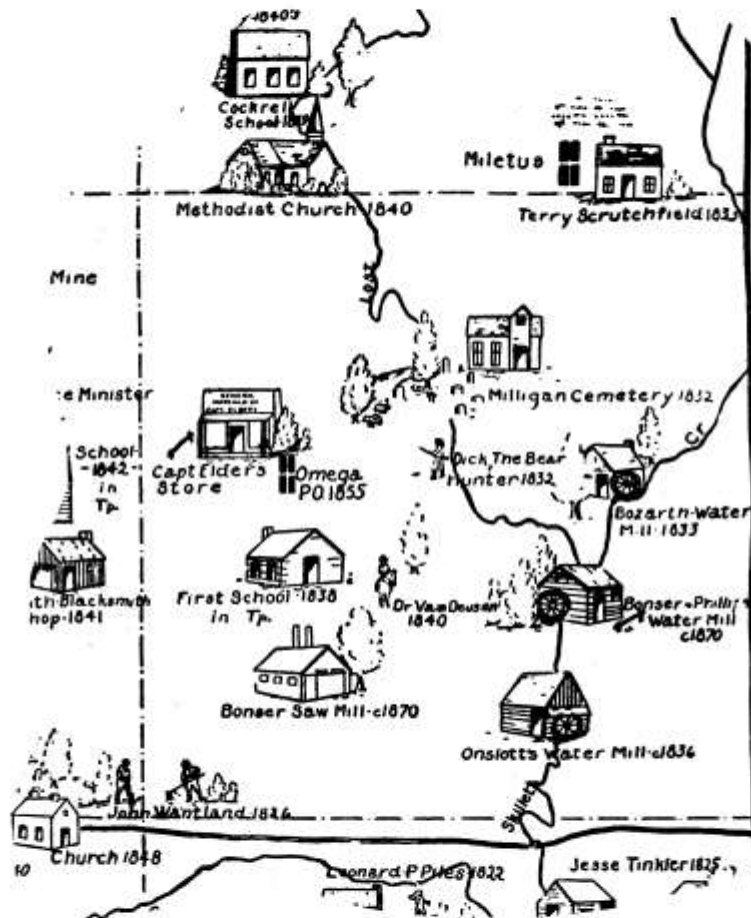




OMEGA
YESTERDAY AND TODAY



Compiled by Omega
Sesquicentennial Committee

The officers to be commended for this years work are:

Robert Wright - President
Leslie and Mamie Eblin - Secretary and Treasurer
Jessie Weyhrich - History
Ruth Marlow - Assistant History
Clyde and Letha Rose - Float
Mary LaDene Mulvaney and Patty Hanks - Ways and Means

Everyone has been on a committee. Everyone has given their very best effort.

Millie and Bill Monical
Howard and Mary LaDene Mulvaney
Lyman and Zilpha Jones
Kenneth and Pauline Chapman
Merle and Thelma See
Clyde and Letha Rose
Robert and Marge Wright
Oulrey and Patty Hanks
Elmer and Jessie Weyhrich
Ronnie and Janet Littrell
Claude and Elsie Rose
Eddie and Carolyn See
Dick and Diane Hanks
Ruth Marlow
Leon and Fannie Baker
See and Helen Millican
Clyde and Pansy Mulvaney
Lindell and Donna Wilcoxon
Charles and Geraldine Hanks
Charles and Millie Jones
Letha and Janet Triem
Max and Helen Keller
Helen and Bosie Long
Laurel Ritter
Hollis Baker
Leslie and Mamie Eblin
Archie and Ula Beard

Our Queen and her court:

Brenda Jones
Lou Ann Arnold
Cathy Ward
Vicki See
Peggy Rose
Janet Triem
Debbie Sullivan

EARLY SETTLERS OF OMEGA TOWNSHIP

Previous Marion County Histories give the following account of settlers coming to this locality for the years 1829-1836. It is hoped that the family histories which have been compiled from old deeds, land abstracts, and other family records will add much to the information already printed in these County Histories.

Adam Gallaway erected a good log house in Section 13 in 1829 and improved 40 acres. Frederick Songer bought this claim and moved with his family on it in the Spring of 1835. In 1838 he entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 13. Clyde Jones now lives on this farm.

Henry H. Pyles, a native of Tennessee and wife Rachel---(Tinkler) moved here from Iuka in 1830 and raised a family of nine children.

Richard Pyles, with wife and several children from Kentucky, settled on Section 16. (He was a noted hunter). A small daughter died and was the first grave in the Millican Cemetery. They moved to Missouri in 1834. It was there he was named "Dick, the Bear Hunter".

David England, wife and six children from Tennessee settled on Section 29 in 1832. They moved to Texas in 1857.

Also coming to this township in 1832 was Daniel Lovell, born in Virginia and settled on Section 16 with his family. Some of his descendants are residents of the township.

Israel Bozarth, wife and two children emigrated from Kentucky in 1832 and settled on Section twenty-three. They moved to Iowa in 1846.

Markham C. Lovell, son of Daniel Lovell moved to the township with his wife Polly---(Hensley). He had moved with his father to the county in 1829, and to Omega in 1831.

The early settlers all settled on public land. Beginning in 1836 land grants were given at a nominal price, usually \$1.25 per acre. All lived in log houses which were poorly provided with light a hole cut in the wall serving as a window minus the glass. The fireplace was made to take in large quantities of big wood to make sufficient heat to keep the family reasonably comfortable. Many of the homes had no protection overhead other than the board roof. In some of them the only floor was mother earth. At that time the friction match was unknown. If the fire went out it had to be started with flaxtow. Their supply of cooking utensils consisted of a skillet, a teakettle, and a coffee boiler.

The farmers cultivated small farms with teams of horses or oxen. Corn was grown to feed cattle and horses. Hogs were fattened with white oak acorns and some corn. Both deer and turkey were plentiful. Small orchards of apples, peaches, and pears were grown.

The women had to spin and weave the cloth to clothe the family. Flax was grown, cleaned, and spun to make linen.

Sheep were raised to provide wool to be carded and spun for winter clothing. The stockings had to be knitted - all done at home. The stock had to be protected from wild beasts. Sheep and calves were penned near the house.

The wolf was the most destructive of the wild beasts. There were three kinds, the small prairie wolf, the large black, and gray wolves. Notwithstanding all these things, some of the pioneers laid the foundation for a good comfortable living in the after part of life.

The first schools were subscription schools. The Lovell

school in Section 20 was taught by William Hadden in 1838. It was a log building 26 x 20 feet. The next school was on Section 27, in a log cabin with no floor but the earth. Silas Litteral taught two terms in 1838 and 1839, at \$2 per quarter for each pupil, largely paid in coon skins. About 1839 or 1840 in Section 23 a subscription school was taught by Alexander Kyle. Subjects taught were spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The early preachers were: Thomas L. Middleton, Vincent Wm. Chaffin, Joseph Hellems, Cy Wright, John A. Williams, and David R. Chance. Bee Branch Church, the first in the township, was erected in 1845 on Section 30.

The first mill was run by water power on Lost Fork on Section 14. It was built by Israel Bozarth at a cost of \$50; its capacity was four or five bushels per day. The next was a saw and grist mill, built by John Onslott on Section 35; it cost \$500, and had a capacity of forty or fifty bushels per day. This was on Skillet Fork and it sawed the first lumber of the township.

The first blooded cattle, of the Durham breed, were brought here from Tennessee by W. W. Sommers, who was an importer of blooded sheep of the Cotswold breed.

The first crime committed, within the limits of the township was the stealing of a horse from Richard Chaffin, about the year 1874. The thieves, Reuben and Robert Black, were both residing in the township. One broke jail and stole a second horse, but was overtaken on the Illinois River, which he was trying to cross, having stolen a gun to pay his ferriage. Both received a sentence of eleven years in the penitentiary.

The first Omega school-house,

was erected in 1856. It was a frame building 28 x 24 feet. William Duncan and Katie Elder were thought to be the first teachers.

Excerpts from an old school ledger gives the year 1891 as the date the above building was replaced by another. The school board Wm. Southward, R. M. Schooley, and J. W. Arnold met and awarded the contract to N. B. Turner for building a new school house on the same location for \$514.00 and \$10.00 for the belfrey. Later seats and desks were bought for \$45.00.

The first to teach in this building were Mrs. Wise at \$30.00 per month for five months, and L. K. Boynton at \$40.00 per month for four months. This building was used as a school until the rural schools consolidated. It is now the Omega Town Hall.

This is an agriculture township, consequently the population remains low. Modern machinery and better farming methods have resulted in larger farms. Many of the young people go elsewhere for employment.

In the early history of our country, once the eastern states ceded their overlapping "sea to sea" claims to the Federal Government, a great interest in western emigration was aroused. For the great "Northwest Territory" was a vast region of fertile land with virgin soil to be had for homesteading for very little monies".

The Federal Government adopted the Ordinance of 1787 governing this territory which now comprises the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and this ordinance was one of the most important pieces of legislation in American history. It forbade slavery, it provided a generous plan for state-

hood rights, it guaranteed religious freedom and provided for schools in a clause which is today famous in our educational system "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged".

Little wonder then that when such news reached the ears of families in the east, wagon trains and groups guided by "Land Companies" began their trek to this promised land.

In 1881 Omega's land valuation was less than \$100,000. A far cry from the rolling farms with modern homes, its' State Park and Omega (Forbes) Lake, its' camping grounds and fisheries.

True, the way of the pioneer was hard but in its path are generations of citizens of honor, hardihood, and distinction.

The staunch pioneer families of this township have done their share toward a progressive Marion County.

When a group of Omega citizens, who were interested in a railroad, met in a town meeting an interesting proposition was adopted.

Namely, to impress the railroad engineers with the virtues of the community it was decided to contact a steamboat captain in St. Louis and have him bring back from New Orleans a consignment of frozen fresh oysters - something hard to come by in those days, especially in towns far from the seashore.

It was arranged and when a returned river steamer brought to St. Louis a box of oysters in ice, men on horseback went to meet the steamer and carry to Omega the consignment of oysters. The oysters were transferred from the

iced box to leather bags containing ice. Then they rode from St. Louis to Omega with the oysters which were served to the railroad engineers at a banquet. They were impressed so much that the Omega people thought that the railroad would surely come this way.

Later on, the engineers were feasted by citizens of Centralia, who in turn provided a banquet. Later on, the city of Centralia won the railroad. It was never learned what they fed the engineers.

A HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF OMEGA

According to Brink's History of Marion and Clinton County the Village of Omega was founded by Timothy Baldwin in 1856. He was later killed in the Civil War in 1865. He built the first house which was of frame construction. It was located somewhere near the present house of Hazel See Millican, widow of Roy Millican. The basis for this belief is the fact that the land on that corner was bought from a son of T. Baldwin by Robert J. Millican, the father of Roy Millican.

The Post Office in Omega was established in 1855 and the first postmaster was a Ralph F. Baldwin. The Post Office at Omega was out of existence in 1904 with the event of R. F. D. (Rural Free Delivery). It is believed the last postmaster of the Omega Post Office was Samuel G. Copple. Mrs. Valeria VanCleve Schooley who moved to Omega Township in 1901 at the age of thirteen, remembers going over to the Copple Store to get their mail when they came to town to trade. Many Postmasters served the village. Among those were Ben Baldwin, father of Emma Barbee, a relative of Helen Want-

land Millican's mother, Margaret Earl Davis Wantland. Mark Hensley and Robert J. Millican were postmasters in the eighties. Helen Wantland Millican had a card sent to her great Uncle, E. B. Davis, signed by Robert J. Millican postmaster in 1880 telling him that he had a registered letter at the Post Office.

The first blacksmith shop in Omega was built by Captain Elder and operated by R. M. Rogers. In 1881 according to Brink's History there were two blacksmith shops in Omega, Cox & Lockes, and R. D. Barnes. We believe that one of the above were wagon makers rather than blacksmiths. Mrs. Valeria VanCleve Schooley says that, "when the father of Robert M. Schooley ran the blacksmith shop that the shop building was two stories with a wagon shop in the upper story".

Robert M. Schooley operated a blacksmith shop in this building just south of the house of Mrs. Schooley. This building burned in 1937. The front of the building was the original with an addition which was built in 1920.

After his father died, Ray Schooley continued to work at the trade in which he had helped his father these many years.

The last blacksmith to operate in Omega was Andrew Mulvany, the father of Howard Mulvany, who resides in Omega today. Andrew operated the shop for a couple of years around 1949 and 1950.

The first Grist Mill to be located in Omega was that of Robert Davis, and was built in 1868. The mill could grind 200 bushels of corn and 35 bushels of wheat a day. No note was made as to the location of this mill but we think that it was in the area of the old house just south of the present day Gunshop (Claude Rose's Block Building). The reason for this belief is the fact that See

Millican remembers skating on an old mill pond when he was going to grade school at Omega. This was also the site of the Schooley Mill, both grist and Sawmill. This was operated by Milt Schooley and Frank Schooley. In 1901 Mrs. Valeria VanCleve Schooley says, "the sawmill there sawed the logs for my father's house located in what was then called the Frog Pond Area". John A. Phillips and Son were operating the Grist Mill in 1881.

In 1881 the Dry Goods and Grocery Store was operated by Hammond and Hensley. Later Mark Hensley operated a store in Omega followed by his sons Clark and Frank Hensley.

There was once a drug store in Omega but as to who the druggist was, there is no record. It was located east of the square on the north side of the road. Scott Kniseley also ran a store in Omega.

In 1901 there were three stores in Omega, one on the north east side of the square Samuel G. Copple operated, on the south east side Robert J. Millican had a store, and on the south west corner of the square John Walkington was in the store business.

The village of Omega has had a number of doctors during it's history. In 1881 the village had two doctors a J. J. McComb and a T. L. Smith. In the records of the Omega Church a Doctor Thomas was a member of the Omega Presbyterian Church in 1877. He was only in Omega for about a years time.

All the stores in Omega were used as Post Offices. At various times the storekeepers were the Postmasters, Hensley, Copple, and Millican.

The old Copple Store Building was used for Church of God meetings with Samuel J. Miller sometimes preaching. Harry Sprout

Gale Boston, Nellie Walkington and Virgil See operated stores in the Copple Building. Leslie Eblin was the last to operate a store there until 1946 when he moved into a new block building that he had constructed. This building is now a store under the ownership of Eugene Mulvaney. The third store site was an old now vacant building located between the old blacksmith shop and Claude Rose's store building. Maurice (Pete) White started out buying cream in this building. Joe Luttrell started a small store followed by Lloyd Fish, Robert (Bob) Sills, Howard and Buren Mulvaney. Zilpha See Jones bought them out and operated in this building for a short time. In 1947 she moved into the building owned by Claude Rose. The following merchants followed her: Leroy See, George Fisk, Verl Bartley, Pete White, Buren and Howard Mulvaney, Charles Sanders, and last Ronnie Luttrell. At the present time the building is occupied by the Trading Post, better known as the Gun Shop, operated by James R. Sommerville.

When Roy Millican started a store in Omega (1919) in the building where his father had operated, there were three stores in Omega. The store operated by Roy was a barbershop, Grocery Store, Dry Goods Store, Shoe Store, a buyer of chickens, rabbits and eggs. He also bought cream and did Notary work. He retired as a merchant in 1939.

John A. Kagy (Schoolteacher) was running a store where the Hensley building was located. John had bought out Marion (Fuzz) Phillips who had bought out C. L. Millican, the grandfather of Margaret Millican.

The first garage was operated by Claude Beard in the old store building vacated by J. A. Kagy. This later became Hugo Wagoner's Garage, which because

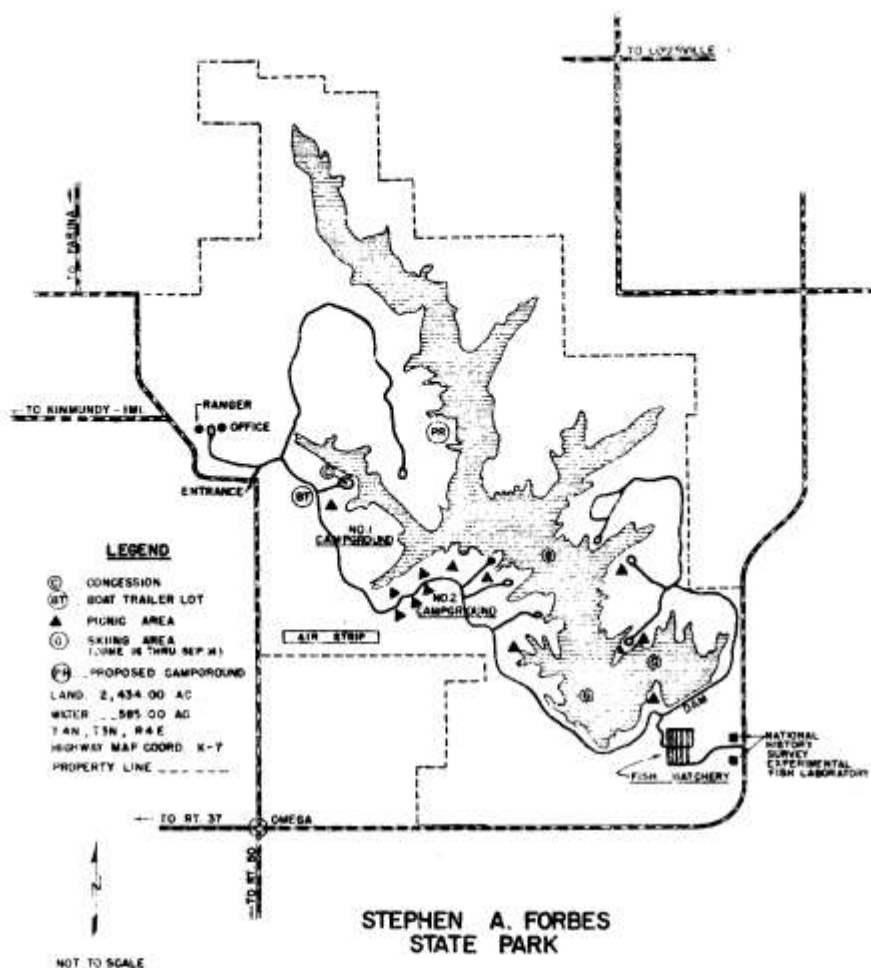
of the new pavement coming into Omega, was moved to the north east corner of the square. The Millican store building was also torn down by the Highway Department to make way for the new road. The Copple Store and adjoining house had been torn down some years ago.

For many years Omega had a telephone switch board with many lines coming into it. One of the early switch board operators was Mary Copple, wife of Samuel G. Copple. One of her early day operators was Anna Keller Shaffer. Mrs. Robert J. Millican also operated the board. Some of the other operators were the Forrest Cheeley family, on several different occasions, Mrs. Bert Wantland Prather. Mrs. Neil Ferrell, Ervin and Maria Hays Long. The last operators were Douglas and Eileen Marlow. After this two drops were purchased in the Iuka exchange, until finally the Bell Telephone took over.

The restaurateurs of Omega were Lewis Hampsten, Gertrude Nauert, Cecil Branch and wife Betty (Simer), Lester and Marie Branson Mulvaney, Douglas and Eileen Marlow. The last was Edward Herrington.

Margie Wright ran an ice cream stand for a number of years in Omega.

At the present time the following businesses are being operated: Eugene Mulvaney has the only grocery store, located on the south west corner of the cross-roads. A garage on the lot where the Copple Building stood is owned by Hugo Wagoner. Charles Hanks owns a bait and fishing equipment shop. His daughter Sharon operates a beauty shop in his home. Ford See Millican has a greenhouse. The Gunshop is operated by James R. Sommerville.



STEPHEN A. FORBES STATE PARK

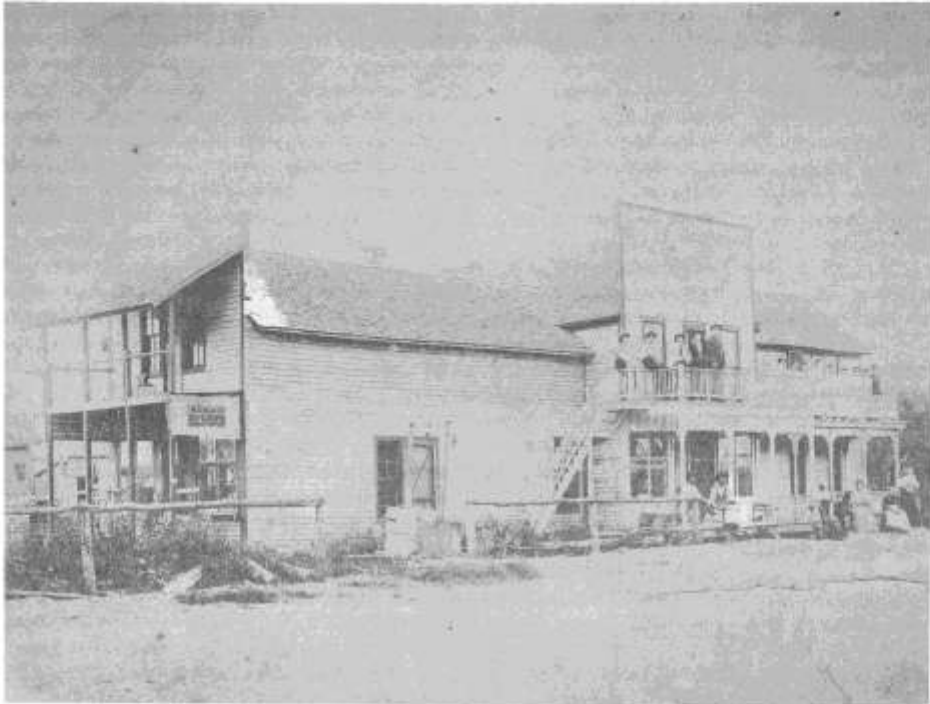
STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
JUNE, 1971
K. L.

OMEGA LAKE

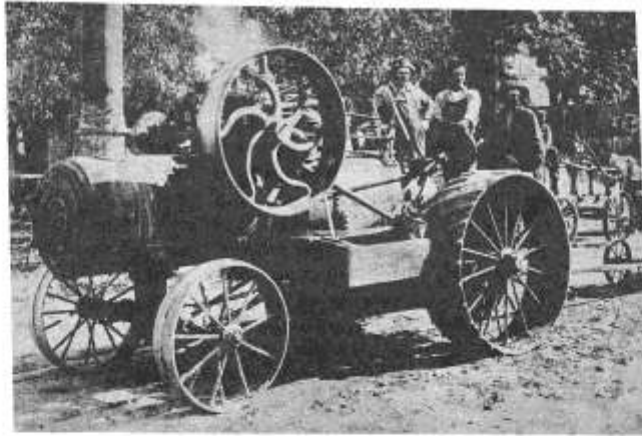
About 1955 rumors were circulated that a lake and park were proposed for the Omega area by the Illinois Conservation Department.

The news was received with mixed emotions by the home and land owners. While they realized that we have to yield to change and progress, many would have to seek a new home. Some of the older people living on small farms were unable to buy a modest home in neighboring towns for the offer received for their present home.

They did expect the park would receive a local name such as Marion County Conservation Park, like the McLean County Conservation Park east of Bloomington, or the Sam Dale Lake Conservation Area in Wayne County. When it was learned that another name was proposed a group of women circulated a petition which was sent to the State Department of Conservation asking that this park and lake which had been placed in our community be given a local name. An answer was received saying that it was too late to change the name of the park, but the lake would be named OMEGA LAKE.



The Copple Store Building



Picture taken in Village of Omega May 22, 1915 shows a 1910 Model Aultman-Taylor Steam Engine belonging to Clarence Smith, the larger man standing on the platform. Next to him is his brother Bryan and seated on the coal box is Amos Wilcoxon. In the rear is Raymond Smith on the water wagon, and through the tree boughs one sees the Star Cut Plug Tobacco sign on the side of an Omega Store Building.

THE OLD SORGHUM MILL

Years ago south of Omega, where Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Long now live, was the old sorghum mill last run by Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Correll, Albert Correll's mother and father. People came from a distance with their cane, raised in their fields to make old fashioned molasses. At the close of the season a party night was held and a taffy pull took place. All were invited and enjoyed this candy making. Molasses was used on biscuits for cookies, ginger cake, etc. in the good old days.

THE CIDER MAKING AND APPLE BUTTER MILL

The cider making and apple butter mill were old timers and everyone enjoyed them.

This was on the Mike Cane farm south of Siloam School just in the edge of Iuka Township. People came from far and near. The women spent a day peeling and coring apples to make up the next day's butter. You used the apple peeler for faster work and you had an appointment to get your butter made. Here was where you met new acquaintances, for you were there for hours sometimes with strangers. Wagons were drawn with horses or mules for miles to make the trip. Large 5 gallon jars or larger were used to store the apple butter in and a cloth tied over the jars and a board over the top, then stored for winter use. Imagine the fact of that kind of care.

The cider was made here and people took sugar and Mr. Cane knew how much to put in each and also some spices helped turn out a lovely lot of cider apple butter.



Omega School - Ethel Knisley, Teacher

- Top Row - Mary Chapman, Opal Walkington, Launa Marlow, Clay Simer, Agnes Marlow, Donald Marlow, Eva Beard.
- 2nd Row - Thamer Simer, Bessie Chapman, Cecil Swally, Wayne Schooley, Bertha Beard, Ethel Knisley, Teacher, John See, Irene Cheeley, Faye Beard, Hollis Baker, Mildred Cheeley.
- 3rd Row - Zola Millican, Ethel Knisley, Donna Millican, Velma Marlow, Opal Henneman, Eva See, Florence Hemmeman, Donna Decker.
- Bottom Row - Cleo Copple, Frank Bosley, Jason Chapman, Johnny Baker, Frank Simer, Clarence Southward, Noble Decker.



OMEGA AND BROWN SCHOOLS
Bertha See and Paul Monical, Teachers



OMEGA SCHOOL

- 1st Row - Paul Waggoner, Francis Boston, Carl Fields, Harold Millican,
Marie Parrish, Carl Waggoner, Katherine Arnold.
2nd Row - Lorene Childress, Carl Millican, Audrey Fields, Teacher Bertha
See, Bill Monical, Leroy See, Mary See.
3rd Row - Glen Schooley, Paul Cheeley, Lloyd Childress, Neva Millican,
Georgarette Kniseley, Inez See, Hilda Millican.



SILOAM SCHOOL 1913

Bottom Row: Sylvia Beard Peterson, Ivan Linder, Fay Howe, Archie Mulvaney
Lois Lonnon Alderson, Lena Baker Hays, Nelda Long Hanks,
Verada Jay, Lesta Linder, Everett Long, Sylvia Jay.

2nd Row: Velma Rogers Beard, Collins Lindey, Isola Laymon Howe, John
Chapman, Madonna Linder, Berthal Middleton, Nonda Rogers
Easley Chapman, Paul Long, Nell Laymon Olson, Eveline Linder
Eva Laymon Beaver.

3rd Row: Arthur Long, Bessie Howe Uchitjil, Vera Jackson Barksdale
Middleton, Bernice Long Wells, Omah Mulvaney, Neva Long
Lungard, Opal Rogers Branch, Carrie Linder, Opal Mulvaney
Luttrell, Gerald Mulvaney, Mildred Chapman Middleton, Basil
Mulvaney.

4th Row: Ula Middleton Beard, Rose Rogers Fulfer, Irmene Dunn, Jessie
Long Weyhrich, Chester George Long, Maude Bass Barksdale,
Teacher, Mary Mulvaney, Clark Howe, Ethel Painter Williams,
Fairy Laymon Howe.



These are some of our oldtimers of Siloam neighborhood; Bottom row left to right: Byron Siple, Jane Hadden, Ryman Bradley, Letha Brubaker. Top Row: Fanny Hadden, Frank Rogers, Dolly Marlow.

SILOAM

The Siloam School was organized in 1851.

The first years of Siloam School were held in the little log school house in the southwestern part of the pasture in Section 27, owned by George Long, an Englishman.

The log school house was built with a log left out for light. The seats were hewn out of slabs and legs were fastened in with wooden pegs hewn out of small pieces of wood. The first secretaries book from this church and Sunday school runs from 1865 to 1875 and through the whole 10 years, George Long was the secretary.

This book is still being kept and is well preserved. All the officers during that period were Rogers, Chapman, Long, Mulvaney, and Bradley. Rev. VanCleve was the District Superintendent. At that time, members were taken into the church, on probation for six months at quarterly conference. Mr. VanCleve asked these questions:

1. Are there any members who walk disorderly and will not be reprov-
- ed? 2. Are there any who will-
- fully neglect the means of grace?
3. Are there any probationers for full membership? The people of the church were responsible for their acceptance in the church. Eight members were accepted and voted into full membership among

them Martha Jane Mulvaney Long, on September 6, 1873.

A number of preachers went out from Siloam Church: William Mulvaney, Jim Mulvaney, William Bradley, E. Paul Rogers, Luther A. Rogers and J. Grant Rogers (Luther Rogers was an evangelist in Kansas) Uncle Daniel Chapman (a local preacher) and H.M. Long (who served as Minister at Watson, Beecher City, and Mt. Carmel).

After these years in the school house these folks decided to build a church on the road west of the George Long home. The main carpenter was John Beck, who died March 2, 1892. Other men helped with the building and Siloam Sunday School and church was held there for many many years. The walnut lumber was given by Daniel W. Chapman for the pews etc.. Orville Chapman served as Sunday School superintendent for 12 years. Revivals lasted as long as six weeks and many, many souls were saved. Services were held in the afternoons, as well as, at night. In later years the Southern Methodist Conference ordered the church sold. George Long bid it off and later, as his health was failing, he sold it to Sherrill Vandever, the present owner.

LOVELL GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

History records that the members of this early congregation met in the early 1850's and worshipped in a log house about two miles southwest of the present chapel. William Chaffin organized this group and it was known as Bee Branch Church. After fire destroyed this log building, services were held for a time in the Omega School House. This school house, a log building, stood southwest of the village. The church register lists the follow-

ing names as members of the church at that time and the year of their baptism: Henry F. Kelchner, baptized 1850, Lucy Kelchner (Henry's wife) 1855, Frances M. Farson (Mrs. H. C.) 1860, H. C. Farson 1862, Julia Lovell (Lacey) 1867, Ida M. Kelchner 1878, Mrs. James Presgrove 1878.

On December 11, 1879 a business meeting was held at the residence of H. A. Vandusan and plans were made to purchase land and build a new church building. The building committee was S. W. Lovell, John Beck and H. A. Vandusan. Soon after this meeting the following land transaction took place. This is the description:

The Grantor, Markam C. Lovell of the County of Marion and State of Illinois for consideration of \$5.00 conveys and warrants to James Kennedy, J. R. McGraw, H. C. Farson, Trustees of the Church of Christ in Omega Township and their successors in office, the following described real estate, one Sq. Acre off the N. E. corner of the S. E. quarter of N. W. Quarter of Section 20 in T.3NR 4 E in Marion County, Illinois signed December 29, 1879 by M. C. (X-his mark) Lovell; W. W. Rogers J.P..

Mr. John Beck was the carpenter and the church building was completed late in the year 1880. For many years the church was referred to as 1880 and occasionally we still hear it called the 1880 Church.

The first meeting held in the new building was December 11th of that year with R. P. Henry of Flora, Illinois giving the dedicatory discourse. Wesley McGraw was assisting elder. James McGraw and S. W. Lovell were chosen as deacons.

Some of the more prominent families of the church the next few decades, in addition to the above named, were the Millican's,

Smiths, Brandebury's, S. G. Copple and wife, Morrows, Robinsons, Simers, Swalleyes, and Walkingtons.

In the early days the church ministers included Henry Vandusan, William Chaffin, John A. Williams, John Tinkler, David R. Chance and W. J. Simer. The latter served perhaps for a longer period of time than the others, as records show he ministered to the Lovell Grove congregation for thirty years. Too, it is reported he often gave to the church half of the pay he received from them.

Some of the later ministers were Albert Millican, Paul Marteeny, George Kelley, Irvin Hays, Chester Edque, Thomas H. Wilson, Russell Ross, Floyd Stabler, Cecil Cochran, Glen Hawkins,

Terry Graham, Tim Fry, and James Flanigan. Brother Ernie Donoho, our present minister, has filled the pulpit faithfully for over five years. He was ordained a minister of the gospel August 11, 1968 at our church by Brother Phil Young of St. Louis Christian College.

Elders and deacons at the present time are Ole Alderson, Merle Walkington, Howard Mulvaney, Merle See, Viril See, Leon Baker, and Gene Baker.

We are a small country church located one mile south of Omega, serving the community and providing spiritual need, meeting Sunday morning and evening each Lord's Day. We invite all who wish to come and worship with us.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vandusan

BROWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

At first a log church was built on a high bank of Skillet Fork Creek, two miles east of the present Brown Church Building. It was called Red Bluff Church. Near it was a rock bottomed pool that was used in baptisms for years.

Fire destroyed the church building, but not the spirit, so some of the members formed the Old Union Church. Others living in Crutchfield Prairie, led by Joseph D. Morgan, held worship services in the school building five miles east and north of Omega until about 1895.

On May 16, 1891 a deed was recorded from Marion E. and Mary C. Smith for a small piece of ground across the road from the school. It was donated as the site for a new church. A Chapel was soon built and was called Smith Grove.

The school across the road was painted brown and soon both the school and church were known by that name.

Bro. William Jackson Simer started preaching at Brown in 1880. He was a farmer, as well as a good preacher. He lived north of Omega near the present lake entrance. At this time he filled the pulpit each Lord's Day at Lovell's Grove, Brown, Bethel in Clay County and at Brubaker giving a fourth of his time to each charge. He had a long white beard and drove a horse and buggy to get to each church.

He was not paid a salary, only by small donations. On Sunday morning no collection was taken. At first, money was laid on the table, but in later years they passed a hat for the collection.

The loaf was made by one of the ladies of the church, the wine was in one glass or goblet.

In 1914 it was reported that the membership was 25, the Sunday School enrollment was 67 and the value of the property was \$400.

In 1916 the building was remodeled and an addition made on the west side. This is the center and south east section of the present building. New seats and an organ were added at that time.

Some of the congregation did not approve of music in the church so they left and built Shiloh Church north and east of Brown about two and one half miles. It was later moved to the Louisville blacktop road.

One of the early elders were Fred Pickle, Henry Green, and Lafayette Adams. The record shows that Bro. Adams and Bro. Green, were baptized in 1886.

Some of the early deacons were Newt Copple, Wes Mulvaney, Bill Smith and Ed Winders.

Uncle Bill Mulvaney served as church treasurer for a great many years.

Among the early preachers who have pastored the Brown congregation are Joseph D. Morgan, who organized the church W. J. (Uncle Billy) Simers who preached for the church for 35 years. Bro. Feegate from Edgewood, and W. J. Whittaker, from Noble preached for seven years. He was followed by Ben F. Mahon of Edgewood who ministered to Brown for 3 years.

Next came Ervin Hays who pastored for three years. Well remembered is the meeting which he held in 1935, with 34 additions baptizing 28.

Other preachers at Brown were Oscar Hawkins, Paul Berthold, Paul Martine, Bill Hudspeth, and Leslie Tucker from Edgewood.

Bro. Chester Esque acquired the individual Communion service for the congregation while he ministered at Brown.

In 1951 another memorable revival was held at Brown with

Lawrence Carpenter as minister and Ed Smith Evangelist. The crowds grew so large they moved the piano across the road to the front of Brown School, concrete blocks were lined up with boards across them for seats and over 400 were in attendance.

The north annex and basement were added to the church in 1956.

Other preachers were Keith Sproat, Cecil Cochran, who held services at Lovell's Grove and at Brown on the same Sundays, an hour apart, Dave Wharmby and Fred Nesbitt.

In 1962 when Wayne Tate was pastoring at Brown the ceiling was lowered, paneling and wall-furnaces were installed.

A new communion table, chair and pulpit for the preacher were added in 1964.

In 1965 a new piano was purchased and first used at the funeral of Mrs. Cornelia Davis.

Three classrooms and a rest-room were built onto the church in 1971. At that time a large furnace was installed.

In 1972 Freddie Mulvaney donated some additional ground to be used as yard and to enlarge the parking space.

A new front entrance and wide sloping walk are being built at the present.

Later preachers have been Carl Gibson, Harold Eubanks, E. C. Horton, Carl Parker, Jerry Bopp, and Don Mast.

At the present time our minister is Harry Black. Elders are Otis Tate, Wayne Schooley, Roger Davis and Clarence Neal.

Deacons are Dean Baker, William Monical, Gary Michael, Ronald Lane, Donald Hampsten, Lindell Wilcoxon, Farrol Armstrong and Benny Webster. Trustees are Steward Monical, Freddie Mulvaney and Myron Hanks.

Present seating arrangement, numbers 220 but can be rearranged

to accommodate many more.

OMEGA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One hundred and twenty nine years ago (Nov. 1973), the Omega Presbyterian Church was organized by the famous Presbyterian Circuit Rider, William Finley. This was the year of 1844.

All this happened in the home of Jacob Earl who lived in Lovells Prairie.

The first members of this original church were Jacob Earl, Thomas Hadden, Elizabeth A. and Sarah A. White, Alexander Millican Jane Howard, William Howard, Isaac Eagan, Martha Hadden, James C. Lackey, and Eliza L. Morris. John Walls was the first minister of this congregation.

September 5, 1863 is the first record relative to building a church. The church building was completed sometime in the sixties.

From 1844 to 1884 Alexander Millican was clerk of the session.

The first babies baptized into the Omega Presbyterian Church according to existing records were Galvin E. Morris, son of Mrs. Eliza Hadden and Maria E. Millican, daughter of Alexander Millican. These took place on March 7, 1845.

The last recorded infant baptisms were those namely of Dorothy and Harold Fields and Willadean Kniseley on June 8, 1919. Rev. William Finley did the honors for the first two, and Rev. John Hamerston did the last three.

Upon perusing the records of the Omega Presbyterian Church we find the names of many of our ancestors. Here are some that might be familiar to you: Millican, Hadden, Beard, Phillips, Kniseley, Smith, Baldwin, Gramley, Stockley, Southward, Davis, Painter, See, Walkington, Schooley, Cheeley, Marlow, Ravens, Rose,

Rolf, Kelchner, Bosley, Alderson, Baker, and Hensley. This is not all the members by any means, but the ones we all are probably most familiar with.

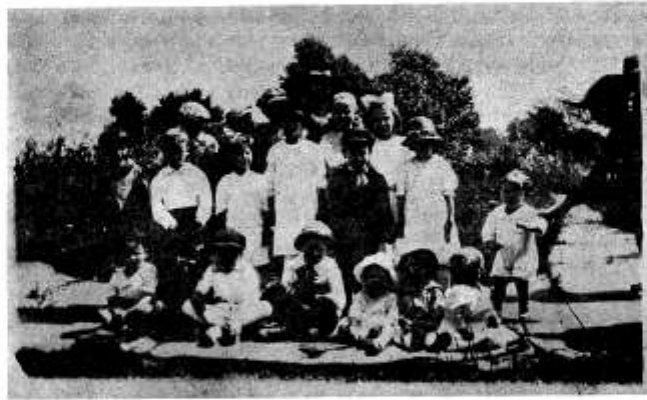
As late as 1898 the church was dismissing people for dancing. Sister A. Hudson was cited and read out of the church for dancing.

The original church building burned in 1916. The present church was built by Ed Bosley and was finished and dedicated in 1918. The Rev. John Hamerson

preached the dedication sermon. As was and still is the custom, a basket dinner was held after the morning service.

In May 1961 the annex or addition to the present church was started. On November 22, 1961 the addition was completed at a cost of \$1,048.81, with all labor donated.

The names of five generations of Millicans appear on the rolls of the Omega Presbyterian Church. These are Alexander, Robert, Roy, See, and Richard.



Cradle Roll and Primary Class, and 2 adults, Omega Presbyterian Church 1920.

Bottom Row: John Riley Marlow, Viri See, Monroe Marlow, Willie Maxey, Willadene Kniseley, Paul Cheeley, Glen Schooley.
 Second Row: Freida Millican, Bobby Lennon, Dorothy Cheeley, Ruby Maxey, Merle See, Elsie See, Ralph Millican, Hazel Millican.
 Top Row: Frank Baker, See Millican, Virgil See, Ethel Southward, Vera Schooley, Ethel (Kniseley) Jenkins, Teacher.

OMEGA PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES AID

We are merely a group of farm women, with very little aspiration to be anything but what we seem.

Our little group was founded at a time when the Omega Presbyterian Church had deteriorated both in membership and structural stability of the building. Our goal - to raise money to save the building from decay. So twice monthly on a Thursday we have gathered for many many years to share a nice potluck lunch together at the noon hour.

We have artists with crochet hooks, artists with embroidery needles, and artists with quilting needles among our small group. So needles and crochet hooks fly with merry abandon as we discuss world affairs, elect presidents, argue points of law or even investments for life savings.

Being farm women our gardens flowers and crops are favorite subjects to be discussed, each feeling she had more to do than any other, but all in all we work in harmony.

We have pieced quilts, full size and baby quilts, quilted constantly, and have a backlog of quilts waiting to be finished. Made aprons, pot holders, dresser scarves, doilies and pillow cases numbering in the hundreds. We have made and sold over 400 pairs of pillow cases of one favorite pattern.

At one time we edited a cookbook. We serve lunch at public sales, election time, and prepared and served a banquet supper to a Salem Club at one time.

With the help of the Church, Sunday School, and Youth Group we have seen our Church painted, roofed, electrified, a new addi-

tion built, a new heating system installed, and many minor things long since forgotten.

A few times we have seen fit to give a small donation to folks not so fortunate and hope that in some small way we have given them a lift when things were depressing. Also food is served when there is a death in the community - so little for us to do --- such a help to a bereaved family.

Our little group changes from year to year, some move to other communities, death claims some, some work and can no longer attend but there is always a faithful few to quilt, crochet or embroider.

We are aging together and hope there will be younger ones to continue the work we have so long enjoyed together.

CLACK CEMETERY

The following history was related to Goldie Beard Dunlap by the late W. Casey Chapman of Iuka Illinois.

"About the year 1840, a stranger (Peddler by trade--driving a team of mules and surrey) stopped over in the north east part "of the country" on what is commonly known as the Chancey Miner place--occupied first by Tommy Jones. However, at this time, the railroad owned the land--(every even section at this time belonged to the government). This land had a small cabin on it. Here the stranger took sick and died. Having no easy means of identification, he was brought to the present site of Clack Cemetery for burial. Not long after, Liza Alderson lost a little girl, and they buried her there too.

Elijah Clack lived on the forty acres south of the cemetery, and so the name Clack was used to designate it from others in the region round about. Frequently it is spoken of as the Siloam

Cemetery, since it is in the immediate neighborhood of Siloam.

The deed, as recorded in Book 28, Page 259, H. R. Hall recorder, states: "that on November 7, 1873 George and Jemima Long deeded a portion of the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 to the School Trustees of Township 3 North, Range 4 East, of Omega Township, Marion County, Illinois and their successors in office for the use of said Township for a graveyard." Specifications as to beginning and ending and right of way for a road are included in the deed.

The oldest inscribed stone in the cemetery is that of:

Cintha Jones
Wife of John L. Jones
Died March 21, 1847
Age 19 years, 5 months
14 days.

The most recent burials:

Richard Beard
March 1954
O. G. Ball
April 8, 1964

Three Civil War Veterans are buried here.

James Wesley Beard
Daniel W. Chapman
Tillman J. Rogers

This epitaph on the stone of Reuben and Sarah Alderson bespeaks a message for all:

"Ever near us, tho'
unseen
Their dear immortal
spirits tread,
For all the boundless
universe
Is life, there are no
dead."

LOVELL GROVE CEMETERY

Land for the Lovell Grove Cemetery was purchased from Julia Lovell in 1888 and marked off into 304 lots, of this number 206 have been sold with 98 yet available.

Before this piece of land was

bought there were a few graves in the church yard. These were removed to the cemetery. The first new grave was Mrs. W. J. Simer in 1889.

It has been cared for by donations from relatives interested in its care.

The trustees are Merle Walkington, Leon Baker, Ole Alderson.

HENNEMAN CEMETERY

This burial plot was referred to as the Lewis Cemetery and told of T. C. Smith, his two wives, and nine children buried there. Also Rachel Tinkler buried here was the first wife of H. H. Pyles, the first family to settle in Omega Twp.. Later it became known as the Henneman Cemetery. This first known grave was a Mary Gibson 1842 the last was a sister of Frank Henneman, brought here from Chicago about 1925.

This cemetery now part of Forbes State Park lies North-East of the Virl See Farm.

There are a dozen stones that have readable names and dates on them:

Mary Gibson - Sept. 15, 1842
in 22 years of her age
T. C. Smith - Died April 11,
1897-83 yrs. 2 mos. 9 days
Martha E. wife of T. C. born
Nov. 23, 1825 - Died Sept.
15, 1870 - 44 yrs. 10 mos.
22 days.

Small Stone - Ella Smith
Seven small stones no names
Marie - Daughter of S. D.
and E. Higgason - June 30,
1858 - 1 yr. 8 mos. 15 days
Rachel - wife of H. H. Pyles
Died Dec. 12, 1865
Mary Poe - died July 10, 1890
Age 78 yrs. 8 mos. 20 days
Simon Adamson - Born March 3,
1814 - Died Feb. 18, 1894
Age 79 yrs. 11 mos. 15 days
Frank Henneman - 1841-1908
Anna - his wife 1849

Maggie their daughter 1871
1895

MILLICAN CEMETERY

Among the older cemeteries in Marion County and the first in Omega Township is the Millican Cemetery located one mile east and one quarter mile south of the village of Omega.

This plot of ground was used as a burying ground from 1832 to 1947. The first burial was a small daughter of Richard Piles in 1832. Three Civil War Veterans, Thomas M. Jones, Sylvester Mullen, and William Southward are buried there.

In 1866 a deed was made to the Trustees of Omega Township, and their successors in office by Alexander and Clementine Millican, the ground to be used as a public burying ground belonging to the Township. The deed and description is recorded in Book 38 deeds page 152 Marion County, State of Illinois.

At one time this cemetery became neglected and overgrown with brush, briars, and groundhog dens. About 1954 a group of interested people began the rehabilitation of it. With both labor and money donations, the brush and briars were cut, brush spray applied, the ground leveled, and it is now possible to mow it with lawn mowers. Also a bulldozer was secured to clear the old road and rock was applied.

Millican Cemetery is located on high ground, surrounded by tall trees, which makes an attractive memorial to the lives of some of the people who helped settle this locality and others who in later years contributed to the growth of the community.

Volunteers mow several times during the summer months.

PHILLIPS CEMETERY

In 1852 a young man by the name of Lorenzo Phillips, age 23, died and was buried on a corner of his parents farm in Section 3 of Omega Township. On October 12, 1864, the young man's parents, John P. and Lacin-da Phillips deeded one half acre where their son was buried, for the tract of land to be called Phillips Cemetery and they were later buried there. Also buried in this cemetery is a grandson Lorenzo, better known as "Wren" his wife and daughter Maud.

In subsequent years, some of the people buried in Phillips Cemetery is a one John Crutchfield born 1797 and wife Malinda Mulvaney Henson Crutchfield. John's first wife was Barbara Lincoln (1802-1840) a first cousin of Abraham Lincoln, the President. Barbara and John were married in Harrison County, Indiana 1819. Barbara died in 1840 after bearing 9 children and is buried in Southern Indiana. It was after Barbara's death that John migrated to Illinois and lived in Meacham Township where he met and married the widow, Malinda Henson. One of their sons was Jefferson Crutchfield, better known as Jeff and one of Jeff's sons was Dayton. Both Jeff and Dayton contributed much work in caring for this cemetery and are buried here.

Another early settler buried in Phillips Cemetery is Nicholas Hanks (1799-1880) who came to this area from Southern Indiana. Nicholas Hank's father, William was a preacher and a brother of Nancy Hanks, Abraham Lincoln's mother, thus making Nicholas Hanks and the President first cousins. Nicholas Hanks was the father of James Steward Hanks (1851-1942) called Steward, Mrs. Lane (Pamelia Hanks)

Posey, Mrs. John (Lucinda Hanks) Hockaday, Mrs. James (Louisa Hanks) Fogerson, Mrs. Nancy Hanks Love, William and Austin (called Aut) Hanks. Steward was the father of Lloyd, Ollie, Fred, and Guy. All of the above Hanks and their spouses are buried in this cemetery.

Still another early settler who came to Omega Township was Christopher Mulvaney and wife and eleven children. One of Christopher's daughters was Malinda Mulvaney, mentioned above, who was John Crutchfield's second wife. Most of Christopher Mulvaney's children, grandchildren and many great grandchildren are buried in this cemetery.

During the Civil War, a John Fogerson (1819-1879) and wife and family of several sons and one daughter lived in Missouri. One night a band of night riders raided John's farm threatening to kill him and stole some of his fine horses. John escaped, but first told his wife and family to go to Illinois. This they did and John joined them later and the family settled in South Meacham Township where he and his wife lived the rest of their lives. John and wife and many of their descendants are buried in Phillips Cemetery.

Max M. Keller can recall a burial in Phillips Cemetery about the year 1920. It was late winter and a severe ice storm had hit the area. The roads were coated with ice so heavy that a rough shod horse could not travel on it. Charles Keller, who lived in the neighborhood had a ton Model-T Ford Truck and by putting a set of chains on the rear wheels which had solid rubber tires, he could travel over the roads. Mr. Keller went to a Kinmundy Funeral Home and took a casket out to the deceased neighbors home. Some of the neighbors prepared the body

and the next day Mr. Keller along with several neighbors, transported, in the truck, the body to the cemetery for burial. A lay preacher, Oscar Correll, in the neighborhood, spoke a few words at the grave site.

Mr. and Mrs. Keller and Mr. and Mrs. Correll are buried in this cemetery.

The Phillips Cemetery continues, as of this date (1973) to be the resting place for many descendants of old settlers of this community who have passed on and for several years has been kept in good condition.

There was a time in the late 1920's and early 1930's that the care of the cemetery was neglected. Lloyd Hanks and wife, Bess, started a move and caused others to become interested in better care for this burial plot. The ladies would sometimes serve lunch at Public Sales, quilt a bed quilt and sell chances to be raffled off, and such to make a little money toward the upkeep and to build a small building and set up a stove where grave diggers could have shelter and keep warm in the winter time. As at that time when there was a burial, the neighbors would open the grave and that expense was spared the family.

Some of the first officers and trustees are not known, as no records are available, but the first for there to be any record of was Willie Gordon who was secretary and treasurer up to 1950, when a meeting was held in September 1950 and Fred Mulvaney was elected President, Masel Brown Secretary-Treasurer and El C. Goodwin, Ora Ritter, and Dayton Crutchfield as the three trustees. The next selection of officers was in July 1960 after Mr. Brown had passed away, when Eugene Mulvaney was named Secretary-Treasurer. Otis Brown, James Hanks, El C.

Goodwin and Ora Ritter became the four trustees. As of this time those named above are the present officers.

In 1930 one and three fourths acres was deeded to the cemetery by Pinkey A. Hanks, better known as Gus. Again in 1958 three fourths acres was obtained from Masel Hanks, thus making the cemetery larger and sufficient for many years of burials.

With the organization and interest by so many people, the Phillips Cemetery is maintained and kept in good condition entirely by donations. Each year there are many burials and on Memorial Day, many relatives come from far and near to decorate the graves and pay their respect to their loved ones who have passed on.

SMITH CEMETERY

As of October 1970, we were able to decipher the following from gravestones in Smith Cemetery which has been located for at least one hundred and thirty years in Section 2, Omega Township, on land purchased from the Government by Robert D. Smith in 1841; now on farm land owned and operated by Otis Brown:

1. "James Sen. Craig; Born June 1 1784, Died Sept. 7, 1843"
2. "Savillah Craig, Wife of James Sen.; Born Jan. 18, 1787, died April 17, 1853"
3. "Julia Washburn, Daughter of I. T. and M. Washburn; Died Aug. 6, 1848"
4. "Robert D. Smith; Died May 29, 1888"
5. "Catherine Smith, Wife of Robert; Born Feb. 7, 1803, Died; Sept. 30, 1846"
6. "Maria Smith, Wife of R. D. Smith; Born; April 5, 1803, Died; Dec. 23, 1879"
7. "John (H) Smith, Son of Robert

and Catherine; Died July 1, 1849"

8. "Mary C. Smith, Wife of H. H.; Born Jan. 12, 1825; Died June 19, 1863"
9. "Infant son of J. H. and M. C. Smith"
10. "Lodosky H. Smith, wife of William C.; Born October 17, 1824 Died March 28, 1869"
11. "Marlin Smith; Died August 3, 1877"
12. "Sarah Ann Smith, wife of Marlin; Born March 21, 1817; Died March 25, 1888"
13. "M. V. Smith; Born July 27, 1837 (date of death not identifiable)"
14. "Sarah Smith, wife of M. V. Smith; Born June 12, 1841, Died Aug. 7, 1896"
15. "Henry Mulvaney; Born Jan. 23, 1821; Died March 19, 1894"
16. "Catherine Mulvaney, wife of Henry; Born Dec. 13, 1828, Died; Oct. 15, 1896"
17. "Mary J. Mulvaney, daughter of Henry and Catherine; Died May 16, 1857"
18. "Susannah Mulvaney, wife of George W.; Died Oct. 9, 1857"
19. "James B. Charlton; Born March 13, 1803, Died; Feb. 8, 1878"
20. "Arena Charlton; Born; Nov. 9, 1819, Died; Jan. 6, 1874"
21. "Catherine F. Pyles; Died; October 1872"

We think there were not many other burials than the twenty-one here listed. Thus it appears that the earliest was that of James Craig in 1843, and the last burial may have been that of Catherine Mulvaney in 1896. We wonder about George W. Mulvaney, husband of Susannah and the other of the two Mulvaney brothers who reportedly are the ancestors of all of our Omega Mulvaney. An interested search may find him in another cemetery beside his second wife.

From the diligent inscriptions on modest little slabs of stone, one can assume that this plot was revered and cared for in those fifty-three years.

Each of us may draw his own vision of human history from this tiny documentation. As for us whose roots are as surely implanted in this soil as the brambles that take nourishment over the mortal earth of little Julia Washburn, we need to know little more than this to weep anew for each of these, and to conjure volumes about their adventures, their joys and their hopes, hopes even for us.

OMEGA SESQUICENTENNIAL BOOSTERS

On March 21, 1973, twenty hail and hearty people met at the Omega Township Hall, not knowing exactly what was before them but brave enough to look ahead. Led by Robert Wright into the unknown they took up the challenge and dug down deep into their pockets and spare time, and began making plans to enter the Marion County and Salem Sesquicentennial Celebration.

The Omega Sesquicentennial Township Boosters were born and as infants all we had was a plan to grow. Funds were nonexistent, so the plan of order looked like this: Pie Supper, Float Building, Bake Sale, Historical Day, Queen Contest, Flag designing, Ham and Bean Supper and a historical book of Omega Township. Results were successful and satisfying. The pie supper netted \$378.00, the float won only our own admiration and pride, and the bake sale brought in \$58.00. Historical Day Aug. 19, was attended by approximately 500 people we gained \$223 dollars. The Queen contest entered

by seven girls netted \$300.00 and the Ham and Bean supper Sept. 22, was attended by 500, and a profit of \$275.00. Finally with great pride, this publication.

On January 16, 1974 a new name was adopted and we became the Omega Township Boosters. New officers were elected and the Homecoming will become an annual affair.

Some people measure success by money, if so then the Omega Boosters have been successful. We measure by our meeting once a month, that friends and neighbors can look forward to, give up their T. V. program for, going to a cold drafty townhouse for some hot coffee, homemade cookies and a couple hours of planning for our community, for our future or for history.

This picture represents three firsts, Our first General Chairman Mr. Robert Wright, Our first Queen Miss Brenda Jones, and Our first flag, designed by Mrs. Letha Rose and made by Mrs. Pauline Chapman, Mrs. Elsie Rose, and Mrs. Geraldine Hanks.





THIS GLITTERING FLOAT from Omega township was one among 25 outstanding creations entered in the parade, with the Omega Township Queen, Miss Brenda Jones, waving at the crowds. In this float, Forbes Lake is given the name it should have had from the beginning -- Omega Lake -- with the citizens of Omega

justifiably taking pride in the 350,000 visitors attracted to the area during a year's time. Most outstanding representation from the townships in the Salem-Marion county Sesquicentennial observance came from Omega township.



Bob & Brenda



Omega Flag



The 1973 Townhouse and Omega Township Boosters



ARNOLD FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Issac Arnold of Omega Township, pictured with eight of their nine children, one son, John Loris of St. Louis was not present for the picture. Mr. Arnold came to Illinois from Indiana when a small boy with his parents, John W. and Nancy Jane Wooten Arnold, grew to manhood and January 8, 1902 married Elsie V. Smith, daughter of John Curtis and Alice Clementine Hanks Smith also of Omega Township.

They bought and cleared the land that was to be their home for over fifty years. They built a house and as their family grew and more room was needed other rooms were added. They had nine children, all still living. They are Mason (Jake) and Charles of Iuka, Illinois, and Fred of Onarga, Illinois, George of Salem, Illinois, Ina Perry of Ivesdale, Illinois, Frank of Iuka, Illinois, Annabelle Perry of Bement, Illinois, and Everett of Salem, Illinois.

This picture was taken 27 years ago at a birthday dinner held each September in honor of Mr. Arnold's birthday, with neighbors, friends and relatives gathering with well filled baskets for a day of fellowship and dinner at the noon hour. Their biggest joy in their latter years was company and everyone was always welcome into their home. Mr. Arnold died, February 10, 1953, at the age of 82 and Mrs. Arnold died, Aug. 13, 1966 at the age of 83. Both are buried in Lovell's Grove Cemetery.





John Tucker Baker



Amy Southward Baker

JOHN TUCKER BAKER

John T. Baker married Amy Mabel Southward February 11, 1906. In 1907 they purchased 80 acres and made many improvements.

John T. worked for Ragon and Tate in the timber as a very young man until the time he was married, then worked part time on the highway and farmed. During the winter he did custom sawing with a gasoline powered wood saw. He served on the Siloam School Board for many years.

Sons - Leon, of Iuka, Dean of Kimmunity, daughters, Lena (Hays) and Lesta (Alderson) of Salem, Dorris (Neal) of Watson.

Leon married Fanny Mulvaney - 8 sons and 3 daughters

Dean married Fern Monical - 2 daughters

Eva married Don Yates

Phyllis married Larry Ritter

Dorris married Ivory Neal - 2 sons - Harold and Gerold

Lesta married Floyd Alderson - 2 daughters - Sandra and Sue

Lena married Irving Hays

John T. had 17 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren.

He passed away May 5, 1966. Amy passed away October 24, 1955.

LEANDER BAKER

Leander Baker and Florence Schooley Baker with two small sons came to Omega from Shoals, Indiana in the year 1879. Five daughters were born here in Omega Township. Florence passed away shortly after the birth of her last daughter. The two younger girls were then raised in foster homes.

Though he never became a land owner, he contributed much to the development of the community with his skill as a sawmill operator and owner, furnishing building material for homes and farm buildings.

Leander Baker died 1935 in Walnut Hill, Marion County.

Their sons were Lew and John T., daughters Jesse (Glasco), Mary (Garen), Mina (Deadmond), Alma (Turner), Gertrude (Powell).

LEW B. BAKER

Lew B. Baker married Maye Ravens. They had three sons, Hollis, John, and Frank.

Hollis married Rochelle Innman. Their daughter, Laura Brooks and her two children, Douglas and Connie live in Centralia.

John married Thelma Brubaker. Their son Eugene married Twilla Kenley. They have two children, Donald and Mona and live in Sandwich, Illinois.

Frank married Jessie Campbell. They have one son John and live in Louisville, Kentucky.

LEON BAKER

Times have changed quite a bit since Leon and Fannie Mulvany Baker began raising their family over 40 years ago. Both were raised within five miles of each other but did not meet until about 1928. Baker attended Siloam Grade School and a three year high school in Iuka. He was born August 27, 1909 the son of John T. and Amy Southward Baker in the Siloam area. Fannie attended Brown Country school but was unable to attend high school so she could help care for her eleven younger brothers and sisters. She was born October 23, 1912 the eldest child of Andrew and Jessie Jones Mulvany.

Leon and Fannie met at a Country party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mulvany and started dating readily. After their marriage December 23, 1930 they lived the first six months with Bakers parents.

Their first home was near the Frog Pond School which is now part of Stephen Forbes State Park. The Bakers purchased their furniture after selling their 1930 Ford Coup which he bought for \$550.00. Moving was a problem since it was done by horse and wagon.

The Bakers settled on a 40 acre farm formerly owned by P. A. and Nettie Wolff in the Shadden School District. They purchased the land in 1941 but moved to Brownstown, Illinois in 1944 and rented a place on the Stine Farm. In 1947 they returned to their present location bringing with them a tractor to help them with the farming.

All but one of their eleven children were born in the family home by traveling country doctors. The delivery fee was a mere \$25.00 for most of their children. It was nothing for a doctor to come

through high creeks and hip deep mud and ice to make a delivery. Their children are: Ula Mae born Feb. 11, 1931 married Marvin Mueller Oct. 6, 1951 and are the parents of Connie, Colleen, and Carl. Robert Lee born Sept. 24, 1934 died July 1950. Laurence Melvin born March 11, 1935 married Louise Wyant May 19, 1956 and they are the parents of Larry and Lyle. Everett Edwin born Nov. 11, 1937 died Dec. 21, 1960. Rose Marie born Jan. 1, 1939 married Rev. Glen Hawkins April 8, 1962 they are the parents of Mark and David. Velma Lucille born Jan. 1, 1941 married Robert Burkett and they are the parents of Janet, Beverly, and Robert. Eldred Gene born May 19, 1943 married Ethel Arnold Nov. 7, 1964 and they are the parents of Jeffery and Shelly. Dale Howard born Nov. 2, 1945 married Faye Ann Silvey July 4, 1970 and they are the parents of Jason. Gale Leroy born Dec. 2, 1948 married Caryle Steinlicht Dec. 22, 1968 they are the parents of Barbara and Michael. Gary Leon born Dec. 4, 1951 married Doris Hiestand April 4, 1970 and they are the parents of Sheri. James Oliver born July 16, 1954 is not married.

Part of the older children can remember walking 3/4 mile to the Shadden School until it consolidated with the Iuka Grade School. All the children graduated from Salem Community High School.

The family attends Lovell Grove Christain Church where Leon and all eleven children have been baptized.

The Bakers have farmed throughout their lives and as a result three of their six living sons are farmers. Up until two years ago the family still milked a few cows and sold the milk and also made their own butter. To

them farming has been a good life and there is no better place to raise a large family like a farm.

GARY BAKER

The Gary Baker family lives on the former Will Shaffer Place located nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Omega on the curve, owned and farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph R. Hiestand. The old farmhouse is now gone but the barn, which is held together by numerous wooden pegs, still stands and is in much use. The Hiestands (Mrs. Bakers parents) purchased the land a few years after their marriage in 1933 when the going rate for land was \$21.00 per acre. The Bakers live in a mobil home and have also added a hog barn to the farm.

Gary and Doris both grew up on farms so country living was no new experience to them. Gary grew up in the Shadden area and has helped farm since he was about 10. Doris grew up on a farm near Brubaker and learned to drive a tractor about the age of 12. It was nothing to see her taking a Sunday afternoon stroll on an International H, in fact, this is how Gary first remembers her, as being quite a tomboy. Occasionally she would drive, to haul in hay.

Gary the seventh son of Leon and Fannie Mulvany Baker was born December 4, 1951 in Salem Memorial Hospital, the only one of their eleven children to be born in a hospital. His brothers are: Robert (deceased), Everett (deceased), Laurence, Gene, Dale, Gale, and Jim. His sisters are: Mrs. Marvin (Ula Mae) Mueller, Mrs. Glen (Marie) Hawkins, and Mrs. Robert (Velma) Burkett. Being from such a large family, work was nothing new because times were hard. Farming had

been a family heritage being passed from father to son.

Doris is the only daughter of Ralph and Gladys Rose Hiestand was born February 5, 1952 in Salem Memorial Hospital and adopted by her parents very shortly after. In fact she came home as early as any new born infant. The Hiestands live on a farm near Brubaker and have enjoyed the convenience of a small store that was run for many years by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Thompson later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Duke. Ralph and Gladys both came from a line of farming families and tried to instill the love for the soil in their daughter, hoping she would choose to marry a farmer, so they would have the son they had always wanted to help farm.

Doris and Gary both attended grade schools nearest their homes then graduated in 1970 from Salem Community High School where they had met at the end of their freshman year. They soon began dating and continued until their marriage April 4, 1970 at the United Methodist Church in Alma with the Rev. Glen Hawkins (Brother-in-law of the groom) officiating.

On December 1, 1970 the Bakers were joined by a beautiful black headed baby girl whom they named Sheri Jo. She has added much joy to their life, and they too hope she will choose to marry a farmer, so the family tradition can be carried on.

The Bakers love the farm, Gary is engaged in farming with his father-in-law, as well as, raises a few hogs. Doris is employed as a secretary at the Illinois Natural History Survey near Forbes State Park. This year, 1973, the Bakers have purchased their own first 70 acres of America.

GEORGE BEARD

George and Matilda (Neal) Beard came from Murray County, Tennessee in 1840 and settled in White County, Illinois for two years. They then came to Skillet Fork, Omega Township. The records show eight children came with them. Some of these children were married when they came here. The children were Thomas, Rebecca (Farriss), William, Andrew, John W. Joseph, Mary (Smith) Sally (Turtine) and Margaret. Margaret lived to be almost one hundred years old. Some still remember her as "Aunt Peg".

William settled at the Ralph Eagan site and had six children. One child Elijah G. (Uncle Greene) married and had four children, Charley, John, Alice and Mary. Charley, who lived in Omega Township most of his life, married Etta Smith. They had four children, Floyd, Edith, Lois and Cleo. John had four children Eva, Ernest, Frank, and Willie. Ernest had six children, Bill, Frank, Darrell, Gerald, Everett and Margie. Bill lives at Vandalia, Illinois. Frank lives near Salem. Darrell is deceased and Gerald lives near Salem. Margie married Robert Wright and they live in Omega Township. They have two sons, Robert Allen, and Merle Lee. Robert Allen is married and lives in Omega Township.

Alice (Smith-Sipes) lived in the Omega area most of her life. Mary, who was deaf and mute, never married and lived most of her life with Alice (Smith-Sipes).

Thomas settled in the Siloam area and had nine children. A son Martin, was the father of Lex Beard who has lived many years in this area.

Joseph located on the Marion Clay County line. One son was

known as "Colonel Jim". Mary married Major Smith and lived northwest of Shadden school. Andrew lived on the late John Baker farms and part of the family was buried on the same place.

Five of these descendants served in Co. E, 111th Regiment in Illinois Volunteers during the Civil War. They were George Beard, William H. Beard, James W. Beard, Joaob Beard and George H. Beard.

John W. married Emily Butts, and they had ten children: George T., William L., John M., Andrew J., Hugh E., Mary E. (Keller) James T., Martha Adeline (Slagley-Vandever) Herschel A. (Rogers), and Elizah LeRoy (Lee). John, Emily and all their children are buried at Shadden Cemetery.

George T. was born in White County. He served with the Illinois Volunteers, Co. E., 111th Regiment during the Civil War. He was with Sherman during the battle of Atlanta. He married Mahalia Ann Vickery and they have seven children: Drusella (Beard) Marion L. (Reedie), Thomas L., John Scybert (Cy), George William (Bill), Luther B., and Leslie A..

Drusella married Francis Beard and lived their lifetime in Omega Township. Thomas L. married Annie (Aunt Pink) Morris. He lived most of his life in Omega Township. George William never married and lived his lifetime in Omega Township. The family of George T. Beard are all buried at Shadden Cemetery, with the exception of Drusella, who is buried at Clack Cemetery.

Marion L. had two daughters Margaret, who married Clyde Smith and Maude, who married Loren Middleton. Margaret had three daughters Melba, Imogene (Anderson) and Betty (Mulvaney). Maude had six children; Ruth, who died in

infancy. Genevive (John) Nadine (Moore), Marion, Thurston, Harold Van, and Lowell Vern, Maude and Loren Middleton have lived in Omega Township their lifetime. Maude passed away in 1972. Loren taught school for many years at Shadden and Siloam schools and he still lives in Omega Township. Marion Thurston living several years in Omega Township, recently moving to Salem.

Luther B. married Nellie Evaline Rogers and they had five children: Archie, Verl, Ruth and Tillman (both died in infancy) and Pansy (Mulvaney). Luther and Eva lived in Omega Township their entire life where he was a farmer. They were married almost sixty four years before the death of Luther.

Archie married Ula Middleton and they still live in Omega Township. Archie is a farmer and sells insurance. Ula is a former school teacher who taught school at Shadden and Possum Trot. They have two children, Austin of Texas and Ola (Chapman) of Omega Township.

Verl married Iva Neal and farmed in his earlier years. They lived on the Marion Clay County Line for several years before they moved to Salem where they still reside. They have two sons, Jerry and Edward. Jerry and his family have made a home of the old Shadden school.

Pansy married Clyde Mulvaney and they have six children Shelby, Jean (Clark), Donald Ray, Darrell Lee, Carol, Carolyn (See) and Clyde Lindell. Pansy and Clyde have lived most of their married life in Marion County.

Leslie A. married Winona Long. They farmed and lived their entire life in Omega Township. They had six children George, John, Karl, Florence, Bryan and a daughter who died in

infancy. Leslie and Winona were married almost fifty years.

George married Vera Warren. George farms and they ran a small grocery store for several years. They have three sons, Gene, Glen, and Gail. John deceased, never married and farmed in Omega Township his entire life. Karl married Velma Rogers and they have lived in Salem all their married life. They both worked at Brown Shoe Company many years. Florence never married and has lived in Salem for several years. Bryan, deceased, lived his life at home.

John Scybert married Stella Grundwell and they had seven children, Claude, Robert, Thelma (Iwing) and Velma (Ladd), Helen (LaFleur) Alice and Scybert, who both died young. Claude, Thelma and Velma all live in Florida, Robert in Mexico and Helen in Rockford, Illinois.

SHADDEN

From the beginning of this century until World War I, that part of Omega Township which lies east of Skillet Fork Creek was called the Shadden District and this is the area where Archie Beard has lived since he was six years old.

In the early days when watermills were in operation there was one located on Skillet Fork near the section line 34 and 35. It was owned and operated by John Onstott. This was probably in operation prior to the Civil War.

The Shadden Cemetery is located in the S. E. Quarter of Section 25. There is no record of just when this cemetery was started. Like many other old cemeteries a number of graves are not marked. The ones that are there, show names like, Butler, Moore, Howe, Bird, Shadden, Tate, Wantland, Beard, Cole, Lewis, Fowler,

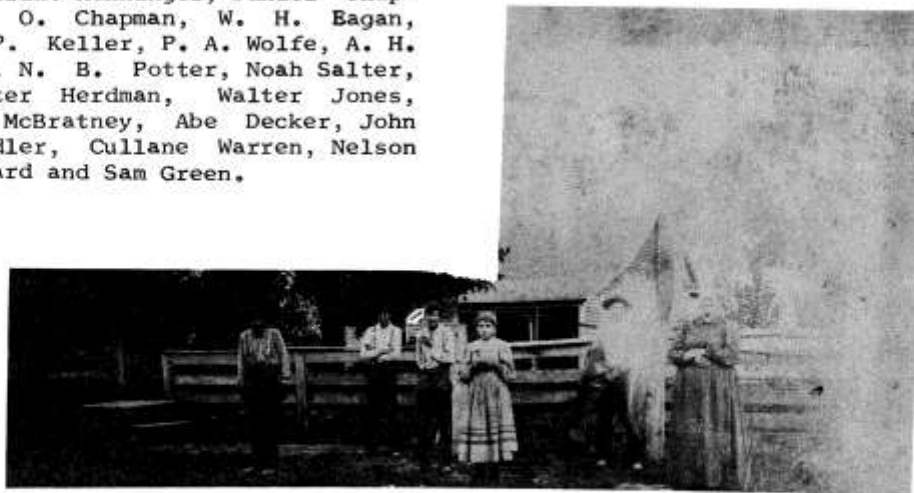
Smith, and in the later addition, McCall, Crundwell, Bradley, Littrell, Bartley, Linder, Heninger, Hillyer, Simer, Rogers, Slagley, Keller, and Morris. There is one family having some six generations buried there.

Going back to a plat book, of 1892, we find family names as land owners, Chris Mulvaney, S. Bennett, Fred Songer, J. Whitman, W. L. Beard, Thom Kennedy, M. B. Morris, Wm. Keller, John W. Harrell, Ellen Blair, C. M. Chasteen, C. G. Smith, Robert Spiegel M. M. Chasteen, E. M. Wantland, Solomon Shadden, McCarty, Gillmare Littrell, and S. Ray.

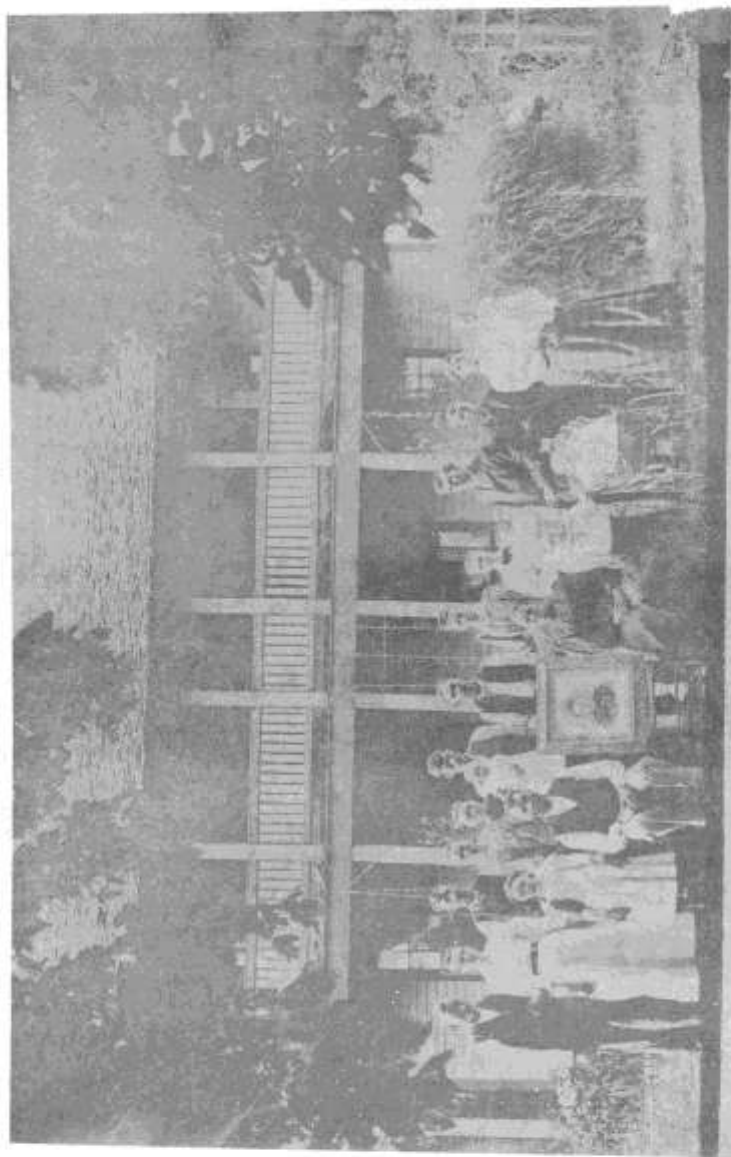
Within the last fifty years many changes occurred and most of the family names mentioned above are gone from the area.

This area is wooded land with the exception of a small part on the county line, near a creek which is quite hilly.

Other names Archie Beard remembers are, John Brown, Charlie Beard, Green Beard Littrell, O. Wantland, E. Littrell, Steve Terry, Brint Henninger, Daniel Chapman, O. Chapman, W. H. Bagan, L. P. Keller, P. A. Wolfe, A. H. Tate, N. B. Potter, Noah Salter, Chester Herdman, Walter Jones, Sam McBratney, Abe Decker, John Chandler, Cullane Warren, Nelson Buzzard and Sam Green.



George T., Leslie A., G. W. (Bill), Nell, Luther, Mahala Ann
(Note the buggy platform to the left of picture)

[illegible]



James R. & Mary E. Brown
Dec. 18, 1890



Masel & Verna Brown
July 2, 1916



James Rand & Flossie Wilkinson
Oct. 24, 1918

JAMES R. BROWN

James R. Brown was born Oct. 9, 1862 in Clark County Illinois. His parents moved to Cumberland County. In 1889 while still a single man he came to Omega Township, Marion County. He bought 40 acres in Section 11 Omega Township. He brought with him a team of horses, wagon, walking plow, wood frame harrow, grain binder, one cow and some hand tools.

He boarded with the Charles Jones family who operated a sawmill nearby. In the next year he built a three room frame house a log barn and started clearing the land. He later bought more land in Section 14 and 12. The land was all undeveloped timber land. On Dec. 18, 1890 he was married to Mary Elvira Mulvaney who was a native of Omega Township. They had 4 children, one died in infancy and Otis Carl the youngest died at age 14. Masel Floyd Brown married Verna Hickox July 2, 1916. Verna's parents were deceased and she was raised by her uncle, E. C. Goodwin and her grandmother who came to Omega Township from Jasper County. Masel and Verna had three children Ethel Lorene, Freda Leola, Otis Merle. Masel was a farmer and lifetime resident of Omega Township. He passed away in 1960. His wife Verna still resides at their home in Section 11. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Morrow (Ethel Lorene) established a home in Section 30. Ralph Morrow was killed by lightning in 1950. Ethel Lorene Morrow resides at the home of her mother Verna Brown in Section 11. They had two daughters Mrs. Colleen Osborne and Mrs. Paulette Bray. Both reside elsewhere since their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Woodward (Freda Leola Brown) reside in Section 12 with their two sons Randy and Ronnie at home.

Otis Merle Brown was married to Betty Lou Schirr, Sept. 16, 1953. They established their home in Section 1. They have four children: Deborah (Mrs. Dennis Keen) who resides in Section 2, with one daughter Misty Marie. Janet, Dena and Steven are all children at home. Flossie Bell Brown was married to James R. Wilkinson Oct. 24, 1918. They established a home in Omega Township Section 11. James was born in Meacham Township. They had five children: Maraladene Louise, Eldora Jane, Wayne Leon, two died in infancy. James R. Wilkinson, died April 16, 1964. Flossie resided at their home until 1973, when she established residence with her daughter Mrs. Don Huddlestun (Maraladene). Mr. and Mrs. Don Huddlestun and two sons Gary and Larry are residents of Omega Township Section 3. Wayne Wilkinson established a home elsewhere in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Wagoner (Eldora) had one son Melvin, who established a home elsewhere in Illinois.

OKLAHOMA

A small village was once established in Section 11 of Omega Township. It was called Oklahoma. It consisted of a store, a large sawmill operation with five dwellings in the immediate area. It is unknown when or who established the village. During 1898 and years later Mr. Charles Jones was owner and operator. He rented the dwellings, presumably to families of the men who worked at the mill. He sold the property to a Mr. Johnny Rogers. Later, after some of the building had been destroyed by fire, Mr. Rogers sold the property to Bill English who then sold it to R. Brown.

The home of Mrs. Verna Brown is in part the original dwelling.



Daniel Chapman left, and Tobe Rogers to the right living their entire lives in Omega Township and Siloam neighborhood. They also played in a band together in the Civil War and fought together, also.



Uncle Dan Chapman on his 90th birthday playing his fife which he enjoyed playing very much.



AUNT MARY COPPLE

This picture of Mrs. Gorham (Aunt Mary) Copple was taken May 28, 1944 at the home of her nephew Ellis Sill, at a family gathering.

Mr. and Mrs. Copple, ran the General Merchandise Store of Omega, for many years.

Their store was the meeting place for customers to trade, as the farmers brought their eggs, cream, poultry and products to sell. Much visiting was done at Copple's Store, as the men like to gather there through the winter months. Many yarns and ideas were spun around the old pot belly stove. The big gray coffee pot sit up on top and everyone knew they were welcome to a steaming cup of coffee.

Their credit book was open to all and when the bill was paid the children got a free sack of candy. That was long before the Super Market came into being.

Mrs. Copple ran a rooming house and sat the table, where the drummers sometimes stayed, known now in modern times as Salesmen.

The school teachers of Omega School roomed there through the winter months.

The two roomed store and residence was at the crossroads where Hugo Wagoners garage is now.

Their adopted son Charley Copple, wife Etta, and grandson Cleo, was their great joy. Mr. Copple, Sr. was crippled all his life.

This picture was furnished by Mrs. Copple's neice Mrs. Gladys Lacey.

THE EBLIN FAMILY

Near the south entrance to the courthouse in Salem is a plaque with four names of Revolutionary War Veterans that are buried in Marion County. One of the names is that of Samuel Ebelen.

Samuel Ebelen was born in 1755 in Virginia. He was a restless sort and moved from Virginia to east Tennessee, first Roan County, then to Knox County. Still dissatisfied, he moved with his young son, John Walker Eblin to Marion County, Illinois.

John Walker Eblin was born in 1802 in Tennessee. He and his wife moved to Marion County in 1822 or 1823 when his father, Samuel, came to Illinois.

Franklin Young Eblin (Better known as "Doc") was the seventh of eight children born to John Walker Eblin. Some time between Samuel Ebelen and Franklin Young Eblin the spelling was changed. The reason is not now known. "Doc" was 18 when he married Sarah Ann Hill in 1867. When Sarah was just a baby, her father was a victim of a feud in the hill country of Kentucky. One night Mr. Hill answered a knock at his door and was shot. The young widow was preparing to leave when another shot went through the cradle that Sarah was sleeping in. The Hill's moved west and settled in Marion County.

"Doc" and Sarah had two children, Minnie and Willie John Eblin. Willie John married Laura Olive Weems. They had five children, Opal (Eblin) Nichols, George, Leslie, Noble and Carl. Leslie lived at home with his parents until he married Mamie Branson in 1929. For a few years they continued to live near his parents.

In 1937 Leslie and Mamie Eblin bought the general store in Omega owned by Virgil and Bertha

See. They moved from Romine Township to Omega and lived in rooms above the store which was in the Copple Building.

In 1944 Leslie bought property just north of Omega and built a home where they still live. In 1946 he had a block building put across the road and moved the store.

During the 1940's and 1950's it was not unusual to buy 100 cases of eggs and 10 or 12 - 10 gallon cans of cream on the weekend. Most of this work was done at night from about nine o'clock until mid-night. This was also a gathering place for farmers to spend the evening loafing and visiting.

Leslie put a television in the store in 1952. At that time there weren't many in Omega Township. The children gathered on Saturday morning for "Little Rascals" and cartoons. The grown-ups came on Saturday night to watch wrestling. How times change!

Leslie's father passed away in 1945. He then built a small house near his own for his step-mother, Georgia, and step-sister, Letha. They lived there until 1952. Letha married Clyde Rose and they bought the little house. The house was moved near their farm home in Omega Township. Georgia still lives there.

Leslie and Mamie have four children.

Geneva, was born in 1931 and married Don Anderson. They live in Centralia. Don was born in 1933, married Edna Neff. They live in Salem. George, was born in 1940, he married Joyce Weems and they live in Downers Grove. Sharon Sue was born in 1945, married Dick Vollbracht, and lives in Clayton. A son, Gerald was born in 1936 and died in 1937.

In 1969 Leslie sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Mulvaney. The Eblins have been operating the

"Salem Feed Store" in Salem since 1970.

GEORGIA KEPLEY MEDDER EBLIN

Georgia Kepley Medder Eblin, better known in this community as Grandma Georgia, was born March 20 1898 in Brynville, Indiana. As a young child was moved to Springfield, Illinois. At the age of 15 she came to Romine Twp. by covered wagon with her father, stepmother, two sisters, and one brother. They endured the weather and the roads for 16 rainy days. They left Divernon, Thanksgiving Day 1913 and made their first campfire, Dec. 11, in Hinder's Woods south of Iuka.

The mud was so deep they had to take rails and push the mud out of the wagon spokes so that the horses might pull the wagon a bit farther. All of them walked all of the way. On this side of Morrisonville, they unloaded the anvil and forge and a Bog Morning Glory Gramophone. They intended to return and pick them up later but never did.

At the age of 17, July 18, 1915 she married Leonard Medder, who was born May 18, 1891 in Omega, Illinois. His father Beverly Medder worked for Mr. Copple who owned the general store. Katherine Medder took care of the rooming house for Mrs. Copple and Katherine's brother Tom Suddeth had a barber shop in town.

Leonard and Georgia were blessed with seven children, Gladys Medder, Marguarite Spear, Louise Donoho, and Letha Rose, and three died as infants.

In 1932 Leonard was killed in a tragic hunting accident. Four years later Georgia married William John Eblin, Nov. 10, 1936. They lived on a farm south of Iuka for nine years, until his death on August 4, 1945. In 1948 Grandma Georgia moved back to Omega from

St. Charles, Illinois and for a short time rented rooms from Valeria Schooley.

There were a passel of youngin's in Omega at that time and we're sure most of them will remember that they too lovingly referred to her as Grandma Georgia. She evoked love from those around her because she always had so much of it to give. A good Christian woman who has always looked to God first for the answers.

She now resides near her daughter on a farm southwest of Omega and considers Omega as her home.

She is 75 years young and has 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grand children.

"And everyone still calls her Grandma Georgia".



Demaris Catherine Goodwin
(Article next page)

E. C. GOODWIN

Eldridge Clinton (E. C.) Goodwin was born Dec. 17, 1883 in Jasper County, Illinois. In 1905 he purchased land in Sec. 23 of Omega Twp., Marion Co. and on Dec. 17 he established residence on it.

With him were his widowed mother, Demaris Catherine and two orphaned nieces, Verna and Lydia Hickox, for whom he and his mother were providing a home.

Lydia Hickox was married to Stanley Warren a native of Omega Twp.. They have resided in Omega Twp. and in Clay Co. since their marriage.

Verna Hickox was married to Masel Brown a native of Omega Township. They resided on a farm in Sec. 11 their entire married life.

On April 20, 1913 E. C. Goodwin was married to Edna Green a native of Omega Township. They had five children; Jason Brudett, Theo Iverne (Langreder), Orphia Kathleen (Outhouse), Lois Zenola (Austin) and Douglas Eugene.

During the time they were raising their family they sold their property in Sec. 23, and purchased more property in Sec. 3. Their children were all married and established homes outside the township. They all reside in Marion Co. except Theo Langreder who lives in Dixon, Illinois.

E. C. Goodwin served as assessor in Omega Twp. for fourteen years, starting in 1931. For many years he represented Ging Inc. of Farina, Ill. as redtop seed buyer serving Marion, Fayette and adjoining counties. Redtop seed was produced extensively as a cash crop in this area at that time. He developed a very broad scope of acquaintances within the area he served.

Demaris Goodwin spent the rest of her life in her son's

home. She passed away March 27, 1939 lacking a few days of attaining her 89th birthday. She was buried in Jasper County.

E. C. and Edna retired from their farm in 1957, and moved to Salem Illinois. Shortly afterward he sold his property in Omega Township. Edna passed away on Dec. 20, 1968 and was buried in Phillips Cemetery in Omega Twp..

E. C. Goodwin presently resides with his daughter, Orphia Outhouse in Salem, Illinois.

JOHN HANKINS FAMILY

Time and space will not permit us to record all of the trials and tribulations of the last three generations of the Hankins family, so we will condense it down to known facts and not include the debatable parts such as the strange weird stories of witches, ghosts, will-o'-the-wisps and the many other unusual things and happenings.

The first of this family to settle in Illinois was John Hankins and his wife Nancy. They were natives of Tennessee and settled on Hickory Creek in Fayette County at an early date, one of the first families to settle in that region. At that time there were no railroads or dirt roads as we know them now, in fact, the only roads were trails through the woods and across the prairies.

These early settlers were self sufficient people. They raised the grain for their bread and raised or hunted their meat. They sheared the sheep, washed and carded the wool, spun the yarn wove the cloth and made their own clothes. When more settlers had moved in the neighborhood, John Hankins started a small store or trading post, selling the few things that the settlers needed or had to have, most of which had to be hauled from St. Louis with team

and wagon. All cooking and heating was done with a fireplace. About this time a new-fangled iron stove with an oven came on the market. A neighbor asked John to bring him one of the new stoves from St. Louis. A few days after he received the stove he was in the store and told John that he did not like it, that it would not bake, and smoked awful. Well, John went over to see about the stove and they were building the fire in the oven.

John Hankins lived in Fayette County for several years and he was living there when the State House was built at Vandalia. He then moved with his wife and family, three boys and three girls, to what was known as the American Bottoms over near East St. Louis. There he raised produce for the growing St. Louis population. This produce had to be taken across the river by ferry boat as there was no bridge across the Mississippi River at that time. The first bridge was the Eads bridge which was not finished until 1874. At some date before the Civil War, John Hankins moved to St. Louis and went in business. After the war started John and his two sons, Richard and Thomas, enlisted in the Union Army, James, who was only fourteen, they would not accept. John the father, and Richard both lost their lives in the war. John was wounded, sent back to St. Louis where he died and was buried there.

While this country was engaged in the Civil War, Austria had sent an army and taken over Mexico and put Prince Maximilian on the throne. Now when the Federal Government saw it had the Civil War won, it detached some of the U. S. Troops and sent them to Mexico to help the Mexicans regain their freedom. The Sixth Missouri Cavalry to which Richard Hankins belonged was sent to Mexico, where

Richard was killed and is buried.

Thomas Hankins, at the age of sixteen, enlisted in the 97th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was with the Army of the West, first under General Grant and then under General Sherman. He was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain, Shiloh and many other battles, engagements and skirmishes.

When General Sherman started his march to the sea, through Georgia and the Carolinas, the 97th Infantry was detached from the main army and they, too, were started to Mexico. They were loaded on an old sailing ship and started across the Gulf. On the way across, the ship ran into a tropical hurricane and when the storm was over the ship was a wreck with the sails and mast blown away and had to be towed back to New Orleans.

When the war was over and Thomas Hankins was discharged from the army he came to Marion County to visit his sister who had married Roland Mattingly and was living in Iuka Township. While there he met and married Lizzie Hill, the daughter of a widow who had brought her family up from Kentucky after her husband was killed in a mountain feud. After farming and logging with oxen at Featherlys Mill for a few years he bought a team of mules from Alf Finn and with his wife and twin boys, went to Kansas in a covered wagon. He worked his team on the grading gang when they were building the Union Pacific Railroad, hauled freight from the railhead west to the towns that the R. R. had not yet reached, and was in Dodge City and Abilene when Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok were the law.

Those were turbulent times, with the cowboys driving their

cattle up from Texas and holding them on the prairies until they could load them on the railroad while the James Brothers, the Younger Brothers, and other desperados, gunmen, and gamblers were at large.

When part of the Indian Territory was opened for settlement, Thomas Hankins joined the land rush and staked out a claim built a house and moved his family in.

That fall, with some companions, he went down in the Territory to hunt buffalo for their winter meat, Thomas had just killed a buffalo when the Cavalry came and warned them that the Indians were threatening to go on the warpath.

On the 9th of June 1879 a tornado destroyed their home killing his wife and twin boys. After this tragedy and having difficulties with some of the rougher element of the population he returned to Marion County.

In 1881 Thomas Hankins was married to Elizabeth Fulfer, and they moved to a farm north of Oskaloosa, in Clay County. After one year of farming, which was a complete crop failure, they moved to Moultrie County, in the vicinity of Arthur. There he farmed until 1895 when he moved to the village of Cadwell where for the next 16 years he ran at various times a general store, a restaurant and the postoffice.

In 1911 the wanderlust hit again and he moved back to Marion County, this time to Omega Township, where he bought a farm in the Lostfork Creek bottoms which is now part of the Omega Lake. There he lived until July 1, 1926 when he died at the age of eighty years. His wife Elizabeth (Fulfer) Hankins passed away March 22 1937, age 78. Their oldest son William Hankins followed them in death May 1, 1957 age sixty seven.

Their other son, Freddie Hankins is a W. W. I Veteran and lives in Omega.

JAMES STEWARD HANKS

Steward Hanks, son of Nicholas and Kassinda Anderson Hanks, was born in Warrick, County, Indiana August 14, 1851. When he was 2 years old the family moved to Omega Township, Marion County Illinois and settled in Section 2. Some of Nicholas Hanks family had already settled in Marion County prior to this time. (Nicholas A. Hanks was born in 1799 in Kentucky. His father, William Hanks, was the brother of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln.)

Steward married Nancy Simmons and they became the parents of Lulu, Ollie, and Loyd. A tragic fire took the lives of Nancy and daughter Lulu. Steward then married Laura Monical Connely. She was the widow of Solomon Connely and brought a daughter Maude into the family. She and Steward had 2 sons, Fred and Guy. When her brother died, she and Steward took her nephew Charles Monical into the home.

Laura died in 1929 and Steward in 1942. Ollie married Maude Phillips. He died in Florida in 1911, Maude is also deceased. Loyd married Bessie Combs. He died in 1956 and Bessie died in 1971.

Fred married Eva Fogerson. They were the parents of six children, Dean, killed in W. W. II in France, Fleeta Alexander, Eileen Dye, Doyle, Louise Brady and Don. Fred died in 1952 and Eva in 1972.

Guy married Leona Oulrey. They were the parents of five children: Don, James, Virginia, Vera Carlson and Oulrey. Leona died in 1938. In 1947 Guy married Mayme Luttrell Basley, a widow with 2 children. Guy died

in 1973.

The Phillips Cemetery in Omega Township is the resting place of Steward Hanks, his parents, his wives, children, grandson and most of his brothers and sisters.



Back Row: Ollie Hanks, Charles Monical, Loyd A. Hanks
Second Row: Laura Monical Connolly Hanks, Maude Connolly, James Steward Hanks
Third Row: Fred Hanks, Guy Hanks

HANKS HISTORY

Loyd Oulrey Hanks, son of Guy and Leona Oulrey Hanks was born March 26, 1924, in Omega Township. He met and married Thelma Pauline Perry, daughter of Albert and Blanch Sill Perry, on February 26, 1948. To this union was born three sons: Dickie Ray Hanks, born May 4th 1949, Dannie Lee Hanks, born November 24, 1952 and David

Loyd Hanks born November 23, 1960. There are two grandchildren, Curtis Ray Hanks, son of Dickie Ray and Diane Gray Hanks and Nancy Ann Hanks, daughter of Dannie Lee and Debra Ann Randolph Hanks.

HENDERSON COVINGTON HENSLEY

Henderson Covington Hensley, came to Omega Township in 1837. It is believed he was born in Illinois. He married Susana Piles on April 22, 1838, in Marion County Illinois by Thomas L. Middleton. Family tradition has it that Henderson Hensley had the following brothers and sisters: Milton, Green, Polly and Samuel.

Children of Henderson Hensley and Susana Piles were: Mary Ann, Francis Marion, Harriet Milisey, Margaret Milinda, Louis Milton, William Coleman, Wesley Robert, Casey Henry and Albert. Casey Henry Hensley was born April 8, 1859, in Marion County Illinois. He was originally named Samuel after his father's brother but the name was changed to Henry after his mother's brother. It is believed he was named Henry Casey Hensley but always went by Casey or C. H. Hensley.

Mary Ann Hensley married John A. Phillips, a saw mill proprietor. She was born in 1842 in Marion County, Illinois.

Francis Marion Hensley was born February 2, 1843, in Omega. He married Martha M. Turner on April 31, 1865, in Greendale, Marion County, Illinois. His occupation was a shoemaker. He joined the 22nd Illinois Infantry, Company G during the Civil War, his rank was private. After the war he moved on to Jasper County Missouri where he died September 4, 1931. His children were W. R. Hensley, born May 27, 1873, Jesse L. Hensley born June 23, 1881, and Claude A. Hensley born February 10, 1884.

Harriet Milisey Hensley married Israel Phillips. Margaret Milinda Hensley married John Oshren. Wesley Robert Hensley married Louise Smith.

Casey Henry Hensley went to Arkansas and married there in March 1881 to Eliza Long. In his Bible, that is now in the hands of his son Marion, in Blackwell, Oklahoma has a notation: H. C. Hensley Sr. died May 18, 1901; Suckey Hensley born November 28, 1821, died April 27, 1895. Suckey was a nickname for Susana Piles Hensley. Henderson Hensley owned a farm about 1½ miles N. E. of Omega. He mined lime on his farm and tanned leather. In April 1875 he and his wife deeded a piece of land to a Mr. Middleworth.

Barbara (Hensley) Kloe believes the Hensley family moved away from Marion County, because her grandfather was born in Arkansas and her father in Missouri.

Nothing is known about the family of Susana Piles. There were Piles in Marion County during the same period but no direct link has been made.

PAUL JENKINS

It began about the middle of the 18th Century when the cabin home became too small for a family with four young sons.

So the new house began, around 1868. Just two rooms with a fireplace in the end. Soon another room was added and the boys grew into healthy mischievous youngsters.

Trips to town with team and wagon were few, taking the greater part of the day. The boys were left at home and while busy at play they let the fire go out. They were told if this happened again they would all get a "lick-in". Next trip the weather was colder but the boys let the fire go out. Then set the stage for a

warm reception. The kindling was carefully placed in the fireplace-wood piled high and to be sure of a good fire, they pushed hay down the flue with the help of a long pole. Time for their parents return, one boy sat on the roof watching. When they came into view, he yelled "light 'her up". When the parents saw the flames shooting skyward they whipped the horses into a run and arrived to find four innocent boys sitting by a roaring fire.

Kinfolks and friends who came by wagon load and horseback to attend church at Omega, would make their way to "This Ole House" for the noon meal. The long table was set and company always ate first. The boys took turns peeping in the window to see how things were going and after the second table full, you can imagine what one boy said when he saw the preacher take another piece of chicken.

The father passed away leaving a kind and loving mother in charge. The boys attended school and one of the boys was promised a whipping by the school master. Now mother just knew the school master was too strict and he hit too hard. Also her son probably did not deserve such action. So she carefully padded the boys back side. The next morning the teacher either forgot or had a feeling it would do no good so he did not keep his promise. The poor boy got so hot he had to go to the wood shed to remove his protection.

The boys grew up and left home, all but one who in 1888 brought his bride to "This Ole House". Another generation of three boys and one girl all attended school at Omega. The grandmother lived here except for a short time when she kept house for one of the sons until his marriage when she returned here to spend her last years.

Almost fifty years passed, when ill health caused the parents to move to Iuka and another generation took over. During that time more rooms had been added. There were now five children attending school at Omega. The grandparents came back when they were no longer able to care for themselves. It was here they passed away.

These five children left home. Peggy married Joe Medley. They have two children, Tom and Billy Jo. Tom married Sandra Appelt. Billy Jo married Robert Andres, and they have two children Bob Joe, and Peggy Jo.

Jack married Betty Wells and they had one son, Paul Ray. They were divorced then Jack married Doris Merriman. They had two children, Kathy and Karen Sue. Paul Ray, married Marilyn Moller and they have two children Michael Ray and Marci Dawn. Kathy and Karen Sue are not married.

Bill married Sandra Beyers, and they have one daughter Van.

Sandi married Ken Pinney. They have three children Kevin, Michele, and Keith.

Dickie Ray married Debbie Wood. They have two children Heath and Chad.

Two sons, two sons-in-law, and one grandson served our countries armed forces in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

These twelve rooms have really been blessed. The mother and father lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary as did their entire family - Noah, Leroy, Scott, and Ethel.

"This Ole House" is now home to Paul and Ethel Jenkins.

THE KELLERS OF OMEGA TOWNSHIP

John Phillip Keller, better known as Phillip Keller, came to Omega Township in 1869 from Milltown, Indiana with his wife Susan Jane Fortune Keller, better known

as Jane Keller, whom he married in 1850, and nine children, eight boys and one girl. Another boy and girl were born to this couple after coming to Illinois.

Phillip Keller was born in Lubeck, Germany in 1828 and was brought to this country in 1831 by his parents who settled near Milltown, Indiana. It was here that he grew up and married and established a home on a farm nearby. He was a farmer and wagon maker. Later in life he would repair clocks and Max Keller has some of his small tools which he used in his work.

In coming to Illinois Phillip purchased a farm in Section 24, which was one half mile south of where Possum Trot School was later built. However, at this writing (1973) Possum Trot School has long since succumbed to the town's consolidated school, and now there is no visible sign of there ever having been a one-room school at this site.

Phillip and his wife Jane lived on this farm throughout their life, Jane dying in 1905, Phillip in 1912. They were the parents of twelve children, one daughter dying in infancy and three sons dying from the ages of nine to nineteen. Eight of their children lived to be married and establish homes of their own.

1. William, the oldest (1851-1935) stayed single until after the death of his mother in 1905, then married Alice May Gahan (1875-1944) in 1906 and lived in Xenia, Illinois, a town nearby where he spent the rest of his life and is buried there. He raised a family of three daughters and two sons, Mildred (1908) and twins, Wanda and Wanita (1915) the three of which now live in Flora, Illinois. One son, Kenneth (1911) lives in New Mexico. The other son, Lawrence born in 1909 passed away in 1950.

2. John Nicholas Keller (1853-1942) married Mary Beard and four children were born of this union, three dying in infancy and one daughter at the age of sixteen years and single at the time of her death, thus no decendants. John had one of the first cars in the community, a Ford, which he bought new in 1916.

3. Frederick Charles Keller (1854-1921) married Louisa Whitman in 1876. They had two sons, Charles (1878-1961) and Elrah (1879-1953). Elrah never married. Charles married Josephine Potter in 1903 and to this union was born one son and two daughters. The son, Max Keller, and one daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Walkington, live in Omega now, the other daughter, Mrs. Vera Doolen, lives in Kimmunity, Illinois. It so happens that Max Keller is the only descendant of Phillip and Jane Keller that lives in Omega Township with the name of Keller. Fred Keller was a farmer and raised several chickens for egg production. He would also raise watermelons and cantaloupe just to give to friends and relatives, and he was a fox hunter.

4. Louis Phillip Keller (1856-1931) better known as Lute Keller, married Sarah Elizabeth Smith in 1878. They had three children namely Mary Cordelia (1879-1972) better known as Cordia William (1880-1971), Walter (1886-1927). Cordia married Noah Salters. They had three sons, Elmer, Verne and Clark, all of whom are deceased. William first married Bessie Sapp (1906) then later married Nora Copeland. William had four children, Raymond, Edna, Kelcie, and Guy, all of which are still alive. Walter married Frances Evalyn Beard (1908) who still survives. To this union was born three sons, Delbert, Merle, and Thomas and two daughters, Wilma and Ina. Wilma, Merle, and Ina still survive.

5. Clement Greene Keller (1858-1935) better known as Clem married Mary Alice Stevens in 1883. They only had one daughter, Ella, (1884-1966) who married Walter Jones in 1904. He passed away in 1968. Twin sons were born to this union, Clyde and Clode, in 1906, both are still living. Clyde lives in Omega Township. Clem was a farmer but he also had a grist mill several years with which he did custom grinding of wheat and corn.

6. Franklin M. Keller (1861-1940) known as Frank, married Laura Beard. They had two boys, Earl (1887-1945) and Alva (1899) and one daughter named Ora (1890). Earl married and had one son, William. Alva married but had no children. He and his wife, Alice live in Royal Oaks, Michigan. The daughter Ora, married and had four children, two boys and two girls. Ora lives in Michigan. Frank was one who left this area and very seldom returned, lived and died in Michigan.

7. Mary A. Keller (1863-1944) known as Mollie, married Amp Rogers (1857-1931) and had one daughter, Myrtle and one son, Max (1903-1960). Myrtle married Albert Millican who became a minister. They were parents of one son and five daughters. Max never married. Myrtle and husband Albert and brother, Max are deceased, but, lived most of their lives in Omega Township.

8. Alora C. Keller (1870-1953) known as Lole, married Emery J. Rogers (1866-1951) and had two daughters, Grace (1895-1969) and Rose (1899-1966). Grace married Elmer Long of Omega Township and had one daughter who passed away in infancy. Rose married Claude Beard and had one son, Gene. Rose then married Clifford Fulfer and they lived in Omega Township until her death. Clifford is still alive.

Phillip Keller and four of his sons and two daughters were farmers and farmers wives and never left Omega Township, having lived and died within two miles of their home place. William only went as far as Xenia, Illinois which is, about six miles from where he was raised, and worked at public work. Frank married and lived in Omega Township a short time then moved to Taylorville, Illinois where he lived a few years then moved to Detroit, Michigan where he and his wife lived the rest of their lives. He worked as a carpenter and at public work. Both are buried in Michigan.

John Keller would tell how he and his father, Phillip, when going from Milltown to New Albany, Indiana by wagon would pass a Civil War Camp of Southern prisoners along the way and see the prisoners behind barricades with guards on the outside of the camp. Phillip owned a farm of one hundred fifty acres near Milltown and farmed as well as worked in a wagon factory in Milltown before coming to Illinois. At this time (1973) only six of Phillip Keller's grandchildren are living. Williams three daughters and one son and Franks one son and one daughter, none of which live in Omega Township.

The Kellers were typical early settlers, thrifty and independent. Some were of one political party and others of the opposite party and each firmly supported the party in which he believed. Some of them were avid fox hunters, especially Lute, who had prize fox hounds for fox chasing just for the sport or pastime and would frown on any one killing a fox, thus eliminating the chance of having the pleasure of their dogs chasing it on the next fox hunt.

Phillip and his wife Jane,

along with three of their sons who died young, namely Joseph, Sherman and George, are buried in Onstott Cemetery west of Xenia on Route 50. Those who lived and died in Omega Township are buried in Clack, Shadden, Lovell Grove, and Parker Cemeteries.

Before Rural Free Delivery, the Keller's would have to go to the town of Omega, which in early days had a Post Office to pick up their mail. This trip would probably only be made once a week in the winter time and in adverse weather conditions as they lived on the east side of Skillet Fork Creek.

After the B & O Railroad was laid and passenger trains were running, the people who lived in the south east part of Omega Township, as the Kellers did, would go to Greendale Station on the B & O to catch a train to travel out of the community such as going to the county seat at Salem, Illinois. This was almost too far a distance to travel by wagon especially with the good accommodations the railroads offered in those days.

The six children of Phillip and Jane Keller who grew to maturity and married and established homes and lived their lives in Omega Township contributed much to the growth of said community. Many of their grandchildren lived here and even some of their great grandchildren live here and are still citizens of this wonderful part of our country called Omega Township of Marion County, Illinois.

Picture of Jane Fortune Keller on the next page.



JANE FORTUNE KELLER

HAROLD AND SARAH SEAMAN KENLEY

The farm they now call home has been in the family for 72 years. Harold's grandfather Clayborn Sipes was born in Indiana in 1867 one of ten children (7 boys) Clayborne, Francis, Henry, Sherman, Burke, Riley, Louis, and (3 girls) Lizzie, Mag, and Kate.

Three of the boys Clayborne, Francis and Henry were all farmers in Omega Township. Clayborne married Cerilda Elzira Rhoton who was born in Tennessee in 1858. Four daughters came to bless their home, Ethel, Dillie, Ruth and Myrtle. Clabe bought 80 acres of land in Section 19 of Omega Township from Wade Lewis in 1901. A two room dwelling was built and two more rooms were added later. Clabe, as he was known was a believer in early to bed early to rise, which he practiced, and he also wanted everyone else in the house to do the same.

The girls all married and established their own homes. Ethel wed Newton S. Kenley (deceased, Jan. 28, 1963), Dillie wed Marshall Hiestand, Ruth wed Clyde Trout (deceased, Oct. 31, 1963). Myrtle wed Lester Yost (deceased June 6, 1964).

Cerilda passed away in 1927 and later Clabe married Alice Smith. He kept the 80 acres but they moved to her farm south of Omega. Her deaf mute sister Mary Beard made her home with them. Clabe passed away in 1942.

Harold and Sarah bought the 80 acres from the four sisters in August 1945.

Newton S. Kenley was born April 2, 1882 in Champaign County, Illinois and later lived in Alma Township. Newton Kenley and Mary Ethel Sipes (born Jan. 22, 1889) were married in 1908 and went to live on a claim in New Mexico. Mary Ethel now lives with a daughter Ruth in Boulder, Colorado.

Harold was born in Clovis New Mexico, September 1, 1908. One sister was born in New Mexico too, later they loaded up their belongings in a covered wagon and headed for Belleville, Kansas. "Newt" worked in the harvest along the way and Ethel did the cooking. Two more boys and two more girls were added to the family in Kansas.

Harold Kenley married Sarah Seaman June 8, 1935. They both grew up in Kansas. They had the roaming fever and went to Canastota, New York in 1936 and lived there for 9 years. Their four children, Twilla, Donald, Eugene, and Shirley, were born there. They moved to Wildomar, California in 1945, and lived there two years then Sarah and the children came back to Illinois to establish the home in 1947. Harold worked in California one more year then came to Illinois to join his family. They lost Donald in 1952 with

polio. Their other children are married and have their own homes. Mrs. Eugene R. Baker (Twilla) lives in Sandwich, Illinois and has two children Donald and Mona. Eugene E. Kenley, married Doris Richards, and lives in Hagarstown, Illinois. They have four children Donna, Kimberly, Mary, Jackie. Mrs. Francis Wantland (Shirley) lives in Plano, Illinois and has three children, Marty, Robby, and Theresa.

Harold and Sarah bought the forty acres joining them on the west in 1958 from George and Virdie Lennon.

When their family gathers at home they enjoy talking about the good times in the good old days.

KNISELEY FAMILY

Coming by way of Kentucky and Tennessee through the Ohio River, part of Old Shawnee Town were the families of George W. Kniseley (1807) and Daniel Lovell who with others of the same group settled in Omega Township. George W. and Nancy Lovell were wed and established a log cabin home in Section 18. Records show that the deed was made in Vandalia and Martin Van Buren was the President at that time.

To George W. and Nancy were born 5 sturdy sons: William, George A., John, Abraham, Jacob, and a daughter Powel who died quite young.

But, the exciting tales of gold in California, wheat fields in Kansas, and the cattle ranches of Oklahoma and Indian Territories lured these young Kniseleys (except George A. who remained with his parents in Omega Township) to the land of the farther west. Here they established homes and became successful and honored leaders. Though many miles away when transportation facilities were tedious and inadequate, they

made many trips back to tread their boyhood paths ----- as do their descendants today, as in early years they come, doctors, farmers stockmen, educators, business, and professional people --- folks in all paths of life, but in life all just plain "folks".

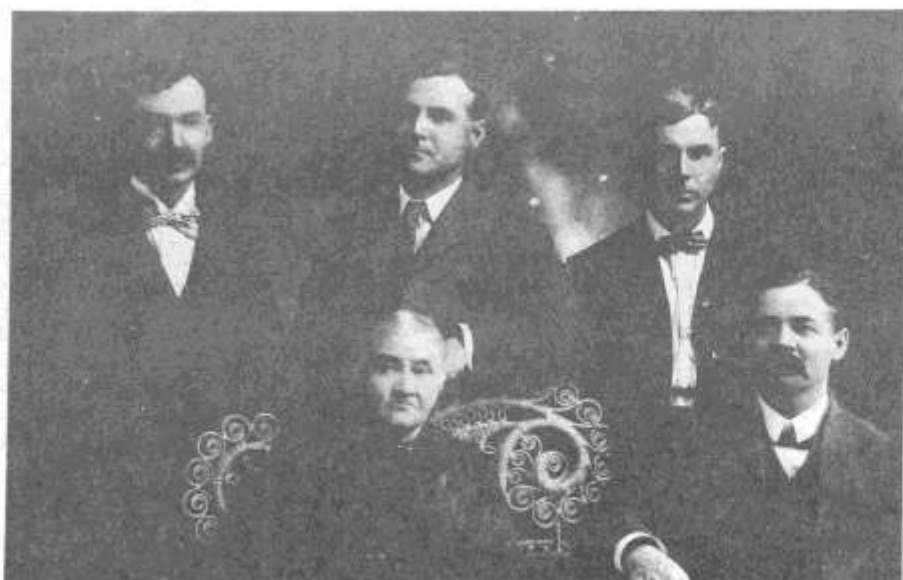
As before stated, George A. (1832-1879), who married Rachael French stayed in Omega Township. Their family was four sons.

John Scott Kniseley (1861) married Verdilla Hensley. JS was a school administrator and served as County Superintendent of Marion County Schools.

Wm. A. (1862) married Minnie Brubaker, their family was Noah (deceased), Leroy (deceased) Scott retired farmer living in Iowa, and Ethel (Mrs. Paul Jenkins) who resides on the original home place in Omega Township. Wm. A. was a well known stock raiser and did general farming.

George W. (1864) the third son, too was a farmer. He married Emma Phillips and their daughter Georgeritte (Mrs. Sherrill Vandever) lives in Omega Township.

Martin (1867), the youngest of George A's children was an electrical engineer in the steel mills of Granite City. Two sons, Sam (deceased) and George of Birmingham, Alabama were born to Martin and his wife Nan McCalley Kniseley.



Seated -- John Scott, and Rachel Caroline French Kniseley
Left to right -- William A., Martin S. and George W.



Standing L to R -- Noah, Christine, John S. and Leroy
Seated -- Minnie, Ethel, William A.



John Scott Kniseley, School Administrator and County Superintendent of Marion County.

On left is Dick Morton, Township School Treasurer -- this office was upstairs near Bachmans Store.



Standing L to R -- Forrest See, Noah Kniseley, Herschel Marlow, Mother Kniseley, Aunt Mary Bosley, Lucy Schooley, Charlie Boyce, Aunt Nan Kniseley, Frank Schooley, Leroy Kniseley.

Seated -- W. A. Kniseley, Rachel Kniseley, holding Sammy Kniseley, Martin Kniseley.

In front-- Scott Kniseley, Shep, Ethel Kniseley, Frank Bosley.

GEORGE RUSSELL LONNON

On February 22, 1878 a son was born to Robert and Isabelle Idleman Lonnon, of Centralia, Illinois, whom they named George Russell. The father died three years later, and George and his mother moved to Salem to live with his grandparents.

A few years later the mother married Henry Sipes and they moved to a home near Omega known as the Elder Farm.

Then after a few years they moved to a farm in Omega Township which now belongs to Harold Kenley.

On February 22, 1906 George was married to Virdie Schooley, (the daughter of Robert Meade) and Miriah Mattson Schooley, of Omega. She has spent her entire life thus far in the little village.

They moved to a farm in the Siloam neighborhood, known then as the Kendle farm. Here two daughters were born. April 4, 1907 Lois was born, and January 8, 1909 Myrle was born. Some years later the family moved to the Harwood Farm west of Omega and there on August 19, 1916 a son Robert was born.

On October 28, 1931, Lois was united in marriage to Oran Alderson.

In January 1939, Bob was injured in a car accident which caused his death on May 16 of the same year.

August 7, 1940, Myrle was married to Eugene Helm.

The Alderson's had two daughters and the Helm's a son and a daughter for the grandparents to enjoy, and this they surely did.

Mrs. Lonnon lost her health and passed away on December 30, 1968. Two years later G. R. passed away on January 20, 1970.

Their life's work was farming as long as health permitted.

THOMAS MONROE MARLOW

Thomas M. Marlow and Adelia Phillips were married (1878) in Omega Township, where they made their home, their 12 children were born, and where they died.

Thomas M. Marlow (1857), son of Samuel and Margot Denninson Marlow was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Soon after his birth the family moved to Martin County, Indiana, where the mother died and the father married Rebecca Hines. During the Civil War, Samuel served with the 65th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was among the Union Soldiers held as prisoners in Andersonville, Georgia where he lost most of his sight, a condition which existed the remainder of his life. After the war the family came to Marion County Illinois, and settled on Section 32 Omega Township.

Adelia Phillips (1861) daughter of William and Mary Hester Ann Howard Phillips was born in Omega Township. Her paternal grandparents, Lucinda and John P. Phillips settled in Section 3 Omega Township (date unknown). In 1852 they buried a son (Lorenzo D. Phillips) on their own farm land. The father was also buried there in 1855, and the mother in 1883. Another son, William Phillips deeded $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in 1864 to the trustees of Omega Township to be used as a public cemetery. This is a part of the present Phillips Cemetery.

Adelia's maternal grandfather and great grandfather, William and Joseph Howard entered 160 acres in Section 16 in 1839. These deeds were signed by Thomas Carlin, Governor of Illinois. In 1863 William Phillips purchased 40 acres in Section 17 adjoining the Howard land. This 40 and a part of the Howard Land purchased in 1839 had been in continuous

ownership by some of their descendants, the present owners being Lyman and Zilphia See Jones. Zilphia is a great granddaughter of William and Mary Hester Ann Phillips.

Adelia and Tom Roe's (as many called him) first farm home was forty acres with a small house in Section 9. A spring at the foot of the hill furnished household water. This was in 1881, their family at that time, two small daughters, Minnie and Luly, the same site of the eleven room home in later years.

Tom Roe was a religious, friendly, honest man, who worked long hours to provide the kind of home he wanted for his family. It was a happy, friendly family, and the children were encouraged to invite their friends home with them from Sunday School and Church as was the custom at that time. Adelia said she never knew how many would be there for dinner. There was always lots of recreation at this farm home. Mushroom hunting, fishing, ball games, horse back riding, swimming, hickory nut hunting, skating, coasting a sleigh and sleigh bells, and hymn singing around the family organ.

As the years went by adjoining land was purchased as the opportunity came to enlarge the farm. Much of the land was covered with timber, the acres suitable for farming was cleared by the primitive methods of that time, and the remainder used as grazing for cattle, hogs, and sheep.

When Tom Roe died at the age of 52 he left 180 acres of well improved land, well stocked, a large barn and home. Luly had died at the age of 6, Minnie, Carrie, and Hulda were married. At home was Estella (22), Noah (17), Herschel (14), Agnes (12), Launa (10), Donald (8), Velma (5), and Douglas (2).

The years passed, Adelia's health failed, the old home was abandoned, and she died at the home of her son Douglas and wife Eileen, at 86. This couple along with three daughters, one granddaughter, and members of the Phillips and Howard families are buried at the Millican Cemetery. Fifteen graves, six generations, deaths from 1839 to 1947.

In 1952 Herschel purchased his fathers farm. He and wife Ruth built a home near the old homesite where they lived until 1966.

Since the "oil boom" in Marion County during the first half of the century, explorations were made in Omega Township from time to time. Two were made on the Marlow farm. One in 1958 was a dry hole. The second in 1963 struck oil in the benoist at a depth of 2281 ft. pumping 70 barrels per day in its initial test. However, it was a small pool, pumping about 7,000 barrels the first year and was abandoned at the end of three years.

Today the entire Marlow farm is a part of the State Conservation Park and the land which Tom Roe cleared with an ax and other means of that time, and Herschel later had cleared with a bulldozer is growing back to brush and weeds for the wildlife in the Park, and the bottom land which was prized so much during Tom Roe's lifetime lies under thirty feet of water in Omega Lake. Members of the family have memories of several places such as; the Red Bluff where Indian arrowheads were found and is now Rocky Point Picnic Area, the rock hill, which Lost Fork curved around, and is now Lookout Picnic Area, and a walk back in the Foot Trail to Marlow Pond recalls many familiar spots.

Douglas of Sullivan, Illinois is the only surviving member of this family. Thomas Monroe Marlow

II of Westland, Michigan is a great-grandson of Tom Roe.

A number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren of this couple live on large farms in the Township. The last fifty years have brought many changes in farm living. Fertility methods, improved machinery, and electricity have made the modern farm home an ideal place to live.

Each year on the first Sunday in July, the descendants of Tom Roe and Adelia hold their annual reunion at Bryan Memorial Park in Salem, with an attendance of 100 to 150.



Marlow Family 1901

Front row left to right: Agnes Marlow Laughman (1896-1943), Donald (1901-1947). Second row; Noah (1891-1934), Tom Roe, father (1857-1909), Launa Marlow Bailey (1898-1935), Adelia, mother (1861-1947), Herschel (1894-1967). Back row; Estella (1887-1933), Carrie Marlow Presgrove (1884-1918), Minnie Marlow Cheeley (1879-1964), Hulda Marlow See (1889-1934). Velma Marlow Kennedy (1904-1963), Douglas (1906-living) were born later.

ROBERT MCBRATNEY

Robert McBratney (1817), and a brother both in their teens, and born in Ireland came to the U.S.A. about 1834.

In 1847 he married Margaret Hamilton (1827) in Coshocton, County, Ohio, where Isabel (1848), Elinor (1850) and John (1852) were born. In 1857 the family moved to Illinois where Robert (1858), Samuel (1860), Susan (1862), Emma (1867) were born. In 1873 the family (with the exception of Isabel who had married) moved from Randolph County to Marion County Omega Township, and settled in Section 13 on the same quarter Section that James Craig first settled on in 1837.

Ruth McBratney Marlow's grandparents died before she was born, but she has a vivid memory of this farm where she spent many happy hours as a child and, which at that time, was owned by Sam McBratney. Her parents, John and Catherine Moore McBratney had made their home on Prairie Land a short distance east in Clay County where she was born. As a child she loved to go to her Uncle Sam's to pick wild flowers in the spring, fish in Skillet Fork which crossed the corner of this farm, run up and down the hills in the pasture, and pick up hickory nuts in the autumn.

Robert McBratney's house was a two story log house with a one story (shed type) on one side, all the walls were whitewashed inside. Sam later built a frame house. Robert McBratney died in 1887 leaving his wife Margaret, his two daughters Ellen (widow) and Emma who later married (1892) and died when her baby girl was born (1893) and his son Sam. Emma's baby was brought to Margaret to be cared for until Margaret passed away two years later. Then Sam and Ellen, together made a home for this

little niece (Ruby Jones) until Sam's tragic death in 1910 at the age of 50.

Sam was in the habit of getting his stock cared for before breakfast. He took special care of a Red Polled bull, which he had purchased when it was a few months old. It was kept in the stable during the day and turned out in a small lot with good grass at night. He would lead it to the well both night and morning for water, by a rope snapped in the nose ring. This particular morning a close neighbor had seen him lead the bull to the well, later heard the dog barking and Sam scold the dog. The rest of the family were asleep at the time. Later, when he did not come in to breakfast, the niece went to look for him, saw the bull standing in its lot with the bars down and found her Uncle dead with the rope wrapped around his body several times. The bull frightened by the dog had evidently circled around him and then dragged him until the snap pulled out of the bull ring.

The McBratneys were United Presbyterian in religious sentiment and Republicans in politics.

Robert and Margaret McBratney and all their children with the exception of the oldest daughter are buried in the Oskaloosa Cemetery in Clay County.

THE MILLICAN FAMILY

Alexander Millican was born in the State of Massachusetts, April 7, 1817 to Robert and Amanda Millican. As a young man he moved to the State of Ohio where he taught school for several years. In September of 1843, he married Clementine Earl and about a week later they loaded their personal property in a wagon and started to Central Illinois. Upon entering Marion County, they stayed over night with Isaac Eagan and soon

decided to settle here, where he became a successful farmer and stock raiser in Section 16 just east of Omega.

Six children were born of this union: Robert, Henry F., William, and Charles, Maria, and Amanda, all of these children married and raised families, however, William Millican moved to Seattle, Washington where he raised his family and never returned to Illinois. Henry F., Robert and Charles Millican and their families moved to Colorado near Greenhorn and Rye around the year 1884 or 1885 and lived there several years, but later returned to Illinois and lived the rest of their lives near and in Omega.

Robert married Sarah Ravens and to this union seven children were born, all of them dying in infancy, except Roy and Lora (Marlow), who lived to a good age. Lora married Lewis Marlow and they had three children: Lyle, Kern L. and Glen, who is deceased. Roy married Hazel See and three children were born: See, Ralph, and Freda (Huggard), who is deceased.

Henry married Margaret Ann Porter, and to this union four children were born: Clara (Kelchner), Albert A., Lulu (Robinson), and Glenn. Clara married Harvey Kelchner, and she died at the age of 38. Albert A. married Myrtle Rogers, and six children were born Donna, who is deceased, Reba, Paula (Gruenkemeyer), who is deceased, Zola (Andrews), Willaden (Woodfall), and Arlo Reign. Lulu married Harry Robinson and four children were born: Merle, Leona (Burroughs), Darlene (Marsden), and Paul. Glenn married Marie Crippen and five children were born: Norma Dale (Myers), Margaret (Brooks), Frances Lovell (Oehler), and Doris and Paul both deceased.

William Millican married Alice A. Hensley and to this union

were born nine children: Anna, Laura, Alfred, Harold, Roy, Paul, Frank, Earl, and Mary.

Charles married Laura J. Porter, and to this union were born four children: Jessie (Morrow), Agnes (Hults), and Byron and Ben, twins. Jessie married Will Morrow and three children were born: Rochelle, who died in infancy, Vivian (Crippen), and Ralph, who is deceased. Agnes married Earl Hults and two children were born: Nelda (Keistler) and Darrell. Agnes died when the children were small and they were reared by their grandparents. Byron married Elsie Feller and three children were born: Hilda, who died in her teens, Harold and Margaret. Ben married Alice Harrison, and two children were born: Neva (Thurrow), and Carl, who is deceased.

Maria married William Southward and to this union were born five children: Arthur, Lee, Edith (Rogers), Amy (Baker), and Maggie, who died as a teenager. Arthur married Myrtle Gramley and three children were born: Willie, Mabel, and Ruth (Molenhour). After his wife, Myrtle, died, he married Kate Wantland, and they had one girl, Elizabeth. Lee married Hattie Black Tate and five children were born: Clarence, Harold, Elmer, Ethel (Clark) and Marie (Leckrone), who is deceased. Edith married John Painter and had a daughter, Ethel (Williams). She later married Dayton Rogers and they had a son Guy. Amy married John Baker, and they had five children: Lena (Hays), Leon, Dean Lesta (Alderson) and Doris (Neal).

Amanda married Lewis Davis and to this union was born one daughter, Maude (Holt), who is still living and resides in Kinmundy. Maude married John Holt and one daughter was born, Elizabeth (Monical).

Most of the Millican family

were farmers, several were teachers, merchants, some ministers and barbers. Henry and Charles Millican made maple syrup from the maple groves inherited from their father, and Charles sons, Ben and Byron, continued making maple syrup for many years.

The Millicans came to this country from Castledawson on the River Boyne in Ireland. The name was originally spelled "Millikan", but Alexander changed the spelling because of the confusion in the mail of he and another man with a similar name. In September of 1972, Zola Andrews, and her husband, Gene, visited Castledawson, Ireland.

CHARLES MONICAL

Charles Monical, son of Aranzo Dowe and Mandie Stevens, Monical was born in Clay County near Flora, Illinois August 26, 1875. One of the family of six children, Nettie Monical and Belle Hinman, Arthur, Joseph, and Herbert Monical all deceased.

After the death of Charles parents, when a young lad, he came to Omega Township, Marion County to live with Uncle Steward and Aunt Laura Monical Hanks. Here he was accepted as their own and grew up with their children. Loyd Ollie, Maude Connley Combs, Fred, and Guy, who he knew and loved as brothers and sister. All of whom are deceased.

On January 6, 1901 he was united in marriage with Cora Smith and to this union ten children were born. Three dying in infancy and a daughter Maude Monical Branson dying in 1929. A niece Thelma Whitney came to live in their home at the age of 12 years. She too is deceased.

In 1903 he united with the Brown Christian Church where he served as a deacon and they were active in all the work of the

church. A few years after their marriage Mr. & Mrs. Monical purchased the farm where they were engaged in grain and dairy farming and lived until his death in March 1948. Mrs. Monical passed away in 1960.

Mr. Monical was very much interested in politics of the county and township where he served in office for many years. Mr. & Mrs. Monical were loyal and faithful Christians and highly respected by all who knew them. Their children; Steward, married Mamie Wooley and is now a retired farmer. They have three children; Charles and Mary Monical and Martha Wooldridge. Dowe Monical married Helen Daniels. They have two children; Norma Dobbs and Jerry Farthing. Helen passed away and Dowe married Wilma Take. They are retired from the lumber yard and hardware business, and live in East Alton. Paul married Elizabeth Holt. Paul lives in Farina and is Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, in Fayette County. Verle married Emilie Switzer. They had 2 children, Tom deceased and Sue Shelton. Verle lives in Alton where he teaches school. Harold married Mary Ann Deems. They have five children; Lynn Allen, Carole Ann, Zentara, Rickie, Kathy, and Genie. Harold is employed at Owens Glass Company. Fern married Dean Baker they have two children. Eva Yates and Phyllis Ritter. Fern and Dean live on the home farm where they are engaged in farming. Steward and Fern are the only ones of the family remaining in Omega Township.

HERB MONICAL

Herbert Ford Monical was born February 17, 1887 in Clay County, Illinois, the son of Aranzo Dowe and Mandie Stevens Monical. He was the youngest of

six children, namely: Charles, Arthur, Joseph, Belle (Hinman) and Nettie.

His parents died shortly after his birth so he was taken into the home of William and Zelpha (Mulvaney) Green in Omega Township and grew to manhood as their son.

Herb and Nora Mae Waggoner were united in marriage on November 29, 1906. She was the daughter of Steven and Sarah (Roberts) Waggoner.

They were a happy family, making friends easily, and liked by most people they met.

Their home was blessed with eleven children, six of them dying in infancy.

Herschel married Cecelia Herrington. They have one son who is married to Verla (Hirsch) and they have three children: Nancy, Jeffrey and Sandy.

Goldie married Earl Hanks. They had three children: Leroy (deceased), Shirley is married to Marvin Meador. They have three boys: Jim, and Bill (Clark) and Marvin Wayne Meador. Beverly is married to Richard Bouseman and they have two daughters: Sherri (Nichols) and Debbie Bouseman.

Next came Roger who is married to Wilma Hiestand and they have one daughter, Joann who is married to Bob Eagan. They have five children; Donna, Johnnie, Charles, Dale and Daniel.

Maxine married Merle Young and they had three children: Marvin is married to Marlene Malmberg. Lela is married to William Vallow and they have three children: Michael, Anna Marie and Kathy. Carolyn is married to Arthur Allison and they have three children: Danny, Wendy and Brian.

William married Millie Beck and they have two children: Alan and Connie. Bill is the only one of the children living in Omega Township now.

Herb and Nora lived in Omega until moving to Iuka in 1942.

Nora passed away in April 1952 and Herb in August 1961.



Mr & Mrs. Herb Monical

ANDREW MULVANEY

The descendants of Robert Wesley Mulvany who married Minnie Ellen Smith are: Louis, Fred, Alfred, Andrew, Jesse, Marshall, Ruby (Ritter) and Blanche (Marlow). Blanche is the only one living.

Andrew married Jesse Jones and they had twelve children, Fannie (Baker), Clyde, Roger, Doris (Whitney), Evelyn (White), Howard, Buren, Burdette, Erma (Morrow), Raymond, Thelma Jean (Cameron) and a daughter who died in infancy.

Fannie married Leon Baker, Their history is elsewhere in this book.

Clyde married Pansy Beard and they have lived most of their life in Marion County, now residing in Iuka Township. They have six children: Shelby Jean (Clark), Donald, Darrell (USAF), Carol, Carolyn, and Clyde Lindell.

Roger married Geneva Burkett and they lived a short time in Marion County. Geneva passed away in 1967. They had five daughters: Ruth Ann (Walters), Dona (Clark), Judy (Williams), Glenda (Curry) and Debbie, at home. Roger is now married to Dorthy Bronson.

Doris married Wayne Whitney and they run a grocer store in Kimmunity. They have four children Ronnie, Burl Duane (deceased), Keith, Norma June (Alberson).

Evelyn married Maurice "Pete" White and has two boys Charles Edwin and Harold.

Howard married Mary LaDean Moses and they live at Omega, Illinois. They have three children: Cheryn Kay (Kirkpatrick), Vickie Lynn (Lowery) and Eddie Howard (US Army).

Buren married Mary Jane Fisk and they had one son Ronald Buren. He then married Ruth Helm and they have one son Terry Lee.

Burdette "Bud" married Ber-

neice Waggoner and they have two children; Sandra Kay (Joiner) and Jerry Joe.

Erma married Sterle Morrow and they have three children; Allen Ray, David Earl (deceased), and adopted daughter Paula Jo, at home.

Raymond married Christine Hargis and have two children: Steve and Phyllis.

Thelma Jean married Don Cameron and they have two daughters, Cathy and Rhonda.

ROBERT WESLEY MULVANY

The descendants of Robert Wesley Mulvany who married Minnie Ellen Smith are; Louis, Fred, Alfred, Andrew, Jesse, Marshall, Ruby (Ritter), and Blanche (Marlow). Blanche being the only surviving member.

Louis married Lou Slagley and they had three daughters; Lois (Outlaw) of Maryland, Maxine (Breck) of Gibson City, Ill. and Merle (Tinsley) of Missouri.

Fred married Ethel Ritter and they had four children; Ollie of Farina, Ill., Goldie (Smith) of Omega, Thelma (See) of Kimmunity and Gladys (Bodine) of Texas. Ollie married Vera Mae Schooley they have five children; Ethel Marie (Hites), Grace Eileen (Norman), Lowell, Nancy and Larry. Goldie married Lester Smith who passed away in 1965. Thelma married and had one son Charles Bundy of Centralia. She then married Merle See and they have three children Rita, Vicki, and Jimmie all at home. Gladys married Austin Beard and they had four children Kenneth, Janet, Richard, one infant who died. She then married Ray Bodine and now resides in Texas.

Alfred married Myrtle (Shadden) who lives in Mattoon, Ill. they had four children, Cleo of

Kinmundy, Hollis, Ginny Dean (Nicholson) and Lela Blanche (Ewing) all of Mattoon, Illinois. Cleo married Pauline (Phipps) and they have two boys Wayne and Jerry who died in 1966. Hollis married Esther (Phipps) and they have one son Dwight. Ginny Dean married Charles Nicholson and they have five children. Lela Blanche married James Ewing and they have two children.

Andrew married Jesse Jones and they had twelve children, Fannie, Clyde, Roger, Doris, Evelyn, Howard, Buren, Burdette, Erma, Raymond, Thelma Jean, and one daughter who died in infancy.

Fannie married Leon Baker. Their history is elsewhere in this book.

Clyde married Pansy Beard and they have lived most of their life in Marion County, now residing in Iuka Township. They have six children Shelby Jean (Clark) of Salem, Donald of Bethany, Darrell who is with the United States Air Force, Carol of Sullivan, Carolyn (See) of Iuka, and Clyde Lindell of Salem. They are all married and have children.

Roger married Geneva Burkett and they lived part of their life in Marion County. Geneva passed away in 1967. They had five daughters Ruth Ann (Walters) of Decatur, Dona (Clark) of Bloomington, Judy (Williams) of Bloomington and Glenda (Curry) of Oklahoma, and Debbie at home. Roger is now married to Dorothy Bronson and lives in Colfax, Illinois.

Doris married Wayne Whitney and they have a small grocery store in Kinmundy. They have four children; Ronnie, of Mattoon, Burl Duane (deceased), Keith of Texas and Norma June (Alberson) of Kinmundy. They are all married and have children.

Evelyn married Maurice "Pete" White and they live in Granite City, Illinois. They have two

boys Charles Edwin of Highland, and Harold of Missouri.

Howard married Mary LaDean Moses and they live in Omega. They have three children, Cherryn Kay (Kirkpatrick) Saybrook, Illinois, Vicki Lynn (Lowery) of Iuka and Eddie Howard serving the U. S. Army.

Buren married Mary Jane Fisk and they had one son Ronald Buren of Alma. He then married Ruth Helm and they have one son Terry Lee at home.

Burdette "Bud" married Bernice Waggoner and have two children Sandra Kay (Joiner) of Georgia and Jerry Joe of Missouri.

Erma married Sterle Morrow and have three children Allen Ray at home, David Earl who passed away in 1956, and an adopted daughter Paula Jo at home.

Raymond married Christine Hargis and have two children Steve of Salem and Phyllis at home. Steve is married and has one child.

Thelma Jean married Don Cameron and reside in Mascoutah, Illinois. They have two daughters Cathy and Rhonda.

Jesse married Myrtle Rockwell and they have one son Dale who lives in Michigan. Myrtle now lives in Wayne, Michigan. Dale married Berniece and they have four children Betty (Raboy), Janice (Sebaton) Ruth Ann (Lund) and Dale.

Marshall married Mattie Winders and they had three sons Kenneth, Robert, and Derrell Leslie. Mattie now lives at Marseilles, Illinois.

Ruby married Ora Ritter and their history is elsewhere in this book.

Blanche married Rolla Marlow and they now reside at Ridgefarm, Illinois. Their children are Hilda (Bisel) of Salem, Tommy, Myron, Christine (Blondi) of Benton, Illinois, Billy, Danny, Darrell and Mary who is in Africa.



PERRY HISTORY

Albert Allison Perry, son of Oliver and Mary Belle Perry, was born in Moultrie County, Illinois, October 1, 1886. As a young man he moved to Omega Township. There he met Blanch Sill. Blanch was born December 1, 1901. In the year 1923 (September 17) they were married. To this union was born four children, three daughters and one son. The son, Merle Ellis was born October 16, 1926, he died in infancy. Helen Audrey Perry Long was born November 10, 1927. Velma Lou Perry Neal and Thelma Pauline Perry Hanks, twins, were born October 16, 1930. Albert Allison Perry died December 16, 1955. Blanch Sill Perry died August 12, 1961.

GEORGE E. RAVENS

An early settler in Omega Township, and born in London England. He and a sister came to America in 1836. While in New York he married, then moved to Carlyle, Illinois sometime between 1836-1850. Here his wife

died, leaving a son David.

He became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. in Clinton County, about 1850. The same year he moved to Alma.

He obtained a land grant in Omega Township in 1853. This parchment document bears the name of Franklin K. Pierce, President of the United States. An old deed shows land was also purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad for \$2.50 per acre.

He was a cabinet and coffin maker by trade, many of his old hand carved picture frames can still be found in use today around the community.

A second wife, Kate Smith Ravens died leaving a daughter, Sarah. Later, he married a widow Nancy Murphy (Nee Allen) who had three daughters. Two daughters blessed this marriage, Carrie and Maye. He lived the remainder of his life in Omega Township and lies buried in Millican Cemetery.

His son David ran away from home to become a soldier in the Civil War, was captured and spent some time in Andersonville Prison. He later became a Presbyterian Minister, and established a home in the State of Washington, and had a grandson, Ford Gumm living there.

Sarah married Robert Millican, spent her entire lifetime in Omega Township. Their grandson See Millican still lives in Omega.

Carrie married Lyman Walkington. They had four sons and lived just over the Alma Township line her entire lifetime.

Maye married Lew B. Baker. They had three sons, Hollis, John, and Frank and spent their entire lifetime in Omega Township and lie buried in Lovell Grove Cemetery. Two of these sons Hollis and John still own and live on part of the original land which

their grandfather, George E. Ravens settled on 120 years ago.

Hollis married Rochelle Innman. Their daughter, Laura Brooks and her two children, Douglas and Connie live in Centralia, Illinois.

John married Thelma Brubaker, their son Eugene married Twilla Kenley. They have two children; Donald and Mona and live in Sandwich, Illinois.

Frank married Jessie Campbell. They have one son John and live in Louisville, Kentucky.

ORA ALLEN RITTER

Ora Allen Ritter was born in Clark County near Casey, Illinois, on December 10, 1892, the youngest of twin sons born to William and Olive Elizabeth (Bailey) Ritter. Ora's grandparents were German immigrants. William Fredrickson Ritter served in the Civil War, Co. H, 133rd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers and was at Lookout Mt., Tennessee. Ora had seven sisters and three brothers.

Mattie married Worth Finney, children; Della and Rufus.

Fremont married Ethel Hickox, children; Willie, Doyt, Maggie Mary, Charles, and Lois.

Anna, married Nance Williams, children; Harold, Mildred, Floyd, Lena, Roger, and Ralph.

Charley, married Emma Smith, children: Virgil, Glen, and Harley.

Ethel, married Fred Mulvany, children; Ollie, Goldie, Thelma and Gladys.

Alice, Mary, Willie, and Maude died in their early youth. Ora's twin died in infancy, unnamed.

The Ritter family moved to Omega Township in 1898 to the Brown Christian Church vicinity.

RUBY EVELYN MULVANY

Ruby Evelyn Mulvany was born September 16, 1899 in Clay County the seventh child of Robert Wesley and Minnie Ellen Smith Mulvany. Grandparents were John Wesley and Matilda Jane Alderson Mulvany. Grandparents, Marion and Mary Smith gave the deed for the Brown Christian Church. Ruby had six brothers and one sister.

Louis, married Louise Slagley, children; Lois, Myrle, and Maxine.

Fred, married Ethel Ritter children: Ollie, Goldie, Thelma, and Gladys.

Alfred married Myrtle Shadden, children; Cleo, Bonnie, Hollis, Virginia, and Lela.

Andrew, married Jessie Jones children; Fannie, Clyde, Roger, Doris, Evelyn, Howard, Buren, Burdett, Erma, Raymond, and Thelma Jean.

Jessie, married Myrtle Rockwell, children; Dale.

Marshall, married Mattie Winders, children; Kenneth, Robert, and Derrold.

Blanch, married Rolla Marlow children; Hilda, Tommy, twins, Helen, and Christine, Miriam Jessie, Jerry, twins Danny and Darrnell, and Mary.

On October 25, 1916 Ruby Evelyn Mulvany married Ora Allen Ritter. They are the parents of five boys and four girls, Stella Francis, Mont, Neva, Ida, Laurel, Melvin, Anna May, and Morris.

Stella married Doyle Mulvany they had eight children;

Merle Leroy married Janet Turner, children; Kristan Leigh.

Verle Leon married Sylvia Monte, children; Carolyn Elaine, Verle Leon Jr., Dietra Suzette, and Kathy Lynn.

Joyce Lene married Everette Ayers, children; Bonita Suzanne,

Rita Kathleen, and Anita Allene.

Dale Monroe married Bonnie Eloise children; Carrie Dee, William Robert, Robin Doyle, and Lynette Juanita.

Janice Irene married Duane Hunt, child; Craig Scott.

Gale Eugene married Catherine Ann Lancaster.

Judy Ilene married John Fuffick one child; Donald Ray.

Francis married Viola Mulvany they had four children;

Bruce Allen, deceased in infancy.

Carol Sue married Darrel Roberts, children; Christopher Allen, Gregg Eric, Bradley Douglas and Bryan Darrell.

Betty Frances married Steve Eubanks, children; Stephen Anthony, Michael Timothy, and Julia Annette.

Gary Lee married Mendy Wood one child; Hope Lynn.

Mont married Willadene Shaffer and they have four children;

Charles Larry married Phyllis Baker, children; Charles Deon and Crenda Michelle.

Richard Keith married Janet Sinclair, children; Jeffrey Keith and Gregory Scott.

William Allen married Karen O'Leary.

Kevin Lynn at home.

Neva married Laurel Yates and they have eight children;

Phillis Elaine married Duane Gray, children; Kenton Dale, Cheryl Joanne and Deborah Marie.

Sandra Kay married Gene Lux children; Ronald Eugene and Michael Wade. Later she married John Nancock, father of Tammy, Tracie and Terry.

Sharon Lee married Bill Cash children; Kimberly Kay and Sherri Lynn.

Aaron Lamar married Marie Scribner, children; Mark and James Aaron.

Patricia Sue married Ronald Jamison, one child; Michelle Rene.

Pita Ann married Danny Neavilles.

Brenda Jean and Tracie Lynn are still at home.

Neva departed this life on December 13, 1965. Laurel remarried to Irene.

Ida married Warren C. Smith, they had three children;

Linda Fay married Bob Hawn, children; Elizabeth Ann, James Warren, Michael Albert, and Richard Lynn.

Mary Elizabeth married David Johnson, Jr., children; Melinda Kay and Steve Allen.

Melody Ann is still at home.

Laurel never married.

Melvin married Betty Bell, children; Susan Lea, and Kathy Lin.

Anna May never married.

Morris married Carole LaRue, one child; Michael Lee.

Ora and Ruby had to give up their home when the Omega Lake Dam was built at the Forbes State Park so in 1959 they moved two miles south of Omega.

Ruby was an honest, kind, and sincere person. She enjoyed her family and many friends. She loved having her grandchildren around. She loved the church for what it represents and was a member of the Brown Christian Church. Ruby departed this life February 2 1960.

Ora then married, Mrs. Marie Krutsinger Sourson. She had a son James.

James married Sue Cochran, children; Rusty, Cindy, and Mike.

Ora is an honest, well respected man, known by many and has many many friends. He enjoys visiting with all he meets along the way and is a faithful member of the Brown Christian Church.

JESSE ROGERS

Jesse and Elizabeth (Alderson) Rogers moved from Columbia,

Tennessee to Illinois in 1851. Jack Craig, a half brother to Jesse, was in Tennessee during the Civil War. Jesse and Elizabeth had eight children; William, John Robert, Martha Ann (Wilcox), Newton, Tilda (Alderson), Margaret (Chapman), and Tilman J..

Tilman J. married Martha Catherine Brown and settled a mile south of the Siloam School. Tilman J. served in the Civil War Co., E, 111th Regiment of the Illinois Volunteers. He was with Sherman during the march on Atlanta. They had seven children; Emery J. (Jay), Van Tolliver (Toll), Estella, Henry Oliver (Dayton), Cornelis, Evaline, and Bessie, who died when she was around twelve years old.

Emery J. married Lora Keller and they had two children; Grace and Rose. Grace married Elmer Long from Omega Township. Rose first married Claude Beard and they had one son, Gene Avon. She then married Clifford Fulfer and lived with him until her death in Omega Township.

Van Tolliver married Lou Stevens and they had one son, Lloyd. Lloyd married Alice Bandelow and they had two children; Vernon and Helen. Alice still resides in their home near the Bee Branch Church. Vernon died at an early age. Helen married Chester Perry and they have one son, Gene Vernon. Helen and Chester made a home out of the old Bee Branch School.

Estella married Frank Arnold from Omega Township. They had six children; Minnie, Dorothy (Watson), Berthal, Olen, Jimmie, and Loren who died young.

Minnie was an invalid all of her life. The children of Estella and Frank all live out west.

Dayton first married Ora Arnold and they had one daughter Amy, who died at an early age.

Dayton then married Edith (Southward-Painter), and they had two children. Helen, who died at an early age, and Guy. Guy married Opal Weems and lives at Belvidere Illinois. They have one daughter Margie, who is married and has two children.

Cornelia married John W. Davis and they lived their lifetime on the Marion-Clay County Line.

Evaline married Luther Beard. They farmed and lived in Omega Twp. their entire lifetime. They had five children; Archie, Verl, Ruth, Tilman, and Pansy. Ruth and Tillman both died in infancy. Eva and Luther were married almost sixty four years before Luther passed away.

Archie married Ula Middleton and they have lived in Omega Township their entire life. Archie farms and sells insurance. Ula is a former school teacher who taught at Shadden and Possum Trot Schools. They have two children; Austin of Texas and Ola Chapman of Omega Township. Austin first married Gladys Mulvany and lived in this area a few years before moving to Texas. They had four children; Kenneth, Janet, and Richard are all married and live in Texas. Austin has another son, David, by a former marriage, who resides in Utah.

Ola married Floyd Chapman of Omega Township. They now reside in Omega Township. They have one son, Brad, who attends Iuka Grade School.

Verl married Iva Neal and farmed in his earlier years on the Marion-Clay County Line, before moving to Salem where they now reside. They have two sons Jerry and Edward. Jerry married Rose Ann Ferguson and they have made a home of the old Shadden School. They have four living children; Scott, Sherry, Berna-

dine and Robert. They had two children who died in early infancy. Edward is now married to Sue Potter and resides in Salem. They have one child.

Pansy married Clyde Mulvany and they have lived most of their married life in Marion County. They have six children; Shelby Jean, Donald Ray, Darrell Lee, Carol, Carolyn and Clyde Lindell. Shelby Jean resides in Salem and has two sons; Miles and Billy Gene. Donald married Peggy Trinkle of Marion County and has two children; Kendall and Anita, and lives at Bethany, Illinois. Darrell, who is in the Air Force, married Dely Ramos of the Phillipines and has one daughter, Cynthia. Darrell has spent most of his service career in the Far East, service twice in the Viet Nam War. Carol married Mary Freeman, Salem, and has one son, John and lives at Sullivan, Illinois. Carolyn married Eddie See, Omega Township, they have three children Carla, Brian and Kevin. They now live on what is known as the Nellie Walkington Farm in Omega Township. Clyde Lindell married Brenda Crouch, Salem, has two children; Lisa and Jamie and reside in Salem, Illinois.

CLYDE R. AND LETHA J.
MEDDER ROSE

Clyde and Letha Rose began their farming career on the land previously farmed by Pearl and Laura Rose, who inherited from her parents, Winston and Louise Wooten.

So from the year 1880 this land has been in one family. Wiley and Seralda (Brinkerhoff History of Marion Co.) were chicken farmers and Pearl and Laura were general grain and livestock farmers. Clyde and Letha have continued the tradition with improvements expected from a farmer

in the year of 1973.

Since the days of 1948, when they rode the same school bus, attended the tent movies at Omega (Adm. 25¢) and listened to the Jukebox at "Gerties", they moved toward the 29th day of February, 1952. They were married by Rev. McMartin at Leslie and Mamie Eblin's, step-brother of the bride. Those in attendance were Pearl and Laura Rose, Leslie and Mamie Eblin, Georgia Eblin, Darlene Mulvaney Bandy, Donald Eblin, and the Bride and Groom.

In the years that followed the farming operation was blessed with a family of four children Jack, born May 7, 1953, now married to Julie Hassebrock (Sept. 1, 1972), Leonard, born March 11, 1955, Charles born July 8, 1959, and Vernon born March 7, 1962.

All became an active and dedicated member, in a day and age when the battle of survival cannot be compared to that of the early settler of this Township. But one of modern machinery and new technology in farming, speed of the machine and speed of the human life from day to day.

The principals of our forefathers must not be forgotten.

"Serve thy God", Love thy neighbor and "Do Unto Others" are long standing and will sustain us, one generation after another.

PEARL AND LAURA ROSE

A memory of times long past but kept alive through descendants of "Mom and Pop" Rose. They began their married life by being separated. "Pop" went north to shuck corn as did many of the young men from this area. "Mom" kept the home fires burning and waited patiently for the time when they could be together. They lived in different areas of Marion County until they settled on Section 19, in Omega Township.

in the year of 1929.

"Pop" and Mom" worked hard farming the land and raising their children, Claude, Hazel, Bertha, Gladys, Ralph, Herschel and Clyde. They lost two sons in infancy.

"Pop" bought royalty for the Seaboard Oil Company in the early 1930's, the boys growing into young men helping to keep step with the times by modernizing the farm. A Fordson tractor was the first tractor to replace the teams of Ribbon, Jake, Frank, Ted, Belle, Prince, Champ, and Maude.

As time marched on the farmers prospered, "Pop and Mom" could have used their acquired worldly goods for themselves, but as each child left the nest each was helped to begin their new life and each were given the opportunity to use the resources available from the family. They lived unselfishly for their children, and who could ask for a more glorious memory of ones parents.

"Pop" was a man of his word, and well respected in the community for he was also a good public servant, performing his duties when called on.

"Mom" was a homemaker and active in the Pleasant Grove Ladies Aid. She was a Charter Member of the Pleasant Grove Home Bureau.

Poetry was one of her favorite past times:

I get up in the morning,
after a night of rest,
And start my daily chores,
trying to do my best,
Giving thanks at breakfast
for the food we eat,
Doing dishes, sweeping,
Making things look neat,
Caring for the children,
keeping them neat and
clean, Trying to make them
happy with their toys
and things, Listening to

their prattle and their
make-believe, Such a
comfort, they mean so
much to me, They are so
sweet and innocent, dependent
on our care, For their food
and comfort our happiness they
share, If we only were as
innocent and ready to forgive,
This would be a better place,
for you and I to live, So be
careful parents, the pattern
that you make, For your little
darlings watch every step
you take, Following in your
foot-prints, they have such
love and faith, Believing
that their parents never
make mistakes.

LAURA ROSE

Pearl Marshall Rose was born March 26, 1887 and passed away March 6, 1955. Laura E. C. Smith Rose was born January 1, 1893 and passed away March 29, 1969.

THE ROSES

History is elusive for the young. Our research has ended with the year 1853.

Jim and Peggy Ann Burkett Rose were the parents of Charles, Wiley, Willis, and a half brother Seth Foster.

Charles was born in Omega Township, May 4, 1853. In 1891 he married Mrs. Lucinda Yost, who had four children; Mrs. Mary Shaffer, J. H. Yost, Mrs. Laura Rogers, and Arthur Yost. Charles departed life July 10, 1927, at the age of 74.

Willis Rose was born October 25, 1857. He married Nettie Southward, and Grace was born. Nettie died when Grace was a few months old. At the age of three Willis gave her into the care of

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Lovell. Willis departed this life on December 16, 1933 at the age of 76.

Wiley Rose, born September 12, 1855, (Subject in Prof. J. H. G. Brinkerhoff, History of Marion County, 1909), was raised from the age of eight by George and Rachel Kniseley. He married Serelda Wooten September 7, 1879. Aunt Relda, daughter of Winston and Louise Wooten, was born in Ohio October of 1861, one of nine children. Six children were born to the Roses; Nora, Gertrude, Pearl, Fannie, Elmer, and Norman.

Nora, born January 7, 1881, married Bill Wantland. They had three children; Douglas, Erma, and Loyde. Nora departed this life in 1918.

Gertrude A., born June 26, 1883, married Frank Shaffer. They had five children; Noel, Eugene, Burdett, Mildred, and Russell. Gertrude A., departed this life June 18, 1958.

Pearl Marshall, born March 26, 1886, married Laura E. C. Smith. They had seven children; Claude, Hazel, Bertha, Gladys, Ralph, Herschel and Clyde. Pearl Marshall departed this life on March 6, 1955.

Fannie B., born October 8, 1888, married Albert Smith. They had four children; Loren, Harold, Kenneth, and Bill.

Elmer L., born June 23, 1892 and was never married.

Norman G., born June 12, 1895, married Ruby Hughes. There were no children born to this union.

Norman is the only surviving member of Wileys family. Now living in Garden Grove California.

To the best of our knowledge we believe, Peggy Rose married Thomas Foster, father of four children; Zeb, John, Adaline, and Amanda. A son Seth was born to Tom and Peggy Foster.



Left to Right -- Gladys Hiestand, Claude Rose, Hazel Kell, Clyde Rose, Herschel Rose, Ralph Rose, Bertha See. Seated; Pearl and Laura Rose.

THE SMITHS

A daughter, Elizabeth Fredricka, was born to Christina and Charles Flexter in New Baden, Germany, on January 17, 1837. At the age of 18, she, with a brother came to America. In 1861 she met Daniel Picktnall and married him. Their daughter, Jennie was born June 18, 1863. Elizabeth departed this life May 2, 1923 at the age of 86.

Jennie Austin, married George Robert Smith on January 15, 1891. George was born January 2, 1852, and was the father of three sons; Bill, Elza, and Albert. In the early 1930's Bill and Elza went to Viscount, Sask. Canada. They homesteaded Section 8, and neither returned to Illinois. Bill, deceased in 1943, had married Emily (Last name unknown), Elza never married and still lives in Viscount, at the age of 92. Albert married Fannie Rose, Albert is deceased.

George and Jennie then had four children;

Laura E. married Pearl Rose.

Lula married John Barrell.

Carl married Louella.

Bob married Mabel Kaiser.

George deceased, April 18, 1922. Jennie deceased May 12, 1923, at the age of 60, just 10 days after her mother Elizabeth.

THE SEE FAMILY

Omega Township throughout its history has been rural and agrarian in nature. Members of the See family have been a part of the Township's History from the days of the early settlers to present generations.

Some of the Sees are still carrying on the tradition started in the mid 1840's when John Shull See settled in Omega Township and began farming

John Shull See came here

from Mason County, West Virginia. He was the son of Michael and Nancy (Greenlee) See; Michael in turn was a descendant of George Ludwig See, who was born in Germany in 1695 and was an immigrant to the Colonies, settling in what is now Pennsylvania in 1735--long before the Revolutionary War.

Many German and Scotch-Irish settlers arrived in the Colony of Pennsylvania in the early decades of the 1700's. Hostilities with Indians in the area continued until after 1764, according to encyclopedias. This fact bears out the story passed down through the generations that George Ludwig See had one son killed by Indians in 1763, and his wife and five children were captured by Indians.

But returning to Illinois, and Omega Township: John Shull See settled on land north of the present village of Omega between 1846 and 1848. He was born in 1819 and died in 1877. He was married first to Kathryn Day and later to Mary J. French.

A son born of the second marriage also carried the name John Shull See. He was born April 12, 1858. In 1883 he married Sarah Elizabeth Wilkinson, daughter of Henry C. and Harriet (Nichols) Wilkinson.

They had five children; Chesley Paul, Hazel, Edgar, Eva, and a third John Shull. John Shull See II continued to farm his land north of the village of Omega until he retired and moved to Kinmundy about 1918. In 1872, part of the farm was leased for railroad right-of-way but the plans for a railway in the area fell through.

John Shull See II at one point gave two acres of land to the Campground School District for the site of Campground School House. The school operated only a short time before becoming a part of Omega School District.

John Shull See II died September 12, 1923.

His five children and their sons and daughters bring the See family up to the present generations.

John Shull See III operated a harness shop in Kinmundy from 1920 to 1926. He then moved to Farina where he farmed until his retirement. He is married to Blanche Susan Neiper. They have two daughters, both living in Farina.

Edgar See left Omega Township at an early age. He now lives in Farmer City, Illinois. Edgar married Mildred Kies in January of 1918. They have two children. Hazel See remained in Omega Township and married Roy Millican. He was a farmer and later a storekeeper and barber in the Village of Omega. They had three children; Ford See Millican, who lives in Omega, Ralph of California, and Freda who is deceased. See Millican is a school teacher, and he and his wife, the former Helen Wantland, have two children. Roy died in August of 1973.

Eva See died in 1927 at the age of 23. She was a school teacher in the Kinmundy area and was married to the late Harold Stevenson.

Chesley Paul See farmed a sizeable area of land north of Omega. He started out on a farm near his father's farm and later combined the family "home place" with his farm and engaged in general farming, plus raising ponies and mules for a time.

Paul had the largest family of the group; his sons and daughters numbered 13. He was born in 1885 and was married to Hulda Marlow in 1908. Hulda died in 1934, and Paul was later married to Carrie Long until his death in 1958.

Their children included;

Zilpha Marie, Virgil Dean, Shull (who died while a small child) Elsie Kathryn, twins Merle and Viril, Earl, Inez Louise, LeRoy Mason, Mary Kathaleen, Pauline (who died in infancy), Ella Mae, and Hilda Eileen.

Zilpha is married to Lyman Jones. They live in Omega and have two children.

Virgil is married to the former Bertha Rose. They have one son. Virgil is presently Marion County Treasurer and lives in Salem.

Elsie is married to Claude Rose. They live on a farm just south of Omega and have five children.

Merle and Viril both farm north of Omega and part of their farms consist of land tilled by their father and grandfather before them. Merle was married to Edna Smith, and following her death married the former Thelma Mulvany. There are eight children in the family. Viril is married to the former Phyllis Lane. They have two children.

Earl, who lives in California, is married and they have two children.

Inez is married to Clifford Douthitt. They live in Texas and have three children.

LeRoy is married to the former Mary Crane. They have lived in the Salem area most of their lives, but are presently living in Carmi. They have two sons. Both Earl and LeRoy are veterans of World War II.

Mary lives in Salem and is married to Charles Diss. They have one daughter.

Ella Mae is married to Tony Knuf. They live in Carlyle and have five children.

Hilda was married to the late Eli Conant, and they had three sons. Following Eli's death Hilda married Lowell Diss and they live south of Salem.

Five generations of the See family have lived and worked in Omega Township. Now some young people who make up the sixth generation are growing up and will be taking their place in the area's history.

VIRL SEE FAMILY

Viril See, (1916) sixth child of Chesley Paul and Hulda Marlow See was born in Omega Township. Paul and Hulda were married in 1908. They began their married life on 80 acres, in Section 8, purchased from T. M. Jones for 32 dollars per acre, which has remained the family home for fifty years.

In 1940 Viril married Phyllis Lane, daughter of Earl Paul and Mabel Perry Lane. They had two children; Shirley Kay (1942) and Robert Wayne (1947).

In 1959 after Hulda's death, (1934) and Paul's death (1958) Viril and Phyllis bought the home place (Section 8) and $\frac{1}{2}$ the See farm in (Section 6 and 7) which has been in the family since 1855 by a homestead deed to -- John See and Mary J. See, (great grandparents). Later ownership changed to John Shull See and Sarra Wilkerson See, then to Chesley Paul See (1944) then to Viril and Phyllis See (1959).

From 1900 to 1914 once care of this ground in Section 6 had been sold to the school trustees of the first Campground School.



The See Family

Front row; John Shull See II, Eva See Stevenson, Sarah Wilkinson See,
Back row; John Shull See III, Hazel See Millican, Paul See, Edgar See.

WILLIAM HENRY SHAFFER

William (Will) Henry Shaffer was born April 20, 1877, the son of Joseph and Adeline (Foster) Shaffer in Alma Township. Joseph, his father, fought in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865, as a member of the 40th Illinois Volunteer Regiment and was at Shiloh and Kenesau Mountains in Tennessee. Joseph helped haul logs and helped collect money for the building of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church the deed being made in 1857. Will's grandparents, Andrew and Catherine (Peters) Shaffer were German immigrants and traveled in a covered wagon.

Will had three brothers and two sisters; Tom, Frank, George Sarah and Anna.

Tom married Anna Keller, children; Ira, Nora, Eura, Arno, John, Nelda, twins Donald and Darrell and Lela Pearl.

Frank married Gertie Rose, children; Noel, Burdette, Eugene, Mildred, and Russell.

George married Maude Davis, children; Adeline, Dorthy, Velma and Raymond.

Sarah married Jim T. Charleston, children; Jess, Mary and Henry.

Anna died as a young girl.

Mary Effie Yost, daughter of Jacob and Lucinda (Phillips) Yost, had one sister, Laura (married) to Frank Rogers), and four brothers, Charles and Sammy died at an early age. Henry and Arthur both married and had families.

On March 20, 1913 Will and Mary Effie Yost were united in marriage and had two daughters, Mary Lucille and Velma Willadene.

Lucille married Ray Owen Vandever, children; Mary Ann Ray Owen Jr., Russell Leon, Marilyn Patricia, and Rolland Lee.

Mary Ann, married Norman Rhoades, children; Keven Emmitt, Kelly Scott, Kathryn Renee.

Ray Owen Jr., married Ellen Payne, one child; Michelle Rae.

Marilyn and Rolland are at home.

Ray passed away June 24, 1971.

Willadene married Charles Fremont (Mont) Ritter, children; Charles Larry, Richard Keith, William Allen, Kevin Lynn.

Larry married Phyllis Baker, children; Charles Deon, and Crenda Michelle.

Keith married Janet Sinclair, children; Jeffrey Keith, Gregory Scott.

Allen married Karen O'Leary, no children.

Kevin is still at home.

Lester Sylvester, half brother of Lucille and Willadene, married Myrtle Sipes, children; Melburn, Pauline, Juanita, Ruth, Vera Clementine and Gerald Gale.

Melburn married Marie, children; Gerald Erwin, and Mike.

Gerald married Cassondra Harrel, one child; Lori Ann.

Pauline married Farris Roberts, Jr., children; Sandra Kay Peggy Sue, and Patty.

Sandra married Michael Ray Roemer.

Peggy married Raymond Earl Phillips.

Patty is still at home.

Juanita married Jack Dobson, she died April 21, 1949.

Vera (Tina) married John Moon, children; Johnny, adopted, April Joy, and Joseph Allen.

Johnny married Eloise Doyle, one child; Elizabeth Marie.

Gerald married Mary, children; Terry, twins Merle and Anita.

Lester Yost passed away June 6, 1964. Myrtle lives in Bethany Illinois.

Will and Mary Shaffer were faithful members of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Those that remember them knew them as a friend and neighbor indeed to those in need. They made many

sacrifices to help their fellow man. They were never too busy to help a friend in need.

Will passed away October 29, 1953 and Mary passed away March 21, 1935.

ELLIS SILL

Ellis Sill was born February 18, 1880, died February 22, 1939.

He was raised and lived his entire life in Illinois and Marion County. His parents were James and Clemtine Sill.

He married Millie Wagoner, April 2, 1897. Her parents were Stephen and Sarah Wagoner. She was born November 26, 1879, died August 18, 1929.

They were the parents of nine children; Mrs. Vesta (Minnie) Smith, Mrs. Albert (Blanch) Perry, Mrs. Dewey (Gladys) Lacey, Mrs. William (Yuthel) Foster, Robert Sill, Byron Sill, Nondas Sill (deceased at age of 17).

Robert passed away November 30, 1972. Two children Niece, and Clyde died in infancy.

The family are all deceased except Gladys, Yuthel and Byron.

REVEREND WILLIAM JACKSON SIMER

This sterling and honored citizen of Omega Township was the owner of one of the best farms in this community and was a local minister of the gospel of much popularity, having for many years performed a grand service among the people whom he elected to serve; burying the friends who passed over the mystic river, marrying the young, and in many ways ameliorating the trials of the public at large. His character was from his youth, unblemished by shadow of wrong so that the community regarded him as one of its most valuable citizens.

William Jackson Simer was a native of Marion County, born

here September 9, 1849; his father was Jason R. Simer, a Tennessean who came to Illinois when fifteen years of age, worked by the month until he was married at the age of twenty-five to Amelia Gaston. Amelia died at the age of forty in 1866. Jason Simer married a second time to Ruth Carpenter in 1870. Seven children were born of the first marriage, Reverend Billy being one of these, and three were born of the second marriage.

Billy worked for neighbors until he was seventeen. He attended schools in Jefferson County and later the Huff School in Marion County. He became a well read man by diligent home study and personal observation. When twenty-five years old he began to make public addresses on local political issues and so well did he speak that when his name was announced to appear on a program he was always assured a large and interested audience. His powers as an orator and his ability as a political worker were soon recognized by party leaders and he was invited to speak in other communities.

Our subject was always interested in farming pursuits and he began to work for himself when only seventeen years of age. He owned a fine farm of two hundred and three acres.

The Reverend Mr. Simer was always an active church worker, especially since 1880, and for many years the pulpit each Lords Day at Lovell Grove, Brown, Bethel (in Clay County) and at Brubaker he filled, giving a fourth of his time to each charge, all of which, he built up and greatly strengthened.

He was first married to Sarah E. Easly from which union came seven children, only four surviving. Three were Hershel, married to Jennie Tate; Charley married to

Alma Hultz; and Hugh, married to Minnie Jennings. His second wife was Mary Alice Farson. They had two sons, Clay and Frank.

Mr. Simer took great interest in public life. He served three terms as supervisor of Omega Township. He taught six terms of school in his neighborhood and gained considerable praise as a teacher. He was a most versatile man on almost any topic, had a large and well arranged library. He was regarded as a close and ardent student of the Bible and a preacher anxious to work and do the will of the Heavenly Father.



Millie, Ellis Sill and Bryon Sill Nondus and Yuthel Sill; baby in background is Louise Smith Gordon. (Article on Ellis Sill)



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Simer

SOLOMON SIPLE

Solomon Siple was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 2, 1811. He was married to Lydia Spitler February 11, 1836. They moved to Marion County, Illinois September 1841. Settled in the neighborhood known as Redlick Prairie, Marion County where he departed this life. He was the father of seven children; Lucinda Siple - nee Bradley, Henry Siple, died in infancy; Joel Siple - resides near Omega, Illinois; Frederick D. Siple, resides in Sulli-

van, Illinois; George W. Siple, resides near Iuka, Illinois; Eliza J. Siple, - nee Martin, resides at Assumption, Illinois; Rebecca J. Siple, died February 4, 1865. His companion, Lydia Siple, died June 8, 1866. He united in marriage January 13, 1867 with Margaret A. Oyler.

His posterity consists of 7 children, 29 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren.

He departed this life December 14, 1895, age 84 years, 2 mos. 12 days.



Solomon Siple



Margaret Siple

SMITH FAMILY

The following is offered, in whole or in part, for whatever it may be worth in observance of the history of Omega Township in this one hundred and fiftieth year in the age of Marion County.

Estel E. Smith is a descendant from the early settlers of Omega and has made some interested inquiries into their history. There are names of us still prevalent in the Township today, such as, Chapman, Alderson, Marlow even Smith, and some less perpetuated because they were maiden names of pioneer mothers who left their family names somewhere back along the trail in Kentucky, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Virginia or Pennsylvania.

And so, when she learned that her great, great grandfather, Thomas Chapman, came to Omega from Robertson County, Tennessee in 1841, with eleven children and his wife, Rachel, whose maiden name was Garrison, she knows that she is related to some Garrisons somewhere as she is to the early nineteenth century Chapmans, even though she has no Garrison Ancestors, so listed, who served in the 40th Illinois Volunteers to preserve the Union (They probably, fought on the other side.). However, from the General Services Administration in Washington we easily find out that three of Rachel's sons volunteered into the Fortieth in the same week, and "mustered in" at Jefferson Barracks on the same day. These were Thomas Chapman (Jr.), John Chapman, and Daniel Willis Chapman, who was her great grandfather.

The same is true of her great-grandmother Smith, who was born Catherine Eastham, somewhere in Virginia on February 7th, 1803. She came to Omega with her husband, Robert D. Smith, and

fourteen children, from Lincoln County, Kentucky. In 1840, Robert and Catherine bought approximately a half section of land from the U. S. Government at the established price of \$1.25 per acre, and settled on it over in the northeastern part that was called Smith Prairie before it was known as Crutchfield Prairie. They contributed land for Smith Grove Church before it changed to Brown Christian Church and when they died they were buried in Smith Cemetery; but by no revelation was anything around there ever known by the name of Eastham. Be that as it was, one of Catherine's sons who was her great-grandfather, James Edward Smith, died in Carrollton, Louisiana to end slavery, and another son, Alexander, lost an arm in the Battle of Atlanta.

In a short while, two thirds of the Smith land was parcelled out to other settlers. Catherine died at the age of forty-eight (possibly from over-work) but Robert D. made it to age ninety-two. He presided as the Father-Abraham of that community until he died in 1888.

Another of her great, great grandfather's, John Alderson came to Omega from Tennessee in 1842 with his wife, Susannah, and two daughters. This time she was unable to come up with the maiden name of Susannah, but history makes note of the then more important fact that she died within two days of the passing of her husband.

The Marlows came from Martin County, Indiana, shortly after the close of the Civil War. Her great grandfather, Thomas Dale Marlow, served in the 65th Indiana Volunteers. His wife was Susan Caroline Simms. Tom Dale became well known around here as an auctioneer a trade he developed as he mustered out of the Union Army. His

record shows that he stayed on after his discharge to auction off army horses and mules. His brother, Sam Marlow, was blinded for life in Andersonville Prison, but he carried on for many useful years in Omega Township.

Much that she has learned, about Omega, and New Middleton, and Stringtown is redundant to any who have researched in the Brinkerhoff History of 1908, or in the Brink, McDonough and Co. publication of 1881. One even finds an occasional error in these priceless efforts, just as there will be found in our combined endeavor of 1973. More noticeable than error, to the contemporaries of a writer of history, are the omissions. For instance, how could Professor Brinkerhoff have missed the Mulvaney's? They were about as numerous in Omega Township in 1908 as in 1973. Henry Mulvaney shows up today on an abstract title to land as an original \$1.25 per acre buyer from the Government. His holding was adjacent to that of Robert D. Smith, and yet the work of Professor J. H. G. Brinkerhoff is a model of thoroughness compared to what we are apt to accomplish this year.

As late as 1881, the Brink McDonough editors observed under the title of "Customs and Habits Of The Settlers" (of Omega Township): In those days (1840 to 1850) if a man had a pony, a good rifle and a yoke of steers, he was considered well off. The people were not selfish but were friendly and kind to each other. When angry they would fight it out but not indulge in "Backbiting".

From this safe distance in time, we Omegians can pick any class of early settlers as our own that suits our mood or vanity. Other historians have certainly not confined the colonial indentured servants to the "poor

whites". However, in the memory of some of us still living, Omega had a share of all of these. We had some "Pikes" and we had a good share, even an abundance of natural school teachers, such as to indicate a background of education that survived the trek, generation by generation into the wilderness. There were the Haddons, the Middletons, the Rogers, the Millicans and the Longs, and many others that should be recorded. The oldest son of Thomas Chapman was born in Orange County North Carolina. He brought what he owned to Omega in a huge two wheeled cart drawn by four oxen. If one had met them on the trail they might have been taken for "Pikes". They must have had enough Tennessee money aboard to buy the land they took from the Government when they got here. The record also shows that Dan Chapman and his brother, John were immediately assigned to the respective ranks of Fife Major and Principal Musician because, they could both read music and play marches as the Union regiment advanced toward battle.

We read that a great mass of Scotch-Irish poured into Philadelphia in the middle 18th century. They obtained cheap passage on returning tobacco ships. We know that they moved quickly to the "back" of Pennsylvania. Estel Smith Marlow's, grandfathers consistently called themselves Scotch-Irish. Thomas Dale Marlow was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio; brought to Martin County, Indiana by his parents in the 1850's. The county seat of Tuscarawas is New Philadelphia. Typical of the many families that trekked together, the Marlows and the Schooleys both made it from Tuscarawas County, Ohio to Trinity Springs, Indiana at the same time, and from there to Marion County, Illinois (Omega)

at about the same time. In Old World cadence it was only yesterday; to us it was a long time ago.

What difference does all this history make anyhow? Not one bit if we are to think we are any better, or any worse than other Americans. Since we are being joined and blended by other good Americans of different origins and cultures, we might take stock of what we are still able to put into the great melting pot, even improve on our contribution. It wouldn't hurt to recapture some old values either. As we educate in the hope that one of ours might discover a cure for the common cold, or walk on other planets, it certainly will not hurt our chances if we hold on to our inherent sense of fair play, our innate desire to be free: free to the very limits that an organized society can permit, with a minimum of dependence on that society, "GREAT" or otherwise!

JOHN CURTIS SMITH

John Curtis Smith (1851) was born in Granhin County, Kentucky. He came to Illinois with his parents when very young.

In 1871 he married Alice Hanks in Omega Township where they made their home and where they lived until their deaths.

Alice Hanks (1858), daughter of Nicholas A. Hanks was born in Omega Township.

To this union was born nine children; Edgar Smith married Alice Beard, Myrtle Smith married John Widdows, Elsa Smith married Tom Arnold, Dora Smith married Walter Thurston, Grace Smith married James Mulvaney. Louise, Pearly, Owen, and Baby all died in infancy.



John Curtis and Alice Hanks Smith

THE STOKELY FAMILY

When Euclid Stokely was born in Mercer, Pennsylvania, Mercer County Illinois (1803) was a territory, Indiana and Ohio could not be called a place where the West began. Pennsylvania was a wilderness. As a young man, Mr. Stokely was selected to head a surveying party to lay out and survey some of the counties of these states.

As the years went by and the family of Mr. Stokely had grown almost to maturity, he had a desire to see the Western Country, so with \$1,400.00 in gold and a



Samuel M. Stokely Family 1900

Front row L to R; Emmett Stokely (1885-1973), Docia Stokely Hannan (1894-living), S. M. Stokely (father, 1847-1918), Steven Stokely (1898-living), Ann Sophia French Stokely (mother, 1854-1927), Fern Stokely Spiese Fish (1892-1970).

Second row; Jessie Stokely Scott Pierce (1884-1960), Sam M. Stokely (1888-1961), Mary Stokely Michner (1875-1963).

Back row; Joe M. Stokely (1881-living), Hayes Stokely (1877-1941), Euclid Stokely (1879-1926), Benjamin Stokely (1872-living).

splendid saddle horse, he started for Illinois. It is not strange, but natural that Mr. Stokely, should be delighted with the rich rolling prairies and find forests of timber. He arrived at nightfall at a farm house about six or seven miles Southeast from Kinmundy owned by a Mr. Hogue and was made comfortable for the night. In the morning he made known his business and was surprised to find the farm was for sale and at a price that exactly fitted his pile of gold which he carried in his saddle bags. The minds of the seller and buyer soon met, a deed was executed, and the \$1,400.00 in gold was counted out on the kitchen table in the little log house with puncheon floor. The deal closed, he returned home and in the following spring (1854) in covered wagon and ox team brought his family which consisted of; wife Aneneth (Ball) Stokely and the children; Elizabeth, Pheobe, Benjamin, Alfred, Mary, Margaret and Samuel to this farm which was his home until the date of his death in 1869.

Just south of the Stokely house was erected a large log church known as the Ausbury Chapel. it had a seating capacity of nearly four hundred and was often full. When the Civil War came this church and congregation was very much hindered and later divided. Part of the congregation moved South of Omega and was known as Siloam Church while the other part was to become Campground Church.

Euclid's youngest son, Samuel was only 7 years old when the family moved to the home place. Samuel remained on the farm of his father and married Ann Sophia French in the year 1872. Their family of 11 children consisted of Benjamin, Mary, Hayes, Joe, Euclid Jessie, Sam, Emmitt, Fern, Docia and Steven.

The old Stokely home place

remained in the Stokely family thru the years and is now part of the Stephen Forbes State Park.

HERSCHEL TATE HISTORY

Herschel Tate was born in Omega in the year of 1898. He attended Siloam School as a child and later the Omega Township School. In 1910 at the age of 12, Herschel was struck with polio causing him to lose the use of both lower limbs. Mr. Tate was not to be denied by his handicap. He purchased an interest in an auto agency in Salem and later, operated the White Top Cab Company for 22 years. He retired in 1964. Mr. Tate now resides in the Doctors' Nursing Home, Salem.



Mr. Herschel Tate

GEORGE VAN CLEVE

Valeria Van Cleve Schooley's father George Van Cleve with five children ranging in age from five to seventeen years old came from Indiana in the spring of 1901. George, Valeria, and Faye had the mumps at moving time so Everett and Hattie brought baby Laura and came ahead to Omega. They bought 80 acres of timber land for \$500 which, is now part of the Forbes State Park. They built a four room log house. The children went to Oak Park School later dubbed "Frog Pond", by which name it is better known. The teacher got \$20 a month for a seven month term. If they did not want to do the janitor work, they hired someone for twenty-five cents a day. Their work was to build fires in the mornings and sweep and dust the school house everyday. All

pupils walked to school, some as much as one and a half miles. The school house was built in 1898.

Through the winter the men killed rabbits and sold them just as they were for ten cents each. In the spring the roads were so bad, farmers uncoupled their farm wagons and used the front half to haul butter, eggs and rabbits to market.

Through the summer Mr. Weaver of Laclede drove a husker wagon throughout the country each week selling groceries. Women and children watched for him. It was just like going to town.

George Van Cleve and Ida Pittenger were married in 1882. Ida passed on, in 1901, and George arrived in Illinois at his new home, April 20, 1901 about 8 p. m.. Fifty years later at 8 p. m., on April 20, 1951, he passed on to the great beyond.



Left to Right -- Valeria, George, Hattie, Everett
Seated in front -- Faye, Laura, Ida

STEVEN WAGONER

Stephen J. Wagoner was born in Crofford County, Illinois August 5, 1856. Miss Sarah M. Roberts was born in Clay County February 24, 1858.

Stephen J. and Sarah M. Roberts were married November 4, 1875 in Salem, Illinois. Children born to them; were; Charles L. Wagoner, October 16, 1877; Millie E. Wagoner, November 26, 1879 (died August 10, 1929) who had a daughter Blanch Sills Perry; William E. Wagoner, October 20, 1881; Emma F. Wagoner October 20, 1883; Lulu A. Wagoner, February 27, 1886; Norah M. Wagoner, April 27, 1888; Herman L. Wagoner, January 20, 1890 (surviving member of the family); Doras and Dora Wagoner, October 19, 1894; Joseph F. Wagoner, September 20, 1895; Stephen Wagoner (date of birth unknown) (died July 6, 1936; and Sarah M. date of birth unknown, (died November 5 1930).



Mr. and Mrs. Steven Wagoner

ROBERT L. WRIGHT

Robert L. Wright came to Omega Township in May 1936 to the home of Nellie Walkington and her son, Merle Walkington. There he was raised to the age of 18 and then, called to the Navy in World War II. He served in the Navy for three years and returned home January 1946. There he helped in the farming but later moved to Joliet in 1947 to work in Joliet State Prison as a guard for the next five years.

March 17, 1948 he married Margaret Beard, Ernie Beard's only daughter out of a family of 8. In 1951, a son was born, Robert Allen and in 1958 another son was born Merle Lee.

In 1952 the Wrights moved back to Omega Township into the Nellie Gammon Place. This house burned down in 1952 and was rebuilt that same year and is still occupied by them. Robert Allen married Elaine Bisel of Salem, Illinois and lives on the Wright farm just to the east.

The year of 1965, Robert L. Wright became Supervisor of Omega Township by popular vote and was later on re-elected for another term. He worked for six years to get our new concrete road south of Omega to Highway 50. This is one of the first concrete roads to be built by the county. In 1971 he was one of the 15 Board members elected to serve his County. There were five districts set up for each member. Robert L. Wright served in district number 1, which consisted of Iuka, Omega Meachum, Alma, Kinmundy, Foster, Carrigan, Patoka, and precinct 7 in Salem. By drawing numbers he got a two year term.

In March of 1973 a Historical meeting was held. Present were Mayor Charles McMackin of Salem and Gerald Penrod and others. It was decided that Omega

should join in with Salem and Marion County to celebrate its 150th birthday. Robert L. Wright was elected Omega Township General Chairman and with the help of the Omega Boosters built two floats named "Yesterday and Today". Miss Brenda Jones was elected Omega Queen. As Chairman of the Omega Boosters, he helped in lots of events, such as the largest Pie Supper, Historical Day, and with the Crowning of the First Omega Queen. People came from everywhere to all the events. First Omega flag was made for the event. He also helped the County in joining the celebration. He tried to get other Townships to join. He was picked as one of the Brothers of The Brush Judges.

Helping Omega and keeping the people together was a first with him. Omega was born last in the County; but he made Omega first in different ways the past few years, and wants to keep it that way.

MOTHER NATURE MURDERER

I'm witness, I saw it, I was there.
Just one of the jury, I could see it everywhere.
'Twas Mother Nature! I've seen all the facts
It was murder your honor, without even an ax.
She cursed all the flowers 'till they wilted and died.
Then she stripped all the trees without modesty to hide.
We've reached a verdict your honor, this you can see.
Take a look at the mountains or a glance at the park;
The light of Winter has made Fall look very dark.
The evidence is on the ground,
In the fields, and in the air.
See for yourself, it shows everywhere.
You have all the facts and everyone knows.
All right your honor - May the case be closed.

LeRoy Decker, Author



BILL AND SANDY JENKINS

We would like to thank Bill and Sandy for their combined efforts for the betterment of this history of Omega. Bill was raised in Omega and, even though he moved away and married, his thoughts are still with Omega. Our loss was his gain, for he found a wonderful wife and daughter.

His offer to help print this book will be appreciated by all, and we thank him for it. The front cover of this book was designed and drawn through the cooperation of Pat Meyer and Bill's daughter Van.

We are sorry for any errors you may find, listed below are a couple of things we have already discovered.

- (1) The Kniseley picture of John Scott and Rachel Caroline French Kniseley is reversed
- (2) The picture of John Scott Kniseley, School Administrator, should read On the Right is Dick Morton.

Thanks to everyone for the great cooperation we received in printing this book.