloden. A proclamation was then handed down stating that the tartan dress could not be worn. When the ban was lifted in 1782 some of the tartan weavers had died and some of the patterns were lost. Today, tartans have to pass the Lord of Lyons to make sure of their accuracy.

The actual ceremony of "The Kirklin O' Tartan" was first performed in the United States in the 1890s by Peter Marshall, then chaplain of the Senate.



MORRISON

1983

Scrapbooks — An invaluable assistance to local history researchers

History mementos

Nov. 30, 1982

Linnea Skarp's numerous scrapbooks are a record of Milan's growth and progress. The pages are full of items clipped from three daily newspapers. Photos of Ronald Reagan, in the open book on the floor, share a scrapbook of movie star pictures that Skarp started when she was a teenager.

By Duaine D. Carlson
Argus staff writer

The United States has its Library of Congress and National Archives available for history researchers, but when the researchers for Milan's recently published history, *Travels in Time*, started compiling information for the 250-page book, they borrowed Mrs. Viking (Linnea) Skarp's scrapbooks. Her well-known collection of scrapbooks, full of newspaper clippings concerning Milan's history, was an invaluable assistance to the local history researchers.

THE MILAN NATIVE is an adherent to the axiom that "today's news is tomorrow's history." A subscriber to the three daily Quad-Cities area newspapers, Skarp clips out items pertaining to relatives and friends, organizations of which she is a member and the "comings and goings" of Milan.

She has saved every Milan page, which has carried a feature in *The Argus*, since June of 1978.

THE ROMAN orator-statesman Cicero said, "History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time, vitalizes memory and brings us tidings of antiquity." Skarp's daily newspaper items of history, pasted in scrapbooks, testify to the growth and progress of Milan, as well as recording the village's daily data of births, weddings and deaths.

Skarp also has saved the last few years' issues of the *Milan Independent*, a weekly newspaper which, after 69 years, was published for the last time on April 27, 1971.

Working with her numerous scrapbooks — clipping and pasting — is good therapy and relaxation, said Skarp. Many of her scrapbooks belonged to her grandmother and mother, Nannie Gitt and Maydie Berg, respectively.

"THEY SAVED OLD songs and poems, as well as recipes from newspapers and magazines, in addition to wedding and birth announcements and obituaries of friends and relatives," Skarp said.

Her mother also saved for posterity, programs from banquets, church bulletins, commencement programs, anything that was handed out at special occasions.

"I think I got interested in saving when I helped Mother straighten out my grandmother's scrapbooks."



HER SISTER, Betty Lou Tobin, was born the day following the birth of the Dionne quintuplets. Skarp started a scrapbook on the famous Canadians because "my sister might like to have it someday."

In the mid-1930s, while a teenager, Skarp became enamored with movie stars, starting a scrapbook of her silver screen hero and heroine favorites. One of the scrapbooks is devoted to yellowing clippings of glamorous stars such as Errol Flynn, Jane Wyman, Sonja Henie and Ronald Reagan.

Looking at a two-page spread of Reagan's movie star clippings, Skarp said, "I can remember a friend telling me to save his pictures because he might be president someday."

Some of her scrapbooks are devoted to Rock Island and Moline, as well as a few of the area's smaller communities. There are also books on important happenings in Rock Island, Mercer and Henry Counties.

A 25-YEAR EMPLOYEE of Moline Public Hospital, where she is supervisor of telephone control, Skarp has a bulging scrapbook on the hospital's activities.

She doesn't confine her scrapbooks to only local news events and personalities. She also includes a potpourri of national and world-wide historically significant events, such as the recent death of Russian leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev.

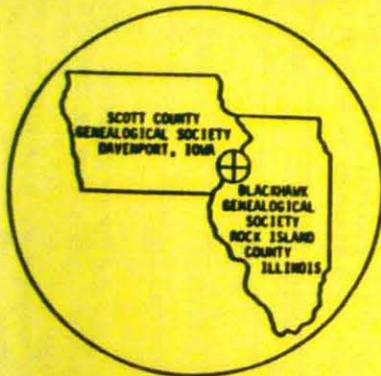
"I don't let a single paper be thrown away before I can go over it thoroughly," said Skarp.

IN ADDITION TO scrapbooks, Skarp also has numerous photo albums of family events, as well as special occasions of her church and organizations to which she belongs. The Skarps are members of First Presbyterian Church of Milan and she is a member of Loyal Circle, King's Daughters.

The Milan couple has visited Sweden and the other Scandinavian countries several times. Scrapbooks full of boat and plane tickets, travel brochures and picture postcards are mementos of the trips to her father's, the late Gus Berg, and husband's homeland.

NINTH ANNUAL QUAD CITIES GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 16, 1983
8:00 am—4:00 pm
Viking Club of Moline
1450 41st St., Moline, IL



Sponsored by
Scott County Genealogical Society
Blackhawk Genealogical Society

RI church to honor historian

Miriam Alice Walker Weeks will be honored by the congregation of First United Methodist Church, Rock Island, for 47 years of service as church historian during the 10:30 a. m. service Sunday.

Mrs. Weeks, a descendent of pioneer Methodists, is the daughter of Charles Leander Walker and Anna Guy Stoddard, and is a 56-year member of the First United Methodist congregations. She taught Sunday school, served on the administrative board and is a member of the Women's Society.



Miriam Weeks

She attended Rock Island public schools where she was valedictorian of the class of 1914 and is a graduate of Vassar College. She taught at Rock Island High School and at St. Katharine's School.

She was married to H. Parker Weeks on June 8, 1923, and they had one son, Robert Walker Weeks, three granddaughters, and two great-granddaughters.

Mrs. Weeks has served on the Visiting Nurses Association Board, Community Chest and for 35 years on the Bethany Home Board. She presently is on the board of the Rock Island County Historical Society, and a member of the board's library staff.

Her membership and interests include the Tri-City Garden Club, Blackhawk Genealogical Society, Friends of the Rock Island Public Library and Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk Park.

Way 12, 1983

Phyllis was our first president; Joe was 10th year prexy



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Normoyle

Joseph Normoyles to mark golden date at open house

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Normoyle, 2718 29th Ave., Rock Island, will be honored on their 50th wedding anniversary with open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Aug. 7 at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Col. and Mrs. John L. Michalski, 10 Wilderness Court, Rock Island.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend. It is requested that gifts be omitted.

The former Phyllis Stack and Mr. Normoyle were married Aug. 7, 1933, in St. Leo's Roman Catholic Church, Chicago.

Also giving the open house will be the honorees' sons and daughters-in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Normoyle and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Normoyle, all of Moline. Another son, Joseph R., resides in Queensland, Australia. There are 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Normoyle is chairman of the board of Normoyle-Berg Associates, Rock Island. The couple are members of St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church, Rock Island.

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Sunday, July 31, 1983



Honored

In recognition of their outstanding contributions, Community Service Awards were presented Wednesday night by the Milan Chamber of Commerce to Barbara Scott and Orville McCullough at the annual meeting at W.L. Velie's, Moline.

Argus Photo by Helen Gordon

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Friday, May 13, 1983

Chamber of Commerce installs officers and bestows honors

By Helen Gordon
Milan city editor

John Hoffman of 11910 W. 1st St., Milan, was installed as president of the Milan Chamber of Commerce at the annual dinner-meeting held recently at W.L. Velie's, Moline. He succeeds Jack Knapp.

The new president is the owner of Hoffman Construction.

Community service awards were presented to a Milan businessman and a Milan woman in recognition of their contributions to the community.

Orville McCullough, founder and owner of McCullough's Department Store, is a charter member and former president of the chamber.

The other honoree, Barbara Scott, has resided in Milan since 1951. A former teacher, Scott spent many hours compiling, selling and distributing the recently published book *Travels in Time*, a history of Milan sponsored by the village.

She also is an active member at First Presbyterian Church, serves one day each week as a volunteer records librarian for the Rock Island County Historical Society and is secretary of the Black-



John Hoffman

hawk Genealogical Society.

A World War II veteran, McCullough is a founding director of Blackhawk State Bank, a member of American Legion Post 569, Milan Masonic Lodge, Knights of Pythias 477 and was a charter member and former president of the Milan Lion's Club.

A number of other appreciation awards were also presented.

A resolution that has been adopted by the Illinois House of Representatives citing the accomplishments of the late Roy S. McGovern,

Milan, was read by Rep. Joel Brunsvold (D-Milan).

During his lifetime, McGovern had served as chairman of the Rock Island County Board of Supervisors, was county treasurer, Blackhawk Township supervisor, president of the Blackhawk Fire Protection District, a director of Blackhawk State Bank, first president of the Milan chamber and also was a member of several other local organizations.

A Navy veteran of World War II, McGovern died last October. Brunsvold presented copies of the resolution to McGovern's daughter, Marianne Schafer, for she and her mother, Rose Mary, to keep.

The program was provided by Ben Ulin, a magician from Des Moines, Iowa, and the Rock Island High School Jazz Band.

Over 100 members and guests attended. Ken Stearns of Stearns Electronics Service, 133 W. 1st Ave., Milan, was introduced as a new member. New membership booklets were distributed.

The chamber has scheduled a boat trip on the Julie Ann at 6 p.m. June 11.

Blackhawk Genealogical Society

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Union Federal Savings and Loan Assn., Milan. Program will be a workshop on U.S. genealogy and beginning genealogy.

Assisting with the program will be genealogists Robert Millett, North Eastern States; Laura Millett, New York State; Lucille Tenpound, Pennsylvania, and Mildren Sutton, Beginning Genealogy. The public is invited to attend.



Dr. Robert Dructor



Dr. Ben Bloxham

Genealogical Conference speakers named

Dr. Robert Dructor and Dr. Ben Bloxham will be featured speakers at the ninth annual Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference set for April 16 at the Viking Club, Moline.

Dr. Dructor is supervisor of the manuscripts and special collections section of the Pennsylvania State Archives. He received his doctorate degree at the University of Pittsburgh and concentrated on American Colonial history. He is an authority on genealogical research in Pennsylvania and will speak on that subject. Among the publications Dr. Dructor has authored is the *Guide to Genealogical Sources at the Pennsylvania State Archives*.

Dr. Bloxham is a professor of family and local history (including genealogy) at Brigham Young

University, Provo, Utah. He received his Ph.D. degree in British history from the University of Southampton, England. He spent two months this year doing genealogical research in England and will speak on that subject. Dr. Bloxham has authored several books and articles about family history research in England.

The full-day Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference is co-sponsored by the Blackhawk and Scott County Genealogical Societies. The registration fee is \$16. It includes four presentations, morning and afternoon coffee and a buffet luncheon. There also will be several genealogical exhibitors.

Registration may be made by sending a check with name and address to Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference, P.O. Box No. 932, Moline, Ill. 61265. For more information, call John Page at 355-3233 or Betty Westensee at 786-8213.

March 22, 1983

Blackhawk Genealogical Society

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Union Federal Building in Milan. Lucien Zamorski will present a program on how to recondition documents and photographs. Members are asked to bring samples for evaluation. Rosalie Mehall, past president of the Friends of the Rock Island Library, will talk about preserving old books. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Workshops are planned

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Union Federal Savings and Loan Building, Milan. Included in Tuesday's meeting will be workshops on getting started on orderly record-keeping on autobiographical and biographical writing. All those interested are invited to attend.

Organizations

1983

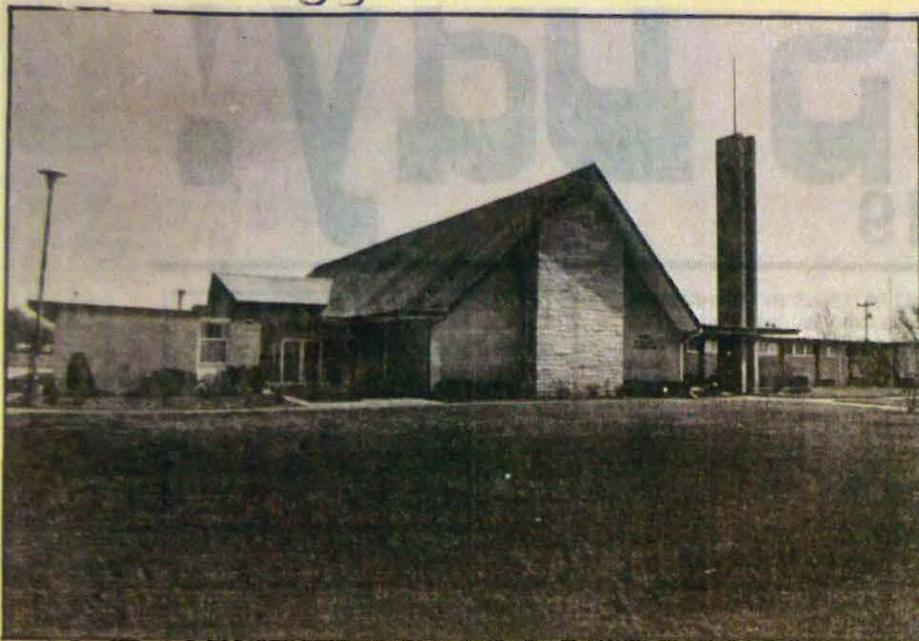
October

Blackhawk Genealogical Society

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Union Federal Building in Milan. The program will be "Stone Walls and How To Get Over Them," and those attending are invited to discuss any genealogical problems they have encountered or supply clues or new research ideas to help solve such problems. Persons interested in family research are invited.

Genealogy

Fascinating family hobby —
people become addicted to it



reference materials. However, they do have a small collection of books, most of which are "how to" books on genealogical research. They also have copies of research papers, each one explaining how to research a particular country.

SOME OF THE OTHER "hard copy" (as opposed to microfilm or microfiche materials) they have includes copies of *Genealogy Helper* magazine, and pamphlets and books that direct researchers on where to write for more information.

The vast majority of the library's material is on microfilm or microfiche. One of the prime resources is the microfilm copy of the card catalog at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City. The Davenport branch has the complete English portion of the card catalog, and they have ordered catalogs in other languages as they became necessary.

ALSO ON MICROFILM, the library has: gazetteers (geographical dictionaries) of Germany, Sweden, England and the United States; a complete record of the papers and talks presented at the 1969 World Conference on Records, which was sponsored by the Genealogical Society; registers and indexes for a number of countries, an index of Revolutionary War pensions and records of passengers entering the United States.

On microfiche, the library has the International Genealogical Index, which includes 6000 cards with about 10,000 names on each. The index is the actual listing of names taken from sources such as birth, marriage and death certificates, and they're computerized by name so that the researcher can check to see if any work

Houses library

The new Davenport Stake Branch of the Genealogical Library is housed in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4929 Wisconsin Ave. The services of the library are open to anyone wishing to do genealogical research, free

of charge. Beginning genealogy classes are also being offered at no charge throughout the area (there have already been classes in the Quad-Cities, Clinton and Muscatine), but there is a waiting list.

By Kathy Maeglin
Argus staff writer

March 18 '83

My mother once told me that my great-great-great-grandfather owned a tobacco plantation in Virginia, and that he had a mail-order bride.

Such interesting little facts about a person's ancestral heritage make one's own life seem more significant. That could be one of the reasons genealogy, the study of family ancestries, has become so popular.

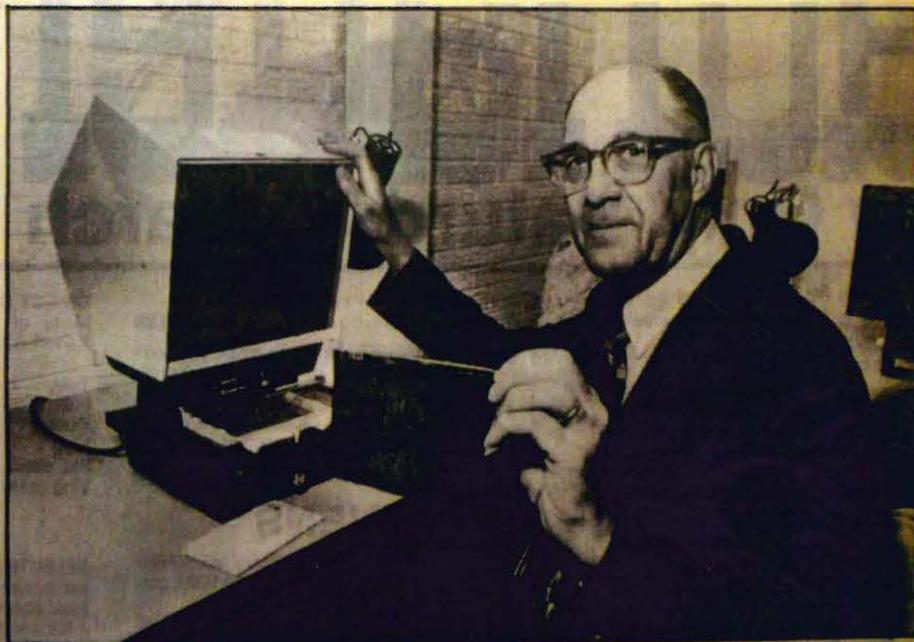
For Quad-Citians who are interested in researching their own ancestors, a new Davenport Stake Branch Genealogical Library recently opened at 4929 Wisconsin Ave., Davenport, in the meeting house of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (The Mormon Church.)

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN to the public on Wednesdays from noon to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and there is no charge for using it.

Lloyd McClellan, library supervisor, explained that the library is a branch of the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, which is the largest of its kind in the world. "Anytime a local unit feels it has the need and the resources for a branch, they apply to Salt Lake City to get approval and then set up," said McClellan.

BEFORE THE DAVENPORT branch was established, the closest branches were in Cedar Rapids and Chicago. "We felt we needed one here," McClellan said, "so we decided last fall that we had the financial and personnel resources necessary, and we could establish one." The library opened for use on Jan. 12 of this year.

Since the library is a branch, most of its contents are



Argus Photos by Pat McLaughlin

10,000 names per card

Lloyd McClellan, Taylor Ridge, supervisor of the new Davenport Stake Branch of the Genealogical Library, holds up one of the microfiche cards from the International Genealogical Index. Each card contains approximately 10,000 names. He is

sitting at one of the library's eight microfiche readers. The library is open to the public on Wednesdays from noon to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quad-Cities

Mormons will film records

By Kevin Jeffries
Argus staff writer

The Genealogical Society of Utah, which is part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, more commonly known as the Mormons, has offered to microfilm Rock Island County records free of charge.

County Clerk of Court Ted Nelson is quite excited about the proposal, although when representatives of the society approached him about the deal he was "skeptical." Nelson said society representatives came to him two weeks ago to make the offer, but the first thing that came to mind is "why would someone want to do this for nothing."

Continued from preceding page

has already been done on that name.

In order to find a name in the index, it is necessary to know the location of the event, since the cards are filed by location. Most of the information in the index dates from 1870 back.

Also on microfiche, the library has: updates on the card catalog; a surname file, which lists all of the names that appear in the books in the Salt Lake City library; a subject file, an author index and a title index of the books in Salt Lake City, all of which are available on microfilm for a small mailing and handling fee.

IN THE AREA OF EQUIPMENT, the library has seven microfilm and eight microfiche readers. However, McClellan explained, since the demand for use of the library has been greater than expected, they've had to order three more microfilm and two more microfiche readers.

The library also has available, for a small fee, paper supplies (such as pedigree charts and family group sheets) to aid researchers in recording their findings. As McClellan said, "We recommend they keep good records of what they've researched, to avoid a duplication of errors."

THE LIBRARY'S STAFF includes eleven volunteers, with two to five on duty at any one time. The volunteers are church members from throughout the area. McClellan's wife, Gayla, serves at the head librarian, and the couple is from Taylor Ridge.

McClellan said they are offering free beginning genealogy classes throughout the area (they have already had classes in the Quad-Cities, Clinton and Muscatine), but there is a waiting list.

"This area has always had a tremendous interest in genealogy," McClellan said. "There are four active genealogical societies in the area, including the Clinton, Muscatine, Scott County and Black Hawk genealogical societies. Also, both states have very active societies, so the availability of information is good in both states."

MCCLELLAN ADDED THAT he thinks the popularity of *Roots* gave genealogy a big boost. "It's a fascinating hobby — people become addicted to it. And it's also a family hobby."

The Mormons have a special reason for being so involved in genealogical research. They believe that family relationships should last forever, and that families may be bound together under God's plan not just for this life, but for all eternity.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints spend much time and money gathering genealogies to identify their kindred dead. Once the ancestor has been clearly identified, his descendant, if worthy to do so, may take the name of that person and enter into a temple of the Lord to perform a vicarious baptism.

THUS, ALL MEMBERS of a deceased family may be assembled into a family unit. As McClellan explained, the Mormons perform the necessary work here on earth but it is still up to the deceased ancestor to decide whether to accept the baptism.

On discovering that some 35 other counties in Illinois had already accepted the offer, Nelson decided to contact other clerks elsewhere in the state. He found out that when the society filmed files for other counties the result was a savings in space and time for county officials. He said as far as he knows there were no problems in other counties, so he decided to take the society up on its offer.

Sometime next spring, he said, the society will begin filming more than 80,200 files from the clerk's office. The files, presently stored in the basement of the courthouse, have been a constant problem for Nelson. He said the project will make a lot of room available at the courthouse for file storage because paper files can be disposed of when they are placed on microfilm.

THE SOCIETY WILL store copies of the files in a vault built in the side of a granite mountain located in Utah, Nelson said. Nelson will send a copy of the microfilmed record to the state archives for storage and the county will retain a copy of its own.

The society aids government and private institutions in securing records that could be lost through man-made and natural disasters. The society's vault has a storage capacity for files which amounts to over 25 million volumes of 300 pages each.

Acceptance of the proposal, Nelson said, means the county will have to purchase a reader/printer, similar to those used in libraries for viewing microfilm, so copies of specific records can be distributed to those who need them.

Nelson said that had the society not made the offer to film the documents, it would have probably never gotten done. The county just doesn't have available funds to do the job, he said.



Argus Photo by Jim Collins

County gains space

Rock Island County clerk of court Ted Nelson said today that he will gain a lot of space for file storage sometime this spring when the Utah Genealogical Society, part of the Mormon Church, begins microfilming county records. He said files that are presently stored in boxes in the basement of the courthouse can be shifted upstairs when the filming begins. The Mormons plan to film some 80,200 separate documents at the courthouse free of charge.

9-14-83

RI County to get some help

By Tom Davidson
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Sometime next spring, one of Rock Island County's perennial headaches will ease a bit — and it won't cost taxpayers a penny.

Researchers from the Genealogical Society of Utah have offered to microfilm more than 80,000 pages of county records for free, easing a storage crunch in the courthouse basement while helping to preserve century-old records.

County Clerk of Courts Ted Nelson said he was a bit leery of the offer at first, but decided to accept it after checking with other court clerks in Illinois.

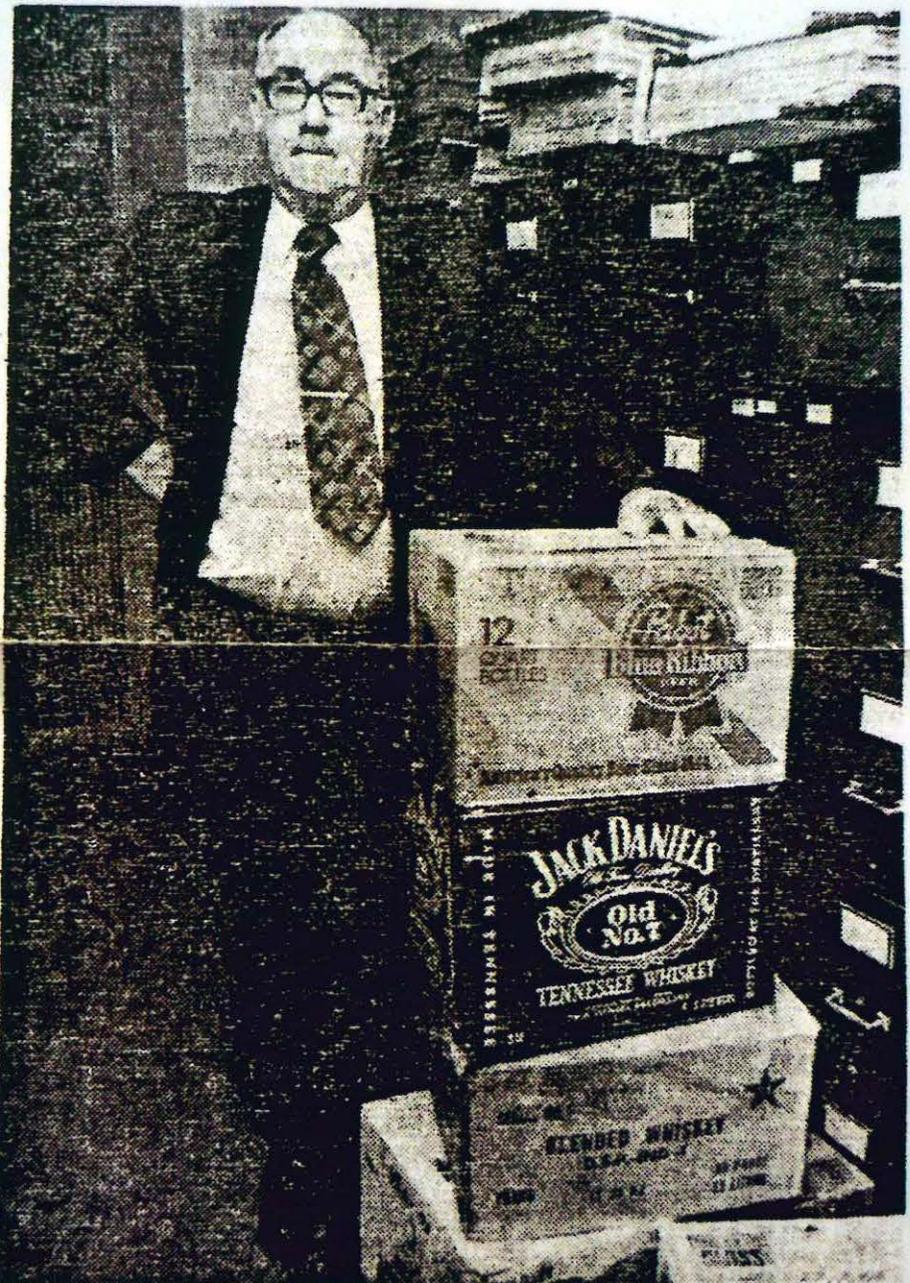
The genealogical society is an arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — better known as the Mormon Church.

Society spokesman Tom Daniels said the service is designed to compile a microfilm library of records from around America and the world that might otherwise be lost.

The group's library holds more than a million rolls of microfilm records compiled since the program began in 1938.

Filming is scheduled to begin in May, Nelson said.

UP TO 1900



With an offer to microfilm county records for free, County Clerk of Courts Ted Nelson won't have to squeeze records into boxes and on top of file cabinets. (Times photo)

OF HUMAN INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS. Helma Moore



If I were in charge...



By DONALD L. HEFLIN

IF I WERE in charge, I would create a cemetery agency.

In my search for information concerning my progenitors, I have found that there is no city, county, state or federal agency that has the power to safeguard, regulate, control, protect, archive and preserve the gravesites of our forebears.

If I were in charge, I'd create an agency that could house the extant records of all of the cemeteries, save the large ones that seem to have an existing office and records-keepers. The agency would have the funds to see that the cemeteries were refurbished; headstones repaired or replaced, and markers of simple design placed on those that have none.

RECENTLY, I CALLED the local historical society to seek any records of the Michigan Bar Cemetery. A girl said she knew nothing of this cemetery, let alone of any records. She gave me a state phone number to call, since the area of Michigan Bar had been dedicated as a California State Historical Monument. This phone number resulted in another phone number, and so on until I had placed over a dozen calls.

I even contacted three local funeral directors. Nothing.

A CALL, LATER that same day, brought me in contact with a Sonora man who operated a back-hoe. He did not have control of the 38 cemeteries in that area, but did excavate in many of them. He did not know the location of the Michigan Bar Cemetery, either.

Maybe I have not been put in contact with the right person. Maybe there is an agency or department of our government where cemetery records are housed. If not, I strongly recommend that one be created.

IF AN AGENCY were created, it should:

- Seek extant records of all existing cemeteries, whether on private or public land.
- Survey the plot to establish boundaries, and then reference the perimeter -- to contain the area as well as protect.
- Determine every possibly entry.
- Repair, replace and/or install markers on all graves.
- Erect a proper entrance and roadway, for those that care to come to visit.
- See that some sort of minimum maintenance is restored.

June 14, 1983

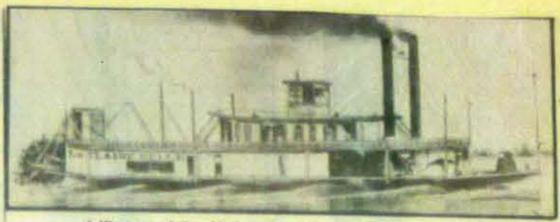
Museum finds gravestones of Lincoln kin, river pilot



Hanks gravestone



Huginin gravestone



A likeness of the old steamboat, "LeClaire Belle," appears on the backside of the tombstone of its master, Capt. James Huginin, who is buried in Ruud Cemetery near Albany, Ill. Stephen Hanks, first cousin of Abraham Lincoln, also is buried in the cemetery.

By Jim Arpy
QUAD-CITY TIMES

ALBANY, Ill. — Abraham Lincoln's first cousin, a respected Mississippi River boat pilot in the 1800s, is buried in the small Ruud cemetery just east of here.

Nearby, with a likeness of his steamboat chiseled on his tombstone, is the grave of a LeClaire pilot.

Harold Kennedy, curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum, LeClaire, says he found both graves about six weeks ago after hearing reports that a Lincoln relative was interred in the cemetery.

Kennedy believes few are aware the graves are there or know of the Lincoln connection.

The father of Capt. Stephen B. Hanks (1822-1917), the Albany pilot, was the brother of Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks. She married Thomas Lincoln in 1806 and died in 1818 when Abraham Lincoln was only 9. A year later, Lincoln's father married Sarah Bush Johnston.

Nancy Hanks' brother died at an early age, too. After his death, his 12-year-old son, Stephen, made his home with the Alfred Slocumb family, which moved to Albany in 1836.

Capt. Stephen Hanks worked in the logging areas of northern Wisconsin and helped run the lumber rafts downriver to St. Louis, the museum's research shows. That experience helped him become a riverboat pilot.

Don Sorenson, a LeClaire photographer who helped Kennedy locate the graves, says he has learned that Capt. Hanks was a determined man.

Late in 1843, two rafts made it downriver only as far as Albany. That January, Hanks took a pair of mules and sleds and followed the frozen Mississippi and St. Croix rivers all the way back to St. Croix Falls for the other rafts.

Boats on which Hanks served as captain included the "Dr. Franklin II," the "Galena," "Alhambra," "Ida Fulton," "Bro. Jonathan," "Hartford" and "Artemus Lamb."

The other pilot buried in the Albany cemetery is Capt. James Huginin (1829-1906). His steam raft boat, the "LeClaire Belle," was built in the Van Sant shipyards in LeClaire.

Its builder was Capt. Sam Van Sant, who later became governor of Minnesota. The boatyard was struggling to stay in business at the time,

and building the craft apparently left Van Sant financially strapped. He referred to the boat unofficially as "The Poverty."

His wife, though, strongly objected to the name and when the supervising inspector's office in Galena, Ill., sent a telegram demanding an official name

without delay, her husband was absent so she dubbed it the "LeClaire Belle."

"In a sense, by having the 'LeClaire Belle's' likeness chiseled on the back of his tombstone, Capt. Huginin managed to immortalize it," Sorenson says.

June 16, 1983



Argus Photo by Pat McLaughlin

Historical House

Lucille Sampson, archivist; Agnes Bauer, library assistant, and James R. Sampson, president of the Rock Island County Historical Society, all of Rock Island, admire a Victorian desk and a

carriage robe owned by Bailey Davenport and now used as a wall hanging in the hall of the County Historical House, Moline. The house will be open to the public on Sunday.



Cleo Robertson has some proof of her link to Abraham Lincoln.
(Times photo by Harry Boll)

Lincoln's kin — in RI

When Cleo Robertson closes her eyes, the years slip away and the Rock Island woman is once again a little girl gazing up at the tall burly steamboat captain who was her link to a famous relative, Abraham Lincoln.

Convincing others that she related to the Great Emancipator is something that has bedeviled Mrs. Robertson for most of her 73 years, though she has ample proof of direct descendancy.

The big captain, famed in his own right as a pilot and master riverman, was Stephen B. Hanks of Albany, Ill., her great-grandfather. His father, Thomas Hanks, was the brother of Nancy Hanks, who became Lincoln's mother. That made Mrs. Robertson Lincoln's fourth cousin.

She offers a fading photograph that shows her posing as a child of four, with Capt. Hanks, still erect and proud at 83. He died two days before his 80th birthday.

"The thing I remember most about him is that he always had some of those big

Woman of the week

'They'd never believe me so I'd get kind of mad and clam up.'

She now lives in the Tower Terrace apartments, 2920 24th St., with her retired husband, Glen.

Most members of her family grew up in Albany, though Mrs. Robertson was reared in East Moline. She remembers trying to convince classmates there that she was related to Lincoln.

"They'd never believe me so I'd get kind of mad and clam up," she recalls. She didn't get a much better response when she mentioned the relationship to an attendant at Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield.

"I'd brought along some proof, but he didn't seem interested. I don't think he believed me, either," Mrs. Robertson says.

Mrs. Robertson was married in a ceremony near Al

tended his grave for years. In a colorful 75 years on the river, he was the first man — and the last — to float raftboats down the Mississippi from the north woods.

A full chapter in Charles Edward Russell's book, "A Rafting on the Mississippi," is dedicated to the exploits of Mrs. Robertson's great-grandfather. She also has collected more than 70 chapters of serialized newspaper stories based upon interviews he gave in his last years.

"My grandmother, Jessie Hanks Ewing, used to tell about going with Capt. Hanks on the various boats he piloted. It seems that he also had a lot of trouble with Indians trying to get on his boats and demanding whiskey."

Mrs. Robertson's brother, Collins Ewing Wray, is pos-

sibly the only other Lincoln descendant in the Quad-Cities, she says. Her mother, Capt. Hanks' granddaughter, was Florence Ewing Wray.

"Capt. Hanks' father served at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. I guess that would make me eligible for membership in the D.A.R., though I've never joined," Mrs. Robertson says.

Proud as she is of her Lincoln lineage, she takes equal pride in her connection with Capt. Hanks, said to be "a kindly man noted for his generosity."

He was for many years a master on the famed Diamond Jo steamship line, operating on the Upper Mississippi. The family's river-boating tradition apparently died with him. No other descendants seemed drawn to a life on the water. Capt. Hanks' enterprises made him quite wealthy, but stock market speculations later wiped out much of his fortune.

Did any members of her family bear a resemblance to Lincoln?

"I think my mother's brother did. Like Lincoln, he was very tall and slender," Mrs. Robertson says.

Aug 30 '83

Mohr family celebrates century on farm

By John Willard
QUAD-CITY TIMES

In 1858, a young German carpenter named John Henry Mohr landed in New Orleans and traveled by steamboat up the Mississippi River to Scott County where he eventually began farming.

Mohr passed on one of his farms to his son, Henry J. Mohr. The property, a few miles west of Eldridge, was surrounded by lush land that reminded the family of the rolling countryside of their native Holstein, Germany. Henry Mohr and his bride, Laura, began working that land in 1883.

Today, a century later, the fourth and fifth generations of Mohrs till that same soil. And the original farmhouse, built in 1866 from bricks hauled by wagon team from LeClaire, still stands, complete with its original shutters. It is occupied by Charlotte and Jim Mohr, who farm with their son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Ann Mohr.

A few weeks ago, 218 descendants of Laura and Henry Mohr gathered under the red maples and sunburst locust trees to celebrate the designation of the Mohr family homestead as a century farm — one that has been in the same family for 100 years.

The Mohr farm was among 365 in Iowa recognized as century farms this year by Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Robert H. Lounsberry.

Other eastern Iowa farms so honored are those of Jack Hebbeln and Norman Muhs, both of Scott County; Olga Ruggberg and Sondra and J.M. Seeright, Margaret C. and Ray Schneekloth, Baird Smith, Donald F. Smith and Frank Traver, all of Clinton County; Merlin Conrad, Glenn E. and Cora Pedersen, Ernest Von Behren, all of Cedar County; Robert Bockwoldt, Karl and Helen Greiner, all of Muscatine County; Mark P. Hejar, Elsie and Margaret and Emil Rehr, Richard Schlecht and William Wentworth, all of Jackson County.

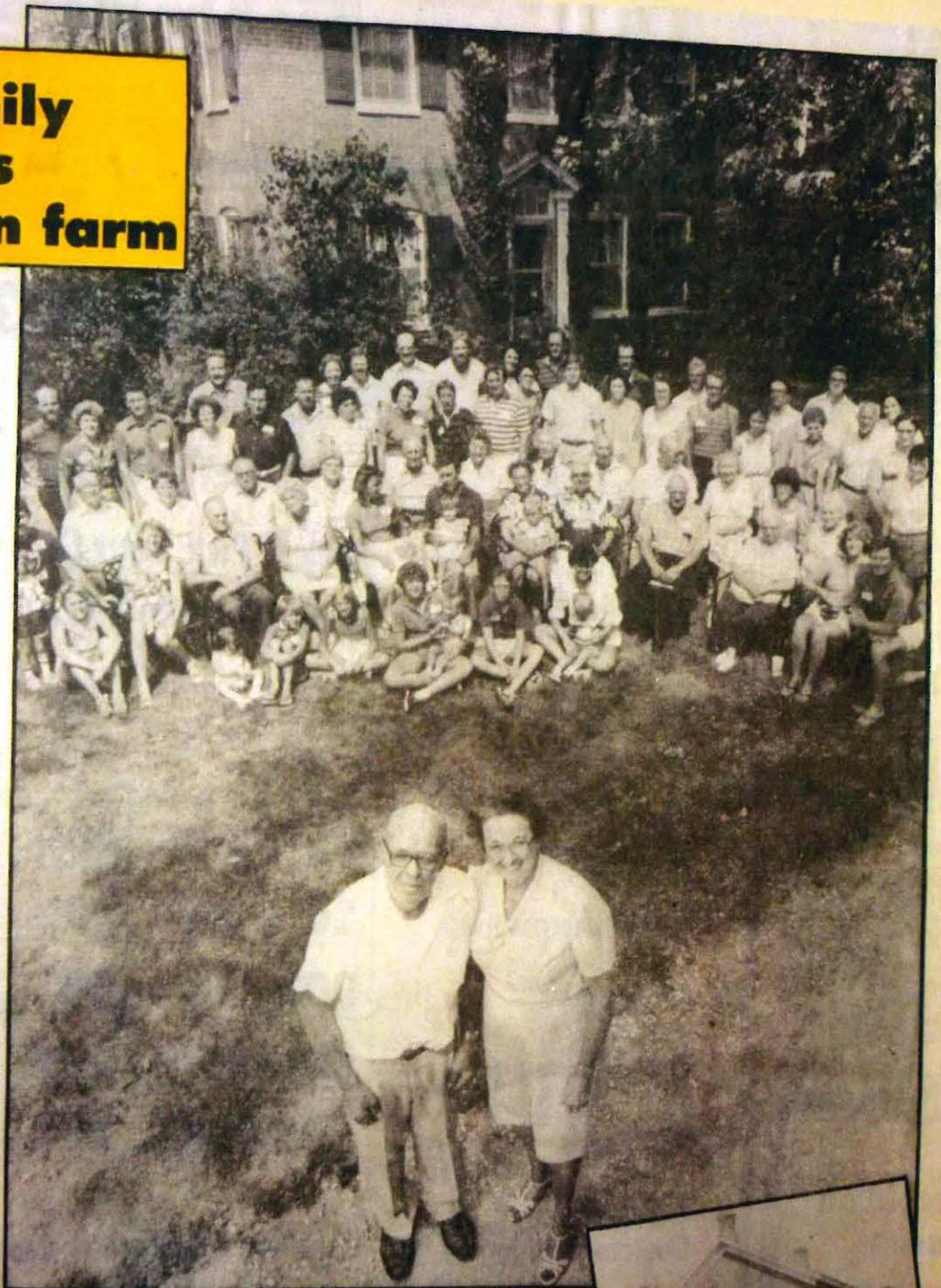
In an age of transience and rapid mobility, it might seem unusual for land to stay in the same family for 100 years. But for the century farmers, agriculture is a way life.

"I think we all have pride in our work," said Charlotte Mohr. "Agriculture is a good life. We have our ups and downs, but agriculture is so necessary for so many people."

She noted that land in Scott County is among the most productive in the state. "The top yields in corn and soybeans more often come from Scott than any other county," Mrs. Mohr said.

The Mohr's reunion offered many city folks a chance to see what farming is all about. The 218 guests included people from as far away as California and Louisiana. But many family members were from the Scott County area.

They enjoyed seeing a display of Mohr



(Times photo by Bill Oakes)

Charlotte and Jim Mohr, foreground, and other descendants of Laura and Henry Mohr gather in front of the Mohr's Eldridge farmhouse during a reunion to celebrate the designation of the Mohr homestead as a century farm. The photo in the lower right is the Mohr home as it appeared in 1869, before the veranda was removed. It originally belonged to grain farmer Samuel Clark, whose children are shown.

family mementos — old photos of steam-threshing operations, an original deed to the farm, an old family album. Then they sat down to a barbecued pork and beef dinner served in a huge tent set up in a clearing in the apple orchard.

James Mohr, a past president of the

Scott County Farm Bureau, and his wife, a member of the state's newly established Water, Air and Waste Management Commission, have been hosts for similar galas on their farm. They had a political rally for Iowa Governor Terry Branstad. And former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray kicked

off his campaign at the Mohr farm in 1968. The latest bash took more than a year of planning, and the Mohrs played detective in tracking down all the far-flung relatives. But it was worth it to see the proud looks on people's faces as they came home to their roots.



PHOTO COURTESY: FARM BUREAU

Quad-Cities

Obituary collector keeps tabs on lives

DEWITT, Iowa (AP) — Tille Petersen may be the only person in Iowa with her unusual hobby.

She collects obituaries. Mrs. Petersen began collecting obituaries — death notices — in 1941, when her father-in-law died. After accumulating several other obituaries of people she knew, Mrs. Petersen decided to start a scrapbook. Today, the obituaries in her now worn scrapbook number more than 400.

"I know it sounds like I'm a nut or something," said Mrs. Petersen, "but it's really interesting. I've even had people visit me who were looking for information for their family trees."

She subscribes to five newspa-

pers and spends a part of each day going over the obituary sections to find articles of people she knows.

"Most of the obituaries are of people I knew, although not always personally," she said. "I have Henry Fields' obituary from Shenandoah, Iowa. He owned a seed company that I always ordered from. As a matter of fact, I still buy all my seeds from his company."

After clipping the articles, labeling them with dates and gluing them into her scrapbook, Mrs. Petersen writes the name in her daily diary which she has been keeping for the last 19 years. Also included in the diary are daily weather reports consisting of high

and low temperatures and conditions.

"A lot of people ask me how long someone has been gone," she said. "This way I can get my book out and tell them how long ago it was and how old they were. I can even tell them what kind of day it was."

But Mrs. Petersen said obituaries have changed quite a bit in the past few years. "They used to tell everything about how a person died," she said. "They even said what time they died and if it was an accident, they told who witnessed it."

"It was the whole truth. Now, they cover everything up, especially in suicides."

Some of those details, which are now omitted from obituaries, did sometimes get a bit gruesome. The obituary of Mrs. Petersen's cousin tells how she was killed while pushing a stalled car on a cemetery road. The article states that the car rolled backward and wedged her head between the car tire and a headstone, killing her instantly.

Mrs. Petersen also has a second scrapbook with obituaries of all soldiers from Scott and Cedar counties who were killed in World War II.

"The scrapbooks are filled with so many memories," she said. "Some of those memories still hurt."

Coroner's records show interesting county details

By Mark Stegmaier
Argus staff writer

Last week the Rock Island County coroner's office brought the last of a stack of records — some that are more than a century old — from a vault in the basement of the courthouse to attic space at the County Office Building.

And among the old inquest transcripts and death certificates are some interesting details about life in the county years ago.

A year ago the coroner's office unearthed the written death records dating back to 1879 — they had been stored beneath a pile of other records in the courthouse basement. They had been there for many years and had never been moved since the coroner's office moved from the courthouse about 12 years ago.

And so half a dozen boxes of records — ranging from inquest transcripts, ledger books of deaths to death certificates — were hauled over to the coroner's office and filed in more usable form.

LAST WEDNESDAY THEY discovered that there were more records than they anticipated.

"We knew we had some stuff over there but we didn't realize how much," said Jackie McFadden, deputy coroner. "It was too hard for us to go back and look up things," said Coroner Eugene Sullivan.

"She wore overalls and a cap and worked all last week sorting them out because they were pretty much in shambles. Jackie's got them filed now for every year," said Sullivan.

Today, the four boxes of indexed yellowed records, most of them recorded in written script rather than in typewritten letters, will be joining the other records in individual metal files.

"They have different causes of death back then than we do now," said McFadden.

MANY OF THE deaths recorded in the transcripts were suicides, which used to be recorded as "death administered by own hand with suicidal intent."

The suicides in years past were committed with carbolic acid, a disinfectant commonly found in homes or by cyanide tablets, or by opening up the valves to gas lamps, which in the late 1800s were still illuminating houses.

"We also had a lot of unidentified persons," said Sullivan, who said that was probably due to the high number of transients.

Many deaths were by accidents — not automobile accidents — but horse and buggy accidents. Still others were by drownings — listed as death from "bathing in The River." Today that's been changed to "drowning by suffocation."

Death was also caused by apoplexy, referred today as a stroke, or by flu s, then called "the grippe." Sullivan said whole families were wiped out by flu epidemics in the county around 1818, because antibiotics had not yet come into use.

THE DEATH CERTIFICATE books also note that persons died from dropsy, which today is called edema, which means an excess of fluid in the body. There were also a lot of "DTs" recorded — short for delirium tremors experienced while drinking too much.

Only the early coroners had a much more original way of saying things. Instead of writing down intoxicated, they listed cause of death as "hopelessly drunk."

Among the ledger entries is a curious newspaper clipping which reads: "Young Bride's Death Attempt is Successful." In modern times, a suicide often is not made public.

Following the headline is a rather lengthy article about how a woman who was married just six months earlier, took her life by opening up the gas valves in a kitchen stove in a Rock Island apartment.

A death note found by authorities is even quoted verbatim, and the husband's reaction to the suicide is also quoted.

McFadden said having the records in easily accessible form may bring on lots of calls from those seeking information of their ancestors or by lawyers seeking to find heirs to fortunes.

Local History lives on in death records

By Judith Norris
Argus features editor

Since the publication of the book, *Roots*, and the televising of the mini-series based on it, many Americans have become interested in finding out more about the backgrounds of their own families.

For this reason Jan Christensen, Rock Island, knew he had found something of value to many Quad-Citians when he uncovered some old ledgers among his grandmother's belongings after her death in January.

His grandmother, Mrs. Ethel Knox, was the widow of the late Harry T. Knox Jr., whose great-grandfather, Charles Bishop Knox, founded Knox Mortuary in Rock Island.

The oldest of the books contain the funeral home's records dating back to 1865.

"IF ANYONE IS TRACING their family, this could be a valuable tool, and that's why I said, 'Why should I let these collect dust when they could be put to use?'" said Christensen, who has given the volumes to J. Robert Larson, current owner of the business, which is now known as Knox-Larson Mortuary.

"They really serve me no purpose and, of course, my family has been friends of the Larsons for years and so I talked to Chris Larson (the owner's son)."

"THE BOOKS ARE really a history of the city of Rock Island," Christensen continued. "They could also be interesting for people who are trying to trace back to any relatives and where they lived. They contain information about what they died of, where they lived, where they are buried and so forth."

Although the information recorded in the 1860s is sketchy compared to that entered after 1900, addresses and causes of death were included when the information was known.

Prices of funerals in 1865 ranged from \$2 to \$125 with most around \$25. A number costing between \$2 and \$7 were apparently paid for with public funds.

Services offered included embalming, "attention" — shaving, makeup, etc.; coffin, hearse, carriages for mourners, attendants — probably pallbearers — and cases, which J. Robert Larson believes may have been a "rough box" to protect the casket in the grave.

ALTHOUGH PRICES WERE reasonable compared to today's standards with a coffin from the Chicago Coffin Co. costing \$2 and a case \$21, Larson is quick to note that there is little comparison between the technology of the 1860s and the 1980s.

Charles Bishop Knox, the founder of the funeral home, was a cabinetmaker by trade. According to Larson, when a death occurred, someone would bring Knox a stick which had been notched to indicate the height and shoulder width of the deceased. Using these measurements, he would build a coffin which the family would line with appropriate fabric.

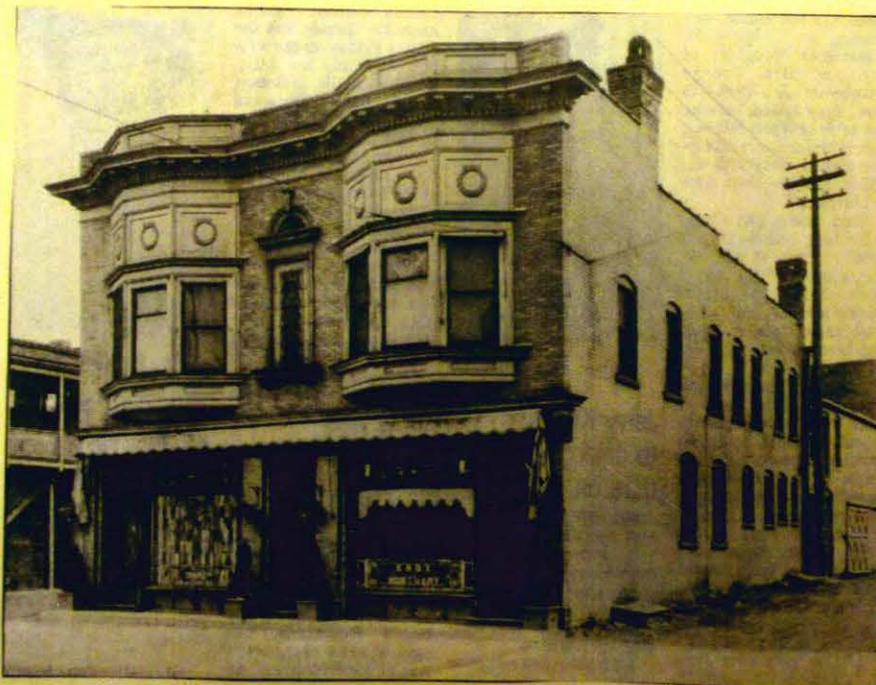
"Sometimes a family would not have any material and they would ask Knox if he could obtain some for them. As the requests increased, he began keeping some bolts of material on hand. Eventually he decided to build and line a few coffins for future use."

SOON FAMILIES WERE requesting other services and the business was born.

In 1900 the costs and technology had increased substantially and so had the records that were being kept.



Jan Christensen J. Robert Larson Chris Larson



Knox Mortuary—415 20th St., Rock Island. The business originally operated from a frame building located at the rear of the lot. In 1852, B. F. Knox, a son of the founder, Charles Bishop Knox, erected the brick addition. The business remained at this location until the present facility was obtained in 1934.

Personal data on the deceased now included age, place of birth, mother's maiden name, attending physician, time and place of funeral services, occupation, marital status, name of spouse and "color" of deceased. In addition, many of the entries include the names of newspapers where death notices were printed.

COSTS WERE ITEMIZED. The list of services available included opening of grave, cremation charges, shipping charges, wagon deliveries, cemetery lots, grave vaults, keeping bodies on ice, disinfecting rooms, candles, flowers, burial slippers and hose, catafalque and candelabra.

Cause of death is listed in most cases and many entries reflect the limits of medical knowledge at the turn of the century.

"Old age" was frequently written for individuals over 65 years of age, as was "general infirmities," "softening of the brain," "brain trouble," "stomach trouble" and "general disabilities."

A WOMAN OF 84 was noted to have died of "nervous frustration," and another was termed "demented and exhausted." A 59-year-old man, whose remains were shipped to Oregon in a black broadcloth coffin with tassels of silk cord, died from a "putrid kidney."

A surprisingly large number of deaths were now being recorded as occurring in area hospitals — Moline City Hospital, now Moline Public Hospital, and St. Anthony's Hospital in Rock Island, rather than at home as in the past.

Apoplexy (stroke), consumption or tuberculosis, dropsy, pneumonia, typhoid, scarlet fever, blood poisoning, heart failure, carcinoma, jaundice, appendicitis and childbirth were all frequently mentioned.

AN AVERAGE-PRICED funeral in 1907 cost between \$75 and \$100 and might include a coffin for \$40; black burial robe, \$5; embalming, \$5; washing, dressing and shaving, \$4; carriage for mourners, \$4 each; hearse to Chippianock Cemetery, \$10; opening of grave, \$7; candles, \$4; pallbearers, \$5, and five dozen chairs, \$2.50.

As one goes through the ledgers page by page questions begin to arise. How did the 55-year-old housekeeper happen to die of arsenic poisoning? What caused the throat hemorrhage that killed a 22-year old man? Did the 52-year-old carpenter, whose funeral was held in a boarding house located at 501 5th St., Rock Island, at 2 p.m. on May 4, 1909, have a family? Could the 64-year-old tailor, who was born in Sweden and died from "brain trouble," have had epilepsy? What could have driven a 28-year-old man to die of "excessive use of strong drink"?

Was the weather hot during the first of August in 1909? A 20-year-old man drowned in the Mississippi on Aug. 1 and the following day a 19-year-old met the same fate.

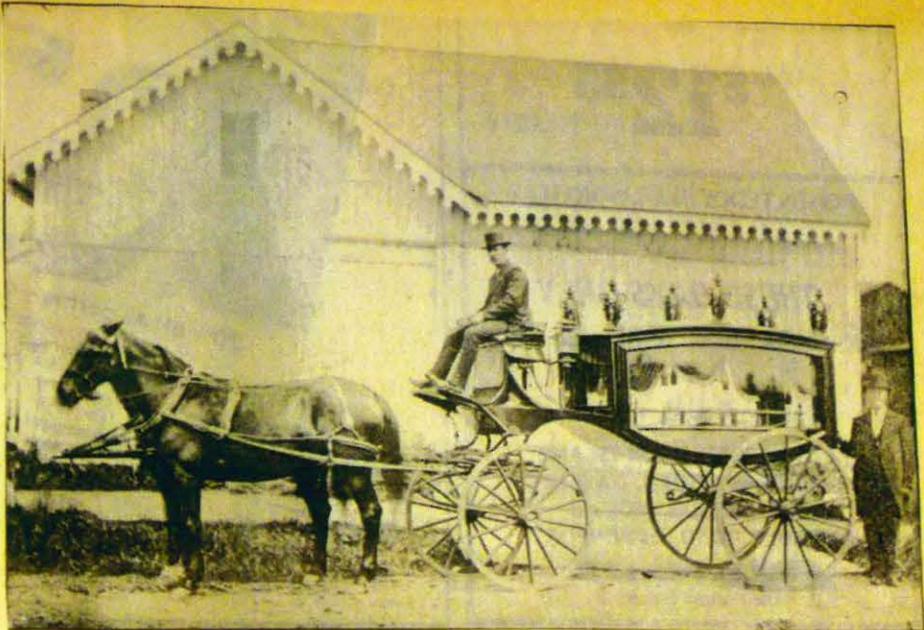
ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE the hardships faced by the widow of the 45-year-old wheel foreman who died of gangrene. She tried to pay the bill in installments. A balance of \$55 still remains.

Many childhood deaths are recorded: a 10-year-old with an enlarged heart; a boy, aged 5 years, 4 months and 7 days, with an abscess of the brain, and an 18-month old girl with "spasms."

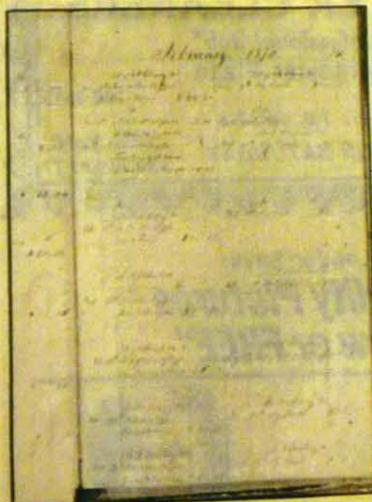
Deaths during childbirth were common for women in their mid to late 30s.

Drownings, falls and streetcar accidents appear occasionally. On Oct. 5, 1906, an 73-year-old woman was "runover by a C.B.&Q. railroad train."

According to Larson, Knox-Larson Fu-

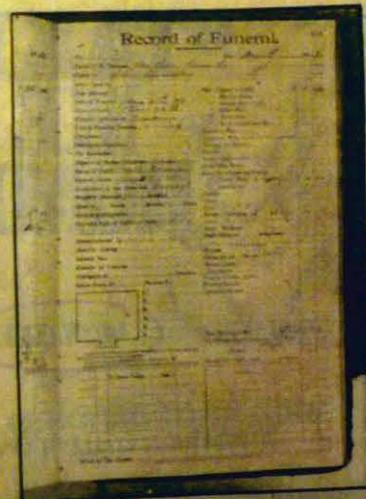


One of the early horse-drawn hearses. The man standing to the rear of the vehicle is believed to be the founder of the business, Charles Bishop Knox. The man on the seat may be one of his six sons.



Records from 1870

Although the information recorded in the 1870 ledger is sketchy compared to that entered after 1900, addresses and causes of death were included when the information was known. Prices of funerals in 1870 ranged from \$2 to \$125 with most around \$25.



Records from 1909

By 1909 the information being recorded had increased substantially. Personal data on the deceased now included age, place of birth, mother's maiden name, attending physician, time and place of funeral services, occupation, marital status and name of spouse.

neral Home has been in continuous operation longer than any type of business in the Tri-Cities. He also believes that it is the oldest funeral business in the north central United States.

As a result he often receives requests about funerals conducted years ago. "We get letters and phone calls from all over the United States. Because it takes so much time to go through the records, we started a card index several years ago."

Unfortunately he and his staff have not had time to transfer all the information onto cards at this time, but he says, "We're working on it."

The Argus July 3, 1983

Q-C Germans to celebrate heritage

By Judy Pochel
Argus staff writer

Three hundred years ago this week, a group of Germans landed in America, marking the arrival of a nationality that would become one of the largest groups to immigrate to America.

Because of those settlers, President Reagan has proclaimed 1983 as a year-long celebration of the 300th anniversary of German settlement in America. Therefore, Putnam Museum has designed a group of programs to celebrate German descendants in the Quad-Cities, with a special exhibit of what Germans brought to the Quad-Cities nearly 150 years ago.

Along with the exhibit, the museum will host a variety of programs dealing with the history of the first German settlers in the area.

The celebration will begin at 7 p.m. Friday with a program of films and presentations on German immigration to the area. From 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, a series of workshops will focus on German crafts for children and adults; on doing family genealogy with German sources, and on the histories of German clubs, churches, and people in the area.

AT 2 P.M. Sunday, the celebration will conclude with a film on German settlement in America.

The program is sponsored by the museum and in part by a grant from the Iowa Humanities Board and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The exhibit is a collection of family memorabilia brought to the area by the first German settlers. Most of the exhibit is owned by the museum, but parts have been loaned to the facility for use in the exhibit.

The first group of Germans left Krefeld, Germany, seeking religious freedom. They landed in America on Oct. 6.

ANN MANDOLINI, PUTNAM Museum spokesperson, said over half of the Quad-Cities population has some German background.

She said in the 1870s, 10 percent of the Rock Island and Moline populations and 25 percent of the Davenport population was German born.

She said German was taught in all of the schools and in Rock Island a school existed where German was the predominate language.

A feature of the exhibit is a hand-carved clock brought to this country by the Mueller family. It is a deer carved out of wood and a combination clock/music box. The

item was donated to the museum about thirty years ago.

THE VOSS FAMILY made one of the first lines of washing machines in the country in the Quad-Cities. One of those hand-cranked machines is also on display.

Another feature of the exhibit is a collection of special occasion clothes brought to this country and worn by two early German settlers. A wedding coat worn by Oscar Gaessner on his wedding day Feb. 9, 1875, is on display with pictures of the man and his wife. A collection of what is believed to be a wedding dress and a christening dress is also on display. The Gaessner collection was donated by a Geneseo family.

The Engelbach family donated a room of furniture to the exhibit. Edward Engelbach was a German craftsman, and when he arrived in America, he made a corner cabinet, table, and a music cabinet out of walnut. His crafts, along with a large painting, are in the display.

Numerous other items are on display, including a cigar mold. Mandolini said at one time during the late 1800s, 50 cigar factories were operating in Rock Island and Davenport.

THE END OF German culture in the Quad-Cities came in 1917 when America entered World War I.

"Anti-German hysteria broke out and state authorities prohibited the use of German language. In the Quad-Cities, German language books were burned in public bonfires."

Two German newspapers also came to an end during the war. The newspapers were operating in Rock Island and were called, "Brobachter Am Mississippian" and "Neuevolks Zieting."

Also on display is a collection of pictures of the first German settlers in the area.

FIRST SETTLERS' CLOTHING

Ann Mandolini of Putnam Museum stands by display of clothing of first German settlers in Quad-City area.

The coat was worn by Oscar Gaessner when he married Feb. 9, 1875.



Historical material

The library of the Rock Island County Historical Society, located in the basement of the Historical House in Moline, is filled to the brim with fascinating historical information. Archivist Lucille Sampson displays the original record of all men who enlisted in Rock Island County to fight in the Civil War. From this document she was able to find information about one of her own ancestors who was wounded at Shiloh. The tombstones shown in the photo were discovered in a Moline ravine. They memorialize two infants who died during the 1800s.

The Argus/Tom Roberts



Venture into the past—

At the RI County Historical Society library

Historical treasures — old books, diaries, photographs, city records, police records, letters — even tombstones memorializing the deaths of two infants — are among the mountains of donated and collected items filling the basement library of the Rock Island County Historical Society building in Moline.

Saying that visiting the library would make an interesting and informative trip is an immense understatement.

The fascinating collection of information and documents shows the history of the Quad-City area from its earliest roots.

Some of the documents provide a touchingly personal insight into the lives of early residents, including the letter of a Civil War soldier to his little girl at home admonishing her to "be a good girl."

THE MINUTES from early meetings of the Women's Christian Temperance Union are also part of the library's collection.

Historical material at the library comes from a variety of sources — donations from people who find treasures in their attics, from estates or from the records of longtime area businesses.

Some of the books received by the library are literally falling apart with age. The library exists to be

used, so volunteer Rosalie Mehall, one of several volunteers who work in the library Sundays and Thursdays, repairs the books.

She emphasizes that she does not restore the books to their original state, but puts them back together so that they can be used by people seeking information at the library.

The Society has the original record from Rock Island County of people enlisting to serve in the Civil War.

"That's how I found out about my great-great-grandfather Thomas Fowler," Sampson says. "He lied about his age to enlist in the Civil War — he said he was 44 and was actually 60. He ended up at the Jefferson Barracks after being wounded at Shiloh and died there as a result of the wounds."

THE LIBRARY ALSO boasts mountains of information about Abraham Lincoln.

Chicago city directories from the 1800s are also among the treasures.

Church histories, telephone books, county historical books, old theater programs and medical records all provide fascinating glimpses into the history of Rock Island County.

An entire series of old diaries spanning 50 years in the life of

John Beuter, a Presbyterian minister from Coal Valley in the 1800s, is in the library collection.

The library boasts lots of information on the life of prominent Rock Island resident John Hauberg, noted Indian historian and photographer.

Bound volumes of many area newspapers, some now out of business, are available at the library.

THE LIBRARY possesses two tombstones that were found in a Moline ravine.

Lucille Sampson says that the Society has been trying to locate the families of the infants — with no success so far.

The tombstones read as follows: "Infant daughter of N.A. and B. Milroy, Ap. 30, 1881, May 4, 1881."

John Tayt, died Nov. 18, 1861, 3 years, age 11 months, 13 days."

Sampson says that an archives room was being planned for the old wine cellar in the basement of the historical house, but so much more information has piled up that the room is just too small.

"What we really would like is a new library building on the grounds of the Society," Sampson says.

The Society has been involved in raising money for a new library facility — a yesteryear garden

party fund-raiser was recently held for this purpose.

SAMPSON SAYS that the Society needs a larger membership base — and that there is always a need for money.

About 275 members strong, the Society was formed in 1905 in the office of Attorney William A. Meese of Moline.

The historical house itself was built in 1877 by Edmond Atkinson, who lived there from 1878 until 1899 when he moved back to Vermont.

Other volunteers working in the library include Agnes Bauer; Barbara Scott, who works on the newspapers; Grace Eastland, who handles correspondence; Miriam Weeks, who handles the postcard collection; Helen Marshall, in charge of legal documents; and Helen Detweiler and Kathey Seusy.

The library provides a valuable service for persons who are doing research in local and family histories.

Anyone wishing to use this material for reference or research should contact the archivist or curator. Interested persons may send the request to the Rock Island County Historical House, P.O. Box 632, Moline, Ill. 61265.