

HISTORY OF WHEELING

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Highwood

HIGHLAND PARK

Blodgett

Deerfield

WHEELING

CHICAGO HOUSE  
north Northfield

Glencoe  
Dermerville

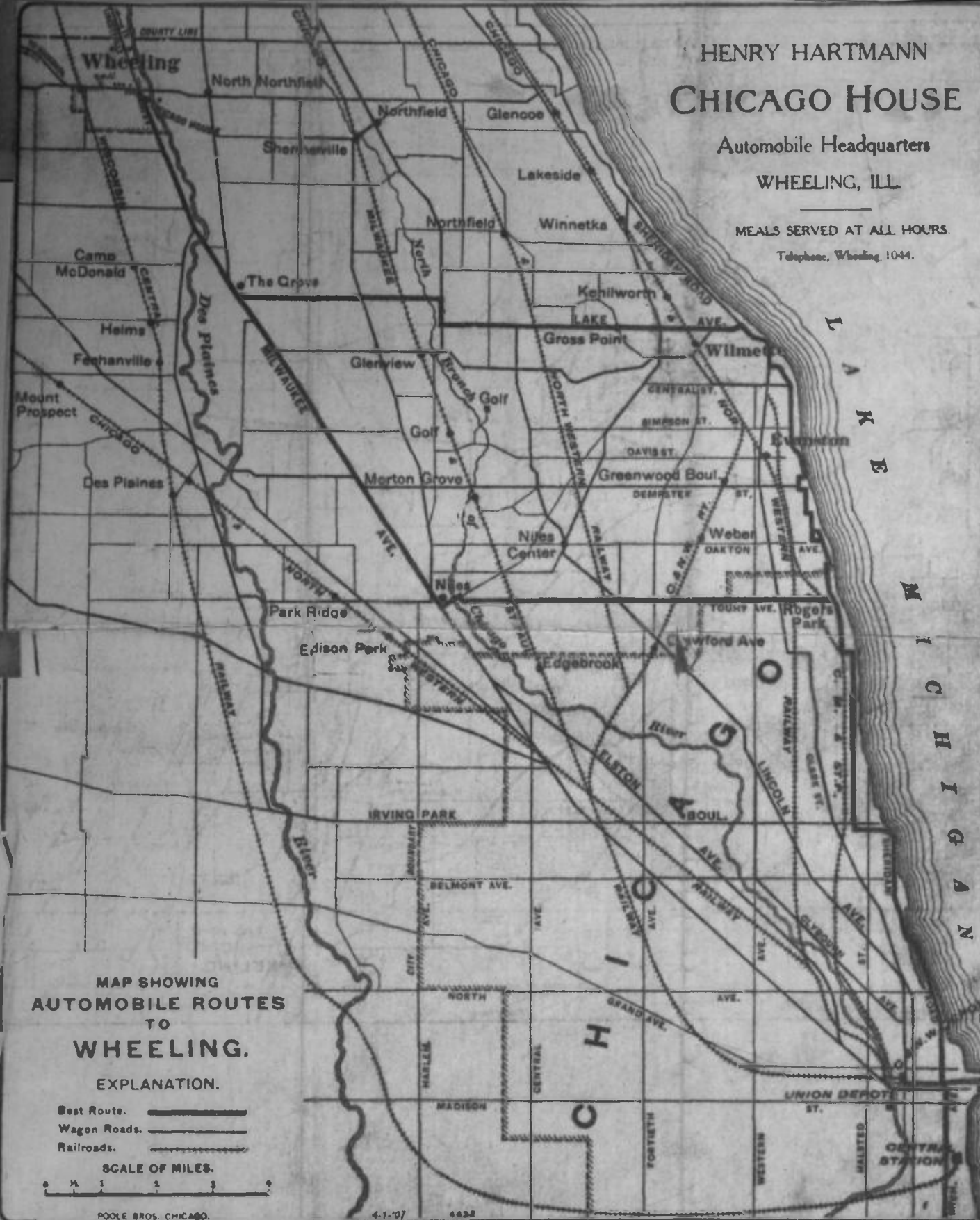
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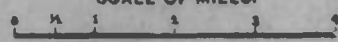


MAP SHOWING  
**AUTOMOBILE ROUTES**  
 TO  
**WHEELING.**

EXPLANATION.

- Best Route.
- Wagon Roads.
- Railroads.

SCALE OF MILES.



POOLE BROS. CHICAGO.

4-1-'07

4438

See other side for Map of Routes North and Northwest.

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HISTORY OF WHEELING

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1964

Wheeling -- Historical Data

WHEELING, a town on the northern border of Cook County, on the Wisconsin Central Railway. Population (1890), 811;+ (1900), 331.

--from HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS  
COOK COUNTY EDITION Vol. II p. 585  
edited by Newton Bateman and Paul Selby  
Munsell Publishing Company, Chicago  
copyright 1905

+Probably a misprint, no doubt should be 311.

Pottawatomie Indian Treaty

by Fernando Jones

.....

"While upon the subject of the Indians, I recall the fact, that, by a treaty of the United State, the Pottawatomies were to receive amongst many other things, as a payment for their land, \$16,000 annually, forever--payable at Chicago; 50 barrels of salt annually, forever, delivered at Chicago; and a blacksmith-shop for the tribe, at Chicago. Did the good Doctor Wolcott, the Indian Agent who manipulated this treaty, really believe this was to be carried out, or did he know that it was a fraud upon the poor Indian? In a very few years they were driven away beyond the Mississippi River by a new treaty, forced upon them by unscrupulous agents of the Government."

--HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS  
COOK COUNTY EDITION, VOL. II p.648

#### LOCAL TELEGRAPH SERVICE

A depot was built in 1886 on the Wisconsin Central Railway about a mile west of Milwaukee Avenue. That year probably marks the beginnings of telegraph service in Wheeling, although the office has been closed for several years.



## THE VILLAGE OF WHEELING

by Dr. James Ellison Best

THE VILLAGE OF WHEELING is situated in the northeast part of the township on the Des Plaines River. Joseph Filkins built the first residence in 1834. The Post-office was established in 1836 with Joseph Filkins as Postmaster. He opened a hotel the next year and Wheeler and Daniels started a store. In 1838 two blacksmith shops were started, one by a Mr. Shepart, the other by Ascher G. Skinner. The second hotel was opened by James Parker in 1840. Prior to 1842 John Rothschild started a store. About the same time stores were opened by John M. Schaffer and Wm. Vogt. E. K. Beach opened a blacksmith shop.

The first public school building was very small; it was erected in 1845. The second, built in 1861, burned in 1870. The present one was erected in 1871. In 1845 Albert Fassbender started a hardware store; two years later Jacob Filbert established a shoe store and Jacob Hausam another soon after. A brewery was started in 1850 by Henry Periolat. In 1851 Vitruvius Lodge, No. 81, A. F. & A. M., which had been organized at Niles in 1849, was moved to Wheeling, at which time a charter was granted.

A hotel was opened by Jacob Hunsinger in 1856. The Congregational Church was organized in 1864, and the present building erected in 1866. Wm. Metz opened a blacksmith shop in 1865, and Samuel Reese a wagonshop, which he sold three years later to Louis Fischer. Fred Stryker opened a store in 1873; Martin Armbruster a hotel, and C. Welflin a harnessshop in 1874. The latter sold out to R. Schneider in 1885. John Behm's hotel was opened in 1877, and John Schminkie's store in 1878. In 1880 Henry Boehmer started a creamery which, later, Jacob P. Hausam superintended for eleven years. Sigwalt & Bollenbach opened a store in 1888.

The village was incorporated June 19, 1894, including Wheeling Station on the Wisconsin Central Railway, one mile west of the old village. The depot was built in 1886. The population in 1900 was 331.

Medical History.--The pioneer physician of Wheeling was Dr. Julius Purmann, who came in 1849, and practiced medicine till his death, which occurred in 1856.

Dr. Francis R. Mergler located here in 1854, and engaged in the practice of medicine until 1875, when he removed to Palatine, where he died in 1880.

Dr. M. Moffatt practiced here from 1876 to 1890.

Dr. Henry Benz came to Wheeling in 1890 and is still practicing. In the meantime several others have come, but remained only a short time.

IN VETERINARY WORK.--Dr. John G. Schneider located here in 1852, and still holds the field.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP

by Dr. James Ellison Best +

The Township of Wheeling lies in the northern part of Cook County, bounded by Lake County on the north, Township of Northfield on the east, Maine and Elk Grove on the south, and Palatine on the west, containing thirty-six Sections. The soil is a rich prairie loam. In the main the surface is quite level, by sloping gradually to the east, and is drained by four unnamed creeks which empty into the Des Plaines River; the latter flows in a southerly direction along the eastern border of the township, its bed lying partly in Wheeling and partly in Northfield Township. A strip of timber about three-fourths of a mile wide lines its eastern bank, and is divided about equally between the two townships. The absence of timber upon its western bank was probably due to the annual prairie fires started by the torch of the aborigines, which destroyed all perennial plants. The river, serving as a barrier against the fires from the west, afforded protection to the timber on the eastern bank. The western border of the township reaches nearly, or quite, to the divide between the Des Plaines River on the east and Salt Creek on the west, its altitude being about seven hundred feet above sea level. All the water from Wheeling flows to the Des Plaines River, while the water from Palatine flows through Salt Creek, south, except that from the two northeast sections, which flows east through Wheeling to the Des Plaines.

Prior to settlement by white men this region was occupied for sixty four years--viz.: from 1769 to 1833-- by Pottawatomie Indians; previous to that by the Miami Confederacy, who occupied this region at the time of La Salle's first visit in 1681, which is the remotest period known to the historian regarding this section.

The first settler in what is now Wheeling Township, was a Mr. Sweet, who arrived in March, 1833, selected a claim on Section 13, and built a cabin in which he lived until the following September, when he sold his right of squatter's claim and his cabin to George Strong, who became the first permanent white settler in the township. At that time, his nearest neighbor on the north was a Captain Wright, who was said to be the only settler between the Strong place and Waukegan.

On September 26, 1833, the treaty with the Pottawatomies was ratified, after which settlers came in considerable numbers. Almost immediately afterward Timothy Titcomb settled on Section 13, just north of Mr. Strong. In December General Peet located where his son, A. W. Peet, afterward lived.

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+ from HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY EDITION,  
Vol. II, pp. 795-797

In 1834 William B. Clay and his two sons, John B. and E. H., settled on Section 2. S. M. Salisbury also settled on Section 2, James Mackey on Section 24, Christopher and Daniel Stranger on Section 13, and Christian Stryker on Section 12. In 1835 came Peter Gebhart, who afterward sold out to Henry Miller. Joseph Filkins had located a claim in 1834, built his cabin and moved his family into it in 1835. The same year Isaac Martin, Matthew Chivel, Thomas Bradwell and other settlers arrived. About eighteen log cabins were built during the year.

In 1836 the well-to-do William Hopps located on Section 3. Into his house Satan afterward entered, and the first and only murder in the township occurred, Hopps being acquitted of the killing of his wife on the plea of insanity, through the exceptional ruling of Judge McAllister, at which the public was greatly incensed. Hopps finally died in the Poor House at Dunning.

In March, 1836, Asa Dunton and his two sons, William H. and James, came from Oswego, N. Y. They passed through what is now the site of Arlington Heights, selected their claims and went on to Deer Grove in Palatine Township, where they were among the first actual settlers. The next year they returned and located on Section 29.

Ephraim and Charles Morrison settled on Section 11, in 1837, Conrad Miller came the same year. George Metz located on Section 12. His brothers-in-law, Ludwig Fischer and George Graff, came soon after, together with many others whose names cannot now be ascertained. During this year the government survey was made, after which settlers came in more rapidly than before.

The population in 1900 was 3,010. Only three are now (1900) living in the township who came before 1837, v<sup>z</sup>.: Luther W. and John B. Whiting and D. K. Draper, who settled in Elk Grove, but for many years have been identified with Wheeling.

In 1833 a territorial council was held in Detroit, of which Governor Doty was a member from Wisconsin. He made a motion that a mail route be opened from Chicago to Green Bay by way of Milwaukee. The motion prevailed and Juneau, the founder of Milwaukee, took the contract. The mail was carried by stage coach, following an Indian trail which led northwest from Chicago, and probably extended to Green Bay, the former home of the Pottawatomie tribe. This road passes through the northeast corner of Wheeling Township, and is now known as the Milwaukee Road. The road was surveyed in 1835 as a post-route under direction of the War Department, and is on record at Washington, D. C. The first settlers in the township located along this road.

In 1836 a road was laid out from Sand Ridge crossing the Des Plaines River at Rand's place. This road passes diagonally, from southeast to northwest, through Wheeling Township, and is known as the Rand Road. It is said to have been an old military trail leading from Chicago to Fort Atkinson. Later, it was used for a time as a stage-line and post-route. This road was surveyed under direction of the War Department as a post-route and is on record at Washington.

By an act of the Legislature in 1839, a road was laid out from Naperville, via Babcock's Grove, Meacham's Grove, Elk Grove, and Buffalo Grove, to Indian Creek (now Half-Day), which is said to have been the extension of an old mail-route from St. Louis to Naperville. It passes nearly through the township from south to north, then east a mile and a half, then north, and is known as the State Road.

In 1840 Thomas Bradwell and others petitioned for a road leading from Wheeling to McHenry via Buffalo Grove and Long Grove. It was laid out by the Court Commissioners of Lake County in 1842. This road continues west from Wheeling. After it passes the branch to Buffalo Grove, to the point where it meets the State Road, it is not on record. The remainder of the roads in the township were laid out by township authorities, after organization, which occurred in 1850.

Improvement of the roads was made principally by the people working out the amount of road taxes under the pathmaster system. The work consisted largely of grading and building bridges. Owing to the level surface and sticky quality of the soil, in wet weather, the roads were nearly impassable.

In 1874 some gratuitous work of graveling was done on the road leading west from Wheeling. The following year an organized effort was made by the County Commissioners and Township Highway Commissioners, viz.: Peter Beyer, Philip Hart and Henry Engelking; afterwards C. Schoenbeck and others were instrumental in continuing the good work, until there are now by three or four miles of ungraveled roads in the township.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.--There are no records connected with the schools of this township of an earlier date than April 6, 1857. At that time there were ten districts, some of which have been united and, at the present time, there are but seven, besides one union district embracing portions of Wheeling, Maine, and Elk Grove Townships, the school house being located at Mount Prospect in the last named township.

ST. MARY'S TRAINING SCHOOL.--In the early 60's the first orphan asylum and reformatory for boys for the Catholic diocese of Chicago was incorporated and located in the southwestern part of the city, which was then a rich prairie. The institution pursued the even tenor of its way until the winter of 1871, when it was obliged to do heroic work in caring for hundreds of children left destitute by the great fire. The Christian Brothers were then in charge of the asylum, and many were the sacrifices they patiently underwent for the benefit of the boys.

In 1882 the asylum proving inadequate for its purpose, the late Archbishop Feehan, with the assistance of the diocesan clergy, secured the present site of Feehanville as a home for the St. Mary's Training School. It is situated on the Wisconsin Central Railway, in the southeastern part of Wheeling Township, on the Des Plaines River. In 1899 all of the buildings were burned. Immediately after the fire, steps were taken to rebuild on a much larger scale, anticipating an expenditure of \$800,000 and the accomodation of 1,000 inmates.

the board of Tax Commissioners of that State, and Postmaster and Collector of Customs at Savannah, Ga. He was one of the publishers of the New Era, a Republican daily paper of Atlanta, Ga., and was an earnest and efficient worker in the reconstruction of that State. On resigning his collectorship he was appointed president of the United States Commission to investigate the Mexican outrages on the Texas frontier. He was subsequently identified with the railroad interests in Texas. Mr. Robb was president of the Corpus Christi Grande Railroad. He was one of the promoters and owners of the Chicago, Texas & Mexican Central, and was connected with those interests until 1882, and is now engaged in his private business. He was the third husband of Mrs. M. M. M. M., and assisted in organizing the first council of the city. Mr. Robb was married in early life to Miss Mary S. M., who lived but a few months after her marriage. In 1852 he was married to Miss Miriam Goodnow, daughter of George L. and Mary Goodnow. She died in 1856, leaving two daughters - Ella A. and Miriam G. He was married a third time, in 1857, to Mary C. Goodnow, who has borne him one son, Thomas P., Jr.

A. J. WHITCOMB, carpenter and builder, was born in Lewis County, N. Y., in 1832, son of Moses and Lucy Whitcomb. He came to Cook County in 1845 with his parents, who located in Chicago seven years, thence moving to Niles, where his father died in 1872, at the age of eighty-four, his mother in 1873, at the age of seventy-seven. At the age of twenty-one Mr. Whitcomb engaged in book binding, and subsequently was employed in the ship yard. At the age of twenty-five he commenced as a carpenter and builder, which he has followed from that time coming to Park Ridge in 1890. He married, in 1855, Miss Ellen D. Haskins, daughter of Aaron and Caro-

line Haskins. They have one child, Emil Whitcomb. He has been Trustee for Park Ridge Corporation for two terms, and member of the school board for a number of years.

CANFIELD.

This station is located on the Wisconsin Division of the Chicago & North-Western Railroad, eleven miles from Chicago. The tract of land which it was designed to build a town upon was purchased by the Illinois & Wisconsin Land Company, who, in 1853, paid for it \$21 per acre. Three hundred acres were laid out into blocks, lots and streets, but on account of the crisis of 1857 the plan was not a success, and the land was sold at from \$40 to \$50 per acre. Nothing more was done until 1873, when A. C. Badeau purchased sixty-five acres of the land at \$600 per acre, and named his interest Ridgelawn. On account of the suburb lying on the dividing ridge between the Desplaines River and the North Branch, the name was considered appropriate. At the time of Mr. Badeau's purchase it was his intention, as well as that of George H. Pierce, to build a number of houses, and thus attract residents, but nothing was done, and the village has not yet been built. The railroad station and one farmhouse, originally used as the depot, are all there is of it at this time.

HISTORY OF WHEELING.

The town of Wheeling is situated on the north bank of the Kanawha River, and is bounded on the north by the State of Virginia, on the south by the State of West Virginia, and on the west by the State of Ohio. The town is situated on a high point of land, and is surrounded on three sides by the Kanawha River. The town is situated on a high point of land, and is surrounded on three sides by the Kanawha River. The town is situated on a high point of land, and is surrounded on three sides by the Kanawha River.

Probably the first settlement in this region was made by Mr. Sweet, who arrived in 1784, and was situated on Section 13, and was situated on a high point of land, and is surrounded on three sides by the Kanawha River. The town is situated on a high point of land, and is surrounded on three sides by the Kanawha River. The town is situated on a high point of land, and is surrounded on three sides by the Kanawha River.

... and, in addition, it would be necessary for the United States troops in defending the rights of the Indians in case Mr. Strong should attempt to occupy the land before the ratification of the treaty. Mr. Strong, however, having set his heart upon this claim, and knowing that the treaty would be ratified in a short time, decided to make the venture, and on Monday, September 2, took possession of his claim. At this time his nearest neighbor to the northward was Captain Wright, who was said to be the only one between him and Waukegan; and to the southward his nearest neighbor was either General Peet or Captain Talcott, probably the former, who moved into the town where his son, A. W. Peet, now resides, in 1800, of the same year. Soon after moving into the town, it was surrounded by about a dozen Indians, whose intention was to drive Mr. Strong off his claim. Mr. Strong was not to be driven off easily, and he fought quite a fight with them, knocking several of them on the ground. He was immediately surrounded by the others, who were all armed with bows and arrows, and knives threatened him with death. His escape is attributed only to the fact that he showed no signs of fear. The treaty was soon after ratified, and settlers came on in considerable numbers. Timothy Titcomb almost immediately after the treaty was concluded just north of Mr. Strong, on Section 13, and was soon sold out to Myron Dimmick, who stood, however, only three or four years. William B. Clay, and his two sons, John B. and D. H. Clay, settled

on Section 11, S. M. Salisbury on Section 2, James M. Kavanagh on Section 24, Christopher and Daniel S. on Section 11, and Christian Stryker on Section 11. Among others, came in 1834, Peter Gebhardt came in January, and six years, and sold out to Martin also came about this time, whose residence moved to Palatine. Joseph Peet, who had made his claim in 1834, built his house and moved his family into it in 1835. Matthew C. came in February, 1835, during which year eighteen log houses at least were raised. In March, 1835, William H. Dunton moved into the town and never since been a continuous resident. In 1837 Benjamin and Charles Morrison settled on Section 11 of the Range. Wooder and Charles Daniels opened a store where the village of Wheeling is located, which they kept for five years, and sold to Joel L. Dyer. In 1838 a Mr. Shepard, or Shepherd, opened a blacksmith shop, and Asher G. Skinner also came and settled on Section 12. Daniel Martin came in 1839. By this time there were about two hundred inhabitants in the town. After the ratification of the Indian treaty the principal cause of excitement for the first few years white men occupied this territory was claim-jumping, and if no one was killed for this crime, it was probably because the rightful possessors were so thoroughly united and organized as to be fully conscious of their strength and fully assured of success in the defense of their rights, as claim-jumpers usually had to fight single-handed. A committee consisting of seven citizens, belonging to Wheeling, was appointed to decide on questions of right of ownership in all cases of claim-jumping. This was the first court. Besides this, a superior court was organized, and was appointed, consisting of seven citizens, S. M. Salisbury, George Strong, and John Filkins, before which any case might be brought, and the decision of the Superior Court was final. The most serious difficulty the settlers of Wheeling were connected with was the operation of a claim-jumper from a claim just north of the present boundary of their town in Lake County, in which case the claimant was assisted by two female members of his family feigning sickness. A physician, summoned for the purpose, administered the "sick" women and pronounced them in perfect health, and on the strength of his report the claim was carried out of doors on their beds by the self-styled vigilantes, and the house pulled down. This was about the last of the difficulties of this land.

In 1837 a survey of the boundaries of this town was made, and as it was known that the boundaries of the various claims, already made, could not correspond to the section lines, the line to be run, the settlers, by mutual consent, authorized M. Salisbury to purchase the land they had a claim with the understanding that the claim should be decided on the individual claim to be as nearly as practicable being at the same time determined by the section line as run by the survey. This plan was carried out to the satisfaction of all concerned.

From the time elections became necessary to 1850, when the town was organized, the territory embraced within its limits, together with a part of Maine and Northfield, was known as Wheeling Precinct. The place of voting was at Wilcox's tavern, situated on the Milwaukee road near where it crosses the Desplaines River. After the organization of the town elections were held at the village of Wheeling.

This town was organized, as were the others in the county, April 2, 1850. The meeting was held "at the house lately kept by James Parker in the town of Wheeling." William H. Dunton was chosen Moderator, Egbert Van Vlack, Clerk, and George Fullagar, Assistant Clerk. The election resulted in the choice of the following officers, each receiving the vote appended to his name: Supervisor, S. M. Salisbury, 106; Clerk, Lewis Peet, 96; Assessor, Ira Millard, 100; Collector, D. B. Briggs, 100; Commissioners of Highways, Ira Snow, 100, W. H. Dunton, 171, Andrew Luce, 99; Constables, D. B. Briggs, 122, S. D. W. Miller, 98. A pound was provided for, to be as near the center of the town as practicable, and Myron Thornton was appointed Pound-master. Three hundred dollars was voted to be raised for the support of the poor, for building a pound and for the incidental expenses of the township, but no tax has ever been levied for the support of the poor in Wheeling, nor was a pound provided at that time. Three hundred dollars was raised for road and bridge purposes. Fences were required to be built four feet high. The total number of votes cast at this election was 191, as certified to by Lewis Peet, Town Clerk, indicating a population of about 150. The Commissioners of Highways met April 19, and divided the town into six road districts. Their second action was to vacate a road running north and south from the Rand road to the Dundee road, between Sections 7 and 8, and 17 and 18. This action was taken May 4, on the petition of ten citizens, dated April 19. The board of appointment, consisting of S. M. Salisbury, Supervisor, Lewis Peet, Clerk, William Scoville, Justice of the Peace, and John E. Hawks, Justice of the Peace, met May 4 at the house of George Strong, and divided the town into six road districts, No. 1, Ira Snow for No. 1; Ira Snow for No. 2; Ira Snow for No. 3; George Strong for No. 4; Stephen Lamb for No. 5, and James Dunton for No. 6. On the 13th of March, 1851, the Commissioners divided the town into nine districts each two miles square. The first highway fund, received by the Commissioners of Highways previously to March 25, 1851, was \$260. At that time it was reported that in five of the road districts there had been performed five hundred and ninety-seven days' work, and in one other district one hundred and one. The elections subsequent to that of 1850 have resulted in filling the offices as follows:

**Supervisors.**—Joseph Filkins, 1851; John Filkins, 1852; Joseph Filkins, 1853; William Scoville, 1854-55; Jesso Matteson, 1856-57; George Strong, 1858 to 1865; William H. Dunton, 1866-67; Frederick Tesch, 1868 to 1870; David Peter, 1871; Frederick Tesch, 1873 to 1875; C. Giles, 1876 to 1883, inclusive.

**Clerks.**—John Filkins, 1851; E. K. Beach, 1852 to 1856; Charles Vogt, 1857 to 1859; F. A. Razein, 1860; William H. Dunton, 1861 to 1865; J. H. Fellows, 1866; Ira Millard, 1867; William H. Dunton, 1868 to 1871; Albert G. Kennicott, 1873; A. P. Tewksbury, 1874 to 1876; August Waarick, 1877; E. M. Thomas, 1878 to 1880; Fred R. Pfeifer, 1881 to 1883, inclusive.

**Assessors.**—Ira Millard, 1851; E. Berry, 1852; William Scoville, 1853; F. R. Hamilton, 1854; William R. Dunton, 1855; George Fullagar, 1856; Chauncy Fuller, 1857; Jacob Seewalt, 1858; F. R. Hamilton, 1859-60; Ira Millard, 1861; C. Hegwein, 1862; George Schneider, 1863-64; George Strong, Jr., 1865; George Schneider, 1866 to 1883, inclusive.

*Collectors.*—D. B. Briggs, 1851; Ira Snow, 1852 to 1854; D. F. Wood, 1855; Robert Hopp, 1856; L. T. Webster, 1857; Henry McNab, 1858; Jacob Fritch, 1859 to 1861; Hiram Snow, 1862; Samuel W. Peese, 1863; C. Vogt, 1864; George Schneider, 1865; John Peter, 1866; George Strong, 1867; Charles Taeye, 1868; Otto Nolte, 1869; Jacob Fritsch, 1871; Peter, 1873-74; August Waarick, 1875-76; Peter, 1877-78; Conrad Miller, 1879; Henry Wagner, 1880-81; Charles W. Lorenzen, 1882-83.

*Commissioners of Highways.*—Ira Snow, George Strong and David Fellows, the latter appointed 1851; Peter Schneck, David Fellows and A. W. Peet, 1852 to 1853; David Fellows, George Fullagar and E. A. Allen, 1855; David Fellows, George Fullagar and John Bromley, 1856; David Fellows, John Bromley and Christian Schneck, 1857; David Fellows, Christian Schneck and William Kirkhoff, 1858; A. W. Peet, George Hawks and M. D. Hawk, 1859; Frederick T. Miner, one year, L. Arnold for two years, and Phillip Wolf for three years, 1860; E. A. Allen, 1861; Alonzo Hawks, 1863; Henry Fullagar, Hiram Snow, 1864; Job Schmahd, 1866; James Schmahd, 1867; George Fullagar, 1868; Ludwig Schmahd, 1869; James Schmahd, 1870; August Wagner, 1871; Henry Schmahd, 1873; Philip Harth, 1874; Peter Engelking, 1879; Philip Engelking, 1880; Peter Engelking, 1881; Henry Meyer, 1882; Peter Engelking, 1883.

*Commissioners of Public Schools.*—William Scoville and E. N. Schmahd, 1851; R. F. Clough, 1857; John Rothschild, 1858; J. W. Walton and Daniel T. Wood, 1859; John D. Beach and W. H. Schmahd, 1860; W. H. Schmahd, 1861.

*Commissioners of the Poor.*—D. B. Briggs, 1851; D. F. Wood, 1852; Robert Hopp, 1856; L. T. Webster, 1857; Henry McNab, 1858; Jacob Fritch, 1859; Hiram Snow, 1862; Samuel W. Peese, 1863; C. Vogt, 1864; George Schneider, 1865; John Peter, 1866; George Strong, 1867; Charles Taeye, 1868; Otto Nolte, 1869; Jacob Fritsch, 1871; Peter, 1873-74; August Waarick, 1875-76; Peter, 1877-78; Conrad Miller, 1879; Henry Wagner, 1880-81; Charles W. Lorenzen, 1882-83.

*Commissioners of the Public Buildings.*—John K. Draper, 1851; Conrad Miller, 1879; Louis Engelking, 1881.

The school fund is connected with the school district of an earlier date than 1851. In 1851 there were ten districts. The Duntun district and E. K. Beck district transferred to William Scoville was the first of the school fund. W. H. Duntun became guardian of this fund in 1862 and has held the office since. In 1857 the school fund was \$3,860. At the present time it is \$3,890.02. There appears to have been no census of the school children in the early days, but the census of 1883 shows the following numbers in the respective districts: District No. 1,

187; No. 3, 144; No. 5, 87; No. 6, 67; No. 7, 84; No. 8, 337; No. 10, 567; total number, 1,313. The population of the township of Wheeling in 1880 was 2,296. In 1883 it was probably about 2,500.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS.

Arlington Heights is situated on the Wisconsin Division of the Chicago & North-Western Railway, twenty-two and two-fifths miles from Chicago. It is located on the old farm of W. H. Duntun, and until about 1874 was named Duntun after him. The first plat appears to have been made November 3, 1854, under the direction of the Commissioners of Highways for the town of Wheeling. Three highways ran parallel with each other north and south through this subdivision, five chains apart, and the first five chains east of the northwest corner of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 29, and each running south forty chains. These three streets were named Prairie, Duntun and Vail streets, and were each four rods wide. There was also a highway, commencing thirty rods south from the northwest corner of said quarter section, and running east twenty chains. Underhill's addition was surveyed by Edmund Bisby, County Surveyor, May 19, 1859, and was acknowledged July 25. It is south of the railroad and is a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 30. Miner's addition, consisting of twenty acres, was surveyed by R. F. Clough, May 27, 1859, and was acknowledged October 10, 1859. It is the north half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 30. Atkins' addition lies west of Vail Street, and north of the railroad. It is bounded on the north by Euclid Avenue, and west by Elm Street. Various other additions have been made, until at present the town plat contains about two hundred and forty acres. The original subdivision was, as has been said, a part of W. H. Duntun's farm. His house, built in 1845, was the first built within the limits of the place. He was living here at the time of the first survey. The second building erected here was a store by Dr. F. T. Miner. In 1854, the same year in which the depot was built, and in 1855 W. G. Wing became the second merchant in the place. The second residence was erected by James McCreath. The first blacksmith shop was opened early in 1855 by a Mr. Page, and the second later in the same year by John Fleming. The first Presbyterian Church society was organized September 28, 1855, and in 1856 the first store was staffed by J. V. Downs & Co. The first grocery store was started this year by John Fleming, and the second by Johnson & Peter, in 1857. The first saw factory was started in 1860 by William D. Fitch. The first cheese factory was started by Enoch Wolf in 1861. The first manufactory of cheese was established by John Heinrich Bros. in 1862. The first saloon was established by John Heinrich Bros. in 1862. There has been nothing to retard the growth of Arlington Heights. It is to give, if possible, a fresh impetus to the growth of a number of its citizens are engaged in changing its name from plain Duntun to a high-sounding one of "Arlington Heights." The name of the post-office was changed to Arlington in 1863, and also that of the railroad station. The results were neither so immediate nor so

F. M. Crossman

F. M. Crossman, liveryman in Chicago for twenty-seven years, and stock farmer, Wheeling, Cook County, Ill. is descended from a Massachusetts family, both his grandfather and his father having been born in Sutton in that State, the former in 1779 and the latter in 1816. His grandmother, Olive Whipple, was also a native of the same place. On December 13, 1870, Mr. Crossman was married to Ella Kelley, of Brookfield, Mass, and has two children, Ella Annie and Frederick Kelley. In 1886 he became the proprietor of what is now known as the Spring Brook Stock Farm, located in the town of Wheeling, and embracing 440 acres of the farm formerly belonging to Hiram Kennicott. Here of late years he has made a specialty of breeding Wilkes horses, Poland China hogs, Dorset Horned sheep and Holstein cattle, and boarding city horses, in this line of business being especially successful.

--HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY  
EDITION, VOL. II, page 860

Mary E. Helm

Mary E. Helm, Arlington Heights, Ill., was born at Wheeling, Ill., June 5, 1855, the daughter of Thomas Allison, who was born in England in 1823, and came with his parents (Thomas and Mary Allison) to Illinois in 1832. The family remained in Chicago for a few months, but soon after located on a claim on the North Branch, three miles from Chicago. Three years later the senior Allison sold his farm to A. W. Fullerton and removed to Northfield, Cook County, where he died in January, 1880. The junior Allison attended the first school ever taught in Chicago in 1832, which was attended by a number of half-breeds. In 1852 he was married to Penthea H. Miller, a native of Ohio and daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Miller, natives of New York State, who settled in Wheeling Township in 1839. Mrs. Helm was educated at the Cook County Normal School and, on March 29, 1870, was married at Arlington Heights to Lewis G. Helm. She has had three children: Frederick W., Howard A. and Raymond B. Mrs. Helm is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

-- HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY  
EDITION, VOL. II, page 906-907

Nicholas Hinsberger

Nicholas Hinsberger, farmer, postoffice address Arlington Heights, Ill., is a native of Prussia, born September 20, 1840. His parents (John and Mary Magdalena Hinsberger) are also, like himself, of German birth. On January 25, 1870, he was married to Annie Walter and has seven children, named respectively, Mary, Andrew, Rosa E., Anna, Clara, Nicholas, and Joseph. Andrew Walter, the father of Mrs. Hinsberger, was one of the oldest settlers of Wheeling, Cook County, having located there



in 1848, where he resided on one of his farms in the northern part of the town until his death on July 4, 1901, at the age of eighty-five years.

---HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY  
EDITION, VOLUME II, page 912

#### George Kirchhoff

George Kirchhoff (deceased), farmer, Arlington Heights, Ill., was born in the town of Wheeling, Cook County, Ill. in 1855, the son of William and Sophia (Prelberg) Kirchhoff, who were natives of Germany and came to this country about the middle of the century. The father died September 17, 1881, and the mother died April 28, 1904 at the age of 76 years. Mr. George Kirchhoff was educated at Arlington Heights and in 1876 was married to Johanna Henjes, of Elk Grove Township, eight children--William, Sophia, Henry, Edward, George, Ella, Ernst, and Rudolf--being the fruit of the union. Of these Sophia, George, and Rudolph died in their infancy. Mr. Kirchhoff was a member of the Lutheran Church, and in political views was a Republican. Mr. Kirchhoff died September 27, 1904. His widow, Mrs. Johanna (Henjes) Kirchhoff still survives.

---HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY  
EDITION, VOLUME II, page 932

#### Christian Welflin

Christian Welflin (deceased), Wheeling, Ill., was born in Alsace, France (now Germany), September 13, 1845, the son of Christian Welflin, also a native of Alsace. Mr. Welflin came to America with his father and sister, arriving at Chicago on March 1, 1854. His father enlisted at the beginning of the Civil War in Company K, Thirteenth Illinois Volunteers (Col. Wyman's regiment), serving from 1861 to 1865, and died of yellow fever in Memphis, Tenn., June 27, 1869. The son learned the harness trade in Chicago, afterwards worked for some time in Memphis, but in 1874 came to Wheeling and established himself in the harness business there. On September 9, 1880, he was married to Mrs. Goodlobin Armbruster (widow) of Wheeling, and has four children: Minnie, Edward, Frank and Flora. After his marriage he went into the Chicago House, at Wheeling, remaining until his retirement in July, 1893. In his later years he occupied a pleasant home just across the Des Plaines River and outside of the village corporation. Mr. Welflin died in 1901.

----HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY  
EDITION, VOLUME II, page 1022.

## VILLAGE OF WHEELING

This Village is located on the Milwaukee road, six miles north of De~~S~~ Plaines and four miles west of Shermer Station. In 1837 Wheeler & Daniels started a store here, and about the same time Joseph Filkins opened a hotel. Mr. Filkins also built the first house in the place. The lumber was brought from Kennicott's Mill, about a mile south of Half Day. A second hotel was opened about the year 1840, by James Parker. The post office was established in 1836, with Joseph Filkins for Postmaster. Mr. Filkins was succeeded by Charles Daniels, and he by J. L. McDuffy. John M. Schaeffer was the next Postmaster, and then Charles Vogt, Fred. Stryker and Charles Hunsinger, each in turn, the latter being the present official, appointed early in 1883. The first blacksmith here was a Mr. Shepard or Shepherd, as stated elsewhere, in 1838; the second was Asher G. Skinner, in the same year, and the third was E. K. Bench, recently deceased, in 1842 or 1843. A church, the only one in the village, was erected in 1868, by the Lutherans, at a cost of about 1,500.00. It is a one-story frame, with a short steeple. This village attained its present size quite a number of years ago, and not being near a railroad is not likely to grow very materially in the near future. The chief events of importance in the recent history of the place have been the prosecution of various parties for the illegal selling of intoxicating drinks by George Strong, one of the oldest settlers of the town of Wheeling, and a strong foe of intemperance. The village now contains two general stores, three hotels, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, two shoe shops, one brewery, one physician, a Lutheran Church, and about 200 inhabitants.

LOUIS FISCHER, wheelwright, was born in Wheeling in 1839, son of Louis and Johannah Fischer, who came to Cook County in June, 1838, and located in Wheeling Township on a farm. His father died in October, 1875, at the age of sixty seven years. His mother is living, at the age of seventy. Mr. Fischer in early life learned the trade of wheelwright. In 1861 he enlisted in Company I, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and took part at Pittsburg landing, Corinth, Siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, and other engagements. He was wounded at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing and disabled from service about two months. In June, 1864, he was mustered out and returned to Wheeling and bought the wheelwright shop of S. W. Rees, of whom he learned his trade. This business he has since followed. He was married in 1865 to Miss Sophia Periolet; they have had seven children, six now living - Julia, George, Reinhold, Edwin, Oscar and Irving. They are Methodist in religious faith. Mr. Fischer is a member of the Masonic fraternity, A.F. & A.M., Vitruvius Lodge, No. 81, of which he has been secretary for thirteen consecutive years. He has been a trustee for the school fund for nine years, and school director for four years.

## VILLAGE OF WHEELING

JACOB FRITSCH, farmer, P. O. Wheeling was born in Germany in 1836, son of Daniel and Susan Fritsch. He came to Cook County with his parents in 1841, who located on the farm where Mr. Fritsch now resides; his father is living, at eighty-one years of age; his mother dies in 1881 at the age of seventy-seven. He owns 134 acres of land, and is engaged in farming and dairying. In 1859 he was married to Miss Magdalena, daughter of Christian and Ursula Schaffer; they have three children - Daniel E., Robert G. and Anna A. They are attendants of the Presbyterian Church at Wheeling. Mr. Fritsch was Constable of Wheeling for six years, school director for twenty years, and is now Justice of the Peace and notary public. He has held these offices for twelve years, and is a director of the Northfield Mutual Insurance Company and a member of the Wilber Mercantile Collection Agency, of Chicago, and was Tax Collector of Wheeling for five years.

CONRAD MILLER, farmer, P. O. Wheeling, was born in Germany in 1828, son of Jacob and Catharine Miller. He came to Cook County in 1837 with his parents, who located in Wheeling Township and engaged in farming until their deaths, his father in 1857, at the age of sixty-four, and his mother in 1873, at the same age. Mr. Miller learned the trade of a shoemaker in early life and followed that business for about thirty-six years. He worked in Chicago until 1860, when he moved to Wheeling Township and located on the farm where he now resides, containing eighty-four acres, one and a half miles from Wheeling, where he has since been engaged in farming in connection with his trade. He was married in 1849 to Miss Lydia Holmes, daughter of John and Helen Holmes, natives of England, and early settlers in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have eight children - Minnie M., Isaac A., Charles S., Thomas G., Frank B., Medora A., Lillie E., and Willie C. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity A.F. & A.M., Vitruvius Lodge, No. 81 and has been Collector and Trustee of the school fund for Wheeling for six years, and school director for ten years.

M. MUFFAT, physician and surgeon, was born in Munich, Bavaria, in 1850, son of Carl and Teresa Muffat. He was educated at the Maximilian Ludwig University, of Munich, completing his course in 1869. He was one year in the sanitary corps of the German Army. In the fall of 1869 he came to America, and after a short residence in Chicago located in Menominee, Wis., and engaged in practice. In 1871 he removed to Peshtigo, Wis., and was there during the great fire of that year that destroyed the entire Village; then went to Chicago and engaged in the drug business. In 1872 he was appointed manager of the drug department of the German and American Dispensary; then established the drug business of M. Muffat & Co. In 1872 he took a course at the Rush Medical College, in the spring of 1876 locating in Wheeling, his practice extending to some of the neighboring towns. Mr. Muffat was married in 1878 to Miss Minnie Sigwalt. They have two children - Carrie and Maximilian. He is a member of the Catholic Church.

## VILLAGE OF WHEELING

A. W. PEET, farmer, P. O. Wheeling, was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in 1812. His parents, Lewis and Isabel, came to Cook County in 1833 and passed the winter at an Indian trading post at Riverside, then known as Laughton's Place. The next spring they settled on Mr. Peet's present farm, which contains 197 acres. His father dies in 1852 aged sixty-one years; his mother, in 1849, aged fifty-one. Mr. Peet married, in 1849, Miss Abby J. Hewitt, daughter of Robert and **Betsy** Hewitt. They have had ten children, seven now living - Franklin, Edwina C., Robert E., William E., Louise, Edward L. and Emma M. He is a member of Vitruvius Lodge, No. 81 A.F. & A.M. He has been twenty years a member of the school board and served four years as Justice of the Peace.

GENERAL LEWIS PEET was born in Connecticut in 1791. When quite a small boy he moved to Vermont. He served as a private soldier in the War of 1812, and participated in the battle of Plattsburg. In 1816 he moved to Ohio, settling in Cuyahoga County, where he worked at the blacksmith trade in connection with farming. He was here made a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Sheriff of the county. He moved to Illinois in October, 1833, and took up his claim in Wheeling Township in December, of the same year. He held a commission as General in the Ohio Militia. He was the first Justice of the Peace of the precinct which included what is now Wheeling Township, and he was the Town Clerk of Wheeling after the organization of the town. His death occurred August 20, 1852

J. G. SCHNEIDER, veterinary surgeon, was born in the province of Rhine, Prussia, in 1827, son of John N. and Eva Schneider. He was educated for a veterinary surgeon, and served five and a half years in the Prussian Army. In 1853 he came to America and located in Wheeling, Cook County, where he has since resided, engaged in the practice of his profession. He is also an insurance agent; he has the agency of the Milwaukee Mechanic's Mutual, the Addison Farmers' Mutual, of Du Page County, and the Rockford Insurance companies. He was married, in 1853, to Miss Maria Bier; they have none children - George, Edward, Reinhold, Carl, Mary, Annie, Amelia, Emma and Alma. He is a member of the Wheeling Presbyterian Church. He has been Assessor of Wheeling for twenty years and school director for fifteen years.

A. G. SKINNER, farmer, P. O. Wheeling, was born in Middlesex County, N. J. in 1816, son of John and Elizabeth Skinner. He came to Cook County in 1836 and located in eastern Wheeling Township, where he engaged in blacksmithing for four years, then moved on the farm where he now resides, containing 270 acres, and has since followed farming and blacksmithing. He was married in 1838 to Miss Eliza Jane Huff, daughter of Johnson and Jennett Huff. They have had seven children, four now living - Emma F., Jennett H., Elizabeth J. and Clara E. R. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Skinner is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, A.F. & A.M.

## VILLAGE OF WHEELING

GEORGE STRONG, Jr., Farmer, P. O. Wheeling, was born in Wheeling in 1840, son of George and Catharine Strong and was brought up on the farm where he now resides, being the old homestead where his father settled in 1834. He was married, in 1861, to Miss Fanny E. Beach, daughter of Samuel A. and Eliza Beach; they have had five children, four of whom are living - John W., Callie A., George A. and Fanny M. Mr. Strong and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he is a steward and trustee of the same. Mr. Strong is a member of Vitruvius Lodge, No. 81, A.F. & A.M. He has been Assessor and Collector of the town of Wheeling, and a member of the school board for eighteen years.

CHARLES VOGT, merchant, was born near Hesse-Cassal, Germany, in 1835, son of William and Catharine Vogt. He came to Cook County in 1845 and helped his father on a farm in Wheeling Township for ten years. He then engaged as salesman for J. M. Schaffer for four years; then, in company with his father, bought the business, in four years purchasing his father's interest, and from that time until 1881 he carried on the business alone. In that year he formed a partnership with Emel Sigwalt, and the business is now conducted under the firm name of Vogt & Sigwalt. They carry a full stock of general merchandise. Mr. Vogt was married, in 1857, to Miss Josephine, Daughter of Napoleon and Salome Periolet; they have had three children, all deceased. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, A.F. & A.M. Vitruvius Lodge, No. 81, and has been Town Clerk and School director. He has been Postmaster and Deputy of Wheeling for twenty-four consecutive years.

## THE INFANT WHEELING

pub. Wed, Dec. 4, 1957  
The Wheeling Independent

by Joan Heuer

This is the story of the birth of Wheeling, Wheeling in diapers, Wheeling taking her first stumbling steps, Wheeling trying to find her rightful place in that large, sometimes frightening world called proper society. This is the story of the men and women who nursed infant Wheeling and guided her unstable feet and hands through the years of childhood.

When, and moreover why, was this little settlement organized into a village? To find the answer we looked into the first official records of the village -- dated 1894. We found the first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the District Schoolhouse on July 26th of that year. The Introductory to the Record of Proceedings revealed the reasons for incorporating. It stated:

## INTRODUCTORY

For several years prominent citizens of Wheeling had seriously considered the advantages and disadvantages of Village organization; but, as to many the disadvantages seemed to predominate, the organization was not attempted.

Circumstances, however, changed and changed public sentiment.

Necessary improvements were neglected; the regulation of dramshops became more lax; foreign elements settled and engaged in occupation that neither enhanced the material welfare of society nor improved its moral tone; citizens frequently suffered indignity and damage on their own premises from lawless strangers, and withal the Village appeared to be in a process of general demoralization. In view of this state of things prominent citizens of Wheeling renewed the agitation for ~~village~~ Village organization with more hope of success. The most progressive businessment of the movement arranged for a mass meeting early in the month of June, invited an attorney at law to speak to the people on Village organization. Accordingly the mass meeting was held in Union Hall; the merits of self government were explained; a plat, showing the territorial limits of the proposed incorporation was presented by the assessor of the Township; a petition, praying for Village incorporation, was prepared in due form, signed by 42 legal voters residing within limits of the proposed incorporation, and addressed to Hon. Frank Scales, County Judge, Chicago, Ill. The County Judge took official notice of said petition, and the County Clerk ordered a special election to take place on the 19th day of June, 1894 in Union Hall, giving legal voters an opportunity of deciding for or against Village organization. The election was held on the date and in the place aforesaid with the following result: For Village organization under the general law-43 votes; Against Village organization under general law, 3 votes. The election returns having been duly canvassed the County Clerk ordered an election under the general election law to be held on the 17th day of July 1894 for the purpose of electing Village Officers, to wit:

continued

One (1) President; Six (6) Trustees; One (1) Police Magistrate; One (1) Village Clerk.

Accordingly the election aforesaid was held with the following result:

President: Henry Boehmer; Board of Trustees; John Forke, Jacob Schwingel, Emil Sigwalt, Reinhold Schneider, Wm. Fassbänder, J. A. Schminke; Police Magistrate: Louis Fischer; Village Clerk: W. R. Mundhenke.

The votes having been canvassed and the organization papers entered in County Court of Cook Co., Ill. completing the organization of the Village of Wheeling, the officers duly qualified and entered upon their respective duties.

With the baby now born and in the arms of her proud and determined city fathers let's follow "The Infant Wheeling" through days of shaking decisions. Let's thumb through the first village Ordinances -- We'll find some good laughs there. Follow us next week when we review some more chapters in the life of "THE INFANT WHEELING".

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THE INFANT WHEELING

published Dec. 11, 1957  
The Wheeling Independent

BY Joan Heuer

We left the newborn baby in the arms of the newly elected city fathers, but alas, she was destitute and without protection from the so-called "law-less Strangers". What now? What should be done to keep the infant financially secure and safe from harm?

The new government decided to hit the most logical place for funds -- the dram shops or saloons (cocktain lounges, to you); since undoubtedly this was shere the gold would most likely be found. The president appointed a board member to secure necessary information concerning the passage of an Ordinance pertaining to the licensing of dram shops. On August 4th, 1894 the first Village Ordinance was approved and posted.

Upon examination we find it was unlawful to:

"--sell or give away any intoxicating malt, vinous or fermented liquors of any name, nature or kind, in any quantity whatever, without first obtaining a license so to do--"

"sell or give away, by himself, his agent or servant, or in any other way, directly or indirectly any liquors mentioned in this Ordinance to any minor, without the written order of his or her parents or guardian; any person intoxicated, or who is in the habit of getting intoxicated; any person on any general or special election day, or after 11 o'clock p.m. or before ~~4XX~~ 5 o'clock a.m. of any day--"

Licences were issued every three months and the fee was set at \$500 per annum -- payable in advance. The first licenses were issued to the following applicants:

Curt Knoblanch at Chicago House  
C. F. Metz at Columbia Hotel  
Jacob Schwingel at His House  
John Behm at Union Hotel  
Herman Harmening at Wheeling House  
Andrew G. Horcher at Wisconsin Central Hotel

The \$125 received from each made the grand total in the baby's piggy bank \$750.

New to the problem of protection. Someone must be appointed to uphold the new laws and keep the peace -- and someone was. Mr. Jacob Hausam was made the Village Marshall and he would receive in exchange for his work a salary of \$15 for the first municipal year. Furthermore, the Board procured a statute, docket book and reference book for the use of the Police Magistrate and a Marshal's Star No. 1.

It was also moved that the Village Clerk be allowed a salary of \$25 for the first municipal year. And too, ~~XX~~ a new meeting place was decided upon -- Union Hall would serve as the regular meeting place; the hall to be furnished for \$1 per meeting, including fuel and light. Don't laugh. These boys met about five nights ~~XX~~ a week and this could add up to a sizable bill.

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## THE INFANT WHEELING

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by Joan Heuer

Before continuing with the reports on activities of the village government, let's slip back to the year 1877 and the organization of the Wheeling Cornet Bank (the WCB). During the days of the gay-nineties, and before, most towns and hamburgs had their own bank to play for special affairs and Sunday afternoon concerts. For without radios, Hi-Fi systems and television, there was little music in grandmother's life.

A group of musically inclined, or at least enthusiastic, men set up a constitution and by-laws and chose three officers to head their musical organization. There was to be a Leader, a Deputy Leader and a Secretary. The constitution was complete to the finest detail, setting forth the duties of all officers and the band. It was run under a strict democratic rule, and it was prepared for every emergency including the "forcible expulsion" of members, the destruction of instruments, and disputes between the leader and band members. The first band was made up of the following:

E flat Cornet, C. Welflin  
B flat Cornet, C. Statler  
E flat Cornet, C. A. Fassbender  
E flat Alto, C. Periolat  
B flat Tenor, Adam Weber  
B flat Tenor, Emil Sigwalt  
B Flat baritone, J. H. Nicolai  
E Flat Tuba, A. G. Zimmer  
Snare Drum, Y. Kimmich  
Bass Snare drum, and cymbals, Albert Weber

For the government of the Bank in public, the following rules held good:

- a. No member shall leave his place in the ranks without permission from the Leader. Penalty 5 cents.
- b. No member shall play upon an instrument during the silence of the band. Penalty 5 cents.
- c. Any member appearing late at a place of rendezvous or failing to appear shall, in the discretion of the Leader, pay a fine of 25 cents.
- d. Any member appearing in a state of intoxication or becoming intoxicated after appearance, the question of this intoxication to be decided by a vote of the other members in case of dispute. Shall pay a fine of 1 dollar.
- e. Any member leaving the ranks while on duty outside of band room will be subject to a fine of 1 dollar.

The conduct for rehearsals was equally as strict and evidently the penalties paid off for during a three month period there were ~~21~~ 21 fines for profane language, 4 for non-appearance and 3 for late appearance. Making a total of \$2.60 paid.

continued

~~XXXX~~

But there were other difficulties. Consider this letter from a miffed member:

To the Leader and Members of the W.C. Band.

Gentlemen,

After considering since the last meeting of the band (May 17) I have made up my mind that it is better ( or in other words that it is a case of suspension at present) that I should not appear at the rehearsal tonight. I think it will be better for all that I do not appear. Then you can talk over matters plainly and I will not have to overhear some of the conversations, which probably would be distasteful for all parties concerned. In the first place I think some of the members made remarks that were wholly uncalled for. Secondly, If I am subject for a fine I hope you will do your duty. Thirdly, If you think of changing the instrument, (that lays in the power of the Leader). Fourth, In case of expulsion, I hope all of the members of the Bank know what that means!

It is much different than a resignation. I have been informed since the last meeting, there there is another member that wishes to play the Bass Drum, as he thinks he will not learn the instrument he has at present.

Now if the Bank thinks that they will better themselves by doing so -- Do so by all means.

I want the organization to understand that I think of the Bank as I ever did and will harbor no ill feelings against them. Act as they will.

I await your decision through your secretary, but shall not meet with you again (As a member or otherwise) as to your decision to-night.

O yes, problems there were many, but undoubtedly there were also a lot of good times, according to some of the debts they paid. These statements for instance:

From J. Schwingel -- 300 cigars at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents a piece for \$7.50

From Rynhold Periolat -- Hall Rent \$15.00, 1 bottle of wine and 3 ~~4~~ bottles of whiskey, \$1.75, and 6 one-quarter barrels of beer, \$9.00, and 2 suppers for 5 men, \$2.00. Lest we forget the barkeepers, \$10.00.

Other bills included the purchase of instruments like these: One Cornet, \$19.00, one ~~#~~ flat Altom / \$14.00. And then there were: 300 Concert Programs \$2.25.

From all this effort the oohm-pa-pas were heard throughout the Village. Such tunes as the "Solitude Schottische", "We shall sin Quick Step", "Hail Soldier and There'll be Rest By and By Quick Step", Mox Nix Ouse Quick March", "Festival Polka," "Gen. Garfield's Quick Step", and Gen. Sherman's and Gen. Arthur and Gen. Hancock's "Phonograph Gallop", "Debutant Quick Step", "Annie Laurie", "Ole Black Joe", and "The Tuba's Terror Polka Di Concert" filled the air.

THE INFANT WHEELING

published Jan 8, 1958  
The Wheeling Independent

BY Joan Heuer

With all the business being handled by the Board, and with the ~~appointment~~ report from the committee appointed to provide for a place of custody for offenders, the need for a Village Hall became more acute.

The committee, Mr. E. Sigwalt and Mrs. Jacob Hansam, Village Marshall, offered in the name of Mr. Wm. Wille, a piece of ground 30 by 100 feet, north of and adjacent to Mrs. Unterner's lot, for \$100. Further negotiations resulted in an offer by Mr. Wille to sell a piece of ground 40 by 134 feet for the sum of \$150, with the condition that the Village erect a building on the property within 1 year.

The preliminary plans for the building provided for a Hall 20 by 3- by 12 feet, with two cells in the western end of the Building 7½ by 9 feet each. The building was to stand on posts. Three sealed bids for its construction were submitted by H. P. Mentzer, H. Hans and Wm. Wille. The contract was let to Mr. H. P. Mentzer, providing he agreed to use no. 1 common pine lumber and suitable wainscoating. \$750 was appropriated for the hall. The date was December 3rd, 1894.

On January 12th, 1895, the following statement was received--

H. P. Mentzer  
Shermerville, Ill. (Northbrook)  
Undertaker, Contractor and Builder  
Ice Box and Hearse Furnished when Desired  
House Raising a Specialty

Hall by Contract	\$467.00	
Entry Work		
922 feet flang	13.83	
1 door 7 foot 13/4	2.75	
181 feet "Maple" floor	5.79	
2 blankets	1.20	
18 pcs. 2 by 4 -16 feet long	2.97	
22 pcs. 2 by 6-16 feet long	5.28	
192 feet 1/4 round	1.34	
1 Lock and Butt	1.10	
H. P. Mentzer 8 hours	2.00	
N. Roehenbach 16 hours	3.68	
John Mentzer 6 hours	1.50	
E. Plagg 3 hrs.	.69	
	<del>509.13</del>	509.13
Extra painting	1.00	
	510.13	
Extry work	42.13	
Extry on Painting	1.00	
	<u>\$ 43.13</u>	

continued

This was followed by many more bills for a variety of things ranging from spittoons to mattresses.

On December 31st there was a bill for \$7.50 for 8 new stars (1 for ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the marshall and 1 for each Board member)

J. A. Rothenbach presented his bill for \$1.50 for making bunks in the Village Hall and delivering lumber.

Four new blankets were purchased from E. Sigwalt and Co. for \$9.00 and 35 cents for express.

February 15th Mr. Rothenbach brought forth another statement for hanging two cell doors in the Village Hall. This one was for \$1.00.

Mrs. Henry Hipp sent her bill to the Board of Trustees. She collected 50 cents for sewing two cell mattresses.

Later, in June, an assortment of hardware, including two slop pails, a broom, two jail locks, two small spittoons, and two larger spittoons (for those with poor aim) was purchased from Fassbender and Arnold (Dealers in Stoves, Ranges, Tin and Hardware).

The original furnishing included 1 Gold Coin Ventiduct No. 19 Stove, 1 dozen chair, 2 Rochester Lamps, 1 Table and one business desk.

With all this excitement, the Board was kept hopping while they continued to write, pass and accept new Ordinances. They passed several during these months. Let's review them next week.

#

THE INFANT WHEELING

published Jan. 15, 1958  
The Wheeling Independent

by Joan Heuer

One may be led to believe that the problems in such a small, insonsequential community were very few and of no major importance. But considering the giant steps that have been taken in construction, medicine, and daily conveniences in the past 60 or 70 years, it is easy to understand that their problems were quite different from ours in many ways.

In the days Before mass inoculations, anti-biotics, and other so-called "miracle drugs" the control of contagious disease such as diptheria, typhoid and smallpox was a major problem. According to a Village Ordinance passed in 1894, it was the duty of every practicing physician who was attending any person affected with a contagious, infectious or pestilentail disease to report, in writing, to the President or the Village Marshall, describing the locality of the patient, so that he may be readily found. The President or Marshall then posted a notice with the name of the disease printed or written in large letters in a conspicuous place on or near the building in which the disease was found. The sign could not be removed until a physician permitted its removal. Anyone could be fined from \$20 to \$100. Any person in contact with an infectious disease was required to change or purify his clothing before entering the world outside under the same penalty.

To further mitigate the threat of epidemic, annually during the month of May, a mass cleanup was ordered by the village. Residents were required to thoroughly cleanse and pruiify their ~~yards, barn lots, pigsties, cellars, privies, and adjacent streets~~ yards, barn lots, pigsties, cellars, privies, and adjacent streets of all trash, filth, manure and other substances likely to occasion disease. In July the Village Marshall and Street Commissioner made an inspection tour and anyone failing to comply was prosecuted.

The plank sidewalks that were first built in Wheeling presented several problems, a bit different from ours today. Almost a full page of requirements and specifications were necessary in setting up the Ordinance. This was not just a matter of setting-up forms, backing in a cement truck and troweling it out. The 6 or 8 inch boards, 4 feet wide were laid side by side on top of stringers fastened to one inch boards. Imagine the maintenance they must have required. According to the Ordinance, the property owners had to keep the sidewalks in front of their homes in proper repair at their own expense. If they failed to do so the Village made the repairs and ordered a special taxation against the property. All sidewalks built contrary to the requirements could be condemned.

On the other hand, some Village problems remain the same today as they were in 1894 -- take the age-old battle between dogs and neighbors for instance. In such a small viilage the cure was a bit different from the one presently in use. Annually in the month of May the Street Commissioner was to prepare a complete list of all dogs and their owners living in the corporate limits.

The Village Marshall then went from dogowner to dogowner collecting dog tax, \$1 on every male and \$2 on every female. In return the owner received a metallic plate bearing the letters V.T.P. (Village Tax Paid) and the calendar year. Any dog found running at large through the village not wearing his plate could be destroyed.

The following fees were allowed for services rendered under this Ordinance:

Street Commissioner -- 5 percent of dog tax collected.

Village Clerk -- 15 percent of the dog tax collected.

Village Marshal -- 5 percent of the dog tax collected and 50 cents for each dog killed and buried under his supervision. An affidavit stating the time the dog was destroyed and where the animal was buried, was to accompany any such claims.

Apparently a "dog's life" was not so good in those days.

#

## THE INFANT WHEELING

by Joan Heuer  
The Wheeling Independent  
Wed., February 5, 1958

There must have been many men who could walk down the streets of Wheeling boasting that they once had been Village Marshal, for the resignation of the first Marshal, Jacob Hausam, was followed by a lengthy list of law enforcement heads.

Hausam left his post to assume his duties as Village President in April 1895. The following June he appointed Mr. Franz Klose Village Marshal. The Marshal was granted five dollars per month for his services. Franz Klose, however, failed to qualify for the office, and the Board was required to seek out another man who was able and willing to accept the job.

In July, The President tried again and appointed Mr. Jacob Arnold as Village Marshal for the municipal year, but in October he resigned. The monthly salary was then upped to twenty-five dollars and one of the trustees was appointed to take charge of the key to the Village Hall, and to light the street lamps until another marshal could be appointed.

A week later Mr. R. Schneider resigned his office as trustee and was given the oath of office as Marshal. He was later forced to relinquish his post due to ill health.

Come December, Mr. William Peet moved in after his appointment was accepted by the Board. The salary was changed again--lowered to fifteen dollars a month. But in May it was recommended that the duties of the Marshal be expanded to include street-lamplighter and street commissioner, so that he may receive an adequate salary. The recommendation was passed, and the salary was raised to thirty dollars. Mr. Peet lasted until October 1897, when he was discharged.

There was a reduction in salary again, after the requested resignation, and when Mr. Henry Hipp took office, he was working for twenty-five dollars a month. Mr. Hipp remained in office for a number of years.

Law enforcement activities during this time can best be described by quoting verbatim from the old ledgers and communications such as:

Village of Wheeling to C. F. Metz	
For lodging and meals to three (3)	
inpecunious wayfarers @ 25¢	\$ .75
6 meals for 3 prisoners	1.50
To secure handcuffs	1.00
Total	<u>\$3.25</u>

continued

PROPERTY OF THE  
WHEELING PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Infant Wheeling -- by Joan Heuer  
 pub. The Wheeling Independent  
 2-5-58

Village Marshals

For serving papers on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 and conveying same to County "Jale!" \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.50  
 signed W. E. Peet, Wheeling  
 Jan. 30/99

+++

Wheeling Incorporation to Jacob Arnold--  
 November 28th, 1895  
 Served as Marshal 90 days at 16 2/3 cents  
 a day \$14.70  
 Killed five dogs Aug. 12th at 50 cents  
 a head 2.50  
 Total \$17.20

+++

Village of Wheeling to Frank Forke \$1.00  
 John Methling 1.00  
 H. Hipp 1.00  
 W. Riswig 1.00  
 for guarding prisoners

+++

Then too there was letter writing and form filling:

The Village Marshal reported that he had written  
 to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to the bill he owes the  
 village for burying his mule, but had not  
 received no reply.

+++

December 24, 1904

Sir:

Accompanying this letter you will find a blank  
 form calling for some information regarding the  
 prisoners in your charge during the quarter ending  
 December 31, 1904.

This form is sent to every jail, lockup, calaboose,  
 or similar institution in the United States, and you  
 are respectfully asked to fill it out at your earliest  
 convenience.

Very respectfully,  
 Bureau of the Census  
 Washington, D. C.

+++

continued



The Infant Wheeling - by J. Heuer  
pub. The Wheeling Independent  
2-5-58

Village Marshals

And sign painting:

The Village Marshal was instructed to paint three signs warning swimmers not to bathe in the river unclothed, and to post these signs along the river banks.

###

## THE INFANT WHEELING

pub. The Wheeling Independent  
Wed., Feb. 12, 1958

BY Joan Heuer

On April 6, 1896 the first move toward fire protection was made. The last motion of the meeting was made by Wm. Metz-- "that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the subject of fire protection and its' estimated cost."

The appointed committee accomplished nothing by June, so another committee of three was selected to investigate various chemical and other fire extinguishers and report at the next meeting. The appointed committee included Mr. Metz, John Forke, and Wm. Fassbender. This committee meant business and at the July meeting they presented the Board several letters from different firms relating to the subject. They also introduced Mr. R. B. Sizafos of the Racine Fire Engine Co., who explained some of the unknown facts of fire prevention and protection. The Board was so impressed they decided to go to Racine and investigate the workings of fire extinguishers.

In August, the village ordered the fire extinguishing apparatus and shortly they received work from Mr. Sizafos that the order would be send September 7th. Sure enough -- on September 11th the bright new engine, with all her trimmings, arrived at the Wisconsin Central Railway freight office. I'll venture a guess that everybody in town turned out to get a glimpse of her that first day, all red and shiny like a bright new toy in the Indian Summer sun.

Arriving with the chemical engine was a hook and ladder truck, 2 axes, 50 feet of hose, a pump, a 100,60, and 40 foot coil of rope, a hook and chain, a barrel of chemical, a crow bar, 5 ladders and pole, 2 gongs, a cast frame brace, an engine and a pair of wheels.

The Fire Department was to be allowed the use of the Village Hall for their meetings and a fire bell was procured from Fassbender and Arnold for \$27.40. At a special meeting in late September, the department was organized and officers were elected. The rule to elect officers by ballot was suspended and the election was held by acclamations. The results were as follows: Fire Marshall, C. F. Metz; First Assistant, Mr. J. A. Schminke; Second Assistant, Mr. Frank Forke, Secretary, W. R. Mundhenke.

The companies were divided up as follows:

- Company No. - - Engine; Foreman, J. P. Hausam; Asst., Wm. Brandt; Member, Walter Riswig.
  - Company No. 2 - Pump and Supply Cart; Foreman, Wm. Fassbender; Asst., Lorenz Koebelin; Members, Emil Sigwalt, J. Junnsck, H. A. Benz, Chr. Wendling.
  - Company No. 3 - Hook and Ladder Truck; Foreman, Mr. Tony Behm; Asst., John Stryker; Members, J. Methling Jr., Wm. Brown, Chr. Ballenbach, F. D. Schmidt, G. Loeppert, H. Kaiser, J. Behm, Wm. Metz and Joe Killian.
- Substitutes were J. Schwingel, M. W. Knittel, Chas. Johnson.

The Infant Wheeling--by Joan Heuer

1896 June-Sept.  
Organization of  
fire dept.

Then, as now, the Fire Department held an annual affair. However, instead of a dance, in the early 1900's the big day was a 4th of July Picnic. Indications are there was plenty to eat. Consider these bills from the 1903 picnic:

## E. Sigwalt and Co., General Merchandise

25 loaves bread	\$1.00
1 bat	.10
1 box peaches	1.25
1 box plums	1.50
4 doz. oranges	.96
100-2 lb. bags	.10
100-4 lb bags	.15
1 jug mustard	.25
Flags	.50
Festooning	.12
Matches	.18
9 bunches bananas	3.00

## B. F. Stryker, Fresh, Salt and Smoked Meats

8 lbs. ham @ .18	\$1.44
------------------	--------

## George Huber &amp; Son, Soda and Mineral Waters

9 cases of quarts	\$6.75
-------------------	--------

## J. A. Schminke, General Merchandise

25 gal. ice cream	\$18.75
Express & telephoning	2.14
2 cases cracker jacks	6.00
2 fans	.50
30 lbs. peanuts	2.25
1 floor wax	.30
24 pkgs. chocolate	.75
1 pan carmel	.70
1 box butter rolls	.50
1 box gum	.55
6 sauce dishes	.20
1 bolt ribbon	.40

The purchase of floor wax indicates there was probably some dancing at this open-air wing-ding. This bill for the care of four musicians adds to the evidence:

## John Behm, Union Hotel

4 dinners	\$1.00
4 suppers	1.00
4 lodgings	1.00
4 breakfasts	1.00
8 railraad fares	2.80
livery to depot (2 times)	.50

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## THE INFANT WHEELING

pub. The Wheeling Independent  
Wed., Feb. 26, 1958

By Joan Heuer

Remembering "the good old days" oldtimers probably hold their heads in dismay when they take a look at the present village budget. In the first years the whole village could have been run on taxes now paid by only six homeowners. Of course we get more for our money these days, (I keep telling myself) but it does appear that as the town grows, more experts must be hired to help iron out new problems, more new equipment must be bought and insured, and bigger and better improvements must be made in public works.

In 1896 the total budget for the Village of Wheeling was \$1870.00 -- less than what is now allowed for office supplies, including postage and stationery. The streets and bridges fund was \$50 less than what is now set aside for janitor's supplies. What was allowed then for the marshal's salary was less than what is now paid out for premiums for surety bonds on village officers. The amount now appropriated for street lighting expense, repair and installation, is 100 times greater than the total used for that purpose in 1896. Salaries paid out to village officers and employees has been multiplied 120 times in the past 62 years. And although the fire department was paying for an engine at that time, their expenses still amounted to only what the department is now allowed for telephone expense and gas, oil and maintenance of equipment.

Compare for yourself. Here are five of the first budgets set up for the village:

Streets and Bridges -- 1896 - \$350; 1897 - \$475; 1898 - \$137.92;  
1899 - \$350; 1900 - \$350.

Marshal's Salary -- 1896 - \$360; 1897 - \$360; 1898 - \$327.34;  
1899 - \$300; 1900 - \$375.00.

Street lighting -- 1896 - \$60; 1897 - \$100; 1898 - \$60.87;  
1899 - \$75; 1900 - \$100.

Attorney: 1896 - \$50; 1897 - --; 1898 --; 1899 --; 1900 --.

Officer's Salaries -- 1896 - \$200; 1897 - \$175; 1898 \$70.85;  
1899 - \$150; 1900 - \$375.

Fire Department -- 1896 - \$700; 1897 \$300; 1898 - \$250;  
1899 - \$100; 1900 - \$50.

Contingencies -- 1896 - \$150; 1897 - \$100; 1898 \$60.87;  
1899 - \$ 75; 1900 - \$1500.

(continued)

Total Appropriations -- 1896 - \$1870; 1897-\$1410; 1898 -  
 \$1174.50; 1899 \$1225; 1900 - \$2575.

And here are the total for the various departments in today's budget:

General Administrative Expenses	\$67,560.00
Police Department Expense	55,000.00
Fire Department Expense	6,450.00
Streets, Bridges & Highways Fund	37,000.00
Water Fund	82,700.00
Sanitary Sewer Fund	353,500.00
Grand Total Appropriations	601,210.00

When you know the taxes collected by the village in 1896 was only \$600 and the estimated number of families was between 60 and 60 at that time, you know in a moment no one's back was broken by high taxes in those days. True, this budget came before the addition of a sewer or water system, but then when you consider once a fellow sunk a well he could pump all the water he wanted for years and years without water bills, water ~~xxx~~ meters, or meter-readers and the installation and maintenance of a Chick Sales was hardly worth mentioning, you wonder if maybe you weren't born too late.

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THE INFANT WHEELING

pub. The Wheeling Independent  
Wed, March 12, 1958

by Joan Heuer

Certainly all of us would be lost without our telephones in this day and age. Of the many mechanical slaves that do work for us, the modern communication system is high on the list of indispensables. This is the story of how the telephone got its start in the ~~Village~~ Village of Wheeling.

In September of 1900, in answer to a request from the Chicago Telephone Co., the ordinance committee under the chairmanship of F. D. Schmidt prepared and introduced an ordinance concerning the installation of a telephone system here. It was read to the Board for information at the September 3rd meeting, and after considering, the Board decided to secure legal counsel before its passage. A special meeting was called four days later to again consider the approval. Upon the second reading, it was moved by Mr. Wm. Fassbender and seconded by F. D. Schmidt that the ordinance be passed as read. And so it started.

The ordinance granted the Chicago Telephone Company certain rights in the village. They were to "erect, maintain and renew, upon and along the streets and alleys of the Village of Wheeling, for a period of fifty years, lines of poles, wires and to use the same for supplying to the general public means of communication by telephone or other electrical device."

Lines and poles were to be located under the supervision and direction of the chairman of the committee on streets and alleys. They were to be so placed as not to interfere with ordinary travel, or any water, sewer or drain. The village was to be held harmless from "all damage resulting to any person, or persons, or corporation, from the erection or maintenance of these structures."

The telephone company was to furnish the village with telephones with local exchange service free of charge in the Village Hall and ~~and~~ in the Firehouse as soon as an exchange was established. Just how many Wheeling farmers, dram shop keepers, store owners, etc. would pay to have one of these electrical talking gadgets in their place remained to be seen.

(Continued next week)

Wheeling -- name of

"...The name "Wheeling" is a corruption of an Indian word, of uncertain meaning, sometimes translated as "the place of the head." " 1

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1 p. 586, Vol. XXVIII, Encyclopaedia Britannica  
(under Wheeling, West Virginia) Eleventh Edition

WHEELING (Source of name)

The only other Wheelings are in Missouri and West Virginia; the latter is the original one. The name was given over two centuries ago to a creek which flows into the Ohio near present Wheeling, West Virginia, called "Wealingor Scalp Creek" in 1752 by Christopher Gist. In later years it was called Wealing, Weelin, Weeling, Weelunk, Wheelin, Wheling, and Wheeling. In 1797 the legislature of Northwest Territory authorized Ebenezer Zane to operate a ferry across the Ohio from the "Northwest Bank of Indian Wheeling."

The name comes, according to Heckewelder, from the Delaware form Wihling or Wih-link, signifying "where the head is, or place of the head," and was given to that place because Indians there slew a captive and impaled his head on a sharpened pole. There is no evidence to support other explanations, such as "head of a river," or claims of non-Indian origin.

From Journal of Illinois State  
Historical Society "inter 1962



from: Mrs. E. Burlingham  
Wheeling Public Library  
24 S. Milwaukee Avenue  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

July 8, 1966

For: Ill. Sesquicentennial  
Commission

### VILLAGE OF WHEELING

Population: 11,756 (1964 census)

Square miles:

The Village of Wheeling is located about 30 miles northwest of Chicago in the northeast corner of Cook County in Wheeling Township. The Village is bounded by Lake County on the north, Palating Road (Willow Road) on the south, the Des Plaines River on the east, and Buffalo Grove on the west. The area was occupied from 1769 to 1833 by Pottawatomie Indians, and before 1769 by the Miami Confederacy, who were in the region on LaSalle's first visit in 1681.

The derivation of the name of Wheeling is probably the "corruption of an indian word...sometimes translated as 'the place of the head'" -- probably referring to the Des Plaines River, which was the center of transporation for the Indians.

The first settler in Wheeling was a Mr. Sweet, who built a cabin in March, 1833. He sold his squatter's claim to George Strong in September, 1833, and Strong became the first permanent white settler in the township.

After the treaty with the Pottawatomies was ratified on September 26, 1833, many settlers moved into Wheeling. The first of these was Joseph Filkins, who built a house in 1834 on property which is now the northeast corner of the junction of Milwaukee and Dundee Roads. Mr. Filkins became the first postmaster in 1836, and the first hotelkeeper in 1837.

The first post route from Chicago to Green Bay was established in 1833, along a route which is now Milwaukee Avenue. A number of hotels and restaurants were built in the village to serve the travelers on the post route.

The Village of Wheeling was organized in 1850, and was incorporated in 1894. The Wisconsin Central Railroad (now the Soo Line) was located a mile west of the old town. The depot was built in 1886.

Restaurants and farming were Wheeling's mainstay until the building boom in the late 1950's. Wheeling's population in 1956 was 950 -- eight years later the population had jumped to 11,756.

While most of the new residents are commuters, Wheeling has also had tremendous growth in industry, business and facilities. A new industrial park, community swimming pool, park district, public library district, eight grade schools, a high school, and several churches have been built since 1956.

Pottawatomie Woods and Dam No. 1, Cook County Forest Preserve Sites, are located along the Des Plaines River on Wheeling's eastern boundary.

The Soo Line Railroad provides freight service for Wheeling, Palwaukee Airport provides private airport facilities, and two bus lines provide transportation to Chicago and Evanston.

1 Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th edition. p. 586, Vol. XXVIII.

A CENTURY TO REMEMBER

by

Shirley Ward McConnell

for

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wheeling, Illinois

in honor of its

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 4, 1964 - October 11, 1964

Presented as a Narration on

October 11, 1964

Narrators: Marilyn Miller Kelm  
Robert Falder

Dramatization: Mrs. S. Fenner Adam

A CENTURY OF HISTORY

Entry Year 1980-81

For

COMMUNITY TRUSTEE LAW OFFICE

Worship, Illinois

In honor of 100

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 6, 1981 - October 11, 1981

Presented as a Devotion on

October 11, 1981

Director: Rev. William Miller  
Rev. John Miller

Administration: Rev. J. Thomas

## A Century To Remember

When Illinois became a state in 1818, the way was cleared for more settlers to move into the remote areas of the state. So it was between 1818 and 1850 that settlers were penetrating into the area north of Chicago, even though no white man could settle in Lake County without the permission of the Indians who held possession.

The noble prairie grass which could hide a horse and rider in its height and density and made a better thatched roof than did the shingles of the day was losing its battle for survival to the plow share of the pioneer. For, once turned over, it would never again rise.

The majestic groves, each like an island rising above the prairie grass, were now sheltering homes of the pioneers, where once only wild life or a summer encampment of Indians found warmth and security nestled in their density.

The Indian trails, too, had widened out into roads bearing the heavy wagons and oxen of the pioneers. Milwaukee Avenue was known as Milwaukee Plank Road, going from Chicago through Half Day, Libertyville, (then Independence Grove), and on to Milwaukee.

By 1835 pioneers cast their ballots in a polling place six miles south of Wheeling.

In the Patent Office Report on Agriculture for 1850-1851, John C. Cox of Quincy, Adams County, Illinois, states: "The average intelligence (of the people of Illinois) is worthy of particular notice, being inferior to no section I have seen in the Union.

"Moral character is highly appreciated. Good-fellowship among neighbors, and general interest in country affairs, are marked strongly in our society. Neatness about the homestead is receiving gratifying attention, evinced by the cultivation of shade trees, shrubbery, flowers, and garden fruits, such as berries, etc. The means, however, of a great number are insufficient yet to enable them to erect such dwellings as are desirable. Economy, too, is a Sucker virtue. Labor is, in the main, fairly employed, and the laborers treated with deserving consideration; average wages, about \$8 a month, with board and washing.

"The German population are generally excellent farmers, and, with the help of their wonderful frugality and industry, almost invariably succeed rapidly."

Thus, the early settlers of Illinois were apparently equaling the tradition established by the Illini Indians,--For the literal interpretation of the Indian word "Illini" means "men," and the French added the "ois" ending making the whole meaning of the word: "Tribe of real men"--as distinguished from the Iroquois Indians whom the Illini called beasts.

The flights of the Passenger Pigeons, those huge birds that migrated through the plains in flocks so vast that they darkened the sun as they flew south in the fall, devastating any crop when they stopped for the night, had ceased. So many were their numbers and so large were their wings that the beat of the wings as they flew was

like the roar of an airplane.

The early communities and homes lived by the code of "industry" and waste not--want not, for it was only by this rigid selfdiscipline that the families could survive. One helped the other. Few people had money, at least in any quantity. For example: In 1841, one of the early settlers purchased a farm on Milwaukee Ave. near Wheeling for \$4.00 per acre. The original owner had paid the government \$1.25 per acre.

The German and Alsatian women had brought spinning wheels with them, so that they could make yarn for knitted garments. They also made a large knitted scarf that took the place of an overcoat. Very little, if any, of the wool was carded at home. Most of it was taken to Elgin for this process. They also made comforters of the carded wool which were wonderfully warm without being extremely heavy.

During the early 1850's a four-horse rake was used as a welcome successor to the back-breaking grain cradle.

The mail stage between Waukegan and Chicago by way of Libertyville, Half Day, and Wheeling was started in 1855. German was the language of the residents.

The general progress of the area was reflected by the industry of the people. They, who were creating homes out of wilderness and prairie, were not neglecting the spiritual values. They were simple people in many ways. Their wants were few beyond actual necessities. Indeed, it was cause for great rejoicing and thankfulness when crops were safely harvested, or when a winter passed without serious illness.

In 1845 the first Evangelical Association Church was being built on Plagge's Hill. This church was used three years and was not large enough to accommodate the people, so they moved it to the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Sanders Road. Later another church was built in this same location with old fashioned straight seats, a double row in the center with an aisle on each side and seats on the other side of the aisle against the wall.

Where is Plagge's Hill, you ask?--Why, that is now part of Sportsman's Golf Course where the square house stands next to Dundee Road. The top of that hill is actually the divide between the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi waterways. By natural course, all water east of this point found its way into the St. Lawrence River and all water west of this point found its way to the Mississippi River.

During these years, Chicago had grown substantially. By 1872, one hundred five miles of water pipe had been laid in the city; and in 1873 the city had constructed a tunnel beneath the lake through which to draw pure water.

But, this was Chicago! People of the area north of the city were busy leading their own lives and were only remotely affected by the city and its growth. It was during this period that some of the people of the first congregation of the German Evangelical Calvinist or Reformed United Lutheran Church (founded in 1845) joined the group in Wheeling. Among these were the Lesser, Koebelin, and Sigwalt families.

illies.

During the early 1860's oil lamps without chimneys were coming into use and on May 4, 1861, fourteen volunteers from Wheeling went to join the Union Rifle Guards at Camp Fry.

When the North was victorious in 1865, the news was told to the vicinity by those who returned from Chicago to Wheeling. Powder was placed on an anvil and when it was struck, the resulting explosion could be heard for several miles.

Illinois was the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. Less than three months later, the mortal remains of President Abraham Lincoln lay in state in the Chicago Court House en route to Springfield for burial.

The 1860's were exciting times: The first successful Trans-oceanic cable was laid from New Foundland to Ireland. The city of Chicago had built a transportation tunnel under the Chicago River to connect the south and west sides of the city. The east and west coasts of America were linked at Ogden, Utah, when the Union Pacific and Central Pacific tracks were joined. Just imagine, only 6½ days to cross the continent from California to New York; when, less than 30 years before, the founders of our community had spent 35 to 40 days at the mercy of the winds on the ocean, then a 3 week overland trip from New York!

The inhabitants of the Wheeling area saw the need for a church somewhat closer than those which were several miles away. So it was in October of 1864, the members of the German Evangelical United Reformed and Lutheran Church under the leadership of the Reverend F. C. Schwartz applied to the Presbytery of Chicago to become united with and be one of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America. This organization became complete on November 2, 1864, and the members of the new congregation called their group the German Presbyterian Zion Church. The first meetings were held in the school house which stood in the grove of trees where the shopping center is now located in the approximate position of the Jewel Food Store. The membership grew rapidly and in 1865, the church was completed on the Dundee Road site, directly across from the school grounds.

At a stated meeting of the North Presbyterian Church, Chicago, on April 11, 1865, the name of Zion Church (German) with 45 members, 4 Elders, and 4 Deacons was entered upon the rolls, and an Elder from the church, Jacob Glos, appeared and took his seat in Presbytery.

Shortly thereafter, the Reverend C. F. Waldecker became the second pastor of our church. In 1866, he recorded the passing of Salome Murbach, age 33 years, 1 month, and 5 days as the first death within the Church family. One year later, he also recorded the first church wedding: that of John Murbach and Sarah Retterer. It was with a heavy heart that he recorded the passing of Frank Edward Waldecker, his infant son. His tenure was filled with busy days. They must have been productive days, too, for the church debt was wiped out during his pastorate.

Historically, an event took place that was to change the area for generations. Early morning on Saturday, October 8, 1871, a fire had started in a stable in Chicago. The fall of the year had been ver

dry and the fire spread. On Monday morning, October 10, George Rock-  
enbach, who lived near Wheeling, took a load of oats, potatoes, butter  
and eggs to Chicago. He heard of the city burning when he reached  
Niles, but proceeded because he figures that food was necessary. He  
brought back a load of furniture, his brother Fred, and Mrs. Martin  
Stanger to the home of Daniel Stanger in Wheeling. The fire illumin-  
ated the area so brilliantly that a newspaper could be read in Wheel-  
ing and Deerfield at Midnight. Two hundred fifty persons were killed;  
17,450 buildings were destroyed with \$196 million dollars worth of  
damage.

Just 3 days after Christmas in 1871, the congregation rejoiced  
to learn of the birth of twins, Anna and Minna Schwingel. The infants  
were baptized on February 22, 1872. During this same year, the birth  
and baptism of Karl (Charles) Murbach, the son of the young couple  
married in 1867, was recorded. To our knowledge, Mr. Charles Murbach  
is the oldest living person baptized in our church as an infant.

But, to make a church a living home, every facet of human living  
must enter and leave its portals and find strength and humility at  
its altar. In February of 1873, one family laid to rest 7 children  
in the interim of one short month, probably victims of the cholera  
epidemic which swept the country at that time. Only God must know  
the dignity of such human tragedy.

By 1875, under the pastorate of the Reverend Charles Selden, our  
church made a missionary offering of \$6.75 to the Board of Home Miss-  
ions. That year the salary of the minister was \$430. The Session of  
our church submitted its records from 1864 to 1875 to Presbytery for  
inspection. The approval of the records was given with the recommenda-  
tion that the records be kept in the English language.

By 1876, the storm of discontent was brewing, and at the Congre-  
gational meeting held on January 2nd, the office of trustees was trans-  
ferred upon the Elders and Deacons. In addition, all papers which  
were the property of this church were ordered transferred from the  
holder to another member. Affairs were not straightened out for some  
little time!

These next few years stand out as crucial in the annals of our  
church history. Apparently each dry twig added fuel to the fire until  
the smoldering erupted in 1878, on St. Patrick's Day, of all days!  
Thus it was on March 17th that the following item appeared on the  
record:

"Whereas it appears that many families reside at Wheeling and  
Vicinity, who never attend Church, neither are they willing to support  
the congregation with their earthly means--the Money; but if they have  
a child to be Baptised or Lords Supper to be taken, or if they have  
funeral, they want the Church to be opened and the pastor to admin-  
ister to them. Therefore: Resolved: That in the future, the church  
be closed for the above named people and facts; and the Pastor of our  
church shall not administer to them in the church or the use of God."

The practicality of the above items is given to the wisdom of  
the pastor.

The final sentence giving the pastor discretion of carrying out  
this resolution at least tempers the situation a trifle. However,



on September 1st, the Elders tendered their resignation and requested that the Pastor read the formal notice from the Pulpit. On September 15th no Quorum was present to constitute a lawful Session to take action in the above matter, so seven men were appointed by the Pastor to act as a Committee and if necessary, nominate candidates for Elders "and take such steps as they deem proper for the sake of Christ's Kingdom of this Place."

This situation was very serious. The committee of seven men had a hard job before them, for on their shoulders rested the burden of reweaving the torn mantle covering those who were part of Christ's kingdom. The rules were made, and the rule which was causing the controversy seemed to be the portion covering the infant baptisms. It was like condemning a babe who was here in our midst to becoming a heathen.

On September 26th the committee apparently analyzed the situation completely, for they wrote the following resolutions:

- I - Resolved to keep up the Organization
- II - Pastor ordered to carry out the rules passed on March 17, 1878
- III - Committee did not accept the resignation of the Elders
- IV - The Session is to collect twice a year for the money for the Pastor's salary that didn't come in regularly and that he be paid his day wages from the treasury of the congregation.

Thus, the groundwork was laid for the congregation to continue. However, these were some hard rules to live with, and obviously, some of the members had a hard time living with themselves. So many times a tense situation emerges in such a manner: We all know what should be done, but can it be done and still have anything left?

So it was, by May of 1879 when the records show the dismal failure of the earlier resolution. The record of May 27th is so beautifully worded that we quote:

"The Resolution of March 17, 1878, cannot be carried without doing injury to the church and congregation. Resolved that the Resolution be withdrawn and the treatment of such cases be committed to the discretion of and wisdom of the Pastor."

The storm had subsided, and as the invigorating new atmosphere filled the area, a unanimous call was extended to Mr. William R. Mundhenke to assume the pastoral labor of the church. Mr. Mundhenke must have had scholarly attributes, for the record shows that the Session gave him permission to comply with a request by the Presbyterian Missionary to write an article on the condition of and general work in this field, which article to be published in the Missionary column of "The Interior."

New interest was stimulated in our organization. In 1880 it was decreed that Lord's Supper should be celebrated 3 times in the year. 1st Sabbath in October--2nd Sabbath in January--and Good Friday. Also parents requesting infant baptism should notify the pastor in time for him to question and/or instruct them privately regarding the nature and design of Christian Baptism.

This was an active year! It was necessary to build a new foundation well under the church building. "The wall should be 8 inches thick with abutments 12 inches square and as many as deemed necessary. The entire basement should be 3 feet above ground. Also, a platform 6 feet long and as wide as the building, 26 feet, be erected in front of the church to which the stairs, 14 feet wide be attached. The church and manse are to be repainted slate colored. Blinds to be fixed to all windows of the manse, and the ceiling of the church to be white washed. Fences are to be made around the church yard and painted slate colored so as to make it agree with the color of the buildings." To complete the "new look" given the church structure by these improvements, the Ladies' Pastor's Society had the bell cast and when it was finished, it was presented to the church.

These events seem so every day,--but to bring the picture into focus, we must realize that during the 1830's, walking was the favorite mode of transportation. Horseback riders were rare in the countryside, but most families had oxen. Appleton's Fifth Reader was used in the schools and the students of literature were reading works by Walt Whitman, Eugene Field, Mark Twain, and O. Henry.

The next year, 1881, started us off on a new activity,--that of a "Week of Prayer," which was to be observed the first week of the New Year, and if Providence indicate or demand a continuation of the meetings, they shall be continued some time longer. Weekly prayer meetings were to be held regularly each Wednesday night. The Pastor was to present the benefits and necessity of such meetings. In August \$34.00 was collected at a "Missionfeast."

1882 started off with an attempt to clear up the church debt. Each member shall contribute according to his own ability. Tolerance and understanding seemed to have taken over as the code of the day, for one boy didn't pass his catechism test but was received into Church membership at a special Session meeting on his profession of faith in Christ.

1887 was a year of extensive review. In January, the Church treasurer was unable to present a full report of the finances of the church and was requested to lay his books before the officers of the church for their inspection. In March, the Session was to review the Church Register, officially notifying those absent members whose exact address is known that they ask for a letter of dismissal to another church and to drop from the roll the names of those whose address is unknown. Within the next year, the record indicates that the Elders were to officially visit the families of the church and congregation, especially those that needed encouragement or admonition to a strict attendance to their several duties as Church members.

It is also worthy of note that although traveling was hard, and consumed many hours of time, the German Presbyterian Church of Woodstock, Illinois, a distance of over 30 miles, requested our pastor's services one Sabbath in each month as a temporary provision. The Session asked the minister to propose to the German Presbyterian Church of Woodstock the plan to preach to the congregation 2 Sabbath evenings in each month until a pastor should be secured.

The following year, 1888, the General Assembly requested that the pastor publicly present their propositions to raise in commemoration of the Centennial year, One Million Dollars as an Endowment

Fund for the relief of the aged and disabled ministers, and urge upon the people, especially the well-to-do among us, to contribute to this cause. Our contributions could not have been too much for it was about this same time that it was resolved within our church and presented to the people ~~that each gift in the weekly collection for defraying of the running expenses of the church should be increased to 5 cents.~~

*Ron*

November 3, 1889, the Silver Anniversary of our Church! What joy and happiness abounded in and around our church! The problems were put aside for the time being. Services, both morning and evening, were crowded. The messages given were a blessing to all, and good wishes were extended to the effect that "May the Church enter upon the second quarter of a century of its life with new purpose and zeal."

Yes, the era that has gone down in history as "The Gay Nineties" was here. True, events were taking place that have had a lasting effect on the nation, and on the world. New inventions: Eastman perfected film in 1889 and Edison promptly put it to use in an instrument known as a kintoscope which was the fore-runner of motion pictures. Automobiles were perfected and in use. It was an age of inspiration to those who were in contact with the events of the day. The world of music was enriched by the works of Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Rimsky-Korsakov, Sibelius, and Richard Wagner. Chicago was the host to the Columbian Exposition, a World's Fair honoring the 400th Anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the New World. This spectacle has long been the talk of our ancestors. It was a white city,--every building being white, and the architecture made the buildings all compatible in design. The Museum of Science and Industry is a living memorial to the people of this day of that World's Fair. The Nobel prizes awarded for the outstanding contributions to Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Letters, and Inter-national Peace were established by the will of Swedish Scientist, Alfred Nobel. Indeed, an exciting world if you were in tune with the happenings. Most of these things were for those who lived in urban areas. Our colony of people, just 25 miles north of Chicago did not know of the Gay Nineties. They were much too busy with everyday living, such as keeping the farm well tilled and laying up sufficient food to keep the family through the long winter. The pioneer hardships of farm life had not eased to the point of where people could think of luxuries, and perhaps some of the folks of the community were not even aware of the growing use of some of the so-called "luxuries" of the day.

Several events of our church which are worthy of note during "The Nineties" cover the redesigning of the pulpit area by making the raised platform deeper and wider so that the organ could be placed on the platform. Money must have been scarce, for in 1895, the membership was canvassed by the officers who solicited subscriptions for the Pastor's salary. One of the trustees was appointed to collect the amount due with fair wages being allowed him for those services.

Again the language problem comes under scrutiny. It is recommended that the Sabbath School be conducted in the English language and that the new methods of teaching the Bible be adopted. However, the Session feared such radical change would meet with disfavor, so it was decided to maintain the German Language with both teachers and pastor requested to devote more time to help the students acquire the German language. Apparently Minnie Welflin Balling knew her

Bible well in German, for this was the year she was accepted into membership.

This same year, 1897, the purchase of 2 additional small pieces of property adjoining the church was considered, and if the cost was not more than \$150 with the present owner agreeing to wait for payment for 6 months after the date of purchase without interest, the deal would be made. The owner agreed to these terms and the purchase was consummated. However, when these 2 newly acquired pieces of property were being co-ordinated with the piece of property that the church already owned, it was discovered that the location of the church's real estate was incorrectly described. The Trustees were given special orders charging them with the responsibility of getting this situation straightened out and to personally see to it that the Warranty Deed was recorded in the Cook County Recorder's office.

In due time the real estate was properly recorded and the old barn on the property was to be torn down and the lumber to be used for the building of sheds, for this was the era when families traveled to church and elsewhere via horse and buggy. Ten sheds were built on the newly acquired property. Stalls were 9 feet wide and there was 20 feet under roof.

As the Twentieth Century started, that which was new was gradually eroding the old. The word "janitor" appears in the record where the word "Sexton" had formerly been used, and, under the leadership of a new pastor, Sunday evening services were started with every third meeting to be in English. New song books were purchased because the old type had gone out of print. A new organ was purchased and the old organ was sold to the highest bidder. There was also an appeal made for an organist.

Shortly, thereafter, a winsome young lady of fourteen years of age responded to the appeal. So it was that Laura Ott, now Mrs. Hoebelin, became the regular organist. Inasmuch as her home was off of Huehl Road east of Wheeling, she stayed in Wheeling Sunday afternoon in order to be there for the evening song service. So much did she enjoy playing the organ, that she was willing to walk all of that distance for mid-week choir rehearsal. So great was her ability that she was the regular organist for over thirty years, and so great was her mastery of the organ that she played a five manual organ for Lyon and Healy. These factors laid the foundation for good music in our church.

It is recorded that Miss Adeline Schneider became a member of the church during this time.

In 1902, the decision was made to take collections every first sabbath of the month instead of only four collections for the entire year.

By 1902, horseback riding had declined and many homes had a bicycle as well as a carriage. Automobiles were being used in the city and on rare occasion one was even seen out in the country. In 1903 in far-off North Carolina, the Wright Brothers had made the first successful flight of an heavier-than-air machine.

It was in 1903 that it was resolved to get subscriptions for the purpose of collecting money to put in a new furnace under the church

building. The Session also received a letter from the Reverend William Boetcher, pastor of the German Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville, Indiana, requesting help towards building a new house of worship. It was decided to give them financial assistance after being more fully informed of the plan of said church.

On June 27, 1905, Henry Wiegand was ordained in our church, and became its pastor. Regular contributions to the mission work of the church was established and in November 1906, out of a mission fund of \$26.33, \$4.36 went to the Presbyterian Hospital of Chicago, and \$9.97 to "Selbsterhaltungs Sache," which seems to be a self-help fund of the Presbytery.

In 1908, our church became a member of the Galena Presbytery, probably because they were basically the German group. Here at our church the new hot air furnace was installed. A new organ was also installed. Ah, such sweet sounds when it was properly played! Oh, yes, it was during this time that a new choir alcove was built and opera-type chairs replaced the uncomfortable pews. The melodic tones of the Reverend Wiegand's voice were an inspiration to the choir and to all who heard him. It was during his pastorate that the choir of Zion Presbyterian Church greatly enriched the services of the church.

During the period of 1910 to 1912, the first locally owned automobiles appeared in the village. The Sigwalts purchased a Stanley Steamer and gave their neighbors and friends rides,--the trip being from Wheeling to Half Day and return. Soon afterwards, John Schminke purchased a Ford. He, too, gave round-trip rides from Wheeling to Half Day, pausing briefly in Half Day to "let the motor cool off."

The Fiftieth Anniversary was celebrated in 1914, with the details handled by the Ladies Aid. It is a note of interest to see by their records that the Reverend William R. Munchenke, the Reverend Oltman B. Oltmans, former pastors, and Mrs. Ernest Shuette, the wife of a former pastor, were invited to attend the special services in April with all expenses paid. The Ladies Aid also helped procure photos of charter members and former pastors.

By 1915, electricity was available to the church, and the Ladies Aid Society were thanked by the congregation for meeting the expenses of wiring the church and installing electrical fixtures.

Yes, it was ever thus, things near to one always have a deeper effect than do the events that go into history books. Why, in 1914, the Panama Canal was opened for world traffic. Everyone is willing to acknowledge that this was a great engineering feat, but interest quickens even faster when Milwaukee Ave. was paved from Niles to Dundee Road. It was about this time when telephone service was extended out of Wheeling. There were 8 parties on a line. This was some advancement, for when the Deerfield area first had telephones, it took 10 subscribers for a line. It was during the winter of 1917 that the snow was so very deep! Our parents tell us that not a wheel turned on the road for 3 days, and to avoid being caught in the barn with all paths leading to the house closed by drifts, shovels were kept in the house and in the barn so that paths could be shoveled from either end.

Our parents, or perhaps our grandparents always tend to pause

and reflect on this age from the late 1890's to 1917. As senior citizens, they reflect back and say that to them it glistens as a Golden Age. They have very valid reasons for their reflections and for the images that they see, and it is not yearning for one's lost youth!

During the 20 years just past, the people lived by a high moral code of conduct. Life did not move at such a fast pace as it did in the years following. There was time for religion, time to work, and time to play. Social events were less frequent than in later years and everyone attended them. Families attended from the youngest to the eldest. The word "baby-sitter" was unknown. The rural communities enjoyed a wholesomeness that is indeed something to envy, for intermingled with wholesomeness was the deep humility of respect for one's self and for your neighbor. Those who had received personal gain due to a steady job, and at the time, those who worked steadily and conscientiously could end up as executives, and those who benefitted because of the advantage of more education did not tend to show snobbishness because, perhaps, they were still too close to the unsophisticated job of making a living from the land.

A very difficult and unusual situation occurred in 1916 when a petition in behalf of the wife of a Civil War veteran was presented. The pastor recorded 1872 on the church record as the date of the marriage of these two people. However, the certificate given to the bride and groom showed the date the marriage was solemnized as 1869. This lady needed the date verified in applying for the pension due her as the widow of the late Civil War veteran. Session considered the matter carefully and found that they were powerless to help her, or to straighten out the record. They decided that the 1872 date was in error, but also concluded that our records would not meet the demands of the government were they to be altered, also, they decided that it would be improper for the pastor to swear to a record after the same had been altered.

Then came World War I! Many men of the area went to war. Some didn't come back, others came back very changed and very restless. Women, too, had taken on an entirely new role,--that of gainful employment outside the home. Home was changed, too. The influenza epidemic of 1918 had taken many lives.

Yes, even the church services and the annual meeting were omitted from January 1, through January 27th. Earlier in that same year, a congregational committee consisting of Elder Lesser, Mrs. E. Porte, and Deacon John A. Schminke were appointed to attend Presbytery to inform it that the church did not concur in Mr. Wiegand's request for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Mr. Wiegand remained with our church.

This was the same year that our church took action to sever connections with Galena Presbytery and return to Chicago Presbytery. During the year, the use of the German language was dropped from the services.

The use of individual Communion cups and the envelope system for contributions were adopted in 1917. By 1919 efforts were made to start the Youth Budget system. This system met with only a limited success.

The name of Mrs. Conrad Reeb was entered on the roll of Church members, and now she has achieved the distinction of being the oldest living church member.

The post-war economy ran high. Chicago was growing outward. Motor cars were common now, even though, in the country, horses and buggies were still in use. The local business district still had hitching posts and it was not at all uncommon to see a stair-step platform used to assist the ladies into the carriages.

Milwaukee Avenue was being paved north of Dundee Road. Oh, what a fascinating thing to watch! The road bed was dug out and smoothed by slip scrapers pulled by mules. Forms were laid to mark the road edge and then, right next to the side of the road were the rails of a miniature train. At regular intervals, a little steam engine known as a "dinky" came down the tracks. It pulled a whole string of little cars, each carrying its appointed quantity of material for a batch of concrete. These ingredients were dumped into the cavity of a huge mixer where they churned for what seemed like an endless time, when all at once, an eruption took place and all of the grey soupy mixture flowed into the area delineated by the steel forms. It was tamped and smoothed and finally covered by canvass, watered down and left to season. The crew were respectable men and the night watchman loved children. More than once he shared a special candy treat from his lunch box with some child. It was on this crew that one of the boys of our church "nitched" about his age so that he could be the water boy.

1924 was a memorable year. A new gasoline driven fire engine was purchased to replace the hand pumper which had been in use since 1876. What a change! The old pumper was designed to be drawn by horses and to be manned by twelve men, six per side working in a teeter-totter manner like the railroad hand cars. With the retirement of the old pumper, hose cart, and ladder truck, came the legendary tales of the volunteer firemen. When the bell atop the old village hall rang to sound the alarm of "fire," men swarmed to the station, grabbed the poles of the equipment and ran down the street to the scene of the fire. Frequently, the pumper was attached to the only fire plug in Wheeling, located at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road where it was tapped into the pipe line that extended from the Soo Line pumping station next to the river to the water tower at Wheeling Station, then known as Camp Twenty. Of course, if the fire was interesting, the men operating the pumper might leave their post and go to see how the fire was progressing until the hose handlers would yell "water," and send the pump operators scurrying back to their posts.

The old elementary school, where the congregation held its first meetings had its last graduating class in 1925. In September, all classes were over at the present Walt Whitman school.

On March 12, 1926, the Ladies Aid Society of Wheeling brought three lovely bouquets to Mrs. Barbara Lesser in honor of her 90th birthday. Her husband, Philip Lesser, had been an elder of our church for over 30 years. In July, the church was struck by lightning, and the splendid spire was ruined. The cost of replacing it was prohibitive in relation to the means of the Treasury, so the bell tower was roofed over without a steeple. Although everyone regretted the loss of the steeple, many people were relieved that its height did

not add to the problems of aviation, for our community now had one established airport and another was talked of.

In June of 1927, the resignation of Mr. Wiegand was accepted and he was succeeded by the Reverend E. Leslie Shaw.

Nineteen twenty-seven was an eventful year! In May, Charles Augustus Lindbergh flew non-stop from New York to Paris in a plane about the size of a Piper Cub. Wheeling lost its small-town charm when the trees were removed to permit Milwaukee Ave. to be widened to four lanes. Oh, how that traffic had increased! During the summer season we had seen traffic jams that extended more than 10 miles. Motorists drove on the shoulder of the road. Cars seemed to be everywhere. The dust on the shoulders lay so deep during the summer that when an automobile stirred it up, no one could walk or sit in the front yard of the homes that lined the highway. This was the year that we first heard of a machine called a "combine." It cut and threshed oats in one operation. This new contraption harvested 40 acres of grain in one day using only 3 men!

Yes, the days of the large threshing crews were numbered. What a time that was on the farm. There was always the anxiety of the exact day that the housewife must be ready, for the weather was just apt to be contrary and if it was too damp or too wet, nothing moved! Then the crew arrived. First a wagon or two, then the off-beat "plump" of the terrifying tractor, followed by the thresher creaking on its axles. In due time, thresher and tractor were properly aligned, orders were given to all children to stay away from the belt, and finally everything was in motion. The machine shook, the engine quivered and emitted puffs of smoke, and the chaff flew, but, oh, the fun of riding on the filled grain wagon! Of course, just a few years ago, the grain was bagged and had to be carried, sack by sack, into the granary; but now it was run loose into a tight-boxed wagon and carried to the elevator where it was mechanically raised into the bins in the granary.

The kitchen buzzed! Bread and pies were made. Meat was cooking. Endless cobs of corn were husked, or huge bowls of cabbage were shaved for slaw. The table was spread to full length and covered by a dark cloth so the men wouldn't be embarrassed if they got soil from their shirtsleeves on it. Then they descended,--like hungry wolves. Food was devoured in record time without any ceremony, and only a small amount of conversation. What mother wouldn't have done for some of the kitchen conveniences of today!

The decade of the 1920's was a period of contrasts. Wheeling still had its blacksmith shops for horse-shoeing and iron work. The children of the village passed many idle hours watching the blacksmith at his work, painstakingly shaping iron to replace a broken brace. He knew just when to force air into his fire by pumping the huge bellows that hung nearby, and he knew, too, when the crude iron rod was ready to be shaped. How fascinating to watch that rod take on the scarlet glow of deep heat, followed by the sizzling boil of water as it was "dunked" into the cooling vat after it had been shaped. It was interesting, too, to see a horse getting a pair of shoes. Giant chisels trimmed the hoof; the "frog" of the foot was cleaned out; the shoe carefully fitted and finally nailed into place with large nails. This sounds somewhat like a weird ritual, yet it was painstakingly



done, and at times it was very gratifying to see a horse relieved of pain from a tender foot.

The funeral customs, too, changed sharply. Many people remember the horse-drawn hearse draped in black carrying the casket of the deceased; and if the deceased happened to be a church member, the bell was tolled in strict cadence the exact years of the deceased's life.

Thus, we have this period when horse-drawn vehicles were still common on the streets, and Mr. Welflin would take time to fill a little bag of candy for the youngsters from his Lazy-susan candy counter near the back of his General Store. Yet, many of us can recall taking our first airplane ride with Charles "Chuck" Balling handling the controls in his open cockpit Waco biplane. The Stutz Bearcat was the most! Wages were high, as was the economy, when all at once the bubble burst, and as we entered the 1930's the economy had hit an unheard of low. It wasn't how much you earned, it was just to have a job!

The area in the Middle West in and around Chicago was hurt extensively by the depression.

This was the period that the Reverent E. Leslie Shaw served as our pastor. Inasmuch as he was not married, the manse was rented out. The sheds which had been constructed to shelter the horses and later sheltered the canvass tops of the automobiles, were removed and replaced by a garage.

Jig saw puzzles were the favorite form of home entertainment, and on special occasions, we might be permitted to go to the movies to see Shirley Temple.

Money was spent sparingly, but the church kitchen was remodeled and both the church and the manse were repainted in 1933.

It was during 1932 that a second World's Fair opened on the lake-front in Chicago. The exposition was named "A Century of Progress," in honor of the 100th anniversary of the pioneers in this area. The architecture was done in the modern theme and quite a let-down for those who remembered the 1893 World's Fair. The exhibits were wonderful, and during the second year of the Fair, the breath-takingly beautiful "Chalice of The Holy Grail" was on display in the Hall of Religion. It was in 1934 that the Chicago Zoological Garden, locally known as Brookfield Zoo opened its doors.

We thrilled to the National Air Races held at Glenview at the new Curtiss Field. Who can forget the sight of the mass parachute jumps, or the special races for large planes. At the end of each race, the winning pilot might put on an acrobatic display. It was thrilling to watch the regulation racers dart around the pylons, but few of us will ever forget the sight of the tri-motor Ford looping-the-loop!

In 1936, the great German Zeppelin, "The Hindenburg" visited Chicago, and although it did not come north of the city, we could see it, a huge silver cigar floating along, as it left the city to the southwest.

We welcomed the Reverend Donald C. Morrison in 1937. The general economy had improved, but money was still very scarce. Under his guidance, memorial windows were contributed and installed in the church

Many times during his pastorate here, he gave his thanks that the church was clear of long-term debt.

In 1941, on New Year's Day, Mrs. Magdalene Redlinger, a member of our church, celebrated her 100th birthday. By December, our country was again involved in war. Rationing of every kind was imposed, and we bid Mr. Morrison "Godspeed" in 1942, when he left to join the Chaplain Corps of the Army. Many of the young men of our church had already put in many months of service overseas. People here at home were busy at war work in factories and saving for the future with War Bonds. The war ended for many of our men in 1945, and once again we had to adjust to peace-time living. Commodities became easier to obtain, and by 1949, the entire area was involved in a building boom.

Television had been perfected for use in the home, and many sets were installed and enjoyed in our area. This was one factor in bringing urban activities closer to us. Another factor was the building boom. Little by little, the farms that our parents or our grandparents had worked so hard to pay for were being sold and a new subdivision would start. Wheeling became the fastest growing community in Illinois. The population jumped from 750 to over 10,000 inhabitants. With the heavy influx of population, the old gave way to the new. A shopping center was constructed across from the church. The town hall and fire station were now located next to the church. Traffic passing by on Dundee Road was so noisy during the summer that, at times, the minister had to stop speaking in order for the congregation to hear his message.

The decade of the 1950s had closed the chapter on the use of steam locomotives on the railroads. Diesel locomotives became the active power units. New horizons were opened to us all when we watched the man-made Russian satellite "Sputnik" on its appointed overhead orbit. Toll roads and expressways were now constructed to handle the traffic. O'Hare Field was in use for non-stop oceanic jet flights.

All of these things are so very close to us that sometimes we overlook their importance! Another event which was even closer to us was the financing, construction, and the opening of our new church on December 23, 1962. As we entered our new sanctuary on Christmas Eve, our thoughts returned to the austere chapel on Dundee Road. We could not help but reflect back to the memory of the beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service. It was always lovely in its simplicity, for no service could be pretentious in that structure where we were surrounded by constant reminders of the humbleness of our ancestors. Thus, it was with mixed emotions that we entered the new sanctuary for our Christmas-time devotions. Suddenly we knew that it would take the efforts of each member of our church to bring those humanly qualities of warmth, understanding, love, and humility into this new structure. Some of our members had already left their mark on the sanctuary in the design and execution of the chancel furniture, the wood carvings, the lettering, the Celtic cross, and the dove atop the Baptismal font. Others enhanced the services through their work in the choir. Gradually, each member will find his spot for that extra bit that makes a structure a "home." May we find the threads to add to the tapestry to help complete the picture.

The wonders that a century of time doth bring! From oxen to orbiting the Earth,--from gun-powder messages to Telstar satellite,--from earthen floor cabins and wood stoves to centrally heated insulated

houses,--we can not help but ask ourselves as time hurries on: "What will the next century bring, and just what type of age will it be?" But wait! Time does not hurry on;--we hurry on and time is Eternal. That which is Eternal comes of God! Shall we pray?

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## HISTORY OF BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS:

Tradition has it that in the early pioneer days deer and buffalo roamed over the territory about Buffalo Grove. In the early morning the buffaloes started from the Wheeling woods on their way to Deer Grove or Long Grove. At Buffalo Creek they took their noon rest under the grove of trees and drank water from the creek that was never dry. In the evening they returned to the Wheeling woods, however, without stopping at the grove. It is believed that this habit of the buffalo has something to do with the name "Buffalo Grove". But it may also be due to the finding of a skeleton of one of these animals in the grove beside the creek which also bears the name, i.e. Buffalo Creek.

Buffalo Grove, located in the northeastern section of Ill., is a part of the territory once occupied by the American Indians. When the French explorers came to the Mississippi Valley they found five tribes of Indians grouped together under the name Illini. The leading tribes in this confederation were the Sac, Fox, Winnebago, Chippewa and Pottawatomi. The Pottawatomi occupied the whole northeastern part of Illinois. The Ottawa and Chippewa were associated with them.

The French, who possessed Illinois until 1765, were successful in dealing with the Indians. Friendship was promoted by traders, explorers, and missionaries. The Pottawatomi were faithful allies of the French until after the death of Pontiac. At the close of Europe's Seven Years' War the French holdings were ceded to the British. For a few years the British flag flew over Illinois until George Rogers Clark liberated it from British rule.

Hostility between the Indians and the Americans reigned throughout the Revolution until the treaty of Greenville was concluded August 3, 1795. This treaty, by which the Indians ceded an immense tract of country including the sites of all the Northwestern posts, remained unbroken until the Fort Dearborn massacre of 1812, perpetrated by the Pottawatomi, who later transferred their allegiance to America. In 1816 the chiefs of the Sac and Fox tribes agreed to move their people, west of the Mississippi. Black Hawk, leader of the Sacs, resenting the exile of his people, recrossed the Mississippi River in 1831 and several battles followed before he was captured. The Pottawatomi tried very hard to serve and protect the whites during those years. In 1833 the United States Government obtained about five million acres from the Chappewas, Ottawas and Pottawatomies at a price of less than fifteen cents per acre. After this treaty, which was the last between these Indians and the Government, the area was largely abandoned by the Indians and, in 1835 and 1836, they were removed to Indian reservations and the land was opened to homesteading.

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### EARLY SETTLERS

Pioneers from New England and the East traveled across the country with their possessions in covered wagons drawn by horses or oxen, driving their stock before them. The trip was dangerous and full of hardships.

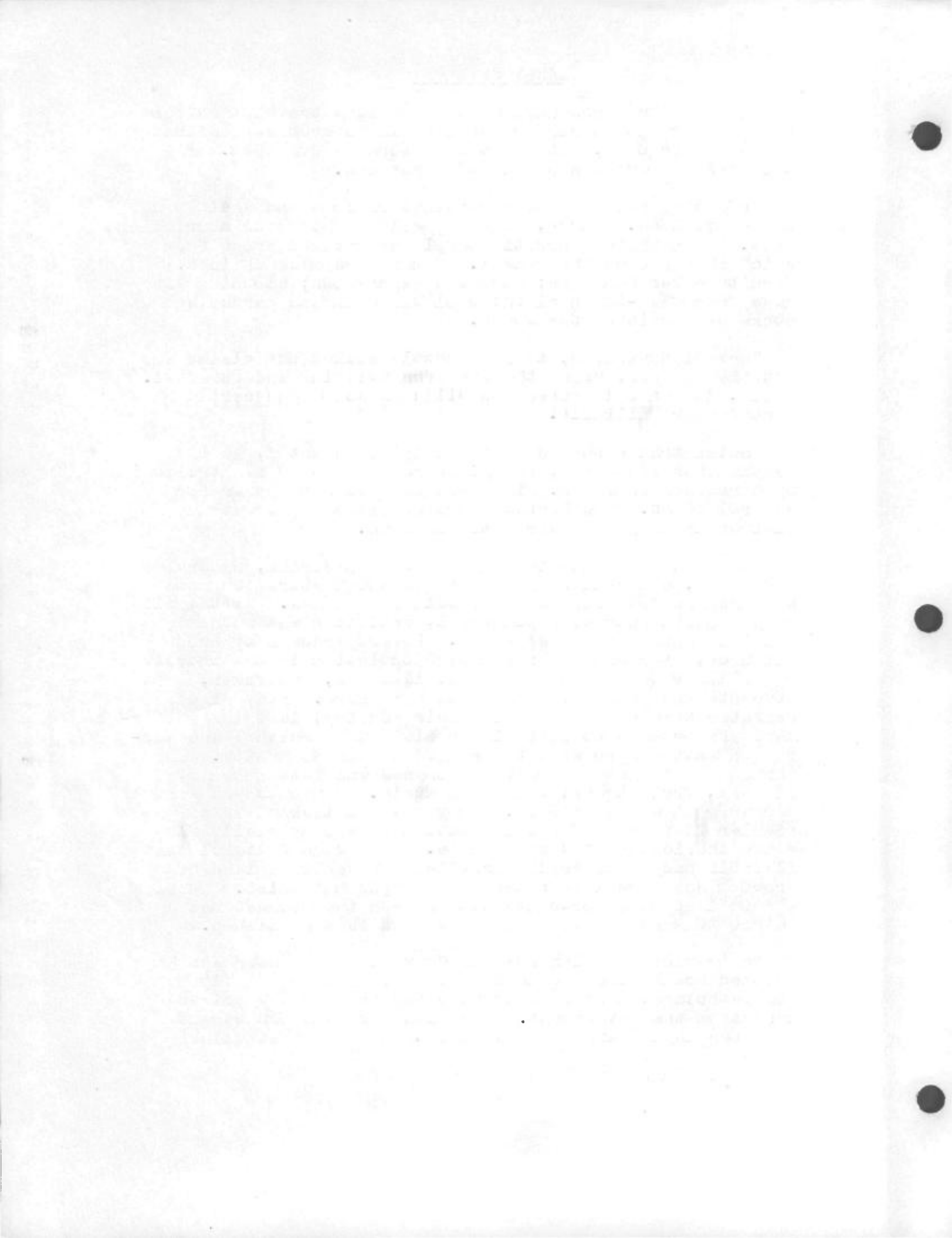
When they reached their destination food and shelter had to be provided. Birds, game and wild growth made nourishing food. Soon these energetic people had raised crops from which they ground their meal. Homes were made of logs, furniture was homemade; stoves were unknown; clothing was made from flax-woven cloth; wool was spun and carded and socks were knit by the women.

These industrious, thrifty people staked out claims and cut the forests, using the wood for building and for fuel. Mills, log school houses and villages soon appeared in northeastern Illinois.

Indian trails served as the only roads until, as the settlements increased, the pioneers made their own trails by horseback or wagon. The railroad did not appear for several years. The Northwestern extended as far as Des Plained in 1853 and Barrington in 1854.

The healthful climate and extensive prairies, natural resources, and relief from heavy taxation attracted home-seekers from the Old World as well as the new. At the close of the Napoleonic wars political, religious and economic conditions in Germany were bad. Poverty caused by crop failures, over production and overpopulation in the industrial areas led thousands of peasants, laborers, tradesmen, students and professional men to come here. Many highly educated Germans, leaders in their country, left the Fatherland and brought to Illinois an element of culture and education that was to affect the life of the community. The Germans furnished themselves with new and better homes, flowers, fruit trees, books and music. Churches and schools appeared at an early date. They adapted themselves to the simpler standards of people about them and gradually elevated the ideals of western life. They were grateful that Illinois had so liberally provided a haven in a land of freedom where religious persecution did not exist. America was a "land of opportunity" where even the poorest had a chance to make a living and serve God as they wished.

The region of which Buffalo Grove is the center was settled toward the middle of the last century chiefly by non-catholics, many of whom received free or low priced land from the Government. Such lands were often bought for speculation and quickly resold to German Catholics





who built new homesteads and encouraged more of their number to join them. In this way Buffalo Grove became a Catholic settlement.

Since 1845 the Germans of Trier had settled the region of Gross Point (New Trier) fifteen miles east of Buffalo Grove and had a resident priest whose mission territory included the parish of Johnsburg around the present site of McHenry. The distance from Gross Point to McHenry was about thirty-five miles and the journey was made by horseback. The Rev. Father would put up for the night at Wheeling or Wauconda where on one occasion in 1847, he was informed of the presence of Catholics living at Buffalo Grove. The priest's first visit to the settlement was quickly communicated to the Catholics in the neighborhood and the first mass was celebrated at the block house of John Simon Hennemann, which was built on the division line of Cook and Lake counties close to the present convent. Mr. Hennemann was an immigrant from Schedendorf, near Bomberg, Bavaria.

After the little Christian community had been thus founded and organized the missionaries stopped there every month to hold services and administer the sacraments, the records of which were kept in the rectory at Gross Point. In 1847 three couples were married in the Hennemann block house; Adam Pfister and Cunigunda Lang, John Schoeneberger and Anna M. Weiland and A. Hennemann and Catherine Schoeneberger.

During the following months large numbers of Catholics arrived in Buffalo Grove from Bavaria, the Saar region, Rhineland and Trier. Among the family names were Weidner, Sebastian, Pfister Schoeneberger, Horcher and Raupp.

With about twenty-five families of the Catholic Faith living within a radius of about ten miles the desire grew to have a church of their own. A meeting was called to make plans for this undertaking on February 15, 1852. The money collected at that first meeting amounted to \$88.00 which was a considerable sum at that time and indicated their determination to have a church. Within a year \$300.00 were collected and seven acres of land were acquired. John S. Hennemann donated two acres and another two were bought from him; two acres were bought from Pankratz Weidner and one from John Weidner. A carpenter from Gross Point, Andreas Hofer, agreed to do the work on the church building for the modest sum of \$75.00. The dedication of the church took place the following summer with Bishop James Oliver Van De Valde of Chicago presiding. This original St. Mary's Church was destroyed by fire in 1855, erected again and finally replaced by the present brick structure in 1899 when the need for a fitting parsonage and a larger, more substantial church were apparent.

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\* Above information is taken from a centennial booklet compiled by the parish of St. Mary's Catholic Church and printed in 1947.

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It seems clear that almost the entire tiny village of Buffalo Grove with its surrounding farmlands revolved and developed with the Catholic Church of St. Mary's as its hub. The town stretched along one main street for a short distance without even a crossroad. A new school building was dedicated in 1947 and celebrated in conjunction with the centennial of the first mass.

Until 1945 the town's population of 350 was comprised mainly of ancestors of the 19th century settlers. Then, in 1956, after he had constructed small home subdivisions in Wheeling and north Arlington Heights, builder Albert Frank and others formed Buffalo Grove Homes, Inc. and the expansion of Buffalo Grove began between Cook-Lake County line and Dundee Road. Subsequently the village has acquired a park building and new government bodies, a police station, public schools, a shopping center and, for a short time, a branch of the Wheeling Public Library, which discontinued because of the many problems involved. Buffalo Grove is still growing; to the south, west and this year to the north.

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