

PIONEER-LIFE AND ADVENTURE
ALONG THE ILLINOIS BORDER, 1782-1812

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It was these romantic exploits, performed by General Clark and his frontier followers in the years 1778-1779, which made known the fertile Illinois country to Eastern bordermen. The result, was an almost immediate emigration to the banks of the Mississippi and the Wabash. Among these earlier arrivals not a few of Clark's soldiers returned, and settled upon lands which had been allotted them as a reward for army service. By nature adventurous, and of a fearless spirit, cut off by a widely unsettled region from any civilization, and completely surrounded by savage tribes, it is surprising that these earlier settlers escaped with so little trouble. Fighting there was in plenty, and Indian massacre, yet no such continuous bloody incidents as mark the pioneer history of Kentucky and Ohio are to be found in the early annals of Illinois. Nevertheless, these first adventurous settlers, who invariably founded their primitive log homes along the banks of streams and within the shadow of the woods, fearful lest the temptingly open prairie land should prove unproductive, were never left for long undisturbed by their troublesome red neighbors. They held to their exposed positions for many years through constant vigilance, and the readiness of their deadly rifles.

Of all the Illinois Indians, the Kickapoos proved themselves during this period the most formidable and dangerous. Since 1763, when they were forced southward from about the great lake where they had formerly ruled supreme, this tribe had occupied a portion of the territory lying along the Mackinaw and Sangamon Rivers, having their principal villages on Kickapoo Creek, and at Elkhart Grove. For some reason their intense hatred of the inflowing American settlers was implacable, and they were ever the first among Illinois tribes to commence hostilities, the last to submit and enter into treaties with the whites. During the ten years extending from 1786 to 1796 this tribe alone, recruited possibly by young and adventurous warriors from other nearby villages, kept the isolated white settlements in a continual state of alarm. For protection, the hardy bordermen of that day had no power to look to but themselves. Laboring in the corn-field or the forest, they never laid aside the trusty rifle, while oftentimes at

night the tired worker was compelled to stand guard about his own home. It was a time of continual alarm, of ever-haunting peril, and no family enjoyed for a moment the feeling of perfect security.

The earlier of these white settlers to arrive drifted in naturally from the south, arriving on flat-boats, or huge family arks, like floating forts, by way of the Ohio and the Wabash, and later advanced gradually farther into the interior, attracted by the fertile lands discovered during their hunting expeditions along the smaller streams. These pioneers were mostly from Kentucky, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, of the roughs adventurous border type, largely incapable of enjoying life unspiced by danger, while among them were to be found a few, oftentimes of more sober and settled purpose, claiming birthplace in far off New England, or New York. Vigorous and athletics accustomed to all the privations and hardships of the open, these pioneer backwoodsmen of Illinois were remarkable for their physical strength and courage, which was naturally increased by their continual struggle against a savage, skulking foe. Under such conditions as confronted these men, the weakling could not long survive.

They early adopted a costume not unlike that worn by the Indians surrounding them, a fur cap, or rude homemade hat of leather, buckskin leggings, together with a loose hunting-shirt, within the capacious bosom of which they could conveniently store away jerked beef and bread or almost any other of the necessities requiring transportation upon the trail. About the waist was worn a belt, to which were attached knife and tomahawk. Moccasins were worn upon the feet, and the necessary rifle seldom failed to adorn the shoulder. The universal habitation was a log hut, generally set in a little clearing, and containing but a single room, to be increased in size as the need arose or prospects brightened. Not infrequently this would be surrounded by palisades of sharpened logs set firmly in the ground, and projecting upward fifteen feet or more, as a further protection against their Indian foes, and whenever possible, these scattered cabins were erected in close proximity to some strong central block-house, to which the harassed occupants might retreat in times of grave emergency, or where they could leave their women and little ones in safety while the fathers tilled the fields.

Considering the difficulties to be overcome, immigration into this new land was rapid. The distance from the nearest Eastern settlements was considerable,

yet three hundred family boats were reported to have arrived at the falls of the Ohio in the Spring of 1780 alone. The larger number of these, however, were destined for Kentucky. Among the immigrants to Illinois whose names have since become familiar in State history, may be mentioned James MOORE, Shadrach BOND, James GARRISON, Robert KIDD, and Larkin RUTHERFORD. Accompanied by their families these made the perilous journey across the Alleghanies, on foot and by wagon down the Ohio and up the Mississippi by flat-boat, until they finally landed at Kaskaskia. Of these Moore, who was the leader of the party, with a few others, soon located on the hills near Bellefontaine, while BOND and the remainder settled in the American Bottom close by Harrisonville, near what was afterwards known as the block-house fort. It was this early settlement which gave to this region its peculiar name. James PIGGOT, John DOYLE, Robert WHITEHEAD, and a Mr. BOWEN arrived shortly afterwards, and settled permanently within the State. These are believed to compose the list of the earliest American settlers, although it is quite probable others went in fully as early by way of the Wabash, and it is not impossible that there were arrivals even in this neighborhood, overlooked by the historians of those days. Among those mentioned, DOYLE taught school, and was, perhaps, the first professional teacher in Illinois. Speaking French and Indian, he became very useful as an interpreter. Not until 1785 was this little band of pioneers reinforced by new arrivals. Then came Joseph OGLE, Joseph WARLEY, and James ANDREWS, all from Virginia, and each having a large family accompanying him. The following year-witnessed the arrival in the country of James LEMAN, George ATCHERSON, and David WADDELL, with their families, in huge arks hauled laboriously up the river, besides several others whose names have not been preserved.

It is extremely difficult to picture in the mind the lonely isolation, oftentimes the seemingly desperate surroundings, of these first American invaders of the Illinois wilderness. About them stretched the primitive forests, the virgin prairie, dominated over by the jealous Indian, and inhabited by all manner of wild beasts. Roads were unknown, trails merely those used by the savages, the streams alone forming means of communication between the widely scattered settlements. These latter were even more thoroughly separated by reason of the rough, mountainous nature of that southern portion of the State, where these earlier settler's found homes. We can bring the picture before the mind--a small French village or two along the Mississippi, with a few more, mere huddled groups of huts, upon the distant banks of the Illinois. Farther

south, scarcely as yet venturing to push forth from the protecting shadows of the Ozarks, the Americans had cleared a few patches in the dense forests, and erected their block-houses at the confluence of convenient streams. Adventurous hunters wandered back and forth, keeping up some measure of communication between these settlements, but forest, plain and river were all Indian-haunted, and there was no trade, no social intercourse. Each little body of pioneers lived alone, the merest pin-prick in that desolate wilderness which they had come to conquer.

Their surroundings were primitive, their wants extremely few. Following the first year or two of struggle, during which they frequently felt dire want, on their rude tables might be found johnny-cake, or journey cake, made of coarse corn-meal, hominy, or pounded maize thoroughly boiled, with other savory preparations of flour and milk, in addition to a rich variety of game afforded by the chase. In season, the forests and the banks of streams offered much in wild fruit, while bee-trees, with their welcome sweets, were not uncommon. Their furniture was ever of the roughest descriptions being usually hewn out with the axe, and fashioned with a knife. Most articles in common use were altogether of domestic manufacture, although a few opulent families transported treasures from the East. The table utensils were largely of wood, those of metal being extremely rare, if not entirely unknown to the earliest comers. Bedding consisted of the skins of bear, deer, or buffalo. Stoves were not thought of, and the huge fire-places, rudely constructed of stones, plastered, with clay, piled high with blazing logs, were favorite haunts on those long winter evenings, when the storm howled without, and the forest trees overhead swayed to the blast. It was a rough, hard life, a life of toils exposure, privation and continuous danger. The nearest neighbor was usually miles away, the trail toward his dwelling the merest dim foot-track through forest and across prairie. Opportunities for the education of children were extremely scanty, even as regards the rudiments. If by any chance the mother could read, while the father was at work in the partially cleared field, his rifle slung to his back, she would barricade the door against prowling savages, gather the little ones about her, and teach them as best she could from out the treasures of her own memory.

During this entire period--that is, from 1786 to 1796--these small, scattered settlements were nominally under the jurisdiction of the Northwestern Territory. Not until the organization of the county of St. Clair by Governor St. Clair in 1790 was there any adequate administration of law, indeed, no pretence at such administration. No courts were in existence, and no civil government worth mentioning. The people were a law unto themselves; their manners were rude, but their morals were simple and pure; the grosser vices being exceedingly uncommon. Uncouth as they were in language, dress and action, crime of any kind was most infrequent. They were proverbial for hospitality and kindness to strangers; with no tavern in the whole country, every home was wide open, every passing traveller welcome to the best they had to offer, which was, indeed, scanty enough. Among the earlier families of distinction as pioneers there was a record of unblemished morality and rectitude of conduct. Not a few had come to this far land impelled thereto by a love of freedom which the East would not satisfy. Yet a common poverty made brethren of them all.

In 1791, by special Act of Congress, four hundred acres of land was granted to each head of a family who had made improvements in Illinois prior to 1788, except village improvements. A list of names, entitled to these donations, shows a total number of two hundred and forty-four, eighty of whom were Americans, the others being French or French half-breeds. By allowing the estimated number of five souls to a family, we have a total population in that year of 1,220. This was exclusive of negroes. Another side-light comes from the fact that before 1791, under the then existing militia law, the muster roll gives about 300 men capable of bearing arms, of whom only sixty-five were American. This illustrates better than words the paucity of the population and their defenceless condition.

"In the year 1797, a colony of one hundred and twenty-six persons--the largest which had yet arrived--was fatally stricken with disease," says Davidson and Stuve's history, quoting Western annals. "They were from Virginia, had descended the Ohio in the Spring, and landed at Fort Massac, from which they made their way across the country to New Design. This place, situated within the present limits of the county of Monroe, was first established 1782. It was located on an elevated and beautiful plateau, barren of timber, overlooking both the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers.

The season chanced to be exceedingly wet, the weather extremely warm, and the trails heavy with mud. The colonists, burdened with women and children, toiled for twenty-six days through the woods and swamps, covering a distance of one hundred and thirty-five miles. They arrived at their destination completely worn out, sick, and almost famished. At New Design they found the old settlers--who had long been harassed by Indians--poorly prepared to accommodate them. There was no lack of hospitality, but generosity of heart could not enlarge the cabins, seldom containing more than one room, into which three and four families were now crowded, sick ones and all. Food was insufficient, salt very scarce, and medical aid out of the question. A putrid and malignant fever broke out among the newcomers, attended by such fatality as to sweep half of them into the grave before the coming of Winter. No such fatal disease ever appeared before or since in the country."

Nor did it effect any of the old inhabitants, yet the report being borne eastward tended greatly to retard immigration for several years.

Wherever the adventurous foot of a white man trod in the Illinois country, that was the day of hardship, danger and death. Every forest covert, every concealing tuft of prairie grass, every sharp bend in the stream, might hide some skulking red enemy. In the little cleared fields, even within those log enclosures called home, no man felt safe from attack. Parties of vengeful warriors would burst from the dark woods, work their hellish deeds, and vanish, leaving death and destruction behind. But if this was the day for deeds, it was not the time for proclaiming them. The majority of the earlier settlers were illiterate men, they seldom came in contact with others of their own race excepting their more immediate neighbors, and no newspaper flourished to reward heroism. But few out of the many deeds of adventure, of desperate peril and sufferings have survived, and these are set forth in the fewest words possible. We will make mention of some of those as recorded in the "Annals of the West," pages 700 to 705. Multiply these a hundred fold, and they may afford a faint mental picture of those ten years of continuous horror along that battling Illinois frontier.

PRAIRIE FARMER'S DIRECTORY
OF IROQUOIS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
1917
(continued from Vol. 2, No.3)

BELANGER, Adlor (Victoria SOUICE)Ch Jessie, Martha, Howard,
Leotha, Violet, Maynard, Dolly, Charles, Adlai; St. Anne
R5 Papineau Sec26 0120a (1869)

BELL Bros. (Franklin and Charles) St. Anne R2 Papineau
Sec24 T120a Curtis BELL (1887)

BELL, Charles (Annie WILSON), Ch Leslie, Lester, Marion;
Watseka R5 Belmont Sec3 T202 a Emily ENGLISH (1875)

BELL, Curtis (Alvira EVANS)Ch Nora, Charles, Frank, Eda,
Mary, Emsley; St. Anne R2 Papineau Sec24 0120a (1867)

BELL, W. W. (Elizabeth MCFARLAND)Ch Samuel, Rosa, Charles,
James; Hoopeston R4 Lovejoy Sec34 0160a (1883)

BENBOW, Herbert L. (Bertha CLOUSE) Ch Raymond, Paul,
Olive; Hoopeston R4 LoveJoy Sec28 0160a (1884)

BENBOW, John C. F. (Lydia REED)Ch Herbert, Myrtle, Minnie,
Van, Charles; Wellington R2 Lovejoy Sec 22 0480a (1881)

BENGSTON, Andrew B. (Hilma ANDERSON) Ch Anders; Donovan
R3 Beaver Sec8SW 0160a (1915)

BENJAMIN, S. W. Martinton R1 Papineau Sec31 080a (1856)

BENJAMIN, C. W. (Lydia MITCHELL) Gilman R1 Onarga Sec
12E,080a (1870)

BENJAMIN, John St. Anne R3 Papineau Sec25W 040a (1872)

BENNER, Henry (Louisa SCHULTE)Ch Lena, Louisa, Henry,
William, Emmas Fred, Minnie; Milford R2 Crescent Sec34
0100a (1901)

BENNER, Henry J. Jr. (Anna SCHAUMBURG) Ch Paul; Watseka
R1 Belmont Sec 28 T107a Henry Benner Sr. (1901)

BENNER, William E. (Grace J. VAN HOVELN) Watseka R1 Bel-
mont Sec 34 T120a Henry BENNER (1902)

BENNER, W. M. Cissna Park R3 Pigeon Grove Sec9 0160a (1900)

BENNETT, Fred (Helen ROYER) Buckley R3 Artesia Sec17 Farm
Hand J. A. ZICK (1897)

BENNETT, Samuel C. (Clara S. MOSS) Ch Carl; Milford
R1 Stockland Sec18 Farm Hand RUPERT & COLE (1916)

BENOIT, Joseph A. (Leona BARON) Ch Lydia, Alphonse,
Melise, Aldea, Beulah, Leonidao Lewis, Donald, Verona,
Baron; Beaverville R1 Papineau Sec24 0140a (1865)

BENSAMA, Henry (Minnie BOOY) Ch Grace, Jessie, Gertie,
Ala, Hulda, Idao Harm, John, Elsie; Danforth R1 Ashkum
Sec 32 R14W T105a Bert HUSINGA (1882)

BENSCOTER, Benjamin F. (Dora FOX) Ch Arthur, Lula;
Watseka R4 Middleport Sec10 T160a J. T. Randolph (1909)

BENSCOTER, Jasper N. (Liddie B. FERRELL) Ch May, Ben-
jamin, Pearl, Ruth; Watseka R3 Crescent Sec14 T80a D. B.
STANDISH (1899)

BENSON, Carl (Edna BROWNE) Ch Christena, Marie, Ben-
jamin; Watseka R1 Belmont Sec25 T260a Louis BENSON (1882)

BENSON, George (Catherine BAKER) Ch Mollie, Willie, Anna
Henry, Elmer; Buckley R3 Artesia Sec5 0279a (1899)

BENSON, William H. (Elizabeth WOLTERS) Buckley R3
Artesia Sec4 T100a George BENSON (1899)

BENTLEY, A.M. (Clara HERDEBECK) Ch Cecil; Milford R3
Stockland Sec4 T140a William BLACK Est. (1900)

BERG, Robert (Bertha SWANSON) Ch Carl, Leonard, Esther;
Wellington R2 Prairie Green Sec 7 T120a Glen A. SIBBETT
(1903)

BERGAN, James Sr. Ch Mary, John, James Jr.; Clifton R3
Milks Grove Sec7 T310a John BERGAN (1895)

BERGAN, J. M. (Elwena Mathison) Ch Bernice, Jeanette;
Clifton R3 Milks Grove Sec6 T295a John BERGAN (1887)

BERGDALL, John (Linda SIMS) Ch Willard; Goodwine R2
Fountain Creek Sec1 T350a F. L. CARMAN, Mrs. BREUT AND
E. R. BEEBE (1896)

BERGER, Harry E. (Virginia E. MOWREY) Ch Lois, Edna;
Watseka R5 Belmont Sec13 Farm Hand M. WILLIAMS (1911)

BERGMAN, John (Grace Stein) Ch John, Willie, Dena,
Theodore; Buckley R1 Artesia Sec25 0160a (1902)

BERNIER, H. G. (Melvina ROBIN) Ch Ray, Earl, Bernice
Clifton R1 Chebanse Sec1R14W 080a T40a (1874)

BERNIER, Wilbert (Rose ST.LOUIS) Ch Leo, Homer, Bernadette
Danforth R2 Danforth Sec1R14 T120a John BERNIER (1889)

BERNS, Andy J. (Lena SEIDENTOP) Ch Mary, Alma, Henry, Ar-
nold; Lester; Clifton R2 Milks Grove Sec2 0244a T160a Mrs.
A. G. BERNS (1882)

BERNS, Mrs. A. G. (Mary BERNS) Ch Henry, Andrew, Joe;
Clifton R2 Milks Grove Sec 25 0320a (1877)

BERNS, Henry Clifton R2 Milks Grove Sec 36 T160a A. G.
BERNS (1877)

BERNS Henry C, (Mary SCHAFER) Ch Mae, Annie, Frank, Ber-
nard, Lester, Cecelia; Chebanse R3 Chebanse Sec18w 0633a
(1865)

BERRY, Arthur (Gustie KAIN) Ch Dorothy, George, Virgil,
Arnold, Elsie; Sheldon RD Sheldon Sec1 T10a F. E. WEBSTER
(1906)

BERRY, William H. (Emma SOWDERS) Ch Wendell, Stilman;
Sheldon R1 Sheldon Sec21 Farm Hand Wm. WICKISER (1912)

BERTRAND, Eugene (Josephine DUCAT) Ch Lizzie, Florence,
Arthur; Clifton R1 Chebanse Sec12R14W 085a (1870)

BERTRAND, John Clifton R1 Chebanse Sec12R14W 085a (1872)

BESSE, Arcade (Odevie DARCHE) Beaverville R1 Beaver Sec
5NE T159a Farm Hand H. GAGNON (1917)

BEST, James E. (Etta CONNER) Sheldon R3 Sheldon Sec12
T160a FLEAGER Est. (1908)

BIAMONT, August (Maggie LAMOTTE) Ch Eugene, Victor, Olive,
Leonard, Angerina, Ernest, Adrian, Joseph; Clifton R1
Ashkum Sec17 R13E 060a T80a (1896)

BIAMONT, Eugene (Amy CAILTEAUX) Clifton R1 Chebanse Sec33
R23W T120a Mrs. Jos. CUDDE

BIEDENHARN, Bernard (Josie GLEASON) Clifton R2 Chebanse
Sec 30 R14W T120a Mrs. L. J. MORRISON (1912)

BILLINGS, Delvina Ch Arthur, Clifford, Orville, Reta;
Beaverville R1 Beaver Sec21 040a (1817)

BILYEW, Ira M. (Delitha LITTLE) Milford R5 Stockland
Sec36 Farm Hand W. A. NICKEL (1913)

BINKERMAN, August (Mary MILA) Ch August, Elmer, Jeffers,
Albert, Edith, Martha; Ashkum, R2 Ashkum Sec32 R10E T250a
J. A. MONTELIUS (1887)

BINKMAN, Seifert (Nettie BULL) Ch Roy, August, Mamie,
Lloyd; Ashkum R2 Ashkum Sec25 R10E T280a Tom CLEARY
(1881)

BISAILLON, Mrs. Carrie (BELLEAUGH) Ch Addie, Josephine,
Nellie, Agnes, Florence, William, Henry, Eldric,
Frances, Isabelle; Chebanse R1 Chebanse Sec31 R13W
Charles R. BUTLER (1915)

BISHOP, Lewis A. (Annie N. DEYOUR) Ch Maggie; Watseka
R5 Belmont Sec2 080a (1904)

BLACK, William L. (Lizzle & Dora, Sisters) Watseka R1
Belmont Sec25 T400a T. T. AINSWORTH (1880)

BLAIN, Charles H. (Delia NOEL) Ch Anna, Edith; Ashkum
R1 Ashkum Sec16 054a (1867)

BLAIN, Frank (Mary JOANNES) Ch Oliver; Clifton R1
Ashkum Sec16 R13W T120a (1867)

BLAIN, John C. (Melda CASE) Ch Horan; Martinton R1
Martinton Sec22 080a (1867)

BLAIN, Philip (Mary SAVOIE) Ch Mae, Raymond, Oris,
Ida; Clifton R1 Chebanse Sec3 R13W 0213a (1866)

BLAIR, Henry (Mary CROVIN) Ch William; Gilman R1 On-
arga Sec7W T160a C. MOSER (1913)

BLAIS, Louis (Emelie MAYOTTE) Ch Louis, Alphonse, Henry
Bella; Beaverville Beaver Sec5 R8N 0203a (1854)

BLANCHETTE, Earl (Irene ADAMS) Ch Marie; Clifton R1
Chebanse Sec12 R14W T100a Mrs. KNIPRATH (1902)

BLANCK, Louis (Lizzie HARTKE) Buckley R3 Artesia
Sec22 080a T80a Lena BLANCK (1887)

BLANCK, William (Laura WOLBERDING) Ch Walter, Edith,
Harry, Albert; Buckley R1 Artesia Sec25 T160a Lena BLANCK
(1877)

BLANK, Theodore (Lizzie WAGNER) Ch Art, Henry, Cecil,
Gertrude; Buckley R3 Artesia Sec22 0240a (1884)

BLEDSON, Ben (Minnie SMITH) Ch Cecil, Earl, Carroll;
Sheldon Sec18 T157a James BOWTON (1904)

BLISS, Ben H. (Wealty PALMER) Ch Thelma, Palmer, Helen,
Darline; Herscher R1 Milks Grove Sec19 T238a Jacob
OBERT (1911)

BLOOMQUIST, Alfred (Esther AUDERSON) Ch Ralph, Enid,
Woodrow; Donovan Beaver Sec13-14 040a T330a C. W.
ANDERSON and Emilia ANDERSON

BLOOMSTRAND, H. J. (Ellen HAMMERSTRAND) Ch Hartzel;
Rankin R3 Pigeon Grove Sec28 T160a John BLOOMSTRAND
(1912)

BLOOMSTRAND, Oscar (Anna BJORKLAND) Ch Frances; Loda
R1 Loda Sec18 0160a (1887)

BODY, Allen A. (Alma COX) Ch Harold, Irene, Dorothy;
Watseka R3 Crescent Sec25 T110a Mrs. W. H. BODY Est.
and J. I. BODY (1883)

BODY, Clarence W. (Florence SEARS) Ch Lois; Watseka R3
Crescent Sec24 T115a Mrs. W. H. Body Est. (1891)

BODY, John F. (Ethel MOORE) Ch Forrest, Victor; Watseka
R3 Belmont Sec19 T60a Body Est. (1889)

BODY, John I. (Ella PITTS) Ch Della, Laura, Ora, Lottie,
Fern; "Cherry Grove Farm" Watseka RD Crescent Sec25-24-
19 0280a (1861)

BODE, Walter (Matilda SEGGEBRUCH) Ch Edna; Cissna Park
R1 Ash Grove Sec1 R14w 0160a W. SEGGEBRUCH (1892)

BOEHRNSEN, Alfred (Elsie OLLRICH) Ch Phyllis; Clifton
R1 Chebanse See 34E T120a Peter BOEHRNSEN (1890)

BOEHRNSEN, Peter (Lena ROCK) Ch Etta, William, Laura,
Manda, Alfred, Melissa; "Cosy Corner Farm" Martinton
R1 Papineau Sec26 T1a GADENERS (1888)

BOEHRNSEN, William (Louise GERKIE) Ch Willard; "Creek
View Farm" Martinton R1 Papineau Sec26 T140a, Peter
Boehrsen (1888)

BOEKHOFF, Tasso (Hanna WOCKNER) Ch Fritz, Louise, Ernest
Robert, Otto, John; Watseka R2 Middleport Sec29 T203a
August WOCKNER Sr. (1889)

BOERS, Joseph (Gertrude BURKE) Ch Mariette) Clyde,
Marie; Cissna Park R1 Ash Grove Sec36 R14W T134a
Robt. BEST (1895)

INDEX TO BIRTH RECORDS
 IROQUOIS COUNTY - 1878

NAME	DATE	PLACE	PARENTS
COMBS	7 Aug	Chebanse	Heziah, Helen COMSTOCK
CRANGLE	8 Aug	Ash Grove	James, Bridget FANELL
CLEMENT	15 Aug	Papineau	Nicholes, Methilda RICHARD
CAILLOUETTE, Moses G.	18 Aug	St. Mary	Godfrey, Eliza BOUDREAU
Cox	23 Aug	Iroquois	Israel, Matilda DAVID
CLOVER	30 Aug	Fountain Creek	Jasper, Mary ROSE
Cox	2 Sep	Gilman	Cyrus, Mary SIMS
CLEAVE	5 Sep	Buckley	William, Mary MCKINLEY *
CLEAVE, Francis W.	5 Sep	Buckley	William, Moria MCKINLEY *
CONOVER, Frank	6 Sep	Concord	James, Nora RICHARDSON
COURTNEY	18 Sep	Fountain Creek	James, Mary
CLARK	21 Sep	Crescent	William, Anna KALER
CLASSON	25 Sep	Ash Grove	John, Mary ROBERTS
CAILTEAUX	2 Oct	Beaver	Francis, Rocalie RALARY
COLLETTE, Mary	5 Sep	L'Erable	Peter, Delema LaFOND
CRAWFORD	6 Oct	Clifton	Loren, Virginia PAILLET
COTTIR	8 Oct	Ashkum	Fahr
CRAIG, Robert Hughey	17 Oct	Crescent	R. B. Elizabeth
COTA, Regina	20 Oct	Papineau	David, Julia MARTELL
CLARK	21 Oct	Crescent	Theodore, S.S. GROENER
CRANDALL	21 Oct	Sheldon	Elias J., Martha VENNUM
CALHOUN, Florence G.	21 Oct	Wellington	John Dale, Vina ROBINSON
CRAWFORD	3 Nov	Stockland	Isaac, Emma HAYES
CARL, Philip	1 Dec	Donovan	Louis, Delia BUNNILLE

* Mothers' first names are different but it is possible the handwriting, was not clear. The children could possibly be twins.

NAME	DATE	PLACE	PARENTS
CRINK	7 Dec	Milford	Philip, Clara NOEL
COTA, Noah Julian	9 Dec	Beaver	Narcesse, Sufir VARLONCOUER
CLAWSON, Mary Minerva	17 Dec	Middleport	William, Minerva GREENWOOD
CRAWFORD, Mettie	25 Dec	Danforth	William, Elizabeth SICKLES
COYNER	30 Dec	Onarga	John, Sarah DRAKE
CANNTWAY, Mary Jane		Milford	Henry, Dell
CARLOCK		Belmont	Millard, Anna VLIETT
CLARK		Beaver	James, Polly McSorley
CULBERT, Thomas W.		Middleport	Alexander, Maria A. HARDY
DELAND, Eva Maria	2 Jan	L'Erable	James, Mary LEMNIN
DUNN	28 Jan	Milford	Carson, Lizzie
DARST	29 Jan	Sheldon	Benjamin, Elizabeth SWITZER
DICKERSON, Raymond M.	24 Feb	Gilman	Samuel, Emma MONELL
DASHNER	5 Mar	Douglas	Stephen, Mary HARSY
DAWSON, Gertie S.	9 Mar	Stockland	Thomas, Mattie TRIDER
DANNER	10 Mar	Crescent	J. B., Lizzie HALE
DECKER	15 Mar	Douglas	George, Anna CLASSEN
DUCHARME, Louiza C.	20 Mar	L'Erable	Paul, Henriette PONTON
DONOVAN, Lizzie L.	22 Mar	Beaver	James, Mary FLOWERS
DAWSON	31 Mar	Milford	George, Jennie TAYLOR
DAWSON, Welthy S.	4 Apr	Stockland	Hillias, Mary VOLUEY
DILLON	8 Apr	Ash Grove	Henry, Rachel WAGNER
DAVIS	20 Apr	Iroquois	Frank, Minnie BERION
DURAND, Allard	29 Apr	L'Erable	Octave, Agnes FRIGON
DUTCHMEN, Behrend	11 May	Ash Grove	John, Anto EMNGER
DWIGHT, Abbot Warren	13 May	Clifton	Gabriel, Nettie EDGERTON
DAHLGREEN	1 Jun	Stockland	John, Mary DAHLGREEN
DANDURAND, Victoria	13 Jul	Stockland	Marcelle, Mary BOEYEA
DOOLITTLE, Mary T.	27 Jul	Onarga	Milton, Harriet MARSTON

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CULLOM, ILLINOIS

1871 - 1971

by Mary Ann Schatz

The first Lutheran pastor to serve the Lutherans in the Cullom area was Pastor SCHELIEPSIEK who came from Cajuaga (between Pontiac and Odell). There was no town of Cullom at that time and the railroad between Bloomington and Kankakee had not been built.

The country had few settlers, the Vermillion swamps extended for miles in each direction where Cullom is today. In spite of the odds against them, the pioneers held on, and they deserve the grateful remembrance of all who are now reaping the benefit of their labor.

These early settlers longed for Lutheran services, so in the year 1871 Pastor Scheliepsiek preached the first service to the Germans in the Fred HACK School one mile south of Cullom (a mile west of the Ford County line). This served as their place for worship for 10 years.

Pastor J. J. KERN succeeded Pastor Scheliepsiek that same year. He came from Dwight, Illinois, and soon after they organized the congregation and gave it a constitution and its present name: "St. John's Lutheran." Among the founders of the congregation are the names of G. B. BRENNEMEIN, J. F. OTTMUELLER, Andrew HAAG, Lorenz HAAG, Leonard HAAG, Fred HACK, George HECKLEMANN, Gottlieb WENDLER, Demen STAHL, and Adam LUEBKE.

Pastor Kern was succeeded by Pastor Simon SUEES who was called to serve the congregation in October 1872 and served until 1877. He came to Cullom from Melvin, was an elderly man, but was good afoot and walked many miles on his pastoral duties.

In March 1878 Pastor SCHUCHARD accepted the call. He served until 1881 and during this time, the congregation built their first church at a cost of \$1,200.00. The pastor, Leonard HAAG, and Carl GASSLER were the Building Committee. There were 90 names on the records when in November 1881 the cornerstone was laid and on May 14, 1882 the church was dedicated.

From July 1882 until January 1883 Pastor Helwig STAEHLING of Melvin and his brother Pastor F. Staehling of Danforth served this congregation in connection with other congregations.

In January 1883 Pastor George HERTLEIN was called. He resigned the same year because of ill health. Pastor C. STUERZENBAUM served until September 1884. After a vacancy of 6 months, Pastor STUERMER served until July 1886. He continued to live in Cullom making his home with his daughter Mrs. SCHMIDT and family.

Pastor H. SCHNEIDER succeeded Pastor STUERMER and served the congregation from 1886 until 1889. During this time, a house was bought in the country for \$100.00, moved to town, remodeled, and served as a parsonage for a number of years. Pastor SCHNEIDER, who had resided in Charlotte was the first to move into it.

In 1885, a former pastor, Mr. G. HERTLEIN, presented the congregation with a bell for the church which rang for 26 years.

On May 18, 1889, Pastor W. REINHARD of Pocahontis, Missouri, was called. He served the congregation for 10 years. According to the minutes, under his guidance the congregation enjoyed peaceful development and the Ladies' Aid was established. In November 1889, he suffered a stroke of paralysis and died the same day, which saddened the congregation and his many friends. His widow and family continued to live in Cullom.

After a vacancy of 2 months, Pastor G. MACK was called. He served from January 1900 until July 1909. During his stay the church was remodeled, painted white with gilded bevels, lengthened, and a pipe organ and electric lights were installed. In 1904 the congregation was received into the Synod of Iowa and other states. In 1905 a young people's society was organized and called the "Luther League."

In 1906 the congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary of their first church.

In early spring of 1908 Pastor Mack accepted a call, and the congregation was without a pastor until July. During the vacancy the congregation built a new parsonage for \$3,000 including a barn that was bought and moved to the rear of the parsonage. Pastor LUTZ came in 1909 and his family was the first to live in the new parsonage. He served the congregation until August 1913.

Pastor E. KNAPPE was his successor, arriving in October 1913. During this vacancy, the congregation made extensive improvements to their church at a cost of \$1,200. In September 1914, the church was struck by lightning and completely destroyed. The congregation then planned to build a church of brick. The cornerstone was laid in April 1915, and the church was dedicated in November. The entire debt of \$15,000 was completely paid during the fall of 1918.

The congregation felt they had a beautiful house of worship.

Pastor E. W. KUETHE came to serve in February 1918 and remained until November 1928. During his pastorate many improvements on the property were made and the congregation celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1921.

In 1929 Pastor G. S. IDE came to serve the congregation. He served the congregation until September of 1947.

Pastor BUCKLER accepted a call in October 1947. The 85th anniversary of the congregation was observed along with Pastor BUCKLER'S 25 years in the ministry.

Pastor E. L. SERR was called in June 1957 coming straight from the seminary. Under Pastor SERR'S guidance the building program progressed and it became the desire of the congregation to enlarge the church and to improve the Sunday School facilities. The time had arrived to renovate the buildings when an opportunity to sell the building and property to another church group came along. The church was sold, and a lot for the new site was donated by Mr. Leroy HACK. Groundbreaking services were held May 21, 1961. The new cornerstone was laid August 13 and the stone from the old church was placed inside the lower narthex. The new church was dedicated March 4, 1962.

Later in the year, Pastor SERR accepted a call to Schapville, Illinois. Pastor W. C. VOLKMANN was his successor, arriving in Cullom in 1963. The 40th anniversary of his ministry was celebrated with over 200 attending. Pastor VOLKMANN served until July 1966.

Pastor Lee H. LUEBKE accepted a call while doing mission work in Alaska in August 1968 and has served the congregation since.

NOTICE

If you have not paid your dues for 1971-72, this will be the last copy of the Quarterly that you will receive. If you wish to renew your membership, send \$4.00 for an individual membership or \$5.00 for a family membership to Miss Mary Ann Schatz in care of the Society at the Kankakee Public Library, 304 S. Indiana Ave., Kankakee, Illinois.

DELINQUENT TAX LIST

Kankakee County, 1883

A list of lands and town and city lots, situated in the County of Kankakee and State of Illinois, upon which the taxes and special assessments for the year A.D. 1883, and back taxes for the year 1882, and previous years, remain due and unpaid.

Explanation of abbreviations--n stands for north, e for east, s for south, w for west, q for quarter, h for half, a for acre, rr for railroad, ex for except, cor for corner, pt for part, frl for fractional, r for road, SH for school house, cen for center, und for undivided, vil for village. Last figure is section number.

TOWN OF YELLOWHEAD

Township 32, Range 15 East

R. C. KILE, eh seq 7	Dave LOVE, s end eh swq 30
Geo. VANALSTINE, s frl 8	same, a end wh seq 30
R. C. KILE, swq neq 18	same, nwq neq 31
Edgar HAYDEN, seq req 18	D. I. Jones, swq neq 31
Chris WILLE, wh swq 18	same, eh nwq 31
Edgar HAYDEN, neq seq 18	same, neq swq 31
R. C. KILE, nwq seq 18	Erwin DICKEY, eh sh swq 31
Edgar HAYDEN, nh frl swq 17	D. I. JONES, wh seq 31

Township 32, Range 14 East

D. SCHNIEDEKE, e side swq 3	Chris WILLIE, eq nh seq 13
same, seq 3	same, sh seq 13
C. NOTTORF, lot 1 & 2 lot 2	Henry BLANK, swq nwq 14
nwq 5	same, wh swq 14
Chris MOLTHAM, s3q swq 5	Byron McKINSTRY, wh swq 18
C. NOTTORF, nq swq 5	Solon BAILEY, eh swq 20
Wm. WILSON, sh seq 5	same, s3q wh eh seq 20
C. NOTTORF seq neq 6	same, wh seq 20
Chris MOLTHAM, seq neq 7	M.J. CHAPMAN, eh nwq 22
G. F. WALLIS, eh neq 10	D.J. Jones, shseq neq 25
Sumner WALLIS, wh neq 10	Andrew LOVE, swq neq 26
same, neq nwq 10	same, neq swq 26
same, nwq seq 10	Volney DICKEY, swq swq 26
W.L. MUSSMANN, eh nwq 11	G.W. COOHINGHAM, wh ex 2a neq 27
same, seq 11	D.D. STALLCUP sw cor wh neq 27
John WILLIE, sw cor swq nwq.12	W.E. ZARTMANN, neq seq 27
same, seq nwq swq 12	Volney DICKEY, seq seq 27
same, bal nq neq swq 12	J.P. STRATTON, neq nwq 29