

THE

# HISTORY OF ELGIN,

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

---

1835 TO 1875.

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*J. H. Kimb.*

ELGIN, ILL.:  
PUBLISHED BY LORD & BRADFORD.

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## PREFACE.

A TRUTHFUL history of a place is valuable, not only for present reading, but for the preservation of facts which, if not printed, will in time pass from the memory of the living, beyond recall. It is because the pen and the printing press have been used that we are so much better acquainted with the history of enlightened nations than with that of nations which have depended upon oral traditions for a knowledge of the acts of their ancestors.

We have endeavored to make the following History of Elgin not only interesting but accurate—not only useful to the reader at the present time, but to some future historian who shall continue the narrative. We have taken much pains to give facts and dates correctly, and yet some errors will doubtless be discovered which can be corrected in future editions, and some additions made which will be valuable.

All compilers of history avail themselves of what has previously been written, and of course we have done so in this instance, although we have introduced much new matter. In some cases we have used the facts, and in others not only the facts but the *language* of previous chroniclers, making such alterations and additions as seemed called for. We are especially indebted to a history of Elgin published by Gilbert & Hanchett, in 1870, and to a sketch of Kane county by M. H. Thompson, in 1872. We likewise tender our acknowledgments to the gentlemen who have furnished articles, or the facts embraced in them, on special subjects, and whose names appear at the head of their articles.

In the special articles there will, of course, be found some repetition of facts, which are briefly alluded to in the general history. But this repetition was necessary, in order to present unbroken narrations of certain subjects by themselves, and more at length than could well be done in connection with other matters.

THE PUBLISHERS.



## HISTORY OF ELGIN.

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THE Black Hawk war was ended in 1832 by the capture of the celebrated chief who instigated it, and the submission of the Indians of Northern Illinois to the authority of the United States. It was their last general effort to retain possession of their homes and their hunting grounds, and thenceforward they gradually disappeared beyond the Mississippi. A wide region was thus made ready for settlement, which attracted attention by its beauty and fertility. Its beautiful groves furnished timber for fuel, fencing and building. Its fertile prairies were all ready for cultivation, and needed only to be "tickled by the plow to laugh with a harvest." Its murmuring streams afforded an abundance of water power, which needed only to be utilized that the hum of machinery might be heard in hundreds of rising villages.

The northern part of the state of Illinois, which in 1832 was the home of savages and wild animals, but which is now dotted all over by well cultivated farms and comfortable dwellings, was a region of such surpassing attractiveness that it needed only to be known to be coveted. Hence it is not surprising that the reports of explorers and immigrants to their friends in the eastern states awakened a desire in them and others to try their fortunes in this new region and possess a portion of this goodly land. Consequently while the Indians were still numerous the cabins of settlers began to appear—first on the margins of the groves which fringed the streams and then further out on the broad prairies. By 1834 these cabins had become quite numerous in the counties of Will, LaSalle and others in that latitude, but in those as far north as Kane they were like angels' visits, few and far between. The man still lives in Elgin, and he is not a very old man yet, who, with his brother, were the first settlers of the place. That man is Hezekiah Gifford. In 1834 he resided in Oneida county, N. Y., and his brother, James T. Gifford, in Yates county, in that state. The former, hearing that in the neighborhood of Fox river, Illinois, there was a beautiful country, and that it was no longer the scene of Indian depredations, concluded to visit the locality. Selling his property, he at once went to Buffalo, and thence taking passage by steamer, arrived in course of time at Detroit; traveling thence by stage through the Michigan wilderness, he arrived, after many delays, at

St. Joseph, from which place he sailed to Chicago in a schooner. There he found a miserable hamlet of 500 inhabitants, sunk, if not in the Slough of Despair, at least in a slough that invited despair, accompanied by bilious fever and ague; but a rest had, nevertheless, to be taken in this undesirable locality after his long journey, and, accordingly, he rested with very unsatisfactory conclusions of western magnificence.

While sauntering around the mud-covered streets of this little village, Mr. Gifford met a man driving an ox team, and, during a conversation, he learned that the person with whom he was conversing owned a claim on Fox river, the very Utopia to which he was journeying, and that his name was Ferson. Mr. Gifford informed the gentleman that he, too, was going to Fox river, and at once secured a place in his primitive mode of conveyance. Another person, named Duryea, who had accompanied Mr. Gifford from Buffalo, was also introduced to Mr. Ferson, and when the latter had concluded his business in Chicago the oxen were turned westward, and the three pursued their journey to the river.

The journey, it may easily be imagined, was not a pleasant one. For a road the travelers had but the army trail left by Scott's troops during the Black Hawk war, some time before. Part of the way the gentlemen rode, and part of it they walked, but at length they reached the banks of the Fox, where St. Charles now stands, forded it near the present bridge in that town, and in a very short time afterward were hospitably received in Mr. Ferson's log cabin. A very few moments after their reception they were kneeling on the floor of the aforesaid cabin eating off a trunk, in lieu of a table, some excellent venison steaks, and drinking coffee with a relish that invested the Rio with qualities unknown to the connoisseurs who delicately discuss the excellencies of a better kind.

After a needed repose, Messrs. Gifford and Duryea took their way down the river, and soon arrived at the present site of Geneva. This short journey absolutely entranced them with the beauty of the country through which they passed. Still following the river and an Indian trail, they walked to the spot where Aurora now stands, and here they found a man digging bowlders in the midst of a solitude that would have charmed a hermit. In reply to a question, the delver said he was digging stones for a prospective dam. The news was quite welcome to the travelers, as foreshadowing civilization, and with the feeling that they were not altogether in a desert, they pursued their journey to where Yorkville now stands. From this place they proceeded to Indian creek, Somonauk and Blackberry, and at last rested at the cabin of a man named Hollenbeck. Mr. Duryea had now become tired of the west, but seeing the patriarchal comforts by which Hollenbeck was surrounded; seeing him as a Pasha of many corn fields, surrounded by game of every kind, and living ostensibly in the happy condition that is exemplified by the expression,

"My right there is none to dispute,"



he concluded to "make a claim," and did so. Mr. Gifford did the same, and the twain returned homeward, parting at Buffalo.

From Buffalo Mr. H. Gifford at once proceeded to the home of his brother, Mr. James T. Gifford, where he was received with extreme gratification, as during his sojourn in the west his father and other members of his family ly were unaware of his whereabouts. Mr. James T. Gifford at once commenced asking him about the west, and soon the conversation led to a description of the Fox river country. Maps were produced, and a full account of its beauties was poured forth by Hezekiah. It was agreed that the latter should visit his father's family in Oneida county and some acquaintances in Chenango county, among them a young lady who might possibly be going to Illinois before long; that James T. would endeavor to sell his property as soon as possible; and arrangements were made that the brothers should emigrate to the west, and share in the toils and benefits incident to its settlement.

A short interval passed. Hezekiah was married; James T. sold out and was ready for the start; a lumber wagon was provided and filled with tools; a double team was procured, and the advance made. The young men drove all the way to Chicago, at every step leaving civilization further and further behind, until, on the 24th of March, 1835, they reached the wished-for hamlet by the lake. Here learning that the place then called Milwaukee Bay was a magnificent site for a settlement, they left their wagon at Chicago and rode to that point in company with a man named Goodwin. On the way they did not meet a living soul, and being scantily provided with edibles, were necessitated to divide even their few biscuits with their horses. At length, arriving at Milwaukee, they procured food and corn, but soon discovered that people from Chicago had claimed all the land in the vicinity, and then came back the old thought, Let us go to the Fox river.

Accordingly they took up the line of march, sending their horses back to Chicago by Mr. Goodwin, he being desirous of returning thither without delay. An abortive attempt to cross the country from Milwaukee was now succeeded by their partly retracing their steps to the neighborhood of the present city of Racine, where they met a half-breed trader, named Jock Jumbeau, who invited them to rest a few days. Jock, who had been a trapper, and was at one time one of those *engages* or *voyageurs* that the late Mrs. Kinzie so truly described in her "Early Days in the Northwest," told the Giffords that he knew the country well, and that by taking the trail from his cabin they could reach the waters of the Fox river in half a day. He also said they would very possibly find settlers on its banks. This was agreeable information; and a negro boy who acted as cook, page, etc., etc., to Jock, having prepared the brothers some cakes, they struck into the woods and were soon again on their way.

Reaching the river in the time mentioned by Jock Jumbeau, they walked down stream for miles, but encountered no signs of human life. Anxious to



explore its west bank, they were prevented by the depth of the stream, until, when quite fatigued, they met a lone Pottawattamie in a canoe, who ferried them across, but could give them no information of settlers or settlements. Now the explorers found themselves with a broad and deep river between them and, as they feared, all white men, but still they walked on. Night overtook them, and they camped without supper. Next morning they were up betimes and still marching southward, but no settlers were yet to be seen, and being without a compass, they dared not leave the bank of the river for fear of getting lost. Creeks were waded through that chilled them to the very heart, but yet, hungry, wet and tired, they kept on. At length, when they had been forty-eight hours without food, they thought they descried something that seemed like a "claim mark," and stopped to examine it. The examination did not prove satisfactory, and again they pushed southward. After journeying for some hours, Mr. Hezekiah Gifford saw through the trees a little edifice called a "punshon," or hut, then much in use among Indians and settlers. He approached it, calling to his brother to follow. On reaching it they halloosed, but no response came, and then raising one of the planks they looked in, hoping to find some human being in the habitation. But, instead of white settlers, or even Indians, the famishing men only saw squatted in all the majesty of repose, decked with his blankets and innumerable little evidences of high rank, a dead Pottawattamie chief, taking the sleep that knows no waking. The body was in a sitting posture and but little decomposed, and was a terrible evidence to the travelers that they were further than ever from civilization and succor. And now, discouraged and weakened by privation, the journey was resumed; night came on, and the wayfarers having lighted a fire, lay down to sleep. Rain fell during the night, and getting up chilled to replenish the fire some wild animals became frightened and went crashing and howling through the woods. In the morning they started once more, and after a time the stream now called the Nippersink, in McHenry county, was reached. Here they had to wade up to their waists and hold their clothes over their heads to keep them dry. The mud, too, at the bottom of the creek almost engulfed them, and, long after that day, the Messrs. Gifford laughingly remarked that the creek alluded to might be called the *Nip-or-sink* with increased propriety. But now at length they were, although unconscious of the fact, drawing near relief. They had walked at this time to the bend in the river above the present village of Algonquin, and stopping to survey the situation they descried afar off a figure moving. Their pace was quickened, and they soon came to a white man who was splitting rails. On being questioned, this man said that he worked for Samuel Gillan, who owned a cabin hard by. This was, of course, good news, and Mr. James T. Gifford, absolutely overburdened with joy, cried out, "Oh! now we'll have a good meal!" Mr. Gillan and his wife kindly received the travelers, heard their story of suffering and travel, and soon placed before them a meal of corn dodgers and coffee that tasted deli-

ciously in this new wilderness. A goodnight's rest was afterward taken; a hearty breakfast eaten; a few miles further passed, and the ground on which Elgin now stands was reached.

Here the Messrs. Gifford at once became struck with the excellent site presented for a town. They saw before them a gently undulating country, and beautifully timbered banks, through which the river flowed and rippled, showing a fall of water so necessary for its use as a motive power. The country, too, around looked more like a deserted orchard than a wilderness—there was but little underbrush in the splendid oak openings that stretched on every side, and the scene was gracefully beautiful and homelike. Here, then, the Gifford brothers determined to settle, and Mr. James T. Gifford at once *stepped off* and claimed the land now known as James T. Gifford's plat of Elgin, his brother claiming the land south of it, on a portion of which the National Watch Factory now stands. Having heard from the Gillans that a man named Welch lived near the head of the Little Woods, they paid that gentleman a visit, after which they walked back to Chicago for their horses and wagon, conscious that they had secured a vine and fig tree in the great west.

In a couple of days they were again leaving Chicago for the river, when, on Randolph street, they met a gentleman who stopped them and stated that his name was Joseph Kimball; that he wished to put up a saw mill, and that he would be happy to find a location for such a purpose. He also asked them, as they looked like travelers, where they were going, and being told to the Fox river, he inquired the way thither. They answered that by following Scott's army trail he could reach a place called Meacham's Grove (now Bloomingdale), where there were a few settlers who would show him a way to the river. They then parted, the Giffords coming direct to their settlement. Mr. Kimball, it seems, at once entered into communication with some friends of his who resided at a place called Flag Creek, in Cook county, concerning the Gifford settlement on Fox river, and in a short time Messrs. Samuel J., G. W., Russell and Jonathan Kimball, with Isaac Stone, made their appearance at the Giffords' cabin and announced their intention of casting their fortunes in the new settlement. The Giffords were, of course, quite rejoiced at this accession, and soon after the new settlers established themselves as follows: Mr. Stone claimed his present farm property, some three miles west of Elgin; Mr. S. J. Kimball claimed the property now owned by his sons, Joseph and Walter (the former the first white male child born in Elgin), and Mr. Jonathan Kimball claimed the property on the west side, now owned by Judge Wilcox, Mr. Wing and others. Mr. Joseph Kimball died while on a trip to the east for his family.

And now came a demand for the necessities of life. Bread had to be obtained, and the settlers having gathered in their first crop of corn, the question arose, how was it to be ground. Journeys to Ottawa, Joliet and Chicago for this purpose were frequent, but they were long and tedious, and

it was evident that the place then called "State Road" by the few settlers, in the hope, it is to be supposed, that a state road would some time or other get to it, must have a mill. Accordingly, Mr. J. T. Gifford conceived the building of one, and constructed it by hollowing out a large stump and fitting into it an immense stone, which was raised and depressed by means similar to those once used in raising water out of wells. A sort of powerful mortar and pestle were thus formed which, like another mill that is the subject of an old saying, "ground slowly," but, unlike that mill, did not grind "extremely small." It served its purpose, however, for some time, and produced the staff of life in a semi-pulverized condition.

And now, too, the few gathered in the infant settlement became enterprising. The Giffords went to a settlement on the banks of the DuPage, where they bought four yoke of cattle, and from thence Mr. James T. Gifford again went to Chicago, where he found Mrs. Hezekiah Gifford, just arrived from the east. The lady returned with him to the settlement, and for six weeks afterward did not see the face or form of a white woman. This scarcity of female loveliness in Elgin was during the early summer of 1835. But of red ladies and gentlemen she saw many. Sometimes they would come and importune her for flour; sometimes they would offer her fish and game for the same article, and on one occasion the lady, while alone in her cabin on what is now the Bowen residence, received a delegation of twenty braves, one of whom essayed to take some flour without any regard to Mrs. Gifford's opinion in the matter. The lady, who was all the time scared almost to death, put on a bold face and gave the voracious Mr. Lo such a push as almost capsized him, and caused him such astonishment that his aboriginal brethren set up a roar of laughter that might be heard for some distance. They soon after departed, and came back with Mr. Gifford, who gave the poor savages all the flour he could spare.

The settlement now requiring a road, one was staked to Meacham's Grove (Bloomington), and in June, 1835, two strange ladies, with pale faces, made their appearance in the settlement. These were Mrs. P. J. Kimball, Sr., and her daughter, whose husband and father also arrived and soon after located where the residence of Mr. P. J. Kimball, Jr., now stands, having purchased that claim from a settler who had just raised a cabin thereon. The newly-arrived ladies were gladly welcomed, and were, of course, a great acquisition to the society of the little band of settlers.

A very extensive settlement, at least in the distance between houses, was it at this time, and the question of a name for the inchoate city one day very naturally forced itself on Mr. J. T. Gifford, as he was sitting in his brother's cabin. "What name shall we call the town?" said he, rather abruptly. Mrs. H. Gifford absolutely started with astonishment, and she replied: "Call the town? Pshaw! Where is the town?" Her brother-in-law laughed and said: "Well, never mind; I have a name for it, at any rate, an old Scotch one, too, and a short one. We'll call it Elgin." And Elgin it

was henceforth called; but yet Mrs. Gifford, who could not be convinced of the growth of the place, said to her husband soon after this circumstance, "What's the use of a name for this place? Do you ever expect to see stages running here?" Both brothers answered, "Of course we do." And in 1837, only two years after this nomenclatural discussion, it was no uncommon sight for the lady to stand at her cabin door and see, not one, but two, stages pass daily into Elgin, with horns blowing the announcement of their arrival.

In 1835, Mr. J. T. Gifford's wife, accompanied by his sister, Miss Harriet Gifford (Elgin's first school teacher), arrived from the east, and were installed in the new cabin erected by Mr. Gifford, almost in front of the present residence of Mr. O. Davidson. A mark of the cellar of this old building is yet visible, and to many an old settler it brings thoughts of the really large-hearted man whose former home it denotes.

Dr. Joseph Tefft, the first mayor of the city, came also in 1835, and until 1838 was the only practicing physician for miles around.

About this time two efforts were made to introduce religious exercises, and, as the cabin above mentioned was the resort of the settlers for all civil purposes, such as postoffice, etc., it was also for the time being the village church. The first Sunday that the Gifford family spent in Elgin a sermon was read to them by Miss Gifford. Afterward the settlers held regular services in the cabin, Mr. Russell Kimball, or Deacon Philo Hatch, assisting in or conducting them.

The first Fourth of July celebration was a unique affair, and deserves mention in this sketch of the village. It was conducted in this wise: Although, as before mentioned, a road had been staked off to Meacham's Grove, it was by no means a sufficient guide; and, on the 4th day of July, 1836, a large tree having been cut down and attached to several yoke of cattle, all the inhabitants gathered and aided in having it drawn half way to the Grove. A deep furrow was also plowed in its course; and the Meacham's Grove people having performed a similar work on their half of the road, the people met together and declared the road open. Then they joined in a grand Independence dinner of corn bread, bacon and cold coffee.

About this time, also, the settlement began to show signs of political life, and an election for justice and constable was held on the 1st of July, 1836, at the house of Thos. H. Thompson, which stood on the farm now owned by E. G. Ketchum, in the present town of Dundee. It seems from the poll-book that Elgin was then known in the political divisions of the state as Lake township, and embraced both Elgin and Dundee. The following is a list of the voters at this election:

John Johnson, Moses Akers, Alfred M. Henley, George Tyler, James E. Parker, Ransom Olds, Aaron Burbank Isaac Fitz, Wanton Parker, Sol. Akers, Benjamin Bell, Russell F. Kimball, Joseph Russell, Charles B. Kimball, P. J. Kimball, Thos. H. Thompson, Jonathan Kimball, Thos. Deweese.

At this election Jonathan Kimball, for justice of the peace, had fifteen votes, and Wanton Parker had, for the same office, seventeen votes. Seth Green, for constable, received eighteen votes, and S. J. Kimball, seventeen votes. Thos. H. Thompson, Jonathan Kimball and Thomas Deweese were judges of the election, and Isaac Fitz and Wanton Parker were clerks thereof.

The next election occurred in August, 1836, and was also held at the above locality in Lake precinct, as the district was yet called. It was for congressman, state senator and representative, county commissioner, sheriff, recorder, surveyor and coroner, and called out a full vote of the citizens.

The first election in the town of Elgin, properly speaking, was held at the public house of Hezekiah Gifford, where the Presbyterian church now stands, Oct. 10, 1836, and was probably the first formal election after the organization of Kane county, which was effected in 1836.

On the 7th of November an election for Lake precinct was again held at Mr. Thompson's house, this being for presidential electors, and as the names exhibit those of several new settlers, we append them, also directing attention to the fact that, from the residence of the voters, it must have been a good day's work to go to and from the polls:

Abraham Leatherman, Thos. H. Shields, Seth Green, Amos Perry, Thomas Mitchell, Jubilee Deweese, Benj. Moore, Hardin Oatman, James Deweese, Thos. Metcalf, John Hammer, John Oatman, Jr., Ransom Olds, Alf. McNevelve, John Jackson, Fred. Ashbaugh, John Mann, Francis Perry, John Oatman, Richard Simpkins, Ira Earl, James E. Parker, David Deweese, Wanton Parker, Chris. Brannard, Benj. Jinks, Thos. H. Thompson, Joseph Russell, Jonathan Kimball, J. Russell, Jr., Thos. Deweese, Wm. W. Welch, Wm. Wilber, Jonathan Tefft, Stansbury Long, Dan. Stubert, Augustus F. Knox, Isaac Fitz, Sol. H. Hamilton, David Hammer, Colton Knox, Isaac N. Newman. The record shows that except Messrs. Deweese, Brannard, Thompson, A. F. Knox, Simpkins, Parker, Fitz and Hamilton, the electors all voted one way—democratic—it is thought. Another election, and the last that took place in Lake precinct, occurred in August, 1837.

The second election that ever took place in Elgin, occurred at the house of Eli Henderson (who had bought the public house of H. Gifford), on October 9, 1837. It was for a justice of the peace and constable, James T. Gifford being then elected to the former office and Eli Henderson to the latter.

During 1836, emigrants desirous of reaching points west of Elgin, were continually troubled to find out a road, but the indomitable James T. Gifford took upon himself the task of making one. He was influenced in so doing by a double motive. In the first place, he was desirous of serving the emigrants; and, in the next place, of making Elgin a great point on the thoroughfare from Chicago to Galena; and, as he knew that exertions must be made to divert travel from the old road or trail which crossed the river

some miles south of Elgin, he undertook to give the emigrants a good road west of his settlement. For this purpose, he first "marked" a road westward by "blazing" trees to a point near Coon creek, where he became dissatisfied with the conformation of the country as a highway, and returned to Elgin. Again he, in company with Mr. S. J. Kimball, recommenced surveying and "blazing" a new route, nor did they cease their labors until they had "marked out" the present Galena road to Belvidere, and securely established a highway that has ever since been used by travelers from Chicago to the great northwest.

The year 1836 saw the first religious organization of Elgin firmly established. True, before this date, services had been held in the Messrs. Giffords' cabins, as has been stated, but now the standard of Christ was raised and permanently planted. In February, of the year alluded to, Rev. John H. Prentiss, of Joliet, and Rev. N. C. Clark, then of Naperville, but since, for many years, one of the most honored and beloved citizens of Elgin, met at Mr. J. T. Gifford's house, by invitation, and spent a Sabbath beneath that hospitable roof. Mr. Prentiss preached on the occasion, and it was concluded to organize a church as soon as possible. In May, 1836, a church was formed, according to the usages of the Congregational denomination.

And now was born the first white male child that saw light on the banks of the Illinois Fox. The birth took place in S. J. Kimball's cabin, on Nov. 28, 1836, and "the bairn" was called Joseph Kimball. The event was a memorable one to the settlers.

The first marriage—rare luxury in those days—was celebrated at the house of Jonathan Kimball, when his daughter, Martha, was united to Sidney Kimball.

The first death, too, in Elgin, that of Miss Mary Ann Kimball, daughter of P. J. Kimball, Sr., took place in May of this year. The deceased was buried in the newly-formed cemetery, situated on the property now owned by Mrs. Horace French, and the adjacent lots. The present cemetery was not used until 1844, and on its establishment many bodies had to be transferred to it from the old burying ground. It is a pleasure to add, that through the exertions of a former sexton of this cemetery (Mr. Newcomb), a perfect record of interments has been kept, that is almost invaluable.

Emigrants now commenced passing into the western country in great numbers. The aborigines had, in 1836, received their last payment in Chicago and were moving off. The Elgin people no more heard their importunities for "pennyack," "quashkin" and "goonatosh," yet, in this year, the settlers received a severe scare from a report brought into the village by a courier from the north, that the Indians were coming back to slay and scalp all before them. A public meeting was at once called, and a committee of defense appointed, but the red men did not put in an appearance. The village was growing now. Elgin's first physician, Dr. Joseph Tefft, had commenced practice, and built a house on the ground now used as a hay



and wood market. A man named Stowers, too, had built a store, near Mrs. Duntun's property. Mr. Gifford had got the name of the village legally authenticated in Washington, and the mail and stage route west, located through Elgin; people no longer had to send horsemen to Chicago for letters and papers. Settlers, including the Knox, Gilbert, Tefft and other families, had come in on the trail that led up the Fox from the direction of Joliet, and Elgin most decidedly "looked up" during the gracious year of 1836. Miss Gifford's school was also a success.

Travelers still continued, at this period, to pour into and through Elgin, and while every house in the village was a hospice no less generous than the storm-battered refuge on the summit of Saint Bernard, it became apparent that a tavern must be built. Accordingly, J. T. Gifford proposed, early in 1836, to his brother Hezekiah, the erection of a tavern, saying, that for the purpose he would give him three of the best lots in the village. The offer was accepted, and a log tavern was built, 16x24, on the site now occupied by the Presbyterian church. In the fall of that year a frame addition was made to this tavern, which remained standing, though not on its original site, until April, 1875. Some time after this, the Elgin house, for years kept by a person named Tibballs, was built. It stood on the corner of Chicago and Center streets, and a portion of it is now the Elgin boarding house. It was at one time considered one of the finest hotels in the west; but after the departure of Mr. Tibballs, it was converted into a female seminary, and for years, under the management of the Misses Lord, held a first-class reputation as an institution of the kind.

The sharply-contested election between Carlin and Edwards for governor, and the congressional battle between Stephen A. Douglas and John T. Stewart, which occurred in 1837, drew out a large amount of political enthusiasm in Elgin. At the election held in the village at the house of Eli Henderson, on the 6th of August, of the year alluded to, the candidates received the following vote: Carlin and Anderson, democratic candidates for governor and lieutenant-governor, received each forty-seven votes. Edwards and Davidson, opposition, received each twenty-six votes; Stephen A. Douglas, forty-five votes, and John T. Stewart, twenty-six votes. It is said that in this election the congressional district included almost all northern Illinois, and that the stumping done by Mr. Stewart, and the future great Illinois senator, was wonderful.

Mr. W. C. Kimball came to Elgin in 1837, and at once energetically set at work, in conjunction with Mr. J. T. Gifford and Mr. S. J. Kimball, in improving the business facilities of the little place. A mill dam was built by these gentlemen; a saw mill was erected, and Mr. Gifford built quite a good grist mill, that for years stood near the present head of the race. After disuse, and the erection of other mills, it was used as a slaughter house, until burned by incendiarism in 1857.

In 1838, Henry Sherman settled about two miles west of the embryo vil-



lage. Jason House, Elgin's first blacksmith; B. Healy, the first harness maker; John and Vincent Lovell, Alfred Hadlock, Wm. Shaw, Solomon Hamilton, Burgess Truesdell, Harvey Raymond and many others, came about the same time. The productions of the country found a ready market in Chicago, then just commencing her wonderful career. Wheat never sold for less than thirty cents per bushel, nor corn for less than twenty cents, and pork was often firm at \$1.50 per hundred.

In 1838, B. W. Raymond, of Chicago, in connection with his partner, S. N. Dexter, bought one-half of J. T. Gifford's claim, and, in 1840, Mr. Gifford sold one-half of the remainder to Dr. Root. Elgin is greatly indebted to B. W. Raymond for its early and later prominence. Although not an actual resident, he made large investments here and furnished the material for many of the most important enterprises. His contributions for the establishment of the Academy were liberal, and was one of the first, and for many years one of the leading, merchants. He was a partner in the foundry of Augustus Adams & Co., the first manufacturers of corn shellers in this part of the west. He was chiefly instrumental in the establishment of the woolen factory, built by S. N. Dexter in 1842. He assisted in the erection of a large tannery, and in securing the location of the watch factory here, of which company he became the president.

All this time (1838), the religious sympathies of the people of Elgin were by no means undemonstrative. The Baptists, who had been partly organized for some time, met in Hezekiah Gifford's residence, in July, 1838, and organized a society, with Rev. J. E. Ambrose as pastor. This congregation, together with other Christian bodies, however, met in common for some time in a frame building, 30x25 feet, which stood where the stone church (or school house) now is. This was opened for worship in December, 1838, and was surmounted by a small tower and bell. It served both for church and school house purposes, and was long the only building so used in Elgin. In 1837, the Elgin Methodists organized a church, and, in 1840, built a neat little frame chapel, on the corner of Center and Division streets, to which they added a spacious wing in 1852, occupying the same until 1866, when the present stately and elegant Centenary Methodist Episcopal church was built. During the Christian occupancy of the little frame building first alluded to, the several denominations worshiping therein divided the time harmoniously among them, and the Sunday school officers were chosen from different denominations. In July, 1837, a great religious meeting was held in a large tent, near the site of the present stone church (school house), and in September of that year the Congregationalists secured the services of Rev. Mr. Clark, to minister to them on alternate Sundays, he being then a resident of St. Charles. At this time he divided his services with the Dundee church. At this time, also, Rev. Mr. St. Palais, a missionary from Indiana, occasionally visited the few Catholics in Elgin. This gentleman afterward was bishop of Vincennes, in that state.

The want of a bridge now became apparent, and on one occasion it is authenticated that several young ladies, who were visiting on the west side, were forced to return to the east bank by wading through the flood. On another occasion, when a number of teamsters had congregated while the river was filled with ice cakes, the question came up how to cross, and western enterprise was appealed to. The result was that a crossing was effected by throwing quantities of straw from cake to cake, and then throwing water on the straw; thus the ice became a solidified mass, and a passage became practicable. But this state of things could not continue, and, in 1837, Elgin's first bridge was built. It was a wooden structure, reaching from Mr. Healy's present place of business to Mrs. Lynch's store on the west side. It was carried off by a freshet in 1849, and was succeeded in that year by a substantial wooden bridge, which lasted until 1866, when it was removed and an iron bridge built. The fall of this structure beneath a drove of cattle, and the subsequent fall of a part of the new iron bridge on the Fourth of July, 1869, are events that will be remembered with sadness.

Two new hotels were erected in Elgin in 1839—the American and Western. These houses are now owned respectively by Messrs. Hansen and Fitzgerald, of the west side.

From 1839 until 1840 but little of interest occurred in Elgin. In the latter year its citizens took great interest in the presidential campaign. The whigs, it seems, had now become quite a party in Elgin, and, as the names of the voters and how they voted may be of interest to those of the present day, the list is annexed, those marked with a \* being democrats:

\*Colton Knox, \*Edward E. Harvey, \*George W. Renwick, \*David Hunter, Erasmus Davis, \*Philo S. Patterson, Benjamin Hall, Thomas Frazier, William V. Clark, Thomas Hammer, James P. Corron, \*William Conley, \*Thomas Calvert, \*Aaron Harwood, \*Lewis Ray, \*Charles H. Hayden, \*Joseph S. Burdick, \*Anthony Phillips, \*Caleb Kipp, \*W. S. Shaw, Luther C. Stiles, \*Asabel B. Hinsdell, \*Seth Green, \*George Hammer, \*Justice Stowers, \*Hiram Williams, \*Jonathan Kimball, \*Joseph Tefft, \*William C. Kimball, Burgess Truesdell, Charles W. Mappa, George Hassan, Asa Merrill, \*John W. Switzer, \*James Hoag, Otis Hineckley, Abel Walker, \*Francis Wells, \*Samuel Waterman, \*David Hammer, \*David Welch, \*John Hill, George E. Smith, James Sutherland, Finley Frazier, \*Daniel B. Taylor, \*George W. Hammer, Erastus Bailey, Lorenzo Whipple, \*George R. Dyer, \*John B. Scovill, John Lovell, E. A. Miltimore, \*William B. Howard, Aaron Bailey, \*Alfred Hadlock, \*William W. Welch, Harvey Gage, \*Elisha Sprague, \*John Flinn, \*Pierce Tobin, Benjamin Burritt, N. C. Clark, Wolcott Hart, \*Benjamin Williams, \*George W. Kimball, Lyman Rockwood, Ralph Grow, Asa Gifford, Solomon Hamilton, \*Ira Earl, Calvin Carr, Perry Stephens, Norman Stephens, S. A. Wolcott, \*Ransom Olds, \*James M. Howard, Moses Wanzer, \*Jonathan Tefft, Jr., Lyman Williams, Halsey Rosenkrans, \*Whitman Underwood, Ralph Stowell, Lewis Tupper, Myron Smith, \*Guy Adams,

\*Lewis Eaton, William R. Mann, \*Amos Tefft, Hezekiah Gifford, \*John S. Calvert, \*Isaac Stone, \*Jesse Abbott, Charles B. Tucker, Harvey Raymond, \*Abraham Leatherman, Peter Burritt, \*Daniel Leatherman, \*Samuel Parker, \*Nathan E. Daggett, Craig Duncan, Thomas Mitchell, Calvin Hall, \*Adin Mann, \*Isaac West, \*Jonathan Tefft, \*A. W. Hoag, Anson Leonard, \*John Guptill, \*Joseph Corron, Lattimer S. Tyler, \*George Hammer 2d, Artemus Hewitt, Christopher Branham, \*Daniel Guptail, Humphrey Huckins, Henry Sherman, \*Marcus Ranstead, Abel D. Gifford, Alphonso Whipple, \*Josiah Stephens, Alfred Gurtean, George Sawyer, \*Samuel Kimball, \*Berry Branham, \*William Plummer Kimball, \*A. S. Kimball, \*Joseph Kimball, \*Charles Kimball, Aaron Porter, Gould Hinman, Addison R. Porter, \*Jason House, Jarvis Smith, Seth Stowell, \*Franklin Bascomb, \*Mark Adams, Stephen De Long, \*James West, \*Thomas Burbanks, \*Moses Gray, \*Elijah Waterman, \*Almond Fuller, James T. Gifford, \*John Ranstead, \*D. B. McMillen, \*Isaac Hammer, Isaac Otis, \*Rowland Lee, \*Alexander McMillen, \*Folsom Bean, \*Judah H. Fuller, Philo Hatch, Amos Stone, \*Samuel J. Kimball, Thomas Bateman, Horace Benham, \*N. K. Abbott, E. K. Mann, \*Abraham Cawood, \*Russell F. Kimball, \*Samuel Hunting, \*Alfred C. Ordway, Halsey Adams, \*Luther Herrick, \*William W. Welch, Alexander Plummer, George W. Rowley, David Corlis, John Cromer, \*George F. Taylor, P. M. Goodrich, Anson Underwood, James H. Rowley, \*Charles S. Tibballs, \*Aurelius Barney, \*Owen Burk, \*Samuel P. Burdick, John Jenne, Byron Smith, Charles Merrifield, Phineas J. Kimball, Jr., Asa Rosenkrans, \*Samuel Minard, \*Benjamin Adams, Joshua E. Ambrose, \*Abel Pierce, \*W. M. Bellows, \*Simon Dike, William A. Moulton, \*Hiram George, \*Richard A. Heath, \*Horace Heath, Chaplin W. Merrill, \*James Todd, Orange Parker, James Parker, \*Sidney Heath, Vincent S. Lovell, John Ternorth, Solomon H. Hamilton, Philip H. Sargent, James H. Scott, Philo Sylla, \*Elijah Clark, \*Amos Clark. Democrats, 110; Whigs, 97.

Several lawyers and other professional men about this period arrived in Elgin, among them Mr. Edward E. Harvey, who raised a military company in Elgin for the Mexican war. This gentleman afterward died in Mexico. Hon. Isaac G. Wilson, also, about this time came to Elgin, and for years successfully practiced law in the village. He was Mr. Gifford's successor as postmaster, and left Elgin when raised to the bench of the Circuit Court.

In July, 1843, a great religious revival took place in Elgin, and about the same time the Millerite fallacy created a great excitement in the community. The corner-stone of the Congregational church was also laid at this time, but the edifice was not finished until July, 1847. This church has since been thoroughly remodeled, and is now one of the most elegant church edifices west of Chicago.

And now came a great change in the business quarters of Elgin. Up to 1840, or perhaps 1842, it seemed that a portion of Center street south of and near its intersection with Chicago street, was to be the business center of

Elgin ; yet such was not to be the case. The revolution in this respect, was partly brought about by Mr. B. W. Raymond erecting the store now occupied by Stewart's bakery on Chicago street. This became the great store of the village. The postoffice, too, went into the building long known as Roberts' meat market, further up the street on the north side. A law office was established in the same building. Dr. Tefft's office was next door, and commercial Elgin, in a word, began to move toward the river.

But in 1840 came a grand financial crash. The Illinois State bank, the great monetary source of supply of the west, went down, and there were suffering and hard times in the village. Soon after, however, the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company's notes supplied the lack of currency ; financial difficulty ceased, and business prospered more than ever.

About this period, Burgess Truesdell, Esq., established a very extensive cocoonery in the village for the growth of silk-worms. It partly succeeded, and a large quantity of Elgin silk found its way to market. The investment, however, was not sufficiently profitable to warrant its continuance ; but the effort deserves mention as Elgin's first manufacturing enterprise.

During 1843, the woolen factory was built by S. Newton Dexter, Esq., and a new impetus was given to the village. The new establishment was worthy of the town, and through it Elgin received its first lesson in the great and splendid advantages to be derived from the location of manufacturing establishments. From that time to the present, the lesson has never been forgotten in the community. Elgin knows that every stride it has taken has been owing to the building up in its midst of great productive establishments, and, for this reason it is, that the public-spirited people of this locality always hail the establishment of new enterprises as new beacons pointing to the continued growth of their city. The Elgin woolen factory for many years employed a large force of operatives, but for some time previous to 1866 was but little used as a factory. In that year it was purchased by a stock company and thoroughly remodeled. It is now one of the finest and best mills in the state, its fabrics taking high rank at all textile exhibitions. It is at present managed by J. P. Goodale, Esq.

Elgin did not escape that bane of new western settlements—the fever and ague. So prevalent had sickness become in 1845, that the place was little better than a hospital. Everybody had the ague or bilious fever, and it is said that a poor man, whose wife died during the summer of that year, could with difficulty find help sufficient to bury her. There was, too, a perfect hegira of its inhabitants ; everybody was fleeing from sickness ; the village was shunned by strangers ; even the indomitable J. T. Gifford left it, and went to the village of Grafton, Wisconsin, where two of his children died. After the health of the town was in a measure restored, Mr. Gifford again returned to his home, where he lived until August, 1850, when he died of Asiatic cholera. A nobler man never lived ; a more generous philan-

thropist never put forth an unstinted hand; a more Christian gentleman never kept in accord the precepts and examples of that high station. His death was mourned by everybody in Elgin, and his memory will be long revered in the city that he helped to found and ever befriended.

The epidemic of 1845 being over, Elgin was again soon progressing. Hon. Augustus Adams, now of Sandwich, Ill., associated with the town's foremost merchant, B. W. Raymond, Esq., had established quite an extensive foundry, which stood where the present elegant DuBois block is built. Messrs. G. W. Renwick, Philo Sylla, Alfred Hadlock and others, were gaining a manufacturing name for Elgin. The "Big Blue" threshing machines were known far and wide, and Elgin's reputation was widespread, as early as 1849. Farmers came to it for machinery from a great distance, and it was recognized as the great wool depot of the country west of Chicago.

But even before this era, the district school and printing press had come. The school in the little church had done wonders, and a small school house, which had been built on the site of Dr. Tefft's present residence property on Milwaukee street, and had been taught by Miss Harvey, afterward Mrs. P. R. Wright, had admirably served its purpose. In 1847, however, a good district school house was completed, one in which for twenty-eight years the infant idea has now been taught to shoot. This institution was the old brick school house, that yet stands on the corner of Du Page and Chapel streets. Subsequently two brick school houses were built on the west side of the river, and in 1858 the brick building in the first ward, known as the high school, was erected. In 1866-7 two frame buildings were erected for school purposes, and during 1870 the large stone church, erected by the Baptists in 1849, was purchased by the city and fitted for a public school. Although Elgin possesses no large school house, or one architecturally beautiful, its schools are nevertheless conducted on the most advanced system, and presided over by competent teachers. They are of necessity well attended, and of course beneficial. The Elgin Academy, too, an institution which has long held a front place in the educational establishments of the state, is in a highly prosperous condition. It was founded as a Free-Will Baptist College in 1848, but after being partly built, was abandoned by that society. In 1854 an association was formed, under a charter for an academy, which took charge of the building, finished it, and have ever since controlled it. It is a magnificent ornament to Elgin, and under the present principal (Prof. A. G. Sears) is now filled with pupils.

The printing press, to which allusion has been made, was that of the *Western Christian*, established in Elgin in 1845, by a joint stock company. It was Baptist and anti-slavery, and was edited by Spencer Carr, Rev. A. J. Joslyn and Rev. Wareham Walker. It was afterward moved to New York state. But Elgin was not long left without a journal, the *Elgin Gazette* being established soon after the transfer of the *Western Christian*. Other papers have since been started in Elgin, but, with few exceptions, they exist no longer.



The *Fox River Courier*, a whig organ, was established in 1851, but did not long preserve an existence. In 1856 the *Kane County Journal* had a brief life, and the *Elgin Palladium*, was also, for some time published. The *Gazette* existed longer than any other paper, and was successively edited by E. Owen, Esq., now of New York; H. M. Smith, of the *Brooklyn Union*; E. S. Joslyn; the late Prof. Blenkiron, A. M.; the late Rev. A. J. Joslyn; Birney Hand, Esq.; Messrs. Kincaid and Post; Frank T. Gilbert and Edward Keogh.

A democratic paper was published in Elgin during 1858, by Colonel Thomas Grosvenor and F. B. Wilkie. It had a party successor in 1865, when the *Second District Democrat* was started by Mr. B. W. Staniforth. This, again, was succeeded, in 1865, by the *Elgin Chronicle*, edited by Mr. Edward Keogh, until 1869, when it was sold to Mr. E. C. Kincaid, who changed its title to that of the *Elgin Watchman*. It was afterward united with the *Gazette*, and published by a company, of which the Hon. Z. Eastman was president, and Geo. H. Daniels, secretary.

The Free-Will Baptists and Unitarians erected churches in Elgin in 1846. The former is now occupied by the German Lutherans, and the latter by the Free Methodists. In 1848 Mr. J. T. Gifford presented the Roman Catholics, through their pastor, Rev. Mr. Feeley, with a lot, upon which that denomination erected their present church in 1851. In connection with the religious history of Elgin, we may here add that on the 8th of February, 1853, a Presbyterian church was organized in Elgin, and that, on the 14th of May, 1855, a Reformed Presbyterian society was formed, which has since dropped the word "reformed" from its title and taken the place of the first named Presbyterian church, which had become extinct. The Unitarian church also ceased to exist not long after it was organized, and its small edifice passed into the hands of the German Evangelicals, and subsequently into the hands of the Free Methodists, the house built by the latter being taken in exchange. Nor did the Free-Will Baptist church long survive, though at one time it was among the most prosperous in the village.

Early in February, 1849, the first railway train from Chicago reached Elgin. It was a gala day in the village, and a grand banquet in honor of the event was given to all comers. For two years after that event, Elgin was the western terminus of all western railways. The myriad passengers that during all that time were rushing westward, were landed on the old platform south of Stewart's bakery, where, on the arrival of each train, they were met by a perfect brigade of teamsters, runners, etc., etc., anxious to transport them further west. The Elgin hotels, too, did a great business during those days, and as a consequence the City hotel was built. After the Fox River railroad was constructed, the Kimball house was erected near the east side depot, by P. J. Kimball, Jr., and enjoyed a splendid reputation. When the railroad crossed the river, W. C. Kimball, Esq., built the Waverly house, a hotel that for the past twenty-three years has been known as one of

the best conducted *garavanseras* in the west. It is now owned by the Messrs. Lasher, who have achieved for themselves a highly enviable reputation as caterers to the public wants.

The building of the railroad westward was succeeded in Elgin by a period of great business stagnation, although its manufactories, including a new and extensive tannery, owned by B. W. Raymond, continued to keep the town alive. The Fox River Valley railroad, also, which was commenced in 1853, and pushed forward to Geneva, Wisconsin, at first induced a belief in the minds of the people of Elgin that, on the completion of the road to the great pineries of Wisconsin, a lumber market would be created in Elgin, and a new impulse would be given to trade. For some cause the road never reached the desired point, and as a consequence considerable depression resulted from that fact, as well as from the stagnation incidental to the removal of the terminus of the Galena railway. Yet, all this time the people of Elgin were keenly alive to all chances for building up their town, and only wanted the opportunity still to encourage new enterprises when occasion offered.

Elgin became an incorporated city in February, 1854, the following gentlemen being then elected as corporate officers :

Mayor—Dr. Joseph Tefft. Aldermen—First ward, Charles S. Clark, R. L. Yarwood ; Second ward, Luther C. Stiles, Paul R. Wright ; Third ward, Edson A. Kimball, George P. Harvey.

Now, that the village had donned the garments of civic importance, its days of toddling infancy were past. The Bluff City was no longer an idealistic but a downright entity. Yet this event was followed by the mighty financial crisis of 1857. Property depreciated to low figures ; the manufactures of Elgin, like all other enterprises, were paralyzed ; stores were unrented, and Elgin was at a stand-still, with grass growing in its thoroughfares, and its people merely employing their energies in providing for life's wants. Thus it continued for some years, and thus many predicted it would long continue.

The frightful news of April, 1861, found the place still partly in this condition, and like all other communities in the north, the little city became suddenly awake to a mighty work. War was bursting out all over the south ; the fire lit in Charleston harbor was furnishing brands to every secessionist from Kentucky to the Gulf. The news reached Elgin, and in one week thereafter the first company raised for the first regiment of Illinois volunteers left the gallant little city, to brave the battle shock that was riving the republic ; and from that day, during all the long and bloody struggle, Elgin continued to do its duty, as may surely be gleaned from the following condensed statement of the numbers it sent to battle :

The first company sent from Elgin was mustered into the Seventh Illinois volunteers, on the 15th of April, 1861, and on the expiration of its term of service it was again mustered into the same regiment. On the 25th of



July, 1861, Elgin furnished a company to the Thirty-sixth Illinois volunteers, and still another company to the Fifty-second regiment, mustered September 14, 1861. In October of the same year a company left the city for the Fifty-fifth Illinois volunteers. Elgin contributed a very large quota to the Fifty-eighth regiment, which was organized in 1862, and in June of that year a company was also organized there for the Sixty-ninth regiment of three months' men. On September 5, 1862, two companies left the city for the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois volunteers. The Elgin Battery was formed in the fall of 1862, and mustered into service in November of that year. In February, 1864, extensive barracks were built on the Lovell property, in the north part of the city, which received the designation of Camp Kane, and in February, 1864, these were temporarily occupied by the Fifty-second regiment, then at home for a short time. The regiment received large accessions from the place on its redeparture for the front in March of the same year, and in the June following the One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois volunteers marched from Camp Kane, Elgin contributing two companies to the regiment. Besides those mentioned, Elgin contributed many soldiers to other organizations, and from the day, in the early spring of 1861, that the first company left it, until the happy midsummer, four years after, that the war's last veteran marched proudly home, Elgin was never derelict to the calls of the struggling, but at last victorious Republic.

And just before the close of that great conflict came a great period of success and enterprise. At that era money became plenty, and capitalists as a consequence became anxious for investments. Elgin began to receive its share of the new benefits. An immense condensing establishment grew up on the east side, under the management of Mr. Gail Borden, together with Messrs. W. G. Hubbard, D. M. Cole and P. Graff. Here is daily condensed, for a never-ceasing demand, hundreds of gallons of the milk produced by the magnificent herds that graze upon the hills and valleys of this splendid dairy country. The condensing factory has been enlarged, and, as Elgin's first success under the new era of business prosperity, this is a most pleasant matter of record.

And at this time, also, was projected Elgin's greatest pride and benefit, the National Watch Factory, an institution which has already been of incomparable good to the city. Its establishment was projected in 1864, and a company for that purpose was organized in Chicago during that year, of which B. W. Raymond, Esq., was appointed president. Then Elgin went to work in downright earnest to secure its location. G. B. Adams, Esq., having first "posted" his townsmen on the progress of the undertaking, soon a committee was busy ascertaining what inducements would cause the location of the factory in Elgin, this committee being the Hon. S. Wilcox, Messrs. A. J. Joslyn, Henry Sherman, O. Davidson and G. B. Adams. The committee invited the new company and its mechanics to visit Elgin.

They came, they saw, and the committee conquered. But the victory was not secured without effort. It is sufficient to say that private meetings were held; the required stock subscribed at a single meeting; the land purchased and donated, while surrounding towns were kept in ignorance of what was transpiring, at the expense of suppressing an entire edition of the *Elgin Chronicle*, in which the project had found ventilation. The location of the factory here was settled, and the National Watch factory was an established fact in Elgin. Now, its name and fame are cosmopolite, and the city in which it is located is spoken of from Sitka to Cape Horn, and from San Francisco to Peking.

Ever since 1864 the city has been rapidly increasing. A new and beautiful Methodist Episcopal church was built in 1866, as well as a neat Free Methodist church (now German Evangelical), and a really exquisite Universalist house of worship. During 1868 Elgin's progress was marvelous. In 1869 the Northern Illinois Insane Asylum was located about a mile southwest of Elgin. Like the watch factory, it was not secured without great effort, as many other places in northern Illinois wanted it. But such benefits had resulted to the place from the factory, that the citizens felt that they could afford to pay handsomely to secure the asylum. Hence, at an election held in this year, some \$50,000 in bonds were voted for the purpose. About \$20,000 of this was expended in the purchase of a farm, a spring, etc., which were donated to the state. What was done with the remaining \$30,000 is unknown, except to the few who are in the secret. But when the property owners have paid \$100,000 interest and principal to liquidate these bonds, they will be extremely gratified to have a satisfactory report and to know that they have received an equivalent. The insane asylum is a noble institution, and its buildings exceed in size and cost anything in the county; but the citizens of Elgin have not derived the advantage from its location here which they anticipated.

After the location of the institutions referred to, others were established, such as a great fruit-canning establishment, a mat and mattress factory (since burned), and a large fruit and vegetable-growing interest has been built up by the former. Besides all this, the cheese trade of Elgin has grown enormously. The city is surrounded on all sides by cheese factories, that export thousands of pounds of their golden-hued products monthly, and from the number of wagons to be found on the streets of Chicago, inscribed with the words "Elgin Dairy," one might conclude that Elgin was the metropolis, indeed, of the scriptural land of milk and honey.

Besides the factories and other shops alluded to, the city now possesses two large foundries, four excellent grist mills, two planing mills, several carriage shops, etc., etc. Since 1865, when most of the business portion of the city was burned, new and splendid blocks have been erected for business purposes. The year 1870 saw completed the DuBois block, one of the finest commercial edifices in the state, containing a public hall that would not

discredit a metropolis. A Baptist church has been finished, that is a model of chaste elegance. Old streets are being improved, new ones laid out, and on every hand is seen unmistakable evidence both of the city's growth and of the increasing opulence of its people. Not less than \$40,000 a month is paid to the operatives of the town; an immense monthly revenue also comes to the farmers in its vicinity for milk, and, in good truth, its people are looking up. And wisely have these farmers determined to show their products, as may be inferred from the establishment of the Elgin Agricultural Society, an organization which sprang into existence in 1869, and that since that time has expended about \$8,000 in the purchase and fitting up of elegant grounds. The society's grounds are commodious, well watered and contain splendid cattle sheds as well as a floral hall, amphitheater, and, indeed, all the adjuncts of a well-appointed fair ground. By a resolution adopted by the society, it has been determined to hold its annual fairs in September.

## THE LATER HISTORY OF ELGIN.

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WE have thus brought down the history of the city of Elgin to the year 1870, which is as far as it has been given in any previous work of this kind. The following is intended as a concise history of the more important facts of interest that have transpired since that date. In order to render the whole intelligible, we shall be obliged to refer, in some cases, to dates anterior to that year

### THE CITY LIMITS.

The territory comprised within the limits of the city of Elgin was, at its organization in 1854, exactly four square miles, measuring one mile north, east, south and west from the "liberty pole," which stood where the center of the public fountain now is. The limit on the east was, however, soon after extended to the county line of Cook county, and in 1869 it was extended on the south to the section line of sections Nos. 22, 23 and 24, including about one square mile of additional territory, making the present size of the corporate grounds about five and one-quarter square miles, divided nearly equally from north to south by the Fox river of Illinois, whose beautiful banks and bluffs have given to the city the familiar sobriquet of the "Bluff City," a term which we do not like, however, and hope to see discontinued. Ours is not a "bluff" city in the true American sense of that term. We have no steep, precipitous banks or hills, nor are our people "rude, coarse or blustering in their manners." The "bluffs" along our large western rivers are often on a magnificent scale, fully entitling the cities on their banks to be proud of an appellation drawn from them. But we have no bluffs, proper—only mere blufflets, at best—to coin a term. To the eye of the first explorer, the site of our city presented a succession of beautiful rolls and knolls, dells and swells, benches and barrows; rising and receding, stretching back from the river through undulating meadow-like prairies, park-like forests and orchardy openings, out and away for miles and miles into the interior, canopied with the bluest of skies, and breathed upon by none but the balmiest of breezes. "Sylvan City" would have been a more beautiful as well as a sweeter and more sonorous appellation.

But what need have we for any such meretricious cognomen? The enterprise of our citizens has given us that, which, while the name of

"Our noble Elgin beets the heavenward flame,"

shall secure us

"A fortified residence 'gainst the tooth of time  
And razor of oblivion."

### WARDS.

At its first organization the city was divided into three wards, as follows: First ward included all the territory within the city limits which lay north of Chicago street and east of the river; Second ward, all south of Chicago street and east of the river; Third ward, all west of the river. The Fourth ward was afterward erected from the First, including all north of Chicago street and east of Spring. In March, 1874, the Second ward was divided into the Second and Sixth, making the Second bounded as follows: On the north by Chicago street; east, by the city limits; south, by Prairie and Villa streets, and west by Fox river. The Sixth ward is bounded on the north by Prairie and Villa streets, on the east and south by city limits and west by the river. The Third ward was divided at the same time into the Third and Fifth, making the Third to include all south of Bridge street and west of the river; and the Fifth all north of Bridge street and west of the river.

### POPULATION.

The last state census, taken in 1871, gave the population of the city of Elgin at 5,441. But a careful census taken in 1873 by the Board of School Commissioners, enumerated the whole population at 7,300, and another taken in the fall of 1874, gave over 8,000 inhabitants. The number of new buildings erected and the growth of trade, has fully kept pace with this rapid increase of population.

### MANUFACTURES.

Among the leading manufacturing establishments of Elgin, many of which have either been commenced or largely added to within the last five years, we enumerate the following:

#### MACHINE SHOPS AND FOUNDRIES.

The Elgin Iron Works, at present owned and operated by Marcus Malery, were established in 1870. The works are situated on River street, near the foot of Milwaukee. These works manufacture sewing machine stands, steam engines for machine shops, farm and dairy use, dairy fixtures, etc. They use in their business about 400 tons of iron and 200 tons of coal per year, employing an average of thirty hands. The pay-roll amounts to nearly \$2,000 per month. These works are a model of neatness, order and skill in their line.

Messrs. Ruch & Blackmer have a large brick shop in the west wing of the woolen mill buildings, where they manufacture and repair every kind of machinery, and turn out work of the most tasteful designs, some of which are of their own invention.

Moseley Brothers opened last year a shop in the southeast corner of Gronberg, Bierman & Co.'s block, on River street, where they design and manufacture watch-making machinery, jewelers' and engravers' tools, and all the implements peculiar to the craft. C. S. Moseley, of this firm, is the pioneer of this manufacture in Elgin, having, in 1865, superintended the making of the machinery with which to make the tools with which were constructed the first watches that were made in the Elgin watch factory, a year or two later. More than that, he invented many of the machines and tools with which he made the tools invented by him, to stock the National works. He is the veteran horologist and machinist of the Elgin National Watch Company.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, ETC.

Gronberg, Bierman & Co. built, in 1870, on River street near the foot of Division, one of the best manufacturing blocks in the city. It is 63x50 feet, three stories high, and is supplied with both water and steam power. They manufacture the "National Combined Reaper and Mower," under a patent of their own, and are gaining for it a wide reputation and a large sale. They manufacture a full line of agricultural implements, besides doing general casting and repairing work.

O. Barr & Son have an establishment on River street, next to Heide-man & Root's stone mills, where they manufacture plows, harrows, cultivators, land rollers, etc., employing from six to ten hands. It was established in 1870, and has lately been enlarged and extended.

D. M. Cole & Co. established in 1870, on River street, the manufacture of those indispensable articles of domestic use, an improved washing machine and a patent wringer, of their own designing. The latter, under the popular trade mark of the "Lady Elgin Wringer," has won a wide reputation for itself and notoriety for the city in which it was invented. These wringers ring in an era of ease for housekeepers.

#### DAIRY GOODS.

M. Mallery & Co. have just completed, on the southeast corner of North and River streets, a two story frame building 100x40 feet, where they have commenced, on a large scale, the manufacture of cheese vats, steam engine finishings, heaters, milk cans, churns, etc. No better idea of the magnitude of the dairy trade in this vicinity can be gained than by visiting this establishment and noting the number of huge vats, and the numerous boilers and engines and other fixtures, which the whole lower floor is used for making and storing, and the profusion of smaller fixtures stored in the spacious



lofts above, all sold and ready to be delivered. A large room on the upper floor, 30x40 feet, is finished and furnished for the use of the Elgin Board of Trade.

Hawthorne & Bosworth, on the south of Chicago street, between River street and the bridge, are engaged in the same line of manufacture, employing ten or twelve skilled workmen and a large capital in supplying the demand for dairy goods. This firm does a business amounting to \$40,000 or \$50,000 per year.

Dr. R. R. Stone established, in 1874, a branch of this same industry at the northwest corner of Division street and Douglas avenue. A long list of cheese factory furnishing goods are supplied, and butter tubs and cheese boxes manufactured by the 100,000. Power is supplied from the steam mill of C. W. Fletcher & Co. and machinery is being put in. The brand of "Elgin Butter" and "Elgin Cheese" borne upon these boxes and tubs is becoming known the "world o'er."

The dairy interest is extending so rapidly in the northwest that the success of Elgin inventions and enterprise in that line promises grand results to the inventors and manufacturers as well as to the financial growth of the city, which is destined to remain as it is, the headquarters of this ever expanding trade.

#### BUTTER AND CHEESE.

The Elgin Butter Company was organized in April, 1870. The factory is located on the west side, a short distance north of Galena street, near Harvey street. The buildings are 80x30 feet, two stories and basement. A steam engine of four horse power performs the labor of churning, pumping water, etc. 2,000 gallons of milk can be used per day. Twelve and a half cents per gallon is the average price paid for milk in the winter and eight cents in summer. Six to eight hands are employed. Over \$3,000 per month is paid out for milk. The aggregate amount of butter made per year is 144,000 pounds, and of cheese made from the skimmed milk, 190,000 pounds. The butter brings readily, per contract, forty cents per pound, and the cheese from eight to ten cents. I. H. Wanzer is superintendent and joint owner with Messrs. O. Davidson, W. H. Hintze and E. D. Waldron, of this city.

#### MILK CONDENSING.

A company was formed in 1866, of which Mr. Gail Borden, one of the first inventors of the process of condensing articles of food, was the president, D. M. Cole treasurer and J. Christie secretary, with a capital of \$25,000. It was called The Elgin Milk Condensing company. In 1868 the stock passed into the hands of Gail Borden and his associates in the city of New York, and the name was changed to The Illinois Condensing Company. The corporation who own this manufactory has three other establishments chartered under the respective names of The New York Condensed Milk Company, in Dutchess county, N. Y., The Borden Condensed Milk Com-



pany, in Putnam county, N. Y., and The Borden Meat Preserving Company, at Borden, Texas. The Elgin factory takes the lead in the amount of goods manufactured.

The location of this unique manufactory in this city has given to Elgin a cosmopolitan fame, and the judgment of its founders in placing it here strongly corroborates the verdict that this is one of the most desirable dairy districts in America. The highest price is paid for the milk brought to this factory. It is required to be of the very best quality, fresh, rich and clean. The cows from which it is taken are kept upon the best quality of feed in winter and the richest pastures in summer, producing a very different article from that secreted in the diseased carcasses of still-fed cows in large cities, or the "milk sick" fluid found in malarious districts.

The establishment employs on an average thirty men and twenty-six women and girls. The amount paid out for milk is \$8,000 on an average per month. The buildings, office, storehouses, shops, sheds for feed, etc., cover and occupy about one and one-fourth acres of ground, the whole comprising a neat, cleanly, extensive and well arranged institution, of which this city is justly proud. A. B. Church is the present superintendent of the Elgin establishment and S. F. Hinkley agent, to both of whom we are indebted for many items of information in regard to this remarkable manufacture, the details of which we can not give in this brief history.

Gail Borden died in 1874, after having purchased a residence in this city, where his family still resides. His name will live in the annals of American history as one of the benefactors of his race, having by his practical shrewdness and energy utilized the discoveries of chemistry and supplied a cheap and wholesome article of food, which, without this process, would have been practically unattainable by a large part of mankind. It is an especial boon to infants and invalids, as it is available at all seasons, can be kept in any climate, and when diluted with pure water is in no essential respect different from the original fluid.

#### THE ELGIN PACKING COMPANY

was organized and buildings erected in 1869 and 1870. The latter are located near the corner of Bridge and Union streets, and are extensive in size, covering nearly one-half an acre of ground. They are supplied with boiler and engine and all the modern appliances for canning vegetables and fruits. Sweet corn is put up in immense quantities, as are also peas, beans, tomatoes, cherries and other small fruits.

The business employs from 100 to 200 hands—men, women, boys and girls—during the packing season, which lasts a little over three months. The amounts paid out annually for fruits and produce foot up many thousands of dollars. The item of material and labor for manufacturing cans also amounts to a large sum. Forty thousand dollars worth of canned goods were put up in 1874, an unfavorable season. The prices paid to farmers for

sweet corn and other products for canning is such as to render the income per acre greater than any other species of agricultural industry. The present officers of the company are : I. C. Bosworth, president ; O. Davidson, secretary and treasurer ; I. C. Bosworth, H. Sherman, Peter Burritt, F. L. McClure, O. Davidson, directors ; F. L. McClure, general agent ; S. F. Perry, superintendent.

#### WOOLEN MILLS.



The Fox River Manufacturing Company was organized in 1866, with Obadiah Jackson and Bowen Brothers, of Chicago, and G. W. Renwick, of Elgin, as principal stockholders. The main building was erected in 1844 by S. Newton Dexter, and is 80x34 feet and five stories high. The monthly pay roll of the company is about \$1,500 per month. They employ forty to fifty hands, use on an average 500 pounds of wool, and turn out from 300 to 500 yards of finished goods per day.

The mill is furnished with machinery to the value of \$100,000. The company also built in 1870 a two-story brick block 80x50 feet in front of their factory building. It contains four fine stores fronting on River street, one of which is used for the office and salesroom of the Company. The second floor of the block is used for the extensive printing office of the *Elgin Advocate*. The *Bluff City*, daily newspaper, is also printed in the

same building, the presses being run by gearing attached to the woolen mill power.

The present officers of the company are: J. P. Goodale, president and treasurer; J. M. Goodale, secretary; Chauncey T. Bowen, B. F. Ray, Obadiah Jackson, of Chicago, J. P. Goodale and J. M. Goodale, of Elgin, directors.

#### ICE PACKING.

This business has been carried on for several years by F. L. McClure for the supply of the home market. He puts up, on an average, 10,000 tons; employs twenty hands during the packing season, at an expense of about \$1,600.

Messrs. Wadhams, Willard & Co., in 1873, commenced putting up buildings and storing ice for the Chicago market. They have added to their buildings each year until they now cover three-quarters of an acre, containing over 50,000 tons of the cool commodity. "The lumber alone used in their structures is valued at \$12,000.

Jacob Reiss puts up ice for city sale to the amount of some 2,000 tons.

The Elgin Ice Company is composed of Elgin and Chicago capitalists. Mr. John H. Gieske, of Elgin, is business manager and treasurer. They have erected this season one building, 100x100 feet and filled it with 5,000 tons of ice. They have material for two more such houses, and intend to put up 50,000 pounds of ice per year in future for the Chicago and St. Louis markets.

"Fox River Crystal Ice" has acquired a reputation for purity, clearness and coldness second to none produced elsewhere. The dam thrown across the Fox at this point creates a fine body of deep water, setting back about three miles, which, with its picturesquely rolling, wooded banks, forms a beautiful boating and fishing ground in summer and a splendid ice field in winter. It yields a crop which will not grow in tropical climates, at least not in the open air. A good supply of ice in summer is one of the blessings of modern civilization. Ice packers have one advantage over all other manufacturers—their goods can never be adulterated. Like mercy, the quality of ice water "is not strained." But like mercy, "it is thrice bless'd; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes." Can this be said of any other beverage?

"Oh water! bright water, ice water for me,  
And wine for the tremulous debauchee."

#### BRICK MAKING.

The manufacture of brick has been successfully carried on for the last three years by Messrs. Wilder & Joslyn. Their kilns are just below the city, near the crossing of the Chicago & Pacific and Northwestern railroads. They manufactured about 5,000,000 brick of excellent quality last year, to meet the demand for rebuilding the district burnt out in March, 1874.

## LUMBER TRADE.

The lumber trade has always been active in Elgin. The surrounding country consumes a vast amount in buildings and fences. Among the oldest lumber dealers in Elgin, located on the east side, are G. B. Raymond & Son and R. S. Tickner & Son. Messrs. Eaton & Rosenkrans commenced business in 1874 on the west side, near the C. & P. R. R. depot, and in January, 1875, Fletcher & Burgess opened a lumber yard on the east side, near the Fox River depot.

## CARRIAGE MAKING, BLACKSMITHING, ETC.

In carriage and wagon making and blacksmithing, there are a large number of firms engaged. At the corner of River and Milwaukee streets, Philip Long has long been in the business of making lumber wagons, carriages and all that belongs to the trade. John Long & E. Kittell are in the same business, north on River street. DeRemer & Squier and Messrs. Plummer & Messenger have also extensive establishments on South River street, for the manufacture of fine carriages, buggies, etc. I. C. Towner, at the foot of Division on North River street. John Connor, at No. 24 North River street, Terrence Connor, on Bridge street, and John Hays, on Main street, west side, do a general blacksmithing business, besides their respective specialties.

## FLOURING MILLS.

The flouring mills of Elgin have always been an important source of her prosperity. The oldest mills in the city are the Waverly mills on the west side, owned by W. C. Kimball, commenced in 1845, and the Stone mills, established by Dr. A. Root about the same time, now known as the Eagle mills, and operated by Messrs. Heideman & Root.

The Excelsior Mills, by Bierman & Heine, are supplied with steam as well as water power, thus increasing their facilities during a low stage of water.

The Elgin City Mills, owned by S. & S. W. Chapman, the finest mill structure in the city, is of brick, 50x65 feet, two and a half stories high, and having a capacity for manufacturing 100 barrels of flour per day.

## TANNERIES.

John Spillard & Son have an extensive tannery on Main street, west side, above W. C. Kimball's mill, where they work from 1,500 to 2,000 pelts per week, employing eighteen to twenty hands. This firm also deals largely in green and dry hides of all kinds.

Messrs. Gahan & Hutchinson have an extensive tannery located in South Elgin, or Clintonville, and also an establishment in Elgin, at the west end of the bridge, south side Bridge street, which they use for an office and salesroom, where they buy green and dry hides and sell their manufactures.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

Messrs. Groce Brothers & Co. commenced in, 1873, the manufacture of boots and shoes, in the third story of Gronberg, Bierman & Co.'s brick block on river street. They have this year enlarged and extended their working facilities and shop room, doing as much of their work by machinery run by water and steam power as can be done to advantage. They employ six to eight hands, and put up about six cases of work per week, averaging \$60.00 per case. They make a specialty of a gent's business boot, which they have christened "The Elgin Boot." We regard this as among the important manufactures of Elgin, for a good understanding must underlie all true progress.

## COTTON MANUFACTURE.

Elgin had another industry located here in 1871, a cotton batting manufactory, under the management of G. W. Renwick & Son. It is the only manufactory of No. 1 cotton batting in northern Illinois. Old batting can be worked up at this mill into a No. 1 batting, thus forming a fine item for families disposed to practice economy. As the first cotton manufactory in Elgin, we mention it as the harbinger of others that will doubtless dot the banks of our beautiful river, both here and at various other points, ere many years.

## SOAP MANUFACTURE.

William H. Herrick, at the corner of River and Franklin streets, has a very neat establishment for manufacturing that promoter of neatness, hard and soft soap. Soap is one of the prime necessities of civilization. Without it we should never have known the blessing of a clean shirt. From our old ashes and bones Mr. Herrick creates a commodity that converts the aborigines into gentlemen, and with the refuse tallow and grease of the kitchen he makes good Christians, for "cleanliness is next to godliness."

## CHEWING GUM.

Messrs. Voller & Co. commenced, in March, 1875, the manufacture of chewing gum, in the basement of Hoagland's block on Douglas avenue. They have removed their business from Portland, Maine, to this city, in order to be nearer the market for their goods. They employ twenty-one girls and four men. They sell at wholesale only, and expect to do a large business, as the energy of western boys and girls is supposed to be adequate to supply power for the consumption of an immense quantity of gum.

## PHENIX FOUNDRY.

on Main street, has been operated by William F. Sylla since 1870. The manufacture of school furniture castings has been a specialty with this

establishment; but owing to a temporary suspension, preparatory to re-opening it as a general foundry, it was not mentioned in time to place it under the appropriate heading.

#### TRADE MARK.

Several specialties of Elgin goods have done much to advertise the name and fame of Elgin by adopting the name as a trade mark. We have the "Elgin Watch," the "Elgin Boot," the "Lady Elgin Watch," the "Lady Elgin Wringer," and the Elgin lady herself. Any gentleman who has a good education and stands well in a pair of "Elgin boots," has an "Elgin watch" in his pocket, an Elgin lady in his house who owns a "Lady Elgin watch" and "Lady Elgin washer and wringer," has all the necessary equipments of a genuine business man, and with a good supply of "Elgin Dairy" or "Elgin Condensed" milk, need have no fears of assuming any "responsibilities," whether domestic or financial.

There are other branches of manufacture to supply local demands, in all the ordinary mechanical and artistic trades, which can not be mentioned here. Large manufacturing establishments always stimulate the lesser, and in a town like Elgin, having so many extensive factories and requiring such a large number of operatives, agents and managers, all the handicrafts for supplying custom work can not fail to be in a flourishing condition.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

##### NEW BRIDGES AND STREETS.

A substantial Howe truss bridge was erected across Fox river on National street, near the Elgin National watch factory, in 1870, at a cost of fully \$12,000. It gives easy access to a growing portion of the city, lying adjacent to the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane. Bridge street has been opened to Union, and the latter from South street to Galena, giving access to the packing factory and a fine residence portion of the city. New streets and additions, in various parts of the city, have been opened, and are building up so rapidly that a description of them now would soon be obsolete.

##### PUBLIC FOUNTAINS.

In the fall of 1873, a fine cast iron fountain was placed at the triangular plaza formed by the intersection of Chicago street, Douglas avenue and River street. It is fed by pipes, carrying a two-inch stream, leading from an inexhaustible spring, near the corner of North street and Douglas avenue. A watering tank on Douglas avenue, at the Chicago house, is also supplied from the same source. The cost of the fountain, tank and fixtures amounted to \$3,396.72. The water in these fountains is of the best quality—"sparkling and bright in its liquid light"—and a good, strong stream supplies the wants of man and beast, and slakes the thirst of thousands who never fail to accept the invitation gurgled from the throat of this free





TOWN'S BLOCK—FOUNTAIN SQUARE.

and wholesome fountain—"take a drink"—without money and without price. The beautiful *jet d'eau* is a refreshing and ornamental object in summer, not to mention the fishes and other specimens of natural history that disport themselves in the limpid flood below.

#### BORDEN'S SPRINGS.

In the same year Mr. Gail Borden erected a fine wooden building on a substantial stone substructure over the large springs, near the corner of North and Spring streets, for the purpose of forming a reservoir of pure water to supply the condensing factory, on the corner of North and Brook streets. The building is 50x90 feet and eighteen feet elevation. The gothic roof spans this structure without the intervention of either partition or pillar. The window openings are secured by strong wire netting, and a stone tablet in the foundation contains the inscription, "Borden's Springs, 1873." The reservoir of pure spring water is 40x80 feet, and six feet deep.

#### PUBLIC PARK.

In James T. Gifford's original plat of Elgin provision was made for a public park, and accordingly the space between Du Page street on the north, Fulton street on the south, Chapel street on the west, and extending east far enough to contain about two acres, was reserved for that purpose. In 1862 the park was platted, fenced and planted with trees. In 1874 the old fence was removed, the grounds graded to conform to the street grades, and a new iron fence put up, at a cost of about \$1,300. The center of this park



would make an excellent site for a new school-house, costing \$100,000 or more, but it is needed for its present purpose, and the new school-house will probably be located elsewhere.

#### CITY CLOCK.

In 1867 the city purchased a "town clock," at a cost of \$550, and caused it to be placed in the tower of the Fox River Manufacturing company's building. A very neat and ornamental dial, with gilt numerals, adorns the four facades of this tower, where large gilt hands unceasingly "point the slow, unmoving finger of time" at those "fixed figures," and at least twice in the twenty-four hours accurately tell the "time o' day." Silently, except when the bellman tolls the hours of labor, does this solemn chronometer strike the beholder as the emblem of man's mortality and time's uncertainty.

Being paid for by the city's funds, it refuses to run on tick. An example of economy, stability and reticence, it stands a monument of past time, and thus deserves a place in this history.

#### SCHOOL HOUSES.

The modern idea of large school houses has never yet been adopted in Elgin. Hence, there have been several small structures erected in various parts of the city. In 1870 the old Baptist church building was purchased and fitted up for school purposes, and in 1872 a wooden addition to the brick high school building, on the corner of Kimball and Center streets, was constructed. A small frame school-house was also built on the heights near the watch factory, about 1870. The question of erecting a school building that will comport with the standing, dignity and wealth of the city, is now agitating the people, and can not much longer delay a decision in its favor.

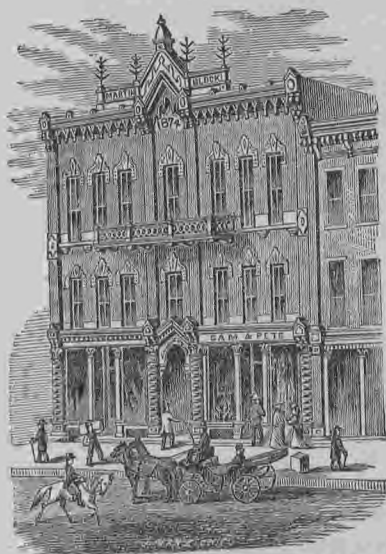
Since writing the above, a meeting of citizens has been held at the court house, in which the unsuitableness and ruinous condition of the old buildings now used as school-houses was characterized in strong terms, and an informal recommendation made to build two school-houses, worth together \$75,000 or \$80,000. It is believed, however, that the experience of other towns demonstrate that the wants of a city of this size require but a single large school-house, and that that one should be of double the cost of the above. No city can be too lavish in supplying, in an economical manner, all the modern facilities for a thorough education of all the children within its limits.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY.

On the 7th of March, 1872, an act was approved by the Illinois Legislature providing for the establishment of a library fund, to be collected by taxation in each town, village or city where such tax shall be voted by the people, and providing for the election of a board of directors, six in number, "who shall have exclusive control of all moneys collected to the credit of the library fund, and of all grounds, buildings, or rooms set apart for the use of the library."

The sixth section of this act reads: "Every library or reading room established under this act shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city or township where located, always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the library board may adopt, in order to render the use of said library and reading room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number."

The town of Elgin, on the 2d day of April, 1872, voted to organize a public library under the above act. On the 1st day of April, 1873, at an annual



MARTIN BLOCK.

town meeting, the following directors were elected, viz.: Zebina Eastman and I. C. Bosworth, for three years; E. C. Lovell and J. A. Spillard, for two years; and J. W. Ranstead and W. H. Hintze, for one year.

During the summer of 1873, the tax voted by the town for library purposes was passed by the town board, approved by the board of supervisors, and duly extended upon the collection books for the town of Elgin. The assessment for this tax was only three-fourths of one mill on the dollar of the taxable property of the town, and amounted to \$3,000 when collected. On the 4th of October, 1873, W. H. Hintze and E. C. Lovell were appointed by the board of directors a committee to correspond with publishers in this country and in Europe and report a list of books for the basis of the library. In December of the same year the property, books, and furniture of the library of the Young Men's Christian Association of Elgin, were purchased by the board for the sum of \$250, and subsequently transferred to the rooms

in the third story of Bank block, on the corner of Chicago street and Douglas avenue, which were leased and fitted up for the use of the library.

In the month of February, 1874, the circulating library of Messrs. Denison & Burdick, consisting of 700 volumes, was purchased for the sum of \$300, and placed on the shelves of the free library. Other books were also purchased in Chicago, amounting to a total of \$1,185.15, and comprising in all about 2,000 volumes. The character of this collection of books is such as to reflect credit upon the judgment of the board who made the selections, being chosen from the most recent and approved lists of standard works on science, history, poetry and fiction. To these is added a very liberal list of newspapers, periodicals and magazines, including the leading journals of this country and Europe. Several of these are in foreign languages, for the use of our citizens who are conversant with those tongues.

Hon. Z. Eastman was the first president of the board of directors, and acted as temporary librarian during the organization of the library. In the spring of 1874 Mr. Louis H. Yarwood was appointed sole librarian, and still acts in that capacity. By his tact and industry he has contributed much to render the benefits of the library available to all. On the first Tuesday in April, 1874, J. W. Ranstead and W. H. Hintze were re-elected as members of the board of directors, to serve three years from date of election. On the 6th day of April, 1875, E. C. Lovell and J. A. Spillard were re-elected for three years, and J. S. Wilcox was elected to fill vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. Z. Eastman, whose term expires on the 6th of April, 1876. Mr. Eastman removed to Maywood in the fall of 1874, but his services, donations and assistance in rendering the free public library of Elgin a success, will long be remembered.

One member of the present board, Mr. E. C. Lovell, is now in Europe, and it is expected that purchases will be made through him of a collection of books direct from publishers, at greatly decreased cost.

The library rooms are a constant resort for all classes of our citizens, old and young, who find in the pleasant surroundings of the large, well lighted, quiet, well ordered reading room and the perusal of the various books, newspapers, magazines and encyclopedias, recreation and instruction of the most improving character. The further fact that fully 1,000 volumes are constantly in the hands of readers at their homes in the city and township, shows unmistakably that the funds for founding this library have not been thrown away, but that the investment is paying and will continue to pay a large percentage in the increased intelligence and moral elevation of the people, qualities that have much to do with the material prosperity of any community. The average attendance at these rooms is estimated at 120 per day, and the rooms are kept open till near 10 o'clock each night. Already the demand for increased accommodations and a larger supply of books is urgently felt. Of all the expenditures for educational purposes, none have proved more popular than the public library, and the attention of our citizens

will no doubt soon be turned to providing further facilities for its usefulness.

#### NEW CHURCHES.

A fine church edifice was erected by the Baptist society in 1870. It is built of brick, in the Romanesque style of architecture, and is 112x84 feet in extreme length and width, including towers in front and organ gallery in the rear. The audience room is 60x80 feet and will seat 1,200 people. The ground floor furnishes a spacious vestibule, school and conference rooms and an elegant suit of parlors, besides a commodious pastor's study, janitor's rooms, kitchen and dressing room for baptistry. The cost of the entire building, furnished, was \$40,000, round numbers, and of the lot, \$5,000.

The Presbyterian church society, in 1871, erected a tasteful frame church building, in the gothic style, on the southwest corner of Center and Chicago streets, at a cost of \$14,000. It was dedicated July, 1872. In December of the same year it was destroyed by fire. Arrangements were immediately made to rebuild, and in December, 1873, a brick building, 60x35 feet, and capable of seating 350 persons was completed, at a cost of \$5,000. It is built of red and white brick, with stone trimmings. It has a basement full size, finished for school and church meetings. It fronts on Center street, and is designed as a transept to the main body of a building, of which they have the plans, and intend to erect at some future time, to front on Chicago street. When finished according to these plans, it will be one of the finest church buildings erected in the city, up to this date.

The Universalist society, in 1874, raised their church building, on the corner of Center and DuPage streets, and constructed on the ground floor commodious parlors and school rooms for the use of the society. The improvement cost about \$2,000, and has added materially to the appearance and utility of the building.

The colored Baptist church, situated on the corner of Dundee and Franklin streets, was burned in March, 1875, and has not yet been rebuilt, but funds are being raised for that purpose.

#### RAILROADS.

A new railroad enterprise, originating in Elgin, was commenced in 1871, and in December, of that year, a company was organized under the name and style of the Chicago & Pacific railroad company. R. M. Hough, president; T. S. Dobbins, vice president; Geo. Young, John S. Wilcox, Geo. S. Bowen and Walter L. Pease, directors. The road was completed to Elgin in October, 1873, and is now running trains as far west as Byron, Ogle county, a distance of eighty-seven miles west from Chicago. The intended terminus of the road is Savanna, Illinois, on the Mississippi river. Although in process of construction, the earnings of this road are largely in excess of operating expenses. The present officers of the road are: T. S. Dobbins, president; Geo. S. Bowen, vice president; John S. Wilcox, W. L.

Pease, Geo. Young, A. O. Campbell and T. M. Bradley, directors. This new railroad outlet has added largely to the business facilities of Elgin, causing a competition which has reduced the rates upon freights and fares materially. It has also opened up communication with the country west of the city, the trade of which has heretofore been tributary to other towns.

#### THE ELGIN GAS LIGHT COMPANY

was organized in 1871, with a capital of \$50,000. A. E. Swift, President; N. O. Swift, Vice President; P. J. Howard, Superintendent. The buildings of the company are of brick, situated on the west bank of the river, about half way between the Chicago street and National street bridges, and between the tracks of the C. & N. W. and C. & P. railroads. The main building is 25x60 feet, the retort room being 25x35 feet, containing six retorts. Coal house, 25x35 feet. Purifying house, 16x30 feet. Gasometer, forty-five feet in diameter. Up to this date, there have been five miles of street mains laid, and preparations are made for laying one mile more the



HUBBARD'S BUILDING.

present season. There are at present thirty-six street lamps in operation, the first being lighted in 1872. Most of our churches, public buildings and stores are lighted with this brilliant substitute for the ancient tallow dips. A large number of private houses are also replacing the explosive kerosene lamps with the more cleanly gas jets, to the manifest decrease of the mortality lists and the comfort of accident insurance companies. Dr. O. E.

Bingham is the present Superintendent. Office in Factory block, North River street.

## NEW RESIDENCES.

Since 1870, the number of new buildings erected in this city will average about 200 per year. Among the most important private buildings we can only mention a few.

Mr. I. C. Bosworth built, in 1871, a fine brick residence, on the southeast corner of Center and Chicago streets, at a cost of \$18,000. This fine property has just been sold, together with the furniture. J. A. Carpenter, of Carpenterville, is the purchaser, who will make this city his residence. Mr. Bosworth will erect another residence soon.

E. K. W. Cornell built, in 1871, a large brick house on DuPage street; cost \$5,000.

Wm. C. Kimball, on Crystal street, a brick residence, worth \$12,000.

Hon. S. Wilcox, on a fine eminence at the corner of Bridge and Crystal streets. \$8,000.

Judge R. N. Botsford, on Channing street, a beautiful brick villa in the Italian style. \$10,000.

O. P. Chisholm, on corner Spring and Cherry streets, a fine gothic residence. \$17,000.

D. C. Scofield, on the corner of Spring and Milwaukee streets, fine fire-proof residence. \$12,000.

Judge J. W. Ranstead, on corner Bridge and Sylvan streets, a fine Italian villa and grounds. \$15,000.

Hezekiah Gifford, referred to as one of the first settlers of the city, built, in 1873, a fine frame residence, with modern improvements—\$15,000—with seven acres of ground attached.

Benj. Cox, Horace French, Walter Kimball, B. Hagelow, Dr. Bennett, and a large number of others have each built residences within the same period, at a cost of \$5,000 and upward.

Rev. Holmes Slade built a fruit preserving house near his private residence at a cost of \$2,000, in 1873.

## BUSINESS BUILDINGS.

New business buildings have been erected since 1870, as follows:

Fred Stolt and John Gieske have built a brick block on the southwest corner of Douglas avenue and Milwaukee street, 40x80 feet; used for stores and offices.

John Blyer built a similar block on the northeast corner of the same streets, 40x80 feet.

C. P. Dean built, in 1873, a double wooden block, 40x60, on the corner of River and Fulton streets; used for stores and dwelling.

John Gieske built, in 1874, a brick building on South River street, adjoining Monroe's livery stable, 20x60, two stories and basement.



J. Manly Adams, at the east end of the bridge on Chicago street, erected, the same season, a brick building, containing basement and ground floor stores, with photograph rooms on second floor.

Albert Mazel built, in 1874, on the corner of Milwaukee and River streets a two-story brick block, containing two stores, basement and dwelling.

A fine stone front store, on Bridge street, 30x60 feet, was built, in 1873, by Geo. H. Maule.

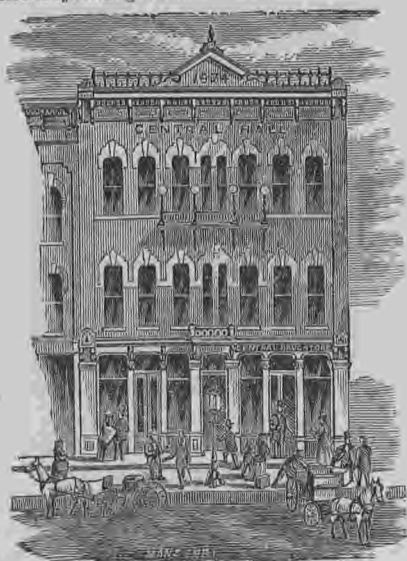
But the principal additions to the business buildings of Elgin since 1870, were built in 1874, on the site of the fire of March, 1874, which destroyed about a dozen stores on Chicago street, at the corner of Douglas avenue and on Fountain place. We give cuts of several of these new buildings.

Arrangements were made to rebuild the burnt district before the ruins ceased smoldering, and by the first of November following six fine business blocks were ready for occupancy.

#### HUBBARD'S BUILDING.

On the corner of Chicago street and Douglas avenue, Wm. G. Hubbard erected a building of white brick, 22x120, which is perhaps the best built block in the city.

The basement walls are cemented and the walls lined, rendering them rat and moisture proof, well lighted and suitable for offices. The two stores, one facing south and the other west, are among the best business sites in the city. The rooms on the second and third floors of this building communicate with those of the adjoining block.



KELLEY & TODD'S BUILDING.

Kelley & Todd erected, at the same time, on the two adjoining lots, a building nearly uniform in style with Hubbard's, and the upper stories of the whole have been finished for hotel purposes, containing thirty-six rooms for guests, beside all the necessary offices of a first-class hotel.

#### TOWN'S BLOCK—OWNED BY M. C. TOWN,

is of red brick, in the commercial-gothic style, with stone trimmings, iron pillars, metal cornices and composition roof. The ground floor is divided into five first-class stores with well lighted basements. The second floor furnishes about twenty business offices, and the third will be finished for some purpose hereafter.

Adjoining this, on Chicago street, is

#### THE MARTIN BLOCK,

a three-story brick, with ornamental stone and iron trimmings and tin roof. The third story of this block is the hall of the German Turn-Verein Vorwaerts.

A two-story brick, with tin roof, adjoins this, built by G. B. Raymond.

We also give a cut of



THE DU BOIS BLOCK,

finished in 1870, and referred to in previous history. The lower part of this building is eighty feet square and contains three elegant stores. The two upper stories project over an alley ten feet, making them 80x90 feet. In the second story are offices, and rooms for a fine residence, and the whole of the upper story makes the largest and best public hall in the city, known as the "DuBois Opera House." The cost of this building was about \$40,000.

#### THE CITY COURT HOUSE

was built in 1869, by the city, on River street, opposite the foot of DuPage. It is brick, 22x40. In 1873 another building was added to it, 22x60. The court

room is in the second story, 44x40. The fire engine and hose company occupy the ground floor of the first named part and the new building furnishes offices for the city clerk, clerk of the city court and a large fire-proof vault for records. The whole cost of the building was \$16,000.

### CIVIC SOCIETIES.

Below we give all the items of historical information we have been able to gather concerning the civic societies of Elgin :

#### MASONIC.

ELGIN LODGE, No. 117, A. F. & A. M.—A. L. Clark, W. M. ; George R. Bassett, Sec'y. Regular communications second and fourth Fridays in each month, at Freemasons' hall.

MONITOR LODGE, No. 522, A. F. & A. M.—N. J. Bloomfield, W. M. ; Ira M. Hastings, Sec'y. Regular communications first and third Thursdays in each month, at Freemasons' hall.

LOYAL L. MUNN CHAPTER, No. 96, R. A. M.—T. E. Lawrence, M. E. H. P. ; M. N. Frederick, Sec'y. Regular convocations first and third Tuesdays in each month, at Freemasons' hall.

BETHEL COMMANDERY, No. 36, K. T.—Stated conclaves first Wednesday in each month, at Freemasons' hall. T. E. Lawrence, E. C. ; C. D. Dickinson, Recorder.

#### ODD FELLOWS.

KANE LODGE, No. 47, I. O. O. F.—Was first established in Elgin in February, 1849, but during the war it became defunct. In July, 1870, through the instrumentality of R. P. McGlincy, Dr. H. W. Rice, H. C. Rogers, D. W. Hewitt and others, the lodge was revived and is now in a flourishing condition, having about seventy-five members. The principal officers of the lodge are: H. J. Page, Noble Grand ; A. Gustason, Vice Grand ; D. J. Dumser, Secretary ; M. C. Town, Treasurer ; R. P. McGlincy is District Deputy Grand Master for the year 1875. The lodge meets every Tuesday evening in Odd Fellows' hall, old postoffice block.

ELGIN ENCAMPMENT, No. 112, I. O. O. F.—Instituted Nov. 8, 1870. Meets in Odd Fellows' hall on the second and fourth Mondays in each month. C. H. McComb, High Priest ; H. J. Page, Scribe ; D. W. Hewitt, Treasurer ; D. W. Hewitt, Deputy Grand Master.

#### TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

ELGIN TEMPERANCE UNION.—G. P. Lord, President ; Thomas Perkins, Secretary ; I. C. Bosworth, Treasurer. Was organized in 1874. A very large number of citizens of all ages signed the "pledge," which constituted them members of this association—1,260 in all—composed largely of the members of the leading churches and the educated portion of the community.

**LADIES' BRANCH OF THE ELGIN TEMPERANCE UNION.**—Organized April 27, 1874. Mrs. Holmes Slade was chosen President; Mrs. A. G. Sears, Secretary, and Mrs. F. S. Bosworth, Assistant Secretary. The present officers of the society, elected April 26, are as follows: President, Mrs. I. C. Bosworth; Vice Presidents, First ward, Mrs. John S. Wilcox; Second ward, Mrs. H. Gifford; Third ward, Mrs. R. P. McGlincey; Fourth ward, Mrs. Dr. Whitford; Fifth ward, Mrs. W. S. Balch; Sixth ward, Mrs. G. B. Raymond; Secretary, Mrs. F. S. Bosworth; assistants, Mrs. S. J. Stiles and Mrs. A. Sherwin. The committees of this society have been very active in the work of promoting the objects of their organization, and have indirectly met with much success.

**ELGIN CATHOLIC TOTAL ABSTINENCE AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.**—D. Nolan, President; B. Lynn, Secretary. Organized in 1873. Meetings in Temperance hall, Hoagland's block, Douglas avenue, corner of Dexter avenue. Present number of members, thirty-two.

**YOUNG MEN'S CATHOLIC TEMPERANCE AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.**—Organized November 17, 1872. M. C. Tobin, President; T. P. Sheehan, Secretary. Meets in same hall as above. Number of members, forty. These two societies number among their members many of the most influential and promising citizens of Elgin and vicinity, and are exerting a marked influence upon the community.

**ELGIN LODGE, No. 474, I. O. G. T.**—Was instituted on Tuesday evening, April 20, 1875, by G. A. Richardson, D. G. W. C. T. The following are the principal officers: E. K. W. Cornell, P. W. C. T.; Dr. John O. Swan, W. C. T.; Mrs. C. H. Weld, W. V. T.; R. P. McGlincey, W. Rec. Sec'y.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**OCCIDENTAL LODGE, No. 5, K. OF P.**—W. H. Truesdell, P. C.; L. Provost, Rec. Scribe.

**ELGIN TURN-VEREIN VORWAERTS.**—Hall in Martin block, south side Chicago street. Organized May, 1871. Sebastian Ranzenberger, President; Fred C. Kothe, Secretary. The society commenced with twelve members. It now numbers sixty. The hall of this society, with all its contents, has been burned out twice—once in 1873, and again in 1874. As now rebuilt in the third story of Martin block, it is 44x80 feet, and is being furnished at a cost of about \$800. The present officers are: Caspar Althen, President, and Fred C. Kothe, Secretary.

**SAM. G. WARD POST, No. 18, G. A. R.**—Organized July, 1874. Post Commander, Walter S. Joslyn; Adjutant, Albert C. Ward; Quartermaster, Geo. H. Knott. The number of members of this order at its organization was twenty-three. The present number is fifty-two. Meets Monday evenings at Temperance hall, Hoagland's block, corner Douglas and Dexter avenues. This post was named in honor of Capt. Samuel G. Ward, Company A,

Seventh Illinois Infantry, who was killed at the battle of Fort Donelson. The objects of this order are indicated in their motto: Fraternity, Charity and Patriotism.

LODGE NO. 2, UNITED FELLOWS.—Andrew Newsome, President; Henry Oats, Secretary.

#### MUSICAL SOCIETIES.

THE BLUFF CITY BAND.—Organized in the spring of 1868, as "The National Watch Factory Band," with eighteen members. Reorganized as the "Bluff City Band," in 1871. Frank K. Preston, Pres't; Milton S. Hayes, Sec'y and Treas; Frank K. Preston, Leader and Business Manager. There are fourteen members at present, all but two of whom are employes of the National Watch Factory.

THE UNION BRASS BAND, of Elgin, consists of fourteen members. Henry Tetzner, Leader; Th. Schroeder, Pres't; Fred C. Kothe, Sec'y.

THE MENDELSSOHN SOCIETY.—Organized Jan. 25, 1875, and held its first rehearsal in February following. Dr. A. L. Clark, President; Mrs. Lois E. Hillis, Vice President; Mr. J. A. Palmer, Treasurer; Mr. Geo. H. Daniels, Secretary; Dr. S. E. Weld, Librarian; Mr. Frank Perkins, Mrs. A. L. Clark and Mrs. D. P. Freeman, Executive Committee.

GERMAN MUSICAL SOCIETY.—Organized April 4, 1875. Gus. Volstorff, Pres't; Christ. Gerlach, Sec'y.

#### LITERARY SOCIETIES.

THE BURNS CALEDONIAN CLUB.—A literary and benevolent society, was organized on the 25th of January, 1875, and is the only chartered society of the kind at present in the city. The society's rooms are at Nos. 4 and 5, in Town's block. Thomas S. Martin, President;

ELGIN SHAKESPEAREAN CLUB.—This is a purely literary society and was formed in September, 1874, Miss Flora Pennell being appointed President and Miss A. H. Hussey, Secretary. A constitution and by-laws were drafted, but have never been signed. The club meets weekly at private residences only. It is contemplated to procure a charter and secure a permanent organization.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS.

In some of the preceding pages we have not always referred to events in their chronological order, preferring to group those which pertained to particular subjects in paragraphs by themselves. In doing so, we have omitted some matters worthy of being remembered, which we now proceed to chronicle, though we are obliged to omit many others which we should like to notice.

During all of Elgin's history death has been busy with our citizens, and many who were once active and influential among us have slept the "slept

the sleep that knows no waking." One of the first to leave us since the beginning of 1870, was Mr. Abraham Hoagland, whose death occurred on the 4th of January in that year. He had been a resident of the place about sixteen years, during most of which time he was engaged in the lumber business, and was one of our most respected and valuable citizens.

As an item showing the longevity, as well as the social traits of Elgin's early settlers, we note, that on the 11th of January, 1870, a reunion of the Gifford family was held at the house of O. Davidson, on which occasion there were present eight persons of the first generation, thirteen of the second and eight of the third. Mrs. Ruth G. Dixon, a sister of the pioneer Giffords, having reached her seventy-fourth birthday, was made the recipient of valuable presents.

Formerly, what is now South River street, south of Prairie street, was called Grove avenue, and intersected Prairie street at a point several rods east of River street, thus making an unseemly turn in the road and interrupting the view. Efforts were made as early as 1870 to have those streets connected in a straight line, but owing to the opposition of property owners it was not effected until 1873. Then the two-story brick house of Mr. R. Beckwith, which stood in the way, was raised with screws and removed several rods to the west side of River street, where it now stands. This was the first exhibition of this kind of modern engineering skill ever accomplished in Elgin. Grove avenue thus became a part of South River street, and is now one of the finest drives in the city.

Much feeling was manifested and discussion had, as to the propriety of the appropriation for building the new bridge on Dexter, now National street. It was claimed that the expenditure was not then called for by any existing general public interest, but was beneficial, if at all, to local interests merely. Promises from private parties interested, to aid in the expense of erecting the bridge, have not been as yet realized, though private property has been largely enhanced in value thereby. The plea that such extension of available residence property is an indirect benefit to the city, is neutralized by the fact that the population was not yet crowded in other quarters already accessible.

In February, 1870, the death of Philip Lasher, son of Stephen Lasher, and formerly one of the proprietors of the Waverly house, occurred in New York city, where he was residing at the time.

On the 6th of April, 1870, the distillery on the west side, which had long been a prominent object in that part of the city and an extensive business concern, was burned down. The Chicago & Pacific railroad has since cut the property in two, and the remaining buildings and grounds will doubtless soon become the scene of other manufacturing industries, for which the location is very favorable.

On the 7th of April, 1870, Col. James Hunter died. He was a resident of the place for many years and favorably known to all.



William Saunders, Sen., a native of England, but an old resident of Elgin, also died on the 27th of this month, aged sixty-nine.

The property known as the Lovell farm, on the east side of the river, was this year platted and brought into market. A large number of new streets and residences are now situated upon a portion of it. This property, lying along the track of the Fox River Valley railroad, is admirably adapted to become the site of some of the new mammoth manufacturing establishments, which are seeking locations among us.

A mat and mattress manufactory was established and operated in 1870, on Douglas avenue, near Hoagland's block, employing a number of hands, but was unfortunately burned down during this year.

At the city election, in March, 1870, M. B. Baldwin was re-elected mayor. Local political feeling ran high on the subjects of appropriations, sumptuary laws, etc.

On the 3d of July, 1870, the old Baptist church was formally withdrawn from, with appropriate allusions by the pastor, Rev. W. P. Everett. Among the honored members and founders of this church were the Schoonhovens, Kennedy, Weston, Hull, Walker, S. J. Kimball, A. J. Joslyn, Philo Sylla and others. The society worshiped in this building twenty years. It was built of the material of which several of the best early residences were constructed—cobble stones—found abundantly in our gravel knolls. Since its abandonment it has suffered much decay, but is still thought good enough to teach children in, though the parents worship in costlier houses.

In 1870, the late Dr. P. B. Pratt commenced the culture of fish, and inclosed a park of some seventy acres, of what was known to the early settlers as the "cedar swamp," lying on the east side of the river, one and a half miles above the city. The numerous springs in this "Trout Park" feed the ponds in which are reared the young *salmonide*. This park was, also, at one time, stocked with elk and deer. Some of the springs are believed to have valuable medicinal properties. This park has since become a popular resort for pleasure seekers, especially Germans from Chicago. Dr. W. A. Pratt has continued to improve it since the death of his father, in 1872.

In the same year, Mr. D. S. Hammond, of Hammond station on the C. & P. R. R., near the southeast corner of the city limits, commenced the business of pisciculture in a scientific way, by building a system of capacious tanks and ponds of solid masonry, fed by bounteous springs of pure cold water, gushing up in a beautiful dell, surrounded by a grove of magnificent forest trees. Hammond's grove is also a popular resort for pic-nic parties from Elgin and Chicago.

In September, 1870, Mr. A. C. Lynd, a prominent young citizen, and for some time chief clerk in the postoffice of Elgin, died in Washington, D. C., where he was in the employ of the general government. His genial temperament won for him hosts of warm friends in Elgin, where he had been

visiting but a few days before his death, leaving in good health and spirits, little thinking it was his last visit.

The Franco-German war, which commenced in the spring of 1870, aroused the sympathies of our German fellow-citizens, and liberal donations were sent from Elgin to the fatherland during this year, to aid in assuaging the sufferings always caused by war.

The census of Kane county was taken this year, when it was found to contain a population of 39,000, an increase of 9,000 since 1860. The census of this city, giving 5,441, was taken this year instead of 1871, as we stated by mistake under the head of "population." This shows an increase of nearly 3,000 in about five years.

In September of this year, the Rock River Annual Conference of the M. E. church, embracing nearly 200 members, held its session here, being the only time our city has been honored with its presence.

On the 21st of September, of this year, the "golden" wedding," or fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Birge, was celebrated at their house, a short distance north of the city, an event which occurs so seldom that we deem it worthy of record.

The funeral of Mr. Colton Knox was held in the Congregational church Nov. 18, 1870. Mr. Knox was one of the very first settlers of Elgin, coming here in 1836, where he resided till 1862. He owned a fine farm on the west bank of the Fox, included in the present grounds of the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, and sold by him several years ago to R. B. Chisholm.

At the city election in March, 1871, Wm. C. Kimball was elected mayor, and held the office one year.

In 1871, a project was discussed for raising the head of water from four feet to six, by adding two feet to the top of the dam across Fox river. If such addition can be made without damaging other interests, it will double the available water power at this point.

The present city cemetery, being located at an early day, is now considered too near the heart of the city. The question of its removal to some point further out, was discussed in the newspapers of Elgin as early as the spring of 1871, and this discussion will probably continue until its removal is effected.

On Monday, the 9th of October, 1871, when the news came flashing over the wires that the city of Chicago was still in flames, and thousands of her people were driven homeless and hungry into the open air, or crowded into the remaining houses of the suburbs, the citizens of Elgin at once called a mass meeting at DuBois Opera House, and appointed a committee to visit every bakery in the city and set them at work preparing bread for the outcasts. Of the names of this committee we have learned, positively, only two—Messrs. A. B. Fish and John Coburn. So many others acted in concert with these gentlemen, and such was the eagerness and enthusiasm of

all, without regard to appointment or priority in the generous rivalry of doing something to provide for the terrible exigency of fellow mortals in distress, that no one now can remember, for certain, whether he acted by authority as one of that committee or not. We could give the names of a score of citizens who were constantly on the alert for several days and nights in providing, shipping and delivering the donations of the people. Certain it is, that "the ovens were heated seven times quicker than was their wont," and all night long on Monday night, not only every bakery in the city was worked to its utmost capacity, but at private houses women and men were busy baking bread, meats, beans, and cooking all kinds of portable provisions, so that by 4:30 o'clock on Tuesday morning the first car-load of "relief," that was shipped from any point on that memorable morning, was dispatched to the scene of suffering, and distributed to the famished and frightened refugees from the flames. Over 2,000 loaves were thus sent by lightning express on this first train; and as the day broke over the supperless, shivering, shelterless crowds, who had all night long looked despairingly up into the face of the cold sky, over which hovered the smoke of their smoldering homes, they must have fancied that the old-time fable of bread dropping from heaven had been realized. We note the fact of our priority in providing bread to break the fast of that starving multitude, more from pride in the generous impulses of human nature, than to give any peculiar credit to our single city, though, in that connection, it is an item worthy of the historian's pen. To boast of being first in performing a charitable act, which was so spontaneously and universally seconded by the entire civilized world, would be invidious as an estimate of our benevolence, while it may be no more than a just meed of praise to the spirit of practical activity and "push," which pervades our community. The first car-load was followed by another batch of bread and provisions on the 7 o'clock a. m. train, and by another full car-load in the afternoon, containing clothing and blankets as well as food. Three times a day, for over a week, fresh provisions were sent in, with citizens in charge to see them safely and properly bestowed. The whole energies of the entire people were virtually given up to the task of assisting the sufferers from this great calamity. The amount of value in dollars and cents thus contributed by the citizens of Elgin, in money, time and material, was never computed nor accounted. But aside from this, fully \$1,000 in cash was raised by citizens and paid over to the bakers and victualers, who charged only for the bare material. Though our gifts were small, in comparison with the gratuities which flowed in from every quarter of the globe in such liberal streams, amounting to millions in the aggregate, yet we think this an appropriate place to chronicle the fact that, both in amount and in promptness, the citizens of Elgin have cause to remember with pride their pre-eminence on this occasion.

We also note with pleasure the following complimentary item :

CHICAGO, Dec. 1, 1871.

G. P. LORD, Esq.:

DEAR SIR— \* \* We have been duly placed in possession of the truly generous donation of \$1,591.50, from the liberal and sympathizing employes of the National Watch Company. \* \*

[Signed]

GEO. M. PULLMAN,

C. G. HAMMOND,

Treasurers Chicago Relief and Aid Society.

It is further stated, in a note from T. M. Avery, president of the National Watch Company, acknowledging this remittance, that "it was made up to a considerable extent by contributions from young ladies who necessarily had to make great sacrifices for the accomplishment of so noble a charity." What higher praise could be paid to the liberality and intelligence of our industrial population?

On the night of the 18th of April, 1872, Collin Root, nephew of C. P. Gilbert, of this place, was shot with two pistol balls in the head and killed, by unknown parties, on the railroad track near the West Side station. He was a young man about twenty-one years of age, just reaching Elgin with the intention of settling here. No certain motive for the deed or clue to the perpetrators, have as yet been discovered. Much excitement was caused in the city at the time, and a reward of \$500 is still pending for the capture of the murderer. The sleepless eye of the law is still watching for the guilty one.

"Foul deeds will rise,

Though all the earth o'erwhelm them to men's eyes."

On the 14th of May, 1872, appeared the first number of *The Lady Elgin*, a monthly newspaper edited and published by the lady operatives of the National Watch Factory.

Mr. Asa Barrows died on the 25th of June, 1872, soon after having completed the new Baptist church edifice, of which he was the architect. The funeral ceremonies were according to the ritual of the Masonic fraternity, and among the most imposing ever witnessed in Elgin.

Mr. George Saulsbury also died on the same date. He was elected to the office of town collector in the spring of 1871. Having been a soldier of the republic during the late civil war, his remains were buried by the members of the G. A. R. with imposing ceremonies.

In July, 1872, the new temperance law of Illinois, which is still in operation, took effect. There were some prosecutions under this law in Elgin, some of which resulted in favor of the prosecutors, and some in favor of the defendants.

The Rev. Nathaniel Catlin Clark, one of the earliest, if not the very first, minister of the gospel in the Fox river valley, died in Elgin on the 3d of December, 1872, aged 71 years. Frequent reference has been made in other parts of this history to the life and services of this most estimable man, who

had resided here most of the time since 1838, and had been pastor of the Congregational church at three different times. Aside from his great influence as a clergyman, he was honored by his fellow townsmen, during the latter part of his life, with the civic offices of superintendent of public schools and of town collector, the duties of which he discharged with singular ability and fidelity.

The Hon. Isaac W. Swan came to this city in 1870, and died here on the 15th of August, 1873, aged fifty-six. Mr. Swan was born at Waterloo, N. Y., but had lived for over thirty years in Medina, N. Y. His eminent financial activity was appreciated in this city, and his death at an age when his powers were as yet unimpaired, constituted a loss to the business community.

On the 4th of September, 1873, a convention of mill-owners and gentlemen interested in the water-power at various points along the Fox river, was held in Elgin for the purpose of discussing the most feasible plan of increasing the water power of Fox river. A committee was appointed to visit Geneva Lake and ascertain its size, amount of water, etc., and whether there was any feasible means of drawing water from that lake for the supply of power along the river. They visited the lake but failed to make any formal report, and the project appears to have been abandoned for the time being.

William Todd and his wife, long respected residents of this city, were lost on board the ill-fated steamer *Atlantic*, which was sunk about twenty miles off Halifax on the morning of the 1st of April, 1873, by which catastrophe over seven hundred lives were lost. Mr. and Mrs. Todd were returning from Europe, where they had been on a visit to friends in Scotland.

Captain Elisha Lee, a resident of Elgin from 1853, died on the 11th of April, 1873, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. In early life he commenced the business of steamboat navigation on the St. Lawrence river, and was the second oldest engineer on the great lakes, which business he followed during his lifetime up to 1871, and during all that period when the waters of our great inland chain of lakes and rivers formed the grand channel of travel and commerce between the east and west. He was chief engineer at the Northern Insane Hospital at the time of his death.

The question of granting license to liquor saloons, has at various times agitated the people of Elgin. In 1863 the experiment had been tried of refusing license. Litigation followed, and either through the fault of the law or the apathy of its supporters, it failed to secure the results anticipated.

On the 16th of May, 1873, a petition was presented to the Common Council signed by 1,587 persons, praying them "not to grant license to saloon-keepers." The petition was reported upon adversely by two of the members of the committee on license, E. S. Joslyn and W. F. Lynch, giving at length the arguments against any attempt to prohibit the traffic, and recommending a license at \$100 per annum. Ald. R. P. Jackman moved to substi-

tute \$300 for \$100. Lost, 10 to 2. The report adverse to the petition was then adopted by a vote of 11 to 1.

On the 28th of May, 1873, the Illinois State Association of Congregational churches held their annual meeting in Elgin, continuing four days. During the session frequent reference was made to the late Rev. N. C. Clark. For twenty-nine years he had met regularly in the state association, and all seemed to miss his kindly presence and fatherly love.

The Elgin National Watch Factory, in October, 1873, caused a large number of medals to be struck off, with the representation of an Elgin watch on one side and the Chicago worlds' exhibition building on the other. Large numbers of these were sold at the Chicago exhibition and elsewhere at ten cents each, and the proceeds given to aid the sufferers from yellow fever at the south.

John W. Ranstead was nominated for the office of county judge by the farmers' convention, on the 16th of October, 1873, and at the county election, on the 4th of November, following, was elected by 1,246 majority, out of a vote of 2,876.

E. W. Vining died on Sunday, 2d of November, 1873. At his death he held three positions of honor, viz. : mail route agent, from Elgin to Geneva, Wis. ; police justice, and master in chancery of the Elgin City Court.

Mr. Phineas Smith died on the 21st of November, 1873. He was the pioneer dairyman of Elgin, having commenced shipping milk to Chicago in 1852.

Another item, to which we allude with melancholy interest, is the death of the first white woman who ever saw the banks of the Fox river at this point. This lady was Mrs. Mary Jane Gifford, wife of Hezekiah Gifford, whose name is familiar in these pages. Her death occurred on the first day of January, 1874, just thirty-eight years and a half from the date of her first appearance upon the spot where her career was ever afterward marked with all the respect and esteem due to a brave pioneer, as well as a pious, kind and gentle woman.

Gail Borden died on the 13th of January, 1874, in Borden, Texas, where he had gone but a few days before from this place, and after having made arrangements to permanently reside here. A fuller reference to this excellent and enterprising man will be found in our article on the condensing factory.

Lysander Beverly, a prominent member of the Baptist church of this place, died at his residence near the city on the 1st of February, 1874. He had contributed largely toward the erection of the Baptist church edifice, and also donated \$1,000 to the Chicago university.

On the 1st of February, 1874, occurred the death of Mrs. Bessie C., wife of Frank H. Moseley, from consumption. On the 3d of that month the death of her husband occurred from the same disease. They were buried in the same grave. They had been residents here since the establishment



of the National Watch Factory, with which Mr. Moseley was connected, and left a large circle of relatives and friends in the city.

On the 27th of February, 1874, Mr. James P. Knott, an old and highly respected citizen of Elgin, died instantaneously at his residence, after having just come in from a ride and attending to business in the city. Mr. Knott was an Englishman by birth, and a gentleman of the old school.

At the city election in March, of this year, D. F. Barclay was elected mayor over A. H. Barry, by a majority of 369, and was re-elected in the spring of 1875 without material opposition.

The public library of Elgin was formally opened March 19, 1874. The rooms were densely filled by the cultured citizens of Elgin, and speeches were made by several leading gentlemen of the city, amid much enthusiasm and enjoyment.

On Monday morning, March 23, 1874, Elgin was visited by one of the most destructive fires which ever occurred here. The ground burned over was the two prominent business corners of the city, fronting on Chicago street, Douglas avenue and Fountain place. The total loss was estimated at \$150,000. Insurance on this property, buildings and goods was paid to the amount of nearly \$100,000, and by October, of the same year, the entire ground, with the exception of one lot on Chicago street, was entirely rebuilt in a much more substantial and ornamental style.

In April, of this year, Major D. W. Whittle and Prof. P. P. Bliss, of Chicago, who have since become somewhat famous as lay evangelists, held a meeting of several days in this place, which was one of their first.

In the spring of 1874, what is known as the temperance crusading wave, reached Elgin. Mass meetings were held in the churches and at DuBois opera house, at which the pledge was circulated and signed by large numbers of our citizens. The ladies were especially active in promoting the cause of temperance during the spring and summer of this year. On the 15th of April a petition was presented to the city council by a committee of prominent ladies, praying that no license to sell liquor be granted. The petition was considered at the next meeting of the council, April 22, and rejected by the casting vote of the mayor—six aldermen voting in favor and six against it.

The death of Miss Foneta A. Newcomb, only child of J. B. Newcomb, who had been a most successful teacher in our public schools for several years, and was very much respected, occurred on the 30th of April, 1874.

A few days after, viz. : on the 2d of May, Miss Ada J. Joslyn, daughter of the late Rev. A. J. Joslyn, and also one of the teachers in our public schools, was called away by death, and on the same day Mrs. Jane E. Larkin, wife of C. H. Larkin, who had been a resident of our town from her childhood.

About the 1st of May, 1874, the *Elgin Gazette*, which had been published longer than any other paper ever started here, ceased to exist, from mis-

management and consequent financial difficulties. Its office and a portion of the material on which it was printed, were soon after secured by Mr. S. L. Taylor, proprietor of the *Elgin Advocate*, who has made it one of the best country newspapers in the state. Mr. E. Keogh, the last editor of the *Gazette*, immediately after its demise started the *Elgin Times*.

The Elgin watch factory was partially closed for repairs and putting in new machinery on the 10th of June, 1874, and remained so until the 1st of August, when it opened with increased facilities, and the whole city again felt the throb of its pulsations.

On the 4th of June, 1874, the old settlers held their annual gathering at the fair grounds, where speeches were made by several of the old residents of the vicinity, and by Governor Beveridge, who was present by invitation.

The death of S. P. Burdick, one of our oldest and most respected citizens, occurred on the 7th of July, 1874. He settled on a farm near Elgin as early as 1838, but for several years of the latter part of his life was a resident of the city, and part owner of the City mills.

On the 2d of August, Stafford McOsker, another old resident, departed this life. He carried on the merchant tailoring business here longer than any other man, with perhaps a single exception, and by attention to business and wise investments amassed a competence.

In the month of November, 1874, an agent from Smith county, Kansas, visited Elgin, and presented the claims of the sufferers from drought and grasshoppers in that region. The agent being known to Dr. Joseph Tefft, of this city, the appeal was met by the citizens of Elgin in the most liberal spirit. Upward of \$1,000 worth of goods, clothing, etc., were donated and shipped to Smith county, and \$530 in cash was raised and paid over to the agent for that purpose.

Building operations in Elgin during 1874 were unusually active. In addition to rebuilding the burnt district, a large number of other business buildings and private residences were erected. Not far from half a million of dollars were expended in this way, including \$150,000 upon the Asylum.

Important matters which have taken place in Elgin since the commencement of 1875, are so recent as to be fresh in the memories of our readers. But we record a few of them, as we have recorded some before, not simply for present information but for future reference.

Mr. Martin Coney, another of the old residents of Elgin, and father of Mrs. P. J. Kimball and Mrs. J. N. Truesdell, died January 10, 1875, aged nearly seventy-seven. The death of Miss Libby Tuck occurred on the 21st of the same month.

During the last few years dairymen's conventions have repeatedly been held in our city. The ninth annual meeting of the Northwestern Dairymen's Association convened here on the 9th of February, 1875, and continued in session three days.

The annual city election was held on the first Monday of March, as usual.

License or no license was to some extent an issue, and although the complexion of the Common Council on this subject was not materially changed, they soon after raised the price of license from \$125 to \$800, and the number of licensed saloons has been reduced about one-half. The city sexton's report was read at the first meeting of the new council, showing the number of deaths in the city during the past year to have been 108. This, in a population of 8,000, speaks well for the health of the place. With the commencement of this year, R. W. Padelford, who had been clerk of the council ever since the establishment of the city government in 1854, and had given universal satisfaction, ceased to act as such, and W. F. Sylla was appointed in his place.

On the 25th of March occurred the death of Jonathan Hinsdell, aged eighty-four. He had resided in the vicinity about thirty-eight years, and was one of the original trustees of the Methodist church.

The Chicago & Pacific railroad, to which Elgin is so much indebted, was during this month completed to Byron, on Rock river, fifty-eight miles west of our city.

About the first of April the spelling-school mania reached Elgin, and for a month or so drew full houses on frequent occasions.

The deaths of Wm. C. Kimball and Roswell Smith, the former aged sixty-nine and the latter sixty-one, and both of them old residents of the city, occurred at nearly the same hour on the 6th of May. We notice Mr. Kimball in our article on "The Merchants of Elgin," on a succeeding page. Mr. Smith was also for several years a merchant here, and one of our most respected and valuable citizens.

On the evening of May 13, another large meeting of citizens was held at the court house to hear a report from the Board of Education, relative to the contemplated new school-houses already referred to. They recommended an expenditure of \$90,000 for this purpose, and we expect that ere long Elgin will be provided with school buildings which will be an honor to the city, and attract hither persons who have children to educate.

From information lately received, we are able to correct a statement that has heretofore been current, that the first white child born on the site of our present city, was Joseph Kimball, who now resides among us. It appears that Louisa, the daughter of John and Lydia Kimball, and Charlotte, daughter of Sidney and Martha Kimball, were both born in the spring of 1836, and consequently saw the light sooner, by some months, than Joseph. After having borne these natal honors for so many years, putting on heirs in the belief that he was the first of his race in Elgin, it seems hard to strip the laurels from his brow and bind them upon the forehead of the feeblener sex. But Louisa being still alive and the wife of one of our citizens, Mr. Louis Little, the progress of the age demands that women should have "their rights." "*Sic transit gloria mundi.*"

## ARTICLES ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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**D**ESIROUS of presenting certain subjects more at length and more consecutively than could well be done in the general history, we have invited several of our citizens, who were well qualified for the purpose, to furnish articles on these subjects, and have also prepared several ourselves. These will be found on the following pages, and, while there may be some repetition, we trust the information contained in them will be both interesting and valuable.

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### THE SCHOOLS OF ELGIN.

BY PROF'S C. F. KIMBALL AND W. W. KENNEDY.

Miss Harriet E. Gifford, who is still a resident of this place, taught the first school ever kept in this city. Mr. James T. Gifford lived in a little log house which stood just in front of Mr. O. Davidson's present residence, and here, in 1837, Miss Gifford gathered a few children of those early settlers for instruction in the necessary branches of an education. In the following year she taught in the Union church, a small building which had been erected by the Baptists, Congregationalists and Methodists, where the old cobble-stone church or school-house now stands. Miss Gifford was followed, in 1841 or 1842, by Adin Mann and wife. School was continued in this church several years. Just before this time, the Methodists had withdrawn from the union congregation and put up a small house of worship where their present church now stands. In this house Mr. Mann taught in 1840. Subsequently, Mr. Bolles, the pastor, and others, taught in the same place.

About 1844, the first regular school-house was built. It was erected by private subscription, and stood on the ground now occupied by Dr. Tefft's residence. Miss Harvey, afterward Mrs. Paul R. Wright, taught in this building two or three years, and then was succeeded by others. But the rapid growth of the town made additional school accommodations necessary, and in 1845 Mr. R. W. Padelford circulated a subscription paper to raise funds for the erection of a new school-house. As a result, the old brick was

commenced soon after, although it was not completed until 1847, nor formally dedicated until January, 1848. The building was opened January 3, 1848, with Mr. Ballard, principal of high school, salary \$400 per year, and Mrs. Ballard and Miss Esther M. Graves, now Mrs. Jay J. Town, of Des Moines, Iowa, assistants. At that time it was the finest school building in this part of the state, and, far and near, there was no little talk about the "big school-house at Elgin." Before the building was fully completed, Mrs. Lucy Lovell taught a select school in one of the lower rooms, being the first school taught in the building. From this time educational matters progressed, marked by nothing of special interest till 1851. It should be noted, that up to this time all the schools had been sustained by the payment of rate bills. No tax for educational purposes had been levied; no public revenue had been received; no "free schools" had been known in the state. A radical change was now inaugurated. The legislature passed an act authorizing the levy of a tax for the support of free schools, and the next year, at a school meeting held in the old brick, the first tax levied in the state of Illinois for free schools, was voted in this city, and the tax afterward collected.

The Elgin Seminary was established in the spring of 1851, by the Misses E. and E. E. Lord, now of Chicago. It was designed, principally, for the education of young ladies, though, during part of the time, several young gentlemen were admitted. The school was first taught in the basement of the Congregational church, and a house on DuPage street, now owned by Mr. C. K. Anderson, was used for the boarding department. In January, 1852, the "Elgin House" was purchased, and soon after fitted up for the purposes of the seminary. It then embraced not only the most of what is now known as the "Elgin Boarding House," corner of Chicago and Center streets, but the house next east of it, and afforded ample accommodations for a large number of pupils. In its new quarters the school was well patronized, and hundreds now in middle life are living in this and other places who shared its benefits. Among its principals were Rev. Daniel S. Dickinson, since deceased, and A. R. Wright, Esq., now of Sioux City, Iowa. Among its teachers were Miss Emily Lord (who was also the business manager), Miss Ellen E. Lord, Miss A. Town, Miss Towner, Miss Ballard, Miss L. Graves (now Mrs. Heywood), Mrs. Mary L. Dickinson, Mrs. Martha A. Lord, Miss Mary Blair, Miss Clara Edgecomb, Miss Irene Perine (now Mrs. Converse), and others. The school was continued until the summer of 1856, when it was decided to use the building for other purposes.

The establishment of the Elgin Academy was commenced in 1854, and a school opened in the new academy building in 1856, but as its history will appear in another part of this volume, we do not dwell on it here.

In 1854 the schools, by special charter from the legislature, were brought under the control of the city, and Edmund Gifford was elected superintendent. The schools opened with Mr. Curtiss principal in district No. 1,

and Mr. Cole in No. 2. Mr. Curtiss failing, he was succeeded by Mr. Bicknell, Oct. 18. In turn, Mr. Bicknell was discharged by the superintendent at the close of the term. Mr. F. S. Heywood became his successor, Jan. 21, 1856. Nov. 10, 1855, the new school-house in district No. 3 was dedicated, and Mr. Dagget employed as principal of the school, Oct. 26. Feb. 28, 1856, Mr. Dagget was discharged and Miss Jenques employed to take his place. July 3, 1856, Paul R. Wright entered on the duties of superintendent. The schools opened Sept. 1, with F. S. Heywood principal of grammar school in Second ward, and Harry Cole principal of south school. Mr. Wright resigned the superintendency Nov. 18, 1856. No successor was appointed until Dec. 10, when Dr. Thomas Kerr filed the necessary bond, and entered upon the duties of the office. The winter term opened Jan. 10, with an enrollment of 450 pupils. To curtail expenses, the services of Mr. Cole were dispensed with at the close of the spring term of 1857. Dr. Kerr resigned the superintendency Aug. 4, 1857, and Mr. Edmund Gifford was elected his successor, Sept. 1, 1857. The schools opened Sept. 7, with the following Board of Education: Rev. A. J. Joslyn, Jerome J. Smith, Charles Morgan and H. Hamilton. There were five schools on the east side of the river and two on the west side. Mr. Canfield was principal at the old brick, but he so signally failed, that as early as Sept. 20, he was discharged, and F. S. Heywood, the former teacher, was employed to fill the vacancy, at a salary of \$1,000 per year. During this year, 1857, the new brick was erected, and, Nov. 14, the high school moved in procession from the old brick to their new quarters. Nov. 18, the building was dedicated with a good deal of eclat. Addresses were made by several gentlemen and a good time was had. On the whole it was a prosperous year for the schools. In June, 1859, Robert Blenkinson was elected superintendent, but kept no records of the schools. He resigned April 10, 1860, and Mr. J. B. Newcomb, who still survives to do good work in the cause of education, was elected his successor. Mr. Newcomb served as superintendent till July 3, 1863. During a portion of this time the schools were conducted with a view to the strictest economy. Mr. Heywood taught during the spring term of 1860 as principal of the high school, at a salary of \$1,000, and from the fall of 1860 to the spring of 1861, at the rate of \$900 a year. Mr. E. C. Lovell became principal of the high school in the spring of 1862. During that term the principal of the grammar school received \$1.25 per day and the assistants \$1.00 per day. Mr. Lovell was continued in 1862-3 at a salary of \$475, and the female teachers at \$200. In 1863-4, Mr. Lovell was paid \$600; his assistants \$250, and the other teachers \$212.50. In the spring of 1865, Mr. Lovell laid aside the "birch" and took the sword in defense of his country. He was succeeded by Mrs. Wing, a teacher long and favorably known to this community. Mr. Burr Lewis succeeded Mrs. Wing in the fall of 1865, but remained only two terms, when in turn Mrs. Wing was appointed his successor. The number of public schools taught during the successive years, from 1859 to 1866,





The schools were regraded during the year and a more systematic course was adopted, including a two-years' course each for the primary and intermediate departments, a three-years' course in the grammar school, and a four-years' course in the high school. As thus organized the pupils made good progress. More school room was needed, and the old stone, or Baptist, church was purchased by the city council for \$5,000, and three schools were opened in 1870, enrolling nearly 200 children, forming a primary, intermediate and grammar department. Mrs. A. S. Wing was employed as principal of the grammar school, which position she held till the close of the fall term of 1871, when she resigned.

In September, 1871, Mr. W. W. Kennedy was employed to teach vocal music in the schools, with a view of making it one of the branches of education. Although at first many doubts were expressed as to the feasibility of teaching young children to read music, and to sing by note, yet a fair trial has been given, and he has continued his work with good success, teaching in all the grades, from the primary to the high school.

In 1872 the course of study was revised, and published in pamphlet form; also a "Syllabus of Oral Lessons" for primary and intermediate schools. As revised, there are eleven grades from the primary to the high school. The first, second, third and fourth compose the primary department, the fifth, sixth and seventh the intermediate, and the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh the grammar department. Two courses of study were adopted for the high school—the English course and the classical course, each requiring four years for its completion. At the close of the school year of 1872, the first class of three young ladies, Misses Helen C. Kimball, Euphemia A. Martin and Julia A. DuBois, graduated from the high school. The exercises were held at DuBois opera house, June 27th. Each graduate read an essay, and received a diploma from the superintendent.

At the municipal election held in March, 1873, the question whether the schools should be organized under the general school law of the state or remain under the control of the city, was submitted to a vote of the people, the result in favor of the change.

At a subsequent election held in April, M. B. Baldwin, J. B. Newcomb, E. S. Joslyn, A. S. Barry, W. F. Lynch and A. S. Moxon were elected a Board of Education, who came into power the following July. During the summer vacation, the new board erected a two-story school building, adjoining the high school, to be used for primary and intermediate schools. Mr. Kimball was re-employed as superintendent, and Miss A. A. Clement principal of high school, which positions they still hold. A class of five young ladies graduated from the high school June 28, 1873. In the graduating class of 1874 were six young ladies, and one young man—Edward S. Doney—he being the first male graduate from the high school. This year (1875) a class of ten—seven ladies and three gentlemen—will graduate. At present, there are connected with the schools a superintendent, and a corps of twenty-two teachers, and an enrollment of 1,103 pupils.

We close this article by referring briefly to our school buildings. However much we may prize our graded course of instruction, we must acknowledge that our school buildings are very inferior, and lack the capacity to accommodate all the children. But we are glad to chronicle the fact that the school board are taking steps to procure the erection of suitable buildings, and we trust that when the next History and Directory shall be published, this city can boast of as good school accommodations as any in the state.



THE ELGIN ACADEMY.

BY PROF. A. G. SEARS.

The original charter of Elgin Academy was granted to Solomon Hamilton, Colton Knox, George McClure, Vincent C. Lovell, Luther Herrick, Reuben Jenne, and Burgess Truesdell, by an act of the general assembly of the state of Illinois, approved Feb. 22, 1839. In 1843, an unsuccessful attempt was made to erect a building and establish a school under this charter, as appears from the records of that date.

In 1848, the Free Will Baptists laid, on the grounds now occupied by the academy, the foundation of a college, to be called the Northern Illinois College. This property was purchased in 1855 by a stock company, organized under the charter of 1839, as amended Feb. 14, 1855, with the following board of trustees: B. W. Raymond, B. Truesdell, Wm. C. Kimball, A. J. Joslyn, O. Davidson, M. C. Town, A. Adams, Solomon Hamilton, John Hill and Dr. Joseph Tefft.

This amended charter still remains in force. Its liberal spirit is manifest from some of its provisions:

"SEC. 7. The said institution shall be open to all religious denominations, and the profession of no particular religious faiths shall be required, either of officers or pupils."

That it contemplated a school of a high order may be inferred from an extract from Sec. 2: "The corporation shall have power to confer on such persons as may be worthy, such academical or honorary degrees as are usually conferred by similar institutions in like cases."

The initiatory steps toward the above mentioned transfer, were taken in 1854, as is seen from the report of the proceedings of the trustees, at a meeting held at the Waverly House, Aug. 12, of the same year:

"On motion,

"*Resolved*, That a committee of three, consisting of A. J. Joslyn, Dr. J. Tefft and O. Davidson, be appointed to examine the propositions made by the trustees of the Northern Illinois College, to transfer their property to this board.

"On motion of A. Adams, A. J. Joslyn was appointed agent to procure subscriptions of stock.

"O. DAVIDSON, Sec'y."

To the subscriptions thus obtained were added the smaller contributions of those who, thinking such an institution almost a necessity in the community, made willing sacrifices in its behalf. Yet a claim (since extinguished) of nearly three thousand dollars incumbered it, as late as 1858. The school was opened for students Dec. 1, 1856. Robert Blenkiron, a ripe scholar and successful teacher, was its first principal. He was followed in succession by James Sylla, Clark Braden, C. C. Wheeler, Dr. Nutting, W. T. Brydges, B. C. Cilley, A. S. Barry and A. G. Sears.

Though the frequent change of principals, made necessary sometimes by death and at others by failing health, has been a serious obstacle in the way of the prosperity of the school, yet the useful and responsible positions in life filled by many of its graduates are the best possible evidence that it has been in the hands of earnest and able educators.

Its war record, comprising, as it does, seven commissioned officers, six non-commissioned staff-officers, twenty-one non-commissioned officers, and twenty-three privates, is alike honorable to teachers and students. Nine of its volunteers sealed their devotion to their country with their blood.

In 1872 the law, known as the "new school law," was passed, requiring teachers to be examined, in addition to the common English branches, in "The Elements of the Natural Sciences, Physiology and Laws of Health." Elgin Academy introduced into its previously established normal department these studies, making them a specialty, and has sent out, since that time, a large number of teachers—a fact shown by the records in the county superintendent's office, and also recognized in the state superintendent's report for 1874.

During the years 1873-4, the grounds were graded, a front fence built, walks constructed and new rooms fitted up, at an expense of nearly \$1,500. These more recent improvements, as well as the payment of the debt of 1858, are due to the determined efforts of the trustees (who have, from the first, in addition to their contributions of money, given freely of their time and labor, with no compensation but the knowledge that they were furnishing to the youth of Elgin and the surrounding country increased facilities for obtaining an education), aided by the friends of the institution, both in the city and in the country. The board of trustees now (Feb., 1875,) consists of Dr. Joseph Tefft, president; O. Davidson, secretary; M. C. Town, Wm. C. Kimball, Hon. S. Wilcox, Wm. G. Hubbard, B. W. Raymond, A. B. Hinsdell, Henry Sherman, I. C. Bosworth, Henry Bierman, and Col. John S. Wilcox.

The courses of study are as follows: Preparatory, Normal, English, Classical, Latin Scientific, College Preparatory, and Business.

The present number of students (winter term 1874-5) is 247.

Since Sept. 5, 1870, A. G. Sears has been principal.

## THE NEWSPAPERS OF ELGIN.

BY E. C. KINCAID.

A history of Elgin would be incomplete without mention being made of the names and fate of the various newspapers published. In no country in the world as America does the press wield so large and effective an influence. Neither is a town considered located and established until it contains a paper, especially adapted to its wants and devoted to its interests. The mission of the newspaper man is an important one, and it is but justice to say that, in most American communities, he is a welcome guest and receives a fair reward for his labors. Elgin is no exception to this general rule, and the press of the city has usually been so conducted as to be a subject of legitimate pride to the citizens.

The first issue of a paper in Elgin was in 1845, when the *Western Christian* was established. It was edited by Spencer Carr, Rev. A. J. Joslyn, and Rev. Wareham Walker. In political belief, it advocated the most advanced anti-slaveryism, and in religious opinion it was strongly Baptist. The paper was subsequently removed to New York state, and after various mutations, was legitimately succeeded by the *Baptist Weekly*.

About 1847 the *Elgin Gazette* was issued, and never failed to appear weekly until March, 1874, when it lapsed and was merged in the *Advocate*.

The *Fox River Courier* appeared as a Whig paper in 1851, and after a brief and troubled existence, sped away.

In 1853, the *Elgin Palladium* was started by a Mr. Hough. It was afterward published by John H. Rowe & Bro. About 1855 or 1856, it was changed to the *Kane County Journal*, and published by Lyman & Smith. This was Henry M. Smith, who has since been managing editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, and now occupies the same position on the *Brooklyn Union*.

The *Gazette*, however, outlived them all, and was edited, at various times, by E. Owen, E. S. Joslyn, Prof. Blenkiron, A. J. Joslyn, Gershom Martin and Birney Hand, until, in 1865, it was purchased by E. C. Kincaid and L. H. Post. The partner of Mr. Martin in the publication of the *Gazette*, was Mr. E. W. King, who came here in 1854, and is now the oldest practical printer in the place. In 1868, F. T. Gilbert and L. H. Post succeeded the old firm of Kincaid & Post, and about six months after Mr. Gilbert purchased the interest of his partner. In 1871 the *Watchman* was consolidated with the *Gazette* and a stock company formed, consisting of Z. Eastman, F. T. Gilbert, G. H. Daniels and E. C. Kincaid (the latter being proprietor of the *Watchman* at the time). In 1873 F. T. Gilbert purchased the whole concern, and the following year it was sold out and succeeded by the *Advocate*, owned by S. L. Taylor, who had established the latter paper in 1871.

The *Advocate* has one of the best appointed offices in the state outside of Chicago, and is in a very flourishing condition. S. L. Taylor is proprietor and chief editor, and is ably assisted by R. P. McGlincy, who officiates as city editor.

In 1858, a campaign democratic paper was established by the late Col. Thomas Grosvenor and F. B. Wilkie, now of the *Chicago Times*.

In 1865, the *Second District Democrat* succeeded, published by B. W. Staniforth, and edited by sundry persons.

This was succeeded by the *Elgin Chronicle*, edited by Ed. Keogh, and finally purchased by E. C. Kincaid, and changed to the *Watchman*.

In May, 1872, the *Lady Elgin*, a monthly paper, was started by operatives in the watch factory, and for about two and a half years edited and published by Bertha H. Ellsworth, Alida V. Ahle and Lydia A. Richards, when the senior partner withdrew. In March, 1874, a one-third interest in the paper was purchased by the Watch Factory Company and donated to the operatives. The paper represents these operatives, and is an honor to them. Its present circulation is about 1,500.

The *Elgin Times* was established in 1874, by Ed. Keogh, and still lives.

In the fall of 1874, the publisher of the *Dundee Citizen* issued an edition in this city, called the *Elgin Republic*. It was commenced as a daily on the 17th of October and changed to a weekly on the 26th of November.

During the winter of 1874-5, Dudley Randall, of Aurora, started the *Daily Bluff City*. The problem of its existence is still unsolved.

Elgin has always been well supplied with Chicago dailies, fresh from the



press, and their aggregate circulation is nearly 600. The *Journal* leads them all, it being delivered here at 6 p. m. and carriers distributing it throughout the city.

The Elgin press has done much to benefit the community, and as years roll on will probably continue the good work.

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## THE RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF ELGIN.

BY REV. C. E. DICKINSON.

Most of the first settlers of Elgin were Christian men, who aimed to plant Christian institutions in the new settlement. The four or five families who were here during the summer of 1835, met every Sabbath at the house of Deacon Hezekiah Gifford for Bible class and prayer meeting.

The family of James T. Gifford arrived in September of the same year. The first Sabbath after their arrival services were held in his house, Miss Harriet E. Gifford reading a sermon. This small log house, consisting of one room, was the place of Sabbath worship for three years.

The religious character of the settlers was so well known in the vicinity, that when a stranger once asked an inhabitant of a town a few miles down the river about religious privileges, he was told that he must go to Elgin to find such things.

The first sermon preached in Elgin was during the latter part of the year 1835 by an itinerant Methodist preacher (name unknown). The second was February 14, 1836, by Rev. John H. Prentiss, then of Joliet, and the third February 15, 1836, by Rev. N. C. Clark. The first revival meeting in Elgin was held in a large tent, July, 1837, conducted by Rev. Ralph W. Gridley and Rev. Chauncy Cook. Several hopeful conversions resulted. The religious character of the settlement was quite marked for many years.

In 1854 a city charter was secured from the legislature, one of the leading objects of which was to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors. This was made an issue in the vote upon adopting the charter, and also in the first city election. A prohibitory law was passed by the council in June, 1854, and slightly amended in September of the same year. This law was enforced during the two years of the administration of Dr. Joseph Tefft, the first mayor. During this time no liquors were publicly exposed for sale in the city. It was thus clearly demonstrated that the affairs of a city can be well managed without saloons. Soon, however, men were elected to the council who were pledged to the liquor interest. The year following Dr. Tefft's administration, saloons again began to appear, and in May, 1858, a license ordinance was passed. During most of the time since that date licensed saloons have cursed our city. These must always meet the decided disapproval of the religious element of the people.

Several of the Elgin churches are among the most flourishing of their denomination in the state. (See history of each church.)

The Elgin Bible society, organized in 1847, and still in existence, has, like the temperance work, been a bond of union between the churches, and has raised an aggregate of nearly \$8,000 for the dissemination of God's word, besides an annual visitation of families in the city and township.

During the year 1858 the Elgin Christian association was organized, and for several years did very efficient work in the city and surrounding country. The annual report presented May, 1861, shows that during the year religious reading had been distributed every month to about 700 families. Over 8,000 tracts and 10,000 religious and temperance papers were thus distributed. These, together with books loaned from the library, made an aggregate of 200,000 pages of religious reading circulated during the year. The cash expenditures for the year were \$133.36, which was raised by the different churches.

During the years of our civil war the sympathies and efforts of the people were turned into other channels, and this organization was given up. But the stores and supplies which found their way to the camps and hospitals during those years, told our boys in blue that the hearts of the Christian people of Elgin had not lost their sympathy nor their hands their skill.

During the fall of 1866 the Elgin Young Men's Christian association was organized, and for a time was a very effectual element in the Christian work of the city. It revived the work of tract distribution, organized several mission Sabbath schools and neighborhood meetings, and sustained a young people's prayer meeting, which was well attended and productive of good. This, like too many other religious organizations, fell a victim to poor financial management. January 1, 1873, this association was so far resuscitated under its efficient president, J. S. Adams, that it opened a public reading room, which was well sustained till it was merged in the Elgin public library and reading room.

Though the ascendancy of the religious element is not now so marked as in the early years of the settlement, owing to the increase of population, Elgin is still a center of Christian influence in the various denominations here represented.

It is to be hoped that the efforts now being made by Christian men and women to reform inebriates and close the saloons, may be so successful that saloons and drunkenness may be banished, and the principles of the religion of Jesus Christ prevail in our beautiful city.

#### THE ELGIN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The present Elgin Bible society is not the first one of its name. For some time previous to 1847 one had existed here, auxiliary direct to the American, and not to the county, society.

The treasurer of this society was Burgess Truesdell, who, in the early

days of Elgin, was prominent in the religious and benevolent enterprises of the place, but has since gone to his reward. How long this society had been in operation or what it had accomplished, is to the writer unknown.

In the summer of 1847 a meeting was held in the basement of the Congregational church, at which a Bible society was formed for Elgin, auxiliary to the Kane County Bible society, which took the place of the previous one, and has lived until this time. It is the oldest benevolent society at present existing in the place. Other benevolent and reformatory societies have existed here for a few months or years at a time, and then died from unmerited neglect. The Elgin Bible society has outlived them all, and for twenty-eight years has not only diffused blessings in the city and township, but made its influence felt in other parts of our country, and on other continents. It is an institution which is sustained by most of the religious denominations of the place, and serves a good purpose as a bond of union between them. Its aggregate receipts amount to some \$7,000 or \$8,000, and its circulation of Bibles and Testaments here and elsewhere to many thousands.

Its present officers are : W. G. Hubbard, president ; D. C. Scofield, John S. Adams, Henry Bierman, Geo. Sears, vice presidents ; E. S. Gilbert, secretary ; H. H. Denison, treasurer and depositary.

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## THE CHURCHES OF ELGIN.

### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

BY R. W. PADEFORD, CLERK.

This church was organized on the 14th day of July, A. D. 1838, in the log cabin of Bro. Hezekiah Gifford, one of the two pioneers of Elgin.

The constituent members of this church consisted of thirteen persons, five of whom hold their church relationship at the present time, to wit : Hezekiah Gifford, Abel D. Gifford, Harriet E. Gifford, Clara J. Kimball, and Nancy Kimball. Three are identified with other churches, and five have passed into eternity.

The Sunday services of the church were held in a barn and in private dwellings for several months, and afterwards, until 1843, in a small frame building called the Elgin chapel, which was owned and occupied conjointly by the Congregationalists and Baptists.

From 1843 onward it was owned and occupied solely by this church until the erection of their cobble-stone edifice in 1849, which was their church home for twenty-one years.

About the first of June, 1870, their present church edifice was commenced and pushed with such vigor as to enable them to occupy the base-

ment for worship on the 18th of December following, and was fully completed, furnished and dedicated on the 5th of October, 1871, at a cost of about \$35,000.

During the period of their church history, embracing about thirty-seven years, they have enjoyed a good degree of spiritual and temporal prosperity. Five hundred and twenty-four persons have been added to the church by baptism, and 508 by letters from other churches.

Twelve ministers of the gospel have been sent forth from their membership, to declare the unsearchable riches of Christ. Seven pastors have served as under-shepherds of the Lord, as follows: Rev. Joshua E. Ambrose, five years and a half, from 1838 to 1843. He baptized sixty-three, and received by letter sixty-three. Rev. Adoniram J. Joslyn, eleven and a-half years, from 1844 to 1855. He baptized 198, and received by letter 194. Rev. Levi Parmely, about four years, from 1856 to 1860. There were baptized in the time, thirty-four, and received by letter, sixty-one. Rev. Benjamin Thomas, one and a half year, from 1860 to 1862. Fifty-two were received by baptism, and twenty-six by letter during his pastorate. Rev. Charles K. Colver, four years, from 1863 to 1867. He baptized seventeen, and received by letter sixty. Rev. Wm. P. Everett three and a half years, from 1869 to 1872. He baptized eighty-five, and received by letter sixty-six. The present pastor, Rev. Leo M. Woodruff, commenced his labors in September, 1872. He has baptized seventy-five, and received by letter thirty-eight.

The officers of the church are as follows: Leo M. Woodruff pastor; Abel D. Gifford, R. W. Padelford, Hezekiah Gifford, Wm. F. Sylla, deacons; R. W. Padelford, clerk; A. D. Gifford, R. W. Padelford, Wm. E. Bent, Increase C. Bosworth, Hezekiah Gifford, trustees. Present number of members 380.

## THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH.

In the autumn of 1862, Rev. B. Thomas, formerly pastor of the First Baptist church in Elgin, but then an army chaplain, brought to this place from the south about 100 contrabands or newly-liberated slaves.

Their advent among us was by many regarded quite unfavorably, and one of our citizens who was afflicted with chronic colorphobia, procured a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Thomas, on the charge of violating an old state law which prohibited bringing colored people into Illinois without giving bonds that they should not become a public charge. But the resolute chaplain refused to be arrested, claiming that he acted by authority, and finally both he and his proteges were suffered to remain unmolested.

The number of colored residents was increased by subsequent arrivals, and although they suffered much from sickness while becoming acclimated, and much from prejudice which, for a time, was so strong as to exclude their children from equal school privileges with the whites, they have become a permanent and valuable element of our population.

In 1866, the Second Baptist church, composed of colored members, was

organized, and for some time fostered by the late Rev. A. J. Joslyn and others. They soon after purchased a portion of the old Methodist church, removed it to a lot on Dundee street, and fitted it up for a place of worship. This they occupied until it was burned, March 28, 1875, since which they have met in the city court house. The present membership is thirty-three. They have preaching once a fortnight, and a sabbath school of about fifty, superintended by Geo. H. Knott, who for several years has labored assiduously for their spiritual welfare.

### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

BY REV. G. E. DICKINSON.

Rev. N. C. Clark came to Illinois under a Home Missionary commission in 1833, two years before the settlement of Elgin (some months before there was a white settler in Kane county), and first located at Naperville, DuPage county. February 15, 1836, Mr. Clark visited Elgin by invitation, for the purpose of consulting with the settlers here respecting the organization of a church. Mr. Clark preached a sermon in the log house of Jas. T. Gifford, Esq., where Rev. John H. Prentiss, of Joliet, had preached the day before (Sabbath, February 14). This house stood near the present intersection of Villa and Prairie streets, a few feet north of the west end of the small triangular park.

Three months later Mr. Clark again visited Elgin by invitation, and, on the 12th of May, 1836, the Congregational church, the oldest in the city, was organized, composed of the following members, who presented letters from sister churches: George McClure, Sarah E. McClure, Julia McClure, Philo Hatch, Reuben Jenne, Jas. T. Gifford, Laura Gifford, Experience Gifford, Ruth G. Dixon, Relief Kimball, Mary Ann Kimball.

In September, 1837, this church assumed the support of Mr. Clark for one-half of the time, he dividing his labors between Elgin and St. Charles. In 1839, this church assumed his whole support.

During the first years of the existence of this church, Sabbath services were held in the house of Jas. T. Gifford; when there was no preaching a sermon was read. In 1838, the "Elgin chapel" was built, and occupied jointly with the Baptists. This house stood on the northeast corner of DuPage and Geneva streets; its dimensions were 24x28 feet.

In 1843, the Congregationalists sold their interest in this chapel to the Baptists, and July 1, of that year, the corner-stone of the present edifice was laid. The basement of this building was occupied for worship from May, 1844, till July 29, 1847, when the completed building was dedicated to the worship of God. This house was rebuilt and enlarged in 1869 and 1870. The audience room in its present form, was occupied for the first time October 9, 1870.

During the thirty-nine years of the existence of this church, it has had nine pastorates and seven pastors, as follows: Rev. N. C. Clark, from

Sept. 1, 1837, till June 13, 1845; Rev. Marcus Hicks, from July 17, 1845, till April 19, 1847; Rev. N. C. Clark, from July 29, 1847, till July 13, 1851; Rev. Wm. H. Starr, from Sept. 1, 1851, till his death, March 6, 1854; Rev. Wm. E. Holyoke, from March 20, 1854, till Sept. 14, 1858; Rev. J. T. Cook, from April, 1859, till April, 1860; Rev. N. C. Clark, from May 1, 1860, till Sept. 1, 1862; Rev. Fred. Oxnard, from Sept. 1, 1862, till Nov. 1, 1866; Rev. C. E. Dickinson, the present pastor, commenced labor with the church May 12, 1867.

This church has enjoyed fourteen or fifteen seasons of revival. The years 1839, 1857 and 1874, witnessed the largest accessions to its membership, but some have been added during almost every year of its existence.

In the spring of 1841, sixteen members were dismissed to be organized with others into the Congregational church of Dundee. May 28, 1848, twenty were dismissed to be organized into the Congregational church of Udina, and Feb. 5, 1853, twenty-three were dismissed to be organized into a Presbyterian church in Elgin. The whole number of members from the first has been 980. Present membership, 300.

The church is now in a prosperous condition. Their pleasant and commodious house is open to all worshipers. All the sittings are *free*, and the revenue is derived from weekly offerings.

Preaching every Sabbath at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 12 m. Sunday school teachers' meeting, Sabbath evening, one hour before service. Young peoples' meeting, Monday evening. Prayer meeting, Wednesday evening.

Pastor's residence, 25 Villa street. Study in the church.

## THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

BY REV. W. L. BOYD.

The first Presbyterian church of Elgin was formed by the Chicago presbytery (N. S.) February 8, 1853, with twenty-five members from the Congregational church. The congregation bought and occupied a small building on Center street, south of the Methodist church. Rev. A. W. Henderson served them as pastor from June, 1854, till August, 1856, and Rev. J. V. Downs from March, 1858, till March, 1861.

The organization flourished and promised success for some years, but on account of removals, became weak, and was finally disbanded in March, 1861.

The present organization was organized May 14, 1855, by the Chicago presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian church, with twenty-five members. The first board of elders were James Christie and George Kirkpatrick. Rev. J. B. McCorkle was elected to the pastorate September, 1855, and faithfully and acceptably served them till April, 1864. The house of worship on the corner of Center street and Dexter avenue was built in the spring of 1856.



After the resignation of Mr. McCorkle the pulpit was vacant for about three years, being supplied by the presbytery, when Rev. D. C. Cooper was called May, 1867, and served as pastor till September, 1868. August 18, 1867, the congregation, with their pastor, Mr. Cooper, withdrew from the synod of the Reformed church, and united with the general assembly of the Presbyterian church (O. S.). Rev. Samuel Hair then served them as stated supply from October, 1869, till January, 1871, when Donald Fletcher (a student) was sent from the Northwestern Seminary to supply them, during whose administration the old church on Center street was sold and an elegant new one built on the corner of Chicago and Center streets, which was dedicated July 11, 1872, and the following December 5 burned down.

Mr. Fletcher vacated the field October, 1872, when Robert McKenzie was called and settled as pastor. The congregation immediately commenced the erection of the present chapel, which was dedicated in December, 1873. February, 1874, Rev. Robert McKenzie was dismissed from the charge, and the following May Rev. W. L. Boyd was called and settled pastor, who continues to serve them. The congregation met with a severe trial in the burning of their new church, which cost near \$14,000, leaving them without a church and heavily in debt; but, by noble, self-sacrificing efforts, they are now in a safe and prosperous condition. There are at present about 100 members. The present board of elders consists of James Christie, Wm. Fraser, Wm. Kirkpatrick, W. W. Kennedy and Peter McKinnel. The board of trustees are Wm. Fraser, James Christie and E. L. Gilbert.

### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first sermon ever preached in Elgin was by a Methodist minister, in 1835. In the summer of 1836, one or two families by the name of Hammers, and others favorable to Methodism, settled at Hoosier Grove, four miles east of Elgin, and during this year Rev. Wm. Royal, who was then on Fox River circuit, established an appointment here and formed a class. It had seven members, viz.: Joseph and Mrs. Russell, his son Joseph Russell, Jr., and his wife, George Hammers, Rebecca Hammers and Elizabeth Hammers. Geo. Hammers was the leader in 1836, and was succeeded by Benjamin Burritt. This was the beginning of the Elgin Methodist church.

On the 12th of December, 1836, Rev. Washington Wilcox preached at the house of Solomon Hamilton, about two miles west of the village, being probably the second Methodist sermon in the town of Elgin. Mr. Hamilton was one of the chief pillars in the Methodist church of Elgin from its formation until his death, nearly twenty years afterward. After his year of labor, Mr. Wilcox reported 280 members on his circuit, a territory which now embraces over 15,000.

In 1838 the Elgin circuit was formed. It was forty miles square, with thirty-two preaching places.

In 1839 the preaching place in Elgin, which hitherto had been migratory,

was located on the east side of the river, and for a time worship was held in the union chapel, corner of DuPage and Geneva streets, a part of which is now the residence of Dr. Jæger. A camp meeting was held this year, which greatly advanced the interests of the church. The circuit now embraced all that part of the country lying between Fox river and the lake, north of a line drawn from Chicago to St. Charles. During this year, measures were taken to erect a church, which, however, was not completed until 1840, and when done was a small affair, only 25 by 42 feet, but amply large for the congregation.

The land on which this house stood, and which is the present church lot, was donated by J. T. Gifford. The timber for the frame was given by the Hammers. George Hammers shaved the oak shingles for the roof, and Horace Benham did the carpenter work for \$150, receiving \$3 in *cash* and the balance in sundries. When the present brick church was built, the old frame building was sold to the colored Baptists, and removed to their lot on Dundee street, where it was occupied by them until its destruction by fire on the 28th of March, 1875.

In 1839, Rev. John Nason and Rev. J. M. Snow were sent to the circuit. In 1840, it was made a station, with one or two outside appointments, and Rev. Sias Bolles, now of Minnesota, designated to labor here. In this latter year the following persons were elected as the first trustees of the society: Solomon Hamilton, Burgess Truesdell, James P. Corron, Benjamin Burritt and Jonathan Hinsdell.

The next year Rev. Wm. Vallette was sent to the charge. He afterwards located, on account of ill health, and for several years practiced medicine in this place.

Rev's S. P. Keys, W. Wilcox, G. L. S. Stuff, —Early, —Brown and R. K. Bibbins, served the church during the remainder of the decade.

In the fall of 1850, Rev. S. Bolles was again sent from the conference as pastor, and in the summer of 1851, the congregation had increased to such an extent, that an addition to the church was built for their accommodation. Mr. Bolles was continued in charge another year, and in the summer of 1852, still another addition was built in the form of a wing. The preacher's salary at this time was \$500, about one-third of what has been paid during the last few years. Pastors in succeeding years were S. Guyer one year, W. P. Jones one year, and Silas Seal two years.

In 1856, Rev. C. M. Woodward became pastor, and in 1857 some efforts were made to build a house of worship. Three hundred dollars were expended for plans, etc., but the project was dropped for want of sufficient subscriptions to warrant going on with the work. In the fall of 1857, Mr. Woodward was reappointed for another year.

Rev. G. L. S. Stuff was again pastor from the fall of 1858 to the fall of 1860, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. Q. Fuller, now editor of the *South-eastern Christian Advocate*, at Atlanta, Ga., who continued here two years.

In 1861 the twenty-fifth year of Methodism in Elgin was completed, and its establishment celebrated. An interesting meeting was held to commemorate the event, when addresses were delivered by Rev's E. Q. Fuller, A. D. Field, H. Crews, J. W. Agard, M. Sherman, and N. C. Clark.

But in this year the war of the rebellion broke out, and while it continued, everything of a moral and religious nature suffered from its blighting influence. In 1864 there were only 116 members in the society, with a church and lot valued at \$1,000, and a parsonage at \$1,200.

The pastors succeeding Mr. Fuller were Rev. W. P. Gray, from the fall of 1862 to the fall of 1864; Rev. John Gibson from the fall of 1864 to that of 1865, and the Rev. W. D. Atchison from the fall of 1865 to that of 1868. While the latter was in charge it was agreed at a meeting of the official members held March 17, 1866, to erect a church, and on the 1st day of May following the work was commenced. It was so far built that the congregation occupied the spacious basement the next winter, and during the succeeding summer it was completed and dedicated on the 8th of September, 1867. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. T. M. Eddy, then editor of the *Northwestern Christian Advocate*, who, with the help of others, secured pledges on that day to the amount of some \$15,000 to liquidate the indebtedness. Some of these pledges proving unreliable, and interest, etc., increasing the indebtedness, it was found in 1871, that the obligations of the society were still some \$10,000 or \$12,000, but this amount was greatly reduced by the persevering efforts of Rev. D. J. Holmes, who was pastor at that time.

In October, 1868, Rev. W. H. Gloss was appointed pastor, continuing two years; in 1870, Rev. D. J. Holmes, continuing one year, and in 1871, Rev. N. H. Axtell, continuing three years. The present pastor, Rev. W. C. Dandy, D. D., was appointed October, 1874.

The presiding elders until the conference of 1851 were Rev. John Clark, Rev. John T. Mitchell, Rev. James Mitchell and Rev. A. S. Risley. Since 1851, they have been Rev. John Sinclair, until the conference of 1855; Rev. E. H. Gammon, until 1858; Rev. Luke Hitchcock, until 1859; Rev. J. W. Agard, until 1863; Rev. L. A. Sanford, until 1864; Rev. S. P. Keys, until 1865; Rev. H. Crews, until 1869; Rev. W. C. Willing, until the fall of 1873, and Rev. W. P. Gray, since that time.

The membership of the church is now about 400. The Sabbath school, under the superintendence of Mr. John S. Adams, is large and prosperous, and the various departments of church work are well cared for.

## THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH.

BY E. A. KIMBALL.

The first Free Methodist society in Elgin was organized in the fall of 1865, with four members, by Rev. C. H. Underhill, who, about this time, was appointed to this field of labor by the Illinois annual conference of the

Free Methodist church, and remained until the spring of 1867. During this time a lot was purchased on the corner of Center and Milwaukee streets, and a fine church edifice erected, 40x80 feet, at a cost for building and lot, of about \$7,000. The membership at this time was about forty-five, and the society in a prosperous condition. Mr. Underwood being called to another field of labor, Rev. E. P. Hart was his successor, until the sitting of the following conference, which was held here in October, 1867. At this time Rev. N. D. Fanning, with Rev. Julius Buss as his colleague, was appointed to the work, and remained until the spring of 1868. His health having failed he was compelled to resign the work to others, and Rev. J. Buss being called away, Rev. C. E. Harroun supplied the pulpit until the sitting of the next conference, in the fall of 1868. This appointment becoming connected with the Belvidere and Marengo circuit, Rev. Lewis Bailey and W. W. Kelley were appointed to the circuit. But it was thought advisable to divide the work, and Rev. D. M. Sinclair, of the Susquehanna conference, was appointed to this place by the superintendent, and remained until the fall of 1870. During his administration the church became very much weakened and divided on account of injudicious management on his part, in persisting in the sale of the church property at a great sacrifice, which came near destroying the society, and caused many of the largest contributors to withdraw entirely. In the fall of 1871 Rev. J. W. Dake succeeded Mr. Sinclair, laboring with acceptability for one year without any very marked success in reinstating the church to its former position. In 1872 Rev. M. V. Clute was appointed his successor, filling the place with acceptability until, his health failing, he was compelled to withdraw. In the fall of 1873 Rev. N. E. Parks was appointed to the work here and in Clintonville, which place he has filled with acceptability until the present time. In the fall of 1874 Rev. E. C. Best, a young man, was placed on the work as a supply, whose labors have been divided between this place and Clintonville in connection with Rev. Mr. Parks. The society is now worshipping in the small church obtained in exchange for the former church building from the German Evangelical brethren. The present membership is about 20.

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

BY REV. S. J. FRENCH.

The records in existence do not state when the first church services were held in this parish. Official consent was asked of the bishop of Illinois to the formation of a parish by a committee appointed at a meeting of the church members on Jan. 24, 1858. This committee consisted of the following named gentlemen: Robert Blenkiron, Buel Sherman, Benj. H. Lobdell, E. Hawley Sherman and Z. H. Adams. In reply, the consent asked was given in a letter from Bishop Whitehouse, dated Feb. 8, 1858. On Ash Wednesday of that year (Feb. 17), after divine service and the holy communion, a parish was organized under the name of the Church of the Redeemer. The follow-

ing were chosen as the officers : Wardens—Buel Sherman, Robert Blenkiron ; vestrymen—Benj. H. Lobdell, Zopher H. Adams, E. Hawley Sherman, Robert Vasey, W. J. Tillottson. The Rev. J. H. Waterbury was elected rector. It was determined to depend solely on free offerings for the support of the parish. At the Easter following there were fourteen communicants.

The following is the succession of rectors, with dates of the beginning and close of each rectorate : Rev. J. H. Waterbury, now at St. John's church, East Boston, Mass., from Feb. 17, 1858, to Aug. 21, 1859 ; Rev. J. F. Esch, now of College Point, Long Island, from Aug. 26, 1859, to Feb. 20, 1860 ; Rev. Samuel D. Pulford, now of Portage City, Wis., from March 5, 1860, to Dec., 1860 (at this time there were twenty-eight communicants) ; Rev. D. C. Howard, now of Pittsburg, from June 1, 1866, to Oct. 10, 1866 ; Rev. George Wallace, now of Janesville, Wis., from Aug. 1, 1870, to June 1, 1871 ; Rev. S. J. French (present incumbent), from Aug. 1, 1874.

Since the organization of the parish there have been of baptisms 108 ; confirmations 35 ; marriages 16 ; burials 9.

Present status. Officers—Rector—Rev. S. J. French, M. A. Senior warden—A. E. Bentley. Junior warden—J. P. Goodale. Vestrymen—W. L. Pease, George D. Sherman, John B. Hobrough, Henry Procter, J. E. Leavitt, Dr. E. A. Kilbourne. Treasurer—J. B. Hobrough. Parish clerk—Geo. D. Sherman.

Communicants 65. Sunday school 40. Services every Sunday morning and evening in Odd Fellows' hall. Sunday school and Bible class after the morning service.

### UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

BY REV. W. S. BALCH.

In the years 1847-8, some of the liberal people, mostly Unitarians and Universalists, joined together and built the little church on Center street, now occupied by the Free Methodists, and employed Rev. Mr. Conant for their pastor. The church was afterward sold and occasional preaching was held in Masonic hall, by Rev's. S. P. Skinner and L. B. Mason. Afterwards services were held in the Free Will Baptist church, corner of Spring and Division streets, now occupied by the German Lutherans, and Rev. O. A. Skinner was engaged as pastor. After his removal to the presidency of Lombard University, no meetings were held until Rev. H. Slade gathered a regular society in 1865, which proceeded to erect the church now occupied, on the corner of Center and DuPage streets. At the end of 1870, Mr. Slade resigned his pastorate, and not long after, Rev. W. S. Balch was invited to fill the vacant pulpit, which he has done until the present time. The society now numbers about 100 members, and the Sabbath school about 120.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

BY J. A. SPILLARD.

The first priest who visited Elgin (a missionary) was Rev. M. De St. Palais, a zealous Frenchman, and at present Bishop of Vincennes. He officiated here, perhaps, once in three months, for over four years. Then came Father Doyle, after whom came Rev. Wm. Feely, who was priest from 1845 to 1852. It was during his mission that James T. Gifford donated a lot on Gifford street, and Father Feely at once commenced the erection of the present church on the same. From 1852 to 1857, Rev. Jas. Gallagher, and from 1857 to 1859 Rev. M. Carroll ministered to the wants of the Catholics in this vicinity. After Father Carroll came Rev. A. Eustace, who remained from 1859 to 1868, which brings us down to the advent among us of Rev. T. Fitzsimmons, whom every one knows as an earnest worker in the temperance cause, and who has accomplished very much good in Elgin. In addition to this Father Fitzsimmons, with the Catholic congregation, is erecting an academy or seminary on Center street, at a cost of about \$15,000, to be managed by a religious community of sisters. He donates a beautiful building on Gifford street to the sisters, where they expect to accommodate thirty or forty young lady students (boarders), and also educate some of the younger children of the parish. The Catholic community here, although not very numerous, is as intelligent and enterprising as any in the state.

## THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

BY REV. MR. ALBERDING.

This church was started in 1855 by Rev. Mr. Schnacke, who was the first German missionary here, and preached the first sermon in German in Elgin. He was followed by Rev's. Anthes, Vetter, Lechler and Ragatz, who preached in private houses. In 1859, Rev. Mr. Hintze was appointed to the charge, who labored with great success. In this year the society purchased from B. W. Raymond and D. Hewitt, a small meeting-house on Center street, nearly opposite the Congregational church. This meeting-house was built at an early day by the Unitarians, then occupied for a while by the Presbyterians, and finally became private property.

Since the time of Mr. Hintze, the pastors have been Rev's Schneider, Gackly, Keist, Vorkel, Sindlinger, Miller, Hummel, Stamm, Fear, Alberding and Busse.

In 1869, under the pastorship of Rev. Mr. Hummel, the society exchanged their small house of worship with the Free Methodists for a larger one, which the latter had erected on the corner of Center and Milwaukee streets. The membership is now about 130, with a good house of worship paid for, and the church is in a prosperous condition. The Sabbath school numbers about 100. Public services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.



Singing and catechism teaching every Tuesday evening, and prayer meetings on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

BY REV. F. W. RICHMANN.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. John's congregation (German) was organized the first of October, 1859, and soon after purchased what was formerly the Free Will Baptist church, corner of Spring and Division streets, which they still occupy. The following have been the pastors, in the order named: Rev. R. Dulon, Rev. Mr. Israel, Rev. R. Buhler and Rev. F. W. Richmann. The last named has been in charge since the first of August, 1869. Under his care the congregation has increased from 20 to 80 families. They have good prospects of future growth, but stand very much in need of a larger edifice.

### SWEDISH EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

This church was organized January, 1870, with about 45 members. There are now about 110. They have a Sabbath school numbering about 50. In September, 1871, they purchased, for \$3,000, the church formerly owned by the Presbyterians, near the corner of Center street and Dexter avenue. Rev. M. C. Ranseen became the pastor in 1873, and still continues. The Scandinavian population of Elgin now numbers some 400 or 500.

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### THE INSANE ASYLUM.

BY E. A. KILBOURNE, M. D.

The Illinois Northern Hospital for the Insane, one of the best institutions of its class west of the Alleghany mountains, is situated on the west bank of Fox river, about a mile southwest of Elgin. The view of Fox river, the railroads and the surrounding country, from the upper portico in front of the hospital, though not so extensive nor so striking as similar scenery in a mountainous or hilly country, is yet full of quiet beauty and never fails to impress the visitor.

The hospital farm contains about 480 acres, of which 150 were donated to the institution by the citizens of Elgin, and the remainder was purchased by the state. The ground slopes gradually upward from the river, and the buildings stand on an elevated plateau, 3,000 feet from the river bank and 70 feet above the water level. The main river-road passes through the farm in front of the hospital. The grounds immediately surrounding the building, are to be laid out in walks and drives and handsomely ornamented with shrubbery and forest trees.

The general plan of the edifice includes a center building with two irregularly-shaped wings, and a rear building for the domestic department and

machinery. The center building is occupied by the officers and employes, the north wing by female patients, and the south wing by male patients. The frontage of the main or center building is 62 feet, and that of each wing 512 feet, making an entire frontage of 1,036 feet. The central structure is four stories, and the wings three stories in height, built of Dundee brick, with stone caps and sills from the quarries near Joliet, giving the whole a very substantial and imposing appearance.

The hospital boasts a full equipment of modern improvements in the way of speaking tubes, dust flues, hot and foul-air ducts, fire apparatus, railways and dumb waiters for distributing food, double-bladed iron fans for forced ventilation, rotary washing machines, a centrifugal wringer, appliances for steam cooking, library, chapel, amusement hall, etc., etc. The wards, of which there are twelve in each wing, or twenty-four in all, are light and airy, with bay-windows and conservatories for flowering plants. The exterior outline and internal arrangement are substantially the same as in the Government Hospital for the Insane, at Washington, D. C., which is acknowledged to be one of the best in the world.

It was originally supposed that only 300 patients could be accommodated in this building when completed. The last report of the trustees shows, however, that it will accommodate 460. The institution is under the immediate management of Dr. Edwin A. Kilbourne, its medical superintendent and chief executive officer. He is assisted in the medical department by Dr. R. S. Dewey and Dr. Henry S. Brooks, the patients receiving all needed care and attention at their hands.

The first movement for the establishment of the Northern Insane Hospital was in 1869, when the legislature enacted two laws, one making an appropriation for this institution and the other for the Southern Insane Hospital, at Anna, near Cairo.

In accordance with the law, Governor John M. Palmer appointed a commission of nine persons to select a location for the proposed Northern Hospital. The following gentlemen constituted the commission: Samuel D. Lockwood, of Kaue county; John H. Bryant, of Bureau; D. S. Hammond, of Cook; Merritt L. Joslyn, of McHenry; Augustus Adams, of DeKalb; Benjamin F. Shaw, of Lee; William Adams, of Will; William R. Brown, of Massac, and A. J. Matteson, of Whiteside.

These gentlemen visited various towns in the northern counties of the state, and carefully considered the advantages of each site offered for their acceptance, but finally decided that the city of Elgin offered the best inducements, and fixed the hospital permanently at this point. The offer made by our citizens included 160 acres of land, valued at \$16,000; a spring, valued at \$2,500; and railroad freights on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad to the amount of \$3,000.

When the commissioners had determined upon the location, their connexion with the institution ceased. The adoption of plans for the building and

the responsibility of its erection devolved upon a board of three trustees appointed by the governor. The original board consisted of Messrs. C. N. Holden, of Chicago; Henry Sherman, of Elgin, and Oliver Everett, M. D., of Dixon. In 1873, the Hon. C. W. Marsh, of Sycamore, was substituted for Dr. Everett; and in 1875, Mr. Edwin H. Sheldon, of Chicago, was appointed to succeed Mr. Holden.

The north wing was first built, then the rear building, and finally the center building and south wing. The north wing was opened for the reception of patients on the third day of April, 1872. The formal inspection by committees of the legislature, preparatory to the opening, occurred on the 2d day of February. The governor of the state and many other distinguished gentlemen were present upon that occasion, when the honor of a complimentary dinner was bestowed upon them by the ladies of the city.

The center building was completed and occupied in April, 1874. The south wing was ready for occupancy on the 30th day of July, 1874; but in consequence of the lack of an appropriation for the maintenance of the patients therein, the wing was not opened until April, 1875.

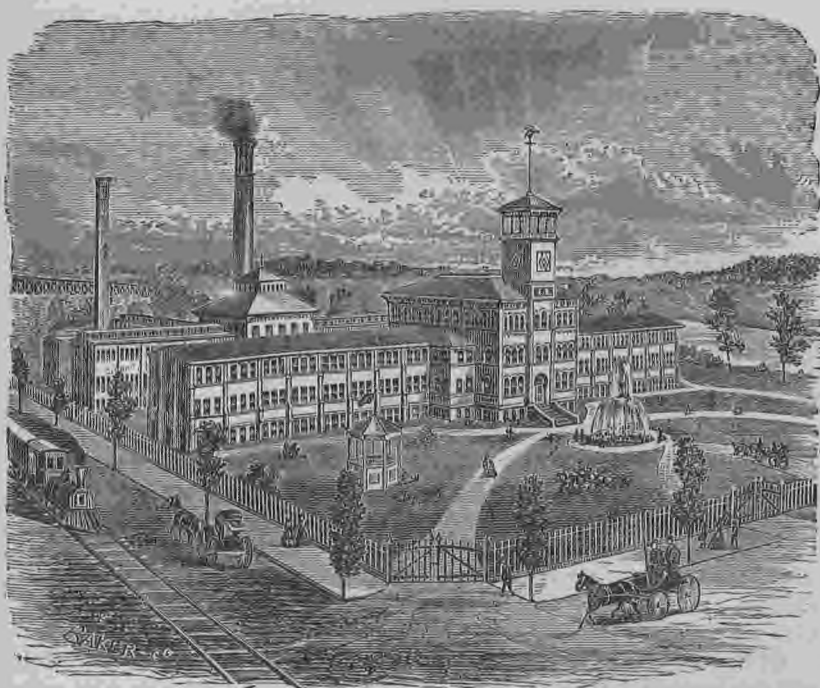
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## THE ELGIN WATCH FACTORY.

BY HON. S. WILCOX AND G. P. LORD, ESQ.

In 1864 several enterprising men of Chicago determining that watches should be manufactured in the west, organized, for that purpose, under an act of the legislature of this state, a company called then the "National Watch Company," since changed to "Elgin National Watch Company." B. W. Raymond, Esq., a former resident and firm friend of Elgin, was chosen president of the company.

This project became known early here through John Adams and George B. Adams, jewelers in Elgin, and the location of the factory in this city at once engaged the attention of the business men. A committee was appointed to ascertain the inducements necessary to this end. This committee conferred upon the subject with the president of the company and its leading artisans from Waltham. An examination of the grounds in and about Elgin ensued, which resulted in the conclusion that the present site of the factory buildings would be satisfactory to the company. This was upon the premises then known as the Dexter farm, which was owned by persons living in Oneida county, New York. These persons would sell all (171 acres), but not part, of the farm—price \$50 per acre, cash. The company then (fall of 1864) proposed to locate the factory on this site, provided thirty-five acres (the most valuable part per acre of the farm) were donated to it and \$25,000 of its stock was taken in Elgin. This proposition involved the purchase of the Dexter farm, as well as the donation of the thirty-five



THE ELGIN NATIONAL WATCH FACTORY.

acres and subscription of stock. Efforts to raise the money (\$8,577.48) to purchase the farm and secure the \$25,000 subscription of stock were immediately commenced, but were found likely to be unavailing.

In this emergency, on the 24th of December, Henry Sherman, Benjamin F. Lawrence, Walter L. Pease and Sylvanus Wilcox, determined to secure the factory here. They bought the farm, each furnishing one-quarter of the \$8,577.48—laid off that part situated in Kane county into lots, calling it "Sherman's addition," donated blocks one, two and three of said addition (thirty-five acres) to the company, subscribed for the balance of the \$25,000 of the stock, and thus settled the location of the watch factory in Elgin.

The organization of the Elgin National Watch company was completed Feb. 15, 1865. During several months after, they occupied a three-story wooden building on the alley west of Market Square for the manufacture of watchmakers' machinery.

In 1866 they moved into their new buildings, which consisted of a central three-story building, with basement 40x40; a two-story and basement west wing 28x100; a two-story and basement south wing 28x87; a one-story west wing, extending from south wing, 25x35 for dial room, and a one-story wing on the west, and opposite dial room, 30x65, for engine and boiler room.

In 1868, the company added the west wing to their front, 28x100, two-story and basement.

In 1870, the company extended their south wing, 28x100, two story and basement.

In 1871, they built their new engine house for their Holly water works.

In the spring of 1873, the company extended their dial room, making it 25x70 and two stories high.

In August, 1873 they commenced their new front buildings, consisting of a center building, 62x62, three stories and basement, with the two front wings, each 30x114, and a rear and connecting wing, 28x90. All these are two stories and basement.

In 1874, the company rebuilt their engine house, making it 30x65, with a boiler house 40x65, one story, and replaced the old chimney by a new one 27x27 at base, 11.6x11.6 at cap, and 144 feet high.

In five years and ten months from the date of their charter the company had erected their buildings, manufactured their machinery, and made and placed on the market more than 42,000 watches. In five years from the production of their first watch the company had established the reputation of their watch, and made and placed on the market more than 125,000 watches; and all this in less than seven and one-half years from the date of their charter. It is believed that no other watch manufacturing establishment ever achieved a like result in the same length of time.

Of the 600 employes of the company, nearly one-half are ladies. The monthly pay-roll is about \$35,000.

Board of Directors—T. M. Avery, H. Z. Culver, B. W. Raymond, J. T. Ryerson, H. H. Taylor, Mat. Laffin, W. H. Ferry, Samuel T. Atwater and W. L. Pease. T. M. Avery, president; H. Z. Culver, vice president; H. Reynolds, secretary; George Hunter, superintendent; G. P. Lord, business manager.

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## THE ELGIN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

BY M. H. THOMPSON.

This is a stock company organized under statute provisions, with a capital of \$10,000. The organization was perfected in November, 1869. The society at once purchased forty-two acres of land within the city limits, and inclosed the same with an eight-foot fence, and other extensive improvements were undertaken and speedily completed. One of the finest floral halls in the state has been erected on these grounds, as well as a spacious amphitheater, splendid track, and ample stalls and pens for the stock which may attend.

The fairs held by this society have always proved successful, both to stockholders and exhibitors, as high as twenty per cent. dividends have

been declared upon the stock. Probably no society in the state has offered more liberal premiums or met with better success.

The society is composed of about 300 members, including the most prominent business men of the city, as well as the principal farmers and stock-growers of Fox river valley. Elgin owes a portion of her prosperity and notoriety to this society, and her citizens should not be backward in rendering aid to its maintenance and support.

The following is the list of officers elected at the last annual election: President—Geo. P. Harvey. Vice-President—C. C. Church. Secretary—M. H. Thompson. Treasurer—E. D. Waldron. Directors—S. W. Chapman, Z. C. Hoagland, John S. Wilcox, S. W. Kingsley, R. M. Martin.

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## THE DAIRY BUSINESS OF ELGIN AND VICINITY.

BY J. H. WANZER.

The rise and progress of the dairy interest in the town of Elgin and vicinity has been so rapid and wonderful that it seems as if its present gigantic proportions had been reached by a sort of magic, and so strangely does it sound when the truth is told to a stranger, that he looks upon us as he does upon those whom he knows are in the habit of exaggerating. But where in the history of this branch of agriculture do we find its parallel? Think of it. Twenty years ago we could find in Elgin and the adjacent country around for six miles, only 800 cows, where now we have 13,000. Then in all this range, only about 1,000 pounds of cheese were made annually, and about four times as much butter, above what was used in home consumption. Now we find that upon the same belt of country there are 2,000,000 pounds of cheese made annually, and 550,000 pounds of butter. As these products have increased in quantity and quality, year by year, so has their reputation, until Elgin butter and cheese can be found in the store of the fancy grocer of San Francisco and New York, and upon the wharves of Liverpool. Beside the milk required to manufacture this vast quantity of butter and cheese, three car-loads are sent daily to Chicago; and last, but not least, the condensing factory condenses daily the milk from 1,000 cows, and sends its products forth to the entire known world. Yes, every outgoing ship from our seaboard, in every army, whether in fort or field, with the traveler and mountaineer, can be found the condensed milk bearing the name of our beloved city—Elgin.

As the early history of this great business will interest strangers, as well as those in our midst who have been engaged in other vocations and consequently have not watched its growth, it may be well to take a retrospective



view of it from its infancy to the present time. In 1852 Mr. P. H. Smith, by the help of Father Brewster, made arrangements to furnish the Adams House, of Chicago, with milk direct from his farm and to be sent daily by rail. The first can was sent on the 12th day of February, 1852. Mr. Smith was then living upon the farm of Dr. Tefft, one mile east of Elgin. The milk was brought to the depot upon an ox cart, drawn by a yoke of oxen. A portion of the cart, and the identical can in which the first milk was sent to Chicago by rail, are now in the possession of the writer. The next to try this experiment was Deacon Luther Herrick, who commenced six months later. The price of milk at this time was only six cents per gallon, free of freight, and had to be sent twice a day, the morning's milk at 6 a. m. The deacon and his wife still live, in their eightieth year, and often tell us how that, long before day, they commenced the work of milking, and in cold weather placed their feet in the warm bed the cows had just risen from, to keep them from freezing. Soon after others commenced, among whom were O. B. Jenne, John Cook, F. W. Wright, A. D. Gifford, Samuel P. Burdick, Jarvis Smith, Ballard, Sherman, McLean, Larkin, Padelford and others, until the Chicago trade was really overdone. A surplus of milk was thus found upon the hands of the producers, which was manufactured into cheese, made in the old-fashioned way. Among the first to commence cheese making were Frank Webster, upon Henry Sherman's farm, C. W. Gould and I. H. Wanzer. We made our cheese as best we could and carried them to Chicago loose in wagons, for we had no boxes to ship by rail. The writer has spent two days in peddling a one-horse load of cheese, getting on an average, six cents per pound, one-half money and one-half trade, and yet contented, because it was the best business going.

Thus we toiled and struggled on until 1864, when the condensing factory commenced operations, giving a new impetus to the business, by taking the then surplus milk and making a market for more. But soon this new demand was satisfied and the business began to droop for want of means to utilize the milk. Then there began to be talk of building cheese factories to use the surplus milk, which increased year by year. The first cheese factory in this section to be run upon the associated plan, was built by Henry Sherman. The next was by A. D. Gifford, M. A. Devine and I. H. Wanzer; then came Gould's factory, Hanover factory (B), Udina factory, others following as the increase of milk demanded.

The first butter factory built west of the lakes, was the Elgin butter factory, now managed by the Elgin Butter company. Other factories have followed in rapid succession as they seemed to be needed. And thus we have traveled on, battling with the difficulties incident to our climate and soil, until we have proven the ill-prediction of the east to be ill-founded, and now place our dairy products in the markets of the world at the very highest prices.

Some idea of the extent of the dairy interest may be realized from the

fact that the cash paid to the farmers within five miles of Elgin, for butter and cheese alone, amounts to \$560,000 annually. This is exclusive of the milk sent to Chicago and that which is consumed at the condensing factory.

The Board of Trade, established for the sale of dairy products, brings large amounts from other parts to Elgin for sale. During the year 1874, 2,955,202 pounds of cheese were sold on the board, and 136,426 pounds of creamery butter, for which was paid \$368,528.58. This amount of butter and cheese includes that produced outside of the limit mentioned in the first part of this article. The dairymen take great interest in the Board of Trade, and its weekly meetings are generally well attended by those engaged in the manufacture of butter and cheese.

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## THE PHYSICIANS OF ELGIN.

BY DR. JOSEPH TEFFT.

In the fall of 1835, Dr's Nathan Collins and Joseph Tefft arrived at and crossed the Fox river at or near the place where now stands the city of Aurora, but where then stood the plain domicile of one lone family. From this they wended their way up the valley of the Fox river to where now stands the city of Elgin. At this early day, the county of Kane included DeKalb and a part of Kendall, but contained only about 500 inhabitants, and the whole country was but sparsely settled, excepting by the red men, who used to wander up and down the river in search of fish and game. Elgin at this early day was only known as an old psalm tune, and did not receive its name proper until the spring of 1836.

In the fall of 1833, Joseph Tefft, M. D., of Madison county, New York, located in the town of Elgin, or rather took up a claim in said town, for in this early day there was but little more use for physicians than for musquito bars in the month of January. The first dose of medicine ever prescribed by a regular located physician in the county of Kane, was dispensed in Elgin by said Dr. Tefft in the fall of 1835.

In the fall of 1835, Nathan Collins, M. D., who was also from Madison county, New York, settled on a claim on the west side of the river, where the village of Clintonville is located. His only son now resides on a portion of said claim. In 1836, the Dr. removed to St. Charles, where he died of typhoid fever in 1841.

In the year 1836, L. S. Tyler, M. D., formerly of the state of Vermont, but later from western New York, settled on a claim in the western part of the town, but subsequently moved into the city of Elgin, where he now resides.

In the summer of 1838, Dr. Elmore, of Massachusetts, located in Elgin, and a few months after hired a public house, and opened the same for the

accommodation of travelers, and thereafter devoted but little attention to the practice of his profession. He left Elgin in the summer or fall of 1839, and died soon after.

In 1839, Dr. Anson Root, formerly of New Hampshire, but later of western New York, settled in Elgin and followed his profession for a short time, but soon abandoned it or nearly so for other business. In the early days of Elgin, he was one of the principal proprietors and builders here, having purchased a portion of Mr. Gifford's interest in the fall of 1838. In the spring of 1839, he came with his family and occupied a log house which stood near the present residence of Hon. J. A. Carpenter, until he built a brick house on the site of that residence, in 1842. He also built, at an early day, a woolen mill, where Hawthorne & Bosworth's store now stands, and the stone flouring mill on the east side, which is still standing. He died at his residence in Elgin, of disease of the lungs, in February, 1866, leaving several children and grand-children, who are now among our prominent citizens.

In 1840, Dr. Treat, nativity unknown, located in Elgin, where he practiced but for a short time, having died in 1841.

In 1842, Dr. Frairie, nativity unknown, located in Elgin, where he followed his profession until 1843, when that fell destroyer, phthisis pulmonalis, removed him from his earthly associations.

In 1842, Dr. Renben S. Brown, of western New York, settled on a farm in the town of Elgin, about two miles west of the city, but attended to the calls of his profession up to the 1st of January, 1847, at which time he was apparently enjoying good health, but on the 7th day of January, 1847, he fell with apoplexy, and died in a few moments.

In 1843, Dr. Bradley located in Elgin, and in 1844, removed to parts unknown.

In 1843, Dr. Erastus Tefft, of Madison county, New York, commenced the practice of medicine in Elgin, which he followed for a few years, but subsequently changed for the dry goods business, and in 1856, removed to Topeka, Kansas, where he is now following his profession.

In 1844, Dr. C. Torry, of the state of New York, commenced the practice of medicine in Elgin, and in 1849, moved to California, where he died in 1852.

Also in 1844, Dr. J. Daggett, of the state of Vermont, but latterly of Lockport, Illinois, commenced practicing medicine in Elgin, but remained here only about two years, returning to Lockport in 1856, where he now resides.

In 1845, Dr. E. Sanford, of the state of New York, located here and commenced the practice of his profession. His exposures soon increased a local difficulty in his lungs, and he died in 1851 of phthisis pulmonalis.

In 1848, Dr. V. C. McClure, from western New York, moved into Elgin and commenced the practice of his profession. Elgin being too small a town for him, in 1861, he removed to Chicago, where he now lives in the full enjoyment of his profession.

In 1849, Dr. O. Harvey, from New York, commenced the practice of medicine in Elgin, but tarried only one year. Having crossed the continent to California in 1850, he subsequently sailed the Pacific and swam the Atlantic (at least for a time), he having been on the ill-fated Atlantic ship which was burned on the Atlantic ocean a few years ago. He now resides in California.

In 1851, Dr. T. Kerr, of Scotland, located in Elgin, but subsequently abandoned his profession for that of the ministry, thinking it more congenial to his nature to make an effort to save the soul than the body. He is now engaged in the latter profession, at Rockford, Illinois.

In 1853, Dr. Paoli, of Norway, settled here, but soon after removed to Chicago, where he now lives.

In 1854, Dr. E. Winchester, of Canada, located in Elgin, and followed his profession until the commencement of the civil war, when he enlisted as surgeon, and only returned to his practice in Elgin after the close of the war. In 1872 he was attacked with that kind of yellow fever which has caused many a man to cross the Rocky and Sierra Nevada mountains for a specific. He is now practicing his profession in San Bernardino, California.

In 1854, Dr. Peebles, of Pennsylvania, commenced the practice of his profession in our city, but tarried only a short time, removing in 1856 to Iowa. He is now a minister as well as a physician.

In 1854, Dr. B. P. Hubbard, of New York, located in Elgin and ministered to the wants of the afflicted for about six years. In 1860, he removed to Washington, D. C., where he was engaged in an office of one of the departments of the government.

In 1854, Dr. E. A. Merrifield, of Vermont, moved to Elgin and commenced the practice of his profession. On the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, he enlisted, and served in his professional capacity to minister to the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers until the close of the same, after which he changed his location to parts unknown to the writer.

In 1858, Dr. B. E. Dodson, of Peru, located in Elgin, but shortly after removed to St. Charles, Illinois.

In 1858, Dr. Wetherel, of England, took up his residence in Elgin, and in 1864 removed to Aurora, where he soon after died.

In 1860, Dr. D. O. B. Adams, of New York, read, and commenced the practice of his profession in Elgin. In 1862 he removed to Shanghai, China, but on account of sickness, soon left there and spent a few years as surgeon on vessels between San Francisco, Cal., the Isthmus and Japan. He subsequently abandoned his travels for a location in Crescent City, Cal., where he is now practicing his profession.

In 1863, Dr. N. F. Burdick, of Vermont, settled in Elgin, and commenced the practice of his profession, but soon after returned to one of the New England states, where he now resides.

In 1863, Dr. Fred. Bartels, of Germany, located here, but subsequently removed to Chicago.

In the same year, Dr. Berkhauser, of Germany, settled in Elgin, but left for Chicago the same year.

In 1866, Dr. George Wilber commenced the practice of his profession in Elgin, but removed in 1868.

In 1868, Dr. Cutts, of Georgia, settled in Elgin for the purpose of practicing medicine, but left in a few months for another location.

In 1870, Dr. Paulaskie, of Prussia, took an office in Elgin, and posted his shingle in a conspicuous place, where it remained only a short time, he changing his location for another place in a few months thereafter.

We have brought this list of physicians down to 1870, but have not included any now in active practice in Elgin, presuming that their names would appear in another place in the directory.

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## THE LAWYERS OF ELGIN.

BY DR. C. ANDREWS.

The following outline of the history of the legal profession in Elgin, has been written from facts and data, in regard to the early lawyers, furnished by Hon. Silvanus Wilcox and others.

The legal profession was first represented in Elgin by Edward E. Harvey, brother of George P. Harvey, of this city. Mr. Harvey came here in 1840, having previously read law in the office of Joseph Churchill, Esq., of Batavia, Ill. He practiced in Elgin until 1847, when he obtained a commission as captain of volunteers, and raised a company for service in the war with Mexico. He died during the following year near Cerro Gordo, Mexico, in the 32d year of his age. In person Mr. Harvey was tall, spare and bony, but commanding in appearance. In his profession he was a talented and successful practitioner.

Isaac G. Wilson was the second lawyer who settled in Elgin, coming here in 1841 from McHenry, Illinois, where he had held the office of clerk of the circuit court of McHenry county. Mr. Wilson had the advantage of being a thoroughly educated lawyer, being the son of Judge Isaac Wilson, of Batavia, N. Y., and a graduate of the Cambridge, Mass., law school. He practiced in Elgin till 1849, when he was elected judge of the county court. In 1850 he removed to Geneva, Ill., and in 1852 was elected judge of the circuit court of Kane county, which office he held until 1867. Since then he has removed to Chicago, and is still practicing his profession. Judge Wilson witnessed the day of small things in Elgin. The little frame structure now standing next door west of Richard Keogh's meat market, is the identical edifice that once served the dignified purposes of the post office and the largest law office in Elgin. Judge Wilson and Silvanus Wilcox were law partners in this office from 1846 to 1850.

Edmund Gifford came with his family from Massachusetts in 1845, and brought the first good law library ever owned in Elgin. Mr. Gifford, though not thoroughly educated, possessed ability as a lawyer and was a successful practitioner. As a citizen he always took an active part in educational matters, and for a time was superintendent of public schools. In 1861 he obtained the position of paymaster in the volunteer service, and after the close of the war settled somewhere in the south.

In 1846 Paul R. Wright, A. J. Waldron and Silvanus Wilcox were admitted to practice.

Mr. Wright entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, Edward E. Harvey, and practiced law until he was elected clerk of the circuit court in 1856, when he removed to Geneva to attend to the duties of that office. He possessed a good general as well as law education, and though not a brilliant advocate, was a sound, reliable counselor, and won the respect of all classes as an exemplary citizen. In 1860, Mr. Wright removed to Cobden, Illinois, where he still resides.

A. J. Waldron practiced law for a few years in connection with Edmund Gifford, and afterwards by himself. He was a man of excellent financial ability. On the organization of the Fox River Valley railroad, he was chosen its secretary and aided largely in securing the success of that enterprise. He was elected justice of the peace and held the office for eight years. Mr. Waldron died in 1865, leaving behind him substantial evidences of his activity as a business man and his taste and culture as a private gentleman.

Silvanus Wilcox studied three years as a cadet at West Point military school, but left that institution on account of injury to his health from hard study and the routine of red-tape medical mal-practice. He came to this city with his family in 1844. In 1845 he was appointed postmaster of Elgin, and held that position until 1849. After the close of his partnership with Isaac G. Wilson in 1850, he continued the practice of law until 1867, when he was elected judge of the circuit court, succeeding Judge Wilson, who had held the office for fifteen years. In 1873, he was re-elected by a very large popular vote, but during the next year was obliged, on account of failing health, to resign the position and retire from active professional labor. Judge Wilcox still resides in this city. His career is an example of the success due to persevering industry and strict integrity.

Charles H. Morgan came to Elgin about 1847, and commenced the practice of law at first by himself and afterwards with E. S. Joslyn. On the establishment of the Elgin City Court of Common Pleas, Mr. Morgan was elected its first judge. Possessing all the qualities of a fine judicial physique, rotund person, and majestic bearing, he looked "every inch a judge," qualities which, backed by fair ability, good humor and a moderate education, rendered him ever after fully entitled to the sobriquet of the "quondam judge." In 1863, he went to Colorado, where, in 1865, he was



elected territorial delegate to Congress. He has since, we believe, settled in Salt Lake City, Utah.

E. S. Joslyn studied law in the office of Charles H. Morgan, was admitted to practice, and went into partnership with that gentleman in 1852. His rare ability as an advocate has won him a wide popularity, especially in criminal cases. Col. Joslyn took an active part in raising volunteers in the commencement of the late civil war, having led a company from this county, which was the first one mustered into the service from this state. He afterwards served as colonel in the 36th Illinois Infantry.

John S. Riddle commenced the practice of law in Elgin in 1857, in the office of Silvanus Wilcox, and afterwards with E. S. Joslyn, and won a good reputation as a lawyer. In 1862, he took the captaincy of a company in the 128th Regiment of Ill. Vols. In the battle of Vicksburg, in 1863, he was severely wounded in the arm, rendering amputation necessary. He was brought home to his family, in Elgin, only to die there from the effects of the wound. He leaves behind him the memory of an honorable life, and his death attests the fact that patriotism pervades the ranks of all professions and parties in this country.

Thomas W. Grosvenor came from the state of New York to this city in 1856. He studied law with Morgan & Joslyn, and was admitted to practice in 1858. On the breaking out of the war in 1861, he enlisted in the 12th Regiment of Ill. Cavalry. He subsequently held a position, with the rank of major, on the staff of General McClellan in the Army of the Potomac. In one of the battles in Virginia, in 1863, he was shot through the shoulder, causing a complete paralysis of the right arm. At the close of the war he resumed the practice of his profession in Chicago, and was elected to the office of corporation attorney, which office he held at the time of his death. During the excitement which followed the great fire in Chicago, October 8, 1870, he was shot by a patrol while returning to his house at night, resulting in his death a few days afterwards. He was a gentleman of genial temperament, possessing fine talents as a writer, a good soldier and a true patriot.

Joseph Healy studied law in the office of Silvanus Wilcox, graduated from the law department of Michigan University, and practiced law, in connection with Mr. Wilcox, until the latter was elected judge, in 1867. He then entered into a partnership with R. N. Botsford, afterwards Botsford, Barry & Healy, and this firm continued until his death, which occurred September 14, 1872, in the 27th year of his age. Mr. Healy was a young man of excellent promise, having been born and bred in this city, receiving a liberal education at the college of Notre Dame, in South Bend, Indiana, and in all the relations of social and business life he was a highly estimable, exemplary and cultured gentleman. His early death was felt as a loss to the profession and to the community.

E. W. Vining finished his law studies in the office of C. B. Wells, in Dundee, Ill., where he practiced law until 1863. In this year he came to

Elgin, where he afterwards held the office of police magistrate, master-in-chancery, and the position of mail route agent on the Fox River railroad. His death occurred on the 2d of November, 1873. From the proximity of Dundee, Mr. Vining was often engaged in practice with the early Elgin lawyers, and by his energy, humor and spirit, often gave zest to the encounters of legal wit and warfare.

Joseph T. Brown was captain of Co. I, 52d Reg. Ill. Vols., but resigned on account of ill health, in 1864. In the fall of 1845, he was elected judge of the county court of Kane county, and held the office until his death in 1868.

Any extended notice of the lawyers of Elgin who are still living and in active practice among us, is deemed unnecessary in this brief history. Their names and date of admission to practice, are as follows :

A. H. Barry was admitted to practice in the town of St. Charles, Ill., in 1852. He held the rank of major in the 36th Ill. Vols., during the late war. In 1870, he came to Elgin and entered the firm of Botsford & Healy.

R. N. Botsford commenced the practice of law in the state of Wisconsin, in 1857. Came to St. Charles, Ill., in 1858. Was elected judge of the county court in 1861, which office he held four years. In 1867 he opened an office in this city, and in 1868 removed here with his family.

John W. Ransstead was admitted to practice in 1866, and opened a law office in this city the next year. He was elected judge of the county court in the fall of 1873, which office he still holds.

William H. Wing was admitted in 1866, and has practiced continuously in this city since then, having held the office of city attorney in 1870.

Wm. H. Wilcox was captain of Co. G. in the 52d Regiment of Ill. Vols., and served three years and four months. Was admitted to practice law in June, 1871, and went to Utah the same year. In November, 1873, he opened an office in this city, and is now one of the firm of Botsford, Barry & Wilcox.

Wm. F. Lynch has also a military record commencing previous to his admission to the bar, which was in the same year, 1871. In June, 1861, he enlisted in the 23d Ill. Vols., and in the fall of the same year was mustered out to aid in raising the 58th Regiment Ill. Vols., in which he took the rank of lieutenant colonel and afterwards of colonel and brigadier general by brevet. He was severely wounded in the right leg during the last year of the war. In July, 1866, he received the appointment of captain in the U. S. Regulars. In December, 1870, in consequence of his wounds, he was retired upon the full rank and pay of brigadier general.

Eugene Clifford was admitted in 1871, and has held the office of city attorney since 1873.

Henry B. Willis was admitted in 1872, John McBride March, 1874, and Cyrus K. Wilber January 8, 1875.

The following are the names of gentlemen who have been identified with the legal profession in Elgin, but who have either retired, gone into other business, removed, or are absent from the place :

John S. Wilcox commenced the practice of law in 1856. He is now retired, except that he still holds the position of general solicitor for the C. & P. railroad, of which he is a director. Col. Wilcox went into the volunteer service as lieutenant colonel of the 52d Ill. Vols., in June, 1861, and afterwards served as colonel in the same regiment until February, 1864, having since received the rank of brigadier general for meritorious conduct while in the service.

John Calvert practiced law in Elgin from 1858 to 1862, when he removed to Denver, Colorado.

James Coleman, now practicing in Chicago.

A. B. Whitcomb, retired.

James C. Carlisle, retired.

A. T. Lewis, connected with the C. & P. railroad.

John G. Kribs, retired.

E. C. Lovell, absent in Europe.

Thomas D. Bradford, real estate and insurance agent.

Geo. E. Sutfin, removed to Storm Lake, Iowa.

Geo. C. Christian, removed to Chicago.

John Chamberlain, residence not known.

— DeLancey, residence not known.

Like most other industrial towns, Elgin has never been noted for extra litigation. Hence the arts of petty practice or legal shystering have found little encouragement among us, and even the nobler talents of forensic eloquence have been forced to find other fields for their employment. The labors of our lawyers have been mostly confined to the ordinary legal demands common to every well-regulated business community. Their success, therefore, has depended largely upon their talents as counselors and financiers. The conditions among us have been such as to produce a class of sound, well-read, thoroughly-posted lawyers, rather than brilliant orators or subtle pleaders,—qualities more demanded in communities of less enterprise and looser morals.

That the legal profession is as ready to fight as to plead, the records of Elgin lawyers in the role of military men and patriots, abundantly prove.

Two-thirds of the number named in the foregoing history, that were not too young to enlist, have seen service, viz.: one in the Mexican war, and nineteen in the late unpleasantness. Eighteen of the latter were, of course, in the Union ranks, and one, to give variety, in the Confederate army. But now that the wars are over, our census points to a very pacific period indeed. Less than a dozen lawyers now attend to the legal wants of as many thousand people in this city and the surrounding country.

Verily the millenium cannot be very far off, when there is only one legal wolf to lie down with a thousand lambs. "And a little child shall lead them."

## THE MERCHANTS OF ELGIN.

BY WM. G. HUBBARD.

The first attempt to supply the mercantile wants of the people of Elgin and vicinity, was made by a Mr. Storrs, in 1836 or 1837, who opened a small store in the building now occupied by J. B. Newcomb on Center street. He was succeeded in the same building by V. S. Lovell, John S. Calvert, Wm. C. Kimball and others.

Mr. Kimball brought on his first general stock of merchandise about 1838, and soon after removed to his new store on the west side of the river, which is still standing directly north of Lasher's hotel, and continued his mercantile business until 1858. In 1847 he built the stone mill on the west side of the river; in 1852 the Waverly house, and in 1872 his late residence, all of them monuments of his enterprise.

A new, and for that time extensive, store was opened about 1838 by S. N. Dexter, of Whitesboro, N. Y., and B. W. Raymond, of Chicago, under the firm of B. W. Raymond & Co. It was under the direction of Harvey Raymond (a brother of G. B.), who died instantly in the store in 1842. The building occupied by this firm was on the southwest corner of DuPage and Center streets, being the house which still stands on that corner. In the fall of 1842 they removed to their new brick store on Chicago street, now occupied by Stewart Brothers as a bakery, where they remained until they closed business in 1851.

In the early days of Elgin, most of the firms kept general assortments, consisting of dry goods, groceries, crockery, hardware, boots and shoes, drugs and medicines, etc., etc., but within a few years after its settlement, they commenced making specialties of certain classes. Some of the principal merchants in the several departments, since 1843, have been as follows:

Demarcus Clark & Co. commenced about 1844, in a small building which stood on the now vacant lot on Chicago street, owned by L. H. Yarwood. They afterwards moved to Hubbard's corner, and then to the south side of the street, where they continued business until about 1854.

About 1846 Dr. Erastus Tefft erected the building now occupied by the Star Market, on the south side of Chicago street, where he sold goods for several years. On closing business here he removed to Clintonville, and subsequently to Topeka, Kansas, where he still resides.

Cornell & Wilder commenced business in 1850 in Mehan's building, near the City hotel; removed in 1852 to a wooden building, which stood where Bruckman's block now is, and afterward, until 1861, sold dry goods in one of the blocks on the south side of Chicago street, part of the time in connection with F. L. McClure. They are now in the furniture business on Market Square.

Hanson & Ransom were in business from February, 1846 to February, 1847, in the building then standing on the northeast corner of Chicago street and Douglas avenue. They were succeeded in the same building by M. C. Town, who, after two years, removed to his new store opposite. Mr. Town engaged in the banking business in 1851, in which he continued until 1858, and embarked in it again in 1862.

In connection with this reference to banking, it may be proper to say that in 1855 Mr. O. Davidson opened a banking office in Mehan's wooden building, near the Fox River R. R. He afterward purchased the corner where the Home National bank now is, and for a time did business in a wooden building on that site. In 1860 he built the Bank block; in October, 1861, the Home bank was organized, and in August, 1872, it was changed to Home National bank.

After Mr. Town changed his business, his store was occupied by Harvey & Dearbon, Henry Brooks, Huntley & Hamilton, Calvert & McAuleys, Adler, Schults & Todson, and perhaps others, until it was burned in the spring of 1874.

Timothy Lynch commenced business, in a small way, on the west side, in 1848, which in a few years became quite extensive, and continued so until his death in 1873. He erected the block of three large brick stores just west of the bridge.

Hamilton & Smith were merchants for several years previous to 1860, on the west side, occupying the store now owned by E. A. Kimball.

In 1858 Todd & McNeil erected a store on the corner of Chicago and River streets, where Weld's drug store now stands. It was built over the mill-race, as that formerly continued across Chicago street, and united with the river again at a point near where the DuBois block now stands. This store was occupied by them for six years and then sold to Calvin Tyler, who used it for a drug store until it was burned a few years after. Todd and the McNeils sold groceries and dry goods in various buildings for several years, and then went into business in Chicago.

Wm. G. Hubbard commenced business on the northeast corner of Chicago street and Douglas avenue in 1851 and closed in 1861. He was succeeded soon after by Newman & Innes, afterward John Newman, who occupied the store until the great fire, March 23, 1874, and now occupies the rebuilt one on the same lot.

In the earlier days of Elgin business was done for several years by R. L. Yarwood, deceased, in a building known as the factory store, a part of which is now occupied by Mr. Eakin as a grocery. He was succeeded for a short time by his son, J. R. Yarwood.

The first hardware store in Elgin was opened by J. B. Smith, about 1847. He had previously done something in a small way in the tin and sheet iron business. Before this no tin ware or stove pipe could be procured nearer than Chicago. The firm was subsequently Smith & Clark (both of whom are now dead), who sold to James A. Carlisle and Geo. Bowers.

E. A. Kimball commenced the hardware trade on the west side in 1849. He was succeeded, in 1861, by Barclay & Holmes, they selling to M. Mallery & Co. After a residence in California, E. A. Kimball again commenced business in the same store, and in 1869 again sold out to N. & H. C. Rogers, and they to Hawthorne & Bosworth, in 1872. After another vacation, Mr. Kimball resumed business at the old place, in 1874, in connection with John Nish.

Mr. J. Mehan commenced the hardware trade about 1860 and is still in it.

The first drug store in Elgin was opened by O. E. Parmerlee about 1845, succeeded by A. C. Lewis and Lewis by L. H. Yarwood and others, and finally by Kelley & Hart.

St. A. D. Balcomb (now of Omaha, Neb.,) commenced the drug business at an early day in the building now owned by Wm. Barker, afterward removing to Sherman block. He was succeeded by Henry Sherman, and Mr. Sherman by R. & S. E. Weld.

James Knott was probably the pioneer in the exclusive grocery trade. He did a successful business on the northwest corner of Chicago and River streets, from which he retired a few years ago, and died in 1874.

W. C. Attix and Gardner & Harris were also in the grocery business at an early day, and occupied the building now owned by Dr. Tyrrell, on Chicago street.

The first exclusive boot and shoe store was opened by D. M. Cole about 1853. He was succeeded by Lyon & Campbell, now Campbell & Taylor.

The first merchant tailor and clothing store was established by S. McOsker, in 1855, who, after conducting a successful business for many years, died in 1874.

John Meehan had a clothing store on the north side of Chicago street, near the Fox River R. R., from 1850 to 1872.

Geo. B. Raymond opened his hat, cap and crockery store in 1852. He had previously been one of the firm of B. W. Raymond & Co., and is now in the lumber business. The first lumber yard was opened by his brother, Augustine Raymond, deceased, in 1850, and after two years this was continued by G. B. for nine years, in connection with his hat and crockery business.

With the exception of Calvin Hall, who worked both at carpentering and watch repairing, Wm. Barker is the oldest jeweler in the city, commencing in 1845, and still continuing.

The first regular and permanent book store was established in 1861, by Howe & Clark, succeeded by Rev. N. C. Clark, I. S. Bartlett, and Denison & Burdick, the present proprietors. Smith & Kelsey were in the same business for a year or two, and closed in 1873.

Previous to 1861, R. O. Old, Matt Wallace, J. H. Rowe, M. B. Baldwin & A. J. Joslyn, and L. B. Smith had small book stores and news depots for brief periods each.



Edgar Wait and G. W. Kimball were among the earliest furniture dealers, succeeded by Tichenor & Phelps, P. VanNostrand, E. S. Wilcox and S. D. Wilder. G. W. Kimball was in this business longer than any one else.

Bernard Healy opened a harness shop in 1842, and still continues it. He has been in business longer than any other man in Elgin. Next to him is Wm. Barker, and the third is Geo. B. Raymond, who was a partner in the firm of S. N. Dexter & Co., as early as August, 1846. The fourth in point of time of those who are still in business, is Geo. B. Adams. He opened a grocery in a wooden building, where his brick store now stands, in 1849, and changed to his present occupation in 1855.

The limits of this article forbid more than a mere mention of other old merchants of Elgin. Among them were J. Parker, R. M. Martin, S. A. French, Swan & Bailey, E. W. Cook, L. S. Stowe, John Shanks, C. H. Coffee, Mrs. Clifford, Fay, Ward & Eaton, Eugene Lynch, James Christie, C. Bach-rack, Adler Brothers, F. Ferhman, Fred Stolt, Hemmens & Jones, Lynn & Cassidy, M. B. Baldwin, G. H. Merrill, W. W. Merrill, Eakin & Co., Lewis & Westerman, J. M. Peyton, W. H. Batchelor, Fred Seitz, P. J. Kimball, R. S. Tickner & Son, James H. Gifford, J. J. White, and others, whose names do not occur to us.

Some of the foregoing are still in business here and elsewhere. Others have retired, and others, still, are dead.

The present merchants of Elgin are honorable and energetic men, and as they are patronized, not only by the citizens of the place but by those of surrounding townships, most of them are doing well and securing a competence. We do not even mention their names, except those referred to as among the older ones, but trust that some future historian will preserve a memory of them, as we have endeavored to do of their predecessors.

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## THE MECHANICS OF ELGIN.

Our special article in relation to the most numerous class of our population will be one of the briefest, partly from the difficulty of obtaining accurate information, and partly because where there are so many we can not even *name* all of them. But although unnamed by us the monuments of their industry and skill are seen on every street of the city, and to no class is Elgin more indebted for its growth and prosperity than to its mechanics. We can only allude to a few who were first on the ground and who aided in the erection of some of the first buildings, a part of which remain, while others have given place to more costly and imposing structures.

The first carpenter who wielded the hammer and shoved the plane in Elgin, so far as we are informed, was a man named Barnum, who, in 1836, built a store for Storrs & Bean—the first framed building in the city—on the

premises now owned by Dr. Whitford, corner of Chicago and Center streets.

Wm. S. Shaw came in the fall of 1836, and was the first carpenter who made Elgin his permanent residence. His first work was to build a store for Vincent Lovell, being the house now occupied by J. B. Newcomb. He also made the first coffin ever required in Elgin, being for the body of Mary Ann Kimball, sister of P. J. Kimball, Jr. In 1837 Mr. J. T. Gifford donated to Mr. Shaw a lot on the northeast corner of Chicago and Center streets, on condition that he would build a house thereon, and he soon after commenced the erection of the "Elgin House," which is still standing on that lot, though very much altered and improved. He also purchased the three lots next east of this, and on one of them erected the first framed barn on the Galena road, west of Chicago. In 1838 Mr. Shaw built for Jason House the dwelling on Center street, now owned by Joseph Hemmens. It was finished off for a store and occupied as such for a year or two by a Mr. Campbell from Aurora.

In this year Abel Walker and Lewis Ray made their appearance here as carpenters, and L. C. Stiles in 1839. After a few years Mr. Walker changed his occupation to that of undertaker, and for some time was the principal, if not the only one, in the place. Mr. Stiles has probably spent more years in the business than any other person here. Some of his first work was on the house now occupied by Geo. B. Raymond, which was built in 1839 for James T. Gifford, who, until that time, had occupied a log house, which stood in Prairie street, near the west end of the small triangular park, nearly opposite, and the cellar of which was visible until it was filled up in 1874.

Horace Benham and L. S. Eaton, carpenters, came about 1840 or 1841, but although still residents of the place, neither of them have worked at the business for several years past.

Elgin's first mason was Benjamin Burritt, who arrived here Feb. 12, 1838, and is still a resident of the place, vigorous and active in his eightieth year. One of his first jobs was to build for G. W. Renwick the brick blacksmith shop, which stood on the present site of the Universalist church, and said to be the first of its kind in the county. In 1839 he built a brick residence for Burgess Truesdell, which is still standing on the grounds of Henry Sherman, and so propitious was the weather that he commenced on the 10th of March, and did not lose but two or three days until it was finished, in July following. In 1844 he laid down the trowel and engaged in other business, and for nearly twenty years next previous to 1874 was an acting justice of the peace.

Other early masons were Ralph Grow, Artemas Hewitt, C. Stevens and Artemas Grow. But the man who has laid more bricks and stones in Elgin than any other is Thomas Martin. He came here in 1843, and with the exception of a year or two spent in Montana, has worked at his trade ever since.

Among the first blacksmiths in Elgin were Jason House, G. W. Ren-

wick and Samuel Hunting. Mr. House is thought to have had the priority in point of time, though it is possible that one was employed for a short time by the late Samuel J. Kimball before he arrived. At first Mr. House worked in a log shop on the present site of Bank block, so low that he could not stand erect in it at the sides. Subsequently he built a small framed shop on or near the site of Bosworth & Pierce's block, which he occupied until it was burned in 1840, and then erected a brick shop on the property now owned by B. W. Staniforth on Chicago street.

G. W. Renwick built, as early as 1838, the brick blacksmith shop on Center street, before alluded to, which he occupied until about 1843, when he removed to his new stone building on River street, in which the postoffice is now located. For many years he carried on a very extensive business in blacksmithing, wagon and carriage making, etc.

Alfred Hadlock, the first millwright, came in 1839, and worked on some of the first mills erected in Elgin. He afterward engaged quite extensively in the manufacture of threshing machines.

Philo Sylla was not properly a mechanic, but an inventor. His inventions naturally connected him with mechanical employments, and we notice him here. He invented an improvement in reaping and mowing machines, by which they could be adapted to uneven ground, and by which the sickle-bar could be raised and lowered. It is said that the first reaping machine in the United States, on the platform of which grain could be bound, was built in Elgin by him. Mr. Sylla came to the vicinity in 1838, to the village in 1842, and died a few years ago respected by all.

We are not sure whether Hon. Augustus Adams was a regular mechanic, but he engaged in mechanical pursuits, and with Hadlock, Sylla and others, made the west side of Fountain Square, where now are some of our best business blocks, a busy place. In their foundries and shops, the hum of industry was heard all day long, and the water of the race, which then passed through their grounds, propelled a great amount of labor-saving machinery. For several years Mr. Adams has been at the head of a large manufacturing establishment at Sandwich, Illinois, and has probably been of greater value to the business interests of that place than any other man.

P. J. Kimball, Jr., the first tailor of Elgin, was here as early as 1837, and worked in a log house near his present residence. This residence, a store on Chicago street and the Kimball house, are mementoes of his labor and enterprise.

Edgar Wait, the first cabinet maker, came about 1838, and built a shop on River street, nearly opposite the woolen factory. In 1840 he removed to Waukegan.

G. W. Kimball came to this place in 1840, and opened on the west side. With the exception of a short time, he has made or sold furniture ever since.

Wm. Barker was not only the first silversmith, but has continued in the business almost uninterruptedly until the present time.

We state elsewhere that B. Healy was the first harness maker and that he has been longer in business than any other man here.

It has already been intimated that many of the first buildings in Elgin were of brick, and of course there must have been a brick-maker. The honor of being the first manufacturer of these useful materials belongs to a man named E. A. Miltimore, whose yard was near the corner of River and Fulton streets. The gold of California attracted him thither at an early day, but he was killed by the Indians before reaching the Eldorado.

We should be glad to notice scores of other mechanics and the monuments of their skill, but want of space forbids. "Their works do praise them."

## THE SOLID MEN OF ELGIN

### ELEVEN YEARS AGO.

Below we give, as a matter of curiosity and interest, the incomes for 1864, on which the five per cent. special war tax was paid by such of our citizens as were supposed to be liable to it. It will be remembered that \$600 of income were exempt from taxation, as well as sundry payments for repairs, taxes, etc., so that the amount set opposite the names is only the excess above exemptions. There were undoubtedly many others whose income rendered them liable to taxation, but who escaped by the neglect of the assessor, or the evasions of themselves :

Joseph Pabst.....\$ 500	Theo. S. Knox.....\$ 45	John Pruden.....\$ 419
Joseph Berg..... 340	Addison Keys..... 120	W. L. Pease..... 4,677
Geo. A. Bowers... 1,004	Caleb Kipp..... 300	G. Rosenkrans.... 273
D. F. Barclay..... 675	S. J. Kimball..... 539	Anson Root..... 1,311
J. T. Brown..... 240	F. Kothe..... 244	C. D. Sprague.... 25
S. N. Campbell.... 412	Wm. F. Lynch.... 540	Henry Sherman... 1,110
E. W. Cook..... 415	Timothy Lynch... 710	Robt. Stringer.... 206
E. Cummings.... 324	L. A. Littlefield... 300	J. A. Stringer.... 156
J. H. Davis..... 53	O. F. Lawrence... 450	Geo. Stringer..... 848
R. W. Dawson.... 100	B. F. Lawrence... 6,097	Isaac Stone..... 109
O. Davidson..... 962	C. H. Larkin..... 305	Geo. D. Sherman.. 240
Geo. Douglas.... 243	Amasa Lord..... 637	J. Tefft, Jr..... 650
A. B. Fish..... 200	David Lynch..... 240	J. Tefft, Sen..... 393
F. Gifford..... 120	M. Mallery..... 954	Thos. Todd..... 300
Frank F. Gilbert.. 540	Wesley Miller.... 237	W. M. Taylor..... 360
A. Gulick..... 355	F. L. McClure.... 513	A. J. Waldron.... 1,225
E. Gifford..... 360	Lansing Morgan.. 500	S. Wilcox..... 1,297
P. Heelan..... 240	Thos. Mitchell.... 357	Hiram Wilson..... 344
Wm. G. Hubbard.. 200	M. McNeil..... 37	A. D. Wright..... 500
W. J. Hunter..... 300	R. M. Martin..... 500	W. H. Wilcox.... 240
Joseph Hemmens.. 193	Chas. A. Connor.. 360	E. S. Wilcox..... 200
Elisha Jones..... 92	S. McOsker..... 600	J. S. Wilcox..... 540
A. J. Joslyn..... 775	E. Merrifield.... 360	E. Winchester.... 360
Patrick Jones.... 263	J. P. Perkins..... 215	H. E. Perkins.... 215

## THE BUSINESS MEN OF ELGIN,

## TWENTY YEARS AGO.

In 1855, when the population of Elgin was about 3,000, a map of the city was published by Thomas Doran, to which the names and employments of those subscribing for it were appended. The list embraces a large share of the then prominent business men of Elgin, and we republish it for the gratification of our older citizens, who will remember them. The list shows how rapidly the business men of a place are changed by death, removal, or retirement. It contains 140 names, of whom only about fifty now reside here, and of these only about fifteen are in the same business that they were twenty years ago.

The map is embellished with cuts of six of the best buildings then in the place, viz.: the Elgin Academy, or College, as it was called, the Waverly house, the Kimball house, the woolen factory, the old Baptist church, and one of the old three-story blocks on the south side of Chicago street, in which was the store of J. J. White and the daguerrean rooms of R. W. Padelford. The city was then quite circumscribed, compared with its present dimensions, and much of what is now occupied by beautiful residences, was then farming or pasture land. This was especially the case with the region around the watch factory and fair grounds, the farm of L. Mudge (since John Webb's), and the Lovell farm on the east side, and those since owned by the heirs of S. J. Kimball and Homer Hendee, on the west side.

The subscribers for the map, with their occupations, were as follows:

H. B. Annis, produce merchant; Hon. A. Adams, farmer and merchant; Thomas Avery, miller; Dr. G. S. Abbott; D. W. Bangs, nurseryman; I. N. Buck, auctioneer; D. F. Barclay, tinsmith; B. Burritt, street commissioner; A. Barrows, architect and builder; Peter Burritt, farmer, Hanover, Cook county; J. W. Brewster, farmer; John Bowlin, farmer; Lyman Black; H. A. Chase, Waverly House; City Council; Cornell, Wilder & Co., City Gem; Alvah Chandler, machinist; C. A. Clark, cloth finisher; S. A. Call, architect; James H. Crawford, carpenter and joiner; Geo. Clarkson; E. K. W. Cornell, City Gem; D. M. Cole, boot and shoe store; John Connor, blacksmith; Charles S. Clark, hardware merchant; Martin Coney, millwright; Demarcus Clark, merchant; E. F. Colby, attorney-at-law and vender of real estate; S. Newton Dexter, proprietor woolen factory; Dexter & Co., leather manufacturers; Alex. Denis, carpenter and joiner; Michael Dougherty, farmer and produce merchant; L. S. Eaton; A. B. Fish & Co., merchants; J. Force, machinist; G. W. French, farmer; John Forlarcher, carpenter and joiner; Miss Harriet E. Gifford; S. A. Gregory, carriage and wagon manufacturer; James H. Gifford, produce merchant; P. H. Graves, saleratus and baking powder manufacturer; Daniel Gahan, tanner; Joseph

Gardner, sea captain; Edm'd Gifford, Esq., attorney and solicitor, general land agent, notary public, commissioner for Iowa, etc.; Geo. P. Harvey, produce merchant; W. Holloway, merchant; John H. Harris, merchant; George Hassan, drayman and carrier; A. S. Harpending, livery stables; A. Hadlock, threshing machine manufacturer; Wm. G. Hubbard, merchant; A. Hoagland, lumber merchant; J. W. Hoagland, lumber merchant; Joseph Hutchinson, mason and builder; A. Hewitt, mason and builder; C. S. Hadlock, machinist; S. H. Hamilton, merchant; A. B. Hinsdell, farmer; Ezra Hanson, farmer; Rev. A. J. Joslyn, pastor Baptist church; E. S. Joslyn, attorney at law; Wm. C. Kimball, merchant and vender of real estate; P. J. Kimball, Jr., vender of real estate; P. J. Kimball, Sr., farmer; S. J. Kimball, farmer; G. W. Kimball, cabinet and chair manufacturer; J. C. Kennedy, hardware merchant; Dr. Thos. Kerr, physician and surgeon; James Knott, merchant; B. F. Lawrence, distiller; Seth Lobdell, machinist; Timothy Lynch, merchant and leather manufacturer; J. Lyman, printer and publisher *Kane County Journal*; G. W. Morse, machinist; Wm. F. Munay, cloth finisher; R. G. Morgan, civil engineer; John Mann, carpenter and joiner; A. J. Messenger, wagon and plow shop; G. H. Merrill, agent Galena & Chicago Union railroad; Wm. W. Merrill, butcher; John McDowell, blacksmith; T. McBride, produce and lumber merchant; S. McOsker, merchant tailor; John D. Meehan, merchant tailor; Manning & Barnum, merchants; R. O. Old, book and news depot, east end bridge; Daniel O'Brien; E. Owen, editor; R. W. Padelford, daguerrean artist; Phelps & Tichenor, furniture warerooms; John J. Paris, miller; C. K. Patterson, fruit gardener; J. E. Phelps, proprietor livery stables; L. T. Pembee, mechanic; E. F. Reeves, mason and builder; Milo Smith, chief engineer and superintendent Fox River Valley railroad; L. C. Stiles, machinist; J. B. Smith, hardware merchant; George Smith, weaver; John B. Smith, engineer; Philo Sylla, manufacturer reapers and mowers; T. Schoonhoven, farmer; S. B. Sexton, proprietor livery and sale stable; M. Straussell, proprietor Fox River House; Isaac Stoddard, carriage and blacksmith shop; C. C. Stiles, farmer and builder; Fred. Seitz, merchant tailor; M. D. Seward; Wm. Saunders, grocer and provision dealer; R. Smith, merchant; James S. Taylor, Esq., justice of the peace; J. F. Taylor, boot and shoe dealer, east end bridge; B. Truesdell, proprietor Elgin nursery and garden; Dr. A. Turner, physician and surgeon; Charles Tazewell, brewer; M. C. Town, banker; James Todd, lumber merchant and farmer; Wm. G. Todd, merchant and proprietor planing mill and sash factory; C. C. Theirs, merchant; Wm. M. Taylor, law student; R. S. Tickner, lumber merchant; J. N. Truesdell, carpenter and joiner; P. Van Nostrand, produce merchant; W. S. Vescelius, tanner; S. Wilcox, attorney at law; Paul R. Wright, attorney at law; A. J. Waldron, attorney at law and secretary Fox River Valley railroad; F. W. Wright, machinist; E. S. Wilcox, postmaster; John Watkins, produce merchant; D. O. Wilkie, carpenter; G.



Works, machinist; Abel Walker, undertaker; J. M. Wilber, carpenter, joiner and contractor; D. E. Winchester, physician and surgeon; J. J. White, dry goods, wholesale and retail; L. H. Yarwood & Co., druggists; R. L. Yarwood, merchant and woolen cloth manufacturer; J. R. Yarwood, clerk; H. Yarwood, druggist.

## ELGIN AS IT WAS

### TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO.

The following letter, written by one of the publishers of this history, for the *Kenosha Telegraph*, in 1851, will give some idea of Elgin as it appeared to a visitor when it was sixteen years old:

#### "KANE COUNTY VILLAGES.

"MR. EDITOR: The river which rises a few miles northwest of Milwaukee, and flows so tardily to the state line, and through McHenry county, Illinois, begins, as it approaches the line of Kane county, to move more rapidly onward. Its haste to reach its destination continues through nearly the entire length of the county, affording water power which already propels a large amount of machinery, and may be made to propel much more. The river passes in nearly a straight course from north to south through the eastern part of the county, lined on each side by a narrow strip of woods, beyond which the high, rolling prairie, dotted as it is by well cultivated farms and comfortable dwellings, presents an appearance which beauty's self might envy. Six of the numerous mill-seats on the river are the nuclei of as many villages, distant from each other, on an average, less than five miles. With such a water power within them, and such a beautiful and fertile country around them, it is not strange that Kane county has reason to be proud of its villages. All of them are within about thirty-five miles of Chicago. All but one are connected with that city by railroad, and thus have daily or semi-daily communication with it. Four of them have newspapers—a larger number, probably, than are issued in any other county in the state, with the exception of the one embracing Chicago.

"The most northern of the Kane county villages, on Fox river, is Dundee, which, as its name would indicate, has a large sprinkling of Scotch inhabitants in and around it. It lacks that appearance of thrift and enterprise which mark its sister villages further south—and as the iron horse is not to visit it, its future prospects are not the brightest. Its present population is about 800, with the usual proportion of churches, schools, etc.

"Five miles further down is Elgin, containing about 2,000 inhabitants. One of the first settlers and principal founders of this place was James T. Gifford, whose lamented death occurred last summer. To no man is Elgin

more indebted, and long will her citizens regret their loss. Mr. Gifford lived to see a beautiful village of 2,000 inhabitants on a spot which, when first visited by him, some fifteen years since, had just been vacated by the wild Indian. He also lived to realize that much depends upon the influence exerted on an embryo village, and to have cause for gratulation that the influence which he and his co-pioneers brought to bear on Elgin while society was in its forming state there, was *christian*. Few places can boast of better society than this village. The number and strength of its evangelical churches—the number of houses erected for the worship of Jehovah, and the interest felt in the subject of education which, whatever may be said to the contrary, are the true indices of the state of society, speak an unequivocal language in favor of Elgin. The scarcity of grog-shops proclaim as unequivocally that here King Alcohol is not an absolute monarch.

"The Congregationalists, Calvinistic Baptists, Free Will Baptists, Methodists and Unitarians, each have church edifices—all of them respectable in appearance, and some of them large and attractive.

"For several years there was published at this place a religious paper called *The Western Christian*, and designed to be the organ of the anti-slavery Baptists. This has recently been removed to Utica, New York, where it is now published. It is succeeded by *The Elgin Gazette*, a paper not denominational nor exclusively religious, but which, nevertheless, exerts a good moral influence.

"A large two-story brick school house indicates the interest taken in the subject of education here. In addition to this an effort was made some two years since, by the Free Will Baptists, to establish a college at this place, and some \$5,000 was subscribed by the citizens toward the erection of a building. A noble structure has been commenced, but the work has been suspended in consequence of a lack of funds, and the building seems likely for the present to remain *in statu quo*.

"The Elgin woolen factory is a large establishment of the kind, which adds materially to the business and to the appearance of the place. Near this establishment a splendid brick store 75 or 100 feet long, has been erected during the past season, and during the coming season a block containing eight or ten others of like dimensions is to be erected in proximity to it. Some idea may be formed from these facts of the growth of the place. The rapidity of its present growth may be attributed in a great measure to the passage through it of the Chicago & Galena railroad.

"Elgin, like other Fox river villages in the county, is divided by the stream, and each of its sections is striving for the ascendant. The railroad was at first constructed to east Elgin, with the expectation that if it did not cross there it would cross at some point above. The directors have, however, since decided to leave the present track some distance east of the village and cross two or three miles below. The road will then be constructed to the section of the village lying west of the river, where a depot

will be erected. This will probably cause the road between east Elgin and the Junction to be unused, and will transfer much of the business of the place from the east to the west side of the stream. A natural consequence of the location of the depot, is an increase in the value of village lots on the west side.<sup>27</sup>

## ELGIN'S BLOODY SACRIFICE.

We are indebted to J. B. Newcomb, Esq. (who spent about ten days in procuring the information), for the following list of residents of our city and township who died while in military service during the war of the rebellion. The list embraces the names of sixty-six persons, who, but for this unjustifiable rebellion, might now be honored and useful citizens; and the loss of these men is only part of our sacrifice. God grant that we may never have another civil war, or, indeed, any other one:

The names of those who are buried in Elgin are preceded by a \*.

### SEVENTH INFANTRY.

Name.	Co.	Date of Death.
John Bradford.....	A.....	March 31, 1862
Corp. John C. Day.....	A.....	March 14, 1862
*Erl H. Densmore.....	A.....	June 1, 1861
*George P. Gilbert.....	A.....	Feb. 4, 1862
Henry C. Hassan.....	A.....	Oct. 5, 1864
Sergt. James R. Kinney.....	A.....	1863
Capt. Sam G. Ward.....	A.....	April 6, 1862
*Wm. H. Wheeler.....	A.....	Aug. 10, 1861

### SEVENTEENTH INFANTRY.

*Corp. Edm'd V. Barker, G.....	April 6, 1862
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### NINETEENTH INFANTRY.

*Henry E. Gates.....	D.....	Jan. 23, 1862
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### THIRTY-SIXTH INFANTRY.

Albert Andrews.....	A.....	Oct. 10, 1862
*1st Lt. Edw'd S. Chappel.....	A.....	Oct. 16, 1861
Corp. Cyrus F. Deane.....	A.....	Jan. 15, 1863
Alex F. Henderson.....	A.....	Jan. 10, 1863
Chas. Olszeski.....	A.....	1865
Sergt. Alex Robertson.....	A.....	May 27, 1864

### FIFTY-SECOND INFANTRY.

Walter Ahle.....	G.....	Aug. 27, 1864
*1st Sergt. Sam Anderson.....	I.....	April 6, 1862
*1st Sergt. James S. Ellis.....	K.....	Feb. 23, 1862
*James B. Hoagland.....	K.....	April 30, 1862
Daniel L. Holgate.....	G.....	April 6, 1862
Michael Ketsell.....	K.....	April 6, 1862
Col-Sergt. John Murray.....	K.....	Oct. 3, 1862

### FIFTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.

Corp. Jacob Flatro.....	E.....	Sept., 1862
Corp. Joseph Lightfoot.....	E.....	March 6, 1863
John Smith.....	E.....	June 22, 1863
Sergt. Wm. Short.....	E.....	Dec. 28, 1862

### FIFTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY.

Kelly Bartholomew.....	A.....	Feb. 15, 1862
David Bradley.....	I.....	Dec. 29, 1864
A. B. Foster.....	H.....	Feb. 23, 1863
Michael Garland.....	I.....	March, 1862
Wm. Hamilton.....	B.....	July 21, 1865
Sergt. James Heffernan.....	I.....	April 6, 1862
John Jones.....	I.....	Dec. 4, 1862
*Thos. Rosney.....	I.....	Jan. 3, 1863

Name.	Co.	Date of Death.
John Sheedy.....	B.....	May 25, 1864
Sergt. Fred Schultze.....	D.....	April 6, 1862

### EIGHTY-NINTH INFANTRY.

Thomas Rogers.....	K.....	Oct. 25, 1863
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### ONE HUNDRED & TWENTY SEVENTH INFANTRY.

Sergt. Henry T. Adams.....	I.....	Sept. 11, 1864
James H. Bartlett.....	C.....	July 7, 1863
*Musician Jos. E. Corby.....	I.....	Jan. 25, 1864
Wm. D. Daggett.....	C.....	June 29, 1863
Col-Sergt. Alex Dennis.....	C.....	July 23, 1864
Sergt. Ora B. Douglas.....	I.....	July 23, 1863
Robert A. Duck.....	C.....	July 10, 1864
Corp. Benjamin Hewitt.....	C.....	Dec. 3, 1862
*Theo. N. Hoagland.....	C.....	Jan. 22, 1863
Albert Inglesby.....	C.....	Sept. 15, 1864
Alfred Johnson.....	C.....	April 8, 1863
Wm. Nicholson.....	C.....	Sept. 22, 1863
*Thos. Parkin.....	C.....	Aug. 30, 1863
Corp. Julius C. Pratt.....	I.....	July 19, 1863
Hercules P. Rice.....	C.....	Feb. 22, 1863
Capt. John S. Riddle.....	C.....	July 18, 1862
John Saunders.....	C.....	Sept. 1, 1863
Corp. Charles Schroeder.....	I.....	Sept. 25, 1863
*Charles Seidel.....	I.....	Sept. 30, 1862
Fred Sother.....	I.....	Feb. 22, 1863
John Taylor.....	C.....	Dec. 4, 1862

### ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST INFANTRY.

John Batterman.....	C.....	Sept. 18, 1864
*Benjamin F. Webster.....	C.....	July 20, 1864

### ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THIRD INFANTRY.

*Albert S. Force.....	C.....	Sept. 18, 1865
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### TWELFTH CAVALRY.

Erastus Roberts.....	H.....	Oct. 15, 1863
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### FIFTEENTH CAVALRY.

*Joseph M. Corron.....	A.....	March 18, 1862
Corp. Charles B. Prindle.....	G.....	Dec. 3, 1863

### FIRST LIGHT ARTILLERY.

Samuel Hadlock.....	A.....	July 20, 1864
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## THE FOX RIVER.

In Waukesha county, Wisconsin, a few miles southwest of Milwaukee, one may step across a rivulet, which unites with others, and flowing southward the blended streams become known as Fox river. Continuing its southward course, the river unites with the Illinois at Ottawa, and the latter with the Mississippi a few miles above Alton; so that the rivulets and rivers referred to finally mingle with the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, while those rising but a few miles from their source find their way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. But our noble Fox river is able to perform much valuable service before it reaches the Illinois, and this is the reason why its banks are so thickly studded with beautiful villages and thriving cities—the reason why Elgin is where it is and the reason why our readers are where they are, if citizens of the place. The beautiful Fox meanders but a few miles from Waukesha county before it is compelled to “work its passage,” and thenceforward, almost to its mouth, it encounters mill-dams and water-wheels in rapid succession. Wherever these have been erected a village or city has sprung up, in which are heard the hum of machinery and the voices of busy people. In each of these places are one or more flouring mills, and in some of them woolen factories, paper mills, foundries, machine shops, etc., etc. We can only name them in the order in which they are found in passing southward, viz.: Waterford, Rochester, Burlington, McHenry, Algonquin, Carpenterville, Dundee, Elgin, Clintonville or South Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia, Aurora, Montgomery, Oswego, Bristol and Yorkville (on opposite side of the river), and Millington.

Nearly, or quite all, of these places have railroads—some of them two or three—and as the Fox river valley is one of the most delightful and fertile in the world, it is not surprising that the people who inhabit it are wealthy, and the villages which they support flourishing. But without the beneficent river, which we have hastily noticed, this splendid region would be like the play of Hamlet, with the part of Hamlet left out.

## KANE COUNTY.

The county of Kane, although among those last settled in Illinois, is now one of the most populous and wealthy in the State. It derives its name from Hon. Elias K. Kane, one of the early and prominent citizens and politicians of southern Illinois. Prior to 1836, the territory from the present north line of LaSalle county to the Wisconsin line, and from what was then Cook county, on the east, to what was Jo Daviess county, on the west, was a part of LaSalle county. In the winter of 1835-36, the legislature passed an act by which the present territory of Kane and DeKalb counties, and the three north townships of Kendall, were laid off into a county and denominated Kane. In the winter of 1836-7, the west half of Kane was appropri-

ated to an organization denominated DeKalb county, and subsequently the three southern townships were allotted to Kendall county, leaving Kane with its present area—eighteen miles wide by thirty long, and embracing fifteen townships. It contains 540 square miles or 345,000 acres. The present population of the county is about 45,000.

The government surveys of Kane county took place in 1839 and '40, and the lands came into market in 1842. In the early days of Illinois, the local government was mainly by counties, though they were divided into election precincts for the convenience of voting, etc. In 1850, this precinct arrangement was abandoned in Kane county, and township organization and government took their place.

The first actual settler in Kane county was Christopher Payne, from North Carolina, who arrived with his family in October, 1833, and located one mile east of Batavia. He made his journey from Carolina with an ox-team. Col. Nathaniel Lyon and Capt. C. B. Dodson settled near Batavia in the spring of 1834, there being only five other families in the county at that time. During the summer and fall, some forty families located along Fox river, among whom were Messrs. Haight, Joseph and Samuel McCarty, Aldrich, Vandeventer, How, McKee, Town, Churchill, Miles, Wm. and John Van Nortwick, Ira Minard, and James Herrington. At this time the country now embraced by Kane county was in possession of the Pottawatamie Indians—the wigwam of Waubansie, their chief, being a little north of Aurora, but most of them were soon after removed beyond the Mississippi. The first store and saw-mill in the county were built by C. B. Dodson, in the summer of 1834, at Clybourneville, one mile south of Batavia. The first flouring-mill was erected in Batavia in 1837 by Mr. M. Boardman, and was followed the same year by another at Aurora, built by the Messrs. McCarty. Up to this time the nearest flouring mills were at Ottawa. The first school in the county was held in a log cabin on Col. Lyon's claim, one mile east of Batavia, and was taught by a Mr. Knowles, from Vermont, with an average attendance of nine scholars. The first church was organized in Batavia in 1835. The first post office was established at Geneva, or Herrington's Ford, in 1835, and called La Fox, James Herrington being postmaster. The first celebration of the Fourth of July is said to have taken place in Elgin in 1836. The year following, S. S. Jones, Esq., delivered his celebrated oration on the Fourth of July, to eleven hearers. The first white child of Kane county was Dodson Vandeventer, born in the "Big Woods," October 10, 1834. The first sermon preached in the county was by the Rev. N. C. Clark, at the residence of Christopher Payne, the first settler, as early as August, 1834. Indeed, Mr. Clark might well have been styled the pastor of the entire Kane county settlement for several years, and was truly one of the pioneer preachers of this region. The first newspaper in Kane county, was published at St. Charles in the fall of 1841, by John Thomas. It was styled the "St. Charles Patriot," afterwards the *Fox River Advocate* and *Kane County*

*Herald*. The paper was burned out in 1842, but Ira Minard went to Hennepin, on the Illinois river, with two teams, and purchased a press and material, so that the paper was continued as the *Fox River Advocate*, edited by D. D. Waite.

The following extract from a letter to the *Genesee Evangelist*, in 1848, will give the impressions of a traveler with regard to Kane county twenty-seven years ago, and also the population of some of the villages of the county at that time :

"This county lies north of Kendall and west of DuPage, and if any preference can be given among so many counties, all of which are so beautiful and so fertile, that preference must be given to Kane. I think, after taking all things into consideration, that I may safely pronounce it the best county in the state. Although the prairie land predominates, it is interspersed with valuable groves, containing timber sufficient for fuel, fencing and building for years to come.

"Most of the county is within a day's drive of the lake, thus enjoying a proximity to market not possessed by counties further west. The new railroad from Chicago to Galena passes directly through it and affords a ready communication at all times with Chicago. But its magnificent river, which supplies so much water power and propels so much machinery, adds materially to the wealth and business of the county. This is Fox river, which rises in Wisconsin, a few miles west of Milwaukee, and empties into the Illinois at Ottawa. After running twenty or thirty miles from its source, and before entering the state of Illinois it becomes sluggish, and for most of the way has too little fall to propel machinery with much power. By the time, however, that it reaches the north part of Kane county, its descent is more rapid and it rolls on in a broad channel and nearly a straight course through the whole length of the county (about thirty miles), affording many valuable mill sites. On ascending or descending the river, the traveler passes, once in every five miles, on an average, a thriving village, divided by the stream, until he reaches the sixth before leaving the county. Each of these villages contains one or more flouring mills. A short distance north of the south line of the county is Aurora, containing some 1,000 or 1,200 inhabitants. Seven miles north of here is Batavia, a place somewhat smaller than Aurora. Like its sister villages, it is separated by the channel of water which propels its machinery. A small island divides the river as it passes through the village. Two miles north of Batavia is Geneva, the shire town of Kane county, although it is the smallest of its villages. Two miles further on is St. Charles, containing some 1,200 or 1,500 inhabitants. A paper mill has been erected here and is now in operation, being the only one in northern Illinois. Ten miles north of St. Charles is Elgin, the largest and prettiest village in Kane county. The state of society here is good and the country around beautiful and fertile, thus making Elgin one of the most delightful places in the world for a residence. Proceeding five miles north-



ward we reached Dundee, the last of the Kane county villages. The place contains some 600 inhabitants, and as its Scotch name would indicate, has several Scotch families in and around it. L."

## THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

"Illinois the magnificent," was the expression of Horace Greeley, many years ago, as he gazed on the beautiful landscape of the prairie state, and penned a letter in relation to it for the *Tribune*. "Illinois the magnificent" has been the spontaneous expression of many others, as they have ridden over its broad prairies and through its charming groves and crossed its noble rivers and visited its thriving villages. It was settled by the French at Cahokia and Kaskaskia, nearly 200 years ago, but its principal development has been within the present century, and that of the northern half within the last fifty years. It is the empire state of the great west. It is larger than England and seven times as large as Massachusetts. Its population is about 3,500,000, which is rapidly increasing. It has about 4,000 miles of navigable rivers in and around it, and about the same number of miles of railroad, crossing the state in every direction. This is one mile of railroad to about fourteen square miles of territory, while France has one mile to about twenty-six square miles of territory. Illinois has about five times as much railroad as France in proportion to population, and three times as much as Great Britain. The coal fields of Illinois are three or four times as extensive as those of Great Britain, and its lead and other mines, as well as its arable lands, are sources of great wealth. About 150,000,000 bushels of corn are produced annually, and its other agricultural products are enormous. Its principal city has probably become the greatest grain and stock market in the world. More stock was received at her yards during a recent year than in the three cities of St. Louis, Cincinnati and Milwaukee combined.

In the state are about thirty colleges, with 4,000 students. It has about 1,200 schools, with 21,000 teachers and 800,000 pupils, and a school revenue of about \$8,000,000 per annum.

Its eleemosynary institutions are an honor to the state, and in them the insane, the blind, the dumb and others are well cared for. The benevolence of the people of Illinois is honorable to their heads and their hearts, and compares well with that of the people of surrounding states. In the reports of the national benevolent societies, Illinois is almost always far ahead. Indeed, for several years the remittances from this state to one of these national societies were about equal to those from the six surrounding states combined. Such is a bird's-eye view of the state in which we live and of which we may well be proud. And yet it is only in its infancy. It is capable of sustaining a population of 50,000,000, and when the hum of busy industry shall fully develop its capabilities, our descendants may be part of that number who shall then inhabit it.

# MUNICIPAL.

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## ELGIN CITY GOVERNMENT.

1875-6.

MAYOR,

DAVID F. BARCLAY.

CITY CLERK,

WILLIAM F. SYLLA.

ALDERMEN.

FIRST WARD—R. M. MARTIN, E. S. JOSLYN.

SECOND WARD—I. C. BOSWORTH, R. P. JACKMAN.

THIRD WARD—E. LYNCH, T. H. FOSTER.

FOURTH WARD—WM. LLOYD, I. C. TOWNER.

FIFTH WARD—WM. F. LYNCH, S. WANZER.

SIXTH WARD—GEO. S. HEATH, CHAS. D. DICKINSON.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE—Aldermen Bosworth, Foster, E. Lynch and Heath.

CLAIMS—Aldermen Towner and Dickinson.

STREETS—Aldermen Martin, Lloyd, Wanzer, Foster, Jackman and Heath.

FIRE—Aldermen Joslyn and Martin.

GAS AND WATER—Aldermen Dickinson and Foster.

JUDICIARY—Aldermen W. F. Lynch and Joslyn.

PRINTING—Aldermen Heath and W. F. Lynch.

LICENSE—Aldermen Lloyd and Wanzer.

PUBLIC GROUNDS—Aldermen Jackman, Towner and Dickinson.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

DAVID F. BARCLAY, PRESIDENT; JOHN B. NEWCOMB, SECRETARY; ALFRED S. MOXON, ALONZO H. BARRY, ANSON L. CLARK, SAMUEL W. CHAPMAN.

CITY ATTORNEY,

EUGENE CLIFFORD.

## HISTORY OF ELGIN.

POLICE MAGISTRATES,  
A. HADLOCK, WM. OWEN.

CITY MARSHAL,  
JOHN POWERS.

NIGHT POLICE,  
J. B. LIEK, THOMAS POWERS.

STREET COMMISSIONER,  
A. C. JOSLYN.

CITY TREASURER,  
ANDREW C. HAWKINS.

CITY COLLECTOR,  
GEORGE F. LEWIS.

CITY ASSESSOR,  
GEORGE P. HARVEY.

CITY SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES,  
L. A. BALDWIN.

POUND MASTER,  
JAMES SCANLAN.

CITY PHYSICIAN,  
DR. D. E. BURLINGAME.

HEALTH OFFICER,  
GEORGE D. SHERMAN.

CITY SEXTON,  
H. B. WATERS.

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## THE CITY COURT OF ELGIN.

JUDGE—R. G. MONTONY.  
STATES' ATTORNEY—ALBERT G. HOPKINS.  
DEPUTY SHERIFF—WALTER H. KIMBALL.  
CLERK—R. W. PADELFORD.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

CHIEF ENGINEER,  
GEORGE F. LEWIS.  
FIRST ASSISTANT ENGINEER,  
FRANK. A. SCHALLER.

SECOND ASSISTANT ENGINEER,  
FRANK W. RAYMOND.

ELGIN HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY—Thirty-five members.—Foreman—E. W. King. First Assistant Foreman—A. Gustason. Second Assistant Foreman—E. K. Allen. Secretary—Edward U. Taylor. Treasurer—John L. Kee. Truck Keeper—James Mallett. Meets at Truck House on Spring street.

JAMES T. GIFFORD ENGINE COMPANY—Six members.—Foreman—Theodore Schroeder. Engineer—A. R. Hendricks. Meets at Court House.

ED. JOSLYN HOSE COMPANY—Twenty members.—Foreman—M. B. Joslyn. Assistant Foreman—James Jeffers. Secretary—F. C. Kothe. Treasurer—C. Sexauer. Meets at Court House.

GEORGE S. BOWEN EXTINGUISHER COMPANY—Fourteen members.—Foreman—Del. W. Rogers. Assistant Foreman—John V. Schaller. Secretary and Treasurer—W. McComb. Truck Keeper—George Schaller. Meet at Truck House on Spring street.

[For Civic, Temperance, and Musical Societies, see pp. 44-46.]

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PARKS.

PUBLIC SQUARE—East side Chapel, between DuPage and Fulton streets. Also triangular parks at the intersection of Prairie and Villa streets, and of Dundee and Center streets.

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PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

CITY COURT HOUSE—West side River street, foot of DuPage street.

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CHURCHES.

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER (EPISCOPAL)—Services held at Odd Fellows' hall, Bruckman's block; Rev. Samuel J. French, rector.

CONGREGATIONAL—Northwest corner Center and Fulton streets; Rev. C. E. Dickinson, pastor.

FIRST BAPTIST—Northwest corner Chicago and Geneva streets; Rev. Leo. M. Woodruff, pastor.

FREE METHODIST—East side Center street, between DuPage and Fulton streets; Rev. N. E. Parks, pastor.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL—Southeast corner Center and Milwaukee streets; Rev. F. Busse, pastor.

GERMAN LUTHERAN—Northeast corner Spring and Division streets; Rev. F. W. Richmann, pastor.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL—Northwest corner Center and Milwaukee streets; Rev. Wm. C. Dandy, D. D., pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN—West side Center street, between Chicago and DuPage streets; Rev. Wm. L. Boyd, pastor.

ROMAN CATHOLIC—Southeast corner Gifford and Fulton streets; Rev. T. Fitzsimmons, pastor.

SECOND BAPTIST—West side Dundee road, between Kimball and Franklin streets.

SWEDISH LUTHERAN—West side of Center street, between Dexter Avenue and Division street; Rev. M. C. Ranseen, pastor.

UNIVERSALIST—Southeast corner DuPage and Center streets; Rev. W. S. Balch, pastor.

## EDUCATIONAL.

### ELGIN ACADEMY.

North side of Park street, between College and North College streets.

PRINCIPAL—A. G. Sears, A. M.

PRECEPTRESS—Mrs. S. A. Sears.

FIRST ASSISTANT—Miss E. E. Kenyon.

SECOND ASSISTANT—Miss Jennie Tazewell.

TEACHER OF FRENCH AND GERMAN—Madame A. Charpier.

TEACHER OF DRAWING—Miss S. H. Lang.

TEACHER OF PENMANSHIP—D. H. Whitford.

TEACHER OF VOCAL MUSIC—Mrs. Lois E. Hillis.

TEACHER OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC—Miss Hattie M. Brown.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

CHARLES F. KIMBALL, Superintendent.

HIGH SCHOOL—Northwest corner of Kimball and Center streets.—Miss A. A. Clement, principal; Miss Flora Pennell, assistant intermediate department; Miss E. M. Sprague, teacher of primary department; Miss Nellie Browning and Miss N. M. Duhy, teachers.

OLD BRICK SCHOOL—Northeast corner of DuPage and Chapel streets.—Grammar Department—Miss A. J. Kendall, principal, Miss C. B. Seaman, assistant; Intermediate department—Miss Fannie Hunt, teacher; Primary department—Miss Cecil C. Harvey, teacher.

DUPAGE STREET SCHOOL—Northeast corner of DuPage and Geneva streets.—Grammar department—Miss S. F. Lawrence, principal, Miss Kate Frazer, assistant; Intermediate department—Miss S. E. Murphy, teacher; Primary department—Miss M. B. Kimball, teacher.

NORTH SCHOOL—Northwest corner of Brook and Cherry streets.—Intermediate department—Mrs. R. T. Greene, teacher; Primary department—Miss Julia Allen, teacher.

NORTHWEST SCHOOL—Northeast corner of Mill and Jackson streets.—Intermediate department—Miss DeEtta Ferron, teacher; Primary department—Mrs. Sarah J. Smith, teacher.

SOUTHEAST SCHOOL—Southwest corner of National street and St. Charles road.—Miss Mattie Moxon, teacher.

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL—South side of Locust street, between Moseley and State streets.—Intermediate department—Mrs. C. M. Jennings, teacher; Primary department—Mrs. H. M. O'Neil, teacher.

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## ELGIN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND READING ROOM.

Third Floor Home Bank Block.

I. C. Bosworth, president; J. A. Spillard, secretary; L. H. Yarwood librarian.

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## ELGIN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FAIR GROUNDS—North side of Enterprise street, east of Dundee road.

George P. Harvey, president; C. C. Church, vice president; M. H. Thompson, secretary; E. D. Waldron, treasurer.

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## ELGIN TOWN OFFICERS.

SUPERVISOR,

J. A. CARLISLE.

ASSISTANT SUPERVISORS,

H. E. PERKINS, H. B. WILLIS.

TOWN CLERK,

W. F. SYLLA.

TOWN ASSESSOR,

GEORGE P. HARVEY.

TOWN COLLECTOR,

L. S. TYLER.

TRUSTEES OF SCHOOLS.

H. E. PERKINS, F. L. McCLURE, S. S. MANN.

COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS,

THOMAS BISHOP, JONATHAN TEFFT, J. R. McLEAN.