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# EARLY LEE COUNTY



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# EARLY LEE COUNTY

Being Some Chapters in the History  
of the Early Days in Lee County,  
Illinois

BY  
WILLIAM D. BARGE

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## P R E F A C E

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This is not an effort to write a history of any man or any locality. The sole purpose of the work is the collection and preservation of the scarce and almost inaccessible evidence of some of the men and events prominent in the early days of Lee County. It was not prepared to sustain any theory or tradition, but every effort within my power has been made to learn all the facts concerning these men and events and state them correctly.

Some old traditions have been shattered, but they were not sustained by the facts, and many of them had no foundation except the loose talk of persons who were ignorant of the matters of which they spoke. Some of my old beliefs, held and cherished since early childhood, have been dispelled, but they were founded upon misinformation.

Reference is made to some public record, report or document whenever one could be found. When such evidence could not be had, my resort was to newspapers, private letters or records or books written or published about that time, in the belief that such contemporaneous statements are more likely to be free from error than those made years afterwards. In some instances the private records and the public records differ, and the latter are followed, the entries being contemporaneous with the event. Every statement of fact is based on evidence of one of the kinds mentioned, though references have been omitted in some places.

All Indian words appearing on John Dixon's account books are given in the form used there. Other Indian words are given as shown in the Eighteenth Annual Re-

port of the Bureau of American Ethnology, except when in quotations.

I acknowledge my indebtedness to Mrs. Caroline M. Newberry, Pontiac, Michigan, the only living child of Stephen Mack; Henry S. Dixon and George C. Dixon of Dixon, Illinois; William C. Andrus, Grand Detour, Illinois, and John Blackhawk, Black River Falls, Wisconsin, for assistance without which this work could not have been finished.

WILLIAM D. BARGE.

Chicago, June, 1918.

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## EARLY LEE COUNTY

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### LA SALLIER.

In 1835, Joseph Crawford found some decaying logs and other ruins of an old habitation at the Grand Detour on the bank of Franklin Creek, about thirty-five rods from Rock river. There was plainly visible an excavation as though made for use as a cellar, and other evidences of the existence, at an earlier date, of a log cabin.

On the authority of a statement made to him by Gurdon S. Hubbard, Rufus Blanchard told the writer that one La Sallier, a Frenchman, built a trading post on the south side of the river, near Grand Detour, in 1822, and occupied it for some time. The location is shown on Blanchard's *Historical Map of Illinois*. The writer called Mr. Crawford's attention to this statement of Blanchard, and it was then that Mr. Crawford told me of his discovery.

That there was a trading post on Rock river in the winter of 1802-1803 is clearly shown by the *Personal Narrative of Capt. Thomas G. Anderson*, who says he spent that winter "with the Winnebagoes on Rock river. They were the most filthy, most obstinate and the bravest people of any Indian tribe I have met with. Here I had a half-breed in opposition in the trade. Our houses were about half a mile apart, and between us was a very high hill, over which we had to pass by a little path through the bushes." (*Wis. His. Coll.*, vol. 9, pp. 137, 152.) He does not state at what point on the river this post was located, but we know it was not at the site of La Sallier's house, for he says the hill stood at least three hundred feet above the water in the river. He does not give the name of his competitor.

The house mentioned by Anderson was not the cabin at Crabapple Point, on the northwesterly shore of Lake Koshkonong, that is said (*American Archeologist*, v. 7,



p. 78; *Peet, Prehistoric America, v. 2, p. 269*) to have been occupied, at a time that is not stated, by "Le Sallier"; for the ground there was only twenty to sixty feet above the water. That cabin was in ruins in 1839.

*The Archeologist* says, without mentioning the time, that Thiebeau, who was employed by Juneau of Milwaukee, occupied a cabin on the southeasterly shore of this lake, and that is said have disappeared in 1838.

In *Waubun*, Mrs. Kinzie says that John Kinzie arrived in Chicago in 1804, and later established trading posts "at Rock River with the Winnebagoes and the Pottawatomies," and that these posts contributed to that at Chicago, but she does not say at what particular places or in what year these posts were established.

Kinzie evidently had many trading posts, as he had twenty trading licenses in 1803 (Letter of September 10, 1803, from William Burnett to Gov. W. H. Harrison of Indiana Territory; *Hurlbut's Chicago Antiquities, p. 70*), and some of them appear to have been used at trading posts in Illinois. Though so extensively engaged in the fur trade, he was an independent trader, and had no connection with the American Fur Company until 1825, when he succeeded John Crafts as its representative at Chicago. (*Andreas History of Chicago, vol. 1, p. 96.*) He was Indian sub-agent at Chicago, 1820-1822, and his son, John H., was in the fur trade at Milwaukee in 1821 when he was ordered to close his concern and leave the place, having been detected selling whiskey to the Indians. (*Am. State Papers, Indian Affairs, v. 2, p. 360.*)

La Sallier was in the service of this company as early as 1813, and was on Rock River in 1822. The fact that La Sallier was occupying this post in 1822 is some evidence that it was established by the American Fur Company. While this is but slight evidence, it is stronger than any evidence supporting any other theory.

The account books kept by John Kinzie were delivered

to the Chicago Historical Society many years ago. The secretary of the society persuaded James Grant Wilson to undertake the writing of a history of Chicago. Wilson thought it would be well to at least make mention of some of those with whom Kinzie had dealt. To do this, the secretary of the society made a careful examination of the books and took from them all the names of persons appearing therein. That list is now in the archives of the society, but the books were burned in the great fire of 1871. It gives names and a few addresses, nothing else. From it we learn that Kinzie had dealings with Pierre La Salliere September 27, 1804, and September 3, 1806; with LaSallierre at Milwaukee February 1, 1807; with Mr. Lasellier January 12, 1817.

In Hurlbut's *Chicago Antiquities*, p. 31, Gurdon S. Hubbard says that John Crafts was sent to Chicago by a Mr. Conant of Detroit, the date not being given, and that he "had, up to 1819, full control of this section, without opposition from the American Fur Company, sending outfits to Rock River and other points within a range say of a hundred miles of Chicago," but he fails to locate the particular place on Rock river, and does not tell when it was established or who had charge of it.

Hubbard is slightly in error. Crafts was not sent to Chicago by "Mr. Conant," but by the firm of Mack & Conant, who were very extensively engaged in the fur trade, and were strong competitors of the American Fur Company from its organization until their failure in 1821, when their fur business was taken over by that company. They established an agency at Lee's Place, or Hard-scrabble (Chicago) in 1816, putting Crafts in charge. He remained there with the firm until its end, when he entered the service of the American Fur Company, being its Chicago agent until his death in 1825. (Andreas *History of Chicago*, vol. 1, p. 93; Hurlbut's *Chicago Antiquities*, 31.)

On the authority of a statement made by Hubbard, Baldwin, in his *History of La Salle County*, says that the American Fur Company had three or four trading posts on Rock river from 1813-'14 to 1826-'33, but he does not say at what places they were located.

A letter written by Robert Dickson, the British Agent, December 20, 1813, indicates that Lesaliers was then located at Milwaukee. Thwaites, in a note to this letter, says this is the LeSellier who acted as guide for Maj. Long. (*Wis. His. Coll. v. 11, p. 281.*)

Another letter written by Dickson March 9, 1814, mentions "a letter from La Salieres of the 3d inst.," but does not state where he was.

Niles' *Register* of July 10, 1815, says that "La Sallier of Milwaukee" was one of the Indian traders who cast their lot with the British in the War of 1812.

While the records of the American Fur Company show that one La Sallier was in that company's service in July and September, 1817, they do not show where he was stationed.

That Company had a trader named "Pierre Lassallier" at Masquognon in 1818. (*Wis His. Coll. v. 12, p. 164.*)

Pierre Lasallier acted as interpreter at a council held at Michilimackinac October 24, 1824, with the Potawatomies. (*Mich. Pion. Coll. v. 23, p. 453.*)

Blanchard's Map shows the route said to have been taken by James Watson Webb in going from Fort Dearborn to Fort Armstrong in 1822, but that, evidently, is conjectural, for Webb does not describe his route, except to say he went to La Sallier's and thence across the prairie to the Mississippi. As he was at La Sallier's early in February, 1822, it is quite certain that La Sallier had located and built his cabin there before that year, but it is not now known just when he did that, or when he left.



In May, 1822, Congress enacted a statute requiring the Secretary of War to report annually an abstract of all of the licenses granted to trade with the Indians. Prior to that time there was no such requirement. While these reports show that several licenses were granted after 1820 to persons who desired to trade with the Indians at Grand Detour, none was issued to La Sallier. The reports state that on October 13, 1821, Alexander Wolcott, Jr., Indian Agent at Chicago, issued a license to Maurice Lauzon to trade on "Rocky river" for one year. No other license to trade on Rock river was issued until October 20, 1823, when Wolcott granted one to Stephen Mack, Jr., to trade one year on "Rocky river."

It is stated in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, v. 10, p. 72, that "Le Sellier" was enlisted by Maj. Long, as a guide, on his journey from Chicago to Prairie du Chien in 1823, "because he had lived over thirty years with the Indians, had taken a Winnebago wife, and settled on the head waters of Rock river." Long crossed Rock river just above the mouth of the Kishwaukee, and farther from the "head waters of Rock river" than from Grand Detour. "Le Sellier" took the party to an Indian village on the Pecatonica, (probably that of Winnesheik, where Freeport now stands), and there obtained another guide, as he did not know the way from that place to Prairie du Chien. (Keating, *Narrative of an Expedition to the sources of St. Peter's River.*)

It is apparent that the compilers of the index to the *Wisconsin Historical Collections* considered Lassaliere, Lasaliere, Le Sallien and Le Sellier to be different forms of the names of one person. Some of their references are to the La Sallier who was at Grand Detour, while others are to the Pierre La Saliere whose widow married George Schindler. These *Collections* also mention La Salieres, Lassalier, La Saliere, Le Saliers and Salieres. The Michigan Pioneer Collections mention Pierre Lasallier. It is

difficult to gather the real facts from this confused mass, but it is believed that all that has been printed about La Sallier is set forth herein.

The records of the parish of Michilimackinac, as printed in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections* (v. 19, p. 86), show the baptism, August 1, 1786, of "Therese, about ten years old, daughter of Sieur Jean Baptiste Marcot and of Thimotee, of the Outaois nation, his lawful wife." To this entry Thwaites has added a note saying that Therese became the wife, first of Pierre La Saliere, and, later, of George Schindler. As Therese was baptized in the Catholic faith, and it is reasonable to suppose that her husband was of that faith, it is not probable that they ever were divorced. As she married Schindler July 12, 1804 (*Wis. His. Coll.* v. 18, p. 508), it is fairly certain that her first husband was not the La Sallier who was at Grand Detour in 1822.

In his dedication of "*Altowan, or Incidents of Life and Adventure in the Rocky Mountains*," published in 1846, J. Watson Webb says that early in February, 1822, the principal chief of the Potawatamies reported to the Indian agent at Fort Dearborn that his tribe had been invited by the Sioux to unite with them to cut off the garrison at "St. Peters, at the Falls of St. Anthony," where Col. Snelling was then stationed with the Fifth Infantry. The commanding officer at Fort Dearborn desired to convey this intelligence to the officer at Fort Armstrong, to be thence carried to Col. Snelling, but the *voyageurs* refused to go, and thereupon the task of conveying the message fell upon Webb, who was an adjutant and he decided that he would make the trip himself. He set out accompanied by a sergeant and a Potawatomi Indian.

"*Altowan*" contains nothing relating to Illinois, except that in his dedication Webb says:

"My instructions were to employ the Pottawatamie as a guide to the Rock river, where the country of the Wine-

bagoes commenced, and then take a Winebago as a guide to Fort Armstrong—the leading object being so to arrange our line of travel as to avoid the prairies, upon which we would necessarily suffer from the cold. I had been apprised that I would find an old Canadian *voyager* residing with his Indian family in a trading hut on Rock river, and it was to him my Pottawatamie was to guide me.

Toward evening on the fifth day, we reached our place of destination; and old *La Saller*, recognizing us as whites intimated by signs, as he conducted us to the loft of his hut, that we were to preserve a profound silence. All who live in the Indian country learn to observe signs; and it is wonderful how soon we almost forget to ask questions. I knew that something was wrong, but it never entered my head to enquire what it was,—Indian-like, quite willing to abide my time, even if the finger closely pressed upon the lips of the old man had not apprised me that I should get no answer until it suited his discretion to make a communication.

It was nearly dark when we were consigned to the loft of the good old man; and for three long hours we saw him not. During this period there was abundant time for meditation upon our position; when all at once the profound stillness which reigned in and around the hut was broken by the startling sound of a *Winebago war-dance* in our immediate vicinity. This, as you may imagine, was no very agreeable sound for my sergeant or myself, but it was perfectly horrifying to my *Pottawatamie*; all of which tribe, as also their neighbours, were as much in awe of a *Winebago*, as is a flying-fish of a dolphin. But all surprise has its end; and at length the war-dance ceased—music of which, at times, could only be likened to the shrieks of the damned and then, again, partake of the character of the recitative in an Italian opera, until, at length, it died away, and all was silence.

Then came old *La Saller*, whose head, whitened by the



snows of eighty winters, as it showed itself through the trap in the floor, was a far more acceptable sight than I could have anticipated it would be when I left the fort. Having been informed who we were, and my desire to procure a *Winebago* to guide me to Fort Armstrong, he inquired whether we had not heard the war-dance, and if we could not conjecture its object! He then proceeded to state that two Winebagoes, who had been tried and sentenced to be executed for the murder of a soldier at Fort Armstrong, had escaped from the jail at *Kaskaskia*, and arrived on the river a few days previous; that in consequence, the whole nation was in a state of extraordinary excitement and that the war-dance to which we had listened, was preparatory to the starting of a war party for Fort Armstrong to attack it, or destroy such of the garrison as they could meet with beyond its palisades; and that of course our only safety was in making an early start homeward. I inquired whether I could not avoid the Indians by crossing the Great Prairie, and thus striking the Mississippi above the fort. He answered, that by such a route I would certainly avoid the Indians until I reached the vicinity of the Mississippi; but that we would as certainly perish with the cold, as there was no wood to furnish fire at night. The mercury in the thermometer, as I well knew, had stood at five degrees below zero when I left the garrison, and it had certainly been growing colder each day; and therefore I apparently acquiesced in his advice, and requested to be called some three hours before daylight, which would give us a fair start of any pursuing party—and bade him good night.

But the old man doubted my intention to return to the fort; and shortly after paid us another visit, accompanied by a very old *Winebago*, who avowed himself the friend of the whites, and proceeded to point out the folly of any attempt to proceed in my expedition. He inquired its purport; and when I told him it was to visit a dying friend, he said I had better postpone the meeting until



after death, when we would doubtless meet in the Paradise of the white man! but at the same time gave me to understand that he did not believe such was the object of my visit to the banks of the Mississippi. Indian-like, he sought not to pry farther into my affairs, but expressed his respect for all who knew how to keep their own counsels and the counsels of their government. His remarks were kind, and in the nature of approbation of the past and advice for the future, and coming from such a source, made a lasting impression.

Again we were left to ourselves; and then, doubtless, I wished myself safe in the garrison. But to return, and that too, from *fear*, and the object of my journey unaccomplished, was inevitable *disgrace*. But what was still more important, was the *consequence* to others of my return. I could not but think there was an understanding between the *Winebagoes* and the *Sioux*; and if there had lingered on my mind a doubt of the story of the Pottawatamie chief, that doubt was now at an end; and, of course, a sense of duty to a whole regiment of officers and men, their wives and children, was as imperative in requiring my advance, as was the fear of disgrace in forbidding my return. With two such motives for a right decision, there could be no doubt as to my course. It required more courage to retreat than to advance; and I determined upon the latter.

Some hours before the dawn of day, we started, apparently for the garrison; but once out of sight of old *La Saller*, we knocked the shoes off our horses to avoid being traced by them in crossing the river, threw away our caps, tore up a blanket to make the hood worn by Indians in extreme cold weather, and took a course by the stars directly west."

As there is no other mention of *La Saller* in the dedication, our quotation ends here. After many troubles Webb reached Fort Armstrong and delivered his message and the uprising was suppressed.

Webb was then a lieutenant in the Third Infantry. He left the army in 1827, after serving eight years. In his later years (he died June 7, 1884) he was one of the great newspaper men in New York. In a letter written in 1882 he says he left Fort Dearborn February 4, reaching La Sallier's place the evening of the seventh, and leaving there at two o'clock in the morning of the eighth when the thermometer, as recorded at Fort Armstrong, registered twenty-seven below zero.

Dr. Everett believed that Joseph Ogee married a daughter of La Sallier.

In the *Illinois Spectator* (Edwardsville) October 31, 1820, there is an article taken from the *St. Louis Enquirer* saying that on the twenty-seventh of September John Harris, a soldier at Fort Armstrong, went out hunting, and on the fifth of October his body was found shot and scalped. Two Winnebagoes left Rock Island on the morning of September 27 and there were no other Indians in the neighborhood at the time. Afterwards, six or seven Winnebagoes visited Fort Armstrong and were admitted. Major Marston, then in command of the fort, held three of the Winnebago chiefs as hostages until they delivered the two Winnebagoes who were said to have committed the murder. The *Spectator* adds there were two Indians then confined in jail at Edwardsville who were charged with having committed that murder.

The report made by William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, of his expenditures in May, June and July, 1821, shows several items on account of the trial at Kaskaskia of two Winnebagoes who were indicted for murder, and indicates that the prisoners and witnesses traveled great distances to attend the trial. The report does not state who the Indians were, where the crime was committed, who was the victim, or the result of the trial. (*Am. State Papers, Indian Affairs, v. 2, pp. 297, et seq.*)

## STEPHEN MACK.

The first white man to make his home in the Rock river valley was Stephen Mack. It is quite certain that he lived in the house he bought from La Sallier near Grand Detour some time before 1830. Apparently, this makes him the first white settler. But, if we mean by settler one who established his permanent abode in a certain place, Mack was not the first settler in Lee county.

When his remains were removed, in 1880, from the place of their first interment on his farm to the Phillips cemetery, near Harrison, in Winnebago County, by his old friends, they placed in a bottle, buried there with the remains, a paper reading thus:

“If in the course of time this paper should meet the eye of any person, be it known that the remains buried here are those of Stephen Mack and his Indian wife, Ho-no-ne-gah.

Stephen Mack was born in Poultney, Vermont, February, 1799, and settled in this county about 1822 as an Indian trader, and continued as a resident until his death in 1850, Mrs. Mack having previously died.

At the time of Mack's death he owned all of section twenty-three in this township south of the Peca-tonica River, and resided thereon at the time of his death. He was buried not far from where he lived by the side of his wife on his own land. Soon after his death, his children sold the land and went to Minnesota with their mother's friends, and at this time there are no relatives of Mack here.

The place where he was first buried being in a large field, and the land under cultivation over his remains, the undersigned friends of Mack and his wife in their lifetime, have moved the remains to this place, and placed a tombstone over the same. This is done out of respect and friendship for our departed friends.

Stephen Mack was the first permanent white inhabitant of Rock River valley. He was a good citi-



zen, a generous friend, a gentleman in deportment and an honest man.

J. R. JEWETT,  
WILLIAM HALLEY,  
R. H. COMSTOCK.

Rockton, May 19th, 1880.

In his *History of Rockton*, Carr, referring to the date of Mack's birth, adds to the foregoing this note:

“Some think this is not correct, for he must have been from ten to fifteen years older when he died than this date would make him.”

In his list of births, marriages and deaths in Rockton, Carr says Mack was born in 1799. It may be that in the time passing between the writing of the note and this list of births Carr found evidence justifying the statement that Mack was born in 1799, but he does not show any, or he may have followed that statement because he was unable to learn the exact date.

The family history recorded in the bible of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Stocker-Terrill, says Mack was born in Tunbridge, Orange County, Vermont, February 20, 1798.

Carr says Mack “came west to Detroit with his father's family, soon after the close of the war of 1812, where his father held some position under the government, and might have had some connection with the fur business.”

In a *History of Rock County, Wisconsin*, published in 1879, it is said, apparently upon the strength of statements made by R. P. Crane and O. P. Bicknell as to conversations with Mack, that he was a native of Keene, New Hampshire, and was living at Rockton in the spring of 1837, and that he then said that he “had been living with the Indians for more than sixteen years,” and had been adopted by the Winnebagoes after he married the daughter of their chief.

A *History of Oakland County, Michigan*, (1887) based chiefly upon statements made by Almon Mack, a son of

the elder Stephen, says that while the latter settled in Detroit in 1807, he left his family in Vermont where the educational facilities were far better than those Michigan then had, and that his family, except one daughter, Loviey, who joined him about 1818, did not come west until 1822.

The family history says the younger Mack bought the La Sallier cabin shortly after his marriage in February, 1829.

From the *Michigan Pioneer Collections* it appears that Stephen Mack, father of the Stephen Mack who lived at Grand Detour, was the first Yankee to open a store in Detroit where he began business in 1807, dealing in dry goods, groceries, crockery, hardware, etc. He was a member of the firm of Mack & Conant. That firm engaged in the fur business as early as 1816, and there is abundant evidence that it prosecuted that business so actively and energetically that it was a very lively competitor of the American Fur Company. They established an agency, for their fur business, in Chicago as early as 1816, and operated it until about the time of their failure in 1821, when that part of their business was taken over by the American Fur Company. John Crafts represented them at Chicago all the time they maintained their agency there. After that he joined the Fur Company.

The elder Mack was a member of the first legislative council of the territory of Michigan. With others he founded the town of Pontiac, Michigan, where he died in 1826.

Carr says the younger Stephen Mack "attended Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, for a time, but seemed to have left college before he graduated." This is an error, as the secretary of that college states that "the name of Stephen Mack does not appear on our records."

Carr's book purports to be a history of Rockton from "1820 to 1898," and this may give the impression that Mack settled at Macktown in 1820, but the text of the book does not support such an idea.

From Carr's *History* it appears that the younger Mack joined a government expedition around the lakes, and while at Green Bay met some traders who told him that the Rock river country was a good place for one to establish a trading post. He promptly started for Rock river, reaching it near where Janesville stands. Thence he followed down the river until he reached the Indian settlement known as Turtle village, near Beloit Junction. There he learned of an Indian camp at Bird's Grove, about two miles down the river from Rockton, at the mouth of Dry Run Creek, and he started for it only to lose his way and wander about until he reached the Potawatamie village at Grand Detour, and for two or three years traded with the Indians there, taking their furs in exchange for his articles of traffic, and carrying his merchandise to and from Chicago on the backs of Indian ponies.

The law permitted the Indian Agents to issue licenses to trade with the Indians to such persons as they thought proper, and at such places as the agents designated in the licenses, and it required the Secretary of War to report to Congress each year an abstract of the licenses issued. The reports made under this requirement show that on October 20, 1823, Alexander Wolcott, Jr., Indian Agent at Chicago, issued to Stephen Mack, Jr., a license to trade on Rock river with the Indians for one year with a capital of two thousand dollars, (*18th Cong., 2d Sess.; Ho. Doc. 54*) and on September 6, 1824, Wolcott issued a license to Mack to trade on Rock river with the Indians for one year with a capital of one thousand dollars. (*19th Cong., 1st Sess.; Ho. Doc. 118.*)

There is no report of the issue of any other license to Mack until October 5, 1826, when Wolcott granted him a license to trade with the Indians for one year on "Rocky River" with a capital of twenty-five hundred dollars. (*20th Cong.; 1st Sess.; Ho. Doc. 140.*) Nothing has been



found that shows what Mack was doing in the interval between the second and third licenses, except that he served as clerk and voted at an election of a constable held in the Chicago precinct May 11, 1826. (Address by Judge David McCulloch on *Early Days of Peoria and Chicago*, delivered before the Chicago Historical Society, January 19, 1904.)

The Reports of the Secretary of War do not show that any other licenses were issued to Mack, yet he continued to trade with the Indians as long as any of them remained in his neighborhood, and it is known that they were trading with him in June, 1835, at Bird's Grove. As John Dixon traded with the Indians at Dixon's Ferry from 1830 until they left the state, and never had a license to do so, and as no trading licenses were issued for any places on Rock river above Prophetstown after 1827, it would seem the general belief then was that such licenses were not then required for that territory, although as late as February, 1829, the Secretary of War reported that trading posts were then established at "Grand Detour on Rocky river \* \* \* and on Rock river." (*20th Cong., 2d Sess.; Ho. Doc. 117.*)

"Mack's relation with this tribe was not productive of the best of feeling; and although he had taken the chief's daughter, Ho-no-ne-gah, for his wife, still his life was in danger, because he refused to sell firearms and liquor to the tribe. During one of his trips to Chicago with three of his ponies, a plan was fully matured to dispose of him on his return, and take possession of his effects. His Indian wife, learning of their intentions, was on the lookout for her husband's return, and meeting him far out from camp, apprised him of his danger. It was quick work for her to mount one of the ponies, and together they started out for the Winnebago tribe at Bird's grove, where they were gladly welcomed and promised protection. It became their future home for a number of years." (Carr.)



It is to be noted that Carr does not state the year in which Mack located at Grand Detour, or the year he joined the Winnebagoes at Bird's Grove and no evidence has been found that will enable one to fix either date.

In his "*Politics and Politicians of Chicago*," published in 1886, Bennett says Stephen Mack was a clerk employed by the American Fur Company, and a son of Major Mack of Detroit, and that he voted "in the Chicago precinct of Peoria county," at an election in Chicago, for a justice of the peace and a constable, held July 24, 1830; that he married an Indian woman and "finally settled in Pecatonica, Winnebago county." Bennett and John Wentworth, in his lecture on Early Chicago (*Fergus Historical Series, v. 8, p. 55*) give a list of those voting at a special election held in the Chicago precinct November 25, 1830, but Mack's name is not there. Nor is it in the list Bennett gives of those voting at the state election August 7, 1826.

Andreas in his "*History of Chicago*," says that Mack voted at the election held in the Chicago precinct August 2, 1830, and describes him as a "Clerk of American Fur Company.

In this connection it is well to remember that these elections were held in Chicago and that no part of what is now Winnebago county ever was in the "Chicago precinct" of Peoria county.

It appears from his letters that he made his home on Rock river during the winter months. The fact that he voted in Chicago indicates that he considered that place his home.

Andreas also says that Stephen Mack bought lots seven and eight, in block forty-three, in the original town of Chicago, September 29, 1830, for \$53. This block is bounded by West Randolph, North Market and West Washington streets and, on the west, by the old East Water street (now vacated).

In his later years Mack visited Grand Detour several times, and from what he said on those visits, as it was repeated by Charles Throop to others, it is known that Mack bought La Sallier's cabin and occupied it until he moved to Bird's Grove. He was living at Bird's Grove in May, 1832. If the family history is correct in saying that he bought the cabin soon after his marriage in 1829, it is clear he did not occupy the cabin for any great length of time.

Kett's *History of Winnebago County* (1877) says Mack was living in that county as early as 1829.

In their *Atlas of Illinois*, published in 1876, Warner and Beers say Mack was living at Bird's Grove in 1829.

Jefferson Davis, a Lieutenant in the First Infantry, was stationed at Fort Winnebago in the fall of 1829 and remained there until 1831. He said, "When sent on various expeditions I crossed Rock River at different points, but saw no sign of settlement above Dixon's Ferry." (*Jefferson Davis, A Memoir, by Varina Davis.*)

"Mack was living in peace and quietude with the Indians at the breaking out of the Black Hawk war. After the battle of Stillman Valley, when that renowned chief visited this tribe to induce them to follow him on his journey northward, Mack used his influence against such a movement; and although Black Hawk was very angry with the white trader, the little tribe remained on their old camping ground, and the great chief marched on without them.

It is said that the feeling was so strong against Mack during the visit of Black Hawk, that the chief of the tribe advised him to go away for a time for personal safety. Accordingly he privately went to an island in the river, now known as Webber's island, where he was supplied with food by his faithful wife until it was safe for him to return. This may be an actual fact or a romance, but it is given for what it is worth." (Carr.)

Both fact and romance are in this statement. Black Hawk did visit the Indians near Bird's Grove to persuade them to join him, and Mack did leave his home; but both these events occurred before the battle of Stillman Valley. Mack may have stayed at Webber's island, but if so it was only for a short time.

That Mack took part in the Black Hawk War is evident from his letters to his sister, Mrs. Lovicy Cooper, reading as follows:

Chicago, May 30, 1832.

DEAR SISTER:

I am happy in having an opportunity of informing you and the rest of my relations at Detroit and Pontiac that I am still alive and well. We are at war at present with the Socks Indians.

I left my wintering ground or trading station on the 9th inst. and as I left it the Socks took possession of my house but were prevented from injuring me or my men by the Winabagoe Indians who claimed me as their friend and trader. Immediately on my arrival at this place I joined with the Inhabitants of this place, took up arms and garrisoned fort Dearbourn, and we have been able by that means to afford protection to all of the inhabitants of the surrounding country that could get in in season, but I am sorry to say that our force was too small to enable us to go to the assistance of such as could not get in in season to serve themselves and in consequence three families consisting of 14 persons were killed and several houses burned. After being reinforced by those who got in from the outer settlements, we went out in pursuit of the murderers, but could not find them and after burying the dead we came back to wait for reinforcements to enable us to fight our way through to the main army (which was last heard from near my trading post on Rocky River) and assist in punishing the marauders. \* \* \*

Chicago, June 13, 1832.

DEAR SISTER: \* \* \*

I have been out on one expedition against the Sauke Indians since my last letter, but we could not find



them where we expected, and were obliged to return and wait for reinforcements to enable us to penetrate further into the country. General Atkinson will be on the move again in a few days, and General J. R. Williams, (now at this place) will probably move on to his assistance. In that case I shall join him with a few volunteer mounted riflemen from this place. You need be under no apprehension on my account for I can assure you that all of the accounts that you receive from the seat of war are very much exaggerated. It is really amusing to me who see all the operation and know perhaps better than almost any one the real danger, to read the accounts of maneuvers of the enemy never thought of by them, and of battles never fought. And then to sit down and listen to the remarks of the raw Yankees who have lately emigrated to this country, one would think that Napoleon Bonaparte had risen from the grave and presented himself in the person of the Blackhawk and that the spirit of his millions of heroes were concentrated in the 5 or 600 warriors led by that chief. I by no means wish to undervalue our enemies, they are brave and subtle and it may be dangerous to encounter them without an overwhelming force, but I can by no means approve of the tardy operations of our chief officers, for it gives time to the nimble footed Indians to ravage our frontier settlements and bathe their hands in the blood of helpless women and unsuspecting infants. Had more prompt measures been pursued in the commencement, I have no doubt but many lives would have been spared and we should have been at this moment in the full enjoyment of peace."

Mack's reference to the burial of those killed by the Indians undoubtedly is to the massacre at Indian Creek, La Salle county, May 20, 1832, and aids us in determining the command of which he was a part.

Five companies of volunteers were raised in Cook county for service in the Black Hawk war. One of them, raised in the immediate vicinity of Chicago, was organized May 3, 1832, and commanded by Captain Gholson

Kercheval. Captain James Walker commanded a company raised in the neighborhood of Plainfield and enrolled June 19. Captain Joseph Naper's company was organized July 19, nearly all of its members living in the vicinity of Naperville. A company commanded by Captain Holden Seission was organized July 23. The muster rolls of four of these companies have been preserved, but the name of Stephen Mack does not appear on any of them.

Andreas, in his *History of Chicago*, v. 1, p. 269, says that some thirty of those in Kercheval's company also enrolled in a company commanded by Captains Jesse B. Brown and Richard J. Hamilton, and that this company—Joseph Naper being a member—made a scouting tour through the country as far as Holderman's Grove, Plainfield and Ottawa, and that the remains of those massacred at Indian Creek were buried by the men of this company. The muster roll of this company was not preserved.

In the chapter of his *History of Chicago* that was written in February, 1854, Bross says that "late in the month of May, 1832, a small force consisting of twenty-five men, was organized in the fort under the command of Capt. J. B. Brown, with Capt. Joseph Naper and Col. R. J. Hamilton," and that this command buried the bodies of those killed in the massacre, and then went to Ottawa where it joined a part of a company from Tazewell county under Major Bailey, and the whole detachment then proceeded to Chicago under the command of Major Bailey.

*A History of Du Page County*, by C. W. Richmond and H. F. Vallette (1857), says that members of a company raised in Chicago and commanded by Captain Brown and Colonel Hamilton assisted the men of Stillman's command, under Colonel Johnson, in burying the

bodies of those massacred at Indian Creek. (Baskin's *History of Du Page County*, p. 37.)

In his *Memories of Shaubena*, Matson says the burial was by "a company of rangers, under Captain Naper, or Brown, from Chicago" and a party from Putnam county.

In a letter written May 26, 1832, T. J. V. Owen, then Indian Agent at Chicago, says "The party of mounted men who left here some days since upon an Indian excursion has this moment returned" after burying the bodies of those slain in this massacre. (*Mich. Pioneer Coll.*, v. 21, p. 368.)

Bearing in mind the fact that the letters of Mack and Owen were written when the facts they mention were fresh in the mind, it seems clear that Mack was in Captain Brown's company, and that he did assist in the burial of the victims of the massacre.

After the capture of Black Hawk he returned to Bird's Grove and spent the winter there, going back to Chicago in the early part of May, 1833.

In a letter to his sister, written at Chicago, August 24, 1833, he said: "We are preparing for the Indian Treaty which is to take place next month. After the payment of the Indian annuities I shall take my departure for my winter quarters in the west as usual."

In the treaty made at Chicago, September 26, 1833, with the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians, provision was made for the payment of six hundred dollars to Rosa and Mary, children of "Hoo-mo-ni gah," wife of Stephen Mack; five hundred dollars to Stephen Mack, "in trust for the heirs of Stephen Mack, deceased," and three hundred and fifty dollars to Stephen Mack, Jr. This provision for "the heirs of Stephen Mack, deceased," is puzzling, unless it was intended to pay some old debt the Indians owed the elder Mack.

With the exception of Stephen Mack, the first permanent white settlers in Rockton were William Talcott and



his son Thomas B. Talcott. The latter kept a journal in which he wrote the events of the various days passing as they went about northern Illinois looking for a desirable place to make a home. Under date of Saturday, July 25, 1835, he says they forded a river, "crossed a small prairie, went into the woods and came to Stephen Mack's Indian trading establishment, and once more put up with a white man who had a squaw wife. Found we were on the bank of Rock river, two miles below the mouth of the Pecatonica and six miles south of the line of Wisconsin territory." On the next day he wrote: "Shall stay with our friend Mack today. There are no inhabitants in several miles except the Indians, who come around and Mack trades with them today as much as any day. All days are alike to the children of the forest. Mack is in the employ of the American Fur Company, and has been all his life. The Indians have confidence in him and he has no trouble."

Mack thought that the bluff at the mouth of the Pecatonica river

"would be a good place to locate a town in view of river navigation, and was in correspondence with a Mr. Bradstreet, of Albany, N. Y., on the advent of the first white settlers in 1835. It was then considered that the Pecatonica was a navigable stream for one hundred miles from its mouth, and Rock River one hundred and fifty miles up into the territory of Wisconsin. With this large prospect in view, the mouth of the Pecatonica River was a very desirable location for a town. Accordingly Mack took possession of this tract of land in the fall of 1835, and permanently resided there until his death. \* \* \* The place took the name of Macktown, which it still retains, although the once flourishing settlement has entirely disappeared, save the substantial farm house which he built there. \* \* \* Mack had his town platted, as he owned all of section twenty-three south of Pecatonica River and sold many lots. In the height of his prosperity he valued a corner lot near



his store at \$1,000. When told that his land was too uneven for a town, he said 'it is far better than Milwaukee.''' (Carr.)

In 1834, Congress enacted a law granting to Lewis Banezakiewitz, and his associates, being two hundred thirty-five exiles from Poland, who were transported to the United States by the order of the Emperor of Austria, the right to purchase, at the minimum price, thirty-six sections of land, to be selected by them under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, in any three adjacent townships in Illinois or Michigan. Baron Louis Chlopicki and John Prehal were authorized to act as the agents of these exiles in selecting the land, and Chlopicki selected two large tracts of land in Winnebago county that were not connected with each other. One of them contained ten thousand, nine hundred and seventy acres and included practically all the land within the present city of Rockford, and the other contained twelve thousand acres in the present town of Rockton, including, with other lands, sections twenty-three and twenty-six. As soon as this was known in the neighborhood, the men who had settled in that territory and made claim to the lands they occupied, and who had organized a claim protective association, appointed a committee to resist this selection. Mack, a member of the claim association, was made chairman of this special committee, as he had made claim to the west half of section twenty-six and that part of section twenty-three south of the river in the present town of Rockton. In October, 1837, this committee sent a petition to William L. May, Congressman of that district, and Richard M. Young, one of our United States Senators, stating that the petitioners were actual residents upon the land they occupied prior to the fall of 1835, and some of them in 1834; that Chlopicki, knowing that they were in possession of these lands, had promised them that they would not be disturbed; yet, disregarding his promise, he had selected twenty sections,

sixteen of which were then occupied by the petitioners, who felt aggrieved because, following the custom of the country, they had entered upon the land in good faith and made improvements thereon, intending to buy the land as soon as it was put upon the market. They expressed a willingness to buy their peace by making a fair compromise with Chlopicki, and asked for legislation that would enable them to secure the lands they occupied and thus save the cost of their improvements and labor. (*25th Cong.; 3d Sess.; Sen. Doc. 161.*) The result was the passage of the Act of April 14, 1842, which declared that Chlopicki's selections had not been made lawfully, and it specifically gave the residents an opportunity to perfect their claims, and permitted the exiles to select other lands.

By the treaty made at Washington November 1, 1837, the Winnebagoes ceded all their land east of the Mississippi and agreed to remove therefrom within eight months after the ratification of the treaty. The treaty provided for the payment of various sums, aggregating \$38,000, to certain persons named, out of the sum of \$200,000, and that the balance "shall be applied to the debts of the nation, which may be ascertained to be justly due, and which may be admitted by the Indians, provided, that if all their debts shall amount to more than this balance, their creditors shall be paid *pro rata*, upon their giving receipts in full," and that no claim for depredations should be allowed. Provision was also made for the payment, under the direction of the President, to the relations and friends of the Winnebagoes "having not less than one-quarter of Winnebago blood" of the sum of \$100,000. The commissioners appointed to adjust these claims proceeded to Prairie du Chien where they met the Indians and the various claimants in 1838. The report of the Secretary of War shows that Stephen Mack presented a claim for \$6,500 for merchandise sold the Winnebagoes

which the commissioners allowed at \$2,500 and, the claims exceeding the balance, paid him his proportion,—\$2,329.50. The commissioners also paid to him the sum of one thousand dollars for each of his five children, Rosa, age eight; Mary, age six; William, age four; Louisa, age two and one-half, and Thomas H., one year, “for valuable services the father and mother rendered, and the disposition and ability of the children to do so.”

When the pioneer steamboat “Gypsy” made her memorable voyage up Rock river in 1838, “Mack heard the steamer’s whistle as she came around the bend in the river and hurried down to the shore to drive a stake for them to tie up to on his side of the river,” but he was disappointed, as she tied to a stake on the other side of the river. (Carr.)

“In 1839 Mack built the large two story house which is now (1898) the sole survivor of that early settlement. At the time of its erection, it was the best house west of the lake, and but few equaled it in Chicago. It was built on a good stone foundation, the first in the place, and when completed was painted, which was a luxury rarely indulged in during those early times. He occupied this house until his death. He built other houses, but they did not involve such an outlay of money. \* \* \* The first one built west of Mack’s house was a frame structure, and a story and a half high. The lower part was occupied for several years by Sylvester Stevens, as a furniture room and work shop. The upper story was reached by stairs on the outside, and was first used for a school house for Mack’s children and such others as lived in the vicinity. Some Indian children were induced to attend for a time, but all the effort put forth to educate them was comparatively labor lost. The different teachers were paid almost wholly by Mr. Mack. This school was kept up until he built his school house in another part of the place, about 1846. (Carr.)



He established a ferry across Rock river about 1838 and ran it for some time. It was operated until 1843 when he, and his associates, David Jewett and Merrill E. Mack, a cousin, under a charter granted by the state, built what was commonly called Mack's bridge, the first to span Rock river in Illinois. Mack furnished the greater part of the money for this venture. The bridge had a draw span that gave a clear channel thirty-six feet wide. It was entirely destroyed by a freshet June 1, 1851, and never rebuilt.

Carr says, "George Stevens' family came in '38. He was postmaster about 1840, following after Mack in the office." He does not state when Mack was appointed.

Mack conducted a store for several years, being assisted for some time by his cousin Merrill E. Mack, but this venture proved to be disastrous, as appears from his letter of August 26, 1847, to his sister, in which he says:

\* \* \* "You inquire about my circumstances. I will answer. I lost from \$4000 to \$5000 by our late Cousin Merrel E. Mack. I furnished him cash to carry on business, and when he died his estate proved insolvent and all I got was in old goods or other worthless trash. This has reduced my means so that I have given up trade and am now working one or two good farms which I own. I hold two or three small offices which occupies a portion of my time, but does not add much to my income. I owe no man a Dollar and never will. I pride myself in maintaining a character far above the possibility of reproach in pecuniary matters, and the result is I am burdened with every petty office of trust that has no compensating salary, in my neighborhood."

After the collapse of the State Internal Improvement scheme he took an active part in the effort to induce Congress to donate 150,000 acres for the improvement of the navigation of Rock river from its mouth to the terminus of the proposed Milwaukee and Rock River canal, and,



acting upon a resolution adopted at a meeting held in Rockford in January, 1840, joined with several hundred others in a memorial to Congress for that purpose. Nothing came of the effort except the printing of the memorial by order of the Senate in May, 1840. Many of the signers of this memorial were active in public affairs in the valley in later years, among them being John Deere, W. A. House, Solon Cumins, Charles Throop, Chester Badger, Abram Brown, Joseph Crawford, T. D. Boardman, I. S. Boardman, A. L. Porter, M. Fellows, O. F. Ayers, E. Southwick, N. G. H. Morrill, R. B. Loveland, D. B. McKenny and Carlton Bailey.

He was appointed and served as a delegate from Winnebago county to the convention held at Rockford January 7, 1846, for the purpose of taking measures to secure the construction of a railroad from Galena to Chicago. (Stennett, *History of the Chicago & Northwestern Ry. Co.*)

He took an active interest in the public affairs of his community, serving as school treasurer and postmaster. In March, 1847, he was appointed one of the "special commissioners" who were, by the statute incorporating the Rockford Hydraulic and Manufacturing Company, charged with the duty of determining "the size and location of the lock or locks" that company might be required to construct in its dam at Rockford. He was a justice of the peace; elected in the district in which he lived.

Carr's *History of Rockton* says "Mack was elected associate justice of the peace in 1849, and held the office as long as he lived." The *History of Winnebago County* published by Kett, in 1877, says Mack was an associate justice in 1849-1850. That office would have made Mack a member of the County Court, but his name does not appear on the records of that court as a member. It does not appear, as that of a member of the court, on the records of the County Commissioner's Court which went out of existence in that county in November, 1849.

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At the first election in Winnebago county after the adoption of the township organization, April 2, 1850, he was a candidate for supervisor, but was defeated by Sylvester Talcott by a vote of 58 to 45.

The statement in the family history that he married in February, 1829, undoubtedly refers to his marriage to Ho-no-ne-gah. He remarried her, Carr says, September 14, 1840, according to the rites and customs of the white man. She died in July, 1847. Her white neighbors considered her a faithful and devoted wife, a woman of more than ordinary ability and one who cheerfully aided all whenever opportunity offered. Carr says she was "largely absorbed in the care of her home and children, save when sickness of the early settlers called for her kind and skillful care and attention. Then with her supply of nature's remedies which the Great Spirit had so kindly spread out all around her, she would seek out the afflicted and bring sunshine and relief to many a suffering one who fell a prey to the ills of a new country. The high tribute of respect to Mack's Indian wife was genuine and sincere, and although of a dusky hue, she possessed a noble soul and did all she could to make those around her comfortable and happy.

Not only in sickness were her many virtues shown in a marked degree, but the poor and destitute around her incident to the struggles of many an early settler, shared of her provisions in a generous manner. She delighted in doing good. Only once was she known to assume the garb of her pale-face sisters, and then it was by great solicitation; but she felt so ill at ease, and afraid to make herself conspicuous, she soon laid it aside and forever after was content with the costume of her tribe. Mrs. Jesse Blinn who was a near neighbor says of her: "She was very skillful in ornamenting her clothing. She made herself for extra occasions an Indian dress of fine blue broadcloth, with a border five inches deep all around it, worked with various colored ribbons; her taste in blend-

ing colors to have a pleasing effect was very fine, and her needle work almost perfect. Many articles about her home bore witness of her skillful handiwork. Being a Pottawatomie, she like her tribe, felt above the Winnebago as in skill, and showed much ability in fashioning many articles of merchandise.”

John Blackhawk, an intelligent and well-educated Winnebago says that Ho-no-ne-gah is a Winnebago word meaning “dear little one,” and is the name given the first girl born in a Winnebago family.

In a letter to his sister, after the death of Ho-no-ne-gah, Mack said :

“You say you perceive by the notice in the paper that my wife died a Christian. Lovicy, if I know what a Christian is, she was one. She not only died a Christian, but she lived one. Not by profession, but by her every act. Her every deed proclaimed her a follower of Christ. In her the hungry and naked have lost a benefactor, the sick a nurse, and I have lost a friend who taught me to reverence God by doing good to his creatures.”

Mack had no children by his second wife, but Ho-no-ne-gah bore him eleven, two of whom died in infancy. The others were :

Rose (so named in his will, though sometimes called Rosa), born November 14, 1830. In consequence of illness she was a mute; attended school at the Illinois Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb at Jacksonville; married and became a teacher there.

Mary, born July 15, 1832, was married twice—first to Charles Stocker, and then to . . . . . Terrill.

William H., born July 17, 1834. Married his sister-in-law, Julia Stocker. Was a soldier in the Union army during the Rebellion.

Louisa, born May 6, 1836. Married L. L. Curtiss.

Thomas H., born February 8, 1838. Soldier in the Union army during the Rebellion.

Henry C., born December 1, 1839; died January 1, 1849.



Edward, born December 3, 1841. Soldier in the Union army in the Rebellion, dying from injuries received in that service.

Matilda, born November 26, 1843. Married Ed. Drake.

Caroline, born October 16, 1845. Married Arthur F. Newberry. Now (1918) living in Pontiac, Michigan. She is the only one of his children living now.

On February 24, 1848, Mack married Mrs. Isabelle Daniels, of Harrison, Illinois. He died, very suddenly, April 10, 1850. Soon after his estate was settled all his children, except Caroline, who went to live with her father's brother Almon, left for Minnesota or Wisconsin, to join the friends of their mother. At the time of his death he owned about one thousand acres of land around Macktown.

He was a good man, a good citizen and a great force for good in the development of the new country.

Kett's *History of Winnebago County* says he was tall, erect as an Indian, dignified and manly in his bearing.

These facts conclusively show that Mack regarded his place at Bird's Grove merely as a winter trading station, and that he did not consider it his home until after August, 1833. This being the case, it is evident that he was not the first permanent white settler in the Rock river valley, for in April, 1830, John Dixon settled at Ogee's Ferry, where the city of Dixon grew up around him, and remained there until his death in July, 1876.



## THE FUR TRADE AT GRAND DETOUR.

It is a singular fact that of all those writing upon the history of Lee or Ogle counties not one has mentioned the fur trade that was carried on at Grand Detour for many years.

There is an abundance of convincing evidence that the Rock river country was a rich field for the fur buyers and that Grand Detour was considered to be a very good location for one engaged in that trade.

The Indian was improvident, giving little thought to the future, and making but scant provision for it. When the early frosts reminded him of the coming of the winter with its hardships he appealed to the white men for food, blankets, powder, bullets and shot. These were given him cheerfully and in abundance by the licensed trader whose security was the Indian's promise to pay by delivering furs.

There are still living persons who have heard John Dixon say that the only money he lost by trusting an Indian was due from one who was killed on a hunting trip. Governor Lewis Cass of Michigan and Gen. William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, St. Louis, and no others had a better knowledge of the Indians than they possessed, said that the Indian was honest and did pay as he promised, unless he was beguiled by some rival trader who offered more. (20th Cong.; 2nd Sess.; Sen. Doc. 67.)

The red man was governed by his own law, and that was—if, by the fortunes of the hunt, he was unable to pay from the proceeds of the season following the day he was given credit, he was under no obligation to pay at any time,—the debt was satisfied. But the trader was persistent and the next time his debtor's tribe entered into a treaty with the United States for the sale of land, the trader was present, and all accounts of that char-

acter were provided for in that treaty and paid by the United States. There is good reason for the belief that some of the treaties by which the Indian parted with his land were instigated by the traders who had bills to collect.

Under the Treaty of November 1, 1837, with the Winnebagoes, commissioners were appointed to adjust the claims against that tribe, and they reported that the "Winnebagoes were known to be generally honest," and that it was the general belief of the Winnebagoes that if they were unable to pay their debts in two years, some said in one year, then, the debt became one of the nation or tribe and the individual was absolved from all obligation to pay it, but it should be paid out of moneys provided for that purpose by the United States. (*25th Cong.; 3d Sess.; Ho. Doc. 229.*)

In 1796 Congress enacted a law authorizing the president to establish trading houses at such posts and places as he should judge most convenient for trade with the Indians, and empowered him to appoint an agent for each house, whose duty it should be to dispose of, in trade with the Indians, such goods as the president should direct him to receive. In 1806 the president was authorized to appoint a superintendent of Indian trade who should purchase the goods required and transmit them to the place designated as trading houses (commonly called factories) and also to appoint an agent for each trading house and he was known as the factor. By the Act passed in 1822 the factory system was abolished, and the president was required to close up the trading houses and was authorized to appoint a Superintendent of Indian Affairs to reside at St. Louis, and this superintendent and the Indian Agents were given authority to issue licenses to trade with the Indians at places designated in the license. Another act of that year required the Superintendents of Indian Affairs, who were the governors of

the territories, and the Superintendent at St. Louis, and all Indian Agents, to report to the Secretary of War, each year, "an abstract of all licenses granted, showing by and to whom, when and where granted, with the amount of the bonds and capital employed, to be laid before Congress, at the next session thereof." Prior to the enactment of this statute there was no regulation requiring any report of the licenses issued.

The law made it the duty of the Indian Agents "from time to time to designate certain convenient and suitable places for carrying on trade with the different tribes, and to require traders to transact their business at the places thus designated, and at no other place or places." Those charged with the administration of the law often complained that the Indian Agents were compelled to issue a license to every applicant, and the consequence was that there were many irresponsible and dishonest traders, as any man who was able to give the required security could obtain a license to trade for one year with the Indians at any place so designated that he chose to name in his application. He was required to give a bond, the penalty ranging upwards from one thousand dollars, conditioned that he would obey all the laws and rules regulating the trade. He was allowed to trade at the place chosen by himself and named in the license, and was prohibited from trading at any other place under that license, but was allowed to go to other places solely for the purpose of collecting what was due him when he obtained special permission to do so.

He could have as many licenses as he chose, there being instances in which the records show as many as five licenses issued to one man in the same year, and William Burnett, who owned a house in Chicago as early as 1798 and was in the Indian trade many years, writing to Governor Harrison of Indiana Territory, September 10, 1803, says that in regulating the Indian trade Harrison



decided that one trader was sufficient for a place producing less than fifty packs of furs in a year—each pack weighing from ninety to one hundred pounds—and that “no man should have more than four licenses,” but Harrison disregarded his own regulation and issued twenty licenses to John Kinzie in 1802. (Hurlbut, *Chicago Antiquities*.)

Experience taught the trader that he needed the services of three to six men at his post, and he was allowed to have them if their names were endorsed on the license. He was required, before obtaining a license, to lay before the Indian agent an invoice showing the quantity and value of the goods he had for sale, and the capital he had invested in that venture.

The Indian agent had no authority to issue a license to trade at any place or with any tribe beyond his district, but this law was not always respected by the agents.

For convenience of administration the country was divided, arbitrarily, into districts. Generally, the governors of a territory had charge of the trade in that territory, but there were exceptions. The governor of Michigan had jurisdiction over Michigan and part of Wisconsin and that part of Illinois north of the Illinois river and east of Rock river. General William Clark, who was stationed at St. Louis, had jurisdiction over the part of Illinois and Wisconsin west of Rock river.

The territory within the jurisdiction of the Indian Agency at Chicago extended as far north as Grand river on the east side of Lake Michigan, as far south of the lake as the Kankakee river and on the west side of the lake as far north as the “Milwaukee, including the Indians on that river, and to the lower bands of the Pattawatomies on Rock river.” The Ottawas, Chippewas and Potawatomes, always closely related, had a joint interest in a claim recognized by the United States as a just and valid one to northern Illinois, and “a part of the mineral



region on the Mississippi, \* \* \* and a considerable band of them, \* \* \* resided in Illinois, and another band up the Rock River." (20th Cong.; 2d Sess.; Ho. Doc. 117.)

The sub-agency at Fort Winnebago had control of the Indians—Winnebagoes and Menominees—who frequented that place and those who resided in that vicinity. The agency at Prairie du Chien had control of the upper Rock River country, but was not to interfere with trade at Fort Winnebago. The sub-agency at Peoria included the "Ottawas, Chippewas and Pattawatimas of the Illinois living on Fox River and west of it." The agency at Fort Armstrong controlled the Sauks and Foxes.

In a letter to the Secretary of War, October 17, 1821, Lewis Cass, Governor of Michigan Territory and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in that territory, speaking of the conditions in Michigan during and the two years following the War of 1812, says "During a part of that time we had no agent at Michilimacknac, Green Bay, Prairie du Chien, St. Peters, Rocky River, Chicago, Fort Wayne and Upper Sandusky." (*Am. State Papers; Indian Affairs*, vol. 2, p. 314.) Is it justifiable to infer that there was an agent or trader at "Rocky River" during that war or before it began?

That there was a trading post on Rock River in the winter of 1802-1803, is shown by the *Personal Narrative of Capt. Thomas G. Anderson*, who says he spent that winter "with the Winnebagoes on Rock River. They were the most filthy, most obstinate and the bravest people of any Indian tribe I have met with. Here I had a half-breed in opposition in the trade. Our houses were about half a mile apart, and between us was a very high hill, over which we had to pass by a little path through the bushes." (*Wis. His. Coll.* vol. 9, pp. 137, 152.) He does not state at what point on the river this post was located, but as he says the hill was at least three hundred feet above the

water in the river we know he was not near Grand Detour, unless he is in error as to the height of Castle Rock.

John Kinzie became a resident of Chicago in 1804. In *Waubun*, Mrs. John H. Kinzie, says that he "later" established trading posts "at Rock river with the Winnebagoes and the Pottawatamies," but that leaves date and place unknown. There is an abundance of evidence that John Kinzie had been engaged in the Indian trade in Michigan for several years before locating at Chicago, but he was then known as McKenzie as well as Kinzie.

Gurdon S. Hubbard, who entered the service of the American Fur Company in 1818, says that company had three or four trading posts on Rock River from 1813 to 1833 (Baldwin, *History of La Salle County*), but he does not name or describe the exact locations.

Speaking of John Crafts, who was the Chicago representative of Mack & Conant of Detroit, Hubbard said he "had, up to 1819, full control of this section, without opposition from the American Fur Company, sending outfits to Rock river and other points within a range say of a hundred miles of Chicago." (*Hurlbut, Chicago Antiquities.*)

In his introduction to "*Altowan, or Incidents of Life and Adventure in the Rocky Mountains*," James Watson Webb gives a thrilling account of the night he passed in La Sallier's cabin, on Franklin Creek, about thirty-five rods from Rock River, in February, 1822, and it shows there was a trader there then who lived in a cabin so old that in 1835 it was nothing but a mass of rotten logs. It is self-evident there was no reason for the existence of a house there in that period, unless it was for the comfort and convenience of one engaged in the fur trade.

Writing from Michilimackinac on August 26, 1824, to Alexander Wolcott, Indian Agent at Chicago, Robert Stuart, the manager of the American Fur Company, says: "I have just received a letter from Mr. Crafts wherein

he states that you had designated Chicago, St. Joseph, Milwauka and Rock River as the places you consider most proper to be established for Indian trade within your district, and that you will grant him no licenses for any other posts." (*Am. Fur Co. Letter Book, in Chi. His. Soc. Library.* Crafts was then that company's representative in Chicago.)

The Report of the Secretary of War, December, 1823, has an abstract of all licenses to trade with the Indians that were issued in 1821, 1822, and up to the first of September, 1823, and it shows that on October 13, 1821, Alexander Wolcott, Jr., Indian Agent at Chicago, gave a license to Maurice Lauzon to trade one year on "Rock river," with nothing to show the particular place on that river, and it does not state the amount of capital Lauzon employed in that venture. The report does not show that any license to trade on Rock river was issued in 1822 or that part of 1823 covered by the report. (*18th Cong.; 1st Sess.; Ho. Doc. 7.*)

The Report made by the Secretary of War in January, 1825, shows that on October 20, 1823, Wolcott gave a license to Stephen Mack, Jr., to trade on "Rock river," with a capital of two thousand dollars. (*18th Cong.; 2d Sess.; Ho. Doc. 54.*) While this does not show the particular place Mack was authorized to trade, it would seem but fair to say he was at Grand Detour, because he was there other years and his family bible says he bought the cabin in which La Sallier had lived in 1822.

In his testimony before the commissioners appointed, under the treaty of November, 1837, to adjust the claims against the Winnebagoes, John H. Kinzie said that the fur trade along Rock River, in 1823-4, was good, there being many muskrats there at that time and the price being good.

Wolcott, on September 6, 1824, issued a license to Stephen Mack, Jr., to trade one year on Rock river, with



a capital of one thousand dollars; and on October 23, 1824, he issued a license to Cole Weeks to trade one year on "Rocky river," with a capital of fifteen hundred dollars. (*19th Cong.; 1st Sess.; Ho. Doc. 118.*)

Lewis Cass, Governor of Michigan and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, on August 17, 1825, issued a license to Bernard Laughton to trade one year at "Grand Detour, on Rocky River," with a capital of five hundred dollars; and Wolcott, September 27, 1825, issued a license to Laughton to trade one year on "Rocky River," with a capital of twenty-five hundred dollars. (*19th Cong.; 2d Sess.; Ho. Doc. 86.*)

By this time it had become quite generally known that Grand Detour was a very good place for the fur trader, and the Report made by the Secretary of War in February, 1828, shows that on September 1, 1826, Governor Cass issued a license to Morice Lozon to trade one year at "Grand Detour, on Rocky River" with a capital of five hundred dollars; that on October 13, 1826, Henry B. Brevoort, Indian Agent at Green Bay, issued a license to Bernard Grignon to trade one year at "Grand Detour on Rock river" with a capital of seven hundred fifty dollars and sixty-three cents; and on the next day he issued a license to Perish Grignon and S. Chapua to trade one year at "Grand Detour on Rock river and Cheboiegon of Lake Michigan," with a capital of twelve hundred thirty dollars and thirty-one cents; that on October 5, 1826, Wolcott issued to Stephen Mack a license to trade one year on "Rocky River," with a capital of twenty-five hundred dollars; and on the next day he issued a license to Archibald Clybourn to trade one year on "Rocky River," with a capital of twenty-five hundred dollars; and on October 17, 1826, he issued a license to George Hunt to trade one year on "Rocky River," with a capital of thirty-five hundred dollars; that on November 2, 1826, Brevoort issued a license to H. B. McGulpin to trade one year at "Fon du Lac and Grand Detour," with a cap-



ital of seven hundred ninety-two dollars and fourteen cents. (*20th Cong.; 1st Sess.; Ho. Doc. 140.*)

The Secretary of War reported, in February, 1829, an abstract of the licenses to trade with the Indians that had been issued since September 1, 1827, but it does not show that any license to trade at Grand Detour or on Rock river above Prophetstown had been issued since that day. Nor is any mention of the issue of a license to trade there made in his subsequent reports, so it is fair to conclude none were issued since November, 1826, although he did report, February, 1829, that "the following are the trading posts now established \* \* \* Chicago \* \* \* Fever river \* \* \* Forks of the river Iroquois \* \* \* Grand Detour on Rocky river \* \* \* Rock river \* \* \* among the Winnebagoes fifty miles from the mouth of Rock river." (*20th Cong.; 2nd Sess.; Ho. Doc. 117.*)

Mrs. Kinzie tells us, in *Waubun*, that after they left Dixon, on their journey from Fort Winnebago to Chicago, in 1831, their guide lost the way and led them along a trail that "brought us to the great bend of the river with its bold rocky bluff," and it is common knowledge that every Indian trail led to an Indian village.

It is incomprehensible that so many men would, of their own volition, choose Grand Detour as the site of their trading posts, unless there were Indians there with whom they could trade.

We know, from the great number of arrow heads, flints and other things evidencing the prior existence of an Indian village, that have been found north of Rock River, and a little west of the road leading to the bridge at Grand Detour, that there once was an Indian village across the river from the bold rocky bluff Mrs. Kenzie mentions.

## JOSEPH OGEE AND HIS FERRY.

It is quite common knowledge in Dixon that its first permanent white inhabitant was Joseph Ogee. Very little is known of him, and that is so scattered it may be well to gather the fragments and present them so that they may be found easily.

Dr. Oliver Everett, who lived in Dixon for a period of more than fifty years, beginning in September, 1836, told the writer hereof that the name Ogee was pronounced as if spelled Ozhya, though Judge McCulloch, in his *History of Peoria County*, says the name is said to be Ozier and Ogee but a nickname. In *Waubun*, Mrs. Kinzie calls him "Ogie." That Ogee is the correct spelling will be shown later.

Ogee represented the American Fur Company at Peoria as early as 1818 (McCulloch, *History of Peoria County*), and at a later day he also had charge of its trading station where Wesley City, Tazewell county, now stands.

Ethelbert Stewart, of the United States Department of Labor, in his "*Few notes for an Industrial History of Illinois*," says that the pay rolls of the American Fur Company show that the company paid its "trader" in Illinois three thousand dollars per year because of the fierce competition in that territory. This indicates that Ogee was a man of greater ability than the term "half-breed" would imply, and that the company considered him to be a valuable man. (*Publications Illinois State Historical Society*, no. 8, p. 119.) Stewart's statement is fully sustained by the books of the Fur Company.

He was living in Fulton county when that county and its attached territory included all the state that was east of the fourth principal meridian and north of the Illinois and Kankakee rivers, and the county commissioners of that county, June 4, 1823, ordered

- “that Joseph Ogee have License to keep an Inn or Tavern in the house where he now resides at the Village of Peoria in Said County, by paying the Sum of Ten Dollars in State papers.

“By motion it was ordered the following be the list of Tavern Rates for said Tavern, towit:

Victuals, pr meal .....	\$ .25
Horsekeeping, pr night .....	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lodgeing pr. night .....	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Whiskey pr. half pint .....	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rum & Gin pr. half pint .....	.25
French Brandy Do. ....	.50
Wine pr. half pint .....	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$

and all other Liquors be in proportion.”

He was summoned to serve on the grand jury at a term of the circuit court of Fulton county to be held in October, 1823, but, for some reason now unknown, that term of court was not held.

Peoria county was created by an act approved January 13, 1825, and given its present area (except a small fragment taken from Fulton in exchange, to cure a blunder in surveying), and there was attached to it all the state north of it and the Illinois and Kankakee rivers and some territory east of the Illinois. The first meeting of the county commissioners' court of the new county was held in March, 1825, in Ogee's house at Peoria which, Judge McCulloch says, was made of hewn logs and was the best in the town. The first term of the circuit court held in the county was held in this house in November, 1825, with John York Sawyer as judge and John Dixon as clerk. It was at this term of court that the Indian Nomaque was indicted, tried and convicted upon a charge of murder, and sentenced to death. Ogee acted as interpreter at that trial and served as petit juror for that term, and he and one Jacob Frank were indicted then for an affray. At that trial Nomaque, it is said, was defended by William S. Hamilton, the life time friend of



Mr. Dixon. A new trial was granted by the Supreme Court, and ultimately, Nomaque went without punishment.

A methodist church was organized in Peoria in 1824, and Mrs. Ogee became a member of it the following winter. Ogee was a patron of Peoria's first school upon its establishment in 1826, its sole support being subscriptions by its patrons. After its first week, the school was taught in his log cabin.

In July, 1826, Ogee was allowed and paid three dollars by the county commissioners' court for the use of his house by the circuit court and one dollar for its use by the county commissioners' court. That same month, when the county sold the land it had caused to be subdivided, he bought two lots in that subdivision, the town of Peoria, for \$96.25.

An assessment of two hundred dollars was made against his personal property in 1825, but it was located in the "Illinois prairie," which was the local name given the attached territory east of the Illinois. The assessor was the same John L. Bogardus who built a shanty at Dixon in 1827, and whose partially built ferry boat was burned by the Indians that summer. (Kett, *History of Ogle County*.) It is quite probable that the property so assessed belonged to the Fur Company, as its property in Chicago was assessed in the name of its agent there.

In his *History of Ogle County*, p. 50, Boss quotes the following from a letter written by Judge Joseph Gillespie of Edwardsville:

"It was about the 5th day of March, 1827, that thirteen of us who had met together at different places and formed a traveling company for the lead mines, reached the banks of Rock River at the point where, according to my recollection, Dixon now stands. It was naked prairie on the south side, but there was excellent hickory timber on the opposite side of the river. A band of Winnebagoes were en-



camped on the south side. It became necessary for a portion of our party to cross the river and prepare our encampment, and make fires in advance of the rest, and a Mr. Reed, my brother and myself were selected for that purpose. We had previously bargained with the Indians for the use of their canoes to ferry us and our wagon over, and had given a large amount of bacon and corn meal in payment. The Indians, without any reluctance, took Reed, my brother and myself across the river with our oxen, and as soon as we were separated from our companions, they started down the river with their canoes. This operation was likely to be attended with much inconvenience, and some suffering and exposure to us who had crossed the river and were without provisions or bed-clothes. Our friends followed down after the Indians, who pretended that they understood the contract on their part to have been fulfilled. We knew that they were endeavoring to fleece us. It was found impossible to bring them to agree to our understanding of the bargain, and nothing was left for our side but to make the best terms we could. They would not agree on any condition we could propose, to ferry our wagon over, pretending to believe it would sink their canoes. There was in our company a negro, named Frank, from Kaskasia, who had joined us when the company consisted of but four persons—old Mr. Reed, his son, my brother and myself; the rest of the company we picked up afterwards. We rather took care of Frank, and protected him when attempts were made to impose upon him, for which he was very grateful. Frank was in great distress when he found that three of his friends were separated from the company, and were without food or bed-clothes. He had a black overcoat, the body of which was about of the texture of an old sleazy blanket, but the capes were really of first rate material, and were fastened to the body with hooks and eyes. One of the Indians took a great liking to Frank's coat, and a bargain was struck on about these terms: Frank was to give the Indian his coat and they were to allow him to bring us over bed-clothing and food, and also to ferry the wagon over

the next morning, upon terms to be agreed on. Frank rolled up an auger in the blanket to enable us to build a raft in case it should become necessary, but the Indians were too sharp for that. They unrolled the blanket and contended that taking over an auger was not in the bargain, and so Frank came over without it. When they arrived a great controversy arose between him and the Indians. Frank contended that he was to give only his coat, and they contended that he was to give the cape also. We had by this time become so incensed at the Indians that we felt very little like obeying the scriptural requirement—‘If any man will sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.’ So we decided in Frank’s favor, and he kept his capes. The Indians were very indignant at Frank’s strict construction, and we might have had trouble with them; but that night it turned intensely cold, and by the next morning the Indians were as torpid as snakes in winter. They could not get out of their wigwams, and our men helped themselves to the canoes, and everything was pushed across early in the day. \* \* \* Lest what I have stated might lead persons to believe that all the Indians were thus knavishly inclined, I would remark that in crossing the Winnebago swamps, some ten or fifteen miles south of Rock River, we had great difficulty, and would have had more but for some Winnebago Indians who were encamped by the swamps, and who were exceedingly kind and generous to us, and rendered us every assistance in their power.”

In his “*Recollections of Early Illinois*,” delivered before the Chicago Historical Society, March 16, 1880, Judge Gillespie, speaking of the trip just mentioned, says they crossed Rock river at Dixon.

When Governor Edwards issued his call for volunteers for the Winnebago War in 1827, one of the first to offer his services was William Thomas of Jacksonville, for many years thereafter honored and revered by the people of Illinois. The command of which he was a member marched to Gratiot’s Grove. Speaking of this, in an ar-

ticle published first in the *Jacksonville Journal* of August 21, 1871, and later in the *Publications of the Illinois State Historical Society*, no. 12, p. 265, Thomas says:

“The heavy rains had extended to Rock river, and the prairies were so saturated with water that we could travel only in a walk, our horses onbreaking the sod at every step. Following a trail made by the Indians and persons going to the lead mines, on the fifth day from Peoria we reached Rock river at Dixon’s Ferry. During the march we had to drink the water standing in swamps, pools and holes in the prairie. Upon reaching Rock river, seeing that it was a beautiful clear stream with gentle current, we expected a good drink of water, but, to our surprise, we found that no better than the water of the swamps through which we had passed. Dozens were made sick by swallowing the water before testing it. We forded the river in the afternoon on a Sunday, those riding small horses swimming, and encamped on the bank until next day.”

He does not give any information as to the day or month he crossed Rock river. As the call for volunteers was issued in the middle of July it is probable that he reached the river some time in August. Of course that place was not then known as Dixon’s Ferry, as there was no ferry of any kind there then.

In his “*Early Times at Dixon’s Ferry*,” published in Kurtz’s *History of Dixon and Palmyra*, John K. Robinson says:—

“The method of crossing the river with teams before the establishment of a ferry was primitive and simple. On arriving at the place of crossing, the wagons were unloaded and the loads carried over in canoes by the Indians, the wagon was then driven with the side to the stream, two wheels lifted into a canoe then shoved a little out into the river, and another canoe received the other wheels, when the double boat was paddled or poled to the other side; the horses were taken by the bridle and made to swim by the side of the canoe, cattle swam loose; then com-



menced the lifting out of the wagons and reloading, and the journey was renewed, all hands happy that the task of crossing the river was completed. Once James P. Dixon, well acquainted with the hardships of crossing, arriving on the banks of the river with the mail wagon, called for the Indians for their assistance but received no answer; vexed at their delay and their arrogance when they did assist, he boldly unchecked his horses, so as to give them a chance to swim, and crossed the river with the mail and wagon in safety."

Speaking of the travel at this place, Kett's *History of Ogle County*, p. 266, says:

"In the winter time there was but very little travel, probably from the fact that there was but little or nothing doing in the mines, and may be because of the exposure necessarily incident to the trip. In March, 1827, however, a heavy tide of travel set in from Fort Clark, and other parts of the state below there.

"Among the first to come up that season and cross Rock River at the Boles trail (now Dixon) was Elisha Doty, who subsequently settled at Polo. When he arrived at the river it was still covered with ice, over which he essayed to cross, but before he had proceeded far the ice began to give way, and he was obliged to abandon the attempt. 'While waiting on the bank' (says Boss' *Sketches of the History of Ogle County*, published in 1859), 'just before starting on his return, about two hundred teams collected there, all on their way to Galena.' \* \* \*

"In 1827 Dixon had become a fixed place for travelers to cross the river, but crossing was often attended with a great deal of inconvenience, as up to this time, and until 1828, there was no ferry other than the kind of canoe ferry already described, and the Indians were not always present and in readiness with their canoes. When the water was low, the river could be forded without difficulty, but this was not always the case. The establishment of a ferry at that point was first undertaken by a man named J. L. Begordis (Bogardus), of Peoria, who sent a man up



in the early summer of 1827 to build a shanty 8 by 10, on the bank, and to live there and 'hold the fort', or ferry, until Begordis (Bogardus) could find and forward the necessary workmen, carpenters, etc., to build the ferry boat. Soon after the shanty was completed, Mr. Doty (the father of Elisha Doty already mentioned), a carpenter, came and work on the boat was commenced and vigorously prosecuted. When the boat was about half completed, the Indians set fire to it, and informed its builders that they should not build a boat there, and told them to 'go to Peoria.' Doty and his assistant did not stand upon the order of their going, but went at once, for the command was imperative, if not threatening. In the spring of 1828, Joe Ogee, a Frenchman and an Indian interpreter, whose wife was a Pottawattomie woman, settled there, built a house and established a ferry."

"The (Ogee) ferry boat was propelled by the old fashioned 'setting pole,' " and landed at any convenient point. It was not until 1835 that the rope ferry was installed. That ferry was at Galena avenue. (*Kurtz, History of Dixon and Palmyra.*)

John K. Robinson, who taught the children of Father Dixon in the winter of 1833-'34, says that Ogee built his cabin and established his ferry where Dixon stands in the spring of 1828. Boss, in his history of Ogle County, published in 1859, and Frank Kurtz, who compiled the *History of Dixon and Palymra* that was published in 1880, say the ferry was established in 1828. Rufus Blanchard, in his *Historical Map of Illinois*, published in 1883, says it was established in 1825, but he is wrong.

It has been stated many times that John Dixon induced Ogee to establish the ferry, or that he took Ogee with him when he moved from Peoria, and some have said that Mr. Dixon really established the ferry and put Ogee in charge of it. All these statements are erroneous.

In the *History of Dixon and Lee County* compiled by Frank Kurtz, and published in 1880, it is said that "Jo-

seph Ogee was induced to come here (Dixon) and establish a ferry by Father Dixon, who at the time was Government mail contractor between Galena and Peoria." Kurtz reprints the article on Mr. Dixon that appeared in the *Dixon Telegraph*, July, 1876, which says—"while Mr. Dixon was at Peoria, the Government established a mail route from Peoria to Galena, crossing Rock River at the present site of our city \* \* \* mail to be carried once in two weeks on horse back. Mr. Dixon threw in a bid for the contract which was accepted. \* \* \* he induced \* \* \* Ogee \* \* \* to establish a ferry at the point of crossing the river."

*The History of Lee County* published by H. H. Hill & Co., in 1881, says "Mr. Dixon had induced Ogee to build the ferry to accommodate the United States mail which he was carrying from Peoria to Galena."

*In Bardwell's History of Lee County* it is said that in 1828 "John Dixon had, at this time, a contract for carrying the mail between Galena and Peoria, and induced Ogee to establish the ferry here (Dixon) on the mail route."

In his "*Black Hawk War*," Stevens says "in 1828, when Father Dixon received the contract for carrying the mails from Peoria to Galena and Gratiot's Grove he took with him a half breed named Joseph Ogee, who established a permanent, though unlicensed ferry."

Mr. Dixon did not move to Rock river from Peoria. On the contrary, he moved from Peoria to what is known as Boyd's Grove, in the present town of Milo, Bureau County, in the spring of 1828.

John K. Robinson says, "Father Dixon's object for changing his home from Boyd's Grove, where he had a short time before taken up his abode, was to occupy a more central position for his mail contract."

In his *Reminiscences of Bureau County*, published in 1872, Nehemiah Matson says that when the Ament broth-

ers passed Boyd's Grove in the spring of 1828, in their search for a desirable location, they found John Dixon building a cabin in which he and his family lived until 1830, when he sold it to his brother-in-law Charles S. Boyd.

In his *History of Bureau County*, 1885, Bradsby says, "In the year 1828 there were five families in Bureau County, coming here in the order named: Bulbona, John Dixon, Henry Thomas, Reason B. Hall and John and Justus Ament," and that, except Bulbona (the name really was Bourbonnais), a French Canadian Indian trader, Dixon's settlement "was the first real settlement in what is now Bureau County. Dixon lived at the grove until 1830, when he sold his improvement to Charles S. Boyd and removed to Dixon."

A reading of Bradsby's book convinces one that he relied, for his information on this point, upon statements made by Alexander S. Boyd, a son of Charles S. Boyd, and that makes it the best evidence now obtainable on the subject, and it proves that Mr. Dixon did not move to Rock river from Peoria.

Kett's *History of Jo Daviess County* contains a letter written December 7, 1827, by Dr. Horatio Newhall, who settled in Galena that year, saying, "We have no mail as yet, but shall have a mail once in two weeks to commence the 1st of January next."

Postmaster General John McLean, in April, 1828, transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives a statement of the contracts made the preceding year for carrying the mails in Illinois, and this shows that the contract for carrying the mail from "Peoria to Galena" for a term beginning January 1, 1828, and ending December 31, 1829, was let to E. B. Clemson, the consideration being \$580 each year. This statement shows that Clemson also had the contracts, for the same period, for carrying the mails between Kaskaskia and Vandalia;



Carlisle and Shawneetown; Salem and Cole's Grove; Springfield and Peoria; Springfield and Lewistown; Jacksonville and Rushville. (*20th Cong. 1st Sess.; Ho. Doc. 258.*)

In 1828 only three contracts were made for carrying the mail in Illinois,—Moore's Prairie to New Harmony; Paris to Vandalia, and Danville to Fort Clark, the last being let to E. B. Clemson. Each contract was for a term of one year, beginning January first, 1829. (*Letter of Post Master General John McLean; 20th Cong.; 2d Sess.; Ho. Doc. 135.*)

In the *Miners' Journal* (Galena), beginning December 6, 1828, and running to April 11, 1829, appears this advertisement:

“The U. S. Mail Stage from Galena to St. Louis will hereafter leave Galena every Monday and St. Louis every Friday. Fare, \$8 from Galena to Peoria; \$3 from Peoria to Springfield; \$4 from Springfield to St. Louis.

John Dixon, Proprietor of the line from Galena to Springfield.”

The *Miners' Journal* of February 7, 1829, says that the mail contractor, whose name is not given in that article, has informed the postmaster that he had seen it stated in some newspaper that a weekly route was established, and, presuming that he would shortly receive notice to that effect from the Postmaster General, made preparations accordingly, “and has been carrying a weekly mail, regularly, since the 15th of October. In December last he was informed by the Post Master here that the department could not pay for carrying a weekly mail ‘under present circumstances, as the cost’ would be \$1,160,” and the contractor replied that he would continue the weekly service, hoping he would be allowed adequate compensation for his services.

Another article in the same issue of the *Journal* speaks



of "Mr. Dixon, the Mail Contractor, for carrying the same between this place and Peoria."

The *Journal* of March 21, 1829, says that "Mr. Dixon, the proprietor of the Mail Stage," which has run between Galena and Peoria advises the postmaster that "owing to the badness of the roads" the stage will not run again until further notice, but the mail will be carried weekly "by two riders, at an additional expense to that which is already exorbitant."

There is still in existence a statement signed January 23, 1830, by E. B. Clemson, of the account between himself and John Dixon which shows that Dixon carried the mail from Peoria to Galena during the quarter year ending September 30, 1829, and for that service Clemson paid him \$225.

In the *Miners' Journal* of August 15, 1829, Post Master General William Barry calls for bids, to be opened October 10th, for carrying the mail from Peoria, by way of Gratiot's Grove, to Galena weekly, leaving Peoria Thursday at 6 a. m., arriving at Galena Saturday by 8 p. m.; leaving Galena Monday 6 a. m., arriving at Peoria Wednesday by 7 p. m.; service to begin the first of January and the contract to run for four years.

In a letter addressed to the House of Representatives, March, 1830, Post Master General Barry transmits a list of the contracts let the preceeding year for carrying mail in Illinois, saying that the letting of the contracts was advertised in June, 1829; the contracts were "decided upon" October 16, 1829, and the term of the contracts began January 1, 1830, and will end December 31, 1833. It shows the contract for carrying the mail between Peoria and Galena, once a week, was let to John D. Winters, the compensation being \$800 per year. The name of John Dixon does not appear in this document. Charles Boyd had the contract to carry the mail between Vandalia and Peoria, once a week, at \$550 per year. The

contract to carry the mail between Springfield and Peoria, once a week, was let to William Dillard and R. L. Cobb, who had been paid \$200, the contract price not being shown. (*21st Cong.; 1st Sess.; Ho. of Rep.; Doc. 77.*)

Inasmuch as the records of the Post Office department for that period were destroyed by fire in 1836, the authorities just cited appear to be the best evidence that can be obtained now.

The known facts do not justify the statement that Ogee was taken to Rock river by Mr. Dixon. It is far more probable that he went there upon his own initiative, because he saw a chance to make money by so doing and the increasing flow of immigration and settlement foretold the end of the fur business. Moreover, the records show that when Mr. Dixon reached the place, it was to become Ogee's tenant, not to establish or own a ferry.

In 1870 the Telegraph and Herald Company published a "*History of Dixon and Lee County*," (without giving the name of the author), and it is the first history of either Dixon or the county that was written or published. From it we quote:—

"Forty-four years ago the first log cabin was erected on the site of Dixon. It was the first, and at that time the only habitation after the manner of white men for many miles, in any direction, and, in fact, this was not a white man's house. A half-breed Indian had come to this point to establish a ferry, and was attracted by the tide of emigration that had set in, in the spring of the above year, from the southern part of the state, to Galena, where rich lead mines had been discovered. This man's name was O'Gee, and he showed great forethought and a 'long head' in opening his ferry at this point, as it was just here that the greatest amount of travel appeared to undertake the crossing of Rock river, and as soon as it was known that there was a ferry and station here the business that O'Gee did was enormous."

(The reader, doubtless, will note the errors as to date and name.)

Ogee was a man of influence with the Indians, especially so with the Potawatomes, who occupied the country south of the river there. He was possessed of some property and had the ability to manage it. It is incredible that he would have been entrusted so long in charge of the affairs and property of the American Fur Company, some seven years or more, unless he was capable of managing it. He started the ferry and operated it so successfully that a half interest was sold by him for seven hundred dollars in November, 1829, and Father Dixon had no interest in the business then.

Ogee was at Green Bay, Wisconsin, August 25, 1828, acting as interpreter for the Potawatomes in the making of the treaty the United States made that day with the Potawatomi, Chippewa and Ottawa Indians.

John L. Bogardus published notice in the *Miners' Journal*, dated October 18, 1828, that he would apply to the county commissioners' court for a "license to establish a ferry across Rock river on each side thereof, at the upper crossing, where the United States' mail now passes from Peoria to Galena." In the *Journal* of November 1, Alexander McNair and G. H. McNair gave notice, dated October 25, that they would apply for a "license for the upper ferry on both sides of Rock river." The court did not act upon either of these applications.

It is to be remembered that when Ogee started his ferry the territory north and west of Rock river at this place was Winnebago country, and that south and east of the river was the country of the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians of the Illinois. The country south of the river was ceded to the United States by the treaty of July 29, 1829, and that north of the river by the treaty of August 1, 1829. The treaty of Green Bay, already mentioned, reads: "It is also agreed by the



Indians that a ferry may be established over the Rock River where the Fort Clark road crosses the same." This may explain what apparently was Ogee's belief,—that he did not need any other license.

His good friend, John Turney, Galena's first lawyer, who was a member of the house of representatives in the Sixth General Assembly, 1828-'9, for the Jo Daviess district, introduced in the house the petition of Joseph Ogee praying that he be given the "privilege of building houses and establishing a Ferry on Rock River at the common crossing place upon the road leading from Fort Clark to the Fever River lead mines," and the committee to which it was sent reported a bill for "An Act authorizing Joseph Ogee to establish a ferry on Rock River." It passed the house December 12, 1828, but the senate killed it by adjourning in January after postponing consideration of the bill until the fourth of July following. At this same session of the legislature, the senate amended the house bill for "An Act authorizing James R. Vineyard to establish a ferry on Rock River," but the house refused to concur in those amendments, and that bill failed. (The Galena Advertiser of February 22, 1830, gives the name of J. R. Vineyard as a member of Galena's volunteer fire department assigned to the third ward. Kett, History of Jo Daviess County, 457. He afterwards moved to Wisconsin, becoming a member, for Iowa County, of the first, second and third councils in the territorial legislature, and being expelled from the last for the murder of a fellow member of the council in February, 1842. *Wis. His. Coll.* v. 11, p. 408.)

In the *Journal* of January 10, 1829, and other issues following, is the following:—

"Notice. I shall apply to the county commissioners' court of Jo Daviess county at their March term to obtain a license for a ferry on Rock river at the upper crossing embracing a landing on both sides. Joseph Ogee, Resident, Jan. 3."



The court did not pass upon this application.

The *Galena Advertiser* of July 27, 1829, says a band of about one hundred and fifty Winnebagoes, from the Spotted Arms village, on their way to Rock Island, the place appointed for the making of a treaty, reached Ogee's Ferry and there learned the treaty would be made at Prairie du Chien. This so enraged them that they declared they would not participate in or respect any treaty made at the latter place. They did go, however, and join in the treaty.

If the treaty made at Prairie du Chien July 29, 1829, with the "Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians of the Illinois", and the treaty made there August 1, 1829, with the Winnebago Indians are correctly printed in the official edition of the United States Statutes, the execution of the former was witnessed by "Sogee", and that of the latter by "Joge", but it is fairly probable from his signatures that still exist that these are errors of transcription, and that the witness was Joseph Ogee.

The report of the auditor of the War Department, sent to the House February 23, 1830, by the Secretary of War, shows that among the disbursements made by Peter Menard, Jr., Indian sub-agent at Peoria, were items aggregating \$433.33 paid to Joseph Ogee for his services as "interpreter of the Potowatomies" from September 1, 1828, to September 30, 1829, and \$15 paid to John Dixon November 30, 1828, for "provisions furnished the Indians." (*21st Cong.; 1st Sess.; Ho. Doc. 87.*)

A "*Map of the United States Lead Mines on the upper Mississippi River*", drawn and published by R. W. Chandler of Galena, in 1829, shows "Ogee's Ferry and Tavern".

It appears that he had some knowledge of the law concerning stray animals, as he advertised in the *Miners' Journal* for four successive weeks during July and August, 1829, that he had an estray horse taken from the

Indians near the Henderson river, on the road from Galena to Beard's Ferry, and was holding it for the owner at his ferry on Rock river "on the Fort Clark road."

Caleb Atwater's "*Remarks made on a tour to Prairie du Chien*" was first published in 1831, and it is the first book to mention Ogee's ferry. It says:

"When I crossed Rock river at Ogee's ferry, September 1, 1829, there was a lodge of Indians there, consisting of an old man, his son-in-law, daughter and several children. They waited on me, as soon as I stopped for the night, at the house of Ogee, who had married a half-breed and owned the ferry."

On another page he says:

"Rock River, where I crossed it, on the first day of September, 1829, at Ogee's ferry, ninety miles by water from its mouth, was twenty rods wide, four feet deep, and run at the rate of five or six miles an hour."

In the *Galena Advertiser* of September 7, 1829, this item appeared:—

"A new Post Office is established at Ogee's Ferry on Rock River, in this county, of which John M. Gay, Esq., is appointed Postmaster. Ogee's Ferry is on the mail route, and is the principal crossing place for travellers by land from the Mines to the lower country. This office has been established chiefly for the accommodation of the settlement at the Rapids of the Illinois River, from which it is distant about thirty-five miles. Heretofore the people of that settlement were dependent upon the post office at Peoria, distant between seventy and eighty miles."

"*An Old Timer*," who was J. K. C. Forrest, writing in the *Chicago Record*, July 26, 1894, says Gay was "an employe of Ogee." He moved to Princeton, Illinois, and served as postmaster there.

The *Galena Advertiser* of September 14, 1829, says the first wagon that ever passed from the Mississippi to

Chicago went in August, 1829, from Galena by way of "Ogees Ferry on Rock River", thence to the Missionary establishment on Fox River and thence to Chicago. (Kett, *History of Jo Daviess County*, 456; Burgess, *Settlement of Illinois*, 152.)

In the *Galena Advertiser* of October 19, 1829, and the four succeeding issues, Joseph Ogee gives notice, dated October 19, that he will apply to the county commissioners' court, at the next term, to be held the first Monday in December, for a license to keep a ferry across Rock river "at the place where the road now crosses said river from Galena to Peoria."

The record of the county commissioners' court of Jo Daviess County of December 7, 1829, reads,

"On the application of Joseph Ogee it is ordered that a license be granted him to keep a tavern at his house on Rock River by his paying into the County Treasury the sum of twelve dollars and the fees of the clerk and entering into bond in the penal sum of three hundred dollars with J. M. Strode and Regis Laurent 'Sect'.

"On application of Joseph Ogee it is ordered that a License be granted him to keep a ferry on Rock River where he at present resides by giving bond with James M. Strode and Regis Laurent his security conditioned as the law directs and paying into the Treasury of the County the sum of ten dollars and the fees of the clerk."

Those familiar with the events of the Black Hawk War know considerable of James M. Strode, and we will only add that he appears on the account books of Mr. Dixon as a frequent borrower of cash.

On the same day there was entered by the court an order fixing the rates at this ferry as follows:

Crossing footman .....	\$ .12½
Man and horse .....	.25
Horses or cattle per head, other than cattle yoked .....	.25
Each yoke of cattle .....	.37½



Road wagon .....	1.00
For each horse hitched to said wagon....	.25
Each two-horse wagon .....	.75
Each two-wheeled carriage or cart .....	1.00
One-horse wagon .....	.75
Each hundred weight of Merchandise, etc.	.06

There was in force at that time a general order fixing all tavern rates in the county as follows:

Each meal .....	.37½
Horse feed .....	.25
Horse per night at corn and hay.....	.62½
Man per night .....	.12½
Each half pint of French brandy or wine..	.25
Each half pint or whiskey or other domestic liquors .....	.12½
Each half pint of Holland gin.....	.25
Each quart of porter, cider or ale.....	.25

By an agreement dated at "Ogee's Ferry Joe Davies County," November 21, 1829, filed for record February 18, 1830, Ogee sold to George "Skillinger" a half interest in the establishment, including the ferry and the farm, for seven hundred dollars, the wagon and five horses already furnished by "Skillinger," which were declared to be firm property, being taken at five hundred dollars. From a mortgage dated January 29, 1830, it appears that the firm had been dissolved, Ogee keeping all the property and agreeing to pay "Schellinger" one thousand and sixty dollars for his interest, thus showing a very substantial increase in the value of a half interest, and indicating that the ferry was doing a very good business. February 10, 1830, "Schellinger" assigned this mortgage to Lawrent Rolette by an instrument that was not acknowledged, but its execution was witnessed by John M. Gay and "Paskal Pinsonault," the latter signing by making his mark. (Possibly this John M. Gay is the Gay who was the first postmaster at Ogee's Ferry. "Paskal Penseno" appears



on the account books of Mr. Dixon as a debtor May 21, 1830.)

The *Galena Advertiser* of January 4, 1830, says that, pursuant to the order of the county commissioners' court, a road had just been laid out and marked from St. Vrain's furnace on Apple river, near Woodbine, "to Ogee's Ferry on Rock river," lessening the distance about thirty miles and making the road from Galena to Ogee's Ferry about fifty-five miles. "The mail stage came this way the last trip."

On October 28, 1830 Laurent Rolette assigned to Joseph Rolette of Prairie du Chien whatever interest he had "in and to certain ferry privileges originally granted by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois to Joseph Ogee to keep up and maintain a ferry across Rock River at the place where the public road from Fort Clark to Galena Crosses," reciting that his interest was acquired through a mortgage to "Schillinger." (The spelling of these names is in strict accord with the record. The account books of Mr. Dixon show charges against "Skellinger.")

Joseph Rolette settled in Prairie du Chien as early as 1804, remaining there until his death in 1842. For many years he represented the American Fur Company "on the upper Mississippi river." He acted as justice of the peace and was one of Wisconsin's quaint characters. (Hurlbut, *Chicago Antiquities*; Durrie, *Annals of Prairie du Chien*.) Laurent (improperly spelled Lawrent) Rolette was with the American Fur Company as early as 1824, being then, and for several years thereafter stationed at Drummond's Island in Lake Huron. (*American Fur Co. letter book*.) He and Skellinger were living in or near Galena at the time of these transactions with Ogee.

Jefferson Davis, then a Lieutenant in the First Infantry, was at Dixon in 1831. In "*Jefferson Davis, A*

*Memoir,*” Mrs. Davis states that he said he was going through Illinois that year with his scouts, and, upon reaching Rock River, “found the mail coach, and numbers of wagons with persons going to the lead mines detained at the river. There was no bridge. The water was frozen, yet not sufficiently so for them to pass over. No house except that of the ferryman, whose name was Dixon. His log cabin was near. The whole party put themselves at his command. He told them to keep a good fire in the cabin, and set the men to hewing blocks of ice. They worked faithfully and ere long the structure began to assume shape. As each was set in position, water was poured over, which froze it in its place. Sometimes a workman would fall overboard, and he was ordered to run into the cabin and turn round and round before the blazing log fire until dry. Soon the bridge was pronounced safe, and the whole party of men, women, children and vehicles passed safely over. The ferryman, Dixon, remembered the young army officer ever afterward, and some years ago when Mr. Davis was invited to Illinois, a letter came from the old man, expressing his happy anticipation of meeting him once more on earth. Mr. Davis could not then accept the invitation, and not long since Mr. Dixon died.”

On the first of March, 1832, there was filed for record in Jo Daviess County an instrument reading as follows:

“Know all men by these presents that I, Joseph Ogee of the county of Jo Daviess & State of Illinois have this day sold and by these presents do bargain and sell to John Dixon of the County and State aforesaid all my right title interest and claim of, in and to the improvement ferry and appertainances at or near the place usually known as Ogees Ferry on Rock River in the County and State aforesaid with all the privileges annuities and property belonging to or pertaining to me at or near said place to have and to hold

the same without molestation forever except the mortgage given to George Skelenger on part of said property, which I do not bind myself to prevent the operation of and to release the said Dixon from all rents and undertakings by virtue of his renting the said premises by an article of agreement entered into in March 1830. In consideration of the foregoing the said Dixon has given me his two several notes one for the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars and one for the sum of four hundred dollars payable in four months after this date.

In testimony whereof I  
have hereunto set my hand  
and seal this twenty-seventh  
day of

*January A.D. 1832*  
*J. M. Smith*

JOHN M. SMITH.

witness

STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS.

Be it known that on this thirtieth day of January A. D. 1832 before me William Smith a justice of the peace in and for said county came John M. Smith proved by the oath of John R. Coons a credible witness to be the person whose name appears subscribed to the above deed as a witness to the execution thereof, and made oath that J. Ogee the person whose name appears subscribed to said deed is the real person who executed the same, and that he the said John M. Smith subscribed his name thereto as witness in presence of said J. Ogee and at his request.



Given under my hand & seal at the county aforesaid  
the day & year above written.

WILLIAM SMITH, J. P. (Seal.)''

Mr. Dixon's account books do not show the state of his account with Ogee at the date of this instrument, and it is impossible to tell exactly what Mr. Dixon paid for the ferry. He assumed the payment of a mortgage indebtedness of one thousand sixty dollars and gave his own notes for five hundred fifty dollars, so the purchase price may have been sixteen hundred ten dollars. There is nothing remaining now from which we can know how much rent Mr. Dixon paid for the ferry.

There are many charges for merchandise and several for payments of cash against Ogee, and several credits in Mr. Dixon's account books, one of the latter being an item of two hundred dollars, January 24, 1831, for "Rent." There is, also, another credit in Ogee's favor of one hundred dollars for "rent," but it is not dated.

He is charged with the county ferry tax of fifteen dollars for the year 1831, but the date of the payment is not shown.

The first printed mention of Dixon's Ferry that has been found is a statement in the *Galenian* of May 16, 1832, that "An express has just arrived from Dixon's Ferry across Rock River."

This incident may serve to give some idea of the business done at the ferry. Frank H. Funk, member of the State Public Utilities Commission of Illinois, is a grandson of Isaac Funk, who settled at what is now Funk's Grove, McLean county, in 1823, and who acquired a large fortune by raising and selling cattle and hogs. Isaac Funk had a brother named Absalom. Frank H. Funk says that there is in his family a tradition that Absalom Funk, finding that there was no market for hogs in Chicago, once drove three thousand hogs from Funk's Grove



to Galena, as there were about five thousand people in and around Galena and he thought that would be a good market. In examining the old account books kept by Mr. Dixon we find these items that sustain this tradition:—

1830.	Mr. Funk, Dr.	
Apl. 30	to dinner for two	.50
	ferriage of cattle, Dear-	
	bourn horse & 2 men	1.25
1830.	Absalom Funk, Dr.	
Decr. 20.	To 10 meals	1.87
	to 4 horses 1 night	1.50
	Lodging for 5	0.62½
		<hr/>
		3.99½

By the treaty of Fort Armstrong, September 15, 1832, with the Winnebagoes, provision was made, at their request, for the payment of two hundred two dollars and fifty cents to Ogee in satisfaction of his claims against them. There is a provision in the treaty of Chicago, September 26, 1833, with the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians for the payment of two hundred dollars to "Joseph Ogie."

James Simons published notice in the *Galenvian* of October 24, 1832, that he held, at his place on the East Fork of Fever river, a horse "recently given up to Joseph O'Gee, by the Winnebago Indians," from which it seems Ogee had not left the country at that time, though the notice does not tell where he was.

The old account books show charges against him for "mockasins," caps and shoes furnished his sons John and Louis (sometimes spelled Lewis), and a charge May 15, 1830, for cash "to Margaret to go to Fort." The last item indicates that Ogee had a daughter, but no other trace of her has been found. There are three charges against him for postage on letters, one being for ten cents July 26, 1831, one for twelve and one-half cents

August 5, 1831, and one for ten cents that is not dated, though it evidently is later than the others.

The last entry on the account books that mentions Ogee is a charge of one dollar for "tin beeswax and nails to mend canoe," June third, 1832.

The Potawatomes, says Judge Caton, in *The Last of the Illinois*, were removed to a reservation in Clay County, Missouri, in 1837. About two years later they were removed to a place near Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they remained a short time, then being placed on a reservation in Kansas, where they lived about thirty years. Then they were taken to the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

One of the Potawatomi chiefs signing the treaty of November 15, 1861, made in Kansas, was L. H. Ogee. Perhaps he was a son of Joseph Ogee.

By the terms of the Prairie du Chien treaty of July 29, 1829, there was granted to "Madeline Ogee, a Potawatomie woman, wife of Joseph Ogee, one section west of and adjoining the tract herein granted to Pierre Leclerc," which was at the village of As-sim-in-eh-kon, or Paw Paw Grove. It is not difficult for one to believe that Ogee had a part in securing this grant for his wife.

The next mention of him that we have found is by Mrs. Kinzie in *Waubun*. Speaking of her visit at John Dixon's, March 13, 1831, on her memorable journey to Chicago, she says she saw there a boy dressed in the full Indian costume, and was told, in response to her inquiries, that he was John Ogee, a son of the old ferryman, and that his mother, "unable to endure the continued ill-treatment of her husband, a surly, intemperate Canadian, (she) had left him, and returned to his (*sic*) family among the Pottowattamies. Years after, this boy and a brother who had also been left behind with their father, found their way to the Upper Missouri, to join their mother, who, with the others of her tribe, had been re-

moved by the Government from the shores of Lake Michigan."

Dr. Everett told the writer that he never knew what caused the separation of the Ogees. Mrs. Ogee married Job P. Alcott on or before November 14, 1842. It is quite probable that Ogee was then dead for while the Potawatomi and other Indian tribes had a custom whereby the man could divorce his wife (Haines, *American Indians*, p. 288; Meese *Early Rock Island*, p. 15, and Gurdon S. Hubbard so divorced his Indian wife Watseka; *Fergus Historical Series*, no. 31, p. 50), the wife could not obtain such a divorce.

Boss says that Ogee and "his wife were not without their share of domestic difficulties. As they had no neighbors near enough to quarrel with, they managed to stir up a quarrel between themselves, which resulted in the separation of the family, and Joe was left to run his boat and broil his broth alone. \* \* \* Ogee had been running the ferry nearly two years; his wife had forsaken him, and withal he was much disposed to change his course of life," when Mr. Dixon came and took charge of the ferry in April, 1830.

Whatever the cause of the separation may have been, it is to be noted that the wife left both husband and children behind when she went away.

It is said that Ogee died in Dixon and was buried there, first at the corner of Peoria avenue and First street and then in the cemetery, but we have not been able to verify this. There is no record of his burial in the cemetery, but no record of burials there was kept prior to 1880, so that fact does not aid us.

Kurtz says that a man named Lafferty died in the fall of 1836, "and this was the first interment in the cemetery." If he is right, and Ogee was buried at the corner of First street and Peoria avenue, it is reasonably certain that Ogee died before 1836.



No evidence of the date or place of his birth has been found.

November 14, 1842, when the Potawatomes were living on a reservation in Iowa, Mrs. Madeline Alcott, "of the territory of Iowa, upper Missouri, within the Council Bluffs sub-agency," and her husband Job, executed the first of the deeds by which she parted with her land in this county. In Captain Enoch Duncan's Company of Mounted Riflemen enlisted for the Black Hawk War, there was a sergeant Job Alcott of Galena, who was enrolled May 19 and discharged September 14, 1832. A man of that name settled in the town of Wyoming in 1836. (Hill, *History of Lee County*, p. 648.)

Dr. Everett believed that Mrs. Ogee was the daughter of La Sallier, the Frenchman who lived in the cabin near Grand Detour in 1822, whose wife was an Indian woman. Keating had La Sallier for a guide from Fort Dearborn to the Pecatonica in 1823, and in his *Narrative of An Expedition to the Sources of St. Peter's River*, published in 1824, says La Sallier "had taken a wife among the Winnebagoes."

That Mrs. Ogee was a Potawatomi is shown by the fact that she is so called in the treaty of Prairie du Chien, and it is reasonable to believe that the man who wrote the treaty obtained his information as to her nativity from the Potawatomi interpreter—her husband. John K. Robinson says she was a Potawatomi, and so do Judge McCulloch and Kett's *History of Ogle County*.

Dad Joe's Grove, in the northern part of Bureau County, took its name from the first settler there. In speaking of him, Bradsby's *History of Bureau County* says: "He got his name of Dad Joe from the trader Ogee, who spoke very broken English, who found no other way of designating Joe Smith, Sr., from his son Joe."

At a reception given by the Calumet Club to the old settlers, May 19, 1881, John Wentworth said that the first



piano in Chicago was brought by Gen. Jean Baptiste Beaubien, and that "it is now doing service in the family of his granddaughter, Mrs. Sophia (Beaubien) Ogee. at Silver Lake, Kansas, daughter of the late Charles Beaubien."

In an article in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, vol. 5, p. 246, upon the trial of the Indian, Nomaque, who was the first man indicted for murder in Peoria county, Bill Moon says that the complaint upon which Nomaque was arrested was made by Ogee and signed by his mark.

A careful and thorough search of the files in the case resulted in a failure to find any such complaint, and the clerk of the court says there never was any complaint made, and that there is nothing in the files signed by Ogee in any manner. It has already been shown that Ogee wrote his name in signing the instrument conveying the ferry to Mr. Dixon. He signed the mortgage to Rolette and his agreement with Skellinger in the same manner, and an expert would have to say the three signatures were written by the same man. This shows very clearly that Moon is wrong, and he is so sharply criticized, in the succeeding number of the *Journal*, for one error in his article that reliance cannot be had in his statements.

John L. Bogardus, a justice of the peace of Peoria County, under the date of May 19, 1826, certified that he had on that day married Francis Bourbonne, Jr., to Josette Alseum. The certificate bears the names of several witnesses. Among them are Joseph Ogee, who wrote his name, and Madeline Ogee, who signed by making her mark.

Charles Jouett was twice appointed Indian Agent at Chicago, his second term of office beginning in 1815 and ending in 1818 or 1819. His daughter, Mrs. Susan M. Callis, says her mother's nurse was a half breed French

and Indian woman named "Madeline Alscum or Olscum," who married "Joseph Ozier, a soldier from the garrison" the "day we left Chicago for the last time." (Andreas, *History of Chicago*.) That would place the wedding in 1818 or 1819. It is hardly probable that this was the Ogee of our story, as he was, as shown, stationed on the Illinois River in 1818. Mrs. Callis' statement tends to support the theory of Judge McCulloch that the real name was Ozier and Ogee merely a nickname, but that theory is overcome by the fact that Mr. Dixon's account books uniformly give the name as Ogee, and he wrote it that way.

The American Fur Company had an interpreter named Antoine Oscum on the Illinois river in 1818, and agent named Antoine Alscum at its trading post in the Illinois prairie in 1826.

## THE OLD ACCOUNT BOOKS.

John Dixon kept books of account for many years after taking charge of the ferry, but only two of them survive. Fortunately, these are the first and second and they cover the period from April, 1830, to October, 1835. The entries were made by different persons who were not expert accountants, and, the ink being poor and the penmanship poorer, many of them are now illegible. Very few credits are shown, and there are fewer balances. The account with Ogee is scattered over many different pages, seemingly without any attempt at order, and it is impossible for one to tell just how that account stood. But with all their many faults the books are very interesting and they throw some light upon the life of those days.

They give prices of many of the commodities the pioneers needed and give us an insight into the cost of living in those days.

Corn sold at from twenty-five cents to one dollar per bushel. Oats brought fifty cents per bushel. Corn meal cost one dollar per bushel. Live hogs sold at three to four cents a pound, and pork cost four to nine cents a pound, and there was a sale of a barrel of pork at \$11.75. Bacon was eight to ten cents a pound. Beef cost three to four cents. Salt cost two dollars a bushel, and there is a charge of forty cents for thirteen pounds.

The nearest grist mill was at Dayton, and flour cost three to five cents a pound, and six to nine and a half dollars per barrel. Butter was worth twelve to eighteen cents; sugar ranged from four and a half to fifteen cents; tea from seventy-five cents to two dollars. Potatoes sold at fifty cents a bushel. Coffee was twenty to twenty-five cents. Candles were thirty-one and a quarter cents per dozen.

A man paid a dollar and a half to two dollars for his shoes; four dollars for his "thick boots"; from two dol-

lars to two dollars and a half for "boots," one dollar seventy-five for his wife's shoes, and a dollar for those his boy wore. His smoking tobacco cost him twenty-five to fifty cents per pound,—there is no record of the sale of any cigars or cigarettes; his chewing tobacco was twenty-five cents a "large plug," and his whiskey fifty cents a gallon. His flannel shirt cost one dollar and a half; his pantaloons three and a half; his socks thirty-seven and one-half cents; his hat one dollar and a shilling. He paid two dollars a week for his board and lodging. One man paid \$3.75 for four shirts, and another had three made for \$2.25. O. W. Kellogg was charged with one dollar for two shirts furnished to Jarro, and with another dollar for two shirts furnished to Pashepayou. The last charge shows that Pashepayou, the Sac chief who refused to aid Black Hawk in his war, traded at Dixon. The nearest Sac town was Saukenuk, on Rock river, commonly called Black Hawk's town.

The housewife had her bargain days—bed ticking thirty-one and a quarter cents a yard; muslin at fifteen cents; calico at twenty-five to forty cents; cotton handkerchief thirty-seven and one-half cents; red flannel eight yards for five dollars; striped shirting twenty cents. Blankets sold for from two to five dollars. Thread, both linen and cotton, was seventy-five cents per half pound.

Edward Penseno is the first to be named as working for Mr. Dixon and he earned \$42 working three and one half months from April 25, 1830. Paskal Penseno worked from April 29, 1830, to May 21 and is credited with \$9. George Elinger worked from May 1, 1830, to July 4, but lost one day while sick and two while working for others at forty cents per day, and his earnings were \$25.20. George Butterfield was credited with \$27.60 for work from August 22, 1832, to October 31, and with \$76.80 for eight months and twelve days' work beginning November 1.



Rebeckah Merrill worked two and one half weeks at \$2.00 and another period of five weeks at \$1.50.

Others working for Mr. Dixon were James V. Wagner, John Doyle, P. Grover, Nancy Walker, George Powers, Patrick McCormack, Thomas Spicer, Charles Lane, Isaac Morgan, William —, — Brownfield, — Murphy, — Brink, — Siner, Joseph —, — Mc Clure, — Grant. McClure must have been considered an exceptionally good worker, as he earned \$1.12½ a day for part of the time. The usual pay was from twelve to sixteen dollars per month.

There always has been a belief in the family that a colored man worked some time for Mr. Dixon, and this seems to be sustained by entries dated May 10, 1830, giving credit to Eneous for work.

That the fur trade had not disappeared entirely is clearly shown by these books. Some of the items in the books are not dated, and others do not state the prices. There was but little fluctuation in the prices. Coon skins brought from fifteen to thirty-five cents. Muskrats sold from twenty to twenty-three cents; mink at thirty-three to thirty-five; wolf from twenty-five to thirty-three; wild cat at twenty-five; deer and fawn at twenty-five cents, and otter at five dollars. The deer had become very scarce, there being, in five years, sales of only nineteen fawn and deer. There were sold 284 coon; 50 wolf; 101 mink; 15 otter; 9 wild cat; 10,888 muskrats.

H. B. Stillman and P. Menard, Jr., were the best customers, sometimes in the firm name—Menard and Stillman—and again in their individual names. Their principal place of business was in Pekin.

P. A. Lorimere, or Lorimier, was a good customer. As some of his purchases were sent to J. P. B. Gratiot for him, it would seem that his business was conducted in Galena. Henry Gratiot and H. B. Soulard, both of Galena

were good patrons. Thomas Hartzell of Bureau County and J. Demun were the only other buyers.

The first sale shown on the books was to H. B. Stillman on June 28, 1830, and the last was to P. A. Lorimere, June 16, 1835.

There are charges against S. Sacket for the *Sangamo Journal* from September 3, 1834, to June 1, 1835, and they were paid. Other charges for newspapers were made against "Mr. Andrus" for the *Monroe Democrat* and the *Knickerbocker*; "Mr. Fellows" for the *Christian Advocate and Journal*; "Mrs. Fellows" for the *Sangamo Journal*, G. A. Martin for the *Galena Gazette*, and one, probably in 1834, against Isaac Morgan—"May 30, Cash sent for *Saturday Evening Post* \$2.00."

There are many charges for the unpaid postage on letters, ranging from ten to thirty seven and one half cents.

Many of the items indicate that Mr. Dixon was quite willing to accommodate his friends by making small loans of cash. John D. Winters, the stage coach man, was a frequent borrower. William S. Hamilton, "Dad Jo" Smith, Henry Gratiot, John K. Robinson, Dr. Forrest, Zachariah Malugin and Asa Crook were some of the debtors. James M. Strode borrowed several times, once "on his way to Galena from court." Colonel Zachary Taylor obtained two loans of fifty cents each, two of seventy-five cents each, one of two dollars and fifty cents. Adding these to a charge of one dollar fifty cents for a pair of shoes for his man, made his indebtedness six dollars and fifty cents, and the book says this was "settled by note." Perhaps the note was paid in due time; the book does not tell.

There are charges against the United States for flour, bacon and pork supplied to the Indians, for flour and bacon furnished the men of the Sixth Regiment; for rations "to Colbert the express man;" for bacon and flour furnished the men of the First Regiment who were sent

to Prairie du Chien; for bacon and flour supplied the men of the Sixth Regiment who were sent to the Jefferson Barracks. "Col. Johnson for U. S." is charged \$360.50 for blankets, guns and a rifle. "U. S. Gen. Atkinson's Q. M." is charged for double and single trees, breast chains, augers, the use of oxen, iron, steel and blacksmith's tools and "accommodation and sustenance of the sick of the Army," but the amount is not stated.

It is not possible for one to decipher all the names appearing in the accounts with the Indians. The books do not give any idea of the value of the goods sold. The first of the Indian items charges "Haucock Honesty" with beads, a shirt and some paint. Later with "wacoodshun," "nobra skelehera," "wawatchera." In the account against Sear on His Brow there is this notation—Jarro went with me to his camp. The items charged are a bridle, two strouds, five traps, one ax, powder, handkerchief, spear and flour. The Long Yellow Man is noted as "good pay."

There are charges against Old Blue Coat's son, one of them for "wy Parisable." An "Old grey head Potawamie" is charged with "ferretin," while his "fat Son" is charged with "1 wapamoon." Plump Face bought "wa sarah" and "my sherry." Just preceding the charges against "Sack, old man" is this entry "Ogee says he is good." "Fat Squaw, with many beads" owes a balance "due on shirt." Plump Face bought a blanket for Thin Face, and it was charged to the latter. There is an item of "wacodghun" against American Woman and one against the "Man that has a sick squaw," for a shirt. "Crane's Son" bought a blanket, handkerchief, knife and "nobra skelehera." There are charges against "Tall Potawatamie, Mrs. O's ant's husband," Great Dancer, Wawackera, Wakongonie; "Daddy Walker, Hanuzeka," Limpy, Old Quaker, Sour Eads, Corngather, "Sin au buck, old white head Potawatamie's son," Moneah, No



Nose, Good Singer, "Dr.'s Husband," "Preacher long Sober man" "Blinkey's brother," "Jarro's oldest son." Plump Face is charged with "massagran," "wa sarah," "my sherry" and "ohanena." Chief Jarro bought some "ohenena," and some "pageuna." Howekah, the "One eye old man that came with Crane & Orenduff," bought "torah," "Pashchunk, Chief Crane" bought "wawatch-era." Squirrel Cheeks bought "oats netega." The "woman that came with Mother Flat Face" bought "fer-ritin." There was a sale of "wacoodshun" to the Preacher. Chief Crane's brother, "Blue Coat" had an item of "edah skelehera." Many of the charges against Blinkey are crossed out.

In the account against the United States are charges for supplies furnished to Han cau shereck, Asherrekerry, Hanaracerashak, Dash, Houch hutie, Chaw shep hutie, White Crow, "Dash's oldest son Hoonk Cheekah," Coca-sarretch, Blinkey, Laugher, Comeah, Nah he kah, Little Beaver, Hanupe Kah, Wauconjackpanke, Hoketchoke, Mass cheeka, On cah ce nech, Whirling Thunder, Pau he saw, Hanusee and many others. These items appear to have been furnished between September, 1832, and March 23, 1833, and were for flour, pork, bacon and corn. No prices are given and in many instances the quantity is not stated.

By the treaty made at Washington November 1, 1837, the Winnebagoes ceded all their land east of the Mississippi and agreed to remove therefrom within eight months after the ratification of the treaty. The treaty provided for the payment of various sums, aggregating \$38,000, to certain persons named, out of the sum of \$200,000, and that the balance "shall be applied to the debts of the nation, which may be ascertained to be justly due, and which may be admitted by the Indians, provided, that if all their debts shall amount to more than this balance, their creditors shall be paid *pro rata*, upon



their giving receipts in full," and that no claim for depredations should be allowed. Provision was also made for the payment, under the direction of the President, to the relations and friends of the Winnebagoes "having not less than one-quarter of Winebago blood" of the sum of \$100,000. James Murray of Maryland and Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania were appointed commissioners to adjust these claims, and they proceeded to Prairie du Chien, where they met the Indians and the various claimants in 1838. The report of the Secretary of War shows that John Dixon presented a claim for \$2,298.25 for merchandise sold to the Indians, and, it being one of the five that were allowed in full, the commissioners paid him his proportion, \$1,876.28, the payment being made to his attorney in fact, James P. Dixon.

Writing to Gen. Clark in October, 1831, of the Indian trade on the Mississippi and lower Rock river, Thomas Forsyth said that the prices charged by the traders in that region about that time were higher in the fall than in the spring and ranged as follows: a three point blanket was sold for \$10, a "rifle gun" for \$30, a pound of powder for \$4,—a total of \$44. He said that these articles cost the trader—the blanket \$3.52, the rifle \$12 to \$13, the powder twenty cents,—"I know this to be correct."

The trader accepted for his dollar a large buckskin, or one doe skin, or four muskrats, or four or five raccoons. An otter skin was worth \$3 and beaver \$2 a pound.

A treaty made at Green Bay August 25, 1828, with the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes were signed by Kau-ree-kau-saw-kaw or White Crow. The treaty of August 1, 1829, made at Prairie du Chien with the Winnebagoes, was signed by Wau-kun-tshaw-way-kee-wen-kaw or Whirling Thunder, Pey-tshun-kaw, or the Crane, and Jarot for the Indians.

The treaty made at Fort Armstrong in September,

1832, was signed by Kau-ree-kaw-see-kaw or White Crow; Wau-kaun-wee-kaw or Whirling Thunder, and Wee-tshun-kaw or Goose, for the Rock river deputation of Winnebagoes, and by Wau-kaun-tshah-ween-kaw or Whirling Thunder for the Winnebagoes of Fort Winnebago. It is more than probable that the third signature should read—Pey-tshun—kaw, or the Crane.

John Blackhawk, an intelligent and well educated Winnebago, furnishes the following translations of these Indian words:

wy parisable—black cloth;	wacodghun—moccasins;
wacoodshun—leggings;	nobra skelehera—finger
massagran—lead;	rings;
my sherry—flint stone;	wa sarah—grease;
torah—potatoes;	pageuna—“for making
edah skelehera—bridle;	fire”;
Hanuzeka—Yellow Boy;	wawatchera—blue broad
Moneah—Arrow;	cloth;
Asherrekerry—Fox;	Wakongonie—Snake;
Paschunka—Crane;	Hau can shereck—Name of
Hoonk Cheekah—	the third boy in the fam-
New Chief;	ily;
Wauconjackpanke—Good	Hounch hutie—Big Bear;
Thunder;	Hanupe Kah—Day;
Mass Cheeka—New Iron;	Hoketchoke—Green or Blue
Pau he saw—Sharp or who	Chief;
is sharp;	On cah ee nech—Tall Man;

Although he was a Winnebago chief, Jarro had a French name which he acquired in a rather peculiar manner. Nicholas Jarrot, a native of France, lived in Cahokia from 1794 to 1823, and traded with the Indians on an extensive scale. On one of his visits to an Indian camp near Prairie du Chien, about 1812, the Indians were so enraged against him that they determined to kill him. They raised “the warwhoop and brandished their spears and tomahawks in the air. It was approaching an alarming crisis. Jarrot and men seemed to be doomed to destruction. The furious savages would not permit a par-

ley; but at last, when the warriors were so near Jarrot that it might be fatal with him, one of his old friends, a Winnebago Indian, stepped before the crowd of warriors and raised a terrific war-whoop, such as the Indians use in a battle where they are sure to be destroyed. It is a kind of a death-cry, so-called by them. The Indian was armed with all the weapons used by the infuriated savages in mortal conflict. The warriors saw the danger they were in. One or more of them must be slain by the friend of Jarrot, if they persisted in the attempt to murder him and party. The bravery of the Winnebago made them reflect, and they desisted from the cowardly act to assassinate the trader. Jarrot and men were saved by the noble daring of this wild savage. The Indians changed his former name to that of Jarrot, and he was always known by that name afterward. I saw this Indian, who was called Jarrot, at Galena, in 1829." (Reynolds, *Pioneer History of Illinois; Fergus Ed., p. 211.*)

The first election in Peoria county was held at Peoria in 1825. Joseph Cgee and John Lixon voted.

John Blackhawk advises me that Comeah may have been intended for Co-no-ka, the first male child in the family; Na-he-kah is the fourth male child; Chow-shep-hutie is Big Eagle; Nachusa is a Winnebago word meaning gray or white haired, and Rock river, in Winnebago, is E-nee-ne-sha-na-gra.



## THE KINZIES AT DIXON.

Early in 1831 the Kinzies decided to visit Chicago. The distance from Fort Winnebago (Portage) was not considered too great, if a direct route were taken. The winter, however, had been a severe one and the snow was deep. While making their preparations for the journey they learned that the route by Kosh-ko-nong was out of the question, as the Indians were absent from their villages, and, the ice being gone, there was no means of crossing Rock river except at "Dixon, or, as it was then called, Ogie's Ferry." Finishing their preparations, they started on the morning of the eighth of March, the party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Kinzie, Plante, their "guide, on the assurance that he knew every mile of the way from the Portage to Ogie's Ferry, and from Ogie's Ferry to Chicago," and Pierre Roy. They spent a night at Hamilton's; the next at Kellogg's, and on the thirteenth "just at sunset we reached the dark, rapid waters of the Rock River. The 'ferry' which we had traveled so far out of our way to take advantage of, proved to be merely a small boat or skiff, the larger one having been swept into the stream, and carried down in the breaking up of the ice the week previous."

They crossed on the ferry and were soon in Mr. Dixon's house. Mrs. Kinzie then saw young John "Ogie," and heard of the separation of his parents.

After doing ample justice to "a most savory supper of ducks and venison, with their accompaniments," Mr. Dixon gave the travelers an account of the way still before them.

"There is no difficulty," said he, "if you keep a little to the north, and strike the great *Sauk trail*. If you get too far to the south, you will come upon the Winnebago Swamp, and once in that, there is no telling when you will ever get out again. As for the distance, it is noth-



ing at all to speak of. Two young men came out here from Chicago, on foot, last fall. They got here in the evening of the second day; and even with a lady in your party, you could go on horseback in less time than that. The only thing is to be sure and get on the great track that the Sauks have made, in going every year from the Mississippi to Canada, to receive their presents from the British Indian Agent."

"The following morning, which was a bright and lovely one for that season of the year, we took leave of Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, in high spirits. We traveled for the first few miles along the beautiful, undulating banks of the Rock River, always in an easterly direction, keeping the beaten path, or rather road, which led to Fort Clark or Peoria. The Sauk trail, we had been told, would cross this road, at the distance of about six miles.

After traveling, as we judged, fully that distance, we came upon a trail, bearing northeast, and a consultation was held as to the probability of its being the one we were in search of.

Mr. Kinzie was of opinion that it tended too much to the north, and was, moreover, too faint and obscure for a trail so much used, and by so large a body of Indians in their annual journeys.

Plante was positive as to its being the very spot where he and 'Piche' in their journey to Fort Winnebago, the year before, struck into the great road. 'On that very rising ground at the point of the woods, he remembered perfectly stopping to shoot ducks, which they ate for their supper.'

Mr. Kellogg was noncommittal, but sided alternately with each speaker.

As Plante was the 'guide,' and withal so confident of being right, it was decided to follow him, not without some demurring, however, on the part of the bourgeois, who every now and then called a halt, to discuss the state of affairs.

‘Now Plante,’ he would say, ‘I am sure you are leading us too far north. Why, man, if we keep on in this direction, following the course of the river, we shall bring up at Kosh-ko-nong, instead of Chicago.’

‘Ah! mon bourgeois,’ would the light-hearted Canadian reply, ‘would I tell you this is the road if I were not quite certain? Only one year ago I traveled it, and can I forget so soon? Oh! no—I remember every foot of it.’

But Monsieur Plante was convinced of his mistake when the trail brought us to the great bend of the river with its bold rocky bluffs.”

Mr. Kinzie then took command and they proceeded in a direction “as nearly east as possible.” Other misfortunes befell them before they reached Chicago, but we are not concerned in them now.

It is impossible for one acquainted with that territory to understand why the Kinzie party traveled from Dixon’s as they did, unless it be that they misunderstood what Mr. Dixon told them, and Kellogg was so confused that he was lost at the start.

Mr. Dixon knew, and Kellogg must have known, that the road to Chicago did not run along the river. Dixon and Kellogg well knew that the crossing of the Sauk trail was south of Dixon’s. Kinzie certainly must have misunderstood what Dixon said about the Indian trails, for Dixon knew that the “Great Sauk” trail from the Mississippi to Canada did not touch Chicago, and it was far south of another trail that did go from the Mississippi to Chicago. It is more than probable that Dixon told them to go south until they reached the first trail and then to follow that to Chicago. He could not have told them that that trail, or the Great Sauk trail was about six miles from Dixon’s, for he knew it was farther.

It is very clear that Mr. Dixon did not see the party start out, for he would not have permitted them to travel “the first few miles along the beautiful, undulating banks

of the Rock River," as that course would have taken them back to Fort Winnebago. They did not keep "the beaten path, or rather road, which led to Fort Clark or Peoria," for that did not follow the river bank.

## THE OLD CENTRAL RAILROAD AT DIXON.

The "Act to establish and maintain a general system of internal improvement," approved February 27, 1837, appropriated three and one-half million dollars for the purpose of building a railroad from Cairo to Galena, by way of Savanna.

The act created a Board of Fund Commissioners and authorized it borrow money on the faith and credit of the state and pay out this money on warrants drawn by the commissioners of public works. It created also, a Board of Commissioners of Public Works of seven members, to be elected by the legislature biennially, one from each of the judicial districts into which the State was then divided. The first board was composed of William Kinney, whom the Board elected its president, Murray McConnell, Elijah Willard, Milton K. Alexander, Joel Wright, James W. Stephenson and Ebenezer Peck. Judge Moses, in his *History of Illinois*, p. 400, says that John Dixon was a member of the first board, but the legislative records show that he is wrong. Stephenson, who lived at Galena, was the member for the sixth district. He resigned in the summer of 1838 because of ill health that soon resulted in his death. Soon after his resignation there was presented to the Governor a petition reading as follows:

*To His Excellency, Joseph Duncan*

*Governor of the State of Illinois, Sir*

The undersigned citizens of the sixth judicial Circuit in the State of Illinois, have recently understood that a vacancy has occurred in the office of Commissioner of Public Works for this Circuit, by the resignation of Col. James W. Stephenson.

They would therefore respectfully recommend John Dixon of Ogle County to your favorable consideration, under a thorough conviction that his character qualification and standing in society would ren-



der his appointment more acceptable to the people of this Circuit than that of any other individual.

S. M. Bowman	Wm. Martin
Isaac S. Boardman, Jr.	David Hill
James Davy	Harvey Morgan
A. W. Hughes	B. H. Harris
S. G. Holbrook	B. H. Stewart
Wm. G. Elder	Wm. Fellows
John Young	Natt. G. H. Morrill
G. B. Dills	C. W. & M. P. Bartlett
Stephen Fuller	Jacob M. Morrill
Jos. Crawford	Harvey Woodle
A. D. Moon	Orin Skeel
Horace Thompson	Peter .....
Wm. Thompson	L. S. Huff
Carleton Bayley	D. Bates McKenney
C. H. Chapman	Daniel W. McKenney
G. L. Chapman by C. H. C.	Lewis Lovel
C. Woodruff	Coridon Deland
Elias Dement	James Hambleton
J. G. Dement	E. E. Gardner
G. Wetzlar	John Cutshaw
Hiram F. Parks	James Douglas
Lewis Davis	M. Falvy
Wm. Reed	John G. Bellaragee
Denison Spooner	A. T. Wilson
Orin Bennett	David Brown
Robert Averil	Henry .....
J. W. Hamilton	M. Fellows
D. C. Stevens	Geo. W. Chase
Hugh McBride	A. Robinson
Saml. J. Charters	John Saunders
John W. Stoklager	James Kellers
Asa Crooks	J. N. Calmes
A. Charters	S. Matthews
Wilson .....	H. P. Darrow
Austin L. Bull	E. W. Hine
Isaac T. Thomas	G. D. Latham
Robert .....	N. W. Brown
..... Kemp	Wm. Jones
James Benjamin	J. K. Cutshaw
Horace S. Benjamin	John Cutshaw

Harrison Barnes  
 Elijah Bowman  
 Thomas McCabe  
 Nemehiah Hutton  
 Daniel Rooney  
 C. S. Lunt  
 Chas. Fred Hubbard  
 H. Gates Howlett  
 John Caldwell  
 Wm. A. Fraser  
 E. Southwick, Jr.  
 W. P. Burroughs  
 M. T. Crowell  
 James Power  
 W. T. Chapman  
 John M. Thompson  
 Henry A. Coe  
 Augustus Hawley  
 John Wilson  
 Theodore Jaques  
 A. L. Porter  
 John Brandon  
 Noah Beede

Alex Evans  
 G. A. Martin  
 R. B. Loveland  
 Otis Loveland  
 Roswell Streeter  
 Jarod Martin  
 Simon T. Martin  
 Isaac Morgan  
 Thos. I. Harris  
 Nathan Morehouse  
 Oliver A. Hubbard  
 Simon Fellows  
 P. M. Alexander  
 M. M. De Long  
 John Low  
 E. C. Cothral  
 James McKenney  
 Richard McKenney  
 F. C. McKenney  
 Wm. McKenney  
 Seth Preston  
 John Maynard  
 R. L. McKenney

(Two other names appear but they are totally illegible.)

At the same time there was presented to the Governor the following:—

Springfield, July 25.

To His Excellency Jo Duncan

Having been informed that a vacancy has occurred in the board of Com. of Public Works by the resignation of J. W. Stephenson we take much pleasure in recommending to your favorable consideration for the vacancy thus created our friend-fellow citizen John Dixon of Ogle County whom we consider in every way qualified to discharge the duties of said office.

JESSE B. THOMAS, JR.  
 JOEL WRIGHT *Comr. Pub. Works.*  
 G. ELKIN  
 C. R. MATHENY  
 N. W. EDWARDS  
 A. LINCOLN

SIMON FRANCIS  
 J. R. SPEED  
 THO. C. BROWN  
 A. G. HERNDON  
 WM. BUTLER  
 A. G. HENRY

Upon receiving these petitions, the Governor sent this letter to Mr. Dixon at "Dixonville or Dixon's Ferry, Ogle County":—

Jacksonville Aug. 2nd. 1838.

*Dear Sir*

You are hereby appointed Commissioner of the Board of Public Works for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, in the place of Col. J. W. Stephenson, resigned.

I will direct the Sec. of State to forward your commission, with despatch.

Your appointment should have been attended to sooner, but my little son has been dangerously ill, and has absorbed all my attention.

Your Friend &  
Obt. Servant,

JOSEPH DUNCAN  
*Gov. of the State of Illinois*

To

JOHN DIXON, Esq.  
Ogle County  
Illinois

His commission is dated at Vandalia, August 8, 1838, and he began the performance of his duties on the fourteenth of that month, after the contract for the construction of part of the railroad between Galena and Savanna had been let by his predecessor.

The sixth judicial circuit then included the present counties of Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Ogle, Carroll, Whiteside, Rock Island and Lee. La Salle was in the seventh circuit of which Ebenezer Peck of Chicago was the member of the board.

February 19, 1839, the two houses of the legislature met in joint session and elected Mr. Dixon Commissioner of Public Works for the sixth circuit, he receiving sixty-six votes, William C. Enos thirty, John Turney seventeen, Hunt ten, and four votes were scattered. Among those voting for Mr. Dixon were Orville H. Browning, afterwards United States Senator and Sec-

retary of the Interior, John S. Hacker, later Colonel of one of Illinois' most famous regiments in the civil war, John Hamlin, his old Peoria friend, Edward D. Baker, who was killed in battle in the civil war while United States Senator as well as Colonel, Jesse K. Du-bois, afterwards Auditor of Public Accounts of the State, John J. Hardin, who was killed in battle in the Mexican war, and Abraham Lincoln. At this election Jesse B. Thomas was chosen to succeed McConnell, John Hogan to succeed Kinney, and Hart Fellows to succeed Wright. Peck, Willard and Alexander were re-elected.

Following this election, Mr. Dixon took the oath of office at Vandalia February 28, 1839, before Theophilus W. Smith, one of the judges of the Supreme Court. His commission, dated February 22, 1839, is signed by Thomas Carlin, Governor.

Under date of Omaha, Nebraska, June 15, 1881, Frederick A. Nash wrote John Wentworth that he arrived at Chicago February 11, 1837, under promise of a situation with James Seymour, who had been selected by Edmund D. Taylor and William B. Ogden to survey and locate the Galena and Chicago Union Railway; "we were paid off, and June 1st, left for Peru, then a promising city on paper and prairie bluffs, to enter upon the surveys north and south of the Illinois river, under the old Illinois Internal Improvement scheme. \* \* \* James Seymour was chief; his brother, William H. Seymour, was assistant; P. H. Ogilvie, draughtsman, a lively little Scot, and a graduate of Edinboro; Geo. Howel, rodman, and myself, axeman and chainman. \* \* \* From Peru, or La Salle, our surveys extended up the Vermillion to Dixon and Galena,—from the south side of the river in the direction of Bloomington, running 60 miles without a tree or any stream to check our progress. \* \* \* In 1840, Ogilvie, myself and others listened to a four hour speech from Stephen A. Douglas, at Dixon's Ferry, and



to a shorter and spicier address from "Long John" Wentworth, then in the bloom of manhood. In 1840 I was junior assistant engineer, and had charge of construction from La Salle to the Bureau river, near Inlet Grove, Lee County, and a small prairie town called Greenfield, in Bureau county." (Greenfield is now La Moille.)

Nash, evidently writing from recollection, is slightly in error. The division he joined was organized May 8, 1837. (See report of Seymour in *Northwestern Gazette & Galena Advertiser*, February 24, 1838.)

Ogilvie later surveyed and made a plat of a town, and when the owners of the site were trying to find a name for the place, he suggested Moulin, as they thought it would be a manufacturing town. After some discussion his suggestion was modified and the name made Moline. (*Moline Dispatch*, August 24, 1898.)

In June, 1837, a party of engineers was formed at Galena, with William B. Gilbert at its head, and given charge of the work between Galena and Rock river. In the same month a fourth corps of engineers was organized at Dixon's Ferry, with Amedee Blanc in charge until the arrival of Ogilvie who continued the surveys until his health failed. Blanc, whose work had been confined to the Rock river improvement up to that time, then took up the railroad surveys. This party was disbanded in the fall of that year. (25th Cong., 2d Sess.: *Sen. Doc.* 259.)

The division engineer's office was located at Dixon in a building erected by "Granny" John Wilson on the south side of East First Street between Galena and Ottawa avenues. The first term of the Circuit Court of Ogle County was held in that building in 1837. (Kurtz, *History of Dixon and Palmyra*; Hill, *History of Lee County*.)

Stephenson advertised for bids for the construction of the railroad from Galena to the south, the bids to be

opened at Dixon's Ferry, Ogle County, May 12, 1838, and it appears that they were opened and the contracts awarded that day. The law required the concurrence of "the acting commissioner on the line, and at least one other member of the board," together with the recommendation of "the principal engineer in charge of the work," in the letting of contracts.

Attached to the Report of Joel Wright, Commissioner of Public Works for the Fifth Circuit, is a report of Hiram P. Woodworth, Chief Engineer, dated at the Railroad Office, La Salle County, November 27, 1838, stating that contracts for the construction of that part of the Central Railroad extending southerly from Galena twenty miles had been let "last May;" that the work was delayed because although some of the contractors had labored faithfully others had abandoned their jobs and absconded, and, also, by reason of the "protracted and painful illness of our late and much lamented" commissioner Col. Stephenson. He also said that he had had thorough surveys made on every possible route between Savanna and Rock river, owing to the feeling exhibited.

From the report of T. B. Ransom, engineer, November 28, 1838, attached to the report of Commissioner Peck, it appears that the line of the Central Railroad north of the Illinois river had been located so that it would cross Bureau creek about eighteen and a quarter miles from La Salle and Inlet creek about twenty-eight and two-thirds miles from La Salle; that one line had been considered that would cross Rock river about two miles above Dixon's Ferry.

Ransom further says that the contract for the construction of the first eleven miles north of La Salle was let to Kennedy & Brookin, with H. K. Curtis in charge as engineer.

A petition of citizens residing "in the Rock river country" was presented to the Legislature in 1838 soon after

it was reported that the Board of Public works had so located the line of the Central Railroad that it would pass through Dixon, and in it these worthy citizens complained that the road from “Rocky Ford on the Inlet” to a point on the Mississippi near Savanna had been “located to suit personal interests rather than those of the State;” that it had been located on “very uneven ground” and on a route longer than other routes; that it would cross Rock river where the banks are so low and the bluffs recede so far as to cause the “construction of immense embankments to reach a viaduct of sufficient elevation to permit the passage of steamboats,” “besides,” the water is deep and the bottom sand and clay. To show that they were moved solely by public spirit, they invited attention to the facts that the ground from Rocky Ford to Sterling is quite level, that the banks of Rock river at Sterling are close to the water’s edge and but about twenty feet higher; that the river bed there is a mass of solid rock and the water so low that the State had already begun the work of excavating a boat channel through this rock, and that it would be good policy to have the railroad cross Rock river at the place already selected for the improvement of the river. The petition was signed by Hugh Wallace, Lot S. Pennington, Nelson Mason and some twenty others, showing, quite conclusively, that it emanated from Sterling.

To overcome this petition there was presented to the Legislature a protest signed by some one hundred and thirty “Citizens on Rock River and vicinity,” asserting that the railroad between Rockyford and Savannah “has been judiciously located,” and referring to the reports of the engineers.

Upon consideration of the petition and protest, on January 14, 1839, on motion of James Craig of Jo Daviess, the House

“Resolved—That the Board of Public Works be



requested to communicate to this House at as early a day as practicable. \* \* \*

“3d. At what place on Rock river the said Board of Public Works have determined that the Central railroad shall cross, and their reasons why a more direct route from Peru, on the Illinois river, to Savannah, on the Mississippi river, has not been adopted. \* \* \*

“6th. Whether the line of the Central Railroad adopted is longer or shorter than another line from Peru, on the Illinois river, *via* the rapids on Rock river, to Savannah, on the Mississippi river, and the comparative cost of construction of the two routes.

“7th. And that they report to this House their reasons for leaving an interval of ten or twenty miles between that part of the Central railroad already put under contract from Galena south, and that part proposed by the Board of Public Works to be put under contract, during the ensuing six months, east from Savannah towards Rock river.”

To this resolution the Board of Public Works answered, January 29, 1839, by letter to the Speaker of the House, saying “The Board have to state that they have not yet determined where the Central Railroad shall cross Rock river the line not having been definitely located from Rocky ford, or inlet, to Savanna.”

Attached to this letter was a report, under oath, of W. B. Gilbert, the engineer, dated at Dixon, December 4, 1838, stating that the line from Galena south for twenty miles was put under contract “May last;” that the line had not been definitely located from the south end of the part under contract to Savanna; that a line could be run from Savanna to the Winnebago swamp by running down the Mississippi eighteen or twenty miles, thence through the Cat-tail swamp to Rock river, but such a line would not be of benefit to the country; that an examination had been made of a line from about eight miles south of Savanna up the valley of Johnson’s creek to the ridge between that creek and little Rock creek, and



thence to the Upper Rapids of Rock river, (at Sterling), over an undulating surface with a maximum grade of seventy one and one-half feet per mile. Attached to this report is one made by George W. Clarke, assistant engineer, saying that he found that the most favorable point for crossing the Winnebago swamp was at Rocky ford; that he had selected the line that was found least expensive and best suited to the wants of the country, a route that passes through "the most beautiful and fertile section of country to be found between the Mississippi and Rock rivers," and the rapidity with which this portion of the country is settling and "the evident prosperity of the town of Dixon, Buffalo Grove, the Elkhorn and Prestonville settlements furnish sufficient evidence that that location, as here recommended, is decidedly best calculated to promote the interest of the work."

Clarke says that he had divided the work between Savanna and Rocky ford into five divisions, the first, eleven and a quarter miles long, had a maximum grade of sixty four feet to the mile for a short distance; the second, thirteen and ninety seven hundredths miles long, had a maximum grade of thirty-one feet to the mile for a distance of nine-tenths of a mile, all the rest being under twenty-five feet; the third division, sixteen and forty-seven hundredths miles, running along Elkhorn creek, from the mouth of Middle creek, to Chambers' mill, thence to Buffalo Grove (this is the line he preferred but there were other lines to be further examined); the fourth division, twelve and sixty-seven hundredths miles, ran from the "flourishing little village of St. Marion, in Buffalo Grove," and extended to Dixon where it crossed Rock river; the fifth division, twelve and six hundredths miles, ran from Dixon to Rocky ford. He, further, states that another line had been partly examined from the end of the second division having a maximum grade of fifty-six feet to the mile which passed "near Thomas Wardin's house" to and across "the valley of Buffalo creek, over

a gently undulating plain, to the Hamilton Mounds; thence across the valleys of Sugar creek and Dry run by the claims of Mr. Fellows and Col. Stephenson to Rock river."

The Chambers mill was on the Elkhorn creek, near Brookville, and was later known as Herb's mill. The name of the town of St. Marion was changed to Buffalo, and later the town became, as it now is, that part of Polo called "Old Town." Thomas Worden (not Wardin) lived on section twenty-two, in the town of Eagle Point, near Hazellhurst. Stephenson's claim was about a mile and a quarter west of Polo.

A table attached to Clarke's report shows that the proposed line, after leaving St. Marion, climbs a heavy hill to Kellogg's claim, thence across a prairie, and with a descending grade to Gee's farm; thence over another prairie, and an undulating country to Charters' farm, thence, descending a steep hill, to Dixon. The heaviest grade on this line was sixty-six feet to the mile, and about thirteen hundred and twenty feet long. For a distance of about twenty-three hundred feet out of Dixon there was a grade of fifty-eight feet to the mile, going south.

Speaking of the bridge needed at Dixon, Clarke says:—

"A bridge will be required to cross Rock river of the following dimensions: 630 feet in length; three arches 210 feet square; two piers sixteen feet thick and thirty-five feet wide at the foundation, tapering to eleven feet thick and thirty-one feet wide at the springing of the arch; the bridge must have an elevation of thirty-five feet above the common stage of water so as not to interfere with the steamboat navigation of Rock river; the width of the bridge to be thirty-one feet so as to furnish a roadway for teams and the viaduct for the railroad, agreeably to the provisions of the state law."

After this description Clarke continues:

"After a careful examination of the country be-

tween the Mississippi and Rock rivers, and considering that twenty miles below Dixon these rivers approach within fifteen miles of each other, thereby in a measure superceding the necessity of connection by a railroad, I must express my decided opinion in favor of Dixon as a crossing place. This flourishing town, beautifully situated on the banks of Rock river, becomes a point necessarily independent of any local consideration, for it is but two miles north of a straight line drawn from Savanna to Rocky ford; and in that distance, either above or below the town it would be impossible to find so favorable a crossing place. The water here is never known to overflow its banks, and abundance of stone is found on the margin of the river.”

Clarke compliments his assistants, George H. Hubbell and Henry Wing upon their work.

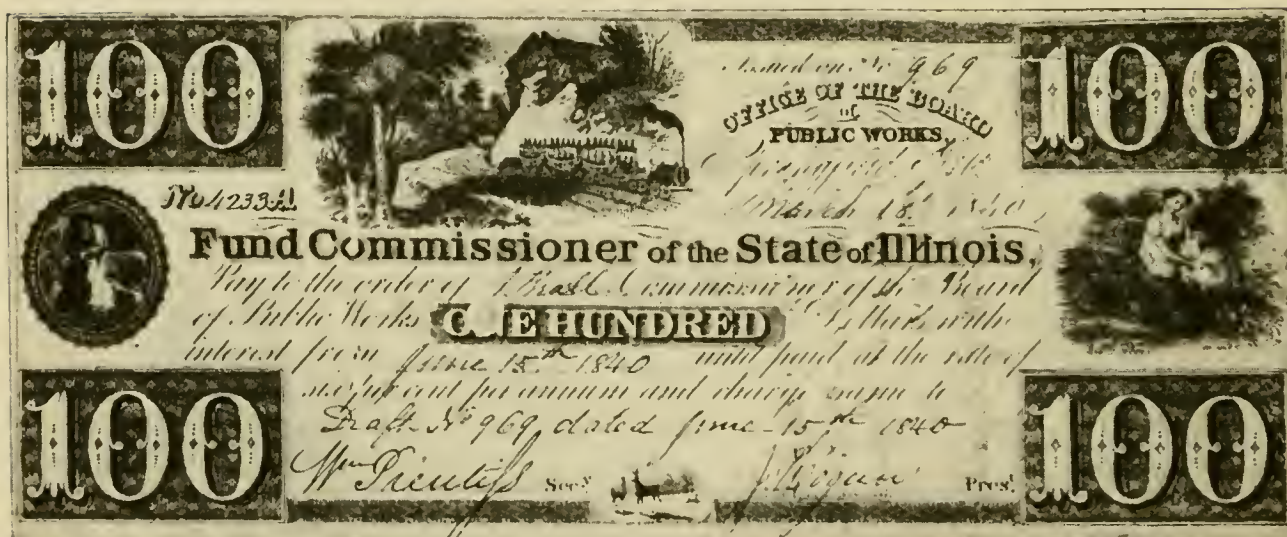
Clarke’s estimate of the cost of the railroad from Savanna to Dixon was \$283,791.49, including the bridge at \$36,750.

The plat of the town of Dixon, as recorded in the Recorder’s office, shows the proposed right of way through the town, beginning at the old Chicago road and terminating on the south bank of the river at the foot of Hennepin avenue. The road bed was graded practically all the way from Dixon to the Illinois river at La Salle,—but the railroad never was completed. So far as we are advised no work was done between Savanna and Dixon. No grading was done on Hennepin avenue. The bridge never got any further than sketches and plans by the engineers. The scheme failed. The state was plunged into an indebtedness that staggered her people and prompted them to talk of repudiation. Fortunately, the Governor, Thomas Ford, was a man and he effectively stamped out all efforts at repudiation. When the collapse came auditor’s warrants on the treasury were selling at fifty cents on the dollar, there was not enough money in the treasury to pay postage on the state’s official letters. Nobody profited by



it except the officers who drew their salaries, the contractors who were fortunate enough to get their estimates cashed, and the inhabitants of Springfield who succeeded in their plan to have their town made the capital.

Whenever any of Commissioners needed money to pay for work or supplies, he obtained from the Board of Public Works a draft on the Fund Commissioners (or Commissioner, there being but one after 1839). A copy of such a draft is shown here. The John Hogan who signed this one as President of the Board was Register of the Land Office at Dixon from 1841 to 1845. All efforts to find a warrant payable to Mr. Dixon failed.



The round hole and the slashes to its left show that this draft was "Cancelled and cut." On the back are these endorsements: "Pay bearer, J. Beall, Comr.," and "Paid on the principal of this Scrip Seventy 40/100 dollars, being the dividend of the State debt fund declared January 1st, 1851. \$70.00 40/100. Thos. H. Campbell, Audr."



## JOHN DIXON v. ORIN HAMLIN.

After the Board of Public Works had finally located the line of that part of the Central Railroad that was to be constructed between Galena and Savanna, John Dixon, he then being the Commissioner for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, advertised in the *Northwestern Gazette & Galena Advertiser* that bids for the construction of that part of the road would be received by him at Dixon's Ferry May 20, 1839. Subsequently he changed the time and place to Savanna June 20, and at that time and place the bids were received and the awards made, Orin Hamlin being the successful bidder for two of the sections—six and sixteen—into which the work was divided. Hamlin began his work, and carried it on in such manner that he won the confidence of Mr. Dixon.

In due course of time vouchers for work done on the railroad were prepared. To pay them Mr. Dixon had to obtain the money from Vandalia, then the State Capital. Hamlin represented that he had some matters of his own that required him to go to Vandalia and persuaded Mr. Dixon to let him have the draft. In the *Northwestern Gazette & Galena Advertiser* of August 3, 1839, is the following:—

“*Messrs. Houghton & Stevens:*

I have just returned from Rock River. Mr. Hamlin has made his elopement with \$11,500 of the public money, being the amount drawn for by Mr. John Dixon, Rail Road Commissioner. This will make a temporary derangement of the Rail Road. But prompt measures are being used to replace the money, so that in a very short time the contractors will be paid.

Yours in haste,  
JAMES CRAIG,

July 30, 1839.”

Houghton & Stevens were then the owners of the *Gazette*. Craig was a surveyor, and a member of the House of Representatives from that district at that time. He lived at Craig's Mills, or Hanover, near Galena.

While Craig puts the amount stolen at \$11,500, Mr. Dixon, in his account with the state, charges himself with \$11,600 as of June 13, and that is the amount he sought to recover by attaching Hamlin's property.

In the *Galena Gazette* of August 10, 1839, appeared a notice, signed by Samuel Smoker, then clerk of the Circuit Court of Jo Daviess County, that John Dixon had sued out of that court a writ of attachment, dated July 20, 1839, against Orin Hamlin in a suit to recover \$11,600, the writ being returnable to the then next October term of the court, and that there had been attached, as the property of Hamlin, two horses, some wheelbarrows, spades, shovels, picks, etc. Thomas Drummond, afterwards judge of the United States Courts in Illinois for many years, acted as the attorney for Mr. Dixon.

The *Galena Gazette* of August 31, 1839, contains an item, taken from the *Chicago American* of August 23, saying that James P. Dixon had just passed through Chicago on his way home after an unsuccessful search for Hamlin; that he went to Louisville, thence to Portsmouth, thence through Ohio towards Canada until business compelled him to return home, and that he found no trace of Hamlin after the latter had left Louisville.

In the "*Biography of John Dixon*," in the *Dixon Telegraph* of July, 1876, and reprinted by Kurtz in his *History of Dixon and Palmyra*, in speaking of this matter, appears this:—"James P. Dixon and Smith Gilbraith started in pursuit, traveling by stage coach through many of the Eastern States, but they returned without success. Soon after James and Elijah Dixon renewed the search, traveling in Canada and the Eastern and New England States, striking his trail once in Connecticut, but again

losing it, they returned to Dixon without recovering anything. In the meantime Mr. Dixon had raised the money and paid the amount to the State. Sometime afterwards Hamlin drew a prize of \$25,000 in a lottery. With this and his other ill-gotten gains, he returned boldly to Galena, and opened a store. Mr. Dixon at once instituted suit and recovered judgment for the \$11,500 and interest. The sheriff closed out all of Hamlin's goods that he could get possession of, which paid the costs and expenses of the search for Hamlin, and a few hundred dollars of the stolen money."

This is inaccurate in some respects. Mr. Dixon commenced his suit, as already shown, July 20, 1839, which must have been before James P. Dixon made his first trip and long before Hamlin opened a store in Galena. That suit, being, as it was, prosecuted to a judgment, would bar any other suit, and Judge Drummond would have so advised Mr. Dixon, and it is not at all probable that the suit mentioned in the quoted matter was brought.

In the files of the estate of Smith Gilbraith in the County Court of Lee County is a paper purporting to be a statement of cash paid to Smith Gilbraith and others by John Dixon. One item reads thus:

"July 26, 1839. Paid S. Gilbraith to go after Hamlin \$170."

The *Dixon Telegraph* of July 27, 1876, has a letter from Thomas S. Hubbard, Monticello, Iowa, saying that he was employed in the division engineer's office at Dixon at the time Hamlin took this money, and that James P. Dixon caught Hamlin in Baltimore where he had just drawn a prize in a lottery and then and there collected the amount stolen, "but Mr. Dixon had already paid us all up." For the reasons already stated, it is apparent that Hubbard is wrong so far as the payment by Hamlin is concerned.

The Board of Public Works held a meeting August



27, 1839, and the record of that meeting. in part, reads as follows:—

“Mr. Peck presented the following communication from Orrin Hamlin to John Dixon, Esq. to wit:

Louisville, July 15, 1839.

*Mr. Dixon,*

DEAR SIR:

I take my pen in hand to inform you of an event that you little expect. I proceeded in relation to the draft as you directed me; deposited it and took a certificate of the same, and called on my return and got the money. After drawing the money it struck me that I could make a first rate speculation by going back to Louisville and buying up Mineral Point money, Cairo and Dubuque, which was selling at a discount of 4, 5 and 10 per cent. discount. Accordingly I started on a boat up the river (forever to my shame be it spoken), and on my way there I got engaged in playing poker for the first and last time in my life for money. I got a hand I supposed to be the best in the pack, and I commenced betting, and my opponent backed me up, until he got up to eight thousand dollars, and then called me, and to my astonishment and ruin he held the best hand, whereas mine was but the second best. Judge of my feelings at the time—it nearly turned me mad. I resolved in my mind during the night what was to be done—return I could not, so I resolved to send for my family and leave the country, until by the means of the balance I could return and pay you, which if the Lord lives, and my soul lives, shall be done as soon as any honest business will enable me to do so. I hope you will let my work all be measured and give me credit for per cent. and all, and let my brother know to what extent I am deficient—it is better for laborers to lose a part than you all. I intend leaving this country altogether for some length of time—but you need not be afraid but what you will get the money some time not far distant, for I swear by the holy Evangelist that if I am permitted to live, I will earn the money and pay you every farthing: but for the sake of my connections, do not be harsher with character than



you can help to sustain yours, for I do believe I am still honest (but been very imprudent) and you shall yet say so if I live. It will be useless to follow me, for my plan of leaving is so well executed I shall leave no traces behind, for I could not look an acquaintance in the face again until all things are righted again. I have sent for my family, but have concealed all this affair from them. They will be here today or tomorrow. My business is all arranged in regard to my private affairs, which is not in a very prosperous condition, nearly all mortgaged for about half its worth, which I expect will have to be sacrificed. I am afraid you will lose your office by my imprudence, but if you do I will try and make amends for it; for the works are short lived, for there is eight millions of Illinois bonds thrown in market in Europe without a prospect of getting a dollar. With regret I bid you adieu, and when we meet again I am in hopes you will have good reason for a return of your friendship, which has been so grossly abused by your

I do not know what to say

ORIN HAMLIN.

*John Dixon, Esq.*

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we have examined the original as written by Orin Hamlin, that we are acquainted with his handwriting, and that the within is a true copy thereof.

A. M. HUNT,  
H. B. STILLMAN,  
RUDOLPHUS ROUSE.

Peoria, July 28, 1839.

Which was read and ordered to be filed. On motion of Mr. Peck the following preamble and order was adopted, to wit:

Whereas, proof has been made to the satisfaction of this Board, that Orin Hamlin a contractor on the Central railroad in the 6th Judicial Circuit, has received from the Commissioner a large amount of money over and above the sum due him; and whereas said Commissioner has no means of obtaining the receipt of said Hamlin to his estimates;

Therefore ordered that the Secretary of this Board certify on the estimate of the Engineer that the amount of said estimate should be properly credited to John Dixon, Commissioner of the 6th Judicial Circuit."

When he made his final settlement with the State, Mr. Dixon was credited with payments to Hamlin aggregating \$4,923.44 as though made in August, 1839, and it is reasonably safe to assume that these payments were made pursuant to the action of the Board of Public Works, and that Mr. Dixon charged this amount against Hamlin.

The attachment suit brought by Mr. Dixon was allowed to slumber until June 18, 1841, when, as appears from the Jo Daviess County records, he obtained a judgment in the case against Hamlin for \$3,055, and costs. On December 14, 1841, Alexander Young, then Sheriff of that county, reported the judgment "satisfied in full." This clearly disproves the statement that Mr. Dixon "recovered judgment for the \$11,500 and interest," and there is no record of any suit by Mr. Dixon against Hamlin in Jo Daviess County, except this attachment suit.

That Hamlin did return to Galena is shown by a letter written, October 7, 1840, by Smith Gilbraith to Major James Sterling in which Gilbraith, speaking of this matter, says—"I am going to Galena this week to see Hamlin who owes him (Dixon) yet \$5,000." Considering this in connection with the fact that judgment was taken for but a small part of the claim, it seems very clear that Hamlin must have paid a good part of the debt before the judgment was rendered.

That there was difficulty in collecting this judgment is evident from the sworn statement of plaintiff's attorney, which reads as follows:

"On the 18th day of June A. D. 1841, I obtained a judgment in favor of John Dixon *vs.* Orin Hamlin before the Jo Daviess Circuit Court for the sum of three thousand and fifty five Dollars (\$3055). On this judgment an execution issued & a levy was made

& some property sold by the sheriff. I find by my memorandum book that on the 27 day of September 1841 the sum of two thousand six hundred 31/100 Dollars were paid to me by the sheriff which sum (\$2600. 31/100) I paid to Mr. Gilbraith on the 14th day of October 1841 as by the order of Mr. Dixon which I think I still have in my possession. Of course this amount of \$2600.31 did not pay up the judgment and there was a stable sold & bought in in the name of Mr. Gilbraith to whom Mr. Dixon had committed the whole business. This stable was afterwards sold by Mr. Gilbraith at auction I think some time in April 1842. The stable brought \$405. Mr. Montgomery was the auctioneer. Out of this sum of \$405 Mr. Montgomery paid me one hundred Dollars (\$100) on the 2d day of May 1842. There was something paid out of this sum of (\$405) for ground rent & for the expenses of sale. It appears by the receipt of Mr. Gilbraith which I have seen that on the 16th day of May 1842 Mr. Montgomery paid to Mr. Gilbraith the sum of (\$254.77) two hundred fifty four 77/100 Dollars—which I suppose was the proceeds of the sale after deducting the \$100 paid me and the expenses of sale & the ground rent. It seems that Mr. Gilbraith received on this judgment of Mr. Dixon *vs.* Hamlin \$2855.08 being the amount paid him by me and Mr. Montgomery as above stated I paying him \$2600.31 & Mr Montgomery \$254.77.

All of which is true to the best of my knowledge, recollection & belief.

THOMAS DRUMMOND.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
JO DAVIESS COUNTY

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 3d day of August A. D. 1843, as witness my hand & the official seal of the Circuit Court of Jo Daviess County.

(Seal.)

Attest WM. H. BRADLEY

*Clerk of Circuit Court*

*of Jo Daviess County.*”

Hamlin was elected sheriff of Peoria County in August, 1828, and county commissioner in 1834. In 1833 the

county court of Peoria County granted a permit to Alvah Moffat, Aquila Moffatt and Hamlin to erect a mill dam across Kickapoo creek, in what afterwards became Limestone township, and they built what was long known as the Monroe mill. In 1836 Robert Little, Augustus Langworthy and Hamlin laid out the town of Detroit, on the bank of the Illinois about six miles above Peoria. In 1843 he built in Peoria the county's first steam flouring mill. It would appear that Hamlin did not remain in hiding very long, for on December 8, 1840, Hart Fellows, Commissioner of Public Works for the 5th Judicial Circuit, paid him \$2,177.91 for construction work, but the report does not disclose anything more of the matter and we do not know where the work was performed. The reference, in his letter, to his brother prompts the thought that he may have been a brother of John Hamlin of Peoria.



## THE DIXON HOTEL COMPANY.

In 1837 the people of Dixon felt the need of a hotel that would be more in keeping with the town. Some of her enterprising business men conceived the idea of forming a corporation that would build and operate a modern, up-to-date hotel. They prepared and sent to Vandalia, then the capital of the State, a bill for "An Act incorporating the Dixon Hotel Company," which, having passed both houses of the legislature, received the Governor's approval March 2, 1837.

This Act declares John Atchison, James Evans, Charles S. Boyd, John Dixon, William C. Bostwick, Smith "Galbreath," James P. Dixon, L. S. Huff, John Brown, and their associates and successors, a corporation for the term of twenty years, under the name of the "Dixon Hotel Company." It placed the capital stock at twenty thousand dollars, appointed Evans, Boyd, "Galbreath" and James P. Dixon commissioners, to receive subscriptions for the capital stock, and empowered the company to purchase and hold land on which it could build and operate a hotel during the term of the corporation's life.

Boyd lived in Bureau county and was a brother-in-law of John Dixon. Atchison and Bostwick lived in Galena, the former being a director and the latter cashier of the Galena branch of the State Bank. Bostwick afterwards studied law and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1842. Possibly the company thought it could obtain funds from the State Bank, as that seems to have been an easy thing to do.

This Act does not, either by express grant or by implication, authorize the company to issue any notes or bills with the intent of circulating them as money. An examination of the original bill, which still remains on file in the office of the Secretary of State, shows that when the bill was presented to the legislature it contained a

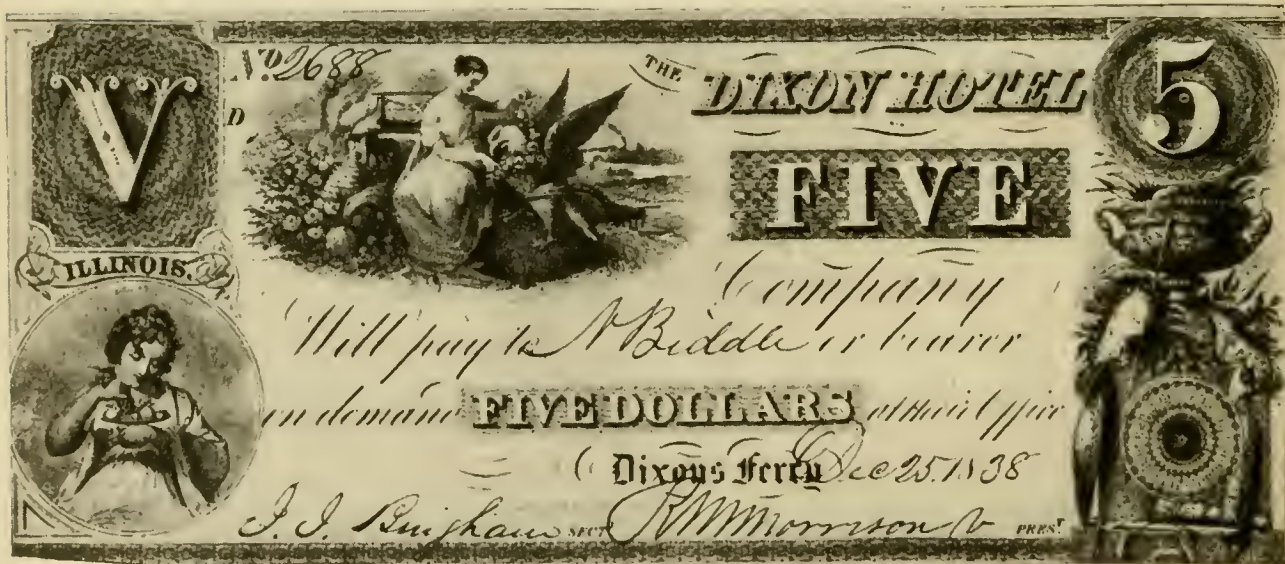
section, numbered two, specifically giving the corporation power to issue such bills, but that section was stricken out, and the bill was passed without any such provision.

The fact that the movers in the enterprise asked for a grant of such power may have prompted in their minds the thought that as the bill passed it did give that authority. At all events, whatever the reasoning may have been, the company did issue such bills and some of them are still in existence. The bills that have survived are in the denominations of one, three and five dollars. One of them is shown here. These notes had nothing whatever to do with the work on the old central railroad.

All of them that have come to our knowledge were payable to "N. Biddle or bearer". Students of United States history need not be told that this fictitious payee was the head of the Bank of the United States.

The company built the foundations for the original part of what is now the Nachusa Tavern, and then stopped work, its money being spent, and its energies exhausted.

In 1853 another corporation, with a capital of ten thousand dollars, built the original Nachusa House on these foundations, the house being opened to the public for business December 10, of that year.



## THE ILLINOIS AND ROCK RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY.

The complete failure of the state's internal improvement scheme was a hard blow to Dixon, but her enterprising business men were resourceful and soon evolved a plan that they fondly believed would secure to them some of the advantages they hoped to secure from the construction of the Central Rail Road. They appealed to the legislature and secured the passage of "An Act to provide for the construction of a railroad from La Salle to Dixon," which was approved February 27, 1841.

This act created a corporation to be known as the Illinois and Rock River Rail Road Company, to exist for a term of fifty years, with a capital stock of five hundred thousand dollars, divided into fifty dollar shares, and authorized it to construct and operate a railroad from La Salle "to the village of Dixon, in the county of Lee," terminating at such points on the Illinois and Rock Rivers as the company might select.

It appointed Horatio Newhall of Galena, Michael Kennedy of La Salle county, William Wilkinson and Dr. Oliver Everett of Dixon, commissioners to receive subscriptions for the capital stock.

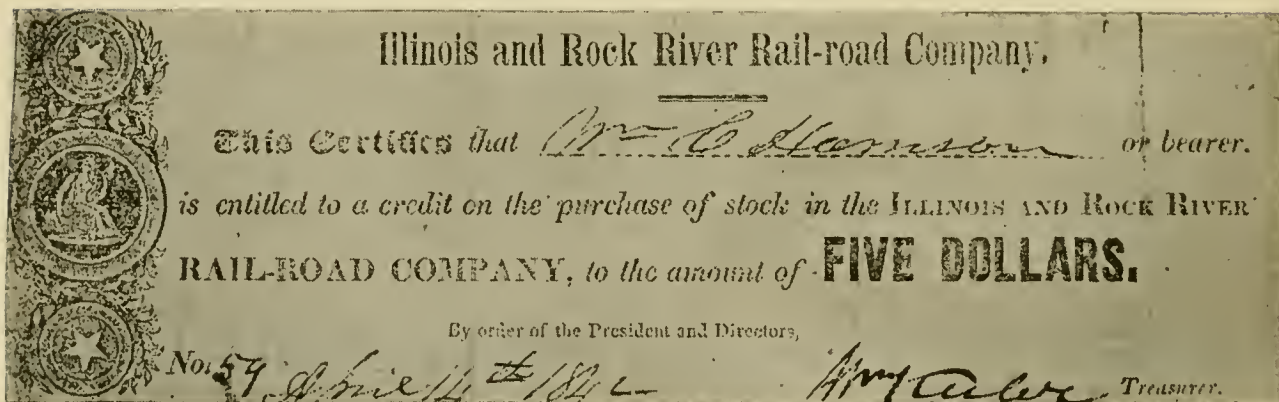
The act empowered this company to take possession of such roads or parts of railroad as had been constructed by the state, and to use them, and all materials of the state thereon, in the construction of the proposed railroad, but carefully provided that such possession was not to be taken until all the improvements made by the state and all the materials of the state had been valued by some competent engineer, and the amount so found by the engineer to be their value should be considered as so much capital stock of the company owned by the state. The state agreed, by the terms of the act, to furnish such necessary iron for a single track railroad as it had on hand.



It was further provided by the act that if the company did not complete its line within five years, or did not expend at least ten thousand dollars in twelve months after its organization, and at least ten thousand dollars in each twelve months thereafter, then the railroad and all the property of the company should revert to and become the property of the state.

The commissioners opened subscription books and received some subscriptions, and caused receipts to be issued to the subscribers, one of them being shown here. Having obtained some money by this method, the company undertook to complete the railroad, but was unable to do this, as it could not obtain the necessary capital.

Enough of receipt No. 1 remains to show that it was for \$10, paid by Harrison, was dated the same day and was signed by Keeler. The ornamental work at the left end varies from that shown above.



In its chapter on the town of Amboy, Hill's *History of Lee County*, p. 304, in speaking of the old Central Railroad, says:

"Dr. Harrison, of Peru, took a contract to build part of the line, and sent a force of laborers here in the fall of 1841 to renew the grading which had been begun four or five years before and worked upon at intervals afterward. He started a bank in Peru and issued circulation; but one day somebody went down and demanded specie for his paper, and was



refused. When news of this reached the gang of men up here they dropped their tools, and the sun never rose on a resumption of the work. Harrison's paper was in the hands of the people in this section, where it has remained so long that its 'staying qualities' are fully and forever established. It was known as 'Bangs' railroad money', and is a reminiscence of 'wildcat' banking, and of the old Central 'wildcat' improvement."

On page 471 of the same work, in the chapter on the town of May, speaking of John Darcy, who settled in that town in 1840, we find this:

"About this time Mr. Darcy worked a few weeks on the old State railroad, then being graded through May. Mr. Darcy, like many others, received nothing for his labor but some worthless paper issued by a certain A. H. Bongs (Bangs) of La Salle, who had started a bank there."

When the company suspended work the laborers became very indignant, and in their rage seized Bangs and dragged him through the streets. Serious injury would have been done to him but for the intervention of others who put him in a skiff and sent him down the river. (Beebe, *History of Peru*.)

A reading of Beebe's *History of Peru* induces the belief that the author thought "Dr. Harrison" was an unscrupulous quack.

Anson H. Bangs was president of the Bank of the United States at Syracuse, New York, as well as of the Farmers & Mechanics' Bank of Onondaga, at Fayetteville, New York.

From the report made to the legislature, in 1840, by Governor Carlin, it appears that the State had sold its internal improvement bonds, to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, to A. H. Bangs & Co., who were connected with the Onondaga Bank, and who obtained possession of these bonds without making any payment for them, and then sold them or some of them, to third persons,

whose names the Governor was unable to learn. He advised that suit be brought against Bangs to restrain the sale of the bonds, so far as that could be done, and to compel payment for them.

There was presented to the Thirteenth General Assembly a petition reciting that under the act providing for the incorporation of the Illinois and Rock River Rail Road Company, the commissioners named in that act opened books for stock subscriptions and it was all taken by A. H. Bangs, who thereafter acted and was recognized as the president of that company; that the company, through Bangs, let contracts for the construction of the road and that work to the amount of ten thousand dollars was done thereon by the petitioners; that "the company did not pay a single cent to any contractor or workman" and that both the company and Bangs had absconded and disappeared. The prayer of the petition was that the state estimate the work the petitioners had done and charge it to the amount expended by the state on that part of the Central Rail Road. The petition was sent to the committee on internal improvements, and, on February 27, 1843, laid on the table.

All the signers of this petition were residents of La Salle county. The petition does not show in what locality the work mentioned was done.

The legislature passed, and there was approved on March 6, 1843, "An Act to extend the time for the completion of the Illinois and Rock River Rail Road," which provides that the time for the construction of the road shall be extended until five years after the final completion of the Illinois and Michigan canal, and it authorizes the company to extend its line beyond "the village of Dixon" and to terminate it at some point on the Mississippi River.

On May 16, 1843, Governor Thomas Ford wrote D. H. T. Moss, Esq.:

"I am obliged to you for the information contained

in your letter of the twelfth instant; and I accordingly empower you to sell any of the timber or stone or other materials, on or near the line of the railroad between La Salle and Dixon, either at public or private sale, according to your best judgment; also to change the places of the public sales heretofore directed. I also authorize you to settle with any and all persons who may have used any such materials; and to sue for the same, in case they refuse to account, at fair and reasonable prices, and pay for the same."

June 16, 1843, Governor Thomas Ford wrote to George W. Gilson, Esq., as follows:

"In answer to your letter I beg leave to state that I have been informed that the officers and agents of the Rock River Rail Road Company have been selling the materials of the road for their own use and without intending to make the road. This, if true, is a fraud on the State and of a piece with the villainy practiced everywhere upon the public interests. I desire you to inform the president of that company and all others interested that it is my intention to have actions at law commenced here in Sangamon county against all persons found committing those frauds."

Gilson had been an engineer in the employment of the state and in November, 1838, had charge of the construction of the old Central Railroad south of La Salle.

This letter was evidently written when the Governor was not fully advised as to the facts in the case. It brought a letter from H. P. Woodworth, writing in behalf of the company.

June 23, 1843, Governor Ford wrote to Woodworth as follows:

"I received your letter of the 20th instant and am much gratified that the Illinois and Rock River Railroad Co. has been organized in good faith and with the intention of making the road. I heartily wish you success. It appears from your letter that this is the day which has been appointed by Mr. Moss for the sale of the timber, stone, &c.

“I am sorry that you or some other person did not write me sooner. I did not know who the company were, and from my advices I could not but believe that a pretended company existed who were about to commit great frauds on the State. If, however, I could have been furnished with the information contained in your letter in time I would have ordered Mr. Moss to delay proceedings until the matter could have been inquired into. If you see Mr. Moss, and he has not yet sold, show him this letter and request him to desist until I can further inquire into the matter.”

Woodworth had been principal engineer of the state on the northern division of the old Central Railroad. From this letter it would seem that he had become connected, in some capacity, with the Illinois and Rock River Rail Road Company.

We have found no evidence indicating that the Governor made further “enquiry,” or that anything more was done in the matter. It is common knowledge that the road was not built.



## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Kurtz's *History of Dixon and Palmyra*, p. 6, says:

“May 28, 1838, ‘The First Regular Baptist Church of Dixon and Buffalo Grove was organized at Buffalo Grove, Thomas Powell moderator, the following named persons were the original members: Houland Bicknell, Rebecca Dixon, Elizabeth Bellows, Jerusha Hammond, Sarah Kellogg, Martha Parks and Ann Clarley.’”

The “*History of the Illinois River Baptist Association*,” prepared by Gilbert S. Bailey for and published by the Association in 1857, says that the annual meeting of the association was held in Princeton in 1838 and admitted to membership “Dixon and Buffalo Grove in Lee County with fourteen members.” At this meeting a committee was appointed to prepare sketches of the origin of the churches, and its report, in part, reads as follows:

“Dixon and Buffalo Grove. Two Baptist sisters from the Mulberry street church, in New York, settled with their families in these places some years before the removal of the Indians, and continued alone until the commencement of the white settlements introduced a few Baptist brethren around them. In the latter part of May, they were visited and gathered into a church by elder Thomas Powell. Three were received and baptized into the fellowship of the church at that time.”

It appears from this authority that the annual meeting of the association was held in Dixon in June, 1842, when the Dixon church had forty members, and that Dixon and Buffalo Grove were dismissed the following year, to unite with the Rock River Association.

### LEE COUNTY'S FIRST PHYSICIAN.

Dr. Green Forrest, a Kentuckian, announced in the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser* of April 25, 1835, and the subsequent numbers for six months, that he had "located, permanently, one mile northeast of Dixon's Ferry, where he can be found at all times when not absent on professional business."

That he was there before the day of the first advertisement is shown by John Dixon's account books, which contain undated charges of a dollar for "11 light sash," and seventy-five cents for "12 glass," and a load of hay, price not stated, and these precede a charge of one dollar and a quarter for shoeing a horse "Mar. 5," and a charge, "Apl. 1," for a load of hay, price not stated, and a credit dated "Mar. 9, 1835." The last dated charge against him on these books is that of August 21, 1835.

Dr. Forrest lived on what was known for years as the Woodford farm, above the Assembly grounds. Later he built and lived in a log house that stood at the southwest corner of East River street and Ottawa avenue. It is stated by John K. Robinson, in Kurtz's *History of Dixon and Palmyra*, that Dr. Forrest went back to Kentucky, but the time of his departure is not known now. There are circumstances, however, that make it reasonably certain that he left Dixon in 1835.

A Dr. Spencer, son of John C. Spencer of New York, once Secretary of War and later Secretary of the Treasury, was living in Dixon in September, 1836, when Dr. Oliver Everett arrived there in his search for a location. Spencer immediately importuned Everett to stay so that he might return to New York, saying he did not want to live so far from his old home and friends, but had promised Mr. Dixon he would stay until a successor appeared. When Everett decided to locate there Spencer gave him

several books, one being a copy of Byron's Poems. Long afterwards Everett found those parts of *Don Juan* describing the mutiny of the ship's crew were underscored by pencil marks. Later there was a mutiny on one of the vessels of our navy, and the leaders of the crew seem to have followed the conduct described by Byron. One of that mutinous crew was Dr. Spencer's brother, and for his participation in the mutiny he was hanged at the yard arm. These facts were related to the writer on several occasions by Dr. Everett.

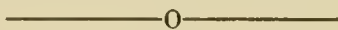
In the account books kept by John Dixon there is an account reading "Doctor Rutlidg"—"1832, May 9, commenced," but there is nothing showing what was commenced or how long it was continued, nor is there any amount charged. Following this is the last entry—"Dinner for six men \$1.50," but it is without date. There are several charges, beginning December 25, 1834, and ending March 30, 1835, against "Dr. Evans," for letters, evidently meaning the postage on letters. The books give no other information of these men, or either of them.

As Dr. Everett made his home in Dixon in 1836 and remained there for more than fifty years, the rest of his life, he is entitled to be called the first physician in Lee county.



## EARLY POLITICS.

The *Northwestern Gazette & Galena Advertiser* says that at an election in August, 1836, the vote in the Dixon precinct of Ogle county for members of the House of Representatives was, Elijah Charles (elected), 10; Luther H. Bowen of Savanna, 10; John Turney of Galena, 10; James Craig (elected), 8, and ——— Bennett, 1.



At the congressional election in 1838 the Third district, containing the thriving towns of Decatur, Springfield, Quincy, Bloomington, Galena and Chicago, had two candidates—John T. Stuart, Whig, and Stephen A. Douglas, Democrat. Andreas' *History of Chicago* says Douglas received 18,337, Stuart 18,405. C. C. Brown, *vol. 7, p. 110, Publications, Illinois Historical Library*, says the total vote was 36,461, and Stuart's majority 14. Dr. J. F. Snyder, in his article upon James H. Ralston (*Publications Ill. State His. Soc., v. 13, p. 223*) says Douglas had 18,213 votes and Stuart 18,248.

The *Sangamon Journal* (Springfield) of September 8, 1838, says the official vote was Douglas 17730, Stuart 17807.

The *Illinois State Register and People's Advocate* (Vandalia) of October 12, 1838, says the official vote, "as corrected," was Douglas 18242, Stuart 18247, and that the vote in Ogle county was Douglas 273, Stuart 532.

In a letter dated November 10, 1884, J. Young Scammon writes to the *Inter Ocean* that "Douglas was in Chicago on the day of the election, and he received so large a vote in Cook County that he had no doubt of his election. He was so elated that when he started for Jacksonville, where he then resided, he took his seat on the front of the stage with the driver, and traveled on down to Lockport, receiving the congratulations of his

friends on the way. When he got to the latter place he found that the canal men and hands had voted against him because in the Legislature he was in favor of the 'shallow cut,' and opposed to a deep canal. Mr. E. B. Talcott was then an assistant engineer on the canal works and resided in Lockport. He engineered the bolt and induced the scratching of Douglas' name from Democratic tickets and substituting Stuart's. This was a discouraging aspect of the case, but as Douglas proceeded southward on his journey he found that this defection did not extend far below Lockport, and that Ottawa and Peru and the residue of the canal regions had given him the usual democratic majorities. But when he arrived at Peoria, which was then the central point whence the stages converged, he found that the military tract was less favorable to him than he had expected, and the belief was there that Stuart was elected by a small majority. It was so close, however, that the result was claimed by both parties, and doubt was not removed until the official returns reached the office of the Secretary of State, which showed that Douglas was elected by 8 majority. Mr. James Matheny, who was at that time a young and very ardent Whig, said he believed 'the Democrats had been cheating us,' and if any one would pay his expenses he would saddle his horse in the morning and go to every county-seat and examine the poll-books. Mr. Stuart paid his expenses and he made the examination, traveling over the whole district and examining all the poll-books. He found quite a number of errors, but they all canceled each other, except in one precinct, where the poll-book showed that in carrying over Stuart's vote from one page where he had a majority his votes were put in the Douglas column on the next page, and Douglas' into his. Correcting this mistake the decision of the returns was reversed, and Stuart elected by twelve or thirteen votes. This was

done and the facts certified to the Secretary of State, and Stuart got the certificate."

Scammon says that the voting was *viva voce*, and that is the fact, no ballots being cast, and no ballot box being used, so his reference to scratched tickets is incomprehensible.

Frederick R. Dutcher, who was then living in Dixon, discovered an error in the addition of the votes in the precincts in Lee county, and he promptly made his discovery known to John S. Roberts of Springfield, who, in turn, laid the matter before Douglas. In a few days Dutcher received the following letter:

Springfield, Oct. 2d, 1839.

DEAR SIR:

Mr. Roberts has just placed in my hands a letter from you show a mistake in the Poll Book of your precinct of 3 votes. Every vote is important at this crisis. You have my grateful acknowledgements for the kindness you have already shown. But I must ask of you the favor to carefully add up the votes in each of the other precincts and see if there have been no mistakes in the *addition* of them by the Clerks & Judges. This can all be done at the Clerk's office where you will find all the Poll Books of the county. When you shall have examined all the Poll Books I wish you would get the Clerk of the Co Comrs Court to call to his assistance two Justices of the Peace & to make a new return correcting the mistakes, This has been done in many other counties and will be in all soon. It is important that this should be attended to *immediately* as the time is fast approaching when I must leave for Washington. Please send the names of the illegal voters and also the witness by whom they can be proven to be illegal. I am with great respect

your friend,

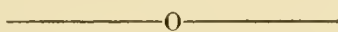
S. A. DOUGLASS.

F. R. Dutcher, Esq.,  
Dixon, Lee Co.,  
Ill.



Dutcher immediately re-examined the Lee county books and then carefully examined the books in Ogle, White-side and Carroll, only to find that the errors there counterbalanced.

The great majority of the electors in the Dixon precinct voted for Stuart, in retaliation upon Douglas for his support of John Phelps in the fight for the county seat.



The first political convention held in Lee county convened in November, 1839, and was due to the activities of Frederick R. Dutcher. He received the following letter in October of that year:

SIR:

The State Central Corresponding Committee have deemed it advisable to call a State Convention of the Democratic Party, at Springfield, on the 2d Monday in December next, for the purpose of adopting a more efficient system of organization, and also to nominate candidates for Presidential Electors. The propriety of this measure has been pressed upon the consideration of the Committee by many of our friends from different parts of the State, and its necessity is rendered the more urgent by the zealous, energetic, concerted movements of the Federal party in this State. That Party has recently held a State Convention in this place; has adopted an efficient system of organization. with their State, County and Precinct Committees; have nominated their Candidates for Presidential Electors; and have instructed those Candidates to mount the stump, and harangue the people wherever they can find them assembled; and, in short, are prepared for and have avowed their determination to make a vigorous and determined effort for the prostration of Democratic principles, and the ascendancy of Federal Whiggery, in this State, and the Nation. The result of such an issue we do not doubt or fear. We are willing and ought to be prepared to meet them boldly and



fearlessly upon their own ground, and fight them in the manner, and upon the issue they have formed.

For the purpose of being fully prepared for the contest, equally well organized, and upon an equal footing at the opening of the campaign, you are requested to *immediately* consult with our friends, and call a meeting in your county, and appoint delegates to the proposed Convention.

Each County is requested to send a number of Delegates at least double the number of their Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly; and each County, no matter how small, two Delegates, and as many more as it chooses.

As our Government is emphatically a Government of the People, deriving its existence from them, we would recommend an expression of opinion in your Resolutions upon the subjects that agitate the country, and upon the following, particularly:

- 1st. The Constitutional Treasury Bill, as recommended by President Van Buren.
- 2d. A National Bank, as recommended by Mr. Clay.
- 3d. The GAG BILL, depriving officers of the right of speech, as introduced by Mr. Crittenden, in the U. S. Senate, and by Mr. Otwell, in the Illinois Legislature.
- 4th. The *Repeal of the Salt Tax* and the *suppression of the Salt Monopoly*, as recommended by Mr. Benton, Mr. Woodbury, and other distinguished Democrats in Congress.
- 5th. The right of the Governor to nominate a Secretary of State, as provided by the Constitution, and exercised by Gov. Carlin.
- 6th. The decision of the Supreme Court installing A. P. Field in office for life.

An expression of opinion upon the above, and such other subjects as shall occur to you as important to the country, is desired in order that the Delegates may bring with them the sentiments of the people upon these interesting questions.

We would further recommend that at your meet-

ings you appoint a Corresponding Committee for your County, at or near the County Seat, to consist of *three* persons, and also a Committee of Vigilance of *three* persons in each Justice's Precinct of your County, to continue as permanent Committees until others shall be appointed, and to be composed of sound and efficient Democrats, who will use all fair and honorable means to sustain the Principles and Candidates of the Democratic Party. You will please forward the proceedings of your meeting to the State Register, at this place, and to the other nearest Democratic paper, for publication. We are very respectfully your fellow citizens.

VIRGIL HICKOX,  
JOHN TAYLOR,  
ROBERT ALLEN,  
JOHN CALHOUN,  
CHARLES R. HURST,  
JOHN S. ROBERTS,  
DAVID PRICKETT,  
*Corresponding Committee.*

Springfield, October 10, 1839.

Dutcher consulted with some of his fellow Democrats and formed a committee that called a county convention and then organized a precinct committee that issued the following:

#### “NOTICE

A meeting of the democratic party of the Dixon precinct will be held at the Western Hotel on Friday 15th inst at 6 o'clock P M for the purpose of appointing four delegates to meet at the same place on the 16th inst at 12 o'clock to meet delegates from the different precincts of this County to appoint delegates to meet the State Convention to be held at Springfield on the 2nd Monday in December next for the purpose of nominating Candidates for the Presidential Electors and such other business as may be deemed necessary for the better organising the Democratic party of this County also pass resilu-

tions relative to the Questions in a certain letter read from the State Corresponding Committee.

FREDERICK R. DUTCHER,  
HARVEY MORGAN,  
DANIEL FROST,  
*Corresponding Committee.*

Dixon Nov 14th 1839."

No record of the other proceedings of this precinct committee was preserved. The record of the county convention still exists and it reads thus:

"At a Democratic meeting of Delegates appointed from each precinct pursuant to a call from the Central Corresponding Committee of Lee county convened at the Western Hotel in Dixon the 16th inst at 12 o'clock for the purpose of appointing delegates to attend the State Convention at Springfield on the 2d Monday in December next—and such other business as might be deemed necessary.

Samuel Johnston was called to the chair & Frederick R Dutcher appointed secretary

The object of the meeting having been stated by the chair

Resolved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to recommend to this meeting suitable delegates to attend the State convention at Springfield and Draft resolutions expressive of the views of this meeting.

The following persons composed said committee

Wm. P Burroughs

Daniel Frost

Jeremiah Whipple

who after retiring a short time made the following report, which was unanimously adopted—

Whereas a crisis now exists in this nation, which every true republican must feel the Importance of to the Democratic party, and whereas we believe the principles adopted by Martin Van Buren are the true principles of the party and should be supported by every true Democrat, Therefore Resolved that the delegates to Springfield to nominate candidates for presidential electors be instructed to vote for

such men as will support the principles of the present administration—

1st. Resolved, That the Subtreasury Scheme is the true method of receiving and disbursing the Public Revenue, also that it is the duty of every true Democrat to sustain Martin Van Buren for the next presidency in order that he may more fully carry out the views of the administration Party—

2d. Resolved, That we believe it is the duty of the Democratic party in this State to be more cautious in appointing men in office as it appears that a majority of Democratic appointments are conservatives and Whigs and that none but true and Tried Democrats should Receive Important appointments to office from the Democratic Republicans of this State.

3d. Resolved, that in nominating John A. McClernand Secretary of State Gov Carlin exercised the right guaranteed him by the constitution of this State, and should be supported by every true Democrat.

4th. Resolved, That the decision of the Supreme Court of this State installing A P Field in the office of Secretary of State for life is both unconstitutional and entirely at variance with the principles of Republican Institutions.

5th. Resolved, that the Sistem of plundering and Swindling carried on by the Banks throughout the union has been the means of building up an aristocratic party, styling themselves Whigs, and that we predict the downfall of Federal Whigery, and their handmaids, whenever the Political juggling of the one, and the corruption of the other, shall be more apparent to the Honest Yeomanry of the country.

6th. Resolved, that the transactions of the State Bank of Illinois have become oppressive to the majority of the people, extending discounts to the few for Political effect and agrandisement, also Resolved that we believe the charter should be repealed, and a more equal and efficient sistem of Banking Introduced.



The following delegates to meet at Springfield the 2d Monday in December were then appointed

Frederick R Dutcher

Wm. P Burroughs

Edward Southwick

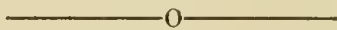
Resolved, that the delegates be empower to fill vacancies should any occur in their number.

Voted that the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman an Secretary and published in the Chicago & Galena Democrat & State Register.

SAMUEL JOHNSTON, *chairman*

FREDERICK R DUTCHER, *Secretary.*''

Dutcher was the only Lee county delegate who attended the state convention. „



The *Northwestern Gazette & Galena Advertiser* says the Whigs held a convention at Dixon May 8, 1840, and nominated Thomas Drummond of Galena, for many years judge of the United States courts, and Hiram W. Thornton of Millersburgh, Mercer county, a land agent and lawyer who had been a blacksmith, for members of the lower house of the legislature. In talking with me of this convention E. B. Washburn laid emphasis on the fact that Thornton was a blacksmith. These nominees were elected.

The delegates attending from Lee county were Cyrus Chamberlain, Thomas McCabe, Oliver Everett, G. A. Martin, John Cutshaw, H. A. Coe, F. W. Coe, Joseph Crawford, J. B. Cutshaw, Jeremiah Murphy, James M. Santee, W. W. Johnson, John Moss and David Welty.

The *Gazette*, of a later day, gives this much of the vote:

	Drummond	Thornton	Campbell	Van Valzah
Dixon precinct	152		111	
Lee county	254	256	201	212

Thompson Campbell, a Galena lawyer, afterwards Secretary of State, later a member of Congress, and Dr.

Van Valzah, one of the first of the Pennsylvanians to settle in Stephenson county, were the Democratic nominees.

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In 1842 the vote in Lee county for governor was Ford, Democrat, 237; Duncan, Whig, 238; Hunter, Free Soil, 7; for lieutenant governor, Moore, Democrat, 236; Henderson, Whig, 254; Collins, Free Soil, 7.

In 1844 the vote in Lee county was Polk, 315; Clay, 244; Birney, 48.

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The Democrats of the Second Congressional district, comprising Cook, De Kalb, Du Page, Kane, Lee, Rock Island and Whiteside counties, held their convention in Dixon on the fifteenth of September, 1852, Col. John Dement being the chairman. The delegates from Lee county were John Dement, John V. Eustace, Richard F. Adams, John Gilmore and Hiram Wood. The nominee was John Wentworth of Chicago, and he was elected, by a vote of 7538 to 6437 for Cyrus Aldrich of Lee, the Whig and 2149 for James H. Collins of Chicago the Abolition candidates. The vote in Lee county was Wentworth 508, Aldrich 565, Collins 55.

## AMBOY.

From a private letter, written by one of her pioneer business men, the following is quoted to show some incidents in Amboy's beginning:

Greenwich, Mass., Nov. 14th, 1854.

ALFRED E. PATTEN,  
Osceola, Iowa.

I am writing you sitting in my chair with my portfolio in my lap, as I do not feel able to bend over a table.

\* \* \* \* \*

I will commence at the time we separated at Albany. I regret that you had promised to go to Clarke County, Iowa, for I thought you might do just as well in Ill., but to my doings. Chann and myself took horse and buggy the next day after you left, in search of a location for the business we talked of and to see the country, likewise we spent about one week in riding and of course saw a good deal of the country between Albany and Chicago. I think I am pretty well posted in the matter. The country a little back and north of Albany is quite rolling, though not quite so much as back of Albany where we went. I presume it would not have been as rolling if we had gone six or eight miles farther to the east. You may depend that the land back of Albany in that country to Sterling on Rock River will be the best wheat lands at present of any in Northern Illinois, and still it is not one-tenth part broken or fenced as yet. I tell you the country is most beautiful from Albany to Sterling. I crossed it twice. Well, the first night we staid with Hiram Fish. He married Mr. Sprout's daughter of our place you know. We had a special time of it you may depend. He lives at Gap Grove and has a little bit of a house, nice and cozy though old. You will recollect he is the man that must have a nice horse and buggy. He built the cottage adjoining his father's house, but things are changed. He kicked up his heels in great glee at seeing me, offered such as he had, said that

was good enough and would not put himself out a cents worth for us. Well he enjoys himself and no mistake. He lives on the main road from Dixon to Albany, Fulton City, etc. He has 80 acres I think of land. Bought it two years ago for 6 or 8 per acre, now worth \$25. to \$35. per acre. He lives in plain sight of A. Powers' place. W. Town staid with us at Fish's. He was just starting for Minnesota, bag and baggage. He wants to make a fortune in a day, but don't know how to do it, wants to do it without work. We started next morning for Dixon and so on down the Illinois Central R. R. After traveling some 12 miles southeast of Dixon we ran unexpectedly on a place by the name of Amboy. When we first saw it, it struck my fancy, for we were on quite an elevation and looked down upon it, it looked fine. We were on our way for Mendota 17 miles south at the junction of the Military Track and Illinois Central. I told Chan. I would have a lot or so whether or not, before we got there (that is Amboy), and in great glee we descended a slope of one-half mile or so to the tavern and depot. The company have laid out a good deal of expense here already. The tavern which belongs to the company cost some twelve thousands. This was finished when I was there the last time and would be opened the next week. It is a fine affair. I went pretty much over it and into the observatory on the top of it. They have a large freight house done, likewise a very large round house capable of holding 23 engines at once with a very large turn-table in the center. The track work is done to this likewise but the top is not on. Their buildings when all done will cover several acres and all of brick. They calculate to employ some three hundred hands. It is said they intend to make this a kind of shifting station for engineers and engines. They will stop for meals also. There are other expectations, though they may not be realized. The greatest is, that the County Seat will be removed from Dixon to Amboy. Dixon is in the edge of Lee County, only one town between it and the two other Counties, and Amboy is within one mile or so of the exact center. The Company has made some offers



of lands already and the tug of war will soon come, and a tug it will be, as Dixon is quite a large place and plenty of money to spend in such business. But the middle and southern portion of the county is getting quite thickly settled and if true to themselves, will out-vote the influence of Dixon. They had a trial two or three years ago to get it at a little place five miles from here called Lee Center but could not out-vote Dixon influence, but things are different now. I bought the first day I was there one lot on Main Street about 12 or 15 rods from the Depot. I paid \$175. for it, bought it second hand, could have taken \$200. for it before I left, size of lot 50 feet front 160 back. We went down to Mendota and staid a day. I say down for it is 300 feet lower than Amboy though on pretty much the same kind of land. Well it is one of the places we read of. One year ago there was, I think, not a house in the place, now I should think there was 150 of all shapes and sizes and three taverns. They were all full and I saw that many slept in cars where the seats had been taken out. I saw a large tent full besides, but I think it must be an unhealthy place and awful muddy. Amboy will be muddy enough for that matter.

The country around both places is much richer than Whiteside County, most too rich for wheat at present, though they raise good spring wheat. Around Dixon it is quite sandy and some of the soil poor. I think I would like a farm here but I do not know but it would come too high. Lands have been offered here or within 5 or 6 miles for \$7 and \$8 per acre with considerable improvements, but I don't suppose it will be my luck to find any such. Land will be high, very high, within say five years, at least \$25 per acre. I did not ride around Amboy as I now wished I had. It lays like this, Binghamton quite a place one mile east on a branch of Green River. It has one flowering mill, school house and a little meeting house. Rockyford is one mile west. Lee Center 5 miles north and the old town of Amboy a few miles northwest. So you will see that the country will soon be thickly settled and now is my time if ever here. Last time, there was in Amboy only two

houses and two barns. This time most of the lots are probably sold. There was several little houses up when I was there, one blacksmith shop, three stores and lots ready to build as soon as the railroad got in. It is in by this time. When we returned to Amboy we had the refusal of five more lots. For one fortnight I will stay here. We were very fortunate in coming across a kind of cousin of yours and an own cousin of Chan's. Their names are Clark. Uncle Benj. married their aunt. One of them is boss of the carpenter work and we staid with him while there. Three churches have sites either purchased or given in the place. Now, whether all or half of the things take place is more than I can tell, though all looks well. I do not think it will make so much difference in our business. It is first rate every where I went. In returning we staid one night with A. Powers and went over his farm. He has a good one, 600 acres, worth from \$25 to \$35 per acre, that's all. The night I was there it rained and when we started next morning the wind blew as no other winds, but these western winds can blow. It was very cold likewise though it had been very warm previously. We rode 40 miles that day and without eating. When we got home we found ourselves pretty badly chilled. I was griped some before we got home. We ate supper and directly after I had an attack of cholic. \* \* \* I started for home in just one week from the time I had the cholic for I was very anxious about the lots at Amboy as we had not paid for them and we had concluded to go there. At first I thought it would cost so much for building lots that we could not go there, but after calculating I thought it best. Our business lots 160 front and 160 deep cost us \$400, half down, the remainder in one year, and so with all of them. These lots lay directly on the railroad and a switch will come in front. The street is 100 feet wide besides. (Father has just stepped into my room with the news that Pelhem, Prescott, Belchertown, Enfield, You-All-Know-Nothings. In Greenwich K. N. 112, Whig 22, Dem. 8 I think F. S. 5.) John Powers carried me to Amboy and I was just on time to save the lots. The next day I started

for home. I got detained twice by brake downs and in my weak state took cold and come home with fever which has completely prostrated me. I am as weak as a child as yet and I write you but a line or two at a time. I mean to sell at any rate if I can. If I cannot I shall hire a man I think and go out as soon as the boys get ready and stay through the season.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have any amount of questions I would like to ask you. You I should think by your letter, think that Iowa is the place for farming because the land is cheap and just as good as Ill. though you did not say so. Now I grant that land is as good (doubtful) in Iowa and certainly cheaper than it is in Ill. But now I would like to ask you some questions. What is corn worth as a general thing throughout the state? What is oats worth and wheat, etc. Perhaps emigration just now makes a market there or at least helps it considerable but that will not last long. Now I find a difference between Albany market and Powers market, fifteen cents on wheat per bushel and everything in proportion almost. The east is to be the great market for grains most certainly, and the more central, and certainly the nearest to market, will be the most valuable country.

Now as to going on to a farm not improved I cannot see much gain, especially to a man who has some means. If a man gets a farm in Ill. with a little snug house and barn and say 160 acres of land with 40 or 50 acres improved, he can break up the remainder when it suits his convenience and fence it at odd jobs. Fencing actually costs \$1.00 per rod in my opinion everything counted. Iowa market may be good but it can never equal Ill. in my opinion. Many have been out from Ill. to Iowa and have come back satisfied that land is as high, and most say higher than in Ill., with not as good privileges. I am inclined to think so myself.

There are other things. Society in Ill. is improving rapidly and I will tell you now eastern people are coming in with means to buy and the wondering uneasy half civilized population are going west. This



is a real fact, it is not imagination. There are many emigrants going from Ind. I do not know how many I asked in my travels where they were from and where going. The answer in every case but one was from Ind. Where bound "To Iowa City." Further than that they did not know. The secret is the Yankees are coming in with money and have bought them out. The same thing is taking place in Illinois slowly. The poorest of emigration does not stop in Illinois much now.

Now as far as your business as concerned, that is money-getting, I do not doubt that Iowa is the place, and if you can get the right place (and there are places enough) you can do better than farming no doubt, and I advise you to go into it, now is your time. Almost any where, one if rightly situated can get rich with your means. I mean in the western country.

I must close this long letter for I am pretty tired and I guess you will be by the time you wade through it. Write me a good long letter and I will write as long a one in return.

Yours, &c.,

R. H. MELLEN.



## THE GENESIS OF LEE COUNTY.

Claiming jurisdiction by right of conquest, Virginia, upon the fifth of October, 1778, passed "An Act for establishing the County of Illinois, and for the more effectual protection and defense thereof," which enacted "that all the citizens of this commonwealth who are already settled, or shall hereafter settle on the western side of the Ohio river, shall be included in a distinct county which shall be called Illinois County."

When St. Clair county, our first county, was formed, April, 1790, by the proclamation of Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio, it included all the country between the Illinois, Mississippi and Ohio rivers and a line drawn from the Illinois at the mouth of the Little Mackinaw, a few miles below Pekin, to the Ohio at the mouth of a small stream a short distance above Fort Massac which stood at the eastern edge of Metropolis City. (*St. Clair Papers.*)

Knox county, now entirely within Indiana, was established the twentieth of the following June and embraced, with parts of Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, all the territory in our state east of St. Clair and the Illinois river to the confluence of the Kankakee and Des Plaines and a line due north from that point. (*St. Clair Papers.*)

Randolph was created by proclamation October 5th, 1795, and included all the territory south of a line drawn from the Mississippi through Cove Spring (near Waterloo) to the Knox county line; thence along Knox to the Ohio. (*St. Clair Papers.*)

On August 25, 1796, Governor St. Clair created the Wayne county that is now wholly within Ohio, giving it, with other territory, all of Illinois north and east of a line running from Fort Wayne, Indiana, "westnortherly to the most southern part of Lake Michigan; thence along

the western shore of the same to the northwest part thereof (including the lands upon the streams emptying into said lake); thence by a due north line to the territorial boundary in Lake Superior." (*Douglass' History of Wayne County, Ohio.*)

On the third of February, 1801, Governor William H. Harrison of Indiana Territory fixed Randolph's boundaries by a line beginning "on the Ohio river at a place called the Great Cave, below the Saline Lick; thence by a direct north line until it intersects an east and west line running from the Mississippi through the Sink Hole Spring; thence along said line to the Mississippi; thence down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Ohio, and up the Ohio to the place of beginning." (*Ind. His. Soc. Pub. 3, p. 98.*) The Great Cave is in Hardin county, and is now known as Cave-in-Rock. The Sink Hole Spring was nearly on the present Randolph-St. Clair line. (*Beckwith, History of Vermilion County.*)

January 24, 1803, Governor Harrison, by proclamation, created the Wayne county that is now wholly within Michigan, and placed in it all that part of Illinois north and east of lines drawn "through the southerly extreme" and "the most westerly bend of" Lake Michigan. (*Ind. His. Soc. Pub. vol. 3, p. 115.*)

On March 25, 1803, he fixed the line between Randolph and St. Clair at one drawn from the Mississippi "four miles and thirty-two chains south of the point where the present division line intersects the Mississippi bottom; thence by a direct line to the Sink Hole Springs; thence by a line north, sixty degrees east, until it intersects a north line running from the Great Cave on the Ohio." This order, however, was not to be effective until the first of the following May. (*Ind. His. Soc. Pub. 3, p. 118.*)

This line was adopted and confirmed by an order of Nathaniel Pope, Secretary and Acting Governor of Illi-

nois Territory, April 28, 1809. (*Ill. St. His. Library Pub. 3, pp. 3, 4.*)

On the 14th of September, 1812, Governor Ninian Edwards of Illinois Territory issued a proclamation creating three new counties, Madison, Gallatin and Johnson. Madison was given all the territory north of the "second township line above Cahokia," its present south line and its extension east to Indiana.

The first county formed by legislation in the Territory of Illinois is Edwards, and it was created by "An Act for the division of Gallatin county," passed November 28, 1814, which provides "that all that tract of land within the following boundaries (to wit) beginning at the mouth of the Bompas creek on the Big Wabash and running thence due west to the meridian line which runs due north from the mouth of the Ohio river; thence with said meridian line and due north 'till it strikes the line of Upper Canada; thence with the line of Upper Canada to the line that separates this territory from the Indiana Territory; and thence with the said dividing line to the beginning shall constitute a separate county to be called Edwards." The south line of Edwards has been shortened, but not changed otherwise.

The "Act for the division of Edwards county," in force December 31, 1816, created Crawford and gave it that part of Edwards north of a line beginning at the mouth of Embarrass river, and running with said river to the intersection of the line dividing townships three and four north, range eleven west of the second principal meridian; thence west with the township line to the meridian.

The "Act forming a new county out of the county of Madison," approved January 4, 1817, created Bond and gave it the territory north of the St. Clair-Madison line extended to the third principal meridian that is west of

the meridian and east of the Mason-Logan line extended from Wisconsin to the southeast corner of Madison.

That part of Crawford lying north of the line dividing townships eight and nine north was cut off by the "Act forming a new county out of the county of Crawford," approved March 22, 1819, and formed into the county of Clark.

The "Act establishing the County of Greene," approved January 20, 1821, gave that county the country in the present Greene and Jersey, and attached to it the territory within a line running from the southwest corner of the present Macoupin to the southeast corner of Macoupin; thence north to the northeast corner of that county; thence west twelve miles; thence along the prairie between the waters of the Mauvaise Terre and the Sangamon to the head of Balance creek, and down that creek and the Illinois to Greene and along its northern and eastern boundaries to the place of beginning.

The "Act establishing the County of Sangamon," approved January 30, 1821, gave that county the territory north of township twelve, north, bounded by the Illinois, the third principal meridian and Greene's attached territory.

The greater part of the territory south of a line from the Mississippi at the southwest corner of Rock Island County east on the north line of township fifteen, fourth principal meridian, to the Illinois river, near DePue, was set aside for entry under land warrants given to the veterans of our wars, and this circumstance fastened upon it the name of the "Military Tract," or "Bounty Land," which it still bears.

The "Act to form a new county on the bounty lands," approved January 31, 1821, created Pike and gave it a boundary line beginning at the mouth of the Illinois river and running thence up that river to its forks; and thence up the south fork to the Indiana line; along that to the



northern boundary of our state, and on that to the west line of the state; and thence down that line to the place of beginning.

“An act forming a new county out of the parts of counties therein contained,” approved February 14, 1821, created Fayette and gave it all of the state north of township two, north, in range one, west, and ranges one, two, three, four, five and six east of the third principal meridian. This gave Fayette the area north of the Madison-St. Clair line extended that is east of the Bond-Fayette line extended and west of the Shelby-Coles line extended.

Beck's *Gazetteer of Illinois and Missouri* (1821) comments on the fact that by the terms of this statute Fayette bisects Pike, but concluding that this was an error, shows Pike as a whole, extending entirely across the state.

In his article on the “Counties of Illinois,” in the *Illinois Blue Book* for 1905, Stephen L. Spear contends that Fayette did not extend north of the Illinois river, and that its west line north of township twelve, was the meridian, and his map supports his contention. His argument is that if this were not so, then Fayette would bisect Pike and take range one, west, north of township twelve, from Sangamon, where it had been placed a short time before, and this could not have been intended.

The answer is, that the statute is a valid expression of the will of the legislature; it is clear and precise in its language and as it merely expresses what the legislature could and might have intended, Fayette must be considered as extending, its entire width, through Pike to the state line. There are other instances in which our counties were composed of disconnected tracts, but that did not invalidate the statutes creating such conditions.

The “Act defining the boundaries of Pike county, and for other purposes,” approved December 30, 1822, pro-

vides that the county shall be bounded as follows: On the north by the base line; on the east by the Illinois river; and on the west by the Mississippi and all the rest and remainder of the territory composing the county of Pike, before the passing of this act, shall be attached to and form a part of said county until otherwise disposed of by the General Assembly.

Edgar was created by the "Act forming a new county out of part of Clark," approved January 3, 1823, with its present boundary line, and there was attached to it all the country west of it that was not attached to any other county (and there was none so attached until Fayette was reached), and all the territory north of it "to Lake Michigan."

The first section of the "Act forming a new county out of the attached portion of the county of Pike," approved January 28, 1823, reads thus: "The territory within the following bounds, beginning at the point where the fourth principal meridian intersects the Illinois river; thence up the middle of said river to where the line between ranges five and six east strikes the said river; thence north with the range line to the line between townships nine and ten north; thence west with the said line to the said fourth principal meridian; thence south with said line to the place of beginning, shall constitute a separate county to be called Fulton." The Act attached to Fulton all of Pike lying north and east of the new county.

The "Act forming new counties out of Pike and Fulton, and the attached parts thereof," approved January 13, 1825, created Schuyler, Adams, Hancock, Warren, Mercer, Henry, Putnam and Knox. Mercer was given all that part of the state north of the present south line of that county. Knox was given its present area, except the north tier of towns which was put in Henry with all the country north of that tier. Hancock and Adams were given their present areas. Warren had its present area

and all of Henderson. Schuyler took its present area with that of Brown. The territory now forming McDonough was overlooked and not put in any county, but in the next year it was formed into McDonough.

Putnam was given the country north of the present Peoria and north of the Illinois and Kankakee rivers, and this included Lee.

The "Act to form a new county in the vicinity of Fort Clark," approved January 13, 1825, created Peoria with the territory it has today, except for a slight change in the west line that was made necessary by errors in the original surveys. This act attached to Peoria a large area east of the Illinois river, and all the country north of the new Peoria and north of the Illinois and Kankakee rivers, thus attaching Putnam to Peoria.

The House of the Fifth General Assembly, January 15, 1827, on motion of Jonathan H. Pugh of Sangamon, adopted a resolution for the appointment of a committee to inquire into and report upon the expediency of establishing a new county on Fever river, and made Pugh, Alfred W. Cavarly of Greene, Henry J. Ross of Pike, David Prickett of Madison and Charles Ives of Clark the members of that committee. They reported a bill for "An Act establishing Ludlow county." After the first reading the bill was amended in committee of the whole and sent to a select committee composed of Pugh, Henry I. Mills of Edwards and John C. Alexander of Crawford who reported it, with some amendments, whereupon it was sent to a committee consisting of Pugh, Cavarly and John Leeper of Morgan, who reported it with amendments, some of which were adopted, while others were rejected. After defeating the motion of John Reynolds of St. Clair that the bill be laid on the table "until the fourth of July next," the bill was sent back to the last committee. It was again reported with amendments, some of which were lost and some adopted. Upon motion of Cavarly, February 8, the bill was laid on the



table "until the fourth of July next." The difficulties encountered seem to have grown out of the provisions for holding the circuit court and the payment of the judge's salary. The bill still remains on file, endorsed "An Act establishing Ludlow county." The boundary line proposed began at the northwest corner of the state, ran east on the northern line of the state to the northwest corner of the township in range ten, east of the fourth principal meridian, thence south (on the Stephenson-Winnebago line and its extension) to the north line of the military tract, thence west to the Mississippi and up that river to the place of beginning.

A few days later, on motion of John Reynolds, the House took from the table a bill entitled "An Act establishing Jo Daviess county," though we find no mention in the journal of such a bill until this occurrence, and sent it to a committee composed of Reynolds, Charles Slade of Washington and Francis Prince of Gallatin, who reported the bill with amendments that were adopted. It was read the third time and sent to another committee,—Prince, Conrad Will of Jackson, and John Reynolds, who reported it with amendments that were adopted and the bill passed, the title being "An Act establishing Jo Daviess county." It was approved February 17, 1827, and gave the new county a boundary beginning at the northwest corner of the State, running thence down the Mississippi to the northern line of the military tract, thence east on that line to the Illinois, thence north to the northern boundary of the state, thence west to the place of beginning. In those days many bills went without any title until the final reading, except that noted by the clerk in making up the journal, and he changed that at his pleasure, so it is quite probable that the bill Reynolds called up from the table was the Ludlow bill as amended. A plat accompanying the Report of the General Land Office, 1835-6, makes the north line of the Military Tract touch



the Illinois in range ten, east, a little west of the present DePue.

In the sixth General Assembly, 1828-1829, Peter Cartwright of Sangamon introduced in the House a bill without a title, but to which the clerk has given the title of "An Act forming the Counties of Chicago, Pinckney and Brown." After the second reading the bill was sent to the committee of the whole, amended, and then laid upon the table on motion of Jonathan H. Pugh of Sangamon, and there it is today.

Section one of the bill would have created a county with a boundary line beginning at the northeast corner of township thirty-five north, range four (4), east of the third principal meridian (a point six miles south of the north line, and six miles west of the east line of the present La Salle county); thence "easterly" (an error; it should be westerly) along "the north line of the surveys to the northwest corner of fractional township eighteen (18) north, range ten (10), east of the fourth principal meridian" (southwest corner of the town of May); thence south on the line between ranges nine and ten (the Stephenson-Winnebago line extended) to the southwest corner of "fractional township" thirteen (13) north, range ten (10) "west aforesaid"; thence east to the main channel of the Illinois river and down the river to the "southwest angle" of fractional township twenty-eight (28) north, range four (4) west of the third principal meridian; thence east on the line between townships twenty-seven (27) and twenty-eight (28) (a line six miles south of the north line of Woodford) to the southeast corner of township twenty-eight (28) north, range four (4) east of the third principal meridian; thence north on the line between ranges four (4) and five (5) to the place of beginning. The name given is Pinckney. It would have included Bureau, Putnam, Marshall, the greater part of La Salle, with some of Livingston and Woodford.

Section two of this Act provided for a county to be called Brown, and gave it the country bounded on the north by an extension of the north line of La Salle, on the west by an extension of the east line of Boone, on the south by an extension of the north line of Woodford, and on the east by a line six miles east of an extension of the east line of Kane.

Section three would have created Chicago with a boundary line beginning on the eastern boundary line of the State at a point in Lake Michigan opposite the line between townships forty-one and forty-two north, range fourteen east of the third principal meridian (near Wilmette), and running thence west (on a line six miles south of Lake county) to the northwest corner of township forty-one north, range ten east; thence south (on a line six miles east of Kane county) to the northwest corner of township thirty-seven north, range ten east; thence east (six miles) to the northwest corner of township thirty-seven north, range eleven east; thence south (six miles) to the southwest corner of township thirty-five north, range eleven east; thence east to the eastern boundary of the State, and along that line to the place of beginning.

The fourth section of the bill provided that for election and other county purposes all the country lying north of the counties of Chicago, Pinckney and Brown, to the north line of the State, and as far west as the third principal meridian, and the country lying south of these counties so as to include township twenty-eight (28) north, "which is not included in the boundaries of any other county, shall be and the same is hereby attached to the County of Chicago."

The proposed Chicago would have included the east two-thirds of DuPage, all of Cook, except the north tier of townships and two townships off the north end of the extreme west tier, and a small part of Will.

The attached territory included the rest of DuPage and

Cook, all of Lake, McHenry, Boone, Kane, nearly all of DeKalb, part of Winnebago, Ogle, Lee, and LaSalle.

During this session John Reynolds of St. Clair for the committee on the revision of the statutes, on December 1, 1828, introduced in the House a bill for "An Act ascertaining and defining the boundaries of the several counties in this state, and designating the seats of justice therein respectively." It was laid on the table after the first reading. The real purpose of the bill seems to have been to create Macon county. The boundary line proposed for Putnam by this bill would have given that county the territory west of the Illinois to the Knox-Peoria line extended that is between the north line of Peoria and the south line of Rock Island extended. It made no disposition of that part of Putnam lying east of Jo Daviess and did not change the lines of the latter.

During the first session of the Seventh General Assembly, 1830-1831, there was presented to the House a petition from Jo Daviess, Putnam and the attached parts of Tazewell and Peoria counties, asking the formation of a new county. Then Joel Wright, of the Pike, Adams, Fulton, Schuyler, Peoria and Jo Daviess district, presented a petition from the inhabitants in the neighborhood of "Chicago, in the County of Peoria," praying for a new county. On motion of John F. Posey, of the Fayette, Bond, Tazewell, Montgomery and Shelby district, it was resolved that a select committee be appointed to lay off all the country on the other side of the Illinois river from Peoria county to Chicago into counties, and to report by bill. The committee was composed of Posey, Wright and Jonathan H. Pugh of Sangamon. To the same committee was sent, on motion of Posey, after its second reading, a bill introduced by Jacob Ogle, of St. Clair, for the committee on petitions upon the petition first mentioned, for an "Act to create and organize the County of Columbia." This select committee reported a bill for "An Act to



create and organize the counties therein named'' which passed the House. It was amended in the Senate, the House concurring, and became a law January 15, 1831. It created Cook and LaSalle (with its north boundary as at present), changed the boundaries of Putnam and added some territory to Henry. By the third section of this Act it is provided that Putnam shall comprise the territory within the following boundaries:—beginning at the southwest corner of township twelve north, range six east of the fourth principal meridian (on the Stark-Peoria line); thence east to the Illinois; thence down the middle of the river to the south line of township twenty-nine north, west of the third principal meridian (Woodford-Marshall Line); thence east to the third principal meridian, and north with it forty-two miles (near Mendota); thence west to (northwest corner of Bureau) a point six miles due north of the northwest corner of township seventeen, range six east of the fourth principal meridian; thence south to the starting point. Some provisions of the act are peculiar. It makes "the northern boundary line of the State" the north line of Cook, and then attaches to that county the territory "north of Cook County and parallel with the lines of the same as far northwardly as Rock River," the west line of Cook being the line between ranges eight and nine east of the third principal meridian (the Kane-DuPage line) and that river not being so far east as that in this State. The Act adds to Henry townships twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen and eighteen, range five, while another act approved that day (An Act to establish the permanent seat of justice for Knox county) so described Henry's boundaries that they exclude townships twelve and thirteen (placing them in Knox) and the north line is Rock river, between the fourth principal meridian and the east line of range five.

The territory in range eleven (the towns of Sublette, Lee Centre, Bradford, Ashton in Lee county, Lafayette,



Pine Rock, Marion, the east two third of Byron in Ogle; Winnebago, Burritt, Harrison, and the greater part of Shirland in Winnebago) north of the new Putnam was not put in any county or attached to any. The north line of the new Putnam, as fixed by this Act, is a diagonal one. A due west line from the third principal meridian forty-two miles north of the south line of township twenty-nine, on that meridian, will not go to a point "six miles due north of the northwest corner of township seventeen" north, range six east of the fourth principal meridian, though the legislators may have thought it will. (This error was corrected in 1839 after Bureau was formed.)

LaSalle was given the territory bounded by a line beginning at the southwest corner of the new Cook—the southwest corner of township thirty-four, north, range nine east of the third principal meridian (Shermanville); running thence south thirty miles; thence west to the meridian and north along it forty-eight miles (to the northwest corner of La Salle); thence east (on the La Salle-Lee and LaSalle-DeKalb line) to Cook (the Kendall-Will line); thence south to the place of beginning. The act attached to LaSalle all that part of the state lying north of it. The attached territory included the two ranges of townships at the east end of Lee.

This statute failed to make any disposition of that part of the old Putnam lying north of the Kankakee, south of the new Cook (the south line of township thirty-four), and east of LaSalle. By the "Act to establish the county of Will," approved January 12, 1836, this became part of Will.

The bill for the "Act to create and organize the county of Columbia" proposed the following boundary,—beginning at the southeast corner of township twenty-nine, north, range four, east of the third principal meridian, thence north (on the Boone-McHenry line extended) to the north line of township thirty-six, thence west to the meridian (on the LaSalle-DeKalb line) and through the

center of township nineteen in the ranges east of the fourth principal meridian to the line between ranges nine and ten east of that meridian (through the towns of Sublette and May to the east line of East Grove in Lee county) thence south (on an extension of the east line of Stephenson) to and down the Illinois to the southwest corner of township twenty-nine, north, west of the third principal meridian (the Woodford-Marshall line) thence east to the place of beginning.

The bill is endorsed, An Act to organize the county of Columbia.

The "Act to establish Rock Island County," approved February 9, 1831, gave that county its present area.

In the *Galena* of September 29, 1835, Samuel Allen and Edmund A. Philleo gave notice, dated September 22, 1835, that application would be made to the legislature to strike off all that part of Rock Island county that lies east and south of Rock river, and to extend Rock Island county from its then north line to the mouth of Johnson's creek, thence east to the line between ranges five and six east of the fourth principal meridian, thence south to Rock River, thence down the main channel of that river to its mouth.

Johnson's creek runs into Otter creek, which flows into the Mississippi about two and one-half miles above Fulton.

In the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser* of October 15, 1836, is an unsigned notice reading thus—"To the inhabitants of Rock Island, Henry and White-side counties. Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the aforesaid counties that a petition will be presented to the General Assembly of this State (Illinois) at their next session, for an alteration of the present boundary lines of said county, and also for a change of the county seat of Rock Island county. Rock Island County, October 3, 1836."

In the *Gazette and Advertiser* of December 3, 1836,

“Conclusion,” writing from Rock Island county, November nineteenth, says he understands the proposal is to attach all of Rock Island south of Rock river to Mercer and to extend the northern boundary to include Meredosia and Cat Tail swamps, the head of the rapids to be the county seat, that the proposal is by a man who did not get elected recorder after the county seat was located at Stephenson. The writer calls attention to the great population the new county will have—if the mosquitos are counted.

In the *Northwestern Gazetteer & Galena Advertiser* of October 24, 1835, and other days after that, appeared this:

“Notice is hereby given that application will be made at the next session of the Legislature of the State of Illinois to establish and organize three new counties to be embraced within the limits of Jo Daviess, and bounded as follows:

1st: Beginning at a point on the Mississippi between townships twenty-five and twenty-six and range two east of the fourth principal meridian; thence running due east to the line between ranges six and seven east of the fourth principal meridian; thence south to the southern boundary of township twenty-five; thence due west to the line between ranges five and six east of said meridian; thence south to the center of Rock River; thence down the main channel of said stream to the N. E. corner of Rock Island County; thence along the center of the Meridosia, or the northern boundary of said county, to the Mississippi; thence up the main channel of the same to the place of beginning.

2nd: Also beginning at the corner of townships twenty-four and twenty-five and range two east of the fourth principal meridian; thence east to the third principal meridian; thence south with the third principal meridian to the N. E. corner of Putnam County; thence west along the north-



ern boundary of said county to the northwest corner thereof; thence north between ranges four and five to Rock River; thence up the main channel of Rock River to the range line between ranges five and six; thence north with said range line to the place of beginning.

3rd: Also leaving all that part of the aforesaid County of Jo Daviess with so much of that portion attached to the County of LaSalle as the Legislature in their wisdom shall see fit to award lying north of the last above described county and east of range seven of the fourth principal meridian to constitute the third new county.

October 24, 1835.

John Dixon,  
Luther H. Bowen.”

Luther H. Bowen was one of the surveyors who located the Illinois-Wisconsin line in 1832. In 1835 he bought a claim to the land on which Savanna stands, and in the next year platted that town, conducting a store there from that time until his death, May 5, 1876. He was one of the first three county commissioners of Carroll county. (Kett, *History of Carroll County*.)

This notice appears to assume that the west line of Putnam was the line between ranges four and five, east of the fourth principal meridian, while it, in fact, was the line between ranges five and six. The consequence of this error is that the boundaries proposed for the second county would not connect.

It is somewhat singular that Bowen, who must have been acquainted with the township lines, and who undoubtedly sought to create a county of which his town would be the capital, placed the north line of the first county at the line between townships twenty-five and twenty-six, barely seven miles north of Savanna.

A petition praying for the passage of a statute creating counties as outlined by this notice, was duly presented to the General Assembly. With other petitions asking the formation of other counties this led to the passage of



the "Act to establish certain counties," approved January 16, 1836, which created McHenry, Winnebago, Kane, Whiteside and Ogle, and recast the boundaries of Jo Daviess.

Whiteside was given its present area, but it was to remain a part of Jo Daviess until Ogle was organized and then to be attached to that county until its own organization. This boundary has not been changed.

Ogle was given the territory bounded by a line running from the southeast corner of Whiteside, north to the southwest corner of township twenty-six; thence east (on its present north line) to the third principal meridian; thence south on that meridian to the southwest corner of township forty-three, north, range one, east of that meridian; thence east (on Winnebago-Ogle line) to range three; thence south on the west line of that range (the DeKalb-Ogle and DeKalb-Lee line) to the southwest corner of township thirty-seven, range three (southwest corner of DeKalb); thence west to the meridian (at northwest corner of LaSalle); thence south with the meridian to the southeast corner of township nineteen, range eleven east of the fourth principal meridian (northeast corner of Bureau); thence west (on the Lee-Bureau line) to the place of beginning.

There was left unmentioned and unrecognized a triangular strip in township eighteen, ranges six, seven, eight, nine, ten and eleven east of the fourth principal meridian, south of Ogle and Whiteside, and north of Putnam, but by this Act completely cut off from Jo Daviess. (It was afterwards placed in Bureau. The present towns of Eagle Point, Brookville and the west half of Forreston were added to Ogle afterwards.)

The Act creating Ogle provided that the county seat should be located by James L. Kirkpatrick of Jo Daviess, Charles Reed and James B. Campbell of Cook. The location was made by Reed and Kirkpatrick June 20, 1836,

and displeased many of those living in the western part of the county.

In the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser* of September 3, 10, 17 and 24, 1836, the following appeared:

“Notice. A petition will be presented to the Legislature, at their next session, praying that Towns 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 of Ranges six and 7 east of the 4th Principal Meridian, be attached to and form a part of Ogle County, and that disinterested Commissioners be appointed to locate the county seat for said county and that the name of said county be changed from Ogle to that of Carroll.

John Brookie,  
I. Chambers.

August 29, 1836.”

Brookie and Isaac Chambers settled in or near Buffalo Grove in 1829. (Kett, *Ogle County*.) They had two objections to the original west line of Ogle,—it cut the Buffalo Grove settlement in two, and they were put under the domination of John Phelps of Oregon. Had their scheme been successful a little more than one third of Whiteside, taken off the east end, and almost one half of the present Carroll, also taken off the east end, would have been added to Ogle.

Bowen allied himself with William Kirkpatrick, who, with William Baker, W. T. Gilbraith and Smith Gilbraith, held a claim to the land on which Freeport stands, and they gave notice, dated October 14, in the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser* of October 15, 1836, that a petition would be presented to the legislature praying the formation of two counties, 1—beginning on the state line between ranges five and six, east, thence to the line between ranges nine and ten; thence south to the south boundary of township twenty-six; thence west to the line between ranges five and six; thence north to the place of beginning, “by the name of . . . . .” 2—beginning on the Mississippi between townships twenty-four and twenty-five; thence east to the line between ranges five

and six; thence south to the south boundary of township twenty-one; thence west to the Mississippi, thence up the main channel of the Mississippi to the place of beginning "forming the county of Forsythe."

The county first proposed would have included all of our Stephenson, except the tier of half towns on the west end. Forsythe would have had parts of the present Carroll and Whiteside.

These petitions, with others, led to the passage of the "Act to create certain counties therein named," approved March 4, 1837, by which Stephenson, Boone and DeKalb were formed. Bowen failed in this effort also.

The fourth section of the original bill for this act, in describing the boundary line of DeKalb (there called Benton), started it at the southwest corner of township thirty-seven, range two, east, putting that range in that county. By amendment the starting point was put at the southeast corner of that township, where it is today. There is nothing left on record to show when, where or by whose efforts this amendment was made.

Wednesday, January 11, 1837, A. G. S. Wight, member for the Jo Daviess, Rock Island and Mercer counties district in the Senate of the Tenth General Assembly, presented the petition of many citizens of Ogle, Jo Daviess and Whiteside counties praying an addition to Ogle county, which was, on his motion, referred to a select committee of five, consisting of Wight, Orville H. Browning, William J. Gatewood of Gallatin, William Thomas of Morgan and John D. Whiteside of Monroe.

The Vandalia correspondent (evidently Senator Wight) of the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser*, under date of January 2, 1837, in the issue of January 15, 1837, says—"I introduced the petition of the citizens of Ogle county praying the alteration of their boundary and that commissioners be appointed to permanently locate the seat of justice, notwithstanding the great injustice done them by former legislation as regards both, yet I am



doubtful of success, because men of influence are connected in the speculation.’’

January 13, Thomas presented petitions and remonstrances from Ogle and Whiteside respecting the proposed change in their dividing line, and these were sent to the same committee. On the nineteenth Thomas introduced the petition of sundry citizens praying for a division of Ogle, and upon his motion, it was referred to the same select committee, to which other petitions on the same subject were referred.

On the twenty-first Wight moved the adoption of the following: Resolved, that the select committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of Ogle county, praying an alteration of boundary lines and the re-location of the seat of justice of said county, together with the remonstrances to the same be authorized to examine persons interested in relation thereto, under oath. This was adopted on motion of Thomas.

On the twenty-sixth Wight, for the committee, reported that “they had had same under consideration and beg leave to report that the first part of their duty appears to be to ascertain that the petitioners had given the legal notice in such cases; when satisfied upon this subject they proceeded to examine the respective petitions and remonstrances with a great deal of minuteness and accuracy, which enabled them to arrive at the following:

“The whole number of the citizens of Ogle County who had signed one or the other appears to be four hundred and eleven, two hundred and thirty-six of whom have signed the petition, and one hundred and seventy-five the remonstrances. The petition and remonstrances from Whiteside being equal in point of numbers, but from information to be relied on, from citizens residing in that section of the country (now in Vandalia), who appeared before the committee, which information is corroborated by the representation from that district, it appears that while those whose names are found on the petition were identified, with but one exception, as being bona fide



residents of that part of the county prayed to be attached, but three names on the remonstrance could be identified as living in Whiteside County, and they quite remote from the territory in question, the greater part of the balance being identified as citizens of Galena and Wisconsin territory. The committee will further state that the principal petition, which the former Senator from that district presented to the Senate for the formation of a county on the Rock river asked for the same boundaries which are now proposed and asked for by the petition, as appears manifest from the original bill as first introduced, creating the county, by the standing committee on petitions. These facts in connection with the circumstance that the present boundary in question cuts in two one of the oldest and decidedly the most populous and dense settlements in that section of the country, give the petitioners strong claims to legislative interference. As regards the re-location of the Seat of Justice your committee will state that independent of the 'circumstantial' evidence that the location was made more with an eye to promote the schemes of certain speculators than the interests of the citizens of said county upon which the committee, however, do not wish to be understood to give an opinion, that the present location is objectionable on account of its remoteness from the center, being thirty miles from the south boundary, and but twelve miles from the north boundary, twenty-three miles from its east boundary, and fifteen from its west boundary, and as your committee are further satisfied that great discontent, indeed to an alarming degree, prevails throughout said county upon this subject, we therefore report a bill entitled 'An Act for altering the boundaries of Ogle County and other purposes.' "

In the form in which it was reported to the Senate the first section of this bill provided that all that part of Jo Daviess south of Ogle, east of the third principal meridian, and north of Putnam (evidently meaning part of this diagonal strip), and the east half of townships number twenty-one and twenty-two (in Whiteside), and all of

townships number twenty-three, twenty-four and twenty-five, in range seven (then in Jo Daviess) should be made part of Ogle, and that township twenty-three in ranges four, five and six, and fractional township twenty-three, in range three (now the south tier of towns in Carroll) should be placed in Whiteside. It would have put Shannon, Milledgeville and about one-half of Sterling and Rock Falls in Ogle. The second section provided for the division of Ogle, as thus constituted, into nine election districts; the election of a commissioner in each district, and the location of the county seat by those commissioners.

After its second reading the bill was referred to a select committee composed of Wight, George W. P. Maxwell of Schuyler, and William O'Rear of Morgan. January 28 Maxwell reported the bill with amendments (none of which can be found now), and on his motion they were indefinitely postponed, but, three days later, on motion of Levin Lane of Hamilton, a reconsideration was had, and on motion of Wight the proposed amendments were amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting:

“That all that part of Jo Daviess County lying south of Ogle County is hereby attached to and made a part of Ogle County, and that for the more permanent and satisfactory location of the seat of justice of said Ogle County, the county commissioners thereof are hereby required to order an election to be held in the several precincts of said county to elect five commissioners, which election shall be conducted and the returns thereof made, in the same manner that other county elections are. Said commissioners, or a majority thereof, when thus elected and sworn before a Justice of the Peace to take into consideration the convenience of the people and the situation of the present settlements, with an eye to the future population of the county, shall proceed to examine and determine upon the place for a permanent seat of Justice, giving a preference to the land belonging

to the United States. But in case such selection should be made upon land claimed by an individual or individuals, the said commissioners shall secure for the use of the county a quantity not less than forty acres, which land thus acquired shall be laid off into town lots and be disposed of by the county commissioners, and the proceeds thereof applied to the erection of public buildings for said county. Provided, however, that no person residing within the bounds of the attached part of said county shall be allowed to vote for commissioners to locate the Seat of Justice as herein provided for."

After this amendment was adopted the bill was read the third time and laid on the table, on motion of Maxwell, and later, on the motion of Wight, taken from the table and referred to a select committee, consisting of Wight, Maxwell and Benjamin Bond of Clinton.

On Thursday, February 9, Wight reported the bill with an amendment, which was read and concurred in, and the bill passed in the following form:

"Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly:

Sec. 1—

That all of that tract of country laying south of Ogle County formerly of Jo Daviess County be and is hereby attached to and made a part of Ogle County.

Sec. 2d—

The county commissioners' court of Ogle County shall order an election in the several precincts in said county at such time as they may think best. At which election the qualified voters residing in said county may vote for the permanent seat of Justice of said county, which election shall be conducted in every respect and returns thereof made, as other county elections are under the act regulating elections approved Jan. 10, 1829—

Sec. 3d—

It shall be the duty of the county commissioners of said county to hold a court within thirty days after



said election shall have been held at which court it shall be the duty of the clerk to lay before the court complete returns of said election as far as they have been received, and if it shall appear by said returns that the present county seat has received a greater number of votes than any other one place voted for. it shall be and remain the permanent seat of Justice for said county. But in case any other place voted for shall have received at said election a greater number of votes than the present county seat, or of any other place voted for, and a suitable cite, with not less than forty acres, of land can be obtained by the county commissioners at the place so elected for the use of the county. Said land shall be laid off into Town lots and disposed of by said court, and the proceeds thereof applied to the erection of Public buildings for said county. Which said election so made shall be and remain the county cite seat for said county, any law to the contrary notwithstanding. Providid that if the affore said election be contested the county commissioners may defer their action untill the result of said contest be known. This act to be in force from and after its Passage.”

The House sent it to a special committee, consisting of James Craig of Jo Daviess, George Scarborough of Vermillion, Elijah Charles of Jo Daviess, Henry Madden of La Salle, and William A. Richardson of Schuyler.

On March 1 Craig reported the bill to the House with an amendment (now lost), which was read and concurred in, and it was ordered to a third reading, and on motion of Craig, referred to a select committee consisting of Craig, Albert C. Leary and Joseph Naper of Cook.

On March 3 Craig reported the bill with an amendment which was read (and is now lost). Augustus C. French of Edgar moved to lay the bill on the table until July fourth, and the motion was carried. This was the end of the bill, for the Assembly adjourned March sixth.

Among those voting against this motion to table were Father Dixon's friends, Elijah Charles and James Craig of Jo Daviess, John Dement, then living in Franklin



county, Jesse K. Dubois, later State Auditor, Ninian W. Edwards, John J. Hardin, who was killed in the battle of Buena Vista, Abraham Lincoln, John Naper, Edwin B. Webb and Robert L. Wilson.

The commissioners who were appointed to locate the seat of justice of this county placed it at Oregon. This intensified the jealousy between the people of Dixon's Ferry and those of Oregon. Buffalo Grove, long since obliterated by the march of improvements, and Grand De Tour became ambitious, and efforts were made to divide the county. John Dixon was the controlling spirit in the south half of the county, while Thomas Ford, then judge of the Circuit Court, and later judge of the Supreme Court and, still later, Governor, was dominant in and around Oregon. Virgil A. Bogue was the champion of Buffalo Grove.

In his "*Sketches of the History of Ogle County*" Henry R. Boss says that John Dixon posted notices in Galena, in 1838, that he would apply to the Legislature "for the formation of a new county, the proposed territory including Oregon in the north," and that John Phelps of Oregon chanced to see this notice and he posted one stating his intention of applying for an act dividing Ogle by an east and west line "just including the present town of Dixon" in the north county. (P. 57.)

In the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser*, commencing September 8, 1838, and running until February 21, 1839, the following appeared:

"NOTICE: A petition will be presented to the Legislature at their next session at Vandalia, for a division of Ogle county at or near the centre by a line from east to west thereby making each county about twenty-one by thirty-six miles.

Dixon, Sept. 1st, 1838.

JOHN DIXON."

Petitions for a division by an east and west line were prepared, circulated and signed, while the friends of Buffalo Grove and Grand De Tour scoured the county

in their efforts to secure signatures to their petition for a division by a north and south line. Phelps, a man of strong passions, had taken offense at something said or done by Dixon, and in his anger denounced the latter with much more force than elegance. Judge Ford, then living in Oregon, realized that Phelps was doing a great injury to that community, so he interceded and induced the latter to make peace with Mr. Dixon and join with him in an effort to divide the county in such a manner that each would have a county seat at his own town. Phelps listened to Ford's suggestions and became Dixon's ally. A committee was appointed to establish the dividing line. Joseph Crawford of Dixon and Cyrus Chamberlain of "The Kingdom" were two members of that committee. Undoubtedly there were other members of the committee, but our efforts to learn their names failed.

It was proposed that the north line of the new county should run from the northeast corner of Lee straight to Rock river, but Chamberlain protested so vehemently against this that the line was placed where it is to-day, and this because Chamberlain insisted that his land must be in the south county, for he would not live "in Jack Phelps' county." (This is on the authority of a statement by Dr. Oliver Everett.)

Then they put into circulation petitions to the legislature asking that Ogle be divided upon the line they had chosen. Smith Gilbraith and Frederick R. Dutcher went to Vandalia in behalf of Dixon's Ferry to see that no point was overlooked.

Dutcher frequently talked of the work he and Gilbraith did at Vandalia to promote the passage of their bill, and often said that they once heard that Bogue was expecting to receive another petition signed by a great number of the inhabitants of Ogle. Fearing that petition would give Bogue a majority of the petitioners, Dutcher and Gilbraith made their plans to keep the new petition from

Bogue. To do this, Dutcher frequently inquired at the post office if there was any mail for Bogue. His persistence was rewarded one day by an affirmative answer, and he promptly asked for the mail. He was given a large package which he soon found was the new petition, and he and Gilbraith carefully concealed it until their bill was passed, and then it was useless.

Dutcher also said that, in order to reduce the influence of Bogue to the minimum, he and Gilbraith persuaded Bogue to make a speech in favor of the abolition of slavery, and such a speech did not make one very popular there in those days.

While some who claim to know say that Bogue was not in Vandalia during that session, being detained at home by a severe illness, his daughter says he did attend that session, and was confined to his room by illness, but she adds, with sincere regret, she has no further information on the subject, as she was a mere child then and her father would not talk of those events.

The Eleventh General Assembly convened for its first session on the third of December, 1838. George W. Harrison of Galena was the Senator for the district composed of the counties of Jo Daviess, Rock Island, Stephenson, Winnebago, Ogle, and Mercer, and James Craig of Jo Daviess, and Germanicus Kent of Rockford were the representatives for the district. On the thirteenth of January, 1839, there was presented to the House a petition of citizens of Ogle living in township forty two, ranges one and two (Scott and Monroe) asking that those towns be placed in Winnebago. It went to the committee on counties and no report was made upon it.

On the twenty-sixth of January, Craig presented to the House of Representatives several petitions for the division of Ogle, with remonstrances against the division, and the recantations of some persons who had found themselves on the wrong side of the question after they



had signed, and all were, upon his motion, referred, without reading, to a select committee consisting of himself, William H. Henderson of the Putnam and Bureau district, and Joseph Naper of Cook, Will and McHenry district, for whom Naperville was named. Two days later Craig presented more petitions and recantations, and they went to the same committee. On the fourth of February, this committee, by Craig, reported favorably a bill for "An Act to create the County of Lee out of Ogle." It was read twice, and then, on his motion, referred to the standing committee on counties, which was composed of John Moore of McLean (afterwards State Treasurer), Henry L. Webb of Alexander, Abraham Lincoln of Sangamon, Newton Cloud of Morgan, Germanicus Kent, John Houston of the Crawford and Jasper district, Edward M. Daley of Greene, John H. Murphy of Vermillion and Alden Hull of Tazewell.

In the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser* of February 1, 1839, is part of a letter to the *Peoria Register* from the latter's Vandalia correspondent speaking of the bill to establish new circuits for the courts in which the writer mentions "the new county that will likely be made out of the south part of Ogle and Henry." The correspondent erred, as there was no proposal to make such a county.

On the twelfth of February, Kent presented two petitions, one signed by seventy nine, and the other by three hundred and twenty three voters, praying for a removal of the county seat of Ogle, and remonstrating against a division of the county. Without reading, they were sent to the committee on counties. On the nineteenth of February, Moore of that committee and in its behalf, made a favorable report upon the bill with some amendments, which the committee proposed, one of them making the title "An Act to create the county of Lee from the county of Ogle," and it was ordered engrossed for a third read-



ing. On the twenty-second it passed the House and was sent to the Senate, where it was read the first time February 26 and ordered to a second reading, when, upon motion of Harrison, the rules were dispensed with and the bill read the second time by its title, and then, upon his motion, a further dispensation of the rules was had, and the bill was read the third time by title and passed. It was approved, and went into effect on the twenty-seventh of February.

The Act provides "that all that part of Ogle County lying south of a line beginning on the western boundary of Ogle County at the northwest corner of section eighteen in township twenty-two, north of range eight, east of the fourth principal meridian; thence on the section line between sections number seven and eighteen in said township, east to the main channel of Rock River; thence up the center of the main channel of Rock River to the section line between sections twelve and thirteen in township twenty-two north of range nine, east of the fourth principal meridian; thence east with the last mentioned line to the northeast corner of section seventeen, in township twenty-two north of range ten, east of the fourth principal meridian; thence south to the southeast corner of the last mentioned section; and thence east with the section lines to the eastern boundary of the county shall constitute the county of Lee."

As passed the bill appointed D. G. Salisbury, "N. Nichols" and L. G. Butler commissioners to locate the county seat. On March second, the House, on motion of Craig, adopted a resolution reciting that "N. Nichols," of Whiteside, should be "E. H. Nichols," and authorizing the Secretary of State to substitute the latter for the former in the enrolled bill, and that was done, the Senate concurring in the passage of the resolution.

While this bill was pending a bitter fight over the location of De Kalb's seat of justice brought in a strange element. Joseph W. Churchill of De Kalb introduced

a petition of citizens of that county praying for a division of Ogle, and a petition from De Kalb asking for the re-location of the seat of justice of that county. Both went to the committee on counties. The latter resulted in the passage of the "Act to re-locate the seat of justice of the county of De Kalb," approved March second, 1839. The first induced the committee to report a bill for "An Act relative to the county of De Kalb," which was read twice in the House. February twentieth it was ordered engrossed for third reading, and then abandoned, no further action being had upon it. The bill remains on file. The first section is crossed out. The other sections relate to the location of the county seat. The first section, had the bill passed with that in it, would have added to De Kalb, without any vote by the people, all of range two east of the third principal meridian, being townships thirty-seven (Wyoming), thirty-eight (Willow Creek), thirty-nine (Alto) of Lee county, and townships forty (Dement), forty-one (Lynnville) and forty-two (Monroe) of Ogle. (An erasure and alteration make it uncertain as to the last town.)

While these bills were pending an effort was made in the House to create a new county out of parts of Winnebago, Ogle, De Kalb and La Salle, but it failed.

Citizens of Lee, De Kalb and LaSalle unsuccessfully petitioned the Fourteenth General Assembly, 1844-45, for the formation of a new county out of territory in those counties.

Silas Noble of Lee introduced in the Senate of the Fifteenth General Assembly, 1846-'47, the petition of sundry citizens of Lee, La Salle, and De Kalb counties for a new county to be called Eagle, to be composed of townships thirty-six, thirty-seven and thirty-eight, in ranges one, two, three and four, east of the fourth principal meridian, and township thirty-nine in ranges one and two east of that meridian. After considering them the

committee asked to be and was discharged from duty, and Noble obtained leave to withdraw the petition. Had these petitioners succeeded in this effort, Lee would have lost the present towns of Brooklyn, Wyoming, Viola, Willow Creek, Reynolds and Alto, and Paw Paw, in all probability, would have become the county seat.

William B. Plato of Kane introduced in the Senate of the Eighteenth General Assembly, 1853, a bill for "An Act to establish the County of Eagle, and for other purposes therein named," which was read twice and then put to death by a reference to the committee on elections that never reported upon it.

In the Constitutional Convention of 1869-70, W. W. Sedgwick of De Kalb introduced a petition signed by residents of De Kalb, La Salle and Lee counties praying that the new constitution be so framed that a new county could be formed out of those counties whenever two-thirds of the voters in the territory petitioned the General Assembly for such new county. The petition was sent to the committee on counties and no report was made upon it.

Dutcher claimed the credit of selecting the name of the county, and stated that when he chose it he had in mind General Henry Lee (Light Horse Harry) of the Revolutionary Army, and intended, so far as it was in his power, the honor should go to him and no other. The statement in Hill's *History of Lee County* (1881) that the name was chosen in honor of General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army is too ridiculous for any comment.



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