



Dedication

*For the generations to come, we
leave our Legacy of Love with
memories of our past heritage, a bit of
our present and our sincere hope of
peace and understanding for the future.*

*With love from the people of Farmington, Fulton
County, Illinois, United States of America, 1984.*

FARMINGTON

*The years are long, four score and ten,
But I don't mind, I'm back home again
in Farmington.*

*This little town is bright and gay,
Where I first saw the light of day
in Farmington.*

*The friendly churches with their steeple,
Filled with kind and loving people
in Farmington.*

*Family, friends and neighbors too,
Can't seem to do enough for you
in Farmington.*

*The grave yard at the edge of town,
Where one day I'll lay me down
in Farmington.*

*Midst loved ones of former years,
At rest at last, please no tears
in Farmington.*

*No more worry, strife or stress,
With all my heart I'll say God Bless
Farmington.*

Jessie Taylor Fabian

HISTORY OF FARMINGTON



A group of Pottawatomi Indians living up on high rocks along the Illinois River on what is now called Starved Rock had lost their chief, Pontiac, who had just been killed by one of the Illini Tribe and they decided to take revenge and drove the Illini up on a high cliff overlooking the Illinois River. Here they held them at bay without food or water until they died with true Indian fortitude, rather than surrender.

A small band of this Pottawatomi tribe, having grown weary of this constant bloodshed, planned a daring escape hoping to find a place to live out their lives in peace. One night, under the cover of darkness, they silently stepped into their canoes and cautiously glided down the river. They sat quietly and tensely as they traveled, knowing that if they were discovered by their own tribe, they would be killed for having disobeyed their leader. They traveled by night and slept by day, pulling their canoes into the edge of the forest and covering over their footsteps. Eventually, they came to the place where the Kickapoo empties into the Illinois River. They decided to follow it upstream to its source. Here, they found a lovely secluded grove — a cool and delightful place with a natural spring that give forth its cold liquid refreshment. Soon, they had made their crude wig-wams which was an interesting process. They were round or oval in shape, made with a framework of tender saplings and covered with bark. The overshadowing branches of the ancestral trees kept their homes cool in the summer months. The squaws did the work about the camp, while the braves softly tread the narrow Indian trails in search of game or fished in the nearby streams. These Indians lived out their lives in peace as they had dreamed. Their descendants, some 200 years later, met the first courageous, energetic pioneers, who ventured westward into this territory that we now call home.

These pioneers came west to claim land the Government had given them after the War of 1812 as a reward for their service in the recent war. This land was called the Military Tract. The Government had other motives in giving this land to the soldiers. It would also develop natural resources untouched by the red man and push back frontiers and open the "Gateway to the West." This fertile land could also be purchased for \$1.25 per acre.

The Indian's camp was a short distance east of the present city of Farmington and by this time, a portion of the Indians had moved to the west of the present city.





In the spring of 1827, David Harkness and Seth Littler came through here, building two crude log cabins. One was located on Section 13, on the south side of the present Farmington Township Road, while the other was about three miles west of town along Flea Creek, later to be named Littler's Creek to perpetuate his memory. But they were drifters and soon moved on. The same year, in the autumn, when the trees were a blaze of glory, wearing their gay gypsy bonnets and the prairie grass had grown to 6 or 7 feet in height, a lonely Conestoga wagon was seen by the Indians, slowly wending its way to the Harkness cabin. The driver approached the cabin cautiously, but found it to be empty. This was Jonah Marchant and his family, the first permanent settlers. They spent their first night here, after making the cabin more livable, emptying their bulging wagon which contained all of their

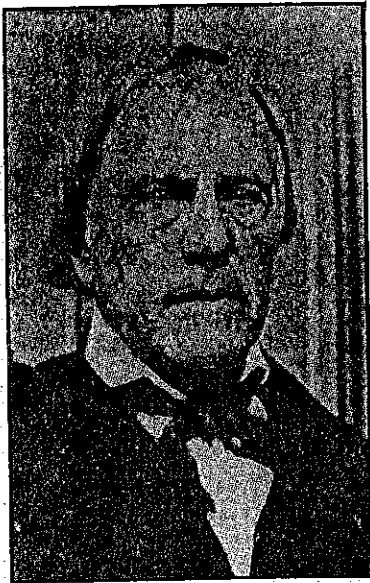
earthly possessions. They awakened early, eager to explore their surroundings, finding, it is said, eleven natural springs and an abundance of timber with which to build a larger home later and with ample wood for the fireplace.

In two weeks, they were joined by the families of Silas Chase, Ahira Jones and Theodore Sargeant. Working together, they had their cabins ready before winter set in. They found the Indians to be quite friendly, sharing their Indian remedies for diseases with which they were unable to cope. The prairie swamps brought about many unusual diseases which were not to be cleared up until the land could be put under cultivation.



The Indian squaws were eager to help in childbirth. Mrs. Marchant had a son named after his uncle Abraham Marchant, who, in 1828, joined this little group.

In 1829, Henry Dalton, farmer, came with his family and stepson Fountain Watkins and one year later was joined by Avery Dalton, his nephew. After Avery's mother had died and the family had broken up, he took passage west via wagon train and a young couple hired him to help care for their baby and the family cow. He had earned small change by finding wild pumpkins along the route and selling them to some of the men for their horses.



Jonah Marchant
First Permanent Settler

This small area in the wilderness, by now, had taken on the name of Marchant Settlement and all those who passed this way were welcomed. Things were going well with the families here. There were turkey shoots, quilting bees and the usual romances. Avery Dalton and Fountain Watkins planted the first corn where the north side of the business block is located today.

There is an amusing story about Theodore Sargeant's wedding. The wives of Jonah and Abraham Marchant and Theodore Sargeant were sisters; they were the daughters of Daniel Brown, who had arrived in Canton at a much earlier date. Theodore's wedding was held in his cabin.

Sargeant's wedding, being the first in the township, is well worthy of commemoration, and fortunately we have, in the person of Henry Andrews, on the the wedding party, a faithful and graphic chronicler.

He says this wedding was an event in the Barnes neighborhood. It occurred at the cabin of Daniel Brown, the father of the bride. All the neighbors were invited, and probably all were assembled in the cabin; still, though small, it was not nearly full. The bride was gorgeously appareled in a checked lindsey homespun dress, a three-cornered kerchief about her neck, and her feet encased in moccasins. The groom also wore moccasins, and a full suit of new lindsey, colored with butternut-bark. The guests were dressed much the same, and were seated on puncheon benches around the sides of the cabin. Captain Barnes, at that time County Commissioner, performed the marriage ceremony, with due and becoming dignity. At the conclusion of the ceremony, all the gentlemen present "saluted the bride." When this ceremony had been completed, old Mr. Brown produced a "noggin" of whisky and a brand-new tin cup—then considered a very aristocratic drinking vessel, — and passed the customary beverage to all present. All drank from the cup, filling it from the "noggin" when empty, and passing it from hand to hand until again empty. The liquor soon began to make the guests merry, and jokes and songs were considered to be in order. George Matthews, a gay old bachelor, was considered a very fine ballad-singer, and sang a song that would scarcely be considered appropriate on a festive occasion as this day. Mr. Andrews gives from memory two verses of this ballad:

*"There's the silly old man
of a hundred and twenty,
Who pines on his riches,
Though stores he has plenty;
He'll exchange all his riches,
His lands and his rents,
For a worm-eaten coffin,
A hundred years hence."*



This song was vigorously applauded, and was followed by several others of the same sort. The party dispersed about eleven o'clock.

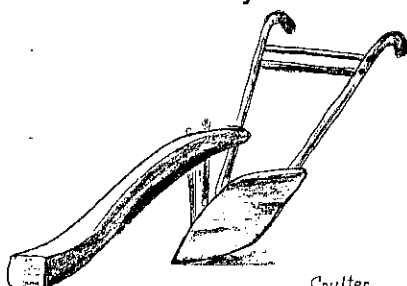
PIONEERS' EARLY EFFORTS

Ahira Jones was quite concerned about an education for their children, as were the other pioneers. He took the first little cabin he had built and turned it into a school house. Isaac Cutter came here to be a teacher and was loved by the children, as he spun tales of far away places, which amazed them. The little Indian boys knew the closing song and came out from behind the trees where they joined their friends and fished in a near-by stream. Occasionally, Mr. Cutter would join them. He lived with the Jones family and it might be interesting to know that Mr. Jones eventually was the father of twenty children.

Church services were held in the Jonah Marchant home when circuit riders passed this way. There was Rev. Dick Haney, Rev. Peter Cartwright, Rev. Asa D. West and others. One time, in one of his more eloquent gestures, the minister pulled a Quaker bonnet from the head of the lady sitting close to him (we must keep in mind these cabins were small). He quickly attempted to replace it and put it on "hind side to," which brought a few giggles from the children. Another time, he upset a crock of cream. But, as they listened, they dreamed their dreams and knew that one day there would be churches here in this wilderness.

These early settlers found it difficult to use their wooden moldboard plows they had brought with them, as they would not scour. Jonah Marchant applied a bit of steel to them and they were more successful. Sometimes, they burned the hazel brush along the timber's edge and found a good place for their gardens. Corn was planted Indian fashion as they were taught by the Indians. Taking an axe, they would lay back a bit of sod and drop in a few kernels of corn and cover it over. Vegetables were dried where possible and the rest put in lined pits. First, dry prairie grass was put on the bottom of the pit and mixed vegetables laid in it and covered over with more prairie grass, then covered with dirt, leaving one end where it could be opened easily during the winter months. Honey was free for the taking in hollow trees. Wooden troughs were built around the maple trees to catch the precious sap. The sap was then boiled down in kettles over an open fire, to make maple syrup or maple sugar. There were berries in season also free for the taking.

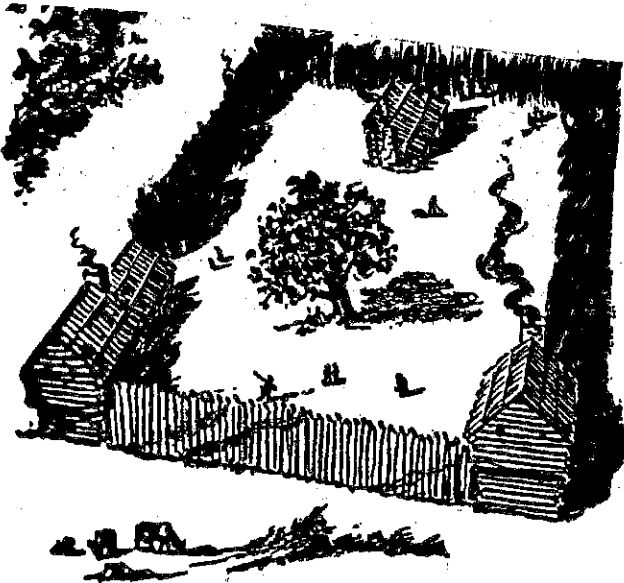
The pioneers made what was called a wattle fence around their garden which consisted of branches closely inter-woven into a fence; this helped to keep out small animals. Corn was



"Early mold-board plow"

ground into a fine meal and was "lickin good" when made into cornbread and covered with honey or maple syrup. The meat was cooked over the fireplace with vegetables and was quite tasty. Ahira Jones, with his old pipe, was unable to raise tobacco, so the Indians kindly furnished him with tobacco until he could grow his own.

BUILDING THE FORT



Things were going well at the settlement when word reached them that Black Hawk, the mighty warrior, had returned from Iowa where he had been driven from his old haunts and was leaving a path of death and destruction in his wake. The people were very frightened. They decided to build a wooden fort on the site of the present water tower, on land belonging to Theodore Sargeant. Trees were quickly felled and hauled to the fort site and the fort was soon built.

Spencer Cone, the son of Joseph Cone, came later and wrote about this fort. There were no stones in it. Following is his description of that old fort:

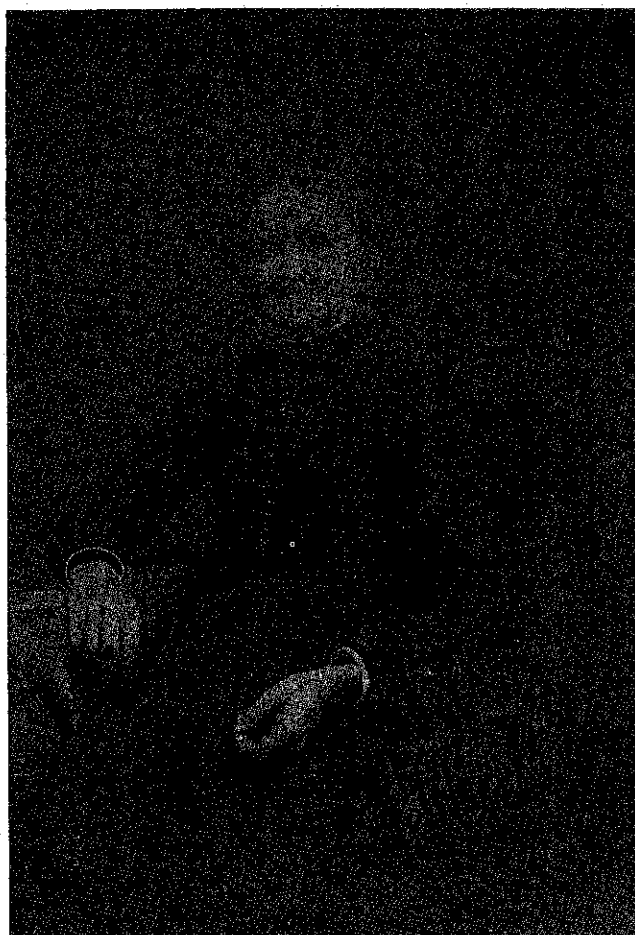
"This fort was a large square surrounded by split logs 10 or 12 feet long, set on end and deeply set into the ground. Two large, block houses (made of wood) were built at opposite corners of the enclosure. This was considered a very complete and formidable work for Indian warfare."

SARGEANT'S INGENUITY

Soon, Governor Reynolds called for volunteers and Theodore Sargeant, a soldier in the War of 1812, was asked to bring in recruits. All of the able-bodied men from Marchant Settlement went, leaving their wives and children at the fort where they would be safe. He could not find enough men and was forced to go to Canton, some distance away, and get more men. Following is this story.

"Theodore Sargeant was Lieutenant of the Canton Militia Company during the Black Hawk War. In that capacity, for a considerable period, he had the command of the company. After Stillman's defeat, an order came from the Governor to Sargeant for seven men from the Canton Company. Sargeant at once mustered his company in front of Child's & Stillman's Store, and read the requisition. He called on those who would go to fall in after the music. At the same time, he ordered them to march and countermarch. Up and down tramped the musicians before the company, but not a man fell in behind them. Sargeant was equal to the emergency. Ordering the music to cease, he went into the store and bought two gallons of whisky, which he passed down the ranks, treating every man. "Now, boys," said he, "I've got to have seven men, or I'll draft them! Music! Forward, march! Boys, fall in, you who want to go." Either the whisky, or the threat, or patriotism, proved potent, and nine more than the required number at once fell in."

Soon, peace was restored and the men returned to their respective homes. The small child of Ahira Jones became sick and died during this time and was buried within the walls of the fort. Patty Chase had gone to Harris Township to be with her mother while her husband and father, John Harris, went off to war. The ladies laughingly told her, on her return, that there was much more fighting at the fort than the men experienced, due to a terrible dose of cabin fever and an over-abundance of small children.



Patty Chase, wife of Silas Chase - 1st Cooper.



Curtis Brown & wife Orena Loomis - 1st Mayor after town incorporated as City in 1887.



Joseph Cone

PLATTING OF FARMINGTON

Once peace was restored, the tide of immigration moved in swiftly. By 1832 or 33, Job and Elisha Brown entered the township. Cabins dotted the prairie in all directions and soon, there became a desperate need for a shopping center. This want was supplied by George W. Little, Joseph Cone and Hiram Palmer, who, on October 9, 1834, platted out the town of Farmington, which was named after Mr. Cone's native home back east. It was then that Marchant Settlement ceased to exist. Farmington was incorporated as a town in 1857. The charter was renewed in 1865 and it was incorporated as a city in 1887.

EARLY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



George Little

George Little opened the first general store in 1834. It's surprising the things they had thought to bring with them to sell. The Indians were very curious, peeking in the door and watching articles being sold over the counter. There was a very good relationship between the white people and the Indians. Morgan Heaton



Morgan Heaton

opened the second general store in 1838 on the north side of East Fort Street and had a thriving business. In 1856, he moved to the south side and became our veteran druggist.

The Mason House was our first hotel, opened in 1837 or 38, and was operated by Jacob Mason and his two sons. First, it was located on the place where the Marj-El Studio stands today and later where the Bank of Farmington is located. Stage coaches stopped here to partake of their excellent food. Early circuit riders put up here for the night, such as Rev. Asa D. West, Rev. Peter Cartwright, Rev. Samuel G. Wright, Rev. John Cross, and Rev. Haney. On the wall, near the desk, was this unique sign:

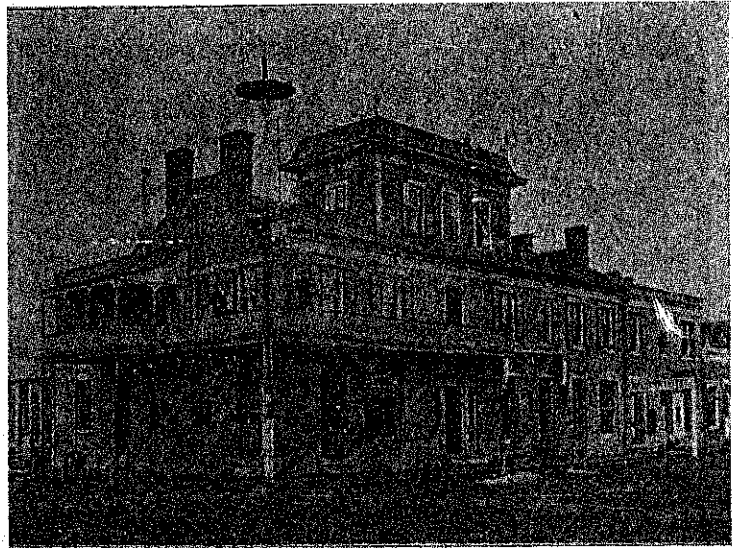


Jacob Mason

HOUSE RULES

1. Persons owing bills for board will be bored for bills.
2. Persons who do not wish to pay in advance are urged to advance and pay.
3. Boarders are urged to pull off their own boots if they can conveniently do so.
4. Beds without bugs unless otherwise desired—we aim to please.
5. Money and valuables are to be left with the proprietor.
6. Single men, with families, will not be boarded.
7. Dreams will be charged for by the dozen.
8. Nightmares will be hired out at reasonable rates.
9. Stone vaults will be furnished to snoring boarders.

Thank You,
The Management.



**Farmington's First Hotel
The Mason House**
Later divided into stores with a small portion used as a hotel.

Silas Chase was our first cooper and his products would command premium prices today for collectors. He also had a farm on Route 116, just west of where Welker's Birds and Bees was located for so many years. Pitman and Barlow were our first blacksmiths and, it is thought, their shop was located on the Farmington Township Park Road where Richard Vawter presently resides. Dan Tanner had a carding mill on South Main Street and his tired old white horse,



Dan Tanner



Phineas Chapman



A.B. Thomas



Col Porter



Montgomery Brace



Luther Birge

walking all day long but never going anywhere, motivated the tread wheel. Small children watched this process hour after hour. Mr. Tanner came here in 1833 or 34. Mr. Hatch was our veteran livery man and his beautiful pair of bay horses were in all activities such as parades, etc. Col. Porter came in 1837-38 opening the first wagon shop on North Main Street, also taking time to farm. Amos Mendenhall had the first flour mill and it was very successful. The flour was shipped out to other towns when the railroads came through here. Phineas Chapman came around 1841. He and his son had several business interests in town. They had a planing mill, iron foundry, lumber yard and grocery store. They also donated the land where Chapman School is located and is still used. Mr. Chapman and his son-in-law, Asa D. Reed, purchased land south of East Fort Street and on Vernon Street.

Montgomery Brace was Farmington's first tailor and served our community for 50 years. The first brickyard was owned by Samuel Mitchell and was on a portion of the present Oak Ridge Cemetery. Others

were to follow. Firman Brown was the first shoemaker. It is said his shoes and boots were not a thing of beauty, but wore like whangleather. Barnett Loomis made and sold harnesses on the north side of the business block.

A.B. Thomas, Luther Birge and John Dickey were carpenters and built the first frame homes in town. In the late 40's, Asa D. Reed, son-in-law of Phineas Chapman, erected the first brick buildings which ran east and west starting at the old bank corner, running east. This was called the Reed Block. A.G. Morse was the first architect, erecting the brick buildings on the north side of the business block which became known as the Morse Block. He also built many of the larger homes in Farmington which are still standing. Mr. Morse was also the first mortician having one of the finest hearses in this area. Along with this business was also the first furniture store. He also operated a grocery store. Peter Conner was the first jeweler, followed by C.A. Smith.

The first two gunsmiths in Farmington were Mr. King and Mr. Kringle. There were others who followed in this trade.

Later, we find the first steam plow shop operated by Mr. Parvin. There were numerous plow shops, but when Mr. Parvin came with this large steam plow operation, the smaller shops were put out of business. Asa D. Reed and his brother Horatio opened the first dry goods store. William Caldwell was considered the first postmaster; however, Mr. Little had mail brought to his

general store.

Agriculture was, and still is, the most important industry in Farmington Township. The township was laid out in 1850.

Transportation was a problem in those early years. The first road from Peoria to Farmington was an old Indian trail. It was first used as a road beginning in 1833. This road ran through the forest primeval and required felling trees along the way which left stumps that the wagons barely cleared. These roads were very narrow and in the swampy

areas, required corduroy roads in order to get through. A corduroy road is a low place in a road which inhibited travel, thus it necessitated the hauling in of a few logs, making it easier to traverse. Sometimes, they added a few corn cobs to fill in the gaps between the logs.

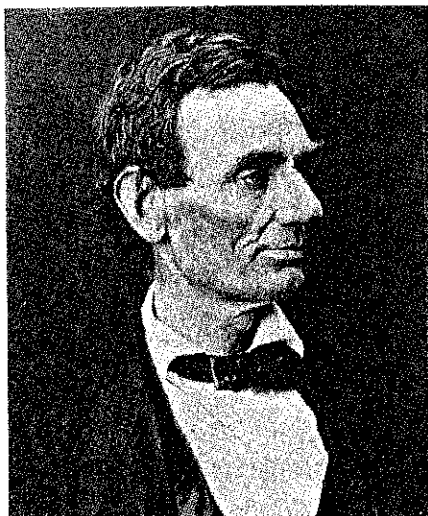
The first mail was delivered by Harvey Ross on horseback. The route ran from Springfield to Havana, Lewistown, Canton, Farmington, Knoxville, Monmouth and on to Oquawka along the Mississippi River. By 1837, stagecoaches were brought into use with a route from Peoria to Farmington and also from Springfield through Farmington. Sometimes, these were fine Troy Stagecoaches, but many times were merely farm wagons drawn by two horses.



**A.G. & E.E. Morse
Contractors & Builders
Farmington's First Hearse**

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HONORS FARMINGTON

It was on this type of road and by horse and carriage that Abraham Lincoln traveled when he visited Lewistown and Farmington in 1858, when he was running for Senator against Douglas.



**Abraham Lincoln
Our Martyred President**

At Lewistown, a committee headed by Major N. Walker and John W. Proctor went to meet him. There was a delegation of seventy-eight horsemen and seventeen wagons and buggies. Mr. Lincoln spoke at 2:00 P.M., standing between the central pillars of the old court house in Lewistown, to possibly 600 to 800 attentive listeners.

It was here that Lincoln delivered the glowing eulogy on the Declaration of Independence which by the suggestion of the London Times has become an English classic.

As he was escorted on to Farmington, it was noted that the delegates from Farmington were: A. Marchant, E. Marchant, G.W. Gooch, A.G. Pinegar, Eli Crawl, Silas Babitt, M.L. Hoffman, William Finley, and A.H. Montgomery.

Upon arriving in Farmington, he was taken to a platform beautifully decorated in red, white and blue, which was located in front of the old Capp's House and here he delivered another of his well-remembered campaign speeches. During his speech, Thomas Higgs and another young man were taking a load of grain to the mill and decided to stop and listen. They were not impressed with this ungainly towering figure until they listened further, and they, like the rest of the townsfolk were held spellbound.

Following his speech, he left the podium to shake hands with the people, and noticing a little three year old girl, he picked her up and kissed her. This child was a daughter of Ahira Jones, and this gesture was never forgotten by Farmington.

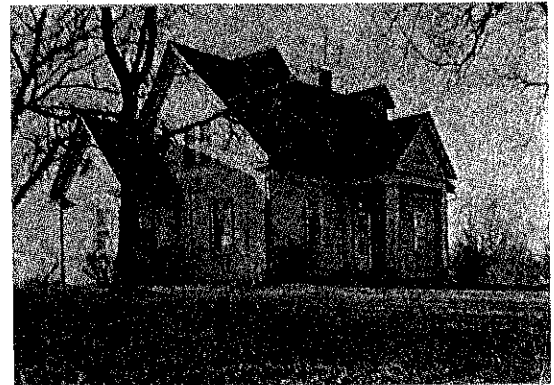
Mr. Lincoln spent the night on East Fort Street, in the home of his old friend, Rev. John Wilkinson, Pastor of the Episcopal Church.

The little town of Farmington went to sleep unaware they were entertaining the future sixteenth president of the United States.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Along about this time, there was trouble in the South in regard to their slaves. Eli Whitney's cotton gin did away with picking the seeds by hand and cotton became a more profitable business. Consequently, the Deep South planted vast acres of cotton which required more labor. This was accomplished by purchasing slaves from the northern slave states, taking them into the Deep South where they were badly needed. This meant separating families who would never see each other again. This brought about an upheaval in the northern states and they began to take action. The Anti-Slavery Society came into existence and the Underground Railroad, an illicit project, came into being. It was not really underground but a group of "friends" who came to the slaves' assistance in their hour of need. The cargo on this train was human and thus began several years of illegally helping slaves into Canada. Once they reach Canadian soil, they were free people. But this mighty effort proved to be insufficient and it took a bloody civil war to bring peace to a troubled nation. Our martyred president freed the slaves, but gave his own life in doing so.

Some of the Farmington Stations were: Deacon Luther Birge, Phineas Chapman, Spencer Cone, Ahira Jones, Lucious Parrish, Theodore Sargeant, Dan Tanner, Amos Thomas, Riley Bristol and others.

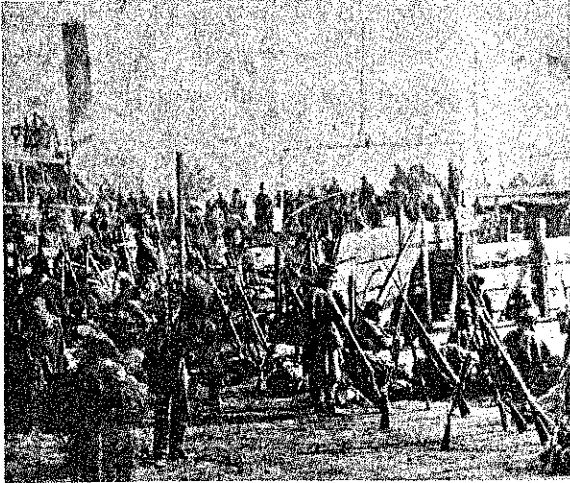


**Underground Railway Station
Luther Birge Home, Farmington**



**Lucious Parrish House
Station on Underground Railroad**

CIVIL WAR



**Fulton County's 103rd Infantry Regiment
Leaving Peoria 1862**

Most of the men who fought in the Civil War from Farmington were in the Fulton County 103rd Regiment, but there were others who joined from different nearby areas.

They left from Peoria, Illinois, on October 30, 1862, by boat. They embarked on a perilous journey to the Deep South where they joined General Sherman on his "March To The Sea." General Ulysses S. Grant was with them part of the way.

While thinking not only of their loved ones left behind, their thoughts were on possibly being captured and imprisoned, wounded or killed and they wondered if God would ever permit them to return home to their families.

Being forewarned by General Grant not to forage so as not to give away their military position and further endanger the lives of the Company, they had to be satisfied with the meager rations provided. As they marched day by day in the South from one place to another, they were footsore and hungry, never having quite enough food to sustain themselves.

On one occasion, they saw a cow at one of the plantations and envisioned a hearty meal and they began "to lick their chops." They made camp shortly after this but their thoughts kept returning to the cow nibbling on tender grass in the enemies' pasture. A young lad by the name of Wheeler, who was a drummer in this company, came up with the bright idea of taking the top off his drum to use as a container for what he and some of his friends were about to do. They sheepishly and quietly left camp returning to that innocent cow standing there unsuspecting that she was about to become luscious steaks for Gen. Grant and his men. They filled the empty drum with choice steaks, full to overflowing, but they could not carry all of the meat back to camp. So the men removed their jackets or coats and carried as much as possible in this manner.

The following morning when Gen. Grant pulled back the flaps of his tent to receive his customary breakfast, he was quite surprised to find one of the largest, tastiest steaks he had ever seen placed before him. He quickly pulled it inside the tent where he savored every morsel. Then on his usual walk in front of his men, with his cigar in his mouth and his hands crossed behind his back, he looked very sober but with a twinkle in his eyes, continued his walk and never uttered a word!

It was heart breaking to see their comrades captured and taken to prison. The Andersonville Prison was probably the worst. The make-shift sewage system was positioned too close to the creek that provided their drinking water. This in turn caused the constant dysentery, coupled

with the lack of fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat. Our "Yankee" soldiers became malnourished, extremely ill, and emaciated and sadly many died.

Many soldiers kept diaries during the war. Those who were imprisoned carried heart-rending stories of that sad time in our history, of the "War of Rebellion" between the North and the South.

In the winter months, their blankets at night were insufficient to warm their tired aching bodies. It was a common saying around camp, "United We Sleep or Divided We Freeze." Eventually the war was over and General Robert E. Lee shook hands with General Ulysses S. Grant and each acknowledged the fact that the painful task they had to do was now completed.

Then came the time for binding up the Nation's wounds and for bringing about a new way of life in a free land. Praise God that the Negroes were finally freed and once again we were "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

MINING AND RAILROADS

By now, the roads were in better condition and the stagecoach had become a part of our past history. With thoughts of the coming railroad, new doors of opportunity would open.

A group of business men and prominent leaders were anxious to see the railroad come through Farmington and they donated large sums of money to bring this about to have an outlet for the vast acres of coal in this area lying untouched for lack of transportation to take it to other parts of the nation.

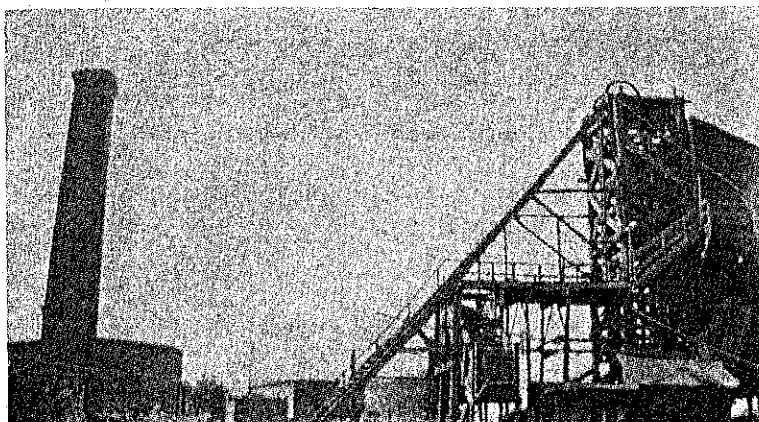
Heretofore, produce and livestock had been taken to Peoria or Reed's Landing to be shipped out. They were disappointed when the first railroad went to Elmwood in 1858 instead of coming through Farmington. This was closer for produce and livestock, but still not close enough to ship out coal.

Six or seven farmers would go together driving their livestock and carrying their produce by wagon to Elmwood. It was no unusual sight to see a farmer "treed" by one of his own hogs. The other farmers had to come to his assistance by driving the hog away, allowing the farmer to continue on. The snorts and the grunts were indistinguishable.

There was a drift mine and a slope mine in the township in earlier days which proved unprofitable as there was no way to transport the coal to other areas. The railroads eventually came through Farmington in 1862, and mine owners were "itchin'" to get at those precious Illinois Black Diamonds.



**Will and Sirrilla (Brimmer) Dikeman
Dressed in Yesterday's Apparel**



Nickel Plate Mine

The mine owners finally sunk the first deep shaft mines. First came the Chapman Mine in 1870, followed by Old Jerkwater, Pond Lilly, Nickel Plate, George Westerby, Sr., Maplewood Number One and Maplewood Number Two, Gilchrist, National Mine, Number Eight, Silver Creek and Westerby Bros.

As the mines were sunk and put into operation, it brought about Farmington's second wave of immigration. Miners from other countries had received the good news and were anxious to come here to make their fortunes. The first to arrive were the English, the Scots and the Irish, followed by the Italians, Slavs, Lithuanians and others. The population soon reached three thousand or more, but there was no place to shelter these families. In desperation, mine owners erected company houses around each mine and this took care of the situation.

Gilchrist Mine had its own little settlement called Gilchrist; Mine Number Two had three little settlements, the first being Diamond Point, the second, Forty Acre Patch, and the third was Koynerville, later changed to Cornerville. Jerkwater had one settlement called Puffup. Nickel Plate Mine had Barlow. There were other mines located within the township but further away.

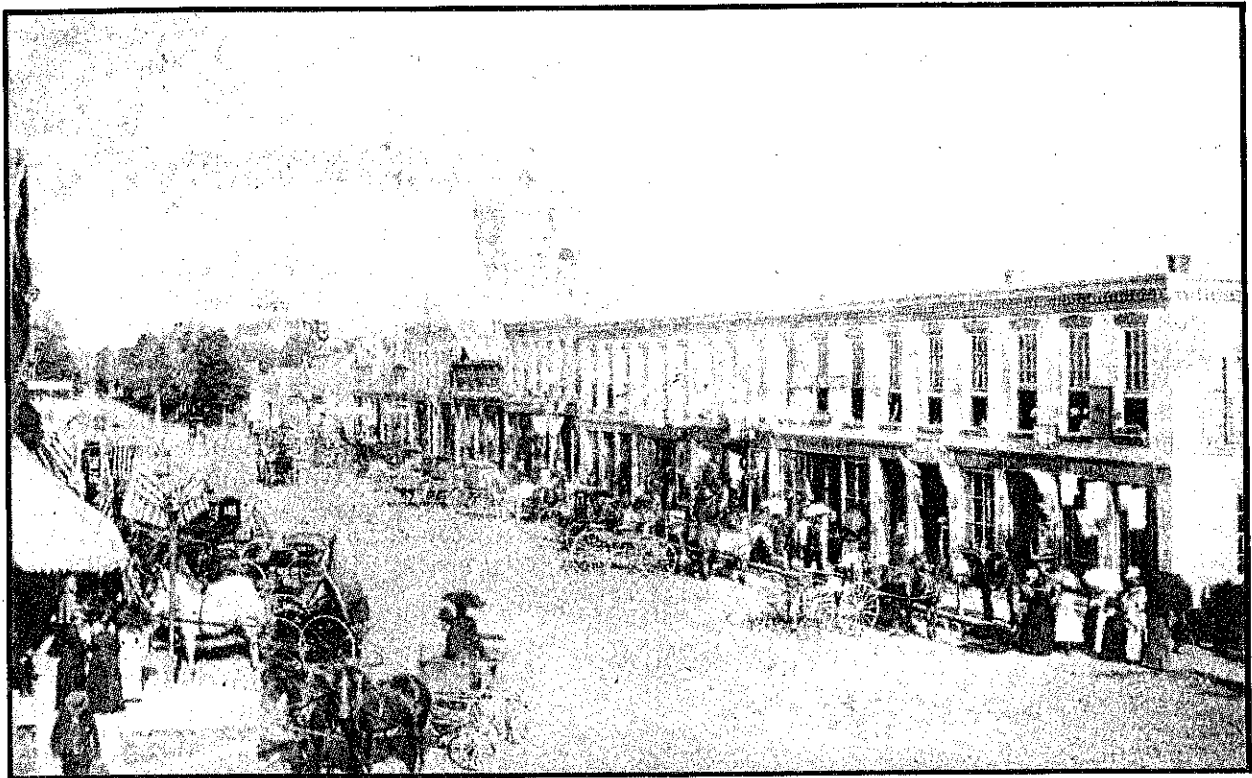
First came the C.B. & Q. Railroad in 1862. Then in 1880, the Peoria-Farmington Railroad came into existence for only one year. In 1887 it was renamed the Iowa Central Railroad. Still later, it became known as the Minneapolis-St. Paul Railroad and today is owned by the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.

In 1912, The Illinois Central Electric Railroad Company, which was more generally known as the "interurban," began their operation. There were terminals at Farmington, Norris, Fairview, Canton, and Lewistown. They made several trips a day and the fare from Farmington to Canton was two thin dimes. The school children living in the mining settlements south of Farmington could flag the train down and ride to and from school. Miners who worked in the mines south of town were permitted to sit in the seats in the morning, but after their day's work, were requested to stand up. Need one ask why?

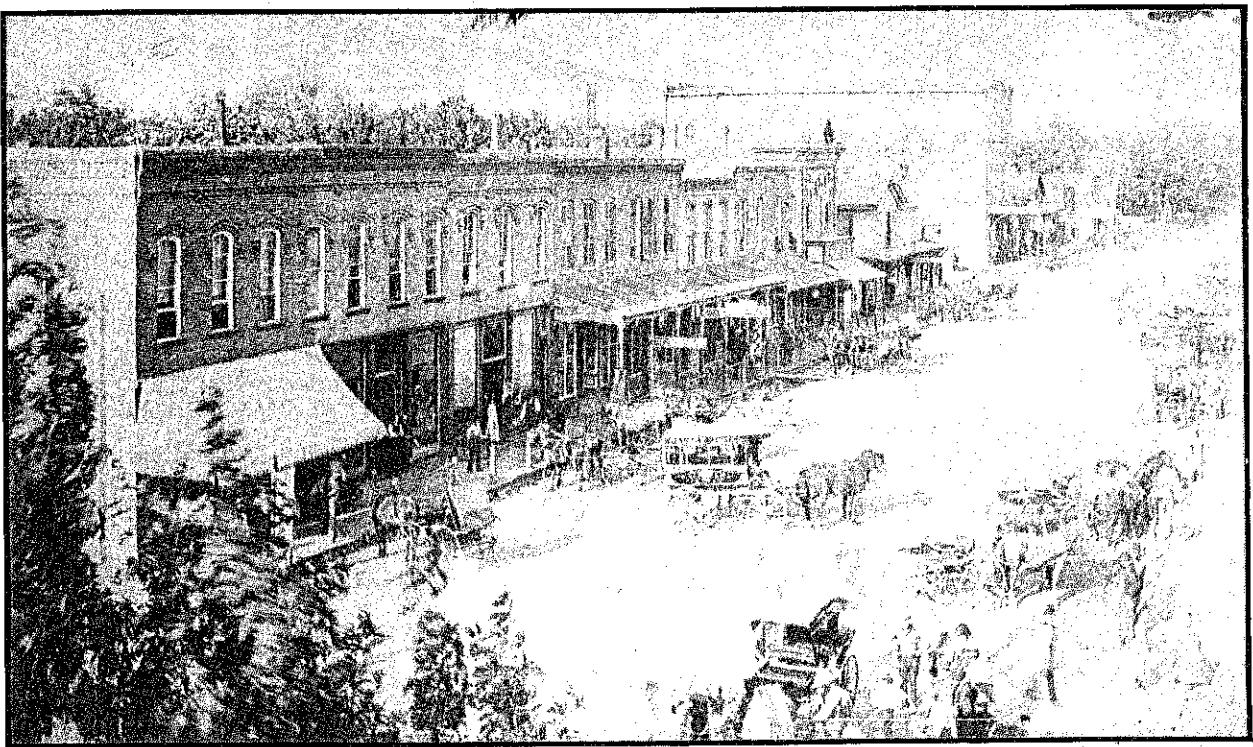
Many people will remember the depot for the Interurban which was located on the west side of South Main



Illinois Central Electric R.R. — Interurban



Early Farmington — Around 1870



Business Block north side - East Fort
I.O.O.F. Hall three story building, destroyed by fire - 1901

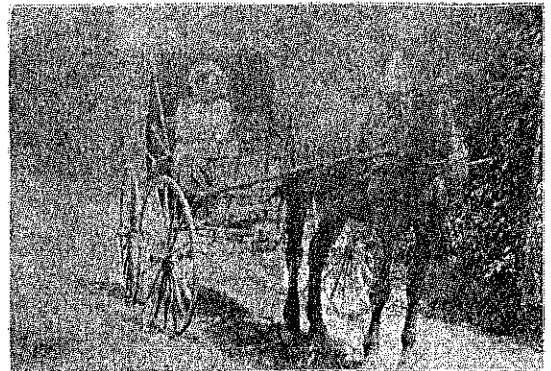
Street after crossing the railroad tracks. There were benches all around it and a little pot-bellied stove for warmth in winter months. There was also a stove with a large pot of coffee on it, and sandwiches could be purchased. Pop from the Farmington Pop Factory was delivered by Elmer Holmes and came in many delicious flavors. The floor of this depot can be seen today if anyone so desires.

Men working in the mines west of town rode the old "Crummy," a railroad car which had three benches running lengthwise and a stove in one corner. It started out with one car for the miners, but gradually there were five.

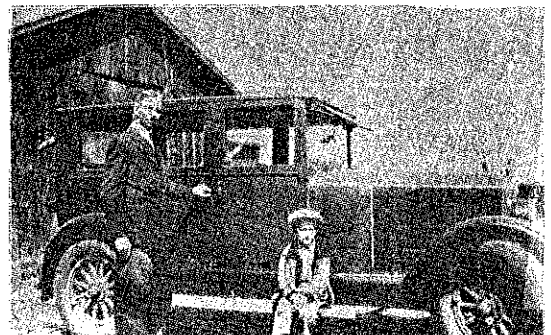
There was an old saying among the old miners from one of the foreigners who would remark "I can't eat this soup; I don't got no fork." This leads us, in turn, to the problems of language and communication between the foreigners and the people already here. One lady from the "Patch" went into a grocery store to purchase a dozen eggs. She was unable to make the merchant understand what it was she wanted. In desperation, she squatted down and waved her hands and arms like a chicken, saying "cut-cut cadocut." The merchant knew then that she was imitating a chicken. Now the problem arose, did she want to buy a chicken or a dozen eggs? So he shrugged his shoulders and threw his hands into the air in despair. The woman finally put her fore-finger and thumb together forming a circle and this solved the situation. What the lady wanted was a dozen eggs!

This and many other incidents proved that there was a desperate need for classes to teach the foreign-speaking people the English language. Therefore, classes were set up and anyone could attend them, thus eliminating the language barrier.

In time, the United Mine Workers Union was formed with John L. Lewis as President. As time passed, there were those who were discontented with the Union and decided to form their own union, which was called the Progressives. Later, there was a bad relationship between the men. In some homes, there would be members of both unions and this became a sad situation. In time, the militia was forced to come to Farmington and remain for three days. During that time, everyone was forced to stay in their own yard. This did not really help the situation, but eventually, the mines were worked out and the men found other types of work and the mines, one by one, ceased to exist.



The Horse & Buggy Days of 1912
Jessie Taylor Fabian



Velie Car - 1926-1927
Earl H. Chapin & son, Earl Cone Chapin



1929 Rumble Seat
Delores Holmes Saunders
Allene McKinney Welker
Elmer Welker



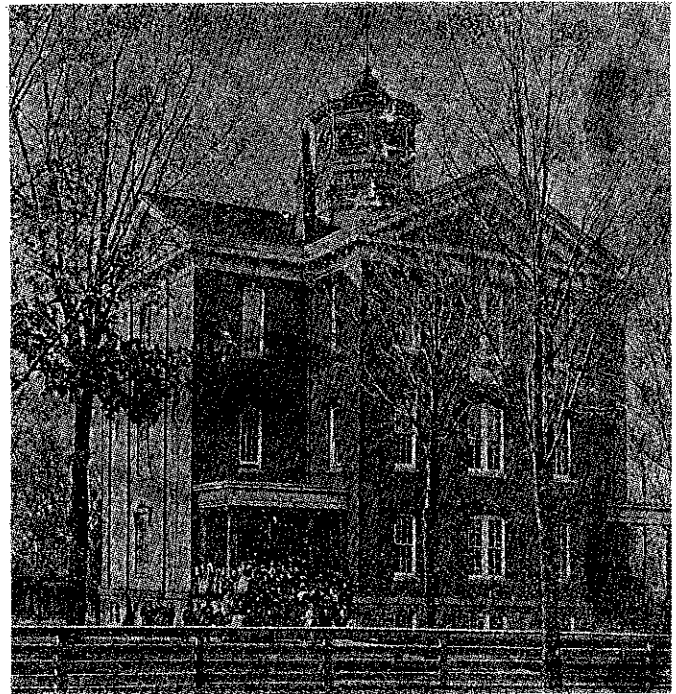
Surrey with Fringe on Top
Fred & Clara Jack Orton & Daughter, Stella Orton Threw

CARS

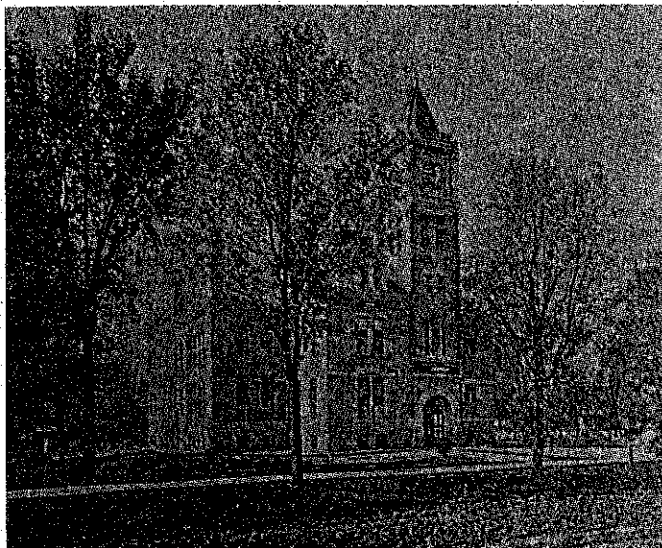
There were those that said that the automobile would *never* replace the horse, but along came the Flivers and the faithful old "hoss" was put out to pasture.

SCHOOLS

The first school was in one of Ahira Jones' small log cabins. Isaac Cutter was the first teacher. Such fascinating stories revolved around this area in our history. The next school, also a log cabin, was on South Main Street, not far from the old bank corner and facing South Main. Following this, was the little school on North West Street between the Baptist Church and West Fort Street. As it became over-crowded, a little brick school was built south of the Presbyterian Church facing the park. Then came Hill's Academy on North Main Street. This was followed by the three-story High School named Chapman, after Phineas Chapman who donated the land in 1867. The third floor was for the High School, while the first and second floors were for the grades. This school was burned in 1890. The old bucket brigade, a system used in those days by ringing the church bell to call out the people with their buckets to come to their assistance and using the nearest well for water, proved insufficient in reaching the blazing shingled roof. The building was complete destroyed. And again, there were interesting stories which



Farmington Three Story High School
Erected 1866-67, Destroyed by Fire 1890



Second Chapman High School

in 1925-26. The students at that time attended school in the Chapman building and the Junior High until the High School was completed. Thus, we have a fair account of Farmington's school system.

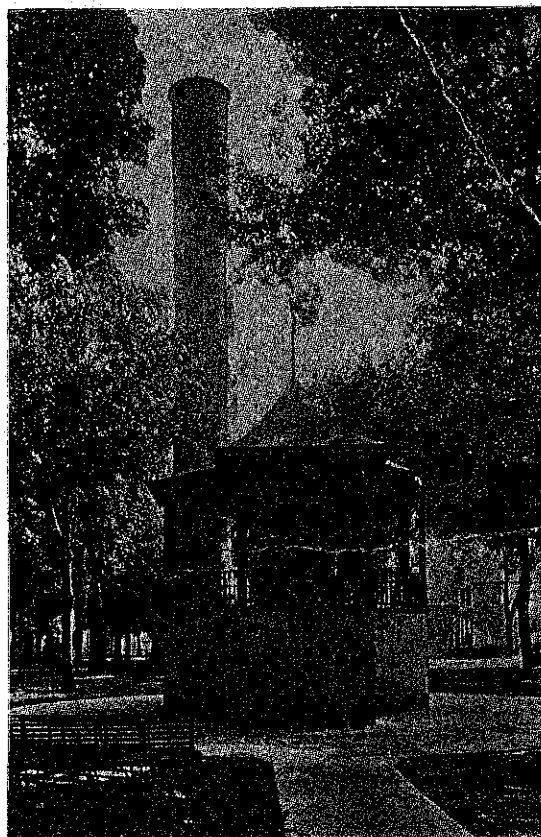
revolved around this disaster. A short time later, the second Chapman building was erected and put into use. In the meantime, school was held in numerous places. Next in line came the Ward School, which later became known as the Harris School because Mr. John Harris donated the land. There were four grades in his school which was later enlarged, doing away with Farmington's old "Haunted House." The Junior High School was erected in 1917 and was later remodeled. The Farmington High School was built

WATER SYSTEM AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

The burning of the three-story high school showed the need for a fire department and a city water system. The city water system dates its inception to the year 1892 which included a large standpipe located in the city park and a large reservoir on Sunny Street. A few people remember the old standpipe which would overflow in the winter months making a large skating area for the young people. In the summer months, the young boys in the community would climb up this standpipe to the very top. Dean Lane, Leon Smith, Owen Kelly, the Holmes brothers and others were among those mischievous boys.

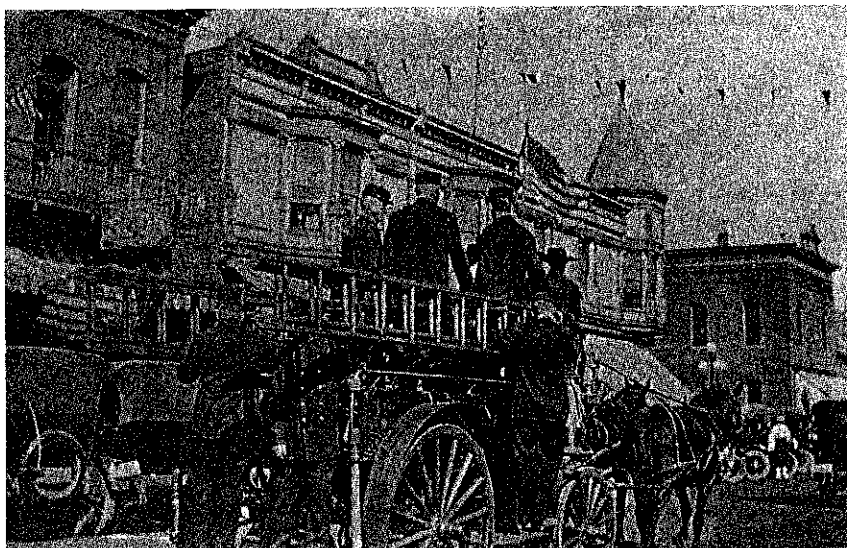
There is an interesting story about the city water system and the organization of the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department that has never been printed.

After the fire of 1890 when our beautiful three-story high school was destroyed by fire and the townspeople stood helpless as there was no equipment to reach the burning roof, the City Council tried to find ways to bring about a badly needed water system. Their efforts proved futile. Two brothers on the city council decided to put forth one last effort and see what they could do. They were Emerson Clark, City



Band Stand and Water Tower

Clerk, and Amasa Clark, Council member. There was a meat store on Fort Street, a slaughter house on Marshall Ave., a store in Yates City and several in Iowa. They shipped out poultry and eggs to Boston, Mass., New York City and many other places. In desperation, they went back east to their customers and interested them in purchasing bonds in a new water system. They had amazing results and in no time, money began to come in. Plans were made and soon this dream became a reality.



**Farmington Fire Department
Horse Drawn Outfit**

Amasa Clark, father of Rilla Lane, then turned his thoughts to organizing our first fire department. He was the first chief and it started with twenty-four men which increased immediately to thirty-two members.

At one time, the fire-fighters had one of the fastest hose-cart teams in the country. They participated in many tournaments in Farmington and other cities, winning prizes and otherwise bringing honors to the home town.

In 1896, the department entered the State tournament, having purchased a racing cart from Rock Island, and, with a month or so of hard training, made a creditable showing in the first state tournament at Naperville, Illinois. They kept steadily improving the racing team, successively following the tournaments until 1901 in Dixon where they won the State Championship, both in racing and coupling. Jesse Rains, of the department, held the State Coupling Championship for two years. The department also took part in the National Tournament at Omaha, Nebraska, in 1898.

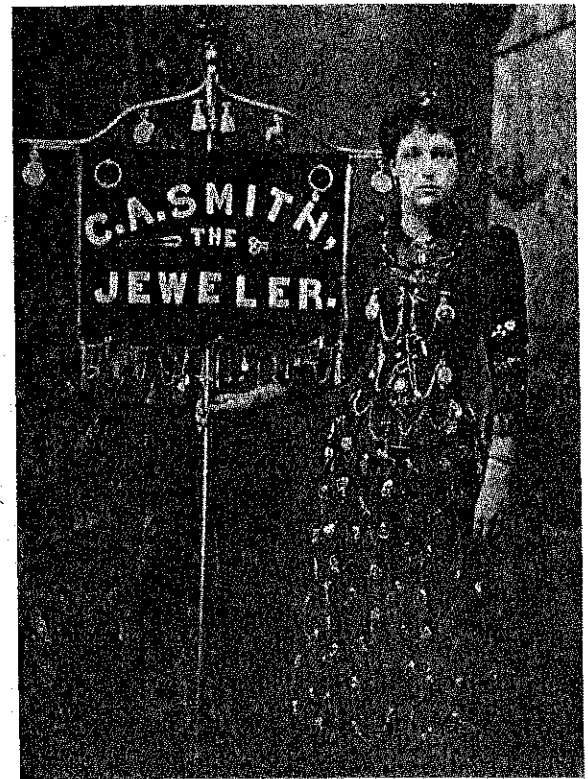
Everyone remembers the Firemen's Fair at the Old Opera House. One year they had some of the young ladies dress in lovely garments advertising the different stores. Two of these young ladies were Mrs. Annette Routson and Minta Schoonover.

Later, the fairs were held in the high school. Everyone will remember "Sap" Cramer at the "Wheel of Fortune." Paper plates were numbered and sold with the lucky number bringing forth a nice gift donated by the townsfolk. The last year this fair was held was 1967.

Probably one of the most unusual fires in our district was when a sweet young girl "accidentally" set a field of popcorn on fire on one of George Hall's farms. Everyone had a popping good time.



**Minta Schoonover
Firemen's Fair**



**Mrs. Annette Routson
Farmington Firemen's Fair**

The Farmington Fire Department was organized on June 13, 1895, with two hand-drawn hose carts, 80 feet of hose, and a hook and ladder as their major pieces of equipment. Since that time equipment has steadily improved. Housed in Saunders Station, first occupied May 3, 1970, at 49 North Cone Street, are the present equipment: Rescue truck, a front line pumper, a secondary pumper, and a tanker. On April 18, 1981, the building was dedicated as Saunders Station in memory of Donald (Pappy) Saunders. The department went into a Fire Protection District in 1967. The present crew of fifteen men stand out in the history of Farmington. They are men, for the most part, who have their own businesses but whose ears are always tuned to the dismal sound of the fire siren.

Rescue 1100 was implemented when the members of the Fire Department decided that they lacked the training and equipment necessary to help victims of trauma and sickness. Five members of the department, John Higgs, Joe Evans, "Hike" Johnson, Ken Holmes, and Don Bridgestock, began Emergency Medical Training at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria in February of 1972. Upon completion of the course, a used truck was donated by GILCO and reworked to carry Rescue and Fire Fighting Equipment.

A successful community fund drive raising \$22,000 resulted in a new rescue vehicle put in service March 11, 1974. This vehicle was designed to transport the injured as well as to carry necessary rescue and fire fighting equipment. The Pulsar 4 Cardio Resuscitation Unit was added June 3, 1976.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Farmington Police Department, through the years, has served our community and its people, giving us protection and a good feeling of security. Many of us kindly remember Wes Settles who served our community faithfully for so many years.

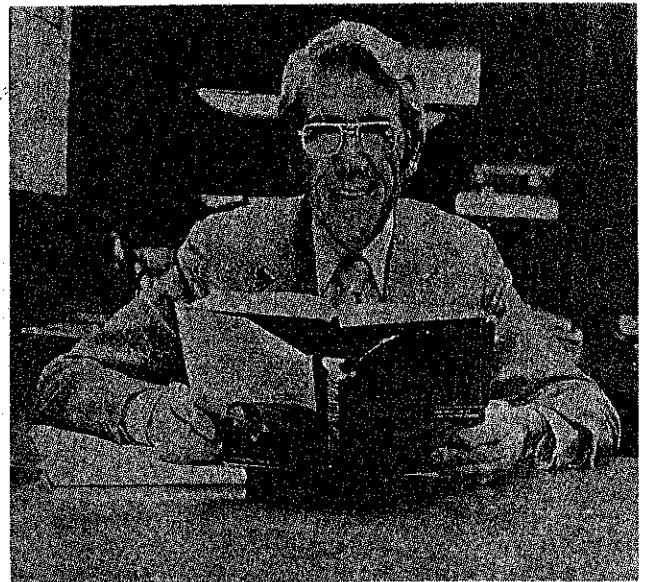
Our present Police Chief is Fred Smith, with four officers assisting him and three dispatchers.

ATTORNEYS

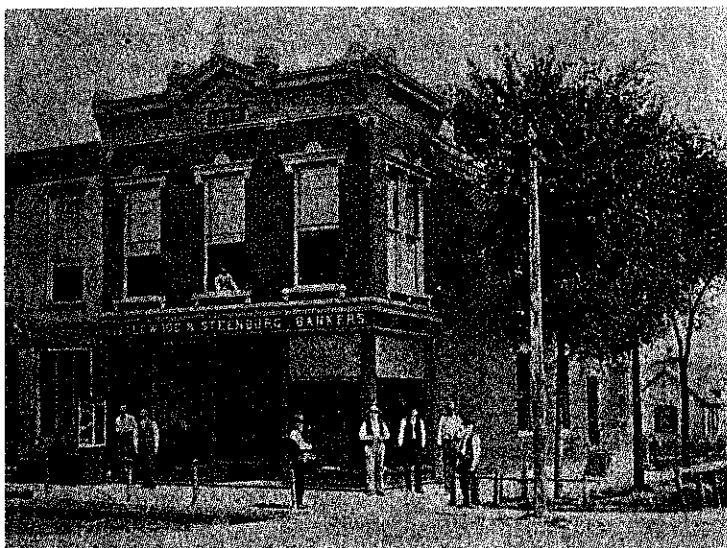
How many attorneys do you remember before A.A. Luckey and John Baudino? Presently we have:

The Toohills - Joe, Judy and Jody

D. Dean Wilson
Potter and Maas



Farmington Attorney John Baudino reads a passage about the years he spent during World War II as a body guard for atomic scientist Enrico Fermi. He often told Fermi tales of his home town. "He knew all about Farmington," Baudino says.

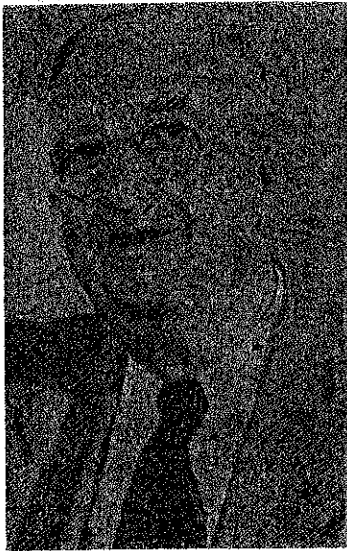


Littlewood & Steenburg Bank

BANKING

Then came the Depression and the bank moratorium when people lost their life savings. Both banks were closed. The Steenburg Bank could not rise to this occasion and closed its doors forevermore, whereas, the Bank of Farmington opened wide its doors and has continued in business from that time forward. Farmington formed its own Home and Loan Association which later merged with First Federal and Talman Home Federal Savings and Loan.

DOCTORS



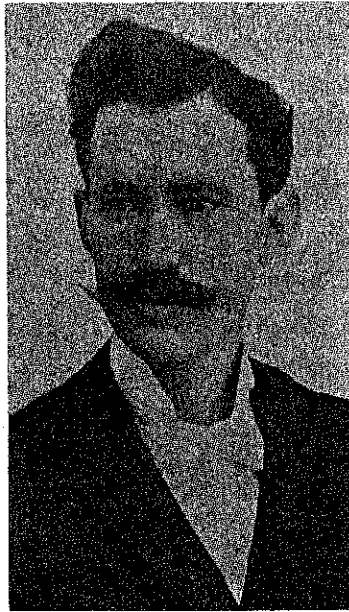
Dr. E.K. Dimmitt

Farmington has been blessed to have had 32 or 33 doctors serve it through the years. Many of the early doctors were root and herb doctors. Serving possibly the longest period of time was our beloved Dr. E. K. Dimmitt who gave almost fifty years of his life to service in our community. Others who have been much respected and who have given lengthy service include Drs. Frank Jacobs, R.P. Grimm, and our current M.D.'s, Elizabeth Henderson and James Reed, our favorite son who at this writing has given 28 years of dedication to local medicine.

Past and present: (apologies for any omissions)



Dr. A.C. Wood



Dr. Will Plumer

*Dr. Clapp
Dr. Gamble
Dr. J.W. Connelly
Dr. Brewer
Dr. T.N. Plumer
Dr. Will Plumer
Dr. Robert Plumer
Dr. E.K. Dimmitt
Dr. Frank Jacobs
Dr. R.P. Grimm
Dr. Victor Williams
Dr. James Fash, Jr.
Dr. Clinton McKnight
Dr. Leslie B. Sims
Dr. James Reed
Dr. C.W. Atherton
Dr. Leslie Chlumecky
Dr. Elizabeth Henderson
Dr. F. Strauch*

DENTISTS

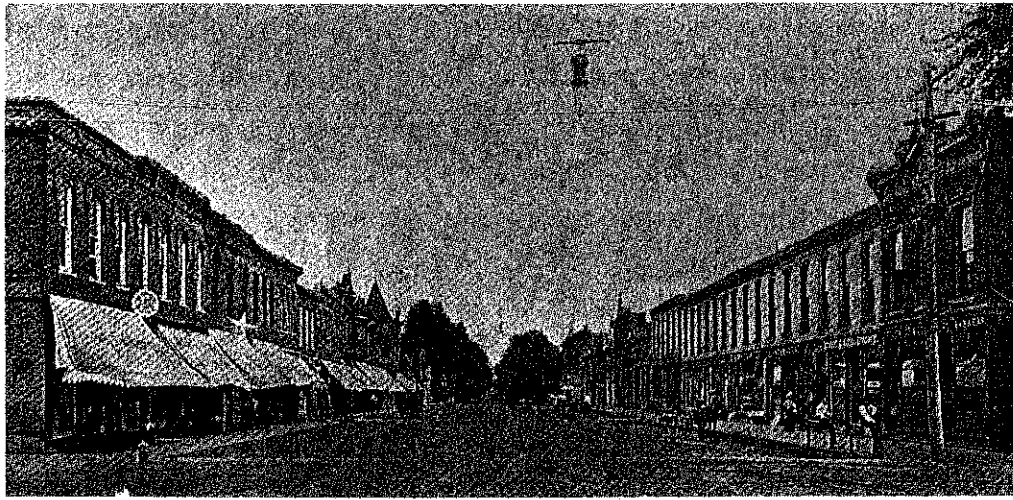
Several dentists have also added to the quality of health care available to our residents over the years. Some of these include the following:

<i>Dr. Greenleaf</i>	<i>Dr. J.T. Lefebvre</i>
<i>Dr. James Aigley</i>	<i>Dr. J. Smith</i>
<i>Dr. A. H. Fash</i>	<i>Dr. P.J. Secrest</i>
<i>Dr. Arthur Wood</i>	<i>Dr. Jay Shetty</i>
<i>Dr. L.J. Lefebvre</i>	<i>Dr. Shantha Murthy</i>

VETERINARIANS

Area livestock has been well-tended by the service of a few dedicated and respected men in our community. These include the following:

*Dr. W.S. Winget
Dr. A.G. Morse
Dr. Albert Cowser
Dr. Delano Ohaver*



**Farmington In 1909 — Improved by Electric Lights, Water System, Telephone.
Morse Block on North Side.**

CITY IMPROVEMENTS

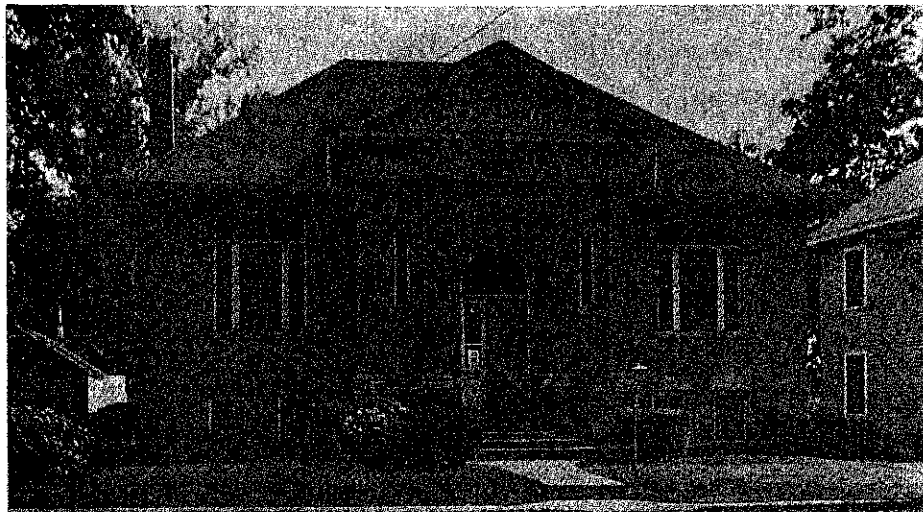
On April 8, 1892, an ordinance was passed granting a franchise for twenty years to E.B. Hillman and Co., of Peoria, Illinois to erect, maintain and operate an electric light and power plant within the present and future corporate limits of the city of Farmington. Shortly after this, the city block was wired and then the churches. At a later date, the residences were wired, most of which had just a wire hanging from the ceiling with a long slender bulb.

In 1899, the Farmington Telephone Company started in business.

Farmington has had two sewer systems down through the years.

Farmington has a very fine library which was dedicated January 18, 1907. It joined the Western Library System June 3, 1966.

There have been many civic improvements through the years which make our city continue to grow, making it possible for the people to enjoy the best in modern achievements.



Public Library - Farmington, Illinois

We have several parks, the first one being donated in 1834 by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cone, which has played an active part in our city's entertainment. The work on the Farmington Township Park was done by the C.C.C. boys during President Roosevelt's administration. These men received three dollars per day for their labor as this was in the midst of the Depression. Jacobs Park is the scene of much activity being named after Dr. Frank Jacobs who gave so much of himself for our community. There were other parks but they have long since passed into oblivion.

CHURCHES

In time, churches and schools took their rightful place in our community. First we have record of the Methodist Church which started in the Jonah Marchant cabin. In 1833, a log church was built just west of the present Methodist Church. In 1865 the little old log church became too small and they were obliged to erect a new frame building. Once again they had to enlarge their church. Then came the church which was erected in 1902 and burned in 1928. And today, we have the present United Methodist Church.

Being few in number, the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists decided to join hands and form a church which would be known as the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. On July 23, 1836, this church was formed. And the first church was built in 1842 on land donated by Joseph Cone.

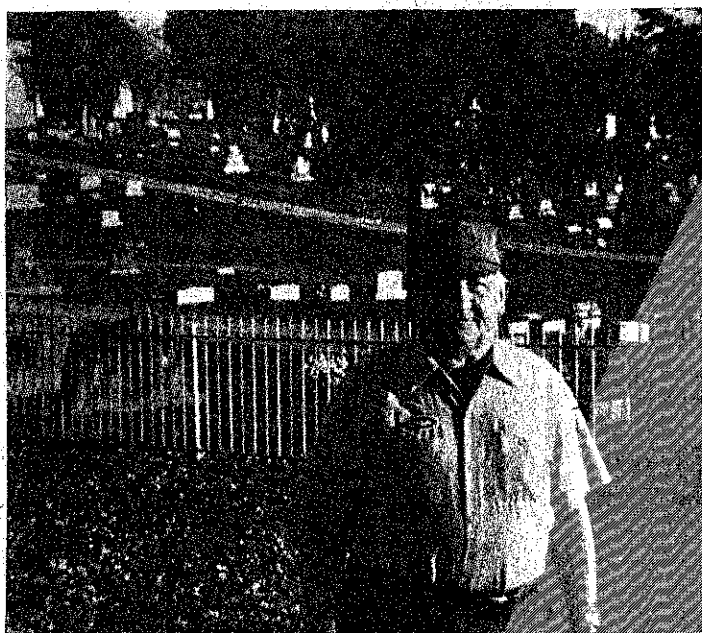
Later, the members of these two groups decided to separate and each go their own way. The Congregationalists erected their church in 1851. Whereas, the Presbyterians erected their church in 1865.

The Congregational Society of the State of Illinois was organized in 1844.

The Baptists constructed their first church in 1874; this was torn down in 1980 and replaced by a lovely new one. There was a Universalist Church built in the early 1840's. The Wesleyan Church came into being also in the early 1840's but was of short duration.

The Episcopal Church with its Gothic architecture and beautifully stained-glass windows was erected in 1851. The Free Methodists built their church in 1905. St. Matthews Catholic Church was first constructed in 1902 and the new church was erected in 1956. The Seventh Day Adventists built their church in 1907; The Farmington Bible Church in 1958; The Church of Nazarene in 1971; The First Christian Church was erected in 1979.

The charming and lovely town of Farmington with the edification of her churches dating back to the log church and on to the present day architecture of inspirational and aesthetic beauty, still share the same vision of our courageous families of yesteryear.



Warner F. Stuckey, Sexton Oak Ridge Cemetery

FARMINGTON CEMETERIES

The very first burials in Farmington were in the old Fort Hill Stockade a little over a century ago. The folks were later re-interred in 1879-80 at Chapin Pleasant Hill, Oak Ridge and other nearby cemeteries.

Oak Ridge Cemetery's first known burial is that of Dan Tanner's year old son, Nathan Tanner, buried in the old grave yard in 1835. In 1868, the cemetery be-

came city property. In 1879-80, people buried at the Fort Hill stockade were moved to Oak Ridge and other cemeteries. The Soldiers Monument was erected by the people of Farmington and dedicated in 1892 by the Women's Relief Corps. The north and west entrance gate posts were given by Chester Butler and O.K. Morgan. The oldest person buried in Oak Ridge was Minta Schoonover, age 106 years. Our present caretaker is W.F. Stuckey.

CITY GOVERNMENT

We pay tribute to all these individuals in our city government who have served our community through the years. The first councilmen were led by a President during Farmington's early years. When it was incorporated as a city in 1887, the first mayor was named, Curtis D. Brown. The first aldermen elected were: A.G. Morse, H.B. Greenleaf, L.H. Cone, John Tyler, Frank Crane, and James Monday. E.M. Rose served as city clerk and A.C. Steenberg as city treasurer.

In the nearly 100 years since the incorporation, numerous men have directed the government of our city, including our present administration led by Mayor James Hurst, eight councilmen, and a city clerk.

Farmington has continued to prosper in many ways with its business and industry, and with its churches, schools, culture, and civic pride, has more than fulfilled the dreams of those first rugged pioneers who led the way.

(Material taken from "Lest We Forget a History of Farmington, Illinois", written by Delores T. Saunders.)